The Middle East in the Contemporary World
Annual Report for 2011

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES | LUND UNIVERSITY
Researchers, artists and activists met during three days in Lund to discuss and debate the revolutions’ aftermaths.
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Abdulhadi Khalaf
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Christa Salamandra
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Eda Farsakoglu
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Erin Frazier
Hossein Hashemi
Ingmar Karlsson
Jaleh Taheri
Lars-Erik Olofsson
Leif Stenberg
Lina Eklund
Lory Dance
Malgorzata Luczak
Mathias Mossberg
Olof Heilo
Petter Pilesjö
Reza Arjmand
Ronny Berndtsson
Sihem Jebari
Stefano Bigliardi
Torsten Janson
Umuz Ökirimli
Ulrik Mårtensson
Introduction

Founded in 2007, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) supports and coordinates research, teaching, and other forms of scholarship related to a range of issues, topics, activities, and events that have some significant link to a variety of areas commonly referred to as “The Middle East”. Research on the Middle East has existed in Lund since the university’s founding in 1666; however, the Middle East in The Contemporary World (MECW) research environment was established in the autumn of 2009 by a Strategic Research Area grant from the Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet). The aim of MECW is to coordinate, redirect, and expand research related to The Middle East at Lund University.

Since the founding of CMES, there have been a series of progressive developments. In 2007, CMES was composed of two persons, growing to three persons in 2008. By early 2009, CMES applied for the MECW Strategic Research Area grant, in late 2009 CMES received funding, and by May of 2010 the official CMES/MECW university board was in place. In the Fall of 2010 CMES/MECW started an international masters program in Middle Eastern Studies with 30 students in the first cohort. By the Fall of 2011, CMES had over 30 persons engaged in administration, research, teaching, and other forms of scholarship related to a range of issues, topics, activities, and events that can be traced via complex webs of historical, social, cultural, and/or political significance to a variety of Middle Eastern nations, regions, and diasporas. Furthermore, in 2010 and 2011, CMES underwent extensive annual evaluations of the MECW strategic research environment. This MECW Annual Report for 2011 derives from this extensive evaluation process; some of the sections below are excerpted from the official evaluation answers submitted by CMES.

MECW has benefitted from a small but dedicated group of staff and senior researchers since its inception in 2009. However, 2011 was the first full calendar year during which CMES/MECW had a director and coordinator, co-director and co-coordinator, research domain leaders, a masters program, and university board members. As reflected in this Annual Report, 2011 turned out to be an incredibly active year for CMES and MECW.

This Annual Report for 2011, completed in June of 2012, has four parts and an appendix. Part I, “General Overview”, summarizes MECW’s major priorities, activities, results, challenges, initiatives as well as the societal needs addressed. Part II, “CMES/MECW Educational Program”, includes a discussion of the educational program that is a part of the MECW strategic research environment. Part III, “Overviews of the Five Research Domains”, contains synopses of the ongoing activities in each of the five research domains. Part IV, “Guest Lecturers, Speakers, and Film Screenings”, provides information on the various events hosted by CMES/MECW featuring renowned guest lecturers and speakers as well as screenings of award winning films. The appendix of this annual report contains “Specific Activities of the MECW Domains”. This listing of specific activities documents publications, national/international collaborations, media & public engagements, innovative activities, and many other activities that have made 2011 such an incredible year.

The CMES/MECW budget for 2010 was approximately 13 million SEK and by the end of the 2010 calendar year, there was a surplus of funds. In planning the budget for 2011, CMES/MECW was strongly encouraged to increase expenditures. Hence, the CMES/MECW budget for 2011 ended with an operating deficit of 3.4 million SEK. Given this deficit from 2011, at the start of the 2012 calendar year, the operating budget was 9.5 million SEK. Crucial to the development and continued success of CMES/MECW will be the evaluation of 2014 and that CMES/MECW receive new funding for the 2015 calendar year.
CMES/MECW ORGANIZATION CHART

Board of CMES & MECW
- Robert Ryberg
- Catharina Raudvere, Ingmar Karlsson, Lars Bengtsson, Kenneth M Persson, Christina Johnsson, Mozghan Dorkhan, Matilda Arvidsson, Maja Kirilova Eriksson, Göran Bexell, Charlotta Liljedahl

Executive Team
- Leif Stenberg
  - Coordinator of MECW
  - Director of CMES
- Dan-Erik Andersson
  - Co-Director of CMES
- Lory Dance
  - Co-Coordinator of MECW

Master's Degree Program
- Torsten Janson, Director of Studies
- Ann Kull, Program Advisor
- Lars-Erik Olufsson, Project Coordinator

Steering committee of MECW
- Senior Researchers: Reza Arjmand (CIIMC), Ronny Berndtsson (HSIL), Abdulhadi Khalaf & Petter Pilevius (MSM), Lory Dance (MEIS), Dalia Abdellahy (WSG)

Administration
- Anna Hellgren, Communication
- Charlotta Liljedahl, Coordinator
- Malgorzata Luczak, Financial Officer
- Lars-Erik Olufsson, Project Coordinator
- Jaleh Taheri, Project Coordinator
- Erin Frazier, Project Assistant

MECW Research Domains

MECW 1
- Contemporary Interpretations of Islam and Muslim Cultures (CIIMC)

MECW 2
- Hydropolitics, Security & International Law (HSIL)

MECW 3
- Migration & Spatial Mobility (MSM)

MECW 4
- The Middle East in Sweden (MEIS)

MECW 5
- Women for Sustainable Growth (WSG)
2011 was a year of historically significant events for many regions of The Middle East. It was also a memorable and productive year for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES). Among the most noteworthy events were the various uprisings in Middle Eastern nations commonly known as “The Arab Spring”. Members of the Swedish Parliament, the Swedish Ministries, Media (newspaper, radio, TV) as well as students and scholars from the Middle East, Europe, and North America kept scholars at the Center (CMES) engaged in important lectures, presentations, and debates on the historical event.

It is with pleasure that I, along with the Co-Director & Co-Coordinator, and Research Domain Leaders, share with you the first Annual Report for the Middle East in the Contemporary World (MECW) Strategic Research Area. This report is part of a process of development in which CMES/MECW summarizes and publicizes significant results of the annual evaluations of the MECW Strategic Research Area. I also regard the annual report as a new step in our effort to make the activities of CMES/MECW more transparent and visible. This annual report focuses upon MECW because MECW was the primary project funded during the 2011 calendar year. As our scholarly portfolio of projects and programs continues to grow, future annual reports will include new initiatives.

Back in 2007, I was one of two people staffing the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. It was in 2009 that CMES received funding for MECW and during the late spring of 2010 that the Board of Directors was firmly in place. 2010 was, indeed, a productive year during which we saw the start of our international masters program and two very productive conferences concerning the developments in Syria since the current president Bashar Al-Asad took power in year 2000. 2011 was even more productive in regard to publications and media appearances. Scholars within CMES/MECW have published frequently in peer-reviewed and international publications. The so-called “Arab Spring” also made 2011 a year in which scholars from CMES/MECW have been repeatedly in national and international media. In 2011 we also initiated a reorganization of our administration – and I am certain that this work will be of importance in the upcoming years. This Annual Report provides more detailed information, so please keep on reading!

Many persons made the success of 2011 possible, and I cannot name them all. However, I would like to name a few. Our CMES/MECW board of directors, and especially its chairman, Göran Bexell, has given us invaluable support and suggestions about how to develop. Vice-Chancellor Per Eriksson and Pro Vice-Chancellor Eva Åkesson have given significant support, and I appreciate their engagement in our activities. Assistant Vice Chancellor Sven Strömqvist has also given instrumental support and advice. Last but not least, I am both inspired by and grateful to the administrative staff, senior researchers, scholars, affiliates, and students of CMES/MECW who have made 2011 a productive year.

Sincerely,
Leif Stenberg
Director, CMES and Coordinator, MECW
Letter from the Co-Coordinator of MECW and Co-Director of CMES

In August of 2009 we both took part of the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc Steering Committee for MECW, which took place at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, Turkey. At that time we were Co-PI’s on the newly awarded MECW Strategic Research Area grant and Senior Researchers within the newly formed MECW research domains. As already mentioned by Leif, there have been many productive developments since 2009, and we are pleased to have witnessed how ideas and plans have evolved into initiatives and actions.

2011 was a particularly eventful year. During the fall of 2011, we took on additional responsibilities at CMES/MECW. More specifically, Lory assumed the role of Co-Coordinator of MECW and Dan-Erik assumed the role of Co-Director of CMES. In short, CMES/MECW has grown from a hand-full of scholars to over 30 scholars and administrators and the executive team has grown accordingly from a single director to three or, more specifically one director/coordinator, one co-director and one co-coordinator.

Though they are noteworthy and important, we will not repeat the list of events summarized in Leif’s letter above. We do, however, share his positive sentiments regarding the accomplishments of 2011 and urge you to continue reading the details provided below. We also join Leif in thanking the chancellors, board members, administrative staff, senior researchers, scholars, affiliates, and students who contributed to the successes of 2011. May 2012 be an equally productive year!

Dan-Erik Andersson  
Co-Director, CMES

Lory Dance  
Co-Coordinator, MECW
Letter from the MECW Domain Leaders

During the 2011 calendar year we have been busy coordinating a variety of activities ranging from organizing presentations, writing grant applications, planning conferences, seminars and/or meetings, and supporting the work of the members of our five respective domains. Those domains are:

- Contemporary Interpretations of Islam and Muslim Cultures
- Hydropolitics, Security, and International Law
- Migration and Spatial Mobility
- The Middle East in Sweden
- Women for Sustainable Growth

Our domain members have been so productive writing books and articles, teaching courses and seminars, attending conferences, providing media interviews, giving academic and public lectures, developing local, national and international collaborations, and so on, that it has been difficult to keep track of all the activities that have taken place in 2011. However, if you are interested in taking a closer look at the activities of each domain, please see “Specific Activities of the MECW Research Domains” in the appendix of this annual report.

We join the executive team in thanking all those who helped to make 2011 a productive year. However, we would like to offer a special thanks to each and every member of our respective domains for their achievements during the 2011 calendar year. We look forward to more of the same in 2012!

Reza Arjmand, Domain Coordinator
Contemporary Interpretations of Islam and Muslim Cultures

Ronny Berndtsson, Domain Coordinator
Hydropolitics, Security, and International Law

Adulhadi Khalaf and Petter Pilesjö, Domain Co-Coordinators
Migration and Spatial Mobility

Lory Dance, Domain Coordinator
The Middle East in Sweden

Dalia Abdelhady, Domain Coordinator
Women for Sustainable Growth
PART I: GENERAL OVERVIEW

MAIN PRIORITIES

During 2011 MECW has been working according to the following priorities:

Merge Research
The strategic research area entitled The Middle East in the Contemporary World (MECW) and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) at Lund University are intimately linked to each other. Hence, one important ambition during 2011 was to merge all research at CMES into the framework of MECW.

Recruitment
The new location and the establishment of infrastructures for MECW’s relationship to various Departments at Lund University have been paralleled by recruitment of scholars on all academic levels to the MECW strategic research area. Hence the recruitment of new scholars was another priority for 2011.

Increased Visibility
In relation to the creation of the physical research environment of MECW, a priority of 2011 was to market the MECW strategic research area internationally through an increased level of publications and participation in international conferences.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

During 2011 MECW has been operating through the following activities:

Merge Research
The process of merging all research at CMES into the framework of MECW is certainly ongoing, but towards the end of 2011 the merger was mostly complete and a viable structure for research and education had been established. Significant in regard to the amalgamation of research in MECW and CMES was that in December 2010, CMES moved into a refurbished building. During 2011 a fifth research domain was added to the previous four. The newly added fifth domain is titled “Women for Sustainable Growth” (WSG). In addition to a research focus on women in the Middle East, this domain has a particular focus upon how to think innovatively about the transfer of knowledge from scholars to businesses and organizations.

Recruitment
In regard to recruitment, the general approach has been (1) to hire relatively young, talented, and internationally recognized scholars; (2) to create an even gender balance; and (3) to distribute scholars evenly among the five research domains within MECW. Toward the end of 2011 the priority was to hire scholars on a more permanent basis and to encourage scholars at Lund University linked to MECW to transfer their appointments from various Departments to CMES and thereby become more directly involved in MECW as well as part of the research environment. Hence, an important concern has been to create a core faculty of scholars working at CMES and doing research within MECW. The scholars within MECW are also closely linked to the International Master’s Degree program in Middle Eastern Studies launched in 2010. In 2011 the second cohort of students was received.
During the fall of 2011, CMES hired a guest professor in political science. Umut Özkirimli is a specialist on Turkey and nationalism. During the 2011 academic year, he established a seminar series on contemporary Turkey.

**Increased Visibility**

**Collaboration**

During 2011 scholars in MECW had ongoing discussions with several academic institutions in Europe, the US and in the Middle East. Furthermore, the development of CMES and MECW has attracted requests from international scholars to come to Lund and spend time in our research environment. In 2011 MECW has had guest researchers from Britain, Egypt, Turkey and the US spending from three months up to the entire year.

**Conferences**

In 2011 scholars within MECW were actively participating in a number of international conferences, workshops and seminars. The highlight of the year was the participation of more than 20 scholars at the Middle East Studies Association’s conference in Washington DC in early December. In addition, MECW has arranged more than 40 events ranging from poetry evenings, film screenings, lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences to train politicians on the current uprisings in the Middle East. During the fall of 2011 MECW also held the first course designed for organizations and businesses, a one-day course on developments in the Middle East for the Swedish Board of Migration.

**Publications**

The number of scholars, and hence publications, have increased within MECW since 2010. MECW scholars have an increasingly positive reputation among academics and institutions dedicated to topics directly or indirectly related to Middle Eastern regions, nations and Diasporas.

**The “Arab Spring”**

One very obvious activity of 2011 is related to the “Arab Spring”. The uprisings in several Middle Eastern countries have provided the scholarly community of MECW with a lot of media attention. Several scholars have appeared in major newspapers as authors of articles or as persons being interviewed, on radio and on TV. In general, these appearances have signified a major public breakthrough for CMES and MECW in Sweden, but scholars linked to MECW have also had international media appearances, for example, appearances on Al-Jazeera.

**MAJOR RESULTS**

During 2011 MECW has produced the following results:

**Merge Research**

The move to one common location has made CMES and MECW a strong, concrete and physical milieu for research and education concerning the Middle East, and one priority during 2011 was to organize research and education in this new environment. However, MECW is not only a strong environment in itself, economic capital (funds) as well as social and human capital (MECW networks and expertise) are also allocated to other Departments at Lund University, in order to finance research, primarily Post-docs and PhD students. Hence, during 2011 the research infrastructure of MECW has been designed.
Recruitment

A major result derives from the hiring of several internationally renowned scholars. During 2011 the number of scholars increased to the degree that our new location today hosts close to 20 scholars holding a PhD. By the end of 2011, the more immediate MECW environment has engaged more than 30 scholars at Lund University. In cooperation with other departments at Lund University we have also been able to finance 5 PhD students working on theses within the framework of MECW. Also during 2011 a new co-coordinator of MECW and a new co-director of CMES were appointed.

Increased Visibility

Collaboration

- CMES signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Istanbul Policy Center at Sabanci University in Istanbul and toward the end of 2011 scholars in MECW began work on joint research applications with colleagues from Sabanci and Lund University’s Human Rights Department.

- The Nordic Society in Middle Eastern Studies plans a PhD course in Middle Eastern Studies in 2012 (coordinator of MECW, Leif Stenberg, is the new chairperson).

- An interdisciplinary study on transnational student mobility in higher education within Asia funded by the Swedish Research Council, focusing on young people’s strategies, conditions and educational goals (with Gothenburg University).

- Preliminary investigations regarding civil society networks and Middle Eastern immigrants, funded by the Swedish Research Council, involved meetings in 2011 with potential future collaborators at Harvard University, George Mason University, and the University of Nebraska.

- "Iran Working Group" - a network of scholars focusing on various issues concerning contemporary Iran, funded by the Swedish Central Bank’s Tercentenary Foundation.

- The coordinator/director of MECW/CMES, co-coordinator of MECW, and co-director of CMES met with representatives of the Departments of Religious Studies, Sociology, Ethnic Studies, Women’s Studies, the Honors Program, and Dean’s Office at the University of Nebraska to plan future teaching and research collaborations.

Conferences

Through MECW, 24 persons under the auspices of Lund University attended the annual Middle East Studies Association’s (MESA) conference in Washington DC. At MESA, 22 scholars participated in five panels, four of which were organized by CMES. MECW scholars displayed cutting edge research on a range of topics including (1) contemporary analyses of women and labor markets in Middle Eastern countries, (2) the diversity of Muslim motifs founds in art, literature, and the internet, (3) discourses regarding national belonging and non-belonging among Middle Eastern youths in Sweden, Denmark and Lebanon, (4) transboundary cooperation and conflicts over water in the Middle East, and (5) recent migration patterns in Duhok, Iraq.
Publications
The number of scholars, and hence publications, have increased within MECW since 2010. Monographs, edited volumes and articles are published internationally. Three issues of Middle East Critique were published with Lund University as the home institution of the journal, with one special issue on contemporary Syria – a result of a conference taking place at CMES in 2010, and one special issue on Turkey, which provides empirical details about the human atrocities resulting from the Ottoman government’s April 1915 decision to relocate Armenian citizens to Syria. These topics (Syria and Turkey) are both timely and necessary, as illustrated by the ongoing political turmoil in Syria, which needs nuanced explanations that are rigorously researched. The timeliness and necessity of topics are also illustrated by the international debates and the recently adopted law (January 2012) by the French Parliament punishing denial and/or minimization of the human atrocities linked to the Ottoman government’s 1915 decision as well as other crucial events taking place in or related to the Middle East.

The book Gender in Contemporary Iran (Hooglund, 2011) dispels popular myths and stereotypes about gender in Iran by providing more complex and nuanced analyses of gendered-inequities and relationships in Iran. The Lebanese Diaspora (Abdelhady, 2011) provides cutting edge findings about immigrants and cosmopolitan citizenship, thereby challenging the binary notion of immigrants as either longing for a previous homeland or not belonging to the current host country. Twentieth-Century Egyptian Art (Abaza, 2011) captures and documents Egypt’s modern art scene through comparisons and contrasts among the works of Sherwet Shafei and other influential artists. These book-length publications represent the rich variety of scholarly publications occurring under the auspices of MECW. The Lebanese Diaspora is also an example of research that links different research domains to each other.

Though results from peer-reviewed journals are too numerous to list, they include findings on accessibility to social resources (for example, health care and education) in Palestine, findings on new methods for cleaning water in the Middle East, and new methodological approaches for conducting research with members of immigrant, ethnic minority, and/or marginalized communities.

The “Arab Spring”
Due in part to the “Arab Spring” and the role of the scholars linked to the MECW strategic research area in the public sphere, “the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University” is becoming a nationally and internationally known brand name for scholarly excellence regarding the Middle East. Apart from the public reputation in Sweden of MECW researchers in analyzing the ongoing uprisings in the Middle East, CMES and MECW have also become international players during 2011. Certainly one reason is the increase in the number of scholars and publications as well as the quality of the work within the research environment on all levels. Notably, “The Center for Middle Eastern Studies” was mentioned at least 710 times in Swedish media (Newspapers, TV and Radio) during 2011. Though this statistic does not capture all media related appearances, it indicates a major breakthrough for CMES and MECW.

MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED BY MECW
Since the 2010 evaluation, and as previously mentioned, developments in the Middle East (for example, uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, and Syria) have placed the Middle East front and center in many discourses including those of scholars, the media, politicians and government leaders, and everyday citizens. Hence, one major challenge has been keeping pace with requests for MECW scholars from the Media (radio and TV), NGOs, other academic institutions, and local,
national, and international organizations and universities. This is, indeed, a good challenge to have, and so far our scholars have responded to virtually all such requests.

As mentioned in the letter from the five domain leaders, MECW is comprised of five overarching research areas. Summaries of the activities of these domains (provided in the appendix of this annual report) reveal that MECW scholars are in high demand and why meeting this high demand will remain a major challenge.

Given the research and scholarly activities of the five domains (see the appendix), international events like “The Arab Spring” as well as intra- & international tensions driven by Islamophobia, keep scholars and staff extremely busy. Domain members work diligently to keep up with: (1) local, national and international dynamics that generate competing interpretations of Islam, (2) varied political discourses involving hydropolitics and security issues, (3) the increased movement/emigration of peoples within and beyond the Middle East, (4) new challenges, accomplishments, and societal changes affecting Middle Eastern immigrants in Sweden, and, (5) the continued need for supporting gender-based initiatives that create, facilitate, maintain, and/or enhance equity in spheres of activity involving women in Sweden and the Middle East.

Another challenge MECW faces is space. Since moving into the new CMES location at Finngatan 16 in December of 2010, we have filled every room with staff, scholars, PhD students, and Master’s students. Adequate space is essential to maintaining a thriving and productive research environment.

**MAJOR INITIATIVES TAKEN BY MECW**

First and foremost, in 2011 CMES/MECW filled 17 new positions (scholars, post-docs, doctoral students). Second, in-house scholars at CMES are identifying areas where our joint efforts can produce more efficient outcomes, for example submitting cross-disciplinary grant applications and planning conferences on emergent topics, meeting with NGOs and other organizations that link CMES to the Business and Public sectors, as well as local/grassroots issues. Third, activities involving research, publishing, teaching, and innovation have increased tremendously during the 2011 calendar year. Information on research initiatives taken by each of the CMES/MECW research domains can be found in Part III and in the Appendix of this annual report.

**CHALLENGES REGARDING KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND RESEARCH UTILIZATION**

There is an entire field of scholarship that covers knowledge transfer and utilization. A common challenge identified by a variety of studies in this field is that policy makers and politicians tend not to use scholarship produced by academics. Another challenge is that the work of academics tends to only be read and used by other academics instead of laypersons and other members of the general public. Given the uprisings referred to as “The Arab Spring”, in 2011, the scholarship and expertise of CMES and MECW pertaining to The Arab Spring was in relatively high demand from news media including Dagens Nyheter, Svenska Dagbladet, Sveriges Television, Sveriges Radio and Al-Jazeera, organizations such as The Swedish Foreign Ministry and policy makers from the Swedish Green Party. The director of CMES also gave a speech to the Swedish Parliament. Despite this interest, CMES/MECW still recognizes the challenges of transferring academic knowledge and research findings to policy makers and the general public. Also, though highly important and influential, the “Arab Spring” is one among a numerous number of topics pertinent to the work of CMES and MECW. We must take into consideration that interests in various topics relevant to the
Middle East will ebb and flow and that bridging the knowledge transfer and research utilization gap among CMES/MECW and other sectors of society is an active and ongoing process.

INITIATIVES REGARDING KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND RESEARCH UTILIZATION

CMES and MECW have not been passively waiting for knowledge transfer and utilization to just happen. We have arranged more than 40 events ranging from poetry evenings, film screenings, lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences that are open to the general public. We have also had workshops designed to train politicians on the current uprisings in the Middle East. In the fall of 2011 we also held the first course directed to organizations and businesses, a one day course on developments in the Middle East for the Swedish Board of Migration. Furthermore, during the year, MECW has also been the co-sponsor of conferences organized by other scholars and Departments at Lund University and Copenhagen University, as well as of two film festivals arranged in the Malmö and Lund area.

SOCIETAL NEEDS ADDRESSED BY MECW

As mentioned several times in this annual report, 2011 was a year of uprisings throughout various parts of the Middle East commonly referred to as The Arab Spring. August of 2011 brought the tragic bombings and shootings carried out by Anders Behring Breivik in Norway, which is one of the most atrocious incidents linked to Islamophobia but not the only incident in Europe in general or Scandinavia in particular. Ongoing turmoil and instability in various parts of the Middle East encourage a continuous movement of persons including voluntary immigrants, refugees, and guest workers. The politics in the Middle East render issues related to hydropolitics and security an ongoing concern. And issues of gender inequity as well as facilitating women’s leadership and entrepreneurship in a variety of social spheres remain top concerns. These are some of the leading societal problems addressed by MECW.
PART II: CMES/MECW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

In June 2011, the first cohort of students in the international, multidisciplinary Masters in Middle Eastern Studies finalized their first year of studies, while a second cohort entered the program in August 2011. The Masters or “MA” program remains the cornerstone of MECW’s cooperation with education. Not only do we see MECW researchers as important contributors to the MA program, we see our students as vital contributors to MECW research projects and to the challenge of defining innovative approaches in integrating knowledge about the Middle East in the wider society. During 2011, as the first batch of MA students entered into the second and third semesters of the program, these ideas increasingly have been put to practice, specifically in four interrelated contexts: (a) Elective focus courses; (b) Tutoring; (c) Internship programs; and (d) Extra curricular training (for CMES students as well as staff). These contexts as well as the students’ initiative, The Middle East Association, are described below.

ELECTIVE FOCUS COURSES

In January 2011, CMES for the first time offered 11 different elective courses to allow students to start focusing their particular fields of interest. The courses are also open to non-program based, qualified students. Courses were arranged with the MECW research domains or in collaboration between CMES and some of the center’s partner institutions in Lund (Media and Communication studies, Film studies, Gender studies). Course curricula as well as teaching are specifically designed to underscore the relation to current research, and learning outcomes are evaluated based on written reports focusing central research questions of each field respectively. While senior professors lead the courses, guest lecturers, post-doc researchers and PhD students also participate, in order to convey a broad and varying overview of current research. Furthermore, students receive training in reviewing research literature and organizing and leading seminars. The courses, thus, have facilitated the goal of the MECW to create an environment for Middle Eastern Studies that actively includes, in a very flat hierarchical structure, students as well as senior professors.

In June 2011, the first semester was evaluated in the CMES MA Teachers’ Committee. An important outcome of that process was the consensus that the list of elective courses needed to be downsized, partly for administrative reasons, but also in order to sharpen and refine the academic visions of the center. Some courses were merged and others cut altogether, in order to reflect the key perspectives and professional competencies of MECW. As a result, the following seven courses are to be offered during the spring of 2012:

- Politics & international relations in the Middle East
- Islam: religion, culture & politics in the Middle East
- Middle Eastern migration, mobility and multiculturalism
- Women & social change in the Middle East
- Social movements, protest & the public sphere in the Middle East
- Environment & sustainable development in the Middle East
- Key methods in Middle Eastern studies (compulsory)

Another important change is the compulsory methods course during semester two. Initially, the first semester of the program was designed for mandatory core courses, providing students with a common conceptual, historical, theoretical and methodological framework to be elaborated in the elective and individualized studies during the final three semesters. However, the MA Teachers committee agreed that the theoretical and methodological component of the program should be strengthened in order to further improve the students’ ability to engage in advanced research.
tasks in their MA thesis. Hence, from the fall of 2012, a specific theoretical course was given during semester one (replacing “Multidisciplinary Research Methods in Middle Eastern Studies), followed by one mandatory methodological course during the second semester (offered already during the spring 2012). The expected outcome of this course is the formulation of a research project proposal. Indeed, already during the spring 2011, students were expected to submit such a plan to their advisors. However, by integrating this task in the methods course, the research plan will receive a formal and more thorough academic evaluation, thus strengthening the students’ readiness to engage in their field studies and research planning during semester three.

TUTORING

The second year of MA studies is designed to solidly integrate the students in their chosen research fields, and to formulate cutting edge research questions to be pursued in their MA theses, as well as to train students’ ability to disseminate research results among the broader society. During the spring 2011, while the students were taking their elective courses, they started working with their appointed CMES advisors in formulating research plans; in defining the goals and content of the individualized semester 3 courses of the fall of 2011; and in arranging their field studies during the same semester. During the fall of 2011, students departed to different regions of the Middle East, having arranged internships with CMES partner organizations in the region (research centers, development agencies, embassies, etc.) or having designed field studies projects. A few students chose to see through their third semester at European Middle Eastern research organizations. While the precise experiences and outcomes of the fall 2011 semester remains to be formally evaluated, students appear to have been successful and to have had rewarding experiences in putting their training to professional research, development and diplomatic practice.

INTERNSHIPS

Internships in research projects provide concrete opportunities for students to have first hand experience of research practice. Apart from the third semester internships abroad, the MECW research domains invite students to apply for local CMES internship commitments also during the first year of studies. During 2011 the number of internship positions have increased significantly compared with the preceding year, and have proved both very popular among students and valuable for professors. The following internships have been offered:

- Research assistants for Women for Sustainable Growth: (4 positions)
- Editorial assistants for Middle East Critique: (2)
- Research assistants on Contemporary Islam: (2)
- Research assistants for The Middle East in Sweden: (5)
- Research assistant for Iran Working Group: (1)
- Research assistant on Middle Eastern immigrants in Europe: (1)
- Research assistants for the project Living Conditions for Migrants in the GCC: (2)
- Editorial assistant for CMES Newsletter: (1)
- CMES library assistant: (1)
EXTRACURRICULAR TRAINING

As in previous years, CMES offers an ambitious program of public lectures and brown bag seminars for the general public, in which the MA students naturally are expected to take part. Apart from this valuable venue for student interaction with international expertise on the Middle East, CMES has defined four areas of extra curricular training imperatives for increasing the skills of students (as well as staff) in integrating with the broader society: (1) Conflict resolution and mediation; (2) Popular writing; (3) Presentation; and (4) Networking. As a specialist in Middle Eastern studies, one must be prepared to negotiate collaborations, conflicts, deep ideological convictions, highly strung emotions and deeply rooted prejudices that are intrinsically integrated into the professional fabric of the field. In May 2011, CMES invited two trainers from the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution for a weekend session, training students how to understand, analyze and mediate in conflicts, which turned out to be highly successful. During April 2012, CMES plans to invite a trainer from the Middle East Research and Information Project for a weekend training session for students and staff. In addition, CMES will organize workshops on presentation and networking, all aiming at preparing students for efficient communication with the wider society.

THE MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION

During the fall of 2011, the second cohort of students taking their first semester were encouraged to initiate a students’ society for Middle Eastern studies, financially supported by CMES, aiming at a further integration of the students’ work with research as well as outreach. During the fall, students elected a board and agenda for such an initiative, and got clearance from the Swedish tax authorities to register it as a formal association, under the name “The Middle East Association” (MEA). The MEA is designated to provide yet an important arena for strengthening to connection between education, research an innovation, where students will find a means to directly invite lecturers, organize seminars and to integrate with the organizations, schools and culture life of the broader society.
PART III: OVERVIEWS OF THE FIVE MECW RESEARCH DOMAINS

Contemporary Interpretations of Islam and Muslim Cultures
Hydropolitics, Security, and International Law
Migration and Spatial Mobility
The Middle East in Sweden
Women for Sustainable Growth

CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATIONS OF ISLAM AND MUSLIM CULTURES

Members: Mona Abaza (Senior Researcher), Reza Arjmand (Domain Leader and Senior Researcher), Stefano Bigliardi (Researcher, Ph.D.) Eric Hooglund (Senior Researcher), Torsten Janson (Senior Researcher), Mark Levine (Senior Researcher), Christa Salamandra (Senior Researcher), Leif Stenberg (Senior Researcher).

The diversity and complexity of Islam and Muslim cultures are the focal points of this domain. Scholars in this domain work diligently to keep pace with dynamics that generate competing and contentious interpretations of topics and events that fall under the rubrics of “Islam” and “Muslim cultures”. Areas falling under the rubric “Muslim culture(s)” include nations like Iran, Turkey, and Syria that are vastly different from one another in regard to languages and mainstream cultures as well as emerging nations like the newly independent Kurdistan region of Northern Iraq. Scholars in this domain have projects in all of these geographical locations.

To keep pace with dynamic interpretations of “Islam” and “Muslim cultures”, research and other scholarly initiatives in this domain have focused upon interpretations of Islam in the context of political, social, economic and religious developments on national and global levels. Scholarly initiatives have focused on how Islamic NGOs, grass-root movements, theologians and theological centers interpret Islam in relation to global discourses on topics such as gender equality, sexuality, disabilities, sports, youth, human rights, democracy and environmental issues. Other important fields of interest include studies in mass culture and consumer culture, contemporary art in the Middle East and geographies of primarily urban spaces. Current research includes studies on Sufism in contemporary Syria, art and consumer culture in Egypt, and discourses of resistance through political developments in Iran.

HYDROPOLITICS, SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Members: Karin Aggestam (Project Leader and Senior Researcher), Mohammad Aljaradin (Doctoral Candidate), Raed Bashiialshaer (Senior Researcher), Ronny Berndtsson (Domain Leader and Senior Researcher), Fethi Bouksila (Doctoral Candidate), Hossein Hashemi (Doctoral Candidate), Hamid Hosseinimirandi (Doctoral Candidate), Sihem Jebari (Senior Researcher), Khaldoon Mourad (Doctoral Candidate), Tarek Selim (Doctoral Candidate), Anna Sundell (Doctoral Candidate), and Joshka Wessels (Senior Researcher).

In addition to assessments and analyses of the geographical features of waterways, scholars in this domain are faced with the tremendous task of following events, discourses, developments and policies involving the usage of waterways and water resources within and among nations in the Middle East. To that end, this domain has three overarching aims: (1) To address the gaps in contemporary research on hydropolitics in the Middle East by focusing upon how local, national, transboundary, and global perspectives about water impact national policies and practices of water management; (2) to offer theoretical challenges to the established divisions between conflicts and col-
laborations regarding water by introducing the local level as a crucial component in national and international water management; and, (3) to empirically investigate how local communities are affected by water scarcity and national water management policies. In short, the ongoing work falling under these three aims focuses upon economic, social, cultural and/or political dynamics of cooperation and conflicts over water scarcity.

To assess international events, discourses, and developments involving the usage of waterways and water resources in the Middle East, scholars are involved in multiple projects. One project involves research on how local participation in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) can converge with the needs of regional and national water management strategies. Another project investigates the relationships between local and invisible (virtual) ways to save water. A third area of research specifically targets how social, cultural and political processes create obstacles to the successful implementation of water management projects.

MIGRATION AND SPATIAL MOBILITY

Members: Abdulhadi Khalaf and Petter Pilesjö (Co-Domain Leaders and Senior Researchers), Lina Eklund (Doctoral Candidate) and Eda Farsakoglu (Doctoral Candidate).

The increased movement/emigration/immigration of peoples within and beyond the Middle East is an ongoing process that scholars of this domain endeavor to assess and document. In just the last 35 years several noteworthy conflicts (for example the 1979 Revolution in Iran and the U.S. led invasions of Iraq in 1990 and 2003) have created refugee populations within and beyond the Middle East. Natural resource and labor market inequities within and across the region also influence migration and mobility patterns. Therefore, research on migration and spatial mobility is of increasing importance for understanding regions, nations, and territories falling under the geographical rubric known as “The Middle East”.

To map the increased movement/emigration/immigration of peoples within and beyond the Middle East, research and scholarly initiatives in this domain include: (1) studies of spatial migration patterns in Middle Eastern countries and their relations to natural resources and political developments; (2) migration patterns and processes driving migration within the Middle East region and between the Middle East and other parts of the world, particularly Europe; (3) the economic, political, social, and cultural impacts of migration in the Middle East; and, (4) the consequences of integration or non-integration of migrants.

THE MIDDLE EAST IN SWEDEN

Members: Dan-Erik Andersson (Senior Researcher), Anders Ackfeldt (Doctoral Candidate) Lory Dance (Domain Leader and Senior Researcher), Barzoo Eliassi (Post-Doctoral Researcher), Ulrik Mårtensson (Researcher), Torun Elsrud (Affiliated Senior Researcher).

While scholars in the Migration and Mobility domain map migration within and beyond the Middle East, scholars of the Middle East in Sweden domain track new challenges, accomplishments, and societal dynamics affecting Middle Eastern immigrants in Sweden. This means keeping pace with such ongoing issues such as national belonging and/or exclusion, hybrid and hyphenated national identities, integrated and assimilated immigrant communities along-
side of growing concerns about the degree to which immigrants are segregated from the Swedish mainstream. To examine issues such as national belonging and/or exclusion, hybrid and hyphenated national identities as well as the degree to which immigrants are integrated into Swedish society, scholarly initiatives include research on: (1) the discrepancies among popular and media-based representations of Middle Eastern immigrants; (2) the perspectives of Middle Eastern students on school reform initiatives; (3) Middle Eastern immigrants’ participation in the Swedish Temperance Movement; (4) the politics of belonging among young Kurdish immigrants; and, (5) Islamic hip hop aesthetics and societal dynamics among Swedish artists.

WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Members: Dalia Abdelhady (Domain Leader and Senior Researcher), Erin Frazier (Intern), Johanna Hannus (Intern), Lars-Erik Olofsson (Project Manager), Jaleh Taheri (Executive Project Manager)

This domain seeks to build knowledge regarding the contributions of women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Members of this domain have the unique challenge of bridging public, private, and non-governmental organizations to the academy in a joint effort to explore, analyze, and facilitate gender-based initiatives. Domain members are particularly interested in facilitating entrepreneurial activities that create, facilitate, maintain and/or enhance equity in spheres of activity involving women in Sweden and from Middle Eastern nations.

More so than the other four domains, Women for Sustainable Growth (WSG) works extensively with non-academics. This focus upon non-academics presents the biggest challenge for the WSG domain members. Translating academic research into everyday terminology and presenting it in innovative ways to a non-academic audience is a daily task that constitutes much of the work of the domain members. Challenging assumptions about the lack of relevance of academia to daily practice is a theme that cuts across much of WSG’s activities.

To build knowledge regarding the contributions of women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, members of this domain take women’s leadership as a starting point. Research and innovative initiatives in this domain have investigated the impact of female leaders in the Gulf Cooperation Council upon the social and cultural transformations in their societies. Research has also examined the relationship between women’s economic activity and political mobilization as well as cultural and religious resources that inform women’s public activities. In various activities, WSG encourages and facilitates the participation of individuals from academia, the business community, the public sector, and community organizations.
As previously described in Parts I through Parts III of this annual report, 2011 was a year of scholarly engagements with uprisings in Arab nations, a year of growth in the number of scholars and staff at CMES, a year of increased publications, conference attendances, and media appearances, and a year of pedagogical enhancements to the CMES/MECW Masters in Middle Eastern Studies program. 2011 was also a year during which CMES/MECW organized and/or sponsored an assortment of informative guest lectures/speakers, seminars, and films. Though this annual report does not list all events, here are a few highlights.

GUEST LECTURERS AND SPEAKERS

CMES/MECW has hosted a number of talented guest lecturers and speakers representing a range of disciplines from Middle Eastern, Scandinavian, European, and American academic institutions. Among these were the following scholars and lectures:

- Leif Manger from the University of Bergen, “Understanding Regions in Time and Space – Research in Various Muslim Communities”
- Naomi Sakr of the University of Westminster, “Power Balances Behind Saudi Arabia’s Changing Media Scene”
- Mona Abaza of Lund University and the American University of Cairo, Book Release: Twentieth Century Egyptian Art, The Private Collection of Sherwet Shefei
- Mozghan Dorkhan from Skåne University Hospital, “Treatment of Diabetes and Obesity in the United Arab Emirates”
- Nezar Al-Sayyed, the Chair of CMES at Berkeley, “The Fundamentalist City or Medieval Modernity”
- Sari Hanafi from the American University of Beirut, “The Arab Revolutions: Who Are the Actors”
- Erica Li Lundqvist (doctoral candidate) from Lund University, “‘Gayted’ Communities – Marginalized Masculinities in Lebanon”
- As’ad Ghanem of the University of Haifa, “The Spring of the Arab Peoples”
- Salman Hameed from Hampshire College, “Muslims, Modernity and Science: Lessons from Contemporary Debates over Evolutionary Biology”
- Johan Gärde from Ersta Sköndal University College, “Conviviality Alone?: Confessional Minds and Identity in Lebanon and in the Broader Middle Eastern Context”
- Franck Mermier from L’École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, “Beirut Shared and Divided Spaces”
- James Piscatori from Durham University, “Pan-Islamic Unity: Between Cosmopolitanism and Communitarianism”

BROWN BAG LUNCHES AND SEMINARS

Brown Bag Lunches and Seminars have offered a more interactive format for dialogue, debate, and information exchange. The Brown Bag Lunches and Seminars included the following scholars and topics:

- Göran Larsson from the University of Gothenburg, “The Future is Now – How Should the Academic Study of Islam and Muslims in Sweden be Developed?”
- Seminar titled “Expert Panel on Tunisia”, which was an interactive discussion about the recent events and the effects on the rest of the Middle East
- Morten Valbjörn from Aarhus University, “The Future of Middle Eastern Political Rule Through Lenses of the Past”
• Lloyd Ridgeon from the University of Glasgow, “Historical Perspectives on Female Sufi Identity”
• Sune Haugbølle from the University of Copenhagen, “New Approaches to the Arab Left”

**FILMS**

Added to exchanges of information through lectures and seminars are acclaimed films/documentaries. Egyptian Films shown during spring 2011 could be viewed as setting the stage for the Arab Spring. These films include the following:

• *Le Chaos* (2007), the final film from the Egyptian director Youssef Chahine
• *A Citizen, a Detective and a Thief* (2001), an Egyptian comedy-drama directed by Daoud Abdel Sayed
• *The Island* (2008), an action film directed by Sherief Arafa
• *Yacoubian Building* (2006), an Egyptian film directed by Marwan Hamed

Films shown during fall 2011 focused upon the social implication of sports (especially football) in the Middle East. These films include the following:

• *Underdogs: A War Story* (1996), a film about race, ethnicity and social issues in Israel directed by Doron Tsabari and Rino Zro
• *Offside* (2006), a film about gender inequality in Iran directed by Jafar Panahi
• *Goal Dreams* (2006), a film about the Palestinian national football team preparing for the 2006 World Cup directed by Maya Sanbar and Jeffrey Saunders
APPENDIX
SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THE MECW DOMAINS

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1 CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATIONS OF ISLAM AND MUSLIM CULTURES

1.1 Publications

1.1.1 Books

Abaza, Mona. (forthcoming) A Tale of Two worlds, on Cotton Plantations, Mansions and Hamlets. (The contract with AUC press was signed in December 2011.)

1.1.2 Edited Volumes


Stenberg, Leif (guest editor) Middle East Critique, Special Issue on Syria. Volume 20, Issue 2, 2011.

1.1.3 Articles


Bigliardi, Stefano. “The Strange Case of Dr. Bucaille. Notes for a Re-Examination”. Accepted by The Muslim World in May, to be published in one of the next issues.


1.1.4 Book Chapters in Edited Volumes


1.1.5 Encyclopedia Entries

1.1.6 Newspaper Articles
Abaza, Mona. “Art, Subcultures And The Reinvention Of Public Space In Egypt,” Al-Ahram online, July 25th, 2011.

Abaza, Mona. “Academic tourists sight-seeing the Arab Spring,” Al-Ahram online, Monday 26 Sep 2011.


Abaza, Mona. “On Cairo’s urban space war,” Al-Ahram online, Saturday 17 Sep 2011.

Bigliardi, Stefano. “Islam scienza e miracoli”, on IL - Mensile del Sole 24 Ore, October 14 pp. 222-224 (popular science article in Italian)

Bigliardi, Stefano. Review of Nidhal Guessoum’s Islam’s Quantum Question. Reconciling Muslim Tradition and Modern Science (I.B. Tauris, 2011) in Italian. Accepted by the review Epistemologia – Rivista di filosofia della scienza on November 1st; to be published in one of the next issues.


1.2 Conferences and Speaking Engagements

Arjmand, Reza. Chair and discussant for the panel on Quests for Belonging: Perspectives of Middle Eastern Youths Amidst Normalizing Discourses. Washington, MESA; December 2, 2011.

Bigliardi, Stefano. Miracles as a Philosophical Problem: Is There an “Islamic Way”? Department of Philosophy, Fatih Üniversitesi, Istanbul; Feb 16, 2011.


Bigliardi, Stefano. One in Many, Many in One. How Integration Emerged in the Discourse on Islam and Science (University of Constance, Germany; Feb. 8, 2012 – with Leif Stenberg).

Bigliardi, Stefano. The Many Virtues of a Unity. From Recognition of Plurality to Integration Within the Contemporary Discourse on Islam and Science (University of Padua, February 15-16 2012, within the international conference From Religious Diversity to Religious Pluralism: What is at Stake?).


Stenberg, Leif. Presentation on the uprisings in the Middle East. Skånes Provisbank, May 18, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Presentation on the uprisings in the Middle East. Limhamns företagargrupp, Malmö, September 27, 2011.


1.3 Grant Activity

1.3.1 Grants Funded

Stenberg, Leif. I received a grant of the Swedish Bank Tercentenary foundation (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) of 850,000 SEK for a two-year project entitled “A European Hub for Research on Iran”.

Stenberg, Leif. I received a grant of the Swedish Bank Tercentenary foundation (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) of 250,000 SEK for a one-year project entitled “One Land- Two States? Alternative Scenarios for Israeli-Palestinian Accomodation”.
1.4 University Teaching & Guest Lecture Activity


Abaza, Mona. Offered numerous talks and lectures at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies and the Centre for Theology and Religious studies and the Department of Sociology at Lund University, Spring 2011.

Arjmand, Reza. “Challenges of Modernization and Development in the Middle East”. A course offered as a partial fulfillment for the Master’s degree at CMES. November to December 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Lecture “Democracy Movements in the Middle East”, Student Association of Foreign Affairs, Linköping University, April 14, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. “Uprisings in the Middle East: The Example of Syria and the Official Islam”. Nebraska University, September 15, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Keynote speaker at conference “The Arab Spring: Cultural and Political Encounters between Europe

Stenberg, Leif. “Syrien - igår, idag, imorgon”. My contribution was on Syria’s recent history. Organized by support committee for Syria, Stockholm, December 9, 2011.

1.5 Innovative Activities

Stenberg, Leif. Visit to ABB in Ludvika to discuss how to organize training courses on the Middle East for Swedish businessmen, Ludvika, February 3, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Seminar on the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt jointly organized with The Association for Foreign Affairs, Lund University, Lund, February 8, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Board meeting of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies at Center for Middle Eastern Studies, February, 12, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Organized a one-day seminar on developments in the Middle East for Green party board members Valter Mutt and Peter Rådberg. 5 scholars from MECW participated, July 15, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Meeting with the producers of the home page “Your Middle East”. Establishing cooperation, Stockholm, August 15, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Seminar at Consumer Lab Global (Ericsson) in Malmö on the developments in the Middle East (with Abdulhadi Khalaf), August 22, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Participation as a moderator at Malmö Arab Film Festival, September 23-27, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Organized a photo exhibition at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies of photos from Iran by American scholar and photographer Randy Goodman, September 26 to October 10, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Jointly organized seminar with the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul on contemporary Turkey. I
was the moderator of the one-day seminar, November 25, 2011.

1.6 Media Related Appearances

1.6.1 Television Interviews

Arjmand, Reza. Interview with TV4 on the situation in Libya. October 12, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Swedish National TV (SVT), commenting the situation in Egypt, Godmorgon Sverige, February 4, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Swedish National TV (SVT), Commenting on uprisings in the Middle East, Rapport, March 9, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Swedish National TV (SVT), special issue of Agenda on the uprisings in the Middle East.

Stenberg, Leif. Swedish National TV (SVT), Commenting on developments in Syria, Rapport, April 26, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. TV4, Commenting on the situation in Libya.

Stenberg, Leif. Swedish National TV (SVT), Commenting on developments in Syria, Godmorgon Sverige, 2011

Stenberg, Leif, Swedish National TV (SVT), commenting on the situation in Syria, December 30, 2011.

1.6.2 Radio Interviews

Arjmand, Reza. Interview with Swedish Radio (SR) on uprising in the Middle East. October 6, 2011.


1.7.3 Newspaper/Magazine Interviews

Hooglund, Eric. With Malmo paper, on Christians in Egypt.


1.7 National & International Visits and Collaborations

Arjmand, Reza. Collaboration with the Centre for the Middle Eastern studies, Columbia University, New York. Collaboration includes: research projects, conferences and exchange of students and faculty.

Arjmand, Reza. Collaboration with Teacher College, Columbia University. Collaboration includes: research projects, conferences and exchange of students and faculty.

Arjmand, Reza. Collaboration with Soran University, Iraq. Collaboration includes: research projects, conferences, exchange of students, teaching courses at Soran and designing a new master’s program.


Arjmand, Reza. Collaboration with Prof. Lambros Comitas. Collaboration includes: invitation for teaching and seminars and serving as committee member for dissertation defenses and the like.

Arjmand, Reza. Collaboration with Prof. George Bond. Collaboration includes: invitation for teaching and seminars and serving as committee member for dissertation defenses and the like.

Janson, Torsten. Learning and Teaching in Multicultural Classrooms, Malmö högskola, 7 September 2011.

Politisk islam and islamofobi, Malmö högskola 10 oktober 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Professor Mohamed Balah, Suez Canal University, Egypt, visited the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, February 2, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Seminar on youth and urbanization in the Middle East, 10 participants jointly organized by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, Istanbul, March 3-4, 2011

Stenberg, Leif. "Swedish-German Graduate Kolloquium". 7 PhD students from Lund University had a two-day seminar with 7 PhD students from Erfurt University. A jointly arranged seminar by Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Erfurt University, Erfurt, March 24-27, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Visited the Swedish Institute of International Affairs to discuss cooperation. Meeting with Hanna Ojanen, Stockholm, August 16, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Visited the University of Nebraska to discuss cooperation, and also gave a lecture. Lincoln, September 13-19, 2011. (Accompanied by Lory Dance and Dan-Erik Andersson).


Stenberg, Leif. Green Party male spokesperson, Gustav Fridolin, visited the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in
order to be briefed about the activities at the Center and uprisings in the Middle East. Meeting also attended by
Dan-Erik Andersson.

Stenberg, Leif. “Of Models and Beacons: Sweden, Turkey and the Middle East”. A seminar jointly organized by Center
for Middle Eastern Studies and Istanbul Policy Center, Sabanci University, Lund, November 3, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. The Swedish ambassador, Ulla Gudmundsson, to the Holy Sea visited the Center for Middle Eastern
Studies, November 22, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Jenny Anderberg and Anders Fänge från Svenska Afghanistankommittén besökte Centrum för Mel-
lanösternstudier, December 7, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. A delegation from Kuwait University visited the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, December 8, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Three visits to the Swedish Research Center in Istanbul February, June and November for board
meetings with the board of the Institute. I am a board member.

1.8 Research Visits by MECW Scholars


Hooglund, Eric. Washington: Interviews with US officials, Iranian dissidents, December. December 6 and 7; December
20, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Visits to Harvard University, University of Massachusetts and New York University, February 17-25,
2011. (Roy Mottahedeh, HU, Toby Huff, UM, and Mustapha Tili, NYU).

Stenberg, Leif. Visits to al-Babtain foundation, Kuwait City, to plan for a conference on the relationship the Arab
world and Europe to be held in Copenhagen 2013, April 15-19, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. Visits to conference in Dubai on dialogue between civilizations organized by the al-Babtain Foundation,
Kuwait city, and to Zayed University in Abu Dhabi, October 15-22, 2011.

1.9 MOUs established

In February of 2011, Lund University established an MOU with Soran University in Kurdistan. In early November of
2011 five scholars from CMES (including one from the “Contemporary Interpretations of Islam and Muslim Cultures”
research domain of MECW, namely Reza Arjmand) attended several meetings that included the President of Soran University and leading scholars. During these meetings we discussed future plans for international exchanges between Lund and Soran. These exchanges would involve instructors, researchers, and students (undergraduate and graduate). Additionally, we also discussed a joint research conference to be held during the Fall semester of 2012 and Soran’s interest in support from CMES to develop a Master’s program in Middle Eastern Studies.

MOU signed with Istanbul Policy Center, Sabanci University, Istanbul in December 2011. The aim is to jointly develop a project application on the study of the Swedish and Turkish state models and their relation to the uprisings in the Middle East to be handed in to Swedish research foundations in spring 2012.

1.10 Other Scholarly Activities

1.10.1 Reviews


Stenberg, Leif. Appointed full professor in Islamology at Lund University October 27, 2011.


Stenberg, Leif. Evaluation of applications to a position in History of Religions at Uppsala University, January-April, 2011.

Stenberg, Leif. As a coordinator of MECW and director of CMES, Leif Stenberg participated in leadership training course at Lund University. The course had several leadership training days during 2011. The total hours are 80, and the course ends in June 2012.

Editorial Activities for Middle East Critique:


Hooglund, Eric. Copyedit articles, proof galleys, write Ed Note for 20.2 (April) and 20.3 (July & August 2011).

2 HYDROPOLITICS, SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

2.1 Publications

2.1.1 Refereed journal articles


2.1.2 Edited Volumes


2.1.3 Book Chapters


2.1.4 Doctoral Theses

2.1.5 Working Papers

2.2 Conferences

2.2.1 Conference Participation/Presentations, Public Lectures and/or Speaking Engagements


Aljaradin, M., (2011), Threats to Groundwater Resources due to Uncontrolled Landfilling, Jordan. A Review and


Hashemi, H. and R. Berndtsson (2011), Floodwater recharge to improve sustainable water supply in arid Iran, Middle East Studies Association (MESA), 45th Annual Meeting December 1-4, Washington, US.


2.2.2 Conferences/Workshops/Symposia Etc., Organized


2.3 Grant Activity

2.3.1 Grant proposals submitted

Berndtsson, R., (2010-2011), Funds were granted from Lissshed Foundation and Crafoord Foundation for water management studies in the south of Iran.


2.4 University Teaching & Guest Lecture Activity

2.4.1 Guest Lectures


2.5 University-based Seminars/Courses Offered

Aggestam, Karin. (2011) New intermediate course on War and Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (7.5 credit points), Department of Political Science, Lund University, autumn 2011.

Berndtsson, R., (2011), Organizing and lecturing in the 7.5 ECTS master course on “Environment and sustainable development in the Middle East”, prepared for master students at the CMES, Lund University during spring semester 2011.

2.6 Innovative Activities

Bashitialshaaer, R., R. Berndtsson, K.M. Persson, K.M., and M. Larson. (2011). New techniques to improve desalination efficiency; Collaboration with Qatar University, Qatar, to participate in the research proposal (NPRP ID 5-540-2-219) in the fifth cycle of the National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) of QNRF.

Bashitialshaaer, R., (2011), Memberships in:

- International Desalination Association (IDA)
- American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE)
- European Desalination Society (EDS)
- Arabian Desalination Network (ADN)
- American Water Works Association (AWWA)
- MESA (Middle East Studies Association)

Berndtsson, R., (2011), Associate Editor of Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment, SERRA.


2.7 Media Related Appearances

2.7.1 Radio interviews

Jebari S. (2011). 16th February in the AF-building. Interview for Radio committee, Association of Foreign affairs in Lund on the role the Middle East is having on Tunisia and Egypt, and how you look at Turkey’s development as a democratic Muslim country, how much influence do they have on Tunisia and Egypt and the Middle East? And how likely is it that they may evolve in the same way as Turkey?

Sundell-Eklund, A., (2011). Comments to media on the political development during the Arab Spring on a near to
daily basis in January-February. E.g., Dagens Nyheter, Svenska Dagbladet, Sydsvenska Dagbladet, Helsingborgsposten, City, Metro, Expressen, Sveriges Radio.


2.7.2 Newspaper/Magazine Interviews


2.8 National & International Collaborations

Visiting Professors/Researchers/Scholars:
Prof. Mohammed Balah, Suez Canal University, Egypt, Pollution reduction in Cairo urban water system, Jan (2 weeks).
Port Said University, Egypt, Irrigation efficiency,

Dr. Omran Alshihabi, Associate Professor, Damascus University, Jordan, 1 month, Aug.
Damascus University, Syria, Improved water management using modeling approach.

2.9 Research Visits by MECW Professors/Researchers/Scholars

Aggestam Karin. (2011) Visiting Research Fellow, National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Otago University, New Zealand, February-April 2011.

Dr. Fethi Bouksila, INRGREF (Tunisian National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry), Tunis, Tunisia, 1 month, Nov.

Dr. Sihem Jebari visiting the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources, General Direction of Dams and Large Hydraulic Works, for Aspects related to Transboundary Water Management: Mejerda river basin.

2.10 Other Activities

Jebari, S., and H. Hashemi (2011), Participation for the cultural trip to Turkey. 25th April- 21st May.

Jebari, S., (2011), Participation to the “elevator talk” in order to develop presentation skills. Sessions organized by
Lund University, from 5 to 7 October.

Jebari S. (2011). “Tunisia: A democracy movement triggered by social and environmental constraints”. The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) and The Association for Foreign Affairs Lund (UPF) organized a panel discussing current events in Tunisia and broader effects on the Middle East. The seminar took place Tuesday February 8th 7.30 pm at Café Athen.

Sundell-Eklund, A., (2011), “Tunisia: A democracy movement triggered by social and environmental constraints”. The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) and The Association for Foreign Affairs Lund (UPF) organized a panel discussing current events in Tunisia and broader effects on the Middle East. The seminar took place Tuesday February 8th 7.30 pm at Café Athen.

Wessels, J., (2011) screening of her film “Valley of Hope and Despair”, 1st September, Faculty of Political Sciences, Lund University, Lund.


3 MIGRATION AND SPATIAL MOBILITY

3.1 Publications


3.1.1 Journal Articles Submitted and accepted (not yet published):

3.1.2 Journal Articles Submitted

3.1.3 Manuscripts
Eklund L, El-Atrash A: Assessment of Mobility Conditions Using Geographic Information System in the West Bank Territory - The Case of Bethlehem – Ramallah Route. (Not yet published).

3.1.4 Book Chapters

3.1.5 Unpublished papers

Khalaf, Abdulhadi. Activism for Civil Rights among Foreign Workers in the GCC Countries. Department of Sociology, December 1, 2011.

3.1.6 Newspaper Appearances


3.2 Conferences and Speaking Engagements

Eklund L at International GIS day in Lund (November 16): “Slow Down, Barriers Ahead” - Hur man kan använda GIS för att studera mobilitet i Palestina?

Eklund L at Migration board meeting in Arild: Israel/Palestine lecture.

Eklund L at MESA, December 2011.

Pilesjö P: A large number of presentations and seminars during meetings in the Middle East (see below), related to the domain activities as well as to the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies more specifically, and Lund University in general.


Khalaf, Abdulhadi. The Arab Spring: the hopes and the backlashes, School of Global Studies, Gothenburg University.

3.3 Grant Activity

Dr. Ali Mansourian, and Petter Pilesjö at Lund U. have initiated a big project in Kurdistan Governorate, Iraq aiming at creating improved e-government services for the society (planning, decision making, building, etc) together with Du-hok university and municipalities in the region. This is a 0.5 million dollar project (phase 1) and will be decided 2012.

Two colleagues (Dr. Pär Schubert and Mr. Roger Groth) have spent 1 month each at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman. This has resulted in increased research cooperation, and a joint application for Omani research funds and/or from Qatar foundation. The project is about land use and land cover changes in Oman due to climate change.

One result of Dr. Al-Rawas 1 month visit to Lund was a joint research application about flush floods and impact on livelihood in Oman. Application has been sent to Omani research council.
3.4 University Teaching & Guest Lecture Activity

Khalaf, Abdulhadi. Migration and Development, Graduate School, Lund University.

Khalaf, Abdulhadi. Civil Society Organisations Role in Development, Graduate School, Lund University.

Khalaf, Abdulhadi. Migration, Mobility and Human Rights in the Middle East, Center for Middle East Studies, Lund University.

Khalaf, Abdulhadi. Civil Society in the Middle East, Center for Middle East Studies, Lund University.

Khalaf, Abdulhadi. Globalisation, Culture and Media, Graduate School, Lund University.

3.5 Media Related Appearances

3.5.1 Radio Interviews


3.5.2 TV Interviews


3.6 International Collaborations

- Visits (by Pilesjö P) to partner universities in Qatar (Qatar University), Bahrain (University of Bahrain), Kuwait (Kuwait University) and Oman (Sultan Qaboos University) for 2 weeks in January 2011. The discussions held
resulted in deepened cooperation, (including academic exchange) between Lund and the partner universities. The cooperation and discussions are not only concentrated to migration and mobility, but covers all faculties at the universities.

- Visit (by Pilesjö P) to university of Bahrain within the framework of the EU project Erasmus Mundus Action 2 GULF counties for 4 days in March 2011. The outcome of the meeting was the selection of a number (approx. 30) of fully funded (by EU) scholarship holders on all levels (undergrad. to senior researchers). The scholarship holders spend between 1 and 36 months at Lund University (for GULF nationals, 20 persons), or 1 to 6 months at one of the GULF universities (for EU nationals active at Lund, 10 persons).

- Visit (by Pilesjö P and Eklund L) for 4 days to Duhok University, Iraqi Kurdistan in June 2011. Discussions about joint research activities, including planning of field work for Eklund in July 2011.

- Field work (by Eklund L) in Iraqi Kurdistan 3 weeks in July 2011. Data collection of migration/mobility and environmental/socio-economic factors for appr. 700 households in the region.

- Kick-off meeting (Pilesjö P) in Duhok, Iraqi Kurdistan in September 2011. Together with 6 European (University of Algarve, Portugal, University of Deusto, Spain, Georg August Universität Göttingen, Germany, Lille 1 University, France, University of Twente, Netherlands, University of Warsaw, Poland) and 13 Middle Eastern Universities (Ferdowsi University of Mashad, Iran, Islamic Azad University, Iran, KN Toosi University of Technology, Iran, Shahid Beheshti University, Iran, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Iran, Shiraz University, Iran, University of Tehran, Iran, University of Baghdad, Iraq, University of Duhok, Iraq, University of Mosul, Iraq, IBB University, Yemen, Sana’a University, Yemen, Thamar University, Yemen) the EU Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Iran, Iraq, Yemen project was launched. The project, which lasted 4 days, is coordinated by Lund University (coordinator: Pilesjö P).

- Swedish coordination (Pilesjö P) of 17 students and researchers visiting Lund University for 1 to 6 months, sponsored by the European Union. The exchange are in all academic fields, and not only migration and mobility. (For the visitors listed below, MA and PhD students stayed 16 weeks, Post-docs stayed 12 weeks): Said Issa Al Hamimi, Master student, from Nizwa University, Oman
  Shefaa A AL.Qaher Al.Asfoor, Master student, from University of Bahrain, Bahrain
  Khalil Ebrahim Albasri, Master student, from University of Bahrain, Bahrain
  Suleiman Zahran Al-harrasi, Master student, from Nizwa University, Oman
  Hammad Abdullah AlNasseri, PhD student, from Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
  Ashwaq Abdulla Aloraibi, Master student, from University of Bahrain, Bahrain
  Yaqoob Hamood Said Al-Rahbi, Master student, from Nizwa University, Oman
  Ghazi Ali Al-Rawas, Academic staff, from Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
  Hajar Khalifa Alsherooqi, Master student, from University of Bahrain, Bahrain
  Amina Khalifa AlSherooqi, Master student, from University of Bahrain, Bahrain
  Sultan Sulaiman Al-Siyabi, Master student, from Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
  Sami Saleh Al-Wahaibi, Master student, from Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
  Hanan Said Al-Yahyai, Master student, from Nizwa University, Oman
  Donna M Bou-Rabee, Master student, from Kuwait University, Kuwait
  Abdulkarim Mohammed Mamoun Kaibi, Master student, from University of Bahrain, Bahrain
Layla Abdulla Meftah, Master student, from University of Bahrain, Bahrain
Hala Deeb Abaid, Post-Doc, from University of Bahrain, Bahrain

• Visit (by Pilesjö P) to Deusto University, Spain, in order to launch the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 GULF project together with Deusto University. Lund (Pilesjö P) co-coordinates this project. Partner universities in the GULF are: University of Nizwa, Oman, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, Kuwait University, Kuwait, University of Bahrain, Bahrain, Qatar University, Qatar, King Abdullah University of Sciences and Technology, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates University. Duration of stay was 4 days.

• Visit (by Pilesjö P) to the GULF (University of Nizwa, Oman, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, Kuwait University, Kuwait, Qatar University, Qatar, and King Abdullah University of Sciences and Technology, Saudi Arabia) for 16 days in October/November 2011 in order to promote Lund University and Swedish education as well as develop joint research.

• Three post doc researchers visit the domain for 6 months during 2011/2012:
  Dr. Salar Ali Khidher, University of Baghdad, working with climate change in Iraq.
  Dr. Abdulonour Ghanim, Thamar University, Yemen, working with flush floods in Yemen.
  Dr. Lamia Galal, Fayoum University, Egypt, working with planning in Egypt.

• Two academic staff researchers visited the domain for 1 month each during 2011:
  Dr. Seyed Rashid Fallah Shamsi, Shiraz University, Iran, working with dust storms and mobility in the Middle East.
  Dr. Ghazi A. Al-Rawas, Dept. of Civil and Architectural Engineering, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, working with flush floods in Oman.

3.7 Other Activities

3.7.1 Public Engagements
Khalaf, Abdulhadi. The Arab Spring and the Paradigm shift in Middle East Studies. In a joint panel organized by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) and The Association for Foreign Affairs (UPF), Lund. 2011-2-8.


Eklund, Lena and Abdulhadi Khalaf were part of the CMES team which delivered several Orientation Lectures to the Middle East to staff of the Swedish Migration Board, Arlid, October 5, 2011.
4 THE MIDDLE EAST IN SWEDEN

4.1 Publications

4.1.1 Books

4.1.2 Edited Volumes

4.1.3 Articles

4.1.4 Book chapters


4.1.5 Newspaper Articles


4.2 Conferences and Speaking Engagements

4.2.1 Conference Participation/Presentations


Ackfeldt, A. Music Censorship - Contested Spaces; War, Torture, Violence, Suppression and Power. (P.hd.Workshop and International Conference, Attended) At: University of Copenhagen, Department of Arts and Cultural Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2011-05-05/07.


Dance, L. J. 2011. Presenter “I want to be a graduate but politicians treat me as a problem: Middle Eastern Swedes
and Black Americans in Large Urban High Schools. Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, MESA Panel (P2775) (December 4, 2011).


4.2.2 Conference/Panels/Workshops/Symposia Organized


4.3 Grant Activity

4.3.1 Grants Submitted


4.3.2 Grants Funded

Ackfeldt, Anders. Completed & Submitted application for Joint Brazilian-Swedish Research Collaboration Programme (STINT) between Center For Middle Eastern Studies & Núcleo de Estudos do Oriente Médio (NEOM), Together With Prof. Leif Stenberg, Prof Palo Pinto & Dr. Gisele Fonseca, expected answer spring 2012, Four years program worth 800 000 SEK. (2011-12-06)
Ackfeldt, Anders. Completed & Submitted Ph.d. scholarship application for Action 2 lot EMGulf11, one year P.hd. exchange to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain or Oman. (2011-11-26)

Pilesjö, Petter, Lory Dance, and Dan-Erik Andersson. “Well Connected?: Immigrant Network Ties to Jobs and Health Care in Civil Society.” Submitted in March 2010 to Vetenskapsrådet; received seed funding in November 2010; carried out grant activities during 2011 calendar year.

4.4 University Teaching & Guest Lecture Activity


Dance, Lory. Guest Lecturer. MOS Courses on Migration. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University, Spring 2011.

Dance, Lory. Guest Lecturer. MOS Courses on Multiculturalism. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University, Spring 2011.

Dance, Lory. Guest Lecturer. MOS Courses in Cinema/Film. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University, Spring 2011.


Eliassi, Barzoo. An introductory lecture about Critical Discourse Analysis to the MA-students at the Centre for Middle-Eastern Studies, Lund University, 9th November 2011.

Mårtensson, Ulrik. Guest lectures and seminars Ohio State University at several occasions during the period of my stay there August to December 2011.

4.5 Public Engagements


Dance, Lory. 2011. Presentation and Discussion. “’We All Shall Be Free’: Hopes of a Black American in the Age of Hip Hop, Obama, and Middle Eastern Revolutions.” Clandestino Festival #9, Gothenburg, Sweden, 12th June.


4.6 Innovative Activities

4.6.1 Collaborative activities with private non-profit firms/corporations/businesses/NGOs
Dance, Lory. During the 2011 calendar year Dance had several meetings with the NGO Rörelsens Gatans Röst och Ansikte (RGRA) in Malmö to carefully map and plan a local community outreach project for marginalized youths in Malmö. This project is tentatively called “Community Symposia on Transcendental Aesthetic Expressions for Marginalized Youths”. Two symposia are planned for the Spring and Summer of 2012. During the Spring of 2012, RGRA and ME-in-S will also apply for grant funding to continue these symposia over a period of three to five years.

4.7 Media Related Appearances

4.7.1 Television interviews

4.7.2 Radio interviews


4.7.3 Newspaper/Magazine Interviews

4.8 National & International Collaborations
4.8.1 Completed Collaborative activities with individuals/institutions
Dance, Lory. Civil Society Initiative Participatory Action Project. Collaboration with Prof. Helen Moore and two doctoral candidates (Setareh Maknejad and Farhad Golkar) of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to get information from community consultants on Middle Eastern immigrants in Lincoln, Nebraska. June-September 2011.

4.8.2 Ongoing Collaborative activities with individuals/institutions
Dance, Lory. The Global Classroom. Video conferenced courses offered between Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University and the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska. MOSP20-Multidisciplinary Research Methods in Middle Eastern Studies (titled SOCI 998-Qualitative Methods in Global Contexts at the University of Nebraska) offered Fall 2011. Scheduled again for Spring 2013.

4.8.3 International Teaching Exchanges
Dance, Lory. Lecturer on-site at the University of Nebraska. The Global Classroom video conferenced course offered between Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University and the Department of Sociology at the University of Nebraska. SOCI 998-Qualitative Methods in Global Contexts, Department of Sociology. August 22- September 20, 2011.

Mårtensson, Ulrik. Guest lectures and seminars Ohio State University at several occasions during the period of my stay there August to December 2011.

4.9 MOUs established
In February of 2011, Lund University established an MOU with Soran University in Kurdistan. In early November of 2011 five scholars from CMES (including three from the Middle East in Sweden research domain of MECW, namely Dan-Erik Andersson, Lory Dance, and Barzoo Eliassi) attended several meetings that included the President of Soran University and leading scholars. During these meetings we discussed future plans for international exchanges between Lund and Soran. These exchanges would involve instructors, researchers, and students (undergraduate and graduate). Additionally, we also discussed a joint research conference to be held during the Fall semester of 2012 and Soran’s interest in support from CMES to develop a Master’s program in Middle Eastern Studies.

4.10 Other/Miscellaneous


5 WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

5.1 Publications

5.1.1 Books

5.1.2 Book chapters


5.2 Research Activities (for which funding has already been received)

5.2.1 Full Research Projects
Women Leaders in the UAE: fieldwork completed
WSG and Participatory Action Research: fieldwork completed

5.3 Conference Participation/Presentations


Dalia Abdelhady. “Women Businesses and Corporate Social Responsibility in the UAE,” The 2nd Gulf Research


5.4 Public Lectures and/or speaking engagements


Dalia Abdelhady. Invited Talk: A Career in Research, or How I Followed my Passion, Zayed University, Summer Research Institute, June, 2011.


5.4.1 Conferences/Workshops/Symposia etc., organized by domain members and/or affiliates

Jaleh Taheri: WSG Summit, with the formation of the WSG Board, Nordea and the UAE Embassy in Stockholm supported WSG in hosting an inaugural summit to share the vision, mission and objectives of WSG with about 120 people. The Board was hosted by HH Crown Princess Victoria. March, 2011.
Dalia Abdelhady. Businesswomen in the Middle East, workshop organized at the German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation International Congress, Freie University, Berlin, Germany, October, 2011.

Jaleh Taheri. WSG Board Meeting and Working Group organized at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, October 2011.

Jaleh Taheri. Participatory Leadership Workshop organized at Lund University, November 2011.

5.5 Grant Activity

5.5.1 Grant proposals submitted

5.6 University Teaching & Guest Lecture Activity

University-based Guest Lectures offered by domain members and/or affiliates
Guest lecturer, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Master’s Program MOSP10 and MOSP20 Fall 2011.

5.7 Media Related Appearances

5.7.1 Radio interviews by domain members and/or affiliates
Jaleh Taheri. Radio Interview, UPF, Lund University, April 18th, 2011.

5.7.2 Newspaper/Magazine interviews by domain members and/or affiliates
Jaleh Taheri. Interview. LUM Magazine, March 27th 2011, “Female Leadership in Gulf Countries”.

Jaleh Taheri, Featured Saturday Interview, Sydsvenskan Naringsliv, 20 August 2011.


Jaleh Taheri, Mingel Magazine, Interview with Jaleh Taheri, Nr 3 2011.

Jaleh Taheri, Skåne Magazine, Interview with Jaleh Taheri, November 2011.

Jaleh Taheri, Notable Mention in Det Kungliga Året (The Royal Yearbook), written by Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg about Women for Sustainable Growth, 2011.
5.8 National & International Collaborations

5.8.1 Ongoing Collaborative activities with individuals/institutions
Dalia Abdelhady. Organizing a workshop with the director of the Gender and Public Policy Program at the Dubai School of Government, at the upcoming Gulf Research Meeting, in 2012. Collaborating with May Al Dabbagh, Director of the Gender and Public Policy Program at the Dubai School of Government, the UAE. Workshop proposal drafted July 2011, submitted August 2011, and accepted October 2011. The workshop will take place in July 2012 at the Gulf Research Meeting at Cambridge University. We expect to continue working together beyond the workshop to publish the papers in an edited book and/or journal issue.

Dalia Abdelhady. Working with the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (URSP) at Zayed University to establish a mentoring module for students participating in the program. Collaborating with Maher Khelifa and Birgitta Feldges of Zayed University starting June 2011 on contributing to the URSP by providing mentoring students on choosing a research-based career, applying to postgraduate school and applying for research grants. The collaboration, which started in June 2011 will last till 2013 as part of the MOU with Zayed University.

5.9 Research and/or Innovation Visits by Domain Members

Dalia Abdelhady. Visits to Universities, less than two weeks in the UAE:
June 2011 and November 2011: Zayed University, Office of Research, Office of the Provost, in order to follow up on MOU and discuss future collaboration.

November 2011: Dubai School of Government, Gender and Public Policy Program, in order to discuss ways of collaboration including a possibility of an MOU.

November 2011: United Arab Emirates University, Center of Family and Gender Studies, to discuss collaboration on research activities such as workshops and publications

Jaleh Taheri January 12-14 (Stockholm)
Purpose: To attend Iraq working group meeting with STC and to meet with partners and WSG summit funders to confirm support, invitees, and WSG summit content.

Jaleh Taheri January 17-21 (UAE)
Purpose: To host panel for Crown Princess and touch based with UAE based partners.
Met with: Crown Princess, Zayed University, Jafza Free Trade Zone, Dubai Women’s College, and Disruptive Play.

Jaleh Taheri February 13 - March 2 (Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Stockholm)
Purpose: Final meetings about WSG summit and board selection. Preliminary ground work for collaboration with other regional partners in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.
Jaleh Taheri May 11-13 (London)
Purpose: Invited speaker at the Arab International Women’s Forum 10th Anniversary Event. Networking and research conducted. Summary: Please see May Trip Notes document.

Jaleh Taheri May 23rd (Paris)
Purpose: Invited to speak and explore potential work together with the OECD-MENA group.
Summary: Notes on days proceedings and discussion in May Trip Notes document.

Jaleh Taheri September 11-13 (Stockholm)
Purpose: To follow up with WSG board members and partners on legal and funding strategies for the WSG project. Agenda items to be discussed at October board meeting.

Jaleh Taheri September 21- Oct 10 (UAE and Oman)
Purpose: WSG Board Meeting, WAGL Committee Meeting and development meetings.

Jaleh Taheri. December 1-4 (Washington DC)
Purpose: To present at the MESA conference.

5.10 MOUs established

MOU between CMES/WSG and the Dubai Women’s Establishment to organize training sessions and collaborate on research activities, September 2011.

WSG (not including Board Member affiliations) has ongoing collaborations with:

• Art of Hosting
• 85 Broads
• Nordea
• UAE Embassy Stockholm
• Swedish Trade Council
• Swedish Institute
• Sida
• Dubai School of Government
• Dubai Women’s College
• Masdar

In general, WSG’s interactions with these boards, councils, institutions, universities, etc., involves support for WSG Research and the coordination of academic conferences. In addition, these collaborations assist WSG in its outreach programs through their networks, expertise, time, resources and support.

WSG Board
Ambassador Bruno Beijer – Swedish Foreign Ministry (retired)
Dr. Christopher Brown – Zayed University
Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg – Kreab & Gavin Anderson
Geetali Chhatwal Jonsson – Invest Sweden
Hans Gösta Engzell – Nordea (retired)
Kristina Nyzell – Disruptive Play
HE Najla Al-Awadhi – Al Awadhi Consulting
HE Sheikha Najla Al-Qassimi – UAE Ambassador to Sweden
Nariman Kamber Al-Awadhi – UAE Central Bank
Dr. Nawal Al-Hosany – Masdar
Dr. Shaikha Al-Maskari – Al-Maskari Holding
Ulrika Nilsson – Lund University
Wafa’ Tarnowska – DLA Piper
Åsa Skogström Feldt – The Hunger Project

5.11 Other Activities

All WSG Board Members speak at international business, government and civil society meetings to speak on behalf of WSG. One such event was the Middle East Summit organized by the Swedish Trade Council where Dr. Shaikha Al Maskari was the keynote speaker.