

Visiting Speaker Series

The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies is
pleased to present a talk by esteemed academic

Dr Ross Porter, Research Fellow, IAIS

"No one represents us!" Revolution and the Crisis of Politics in Yemen

Wednesday, 15 February 2017, 5.15 pm

LT1, IAIS Building, Streatham Campus, Exeter EX4 4ND

Tea & Coffee to be served from 4.30 pm in the Common Room,
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

All are welcome – no registration required.



This lecture will present the findings of long-term ethnographic fieldwork at the heart of the recent revolution in Yemen, tracing the history of the event from 2011 to the current civil war.

By drawing attention to the moral dimension of revolutionary life, this talk seeks to challenge the assumption that "political crisis" signals the end, or failure, of revolution. From the outset of the Yemeni Revolution, a radical egalitarian ethos fuelled a deep-seated mistrust for political parties, representation and

institutionalisation. Rival groups accused one another of seeking to hijack the revolution and deprive "the people" of its will. Attempts to reach a unified agreement have continually failed, with different groups accusing one another of self-interest. In this lecture, I argue that the ideal of containing power within the imaginary of "the people" motivated a fundamental mistrust for "the political" in Yemen.

Ross Porter is a newly-appointed Research Fellow at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter.