

## *Call for Contributions*

### **PSA Newsletter Number 10 (Autumn 2012) Special Issue on the Arab World**

In 1990, Edward Said decried ‘the will to reduce and ignore the Arabs that still exists in many departments of Western culture, and the unacceptable defeatism among some Arabs that a resurgent religion and indiscriminate hostility are the only answers’ (‘Embargoed Literature’, *The Nation*, 17 September: 280). Just over a decade later, Hosam Aboul-Ela lamented that Said’s words remained depressingly relevant (‘Challenging the Embargo: Arabic Literature in the US Market’, *Middle East Report*, 2001, 219: 44). By contrast, 2012 sees the aftermath of ostensible revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, and although such political uprisings continue to be met with brutal repression in the various Arab countries, there is now an international media spotlight on Arab national and regional affairs.

What ‘answers’ are being offered to political crisis? Who are the key players? To what extent do recent events reflect a new optimism in this part of the world, and/or a new, renewed or revised set of orientations?

As postcolonial scholars, how can we begin to think about – without reducing – the causes, trajectories, aftermaths and implications of the so-called ‘Arab Spring’, particularly from locations in the West and while this history is still unfolding?

As Claire Chambers has exhorted us, ‘academics need to respond to the Arab Spring with empathy, alertness to Eurocentrism and a strong ethical framework. Interdisciplinarity should be central to research, including examination of the role of new media, the arts and material culture, as well as politics, economics and society, in the rebellions’ (PSA Newsletter 8, 2011).

The editors of the PSA Newsletter thus invite reflections on the contemporary Arab world for a forthcoming Special Issue to be published in Autumn 2012. We welcome submissions from the full spectrum of scholarly disciplines and interdisciplinary research, that draw attention to political and/or cultural points of interest, and/or areas for potential future research.

To make an enquiry, or register your intention to submit a feature, please contact the editors as soon as possible. Final contributions may be in English, French or Arabic; if in French or Arabic, they should include a 100-200 word synopsis in English. Contributions should be between 300-1200 words long, and be sent as .doc files by the end of June.

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