TEMA: De arabiske revolter – oprør i samfund og videnskab

3  Introduktion til tema: De arabiske revolter – oprør i samfund og videnskab
   Morten Valbjørn & Maja Touzari Janesdatter Greenwood

6  Islamister i åpnere landskab: Hvilken rolle i det nye Midtøsten?
   Bjørn Olav Utvik

15  København-Kairo, tur-retur: En sikkerhedsteori møder revolutionen
    Maja Touzari Janesdatter Greenwood & Ole Wæver

26  Et (u)forudseeligt Mellemøsten: Samfundsvidenskaben, point predictions
    og pattern predictions
    Jørgen Møller

35  Forår i studiet af arabiske medier
    Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen

43  Genpolitisering og postdemokratisering: Studiet af mellemøstlig politik
    i lyset af de arabiske revolter
    Morten Valbjørn & Rasmus Alenius Boserup

BØGER

52  Boganmeldelser

ABSTRACTS

62  Abstracts
Abstracts

ISLAMISTS IN A MORE OPEN POLITICAL SPACE: WHAT ROLE IN THE NEW MIDDLE EAST
Bjørn Olav Utvik

The political successes of Islamists following the Arab uprisings of 2011 makes understanding Islamism more important than ever. They have long been central to oppositional politics in the Arab world. Now they may well become a dominant factor in the emerging new regimes. A necessary starting point is to recognise that the Islamists played a pivotal role in the Arab spring from the start. Furthermore, to grasp the possible ways in which the Islamists may influence developments to come, research must turn away from essentialising their Islamic ideology and discover the contradictory impulses driving these complex and dynamic social movements.

COPENHAGEN-CAIRO ON A ROUNDTIP: A SECURITY THEORY MEETS THE REVOLUTION
Maja Touzari Jønudatter Greenwood & Ole Wæver

Though Securitization Theory has been applied to cases worldwide, it has been criticized for limited applicability to the non-western world. When, in 2010, Centre for Advanced Security Theory began a collaboration with Danish Egyptian Dialogue Institute and Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo, Securitization theory was challenged on two levels: The theory was to both analyse and act politically in a Middle Eastern context, and then during the Arab Spring, the role of the entire Egyptian security sector was reevaluated. These unique circumstances prompted reflections on the use of non-traditional and traditional security concepts, how the Egyptian revolution could be understood through Securitization Theory, as well as what the experiences of this project will mean for further theory development. This article discusses these points in light of the Danish delegation’s experiences.

THE (UN)PREDICTABLE MIDDLE EAST: SOCIAL SCIENCE, POINT PREDICTIONS, AND PATTERN PREDICTIONS
Jørgen Møller

The so-called ‘Arab Spring’ or ‘Arab uprisings’ in 2011 took observers by surprise, thereby reinvigorating the criticism that political scientists are poor at prediction. In this article, it is argued that social science is incapable of predicting such events systematically. The argumentation is based on economist Friedrich Hayek’s distinction between sciences that deals with simple and complex phenomena. The latter category, where the social sciences should be situated, are unable to make ‘point predictions’. What social science can do is to make that which Hayek terms ‘pattern predictions’. Based on established theories within the study of regime change, such pattern predictions are offered with respect to the longer-term consequences of the Arab uprisings.

THE STUDY OF ARAB MEDIA AND THE CHALLENGE OF THE ARAB SPRING
Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen

Although dating back to the late 19th century, research in Arab media has been weak and marginal until the 1990s. Around that time, the deregulation and privatization of media, and the rise of pan-Arab satellite TV, had led to a dramatic increase in the quality and impact of the Arab media, locally, regionally and gradually even globally. Scholarship has taken up a number of themes – big and small media; local and regional public;
Saudization; translocal Islamic identity; TV-dramas as social comment, blogs – that were clearly visible in this new, invigorated media environment. Along with these themes, there has been an ongoing discussion about the democratic potential of the new, competitive media, and the events of 2011 will be seen as a confirmation of their political impact. This again raises questions as to the changes in Arab media that the political transformations will bring about.

**REPOLITICIZATION AND POSTDEMOCRATIZATION: THE STUDY OF MIDDLE EAST POLITICS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ARAB REVOLTS**

*Morten Valbjørn & Rasmus Alenius Boserup*

A prominent theme in the current debate on the implications of the Arab Revolts revolves around the questions about whether we are witnessing the emergence of a truly new Middle East in a ‘transition to democracy’, or whether the region is still stuck in a ‘transition to nowhere’ similar to past decades. Based on a critique of both of these views, the article suggests that the Arab world should instead be perceived as being in a ‘transition to somewhere’ marked by a multi-level repoliticization. Against this background, we explore how this ‘return of politics’ in Arab societies is reflected above, below and beyond the level of the regime and how this can be grasped by an ‘upgraded’ version of the postdemocratization approach to Arab politics.