The political regimes in the Arab world have for decades tried to maintain the current basic (authoritarian) power arrangements, while at the same time having to contend with calls (from various quarters) for political influence and participation as well as calls for outright democratisation. The ways in which the individual Arab regimes have done so have varied, and continue to vary. At the basis, however, they have—in particular in recent years as democracy has gained foot in new continents and cultural contexts—tried to mix inclusionary practices such as the instauration of consultative bodies, elections, acceptance of more civil society activism and (in some cases) of a certain degree of media freedom with more exclusionary moves, including vote rigging, the instauration of non-elected upper houses of parliament, the continued exclusion of the poor from the political process, the use of religion to keep out unwanted voices, etc.

This seminar focuses on the question of how, to what extent and under which specific national conditions, Arab regimes in the three sub-regions of the Middle East, i.e. the Maghreb, the Mashreq and the Persian Gulf, have been resorting to what can be coined the inclusion-exclusion paradigm in recent years. With this in view, the seminar will be comprised of five major sessions. The first session is dedicated to the elaboration and discussion of a potential framework of analysis. Based on this, the three subsequent sessions are dedicated to comparing selected case studies, whereas the last session will focus on the extent to which the European Union (a neighbour and in many cases important partner of a large number of these states) has reacted to and interacted with these inclusionary/exclusionary strategies, and how the policies adopted have either reinforced inclusionary or exclusionary tendencies in the Arab states.
Between Inclusion and Exclusion
The Many Faces of Reform in the Middle East and North Africa

ISCTE, room B201 (Building II), 24 September 2010

09.30-09.45 Welcome & Introductory Remarks
Reinhard Naumann Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Lisbon
Tobias Schumacher/Anna Khakee CIES, ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon & University of Malta

09.45-10.15 THE MENA REGION BETWEEN INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION: TOWARDS A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
Tobias Schumacher CIES, ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon

10.15-11.45 INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN THE MAGHREB: DISTORTED FORMS OF PARLIAMENTARISM
Chair Ulrich Schiefer Center for African Studies, ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon
Algeria Louisa Dris-Alt-Hamadouche University of Algiers
Morocco Aboubakr Jamal University of San Diego
Tunisia Larbi Sadiki Exeter University
Discussant Ulla Holm Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen

11.45-12.00 Coffee Break

12.00-13.30 INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN THE MASHREQ: THE MANIFESTATION OF NEO-LIBERAL AUTHORITARIANISM
Chair Michael Meyer-Resende Democracy Reporting International, Berlin
Egypt Tarek Masoud Harvard University
Syria Marwa Daoudy Oxford University
Jordan Olivier Schlumberger University of Tübingen
Discussant Fares Braizat Arab Institute for Research and Policy Studies, Doha

13.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN GCC COUNTRIES: TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK?
Chair Geoffrey Edwards Cambridge University
Saudi Arabia Paul Aarts University of Amsterdam
Kuwait Haila Al-Mekaiemy Kuwait University
United Arab Emirates Ebtisam Al-Kihti United Arab Emirates University
Discussant Matteo Legrenzi Ottawa University

16.00-16.15 Coffee Break

16.15-17.15 THE EU AND REFORMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: IS EUROPE SUPPORTING AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES?
Chair Raffaella Del Sarto Oxford University
Ezzedine Choukri-Fishere The American University in Cairo
Anna Khakee University of Malta
Michele Dunne Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington

17.15 Concluding Remarks and Way Forward
17.30 End of Conference

Registration is required through the e-mail gcp.cies@iscte.pt