Small Research Grants - SG round 1 2009

Primary Subjects:
- Subject: Development Studies - Politics
- Subject: Economic Anthropology

Secondary Subjects:
- Subject Group: Politics
- Subject Group: Anthropology

Classifications

Time Periods:
- TimePeriod: Contemporary

Audiences:

Regional Interests:

Applicant Personal Details

Title:

Forenames:

Surname:

Preferred Name:

Initials:

Fellow: No

Address: POLIS University of Leeds Woodhouse Lane

Town: LEEDS

Postcode: LS2 9JT

Email Address:

Telephone (work):

Co-Applicants:

Created: Thursday, October 29, 2009 16:45 [Submitted]
Applicant Career Summary

<table>
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<th>Statement of Qualifications and Career:</th>
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<th>Date</th>
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Present appointment:

Present employing institution:

PhD confirmation: Yes

Publications:

Unpublished research: None

Personal Statement: None

Where did you hear of this scheme?: BA Website

Previous support dates: September 2007

Previous support description (title of project): The State, Mining and Development in Africa (conference fund)

Proposal

Subject: Politics / Development Studies - Politics

Title of project: Politics of Agricultural Modernisation in Egypt

Abstract: This project examines the politics of land and agricultural modernisation in Egypt. It does so by exploring two groups of farmers. The first of these are small scale farmers and particularly those that were challenged by changes in land tenancy legislation that was fully implemented in 1997. That legislation applied market led reform to the country's three million tenants, increased the cost of rents and introduced, amongst other things, annual tenancies. The second group of farmers are large scale farmers, those that dispossessed tenants. The project will explore the consequences of changes in land tenancy and increased land purchases for this group focusing especially on implications for female headed households and agricultural production.
**Proposed programme:**

Much recent commentary of politics in Egypt has focussed on issues of industrial unrest and the probable succession of President Mubarak by his son Gamal. This project instead explores issues of rural politics and agricultural modernisation. This is timely. Research on Egypt's countryside is very limited and it is twenty two years since economic reform and market liberalisation was introduced by the erstwhile Minister of Agriculture Yusef Wali. It is now an important moment to begin to take stock of the impact of liberalisation on patterns of agricultural modernisation and the implications of reform for tenants and large scale farmers. The culminaton of liberalisation in the agrarian sector was Law 96 of 1992. That legislation, effective after a five year transition period in 1997, reformed relations between landlords and Egypt's possible 3 million tenants. The reforms revoked legislation from the 50s that had for the first time granted tenants land rights in perpetuity and regulated rental values. Law 96 promoted market liberalisation, rents were deregulated and in many cases rose by 400 per cent. Civil law determined that tenants who could not pay were removed from the land by force.

This project focuses on two groups of respondents - female headed and small holding households who lost land and landowners who dispossessed tenants. This research will thus begin an examination of the implications of tenancy reform and market deregulation. It is also timely because while there has recently been work on urban unrest among industrial workers and urban based professional associations, there has been no work on the extent of possible rural unrest or how peasants express or voice out their concerns to either landowners or local authorities.

The project will build on contacts already established in two Governorates of Giza and Dakhalia. I will conduct detailed interviews and build case studies of 20 households that have lost land and 20 landowners who dispossessed incumbent tenants since 1997. The work will thus highlight the impact of Law 96 and explore how households that lost tenancies have managed to cope and recover from the loss of land. It will also examine the rationale and calculations that underpinned the decisions taken by large landowners when they chose not to renew tenancy agreements of small holders. The research will further examine what agricultural strategies have been pursued by these different types of respondents and whether the decisions following the implementation of market reform have led to increases in agricultural production and cropping patterns.

The proposed research will feature exclusively qualitative research methods that use semi-structured interviews with respondents. This method helps to build profiles of informants using case studies and biography. These will help provide information regarding four key areas of social and employment life for respondents: Trajectories - the directions in which people's lives are moving; Pathways - accounts of the way in which respondents have actually travelled; Turning points - significant moments that have shaped the lives of respondents; and Resources and Capital - accounts of the resource base of respondents that have impacted the ways in which their lives have been built. Data collection will be conducted with a research assistant and access to respondents facilitated by contact with the NGO Sons of the Soil.

**Planned research outputs:**

Journal article commissioned by British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, the UK premier journal on the Middle East. Article commissioned in a special issue that will address issues of changes in political constituencies and alliances in the region and that shape decision making. I also intend to use material for a planned book on land, agriculture and rural transformation in Africa and the Near East. This book proposal is pending with Pluto Books, London.

In addition research findings will be made available on the newly developed web site of The Review of African Political Economy.
Plan of action: 1 April 2010 begin 5 weeks field work in Egypt
May 2010 return to UK and begin write up
September 2010 complete draft report from field work and send to Egyptian Colleagues
November 2010 Seminar American University in Cairo Centre for Middle East Studies, (Co-ordinator Professor Malak Rouchdy)
December 2010 Complete write up following inputs from AUC Seminar

Plans for publication / dissemination:
1/ Article for British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
2/ Briefings for Review of African Political Economy Website
3/ Seminar and seminar proceedings from dissemination workshop to be held at AUC Cairo, November 2010
4/ Debates article for Review of African Political Economy or Journal of Agrarian Change
5/ Material collected will constitute 2 chapters for upcoming monograph

Digital resource:
Start Date: 01/04/2010
End Date: 31/12/2010

Duration (months):

Overseas travel - country: Egypt
Overseas travel - institution: American University in Cairo, Centre for Middle East Studies

Research Leave
Granted/Permission Obtained: XXXXXXXXXXXX

Support of BA School or Institute Required/Granted:
No

Language competence (if applicable): Knowledge of Arabic but use of interpreter for detailed interviews

Other participants:
Affiliation status pending with the Centre for Middle East Studies, American University in Cairo. I have been invited to apply by the Centre's Director, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, for Visiting Professor status for the period during field work.
Research will be facilitated by liaison with Sons of the Soil advocacy group, Cairo and they will help facilitate access to village locations. Affiliation with the AUC Centre for Middle East Studies will also ensure contact with academics and a leading Cairo research centre for help with debate, dissemination and final seminar discussion and reporting findings in the Egyptian context.

Role of other participants:
Collaboration with the the AUC will help facilitate dissemination of the research findings. Collaboration with the Sons of the Soil will facilitate research access to households in the two Governorates and dissemination through the advocacy group

Added value of collaboration:
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Endangered or Emerging Subject Area:

Ethical approval obtained: Yes as interviews with respondents will be a part of the research. Ethical approval will be sought from the University of Leeds ethics committee. This is indeed a requirement of the University of Leeds

Ethical approval (more information):

Source of funding: No

Financial Details

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Total grant requested: 6823.00

Start Date: 01/04/2010

Duration (Years): 1

Justification: Travel Costs: Leeds-C

Accommodation, Cairo 6 weeks (£350 per week)
Subsistence £20 per diem x 6 weeks
Internal Travel: Cairo-Delta-Cairo (frequent travel 5 weeks) £800
Research Assistant (£25 per diem = £25 x 60 days
Seminar AUC Centre for Middle East Studies, (£625) three speakers to report on and reflect on field work, includes internal travel for three speakers, room bookings, printing and dissemination. Also includes $50 for three lead Egyptian participants; Dr Reem Saad, Social Research Centre, AUC; Dr Habib Ayeb University of Paris and AUC; Dr Hassanine Kisck, Centre for Sociological and Criminological research, Sahafayeen, Cairo.
Subsistence 42 days x £20 per diem £840 - included in other costs

Name of private fund: No