CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Left-Wing Trends in the Arab World (1948-1979): Bringing Transnational Back in

2016, December 12-13. Orient-Institut, Beirut

This international workshop aims at shedding light on the transnational dynamics in which Arab left-wing trends have been embedded, especially during the 1960-70s, the glorious period of left-wing revolutionary movements throughout the world, in one word: the Tricontinental moment.

The radical left that emerged after 1967 mainly took a critical stance towards the USSR, the Arab communist parties, and the Arab regimes, which have proved unable or unwilling to take the bull by the horns. But how did left-wing syntax and revolutionary imaginaires become a driving force throughout the world? And how have they opened the path to revolutionary romance and revolutionary violence? Strangely enough, the sparse scholarship devoted to the Arab left in the 1960-70s has long remained restricted within a national framework. But the national scale of analysis does not allow one to take into account the revolutionary passions involved, which were shaped by a transnational interpretative framework inspired by Marxism and embedded within the wider context of the struggles for decolonization and the Cold War.

Thus, this workshop welcomes communications that shed light on circulations and transnational networks, at the regional and global scales, as well as on ideas, emotions, practices, and models diffusion and transformation. It also welcomes studies on the impact of the Chinese, Vietnamese, Cuban, and Algerian models on Arab revolutionary thought, practices, and strategies, especially on three pivotal local revolutionary struggles, namely that of Palestine, Yemen, and the Dhufar. Finally, the screening of “Une Jeunesse Allemande,” by Jean-Gabriel Périot (2015), on the German Red Army Faction, better known under the name of “Baader-Meinhofe Bande,” will provide the opportunity to open the discussion on the interplay between European-North American and Arab left-wing revolutionary trends.

Abstracts: 300 words
Deadline: June the 26th
Contact: arableftsproject@gmail.com and Guirguis.laure@gmail.com
Languages: Arabic and English
The workshop and scheduled screenings are open to the public