

RORY MCCARTHY

School of Government & International Affairs
Al-Qasimi Building, Elvet Hill Road
Durham DH1 3TU

rory.p.mccarthy@durham.ac.uk
rorymccarthy.com
+ 44 (0)191 334 5672

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019— Assistant Professor in Politics and Islam
School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University
- 2016-19 Fellow by Examination
Magdalen College, University of Oxford
- 2013-16 Researcher on ‘Civil Resistance and Power Politics’ Project
Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford
- 2000-10 Correspondent in Islamabad, Baghdad, Beirut, & Jerusalem for *The Guardian*

EDUCATION

- 2022 Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice, Durham University
- 2017 DPhil in Oriental Studies, University of Oxford
- 2012 MPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies *with Distinction*, University of Oxford
- 1993 BA (Hons) in History, University of Cambridge

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- R. McCarthy, *Inside Tunisia's al-Nahda: Between Politics and Preaching* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108560511>
- *Foreign Affairs* Best Books of 2019
 - Reviewed in: *Foreign Affairs*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *The Journal of North African Studies*; *Revue des mondes musulmans et de la Méditerranée*; *Choice Reviews*.
- R. McCarthy, *Nobody Told Us We Are Defeated: Stories from the New Iraq* (Chatto & Windus, 2006).
- Shortlisted for Glen Dimplex New Writers Biography/Non-fiction Award
 - Shortlisted for Authors Club Dolman Best First Travel Book Award

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

8. F. Merone and R. McCarthy, ‘Explaining the Distinction Between Religious and Political Activism in Islamism: Evidence from the Tunisian Case’, *Politics and Religion* (2024) [Open Access]. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755048324000087>
7. R. McCarthy, ‘Islamism, Party Change, and Strategic Conciliation: Evidence from Tunisia’, *Party Politics* (2023) [Open Access]. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13540688231192393>

6. R. McCarthy, 'Autonomous Activism and Accountability in a Democratic Transition: Evidence from Tunisia' *Democratization*, Vol. 30, No. 5 (2023): 875-893 [Open Access]. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2023.2192931>
5. R. McCarthy, 'Transgressive Protest after a Democratic Transition: The Kamour Campaign in Tunisia', *Social Movement Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 6 (2022): 798-815 [Open Access]. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2021.1967128>
 - Shortlisted for the 2022 Britta Baumgarten Memorial Prize
4. R. McCarthy, 'The Politics of Consensus: Al-Nahda and the Stability of the Tunisian Transition', *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 55, No. 2 (2019): 261-275. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00263206.2018.1538969>
3. R. McCarthy, 'When Islamists Lose: The Politicization of Tunisia's Ennahda Movement', *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 72, No. 3 (2018): 365-384. <https://doi.org/10.3751/72.3.11>
2. R. McCarthy, 'Protecting the Sacred: Tunisia's Islamist Movement Ennahdha and the Challenge of Free Speech', *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 42, No. 4 (2015): 447-464. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13530194.2015.1005055>
1. R. McCarthy, 'Re-thinking Secularism in Post-Independence Tunisia', *The Journal of North African Studies*, Vol. 19, No. 5 (2014): 733-50. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629387.2014.917585>

EDITED VOLUMES

- Adam Roberts, M. J. Willis, R. McCarthy and T. Garton Ash (eds.) *Civil Resistance in the Arab Spring: Triumphs and Disasters* (Oxford University Press, 2016). <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198749028.001.0001>
- Published in Arabic translation as: *Al-Muqawama al-Madaniyya fi al-Rabi' al-'Arabi: Al-Intisarat wa-l-Kawarith* (Beirut: All Prints, 2017)

BOOK CHAPTERS & ENCYCLOPAEDIA ENTRIES

- R. McCarthy, 'Hizb al-Tahrir Tunisia', in Fleet, Kate, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, and Devin Stewart (eds.) *Encyclopaedia of Islam*. Vol. Three. (Leiden: Brill, 2023), 30-31. http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/1573-3912_ei3_COM_45918
- R. McCarthy, 'The Tunisian Uprising, Ennahdha, and the Revival of an Arab-Islamic Identity', in Shabnam Holliday and Philip Leech (eds.) *Political Identities and Popular Uprisings in the Middle East* (Rowman & Littlefield International, 2016), 157-176.

OTHER

- R. McCarthy, 'The Unfinished Arab Spring: Micro-dynamics of revolts between change and continuity', *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 50, No. 1 (2023): 214-215. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13530194.2020.1823746>
- R. McCarthy, 'Islamists and the State: The puzzle of enduring competition', *Global Policy Journal Online*, 12 January 2023. <https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/12/01/2023/islamists-and-state-puzzle-enduring-competition>

R. McCarthy, 'Political Mistrust and the Islamist Impasse', *APSA MENA Politics Newsletter*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (2021): 57-60. <https://apsamena.org/mena-politics-newsletter/mena-politics-newsletter-42-fall-2021/>

Green, D. and R. McCarthy, *Lawrence of Oxford* (Magdalen College, 2020). Catalogue of an exhibition held at Magdalen College, Oxford. <https://lawrenceatmagdalen.magd.ox.ac.uk/>

R. McCarthy, 'Al-Nahda: From Preaching Circles to Politics', *The Middle East in London*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (2017): 14-15. https://www.academia.edu/37444314/Al_Nahda_From_preaching_circles_to_politics

WORK IN PROGRESS

'Explaining Variation in Islamist Party Strategy: Electoral Defeat and Party Change'

'Consequences of Islamist Defeat: Stable and Unstable Political Systems in North Africa'

'Dilemmas of Islamist Adaptation'

RESEARCH GRANTS

-
- 2024-25 Leverhulme Research Fellowship (RF-2024-322, £64,876)
 - 2022-24 BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant (SG2122\210707, £9,850)
 - 2021-22 POMEPS Travel, Research & Engagement Grant, The George Washington University (\$3,000)
 - 2020-24 Collaborator on Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant 'Loyalties of the Faithful: Attitudes and Values of Islamist Party Members' (PI Francesco Cavatorta, Université Laval; CA\$164,000)
 - 2017-18 APSA Small Research Grant (\$1,250)
 - 2015-16 Student Travel and Research Grant, St Antony's College, Oxford
 - 2015-16 POMEPS Travel, Research & Engagement Grant, George Washington University (\$2,000)
 - 2013-14 McCone Fund Grant, Oxford (£1,000)
 - 2013-14 Graduate Research Support Grant, Oriental Studies Faculty, Oxford
 - 2013-14 Carr and Stahl Travel Grant, St Antony's College, Oxford
 - 2011-12 Language Study Grant, Oriental Studies Faculty, Oxford

AWARDS AND HONOURS

-
- 2022 Shortlisted for a Durham University Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award
 - 2022 Discretionary Award, Durham University
 - 2016 Fellowship by Examination, Magdalen College, Oxford
 - 2015 Writing Up Bursary, St Antony's College, Oxford
 - 2014 Ali Pachachi Doctoral Studentship, St Antony's College, Oxford
 - 2013 Dahrendorf Scholarship, St Antony's College, Oxford

TEACHING

I am a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA).

Courses taught at Durham University:

Postgraduate:

International Politics of the Middle East 2019-20 — 2022-23

Postgraduate Dissertation 2019-20 — 2023-24

Undergraduate:
 Muslims and Politics in the Modern World 2019-20 — 2023-24
 Undergraduate Dissertation 2019-20 — 2023-24
 Middle East in the International System 2019-20 — 2020-21
 Research Project 2019-20

Courses taught at University of Oxford:
 Postgraduate: Political Islam 2019
 Postgraduate: Politics in the Maghreb 2018
 Undergraduate: Politics in the Middle East 2012, 2015, 2017

Classes taught elsewhere:
 Contentious politics in Tunisia (seminar, Ghent University) Nov. 2018, Nov. 2020

Dissertation Supervision:
 Four current PhD students (two as primary, one as co-supervisor, one as second supervisor)

COLLEGE & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

At Durham University:
 PhD Examiner (3 as internal for Durham; 5 as external for Université Laval, Exeter University, Deakin University, Macquarie University, Oxford University)
 Deputy Director of Education, SGIA, 2023-24
 Recruitment & Selection Panel member for Associate Professor new hire, 2021
 Programme Director BA in International Relations, 2020-21 - 2022-23
 Postgraduate Dissertation Convenor, 2019-20 - 2023-24
 Department Careers Liaison, 2019-20, 2022-23
 Department Library Representative, 2019-20

At University of Oxford:
 Assessor for DPhil Transfer & Confirmation of Status, 2018, 2019.
 Assessor for Fellowship by Examination competition, Magdalen College, 2018.
 Exam assessor for MPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies, 2018, 2019.
 PG admissions for Modern Middle Eastern Studies, 2018, 2019.
 UG admissions interviews for Oriental Studies, 2016, 2017.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2023-25 Co-Convenor of the International Studies of the Mediterranean, Middle East & Asia Working Group at the British International Studies Association (BISA)

2022— Reviewer for ESRC Grant Applications

2021 Assessor for BRISMES Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize, 2021.

Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *International Political Sociology*, *Politics and Religion*, *Peacebuilding*, *Global Policy*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Mediterranean Politics*, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Partecipazione e Conflitto*, *Middle East Law and Governance*, *Social Compass*, *Contemporary Islam*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Constellations*, *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, *The Middle*

East Journal, Middle East Critique, The Journal of North African Studies, Contemporary Arab Affairs, Cambridge University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Routledge, and Brookings Institute, and Churchill College Cambridge Early Career Research Fellowship.

Member of:

American Political Science Association (APSA)
Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA)
British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)
British International Studies Association (BISA)

LANGUAGES & METHODS

English (native)
French (advanced)
Modern Standard Arabic (advanced)
Tunisian Arabic dialect (intermediate)

Methods training:

Multivariate Statistical Techniques for Comparing Countries (ECPR Winter School, Feb 2022)
Statistics for Survey Data Analysis (Essex Summer School, July 2021)
Causal Mechanisms Using In-Depth Case Studies; Process Tracing (APSA Short Courses, Sept 2020)
Inferential Statistics; Multiple Regression Analysis (ECPR Summer School, July-August 2019)

CONFERENCES CONVENED

2023 'Islamist Dilemmas: Investigating the Dynamics of Political Party Change in North Africa', 14-15 June, Durham. Brought five current and former Islamist politicians from Morocco and Tunisia into discussion with academics working on the religious politics of the Maghreb.

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 'Autonomous Activism and Accountability in Tunisia's Democratic Transition', Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, 3 May.
- 2021 Roundtable: 'Ten Years On, What Does the Arab Spring Mean for Research?', Pembroke College, Oxford (online), 13 January.
- 2020 'Islamist Transformations after the Arab Uprisings: Tunisia's Ennahda Movement', Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (online), 21 October.
- 2019 'Protestation à l'heure de la démocratisation', book tour in Tunisia for *Civil Resistance and the Arab Spring: Triumphs and Disasters*.
- Université de Carthage, Tunis, 21 January
 - Université de Sfax, 23 January.
- 2018-19 'Inside Tunisia's al-Nahda: Between Politics and Preaching'
- Ghent University, Belgium, 26 November 2018
 - St Antony's College, Oxford, 8 March 2019
 - KU Leuven, Belgium, 25 April 2019.

- 2018-19 ‘TE Lawrence and Myths of Re-Making the Middle East’, Magdalen College, Oxford
- 5 November 2018
 - 15 January 2019.
- 2017 ‘When Islamists Lose: The Politicization of Tunisia’s al-Nahda Movement’, King’s College London, 10 October.
- 2017 ‘Dignity and the Politics of Protest in the Middle East and North Africa’, King’s College, University of London, Regional Security Seminar, UK Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, 15 February.
- 2016 ‘Al-Nahda, la politique de consensus et la stabilité de la transition tunisienne’, at ‘Colloque de la Chaire d’études maghrébines’, Université Laval, Québec, 7 May.

RECENT CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 ‘Explaining Islamist Party Change in North Africa’
- Islamist Dilemmas Workshop, Durham 14 June
 - BISA, 22 June
 - BRISMES, 4 July
 - ECPR, 6 September
- 2023 ‘Patterns of Secularism in North Africa’, Global Policy Webinar: Secularism in Religiously Dominated Societies, Durham, 10 January.
- 2021 ‘Postdocs: what are they, and what to look out for?’, COMPAS research centre, Oxford (online), 12 March.
- 2018 ‘Protest Autonomy in a Time of Democratization: The Kamour campaign in Tunisia’, Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, San Antonio, 18 November 2018
- 2018 ‘Between Politics and Preaching: Notes on Researching Islamism’, Magdalen College, Oxford, 20 February.
- 2017 ‘Protest on the Periphery: Contentious Politics in the New Tunisia’, Oxford Middle East Studies at 60, St Antony’s College, Oxford, 16 September.
- 2017 ‘Tunisia and the Politics of Consensus’, Oxford-Cambridge Middle East History Graduate and Early Career Researchers’ Workshop, Oxford, 20 June.
- 2017 ‘When Islamists Lose: The Politicization of Tunisia’s al-Nahda Movement’
- Modern Maghreb Research Seminar, St Antony’s College, Oxford, 18 May
 - British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, 5 July.
- 2017 ‘Tunisia and the Politics of Protest’, Middle East Centre Seminar, St Antony’s College, Oxford, 3 March.

- 2016 ‘Tunisia’s al-Nahda in Prison: Rethinking Strategy and Reclaiming Dignity’, Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Boston, 19 November.
- 2016 ‘Al-Nahda: Its Role in the Tunisian Transition’, Middle East Study Group Seminar, St Antony’s College, Oxford, 14 May.
- 2016 ‘From Opposition to Consensus-Building: The Impact of Democratization on Tunisia’s al-Nahda’, at POMEPS conference ‘From Mobilization to Counter-Revolution: The Arab Spring in Comparative Perspective’, St Antony’s College, Oxford, 4 May.
- 2016 Book launch for *Civil Resistance in the Arab Spring: Triumphs and Disasters*
- St Antony’s College, Oxford, 16 February
 - SOAS, London, 1 March.
- 2015 ‘Tunisia’s al-Nahda: Between Preaching and Politics’, Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Denver, 23 November.
- 2015 ‘When Islamists Lose an Election: Al-Nahda and the 2014 elections in Sousse’, at ‘With or Without the Brothers’, Sciences Po, Paris, 29 October.

SELECTED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 2024 ‘Between Authoritarian Crack-Down and Internal Crisis, Can Ennahda Rise Again?’ (*Nawaat.org*, April)
- 2024 ‘The Case of the Vanishing Missiles’ (*Literary Review*, March)
- 2022 FCDO Briefing on Tunisian politics after constitutional change, London (online), 7 September.
- 2022 Briefing on Ukraine impact on North Africa for Norwegian MFA and FCDO with Institute of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (online), 4 May.
- 2021 FCDO Ambassadorial Briefing on Tunisia (online), 2 November.
- 2021 Briefing on Tunisian politics for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, London (online), 4 May.
- 2021 Briefing on Tunisian protests for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, London (online), 29 January.
- 2021 Briefing on Tunisia for Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability, UK Government, London (online), 13 January & 25 February.
- 2019 ‘The Future of Democracy in Tunisia’ (*The New York Times*, 24 September)
- 2019 Briefing on Tunisian presidential elections, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, 19 September
- 2018— Advisor to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Tunisia, House of Commons

- 2018-19 Co-curator 'Lawrence of Oxford' exhibition & speaker series, Magdalen College, Oxford
- Online portal: <https://lawrenceatmagdalen.magd.ox.ac.uk/>
 - Exhibition catalogue published in 2020
 - More than 2,000 visitors
 - Reviewed in: *The Book Collector*, Spring (2019), pp. 175-78.
- 2018 'It's 2018 and Tunisians Are Still Mad as Hell' (*The New York Times*, 8 October)
- 2017 'Al-Nahda and Tunisia's Conservative Transition', Chatham House roundtable, London, 18 October
- 2016 'How Tunisia's Ennahda party turned from its Islamist roots' (*The Washington Post*, 23 May)
- 2015 'National dialogue brought Tunisia back from the brink' (*The Guardian*, 9 October)
- 2015 Radicalisation in North Africa seminar, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, 5 August
- 2015 'Tunisian History and Politics in Context', Tunisia Study Day, British Army 4th Infantry Brigade, York, 30 July
- 2015 On Tunisia's security crisis, BBC Radio Four: The World Tonight, 29 June