



THE MEDITERRANEAN MICROCOSM

Workshop – Florence, 25-26 February 2011

Sala del Capitolo
Badia Fiesolana
Via dei Roccettini 9, San Domenico di Fiesole

THE MEDITERRANEAN MICROCOSM IN THE BROADER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE ARAB-MUSLIM WORLD - A STUDY PROJECT

The Project has been promoted and is being conducted by the Italian Institute of International Affairs (IAI) in cooperation with the Center for the US and Europe of the Brookings Institution, in Washington, and with the Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute (EUI), in Florence. A workshop will be convened at the EUI, February 25-26, 2011, to discuss draft papers of Part One and prospective contents of the three chapters of Part Two. All texts are expected to be finalised through the summer of 2011 so as to constitute the basis of an international conference in October and then be considered for publication by Brookings Press before the end of the year.

Purpose

In today's world societies increasingly communicate, interrelate, and enter into conflicts among themselves also outside the representation and the intermediation of their respective national governments. Non-state actors such as ethnic and religious groups, corporations and smaller businesses, NGOs and radical or terrorist networks have become more prominent in a time of relatively limited inter-state wars, high economic interdependence among nations, and an unprecedented degree of interpersonal relations among people. At the same time societies undergo rapid, though often unequal, transformations in almost all parts of the world. The part of the world on which the project will concentrate is the United States-Europe-Arab Islam "triangle" focusing on the smaller scale of the Mediterranean, west of the Bosphorus-Suez axis.

The study will first deal with civil society, societal change and societal relations and then explore ways to improve Transatlantic cooperation vis-à-vis the Arab world, with such a more comprehensive approach, and discuss whether a circumscribed area can be identified in the North-African region that would provide a useful case study to this end.

Structure

The project is divided in two parts. The five chapters of **Part One** are meant to discuss the nature and the international impact of societal change. They will concentrate on the following subject areas, with the specified scholars in charge for the respective papers.

1) Demographic differentials and immigration-related issues

Author: Philippe Fargues, CARIM, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI, Florence

2) The changing role of women in society

Authors: Renata Pepicelli, University of Bologna, and Maria Cristina Paciello, University La Sapienza, Rome

3) The information and telecommunications society: Mediterranean Islamic Expression and web 2.0

Author: Gary R. Bunt, University of Wales, www.virtuallyislamic.com

4) Religion and values

Author: Olivier Roy, Director of the Mediterranean Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI, Florence

5) Modern commercial and social entrepreneurship as a factor of change

Authors: Gonzalo Escribano, UNED, and Alejandro Lorca, University of Madrid

Taking into account the findings of these chapters, **Part Two** of the Project will turn to the sides of the "triangle". The relative three papers will be the task of the indicated authors.

1) The US and the Arab-Muslim world, with particular evidence for North-Africa

Author: Jonathan Laurence, Boston College and Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

2) Europe, the Mediterranean and the Arab-Muslim world

Authors: Roberto Aliboni, IAI, Rome and Silvia Colombo, IAI, Rome

3) The impact on Transatlantic relations - Conclusions

Author: Cesare Merlini, IAI and Brookings Institution

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PROGRAMME

Friday, 25 February 2011

- 12.30 - 13.30** *Lunch*
- 13.30 - 14.00** **Welcome and opening remarks:** Stefano Bartolini, Olivier Roy
Introduction to the Workshop: Cesare Merlini
- 14.00 - 15.15** **Demography and migration:** Philippe Fargues
Discussant: Jonathan Laurence
- 15.15 - 15.45** *Coffee break*
- 15.45 - 17.00** **Women:** Renata Pepicelli, Maria Cristina Paciello
Discussant: Margot Badran
- 17.00 - 18.15** **Religion:** Olivier Roy
Discussant: Cesare Merlini

Saturday, 26 February 2011

- 09.15 - 10.30** **Internet:** Gary Bunt
Discussant: Jon Anderson
- 10.30 - 11.00** *Coffee break*
- 11.00 - 12.15** **Entrepreneurship:** Gonzalo Escribano and Alejandro Lorca
Discussant: Anna Carrabetta
- 12.30 - 14.00** *Lunch*
Olivier Roy to open a discussion on: *The Impact of Recent Events on the Mediterranean Microcosm*
Discussant: Mats Karlsson
- 14.00 - 14.45** **EU-Arab Islam relations:** preliminary remarks by Roberto Aliboni
Discussants: Nadia Marzouki and Silvia Colombo
- 14.45 - 15.30** **US-Arab Islam relations:** preliminary remarks by Jonathan Laurence
Discussant: Karim Mezran
- 15.30 - 16.00** **Transatlantic Relations:** preliminary remarks by Cesare Merlini
Discussant: François Lafond

PARTICIPANTS

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Bio Notes

Roberto Aliboni is Vice-President at the International Affairs Institute-IAI in Rome and head of the Institute's programme on the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

He is Senior Research Adviser of the European Institute for the Mediterranean (IEMed) in Barcelona and member of the Scientific Council of the Tampere Peace Research Institute-(TAPRI).

In 1993-4, he conceived of and successfully established the Mediterranean Study Commission (MeSCo), the network of Mediterranean Institutes dealing with international and security affairs, transformed in the Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission-EuroMeSCo in 1996.

He published numerous articles and books regarding Mediterranean and Middle Eastern international and security relations.

Alice Alunni is Research Assistant at the Centro Studi Americani in Rome. A 2010 MA graduate of the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University (Bologna and Washington DC), she concentrated on Euro-Mediterranean affairs. She worked as Research Assistant of Nathalie Tocci at the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington DC on Turkey related issues. Working at the Social Security Department of the International Labour Organization Headquarters in Geneva, she had the opportunity to analyze the role of social security systems in North Africa and Middle East

Jon W. Anderson is professor and chair of Anthropology at the Catholic University of America and founding editor of Working Papers on New Media & Information Technology in the Middle East at Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, where he is co-director of its Arab Information Project and created the first course in the US on new media and information technology in the Arab world. He has conducted field research on tribal culture in Afghanistan, Islamic cosmology in Pakistan, the Internet in the Middle East and Muslim worlds. He has served as editor of the Middle East Studies Association Bulletin and on the Social Science Research Council Committee on Information Technology, International Development and Global Security, contributed "Inside Internet Implantation in the Middle East" to *The New Arab Media: Technology, Image and Perception* edited by Emma Murphy and Mahjoob Zweiri (2011), the chapter on electronic media in the *New Cambridge History of Islam* (2010), "Nouveaux médias et nouveaux publics dans le monde Arab" in *Les Arabes parlant aux Arabes: La révolution de l'information dans le monde arabe* edited by Yves Gonzalez-Quijano & Tourya Gaaaybess (2009), "Vers une théorie techno-pratique de l'Internet dans le monde Arab" (*Maghreb-Machrek*, 2004), "New Media, New Publics: Reconfiguring the Public Sphere of Islam" (*Social Research*, 2003), *Arabizing the Internet* (1998), "Globalizing Politics and Religion in the Muslim World" (*Journal of Electronic Publishing*, 1996), and is co-editor of *New Media in the Arab World: The Emerging Public Sphere* (1999, Second edition 2003) and *Reformatting Politics: Networked Communication and Global Civil Society* (2006).

Margot Badran is a historian and gender studies specialist focusing on the Middle East and Muslim societies in the East and West. A Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a Senior Fellow at the Prince Alwaleed ibn Talal Center for Muslim Christian Understanding at Georgetown University, she holds a D.Phil. from Oxford University, an M.A. from Harvard University, and a diploma from Al Azhar University. Recently Edith Kreeger Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of Religion and Preceptor at the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought at Northwestern University, she has lectured widely in the United States and abroad. She is part of project on *Contending Modernities: Catholic, Muslim, Secular* organized by Notre Dame's Kroc Institute, a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, and editor of the Brill series *Woman and Gender in the Middle East and Islamic World*. Her research interests include secular and Islamic feminisms, women in social and political movements in the Middle East and Muslim societies, women and revolution, Egyptian women's history, Middle Eastern and Muslim women's biographies and memoirs, and women in the new post-Islamic feminist era. Her most recent book is *Feminism in Islam: Secular and Religious Convergences* (2009). Other books include *Feminism beyond East and West*; *Feminists, Islam and Nation: Gender and the Making of Modern Egypt*; *Opening the Gates: An Anthology of Arab Feminist Writing* which she co-edited; and *Harem Years: the Memoirs of an Egyptian Feminist*, Huda Shaarawi which she translated, edited, and introduced. She is the author of numerous scholarly articles, as well as essays in newspapers, especially *Al-Ahram Weekly*, and popular journals. Her work has been translated into several foreign languages. The book on Islamic feminism she has been working on is now morphing into a book on the trajectory from Islamic feminism to post-Islamic feminism with a focus on Egypt's present transformational experience.

Stefano Bartolini was born in 1952 and graduated in political science from the University of Florence. He became the Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) at the European University Institute in 2006. Previous to his directorship he has been assistant professor at the University of Bologna (1976) and at the European University Institute (1979), associate professor at the University of Florence (1985), full professor at the University of Trieste (1990), the University of Geneva (1991), the European University Institute (1994) and the University of Bologna (2004). He is a member of the editorial board of the *Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica*, and a member of the scientific board of *West European Politics*, *Swiss Review of Political Science*, *Acta Politica*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, and *Comparative Political Studies*. He has been awarded the best book prize of the European Politics section of the APSA (2002), the Gregory Luebbert APSA Prize in Comparative Politics (2001), and the UNESCO Stein Rokkan prize for the Social Sciences (1990).

Gary R. Bunt is Director of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's MA Islamic Studies programme. His primary research focuses on Islam, Muslims and the internet. His most recent book is *iMuslims: Rewiring the House of Islam* (2009) which discusses how, in some contexts, the application of the internet has had an overarching transformational effect on how Muslims practice Islam, how forms of Islam are represented to the wider world, and how Muslim societies perceive themselves and their peers. This book builds on earlier research, including *Islam in the Digital Age: E-Jihad, Online Fatwas and Cyber Islamic Environments*, (2003) and *Virtually Islamic: Computer-Mediated Communication and Cyber-Islamic Environments*, (2000).

Dr Bunt has new work in-preparation on Muslims in Britain. He also contributes to the Higher Education Academy's Islamic Studies Network. A website - containing full publication information, Islamic Studies resources, a blog, and related research materials - can be found at www.virtuallyislamic.com – Email: g.bunt@tsd.ac.uk.

Recent publications: *iMuslims: Rewiring the House of Islam*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009. London: C. Hurst & Co. Kuala Lumpur: TOP. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press. Arabic edition forthcoming, 2011); "Muslims in Britain and the internet" chapter in *Postcolonial Media Culture*, Rinella Cere & Ros Brunt (editors), (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011); 'Surfing the App Souq: Islamic Applications for Mobile Devices' *CyberOrient*, 2010; 'The Digital Umma', chapter in *A Companion to The Muslim World*, Amy B. Sajo (editor), (London: IB Tauris/Institute of Ismaili Studies, 2009); 'L'islam digitale (Internet)', chapter in *Le religioni e il mondo moderno III. Islam*, Giovanni Filoramo, Roberto Tottoli (editors) (Torino: Einaudi, Grandi Opere, 2009); 'Religion and the Internet' chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*, Peter B. Clarke (editor) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008); *Dijital Çağda İslam*, (trans. Nil Erdogan), (Istanbul: Yayınevi, 2007).

Silvia Colombo is a junior researcher in the Mediterranean and Middle East programme at Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) in Rome. She is an expert on Middle Eastern politics and in this capacity she is working on transatlantic relations in the Mediterranean and politics in the Arab World. She is also a PhD student at Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (SUM) in Florence. She holds a Master's Degree in Near and Middle Eastern Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. She speaks Arabic fluently and travelled extensively in the Middle Eastern region.

Anna Di Bartolomeo is a demographer, currently in charge of the demographic and economic module of the Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM) at the European University Institute. She was educated at the University of Rome as well as at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock and the Institute National d'Études Démographiques in Paris where she obtained the post-graduate diploma at the European Doctoral School of Demography. Her research interests are international migrations in the Mediterranean area, migrations and economic growth, socio-economic integration of second generation migrants. Her publications include "Explaining the educational achievement's gap between second generation immigrants and natives", *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, (forthcoming, 2011), "The impact of massive migration flow on regional population structure. The case of Italy" (con Golini A.), *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research* 2009, Vienna Institute of Demography (eds.), 2010, "Le migrazioni in Italia: una prospettiva di genere" (con Golini A.), *Libertà civili, Rivista bimestrale di studi e documentazione sui temi dell'immigrazione*, Franco Angeli (eds.), Rome, 2010, "Gender inequality and female political participation in Great Britain", Conference proceedings of ESA2009 - European Society or European Societies?, 2009.

Gonzalo Escribano is professor at the Department of Applied Economics, Spanish Open University (UNED), Madrid. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics at Universidad Complutense de Madrid with a dissertation titled Trade and Exchange Rate Policies in Morocco since 1960; he also has a Master degree on International Economics at the UNED. He is a member of the Working Group on the Arab World at the Real Instituto Elcano de Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos, and collaborates frequently in other Spanish think tanks on Euro-mediterranean issues, like the IEMed, the CIDOB, Casa Árabe and others. He is a member of several Euro-mediterranean networks, like the FEMISE network, financed by the EU Commission, the EMMA network (financed by the French CNRS) and the IEPN (financed by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation). He is also a researcher of the Research Group on International Political Economy (UNED). Dr. Escribano has published almost hundred articles and pieces of research on the political economy of the Mediterranean and the Arab World, and participated in several research programs, both in Spain and the EU, like the Seventh Framework Programme.

Philippe Fargues is a sociologist and demographer. He is currently Director of the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute (Florence). He has been founding Director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo, a senior researcher and head of the Migration Unit at the French National Institute for Demographic Studies in Paris, a visiting professor at Harvard, the Director of the Centre for Economic Legal and Social Studies (CEDEJ) in Cairo and a researcher in Lebanon, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire. His research interests include migration and refugee movements, population and politics in Muslim countries, family building, and demographic methodologies. He has numerous publications and he lectured in various universities in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. His most recent publications include *Mediterranean Migration – Report 2008/2009*; *International Migration and the Demographic Transition: a Two-Way Interaction*, *International Migration Review* (forthcoming, Fall 2011); *Work, Refuge, Transit: An Emerging Pattern of Irregular Immigration South and East of the Mediterranean* (IMR, 2009, 43/3); *Emerging Demographic Patterns across the Mediterranean and their Implications for Migration through 2030* (Migration Policy Institute, 2009); *The Demographic Benefit of International Migration: Hypothesis and Application to Middle Eastern and North African Contexts* (International Migration, Economic Development and Policy, The World Bank and Palgrave Macmillan, 2007); and his books include: *Génération Arabes* (2001), *Christians and Jews Under Islam* (1997), *The Economy of the Middle East in a Prospect of Peace* (1995), *The Atlas of the Arab World – Geopolitics and Society* (1991), *Pools of manpower and oil income: labour migration to the Gulf I* (1981).

Thibaut Jaulin holds a doctorate in political science at the University Paul Cezanne (Aix-en-Provence, France). His research deals with the socio-political dimension of international migration, especially in the Arab Mediterranean countries. He stayed in Beirut from 1999 until 2006 as an associate researcher at the IFPO. Since September 2009, he is in charge of the socio-political module of the CARIM at the RSCAS/EUI in Florence. His publications include: *The impact of EU migration policy on Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries* (International IDEA Policy Paper, 2010); *Démographie et politique au Liban sous le Mandat : les émigrés, les ratios confessionnels et la fabrique du Pacte national* (Histoire et Mesure, XXIV, 1, 2009); *Lebanese Politics of Naturalization and Emigration* (RSCAS Working Paper, n°2006/29).

Mats Karlsson has been engaged in international development and integration since 1983. After positions in Swedish administration, politics and government, he joined the World Bank in 1999, where he since has been focusing on global governance, African and Maghreb development, and now Mediterranean integration. He took up his current job as Director for the Center for Mediterranean Integration (www.cmimarseille.org) in April 2010. The Center, based in Marseille, brings together Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and the European Investment Bank, with the World Bank also as administrator, to facilitate access to best knowledge, enhance sustainable development and converge policies towards greater integration. It has a special focus on employment and migration, the knowledge economy, water and the environment and urban development.

As Country Director for the Maghreb from 2007-10 he was responsible for the World Bank's program in Algeria, Libya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia), as well as coordinating the World Bank's cooperation in the Mediterranean region, relations with the Union for the Mediterranean and with European Union institutions.

As Country Director in West Africa (for Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), based in Accra 2002-07, he was instrumental in the realization of modern coordinated partnership, from supporting Ghana's accelerated growth and poverty reduction to the post-conflict reconstruction in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

As World Bank Vice President of External Affairs and United Nations Affairs 1999-2002, he pursued strategic policy dialogue with the Bank's partners and stakeholders. With the UN he worked on the Millennium Development Goals, the Monterrey Summit on Financing for Development and the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development. He also led the World Bank's engagement with civil society in debating globalization. Since 2000, he has been promoting multilateral system-wide cooperation as co-chair of the UN High-Level Committee on Programmes under the UN Chief Executives Bureau, chaired by the UN Secretary-General. He chaired UN-Energy 2004-7, after assisting in its creation following the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Within the UN HLCP, he is currently leading the UN system working group on climate change.

From 1994 to 1999, he was Swedish State Secretary for International Development Cooperation. He began his career in development in 1983 when he joined Sida. After working mostly with Eastern and Southern Africa, he moved to the Foreign Ministry and became Chief Economist. He served as Foreign Policy Advisor to the opposition Social Democratic Parliamentary Group 1991-94, during which he was involved in Sweden's accession to the EU. He has co-authored four books on the transformation of Central and Eastern Europe. He was secretary in the Commission on Global Governance 1992-94.

Born in 1956 in Solna, Sweden, Mats Karlsson studied economics and philosophy at the University of Stockholm. He studied music at the academies of Vienna and Prague and played double bass in the Stockholm Philharmonic. He is married and has twin daughters. He speaks English, French, German, Czech, and basic Russian, plus native Swedish.

François Lafond is the director of the Paris office of The German Marshall Fund of the United States (since July 2008). Most recently, François Lafond was a special adviser of the Italian Minister for Regional Affairs and Local Autonomies (2007-8), responsible for international relations of the think tank Glocus in Roma, and associate professor at the Centre for European Studies of Sciences-Po Paris (2001-9). Previously, he was special adviser of the Italian undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs (2006-7), deputy director of Policy Network in London (2003-6), researcher and then deputy secretary general of the think tank Notre Europe in Paris (1999-2003), then chaired by Jacques Delors, and research associate at the European University Institute's Robert Schuman Centre in Florence (1995-9). He is also a former trainee from the European Commission in Brussels (1990). François Lafond has published on European policy issues including scientific governance, European regulatory affairs and Transatlantic issues. He is member of the scientific committee of the Institute of European Democrats foundation in Brussels, a regular collaborator of the French International TV France 24 and to the daily Italian Newspaper Europa.

Jonathan Laurence, associate professor of Political Science at Boston College, teaches courses on European politics, transatlantic relations and Islam in the West. He is also Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution (Washington, DC) and Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations (New York City). Laurence's new book is *The Emancipation of Europe's Muslims: The State's Role in Minority Integration* (Princeton 2011). His first book *Integrating Islam: Political and Religious Challenges in Contemporary France* (co-authored with Justin Vaisse) was published by Brookings Press (2006) and received an "outstanding academic title" award from the American Library Association; its French edition was published by Odile Jacob (2007). He has edited two volumes: *The New French Council for the Muslim Faith* (2005) and *Governments and Muslim Communities in the West* (with P. Strum, 2008). His articles have been published in *European Political Science*, *Esprit* (France), *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Formiche* (Italy), *French Politics Culture and Society*, *German Politics and Society*, *Italian Foreign Policy*, *Italian Politics and Society*, *Neue Soziale Bewegungen* (Germany), *New Europe Review*, *Perspectives on Politics* and *The Tocqueville Review*. Laurence comments regularly in US and European news media, and his research articles have appeared as chapters in several edited volumes. He has authored policy reports for the International Crisis Group, the Migration Policy Institute, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Brookings Institution and the Transatlantic Academy.

Nadia Marzouki is a Jean Monnet Fellow in the Mediterranean Program at the RSCAS. She received her PhD in political science from Sciences-Po, Paris in 2008. She has been a Postdoctoral fellow at the Council on Middle Eastern Studies, Yale University (2008-2010), and a visiting scholar at the University of Berkeley (2004-2005) and at Princeton University (2005-2006). While her dissertation examined academic and policy debates about Islam in Europe and the U.S, she is currently working on controversies around religious conversions from Islam to Evangelical Christianity in Algeria.

Cesare Merlini is a nonresident senior fellow with the Brookings Institution in Washington and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Italian Institute for International Affairs in Rome, of which he had been the president for many years. Until the end of 2009 he was executive vice chairman of the Council for the United States and Italy, an organization he had co-founded in 1983. His areas of expertise include transatlantic relations, European integration, nuclear non-proliferation (out of his background as a nuclear scientist) and, more recently, the impact of societal change on international relations. A few titles out of his list of publications: - "Europe in the International Scene: a Union of Necessity after a Union of Choice?" a chapter in a book published by CEPS, Brussels, 2009; - "The Lessons of Ancient History and the Future of Transatlantic Relations", *The International Spectator*, 44/1, March 2009; - "L'Europa degli anni Novanta. Scenari per un futuro impreveduto" Franco Angeli, Milan, 1991; - "Fine dell'atomo? Passato e futuro delle applicazioni civili e militari dell'energia nucleare", Laterza, Bari, 1987.

Karim Mezran (Italy), Director, Center for American Studies, Rome; Co-Director, Institute for Global Studies, Rome; Professorial Lecturer in International Relations at the Johns Hopkins University – Bologna Center; Assistant Professor of Political Science, John Cabot University, Rome; Ph.D. International Affairs, Johns Hopkins University-SAIS (2001); M.A. in Arab Studies, Georgetown University (1993). Professional Lecturer, SAIS-Washington (Fall 2000); Visiting Professor, Libera Università per gli Studi Sociali (LUISS) Rome (2002).

Author: *I Fratelli Musulmani nel mondo contemporaneo* with Massimo Campanini, UTET Libreria (2010); *Arcipelago Islam. Tradizione, riforma e militanza in età contemporanea* with Massimo Campanini, Editori Laterza 2007; *Negotiation and Construction of National Identities*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers (May 2007); *Negotiating National Identity: the Case of North Africa*, Antonio Pellicani Editore (Rome 2002); *Between Europe and Islam: the Libyan legal system in Legal Systems of the world*, by Herbert Kritzer. He is also the author of numerous articles in foreign and Italian journals as well as book reviews and working papers.

Maria Cristina Paciello is a socio-economist with extensive research and field experiences in the North Africa region. She holds a PhD in Politics and Economics of Developing Countries from the University of Florence. Since 2006, she has been working as a lecturer in various academic courses (e.g. Economic History of the Arab World, Economic and Political Geography of the Arab world, and Economic and Political Geography of Development) at La Sapienza University of Rome. Since 2001, she has been working as a research consultant for Istituto Affari Internazionali of Rome, under different projects in the Southern Mediterranean area. She also conducted research in the field of gender and development studies for a number international organisations such as DFID, FAO and ILO. Among her recent publications are "L'impact social de la crise financière au Maroc", *Maghreb-Machrek*, forthcoming 2011, and "The Impact of the Economic Crisis on Euro-Mediterranean Relations", *The International Spectator*, September 2010.

Renata Pepicelli holds a research appointment at the University of Bologna. She has received her PhD in "Geopolitics and cultures of the Mediterranean" from SUM, Italian Institute of Human Sciences - University of Naples, Federico II. Her research focuses on contemporary Islamic world, gender issues in Islam, migrations. Her publications include: "2010 un nuovo ordine mediterraneo?" (2010 a new mediterranean order?), 2004; "Femminismo islamico. Corano, diritti, riforme" (Islamic feminism: Quran, rights, reforms), 2010 and many articles as "L'Islam rappresenta una minaccia per il secolarismo? Alcune considerazioni su Europa, Islam e Femminismo Islamico" in "Filosofia Politica", a. XXIV, n°3, dicembre 2010, pp. 413-430; "Maroc: vers un féminisme islamique d'Etat" (avec Souad Eddouada), in "Critique Internationale", XLVI, 2010, pp. 87-100.

Olivier Roy (1949) is presently professor at the European University Institute (Florence): he heads the Mediterranean programme at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. He has been a Senior Researcher at the French National Center for Scientific Research (since 1985), Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (since 2003), and visiting professor at Berkeley University (2008/2009). He headed the OSCE's Mission for Tajikistan (1993-94) and was a Consultant for the UN Office of the Coordinator for Afghanistan (1988). His field works include Afghanistan, Political Islam, Middle East, Islam in the West and comparative religions. Mr. Roy received an "Agrégation de Philosophie" and a Ph.D. in Political Sciences. He is the author of "The failure of political Islam" (Harvard UP 1994), "Globalized Islam" (Columbia University Press, 2004), and more recently of "La Sainte Ignorance" ("Holy Ignorance", forthcoming, Columbia UP, 2010). He is presently working on "Islamic norms in the public sphere", conversions, apostasy and comparative religions.