

CDDRL's Program on Arab Reform and Democracy, in partnership with the Arab Studies Institute, presents:

WORKERS AND REVOLUTIONS IN EGYPT AND TUNISIA



JOEL BEININ

Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History;
Professor of Middle East History, Stanford University

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
12:00-1:30 PM.

GOLDMAN CONFERENCE ROOM
FOURTH FLOOR, ENCINA HALL, EAST WING

ABSTRACT

Arab workers participated prominently in the popular uprisings of 2011. Their participation in those uprisings was informed by struggles against the neoliberal economic restructuring of the region since the 1970s, which resulted in an indecent chasm between rich and poor, deteriorating working conditions and public social services, and high youth unemployment. Egypt experienced a strike wave of unprecedented magnitude in the 2000s. Tunisia, with one exception, experienced less intense contestation by workers and others. Egyptian workers' have had very limited influence on national politics in the post-Mubarak era. Democratic development seems unlikely in the near future. The Tunisian national trade union federation and its affiliates were the central force in installing procedural democracy. The nature of workers' social movements in the 2000s partially explains these divergent outcomes.

SPEAKER BIO

Joel Beinin is the Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History and Professor of Middle East History. He received his A.B. from Princeton University in 1970, his M.A. from Harvard University in 1974, and his A.M.L.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1978 and 1982. He has taught Middle East history at Stanford University since 1983. From 2006 to 2008 he served as Director of Middle East Studies and Professor of History at the American University in Cairo. His research and writing focuses on workers, peasants, and minorities in the modern Middle East and on Israel, Palestine, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Beinin has written or edited nine books, most recently *Social Movements, Mobilization, and Contestation in the Middle East and North Africa*; co-edited with Frédéric Vairel (Stanford University Press, 2011) and *The Struggle for Worker Rights in Egypt* (Solidarity Center, 2010). In 2002 he served as President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America.

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