

# Between Inclusion and Exclusion

The Many Faces of Reform in the Middle East and North Africa

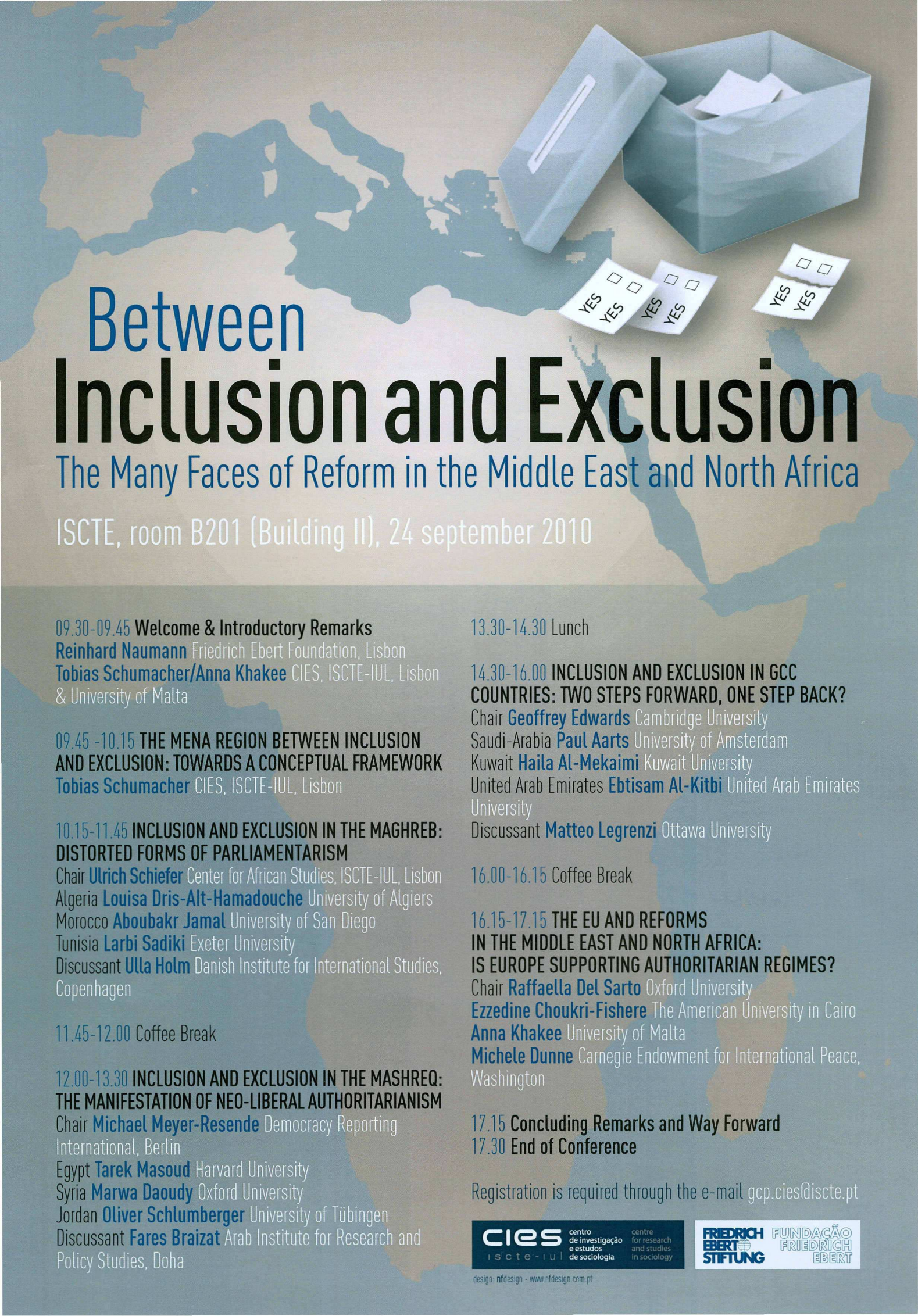
ISCTE, room B201 (Building II), 24 september 2010

## Concept Note

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.





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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 **Oliver 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-Mekaimi** Kuwait University

United Arab Emirates **Ebtisam Al-Kitbi** 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](mailto:gcp.cies@iscte.pt)

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