



DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE
EASTERN STUDIES
Faculty of Arts
Charles University

PhD Researcher Position in the project Envisioning (Im)possible Futures in the Middle East

We invite applications for a **doctoral (PhD-ongoing or planned) researcher position focusing on the visions of political change in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**. The selected researcher will join the team working on the PRIMUS project “Envisioning (Im)possible Futures: Imaginaries of Political Transformation in the Middle East” led by Dr. Tereza Jermanová at the [Department of Middle Eastern Studies](#), Faculty of Arts, Charles University (see more information about the project below).

Applicant **must either be a current Ph.D. student (preferably in the first or second year) or plan to apply for a Ph.D. programme at Charles University, with the start in October 2024**. We welcome applications from those **trained in area studies** (specifically Middle Eastern Studies) **and/or social sciences** (Political Science, International Relations, Sociology, Anthropology, etc.). **Essential requirements include the ability to work with social science concepts and methods, with doctoral project focusing on the contemporary MENA. Proficiency in a language spoken in the region would be a significant asset.**

The selection for the position will consider relevant qualifications (writing, language and scientific skills) as well as the quality of the draft research proposal and its fit within the project. We particularly, but not exclusively, **seek researchers interested in enhancing our understanding of the role of gender and/or environmental issues in the politics of protest movements that emerged in the MENA post-2015, or in understanding donor-civil society relations**. We especially encourage applications from female researchers.

What we offer:

- A doctoral position for up to 4 years (conditional on a positive evaluation after the first year), starting on 1 September 2024 (or as soon as possible thereafter). The position includes a monthly stipend of 14 000 CZK (equivalent to 0.4 contract).
- Mentoring and support to develop your Ph.D. project in a research team composed of early-career scholars.
- Funding for attending international conferences and conducting fieldwork abroad.

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Application details:

Applications are due by **30 January 2024** via e-mail to tereza.jermanova@ff.cuni.cz with the subject “Envisioning (Im)Possible Futures – PhD Application”. They will include the following:

- Letter of motivation (highlighting qualification for conducting the proposed research).
- CV, including a list of publications (if applicable).
- Preliminary Research proposal of about 750 words (including broad research puzzle/question, relevance, relevant theories/concepts, general research design and methods).
- Writing sample (e.g., published academic article, master’s thesis, seminar paper).

Prospective applicants for Ph.D. studies (i.e. those not yet enrolled in a Ph.D. programme) are encouraged to contact Dr. Tereza Jermanová for potential supervision at the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Arts. They should also familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations of Ph.D. studies at the Faculty of Arts (available [here](#)).

Project summary:

The wave of dissatisfaction with present political orders is sparking revolutionary actions, protest movements, and innovative forms of civic engagement across the MENA. These actions offer valuable insights into the root causes of discontent and reveal emerging visions of new political arrangements desired by the protagonists. This project aims to explore these imaginaries through an in-depth qualitative analysis of MENA countries ranging from Iran to Tunisia. By attending to the heterogeneity of visions driving acts of resistance since 2019, it seeks to rethink how political transformations are conceived in political science and move beyond the narrow focus on the reform of political institutions. Furthermore, it will contrast the local visions with imaginaries of reform behind internationally sponsored democracy promotion programs to understand the potentials and limitations of external support for meaningful political change. Thus, the project will not only enhance our understanding of non-Western imaginaries of political transformation but also provide a critical reflection of policy practice.

For any queries, please contact tereza.jermanova@ff.cuni.cz.

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