

RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT:
Societal Transformations and the Challenges of Governance
in Africa and the Middle East

January 30 - 31, 2009 @ Yale University, Luce Hall Auditorium, 34 Hillhouse Avenue

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

8:45am INTRODUCTION
Ellen Lust-Okar, Yale University
Stephen N. Ndegwa, The World Bank

9:00am TRANSFORMING GENDER AND FAMILY LAW
Rania Maktabi, Ostfold University, Halden, Norway, Family Law, Citizenship and State-Building in the Middle East
Susanna Wing, Haverford College, Exploring Democracy, Women's Rights, and Legal Reform in Francophone Africa
Valentine Moghadam, Purdue University, Globalization, the State and Women's Economic Citizenship in the Maghreb

11:50am RELIGION, POLITICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE
Leonardo Villalón, University of Florida, Rethinking Education in the Sahel: Democracy, Religious Change, and the Politics of Reform
Mark Tessler, University of Michigan, Arab Barometer Project, Religion, Religiosity, and the Place of Islam in Political Life

2:00PM SOCIAL FORCES: AGENTS OF CHANGE OR STABILITY?
Eghosa Osaghae, Igbinedion University, Okada, Nigeria, Coming to Terms with State Fragility in Africa: A Perspective from Below
Dele Olojede, Timbuktu Media, Advancing Media in Africa
Noha El-Mikawy, UNDP Bureau of Development Policy, Gada Governance Center, Revisiting the Middle Class in the Middle East: The Middle Class as a Forgotten Agent of Social Transformation

4:30PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

9:00AM GLOBALIZATION AND ECONOMIC REFORM
Ibrahim Saif, Carnegie Middle East Center, Beirut, Lebanon, The Missing Link in Improving Good Governance in the MENA
Peter Lewis, Johns Hopkins University, Democracy, Poverty and Inequality in Africa
Mine Eder, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, Backroom Economic Decision-making and Withering of Politics: The Case of Turkey's "low-grade" Democracy

11:30AM NEGOTIATING LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS
Ato Kwamena Onoma, Yale University, Reconsidering Preferences as a Foundation for Property Rights Reform
Cathy Boone, University of Texas at Austin, Governing Rural Africa: Property, Citizenship, and Redistributive Conflict in Liberalized Political Economies

2:00PM POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, REPRESENTATION AND GOVERNANCE
Michael Bratton, Michigan State University, Afrobarometer, The Democracy-Governance Connection in Africa: Do Free Elections Foster Capable Governments?

3:00PM POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, REPRESENTATION AND GOVERNANCE
Joel Barkan, University of Iowa, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Legislatures, Term Limits and the Containment of Neo-Patrimonialism in Africa
Gilbert Khadiagala, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, Transitional Governments in State Reconstruction

4:30pm ROUNDTABLE: REFLECTIONS ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Sponsored by the World Bank, the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund, the John K. Castle Fund for Ethics and International Affairs, the Council on African Studies, and the Council on Middle East Studies with Department of Education, Title VI Funding. Visit www.yale.edu/macmillan/comes for more information.



Conference To Explore How Social, Economic and Political Transformations Affect Governance in Africa and the Middle East

On January 30-31, 2009, The Council on Middle East Studies will host a conference, "Rethinking Development: Societal Transformations and the Challenges of Governance," at Yale University. It will take place at the MacMillan Center, 34 Hillhouse Avenue, and is free and open to the public.

According to the conference organizers: "This conference will explore how ongoing social, economic and political transformations affect governance in Africa and the Middle East. Processes of globalization, combined with the changing international context in the post-Cold

War era, have brought increasing privatization, shifts from agriculture to industry and service sectors, but also growing gaps between the rich and the poor, and deteriorating social safety nets. There have also been enormous changes in social conditions, with urbanization and growth in literacy, and yet high levels of inequality and a declining quality of education and health care. Finally, political institutions have also been reshaped, with the implementation of multiparty elections, increased attention to rule of law, and processes of democratization and liberalization, all overlaying and interacting with kinship/ethnicity, clientelism, and other informal structures to channel political power. The aim is to map out how changes have transformed societies and state-society relations, to elucidate how these affect governance, and to reconsider the nature of development programs."

View panels and participants