

„The dynamics of normative orders“

3rd Graduate Conference of the Cluster of Excellence „The formation of normative orders“

18-20th November 2011, Frankfurt/ Main

Panel: Interrupting Autocratic Rule in the Middle East and North Africa

Chair: Leonie Holthaus

Call for Papers

Until the spring of this year, the MENA has been viewed as “exception” in the diffusion of democracy due to the perceived persistence of the ruling autocratic regimes. Terms as “autocratic consolidation” and the recent proclamation of the “post-democratization” studies illustrate that scholars have viewed the regimes, although to a different degree, as relatively stable and aimed at releasing their research from the underlying normative assumption of an inevitable transition to liberal-democratic systems to be better equipped to explore the dynamics within autocratically ruled societies. The prominent upheavals in MENA states as Tunisia and Egypt but also the lesser-known in the Arab Gulf states as Bahrain and Oman have challenged this notion by their call for more participation. It is important to note, however, that the protests were directed to different, e.g. monarchical or republican, normative systems and that the challenge of an autocratic order does not need to initiate a democratization process with a linear proceeding. In this light, the panel invites, firstly, papers that question the underlying assumptions and methods in the study of the dynamics of the normative order in the MENA states, secondly, contributions that examine the international interrelations of the oppositional actions and lastly case studies on the dynamics in particular states.

Please send Abstracts until **21st of August** 2011 to holthaus@pg.tu-darmstadt.de.