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A Special Issue on the Middle East

Revolution, Democratic Movement, and Human Rights in the Middle East: A Complexity Perspective

This special symposium is devoted to studies related to the Middle East, especially to issues regarding democratization, human rights, gender equality and women rights, freedom, and good governance. The approach is through an innovative lens that stresses analyses and solutions that are nonlinear, dynamic and ground-breaking. This is important because the traditional linear approach of prediction and control has failed, especially in regard to the Middle East. This failure is evident in the current popular responses illustrated through the massive uprisings that swept the Middle East in 2011. It is also important because the Middle East continues to occupy a central focus in U.S. foreign policy and global political dynamics due to its history, resources, and engagement with global policy issues. Collectively, these issues impact causes of peace, development, administration, human rights, and democracy in the region and force political and administrative affairs to emerge as vital global security concerns.

With recent popular uprisings in Iran, Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Iraq, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Morocco demanding reforms and democratic change, and with the success of some of these uprisings in toppling tyrannical regimes that were sustained for decades by U.S. and Western political and/or business collaboration, a new era of popular democratic movements is emerging. This era is taking policymakers both in the Middle East and abroad by surprise and outside linear thinking and calculation. The ICT-infused social democratic movements in the Middle East are writing new chapters in global participation-observation. Governments no longer can censor information and communication systems the way they once could. People are connected through social networks (such as Facebook, Twitter, the Internet and cell phones) to share information and connect and mobilize popular movements. These movements are setting precedents for people around the world to follow in demanding better governance, openness, and transparency.

This trend is worth examining and studying from a complexity perspective. Many factors contributed to the recent developments in the Middle East. These include economic, political, social, religious, human rights, women, and military intervention factors. The linear model has failed thus far both in providing accurate analysis and in providing possible solutions. Complexity is suited to providing better analysis and present better solutions that emphasize innovations in the public sector.

Because of this, *The Innovation Journal* is devoting a special issue to these topics to collectively contribute to the study of the emerging dynamics. If interested, please contact Dr. Alexander Dawoody at adawoody@marywood.edu. The deadline for submitting completed manuscript is February 28, 2012. Papers may be written in English or French.

Please submit manuscripts to the Editor-in-Chief, at eglor@magma.ca