Constitutional Transformations in the Arab World following the Arab Spring: Comparative Models

Bologna, 7th – 8th February 2013

Speaker Bios

Ebrahim Afsah

Ebrahim Afsah is an Associate Professor of International Law at the University of Copenhagen. Educated at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, Trinity College Dublin; Harvard University, and the Max Planck Institute for International Law in Heidelberg, he has served from 2003-2011 in various international posts dealing with state-building, legal and administrative reform, mostly in Afghanistan. Prior to joining the faculty in Copenhagen, he was a Senior Manager with Deloitte Consulting LLP in Arlington, VA. His main research interests are general international law; laws of armed conflict; the reception of law, especially constitutional and public law reform in post-conflict settings; International Relations, especially theory; as well as Islamic law.

Ramzan Alnoaimi

Ramzan Alnoaimi graduated from the University of Bahrain with a BSc. in Laws and was subsequently appointed as a junior member of its faculty. He received an LL.M. with Dean's List Honors from Georgetown University Law Center in 2011. He recently participated in the National Dialogue that was held to bring together all Bahraini political parties following the February-March 2011 political crisis in reprehension of Al-Asala political party. He is currently an S.J.D. candidate at Georgetown University Law Center. His research focuses on the Political Reforms Discourse in the Arabian Gulf Monarchies. He is particularly interested in Comparative Constitutional Law, Constitutional design and International Transitional Justice.

Francesco Biagi

Francesco Biagi is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Bologna’s School of Law. He holds a PhD in Constitutional Law from the University of Ferrara. His PhD thesis addressed “The Role of Constitutional Courts in Democratic Transitions: The Cases of Italy, Spain and the Czech Republic.” Francesco graduated from the University of Bologna in 2007 with a thesis in Comparative Public Law (“Electoral Courts in Latin America: A Comparative Analysis”), spending three months at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in Mexico City. In the meantime, he also became an affiliated scholar of the Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development, where to date he holds the position of project coordinator. Francesco is the author of articles and book chapters focusing on constitutional justice, electoral justice and transitions to democracy. He was involved in a series of projects, among which the one on “Electoral Management in Transitional Countries” (where he was the main researcher) and is currently coordinating a project on the Arab Spring.
Karim El Chazli

Karim El Chazli is a PhD Student at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University. Previously, he obtained a Licence from the Faculty of Law of Cairo University and a Master’s in Private International Law from Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, where he has been a Teaching Assistant for five years. In addition to teaching Introduction to Law, Civil Procedure, Contract Law and Legal Methodology, he has a number of publications addressing issues of Private International Law, Civil Procedure and Constitutional Law. He is also a member of the Justice Working Group of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), as well as a representative of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS).

Islam Chiha

Islam Chiha is an Assistant Professor of Public Law at Alexandria University School of Law. He received his Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D.) from Washington University in Saint Louis School of Law, a LL.M from University of Connecticut School of Law, and a Master of Public Law and LL.B from the French Department at Alexandria University School of Law. An adjunct professor at a number of prestigious universities, he previously worked as a Judge in the Conseil D’estat and as a Public Prosecutor Member in the Egyptian Ministry of Justice. He teaches Constitutional Law, International Law of Human Rights and Administrative Law and his research interests extend to Terrorism Law, Emergency laws, Comparative Constitutional Law and European Court of Human Rights.

Giorgios Dimitrakopoulos

Giorgios Dimitrakopoulos was a member of the European Parliament from 1994 to 2009. In his 15-year tenure at the Parliament he has held distinguished positions, including as 2nd Vice President of the European Parliament as well as Vice President of several other Committees and Delegations. As a member of the Foreign Affairs committee, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as well as other committees of the Parliament, he has been the Rapporteur for Euro-Mediterranean Policy, EU relations with Iraq, and the Nice Intergovernmental Conference. He has also delivered opinions on energy, EU relations with the countries of the Caucasus region, as well as other issues in international relations. Prior to that, he worked with the Greek Foreign Service as Counselor to the then Foreign Minister, and taught courses at the Greek Diplomatic Academy. He has served as a Press Counselor at the Press and Information Office of the Greek Embassy in Washington. He holds a degree in Public Law and Political Science from the University of Athens, an MA Degree in International Relations from the American University in Washington D.C., and completed post-graduate work in International Law and Diplomatic History at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston. He has published books and many articles on European Affairs.

Khaled Fahmy

Khaled Fahmy is a Professor and Chair of the Department of History at the American University in Cairo (AUC). With a BA in Economics and an MA in Political Science from AUC and a DPhil in History from the University of Oxford, Fahmy taught for five years at Princeton University, then for eleven years at New York University before joining AUC in Sept 2010. His research interests lie in social and cultural history of modern Egypt. Specifically, he has been conducting regular research in the Egyptian National Archives for the past twenty years on such diverse topics as the history of law (Islamic shari’a), medicine and urban planning. He has published a book on the social history of the Egyptian army in the first half of the 19th century (All the Pasha’s Men: Mehmed Ali, His Army and the Making of Modern Egypt—Cambridge University Press, 1997), a biography on Mehmed Ali (Mehmed Ali: From Ottoman Governor to Ruler of Egypt—Oneworld Publications, 2008), and a collection of articles on the history of law and medicine in 19th-century Egypt (The Body and Modernity—in
Arabic, 2004). He is currently finishing a manuscript on the social and cultural history of Egypt in the 19th century as well as an edited book on the history of Egyptian law from the Mamluks to the present. Since the outbreak of the January 25 Revolution, he has been a regular contributor to local and international media, with a weekly column in *al-Shorouk* (in Arabic) and *Ahram Online* (in English).

**Wahid Ferchichi**

Wahid Ferchichi is a Tunisian expert in transitional justice and consultant for the International Center of Transitional Justice since February 2011. Since 2005, he is an expert with the Arab Institute for Human Rights, at which he issued a book in 2008 entitled “Child Labour in the Arab World.” He was awarded a doctorate in Public International Law. He is a lecturer at the Tunisian University since 1995 and Head of the Master’s Programme at the Faculty of Legal Sciences of Tunis and the High Institute of Legal and Political Studies of Kairouan. He has contributed to the training of many Arab activists in human rights in general and in rights of the child and social economic rights, and he lectured in this framework at the Lebanese University between 2006 and 2008.

**Justin Frosini**

Justin O. Frosini is the director of the CCSDD and Assistant Professor of Public Law in the Faculty of Economics of the "Luigi Bocconi" University, Milan. He is the author of several articles and book chapters and has published widely in English and Italian in the field of comparative constitutional law with particular attention for federalism, regionalism and devolution, constitutional justice and forms of government; some of his works have been translated into Spanish, Serbo-Croat and Ukrainian. His fields of interest are comparative constitutional law, democratic development, constitutional adjudication, devolution and federalism. With specific regard to the Western Balkans, between 2000 and 2004, Frosini was involved in several projects sponsored by the European Union to provide on-line training for judges in Albania, BiH, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Prior to beginning his academic career, Frosini was an active politician at a local level, and in 2007 he was elected to the Constituent Assembly of Democratic Party of Emilia-Romagna. Frosini is also a member of the Istituto De Gasperi.

**Mohammad Hammouri**

Professor Mohammad Hammouri is one of the leading legal experts in Jordan. He is considered to be one of the main authorities speaking on constitutional matters within Jordan. Professor Hammouri is the founding dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan, the first faculty of law in Jordan. He is also the founding partner and chairman of Hammouri and Partners, one of the leading law firms in Jordan. Professor Hammouri served as the Minister of Culture and National Heritage during the late 80s and then as the Minister of Higher Education during the early 90s. He has also served in various local and international roles such as being the Vice President of the University of Jordan’s Board of Trustees, Member of the Ministers’ Legal Cabinet Committee, Member of the International Advisory Board of the University of Hartford, Member of the Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration and Member of the Board of Trustees – Arab Anti-Corruption Organization. Professor Hammouri got his PhD from Cambridge University and since then he has published numerous articles and books. He has also been a national and international speaker at various conferences and venues.

**Mhammed Malki**

Professor Mhammed Malki holds a PhD in Public Law from the Faculty of Law of Rabat University in Rabat, Morocco. He also holds a Certificate from the International Law Academy (HAAG), and the Academy of Constitutional Law, Tunisia. He
Mohamed Mattar

Dr. Mohamed Y. Mattar is a Senior Research Professor of International Law and Executive Director of The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). His professional expertise is in comparative and international law, especially international human rights and trafficking in persons. For over ten years, Mohamed Mattar has worked in more than 50 countries to promote state compliance with international human rights standards and has advised governments on drafting and implementing human rights legislation. He teaches courses on “Corporate Social Responsibility,” “International Business and Human Rights,” “International Trafficking in Persons,” “Islamic Law,” and “International Contract Law” at Johns Hopkins-SAIS, Georgetown University Law Center, and American University. Dr. Mattar was instrumental in establishing the first International Human Rights Law Clinic at SAIS, where he is currently teaching the first semester of the course. He received his Doctor of Juridical Sciences (S.J.D.) and Master of Laws (LL.M) from Tulane University, his Master of Comparative Law (M.C.L.) from the University of Miami, and his License en Droit (LL.B.) from Alexandria University.

Karim Mezran

Karim Mezran is a senior fellow with the Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. Dr. Mezran recently joined the Hariri Center as a senior fellow focusing on the processes of change in North Africa. As a distinguished Libyan-Italian scholar, Karim bring enormous depth of understanding to the processes of change in Libya and elsewhere in the region. In addition, Dr. Mezran is currently an adjunct professor of Middle East studies at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), where he is teaching courses on the history and politics of North Africa. For the last eight years he has been the director of the Center for American Studies in Rome. His analyses on the Middle East and North Africa have been widely published in Italian and other language journals and publications. He recently published a book on Libya in Italian, entitled Libia: fine o rinascita di una nazione? with Arturo Varvelli (eds), Donzelli Editore 2012. Dr. Mezran holds a PhD in international relations from SAIS; JD in comparative law from the University of Rome "La Sapienza;" LLM in comparative law from The George Washington University; MA in Arab studies from Georgetown University; and BA in management from Hiram College.

Duncan Pickard

Duncan Pickard is Libya Country Director at Democracy Reporting International and a nonresident fellow at the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. He has advised on constitutional design in Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia. He holds degrees from Harvard and Tufts University.

Raffaella Del Sarto

Raffaella Del Sarto is Adjunct Professor of Middle East Studies and International Relations, and Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute, and Director of the BORDERLANDS Project (ERC). Previously, she was a Pears Fellow in Israel and Mediterranean Studies at the Middle East Centre of the University of Oxford, and a Marie Curie Fellow and Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute. She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her publications include “From Brussels with Love: Leverage, Benchmarking, and the Action Plans with Jordan and Tunisia in the EU's Democratization Policy,” co-author, in

**ÖMER TASPINAR**

Dr. Ömer Taspinar is Professor of National Security Strategy at the U.S. National War College and the Director of the Turkey Project at the Brookings Institution. Dr. Taspinar was previously an Assistant Professor in the European Studies Department of the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), where he is still teaching as Adjunct Professor. He has held consulting positions at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights in Washington, and at the Strategic Planning Department of TOFAS-FIAT in Istanbul. The courses he is teaching at the National War College and SAIS are: “Islam and the West”; “Non-Military Elements of Statecraft”; “Turkey and its Neighbors” and “The Political Economy of Globalization.” Dr. Taspinar has a Ph.D. and M.A. in European Studies and International Economics from Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) and a B.A. in Political Science from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. His research focuses on Turkey-EU and Turkish-American relations; European Politics; Transatlantic relations; Muslims in Europe; Islamic Radicalism; Human Development in the Islamic world; and American Foreign Policy in the Middle East. Dr. Taspinar is the author of two books: Political Islam and Kurdish Nationalism in Turkey (Routledge, 2005) and Fighting Radicalism with Human Development: Freedom, Education and Growth in the Islamic World (Brookings, forthcoming 2006). Some of his recent publications include: New Parameters in US-German-Turkish Relations (AICGS, February 2005); The Anatomy of Anti-Americanism in Turkey (Insight Turkey, July-August 2005); Turkey’s European Quest (Brookings Analysis Paper, September 2004); Europe’s Muslim Street (Foreign Policy, March-April 2003); An Uneven Fit: The Turkish Model and the Arab World (Brookings Analysis Paper, August 2003). The courses Dr. Taspinar is teaching at SAIS include “Islam and Europe,” “French Domestic and Foreign Policy” (with Philip Gordon) and “European Political Economy.” Dr Taspinar is a columnist for the Turkish daily “Radikal” and the Pakistan Daily Times. He has appeared on BBC word, CNN international, NBC, CNBC, CBS and is a frequent commentator for Turkish Television. He speaks French, Italian and Turkish (native.)