

# YEMEN: CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE



**International Conference  
11 & 12 January 2013**

**Organised by:** The British-Yemeni Society (BYS)  
and London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI)



The British-Yemeni Society



LONDON  
MIDDLE EAST  
INSTITUTE  
SOAS



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Twenty-two years after unification, Yemen finds itself at yet another historical juncture. The political transition and the forthcoming national dialogue offer a rare opportunity for the country to address the multitude of social, economic, environmental, and regional problems it faces. This international conference brings together academic and professional specialists on Yemen to discuss recent research on the country and the challenges ahead.

## Day One, Friday 11 January 2013

**08.00-09.00 Registration & Refreshments**

**09.00-09.15 Greetings, Announcements**

Dr Noel Brehony (Chairman, British-Yemeni Society)

Dr Hassan Hakimian (Director, London Middle East Institute)

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber (Founding Patron and Donor of the London Middle East Institute)

**09.15-10.30 Keynote Speeches**

Dr Abdul Karim al-Eryani (Advisor to the President)

Dr Abubakr al-Qirbi (Minister of Foreign Affairs)

Dr Muhammad al-Saadi (Minister of Planning & International Cooperation)

Dr Yassin Said Noman (Secretary-General, Yemeni Socialist Party)

Jamal Benomar (UN Assistant Secretary-General; Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General on Yemen)

**10.30-11.00 Coffee Break**

**11.00-12.30 Panel 1 - Yemen: Regional and Global Considerations**

**Chair:** Professor Charles Tripp (SOAS, University of London)

Professor Sheila Carapico (University of Richmond and American University in Cairo):

***Yemen between Revolution and Counter-Terrorism: a Critical View of US Policies***

Adam C. Seitz (Marine Corps University): ***The Arab Spring and Yemeni Civil-Military Relations***

Ludmila du Bouchet (University of Cambridge / Sciences Po, Paris): ***Yemen's Security Sector: National and Global Intimations of Change***

**12.30-13.30 Lunch Break**

**13.30-15.00 Panel 2 - Perspectives on the Sa`dah Region**

**Chair:** Dr Gabriele vom Bruck (SOAS, University of London)

Dr Shelagh Weir (SOAS, University of London): ***Tribal Factors in War and Peace***

Dr Marieke Brandt (Austrian Academy of Sciences): ***Between Tribe and Army: Colonel Shaykhs in the Huthi Conflict***

Madeleine Wells Goldburt (George Washington University): ***Huthis as 'Foreign': Threat Perception and Yemeni Regime Decision-Making about Sa`dah, 2004-2010***

Tanja Granzow (University of Tübingen): ***Framing Threat, Mobilising Violence: Micro-mechanisms of Conflict Escalation Among the Huthis and al-Hiraak***

**15.00-16.30 Panel 3 - The Southern Question**

**Chair:** Helen Lackner (British-Yemeni Society)

Thanos Petouris (SOAS, University of London): ***Southern Yemeni Identity: Between Colonial Myths and Political Ambition***

Dr Noel Brehony (British-Yemeni Society): ***The Role of the PDRY in forming a Southern Yemeni Identity***

Dr Susanne Dahlgren (University of Helsinki): ***Southern Yemeni Youth, Unemployment and the Idea of a Fair State***

**16.30-7.00 Tea Break**

**17.00-18.30 Panel 4 - The Role of Business in Developing the Yemeni Economy**

**Chair:** Dr Noel Brehony (British-Yemeni Society)

Dr Ahmed A. Saif (University of Sana`a / Sheba Centre for Strategic Studies): ***State Effectiveness: State's Capacity Building***

Sharif Jaghman (New York Stock Exchange Euronext): ***Establishing Yemen's Financial Market: Previous Efforts, the Benefits and the Next Steps***

Kais Aliriani (Mawr Volunteers Foundation): ***The Role of the Small Enterprise Sector in the Yemeni Economy***

Stephen Steinbeiser (American Institute for Yemeni Studies): ***Foreigners and Law in Yemen: Culture, Conflict and Recourse***

**18.30 Drinks Reception**

**Day Two, Saturday 12 January 2013**

**09.00-10.30 Concurrent Panels 5 & 6**

**Panel 5 - Social Policy: Health, Education and Welfare** (Room B102)

**Chair:** Dr Abdulla Abd al-Wali Nasher (British-Yemeni Society/former Health Minister)

Dr Adel Aulaqi (British-Yemeni Society): ***The Challenges of Yemen's Health Care System***

Dr Christina Hellmich (University of Reading): ***Sovereignty over their Bodies? The Determinants of Women's Reproductive Health in the Republic of Yemen***

Faiza Sedeq (Mount St Vincent University, Canada): ***Education Reform in the Middle East***

Peter Rice (International Non-Governmental Organisation Forum): ***Yemen's Transition: Challenges facing International Community Assistance***

**Panel 6 - Cultural Expressions** (Lecture Theatre)

**Chair:** Dr Salma Samar Damluji (Daw`an Mud Brick Architecture Foundation)

Dr Katherine Hennessey (American Institute for Yemeni Studies): ***Yemeni Society in the Spotlight: Theatre in Yemen before and during the Arab Spring***

Dr Paola Viviani (Second University of Naples): ***Gender and Identity Issues in Yemeni Literature: Habib Abd al-Rabb Sururi's Fiction***

Dr Francesco De Angelis (University of Milan): ***The Experience of Yemeni Revolutions and Fellow Citizens' Disillusions in Ahmad Zayn's Qahwa Amirikiyya***

**10.30-11.00 Coffee Break**

**11.00-13.00 Panel 7 - Rural Development: Land and Water**

**Chair:** Professor Tony Allan (SOAS/King's College, University of London)

Helen Lackner (British-Yemeni Society): ***Water and Governance in the Republic of Yemen***

Dr Peer Gatter (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ): ***Politics of Qat: The Role of a Drug in Ruling Yemen***

Jens Kambeck (Orient-Institut, Beirut): ***Adequate Dispute Resolution Methods in Land-Related Disputes in Yemen***

Dr Gerhard Lichtenthaeler (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ): ***Customary Conflict Resolution in Times of Extreme Water Stress: a Case Study from the Northern Highlands of Yemen***

James Firebrace (James Firebrace Associates): ***New Water for Ta'iz: Conflict Prevention and Economic Revitalisation***

**13.00-14.00 Lunch Break**

**14.00-15.30 Panel 8 - Aspects of Migration**

**Chair:** (TBC)

Dr Wai-Yip Ho (Hong Kong Institute of Education): ***The Emerging Yemeni Diaspora in China: Socialist Legacy, Silk Road Broker and the Sino-Model***

P. K. M. Abdul Jaleel (Nehru University, New Delhi): ***Social Meaning of Diaspora Remittance in Yemen: A Case Study of Mahjars of Singapore in Hadhramaut***

Dr Marina de Regt (VU University, Amsterdam): ***From Bad to Worse? Gender, Labour and Migration between Yemen and the Horn of Africa***

Dr Helene Thiollet (CERI - Sciences Po, Paris): ***Migration, Conflict and Revolution: Population Movements in Post-Revolutionary Yemen***

**15.30-16.00 Tea Break**

**16.00-18.00 Panel 9 - Yemen in Transition**

**Chair:** Kate Nevens, (Saferworld)

Dr Laurent Bonnefoy (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique): ***Reshuffling the Cards in the Islamic Field: Ulama of the Palace, Salafis and Muslim Brothers***

Marine Poirier (Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Aix-en-Provence): ***Dynamics of Mobilisation in Yemen: Interaction between Contentious and Institutional Politics***

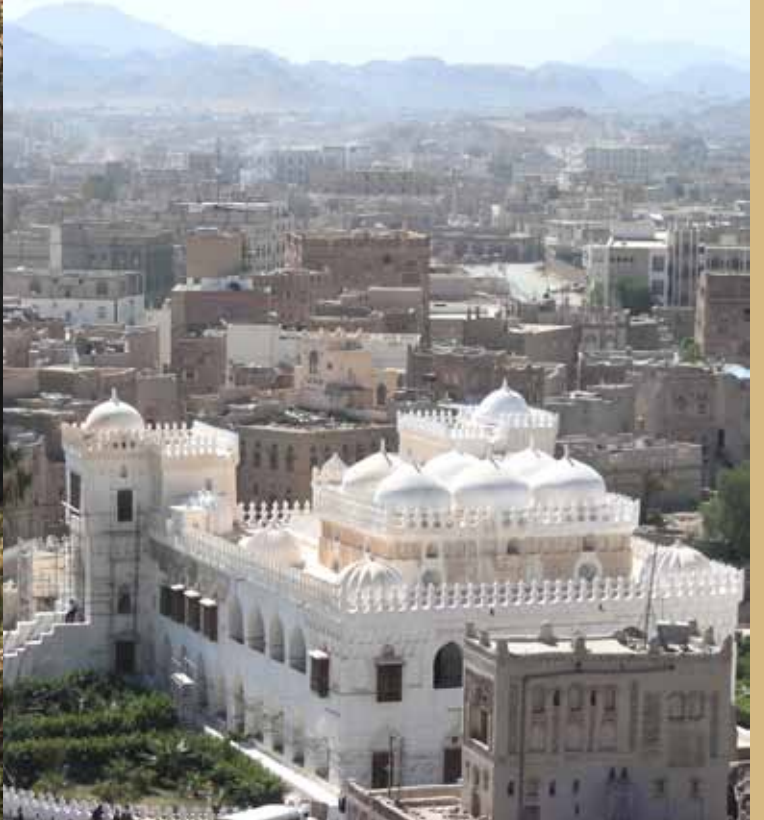
Laila al-Zwaini (Leiden): ***Civil State, Islamic Law, Tribal Society? Reconstructing Yemen after Saleh***

Dr Mohamed Saleh al-Haj (University of Sana'a): ***Political and Cultural Mobilisation in the Yemeni Arab Spring***

Vincent Planel (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris): ***Doing Ethnography in the Land of Informants: Tribality in Ta'iz and the Epistemology of the Yemeni Situation***

**18.00-18.15 Concluding Remarks and Farewell**

Thanos Petouris (SOAS, University of London)



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## Dates

Friday 11 and Saturday 12 January 2013

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## Time

Friday: 9.00am - 6.30pm  
Saturday: 9.00am - 6.15pm

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## Venue

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre  
SOAS, University of London  
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square  
London WC1H 0XG

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## Admission

Admission (including lunch and refreshments): £30  
Concessions, BYS and LMEI Members: £15  
Students: Free

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## Convenors

Dr Noel Brehony and Thanos Petouris

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## Academic Committee

Dr Adel Aulaqi, Dr Gabriele vom Bruck, Helen Lackner, Dr Shelagh Weir

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