

The background of the entire image is a photograph of an industrial facility, likely an oil refinery or chemical plant, featuring several tall smokestacks and complex piping structures. The scene is set in a flat, arid landscape. A solid blue color is overlaid on the entire image, creating a monochromatic effect. In the center, a black rectangular box contains the main title in white and blue text.

NATURE & POLITICAL ORDER / S

EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS
CLIMATE FUTURES & DECARBONISATION
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

INTRODUCTION

Climate change and environmental politics became key issues in international politics due to pressure from various actors, such as social movements, civil society activists and indigenous peoples. It is, therefore, of little surprise that the concept of justice constitutes a central reference both in academic debates about climate politics and at different levels of global governance in which environmental and climate regimes are designed and justified. However, political dynamics highlight that neither ideal theories of justice based on Western scholarship nor claims to ‘just solutions’ in global governance relate to the social realities of actors and communities severely affected by environmental degradation and climate breakdown. Two major problems that arise from this dissonance can be summarised as ‘Justice for whom?’ and ‘Justice on which ontological and epistemological grounds?’.

We contend that much of the relevant academic contributions in IR and IPE remain within a state-centric ontology, which neglects diverse ways of knowing, and ignores competing perspectives advanced by non-state actors. Further, a narrow focus on the popularity of climate and environmental activism in the global North has resulted in the sidelining of a longer lineage of Southern activism against environmental exploitation and ‘green colonialism’.

Concurrently, dominant notions of justice—for example, in global climate governance—are based on colonial and capitalist ontologies and epistemologies, which assume human–nature binaries in ways that justify existing modes of production, resource extraction and authoritarian political orders. Hence, treating nature and climate change simply as further ‘policy fields’ and governance issues is highly problematic in analytical and normative terms.

Against this background, the Middle East and North Africa constitutes a crucial mobilisation space in which assumptions about energy transition, resource exploitation and contesting notions of just futures shape political struggles. These dynamics transform interventions, imaginations, and political relations in and between the local, regional and global scale. This workshop seeks to advance theoretical debates in IR, IPE and environmental and climate research by focusing on the politics in the region.

Workshop Convenors

CEMAL BURAK TANSEL ■ UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
JAN WILKENS ■ UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG

SESSION I

📅 1 July 2021

🕒 13:00–14:30 (BST)

CLIMATE BREAKDOWN AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

📄 DECOLONISING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: REFLECTIONS FROM PALESTINE

MUNA DAJANI ■ LSE

📄 MOBILITY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

CHRISTIANE FRÖHLICH ■ GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
AND AREA STUDIES (GIGA)

📄 RESEARCHING CLIMATE JUSTICE IN WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA

JAN WILKENS ■ UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG





SESSION II

📅 1 July 2021

🕒 15:00-17:30 (BST)

CONTESTED FUTURES OF CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

📄 **DEGROWTH IN DUBAI? ALTERNATIVE
FUTURES IN CONTEXT**

CHRISTIAN HENDERSON ■ LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

📄 **EXTRACTIVES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
GOVERNANCE: CONTESTATIONS IN THE
POLITICS OF NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE
IN MOROCCO'S RURAL PERIPHERY**

KAREN RIGNALL ■ UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

📄 **FROM OLD TO NEW RESOURCE CONFLICTS?
THE GEO-POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF
DECARBONISATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

CLEMENS HOFFMANN ■ UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

SESSION III

📅 2 July 2021

🕒 13:00–14:30 (BST)

POLITICAL ECOLOGIES OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

📄 RENEWABLE ENERGIES, RENEWED
AUTHORITARIANISMS? SOLAR ENERGY AND
TRANSREGIONAL AUTHORITARIAN
ENTANGLEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTH AFRICA

BENJAMIN SCHÜTZE ■ ARNOLD BERGSTRAESSER INSTITUTE

📄 DISCOURSES AND POLITICS OF WATER
SCARCITY IN JORDAN

HUSSAM HUSSEIN ■ UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

📄 A POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE IN BASRA, IRAQ

MICHAEL MASON ■ LSE

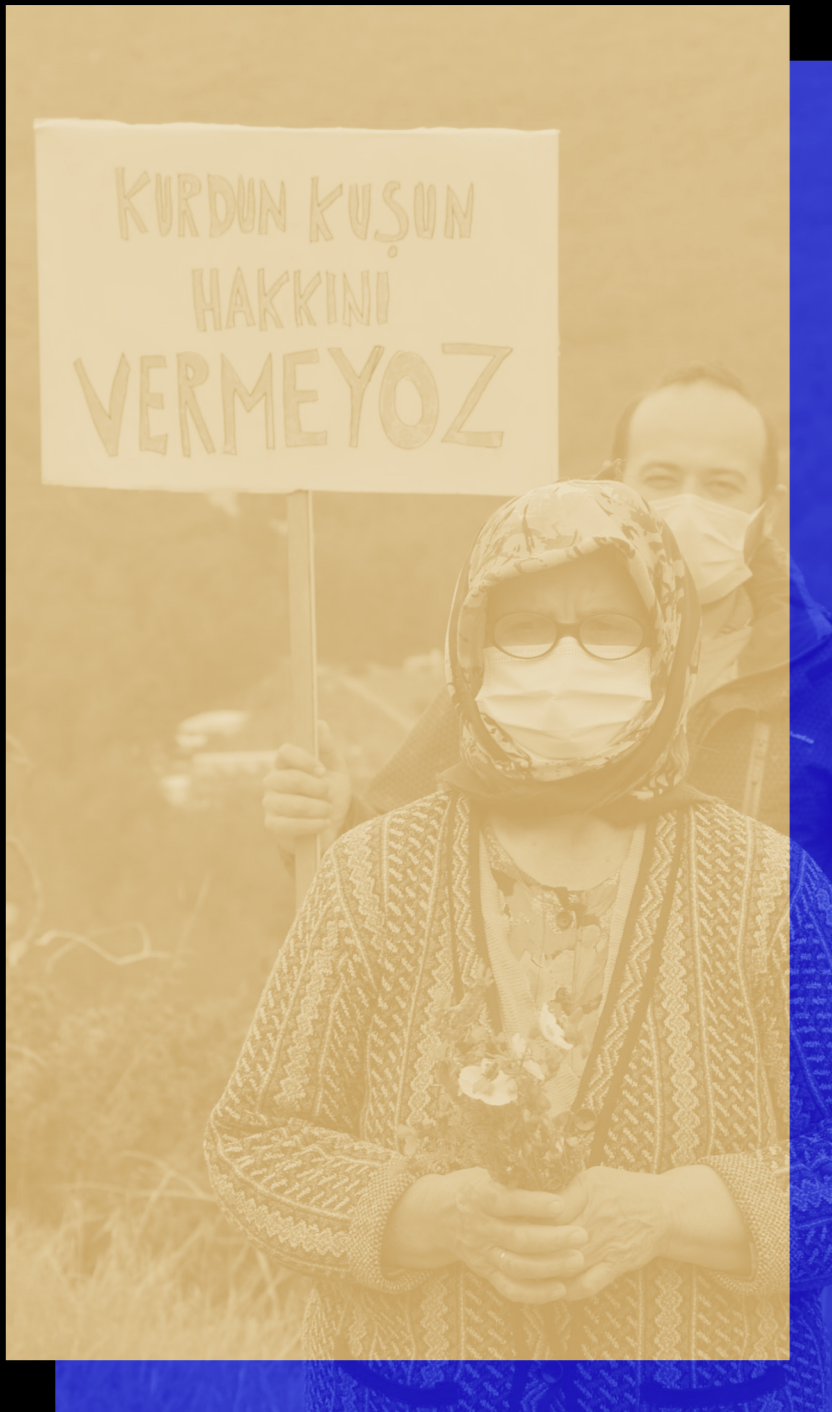
📄 THE ‘ISLAMIC STATE’ WITHOUT A STATE:
SCORCHED EARTH IN IRAQ AND SYRIA

HADI JAAFAR ■ AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

LARA SUJUD ■ AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

ECKART WOERTZ ■ GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL AND
AREA STUDIES (GIGA)





SESSION IV

📅 2 July 2021

🕒 15:00-17:30 (BST)

KNOWLEDGE AND RESISTANCE

📄 **RESISTING THE HEAT BELOW OUR FEET:
KNOWLEDGE POLITICS, ENVIRONMENTAL
CONFLICTS AND SOCIETAL RESISTANCE TO
GEOTHERMAL ENERGY IN TURKEY**

ETHEMCAN TURHAN ■ UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

📄 **MEANING-PROXIMITY-AGENCY: A NEW
FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING ENVIRONMENTAL
CONTENTION**

MARWA DAOUDY ■ GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

JÉRÉMIE LANGLOIS ■ UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

📄 **A POLITICAL HISTORY OF GARBAGE IN
BEIRUT**

HANNES BAUMANN ■ UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



**Nature and Political Order(s): Exploring
Environmental Politics, Climate Futures, and
Decarbonisation in the Middle East**
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