

Noah Raffoul Bassil

Acting Director of the Centre for Middle East and North African Studies

Noah Bassil recently submitted his PhD in Politics and International Relations at Macquarie University which explored the conflict in Dar Fur, western Sudan. The project grew out of an interest in the question of identity politics and the formative power of colonial ideology and practice in North Africa. Other areas of interest include the questions of the political economy in Sudan, such as inequality, development and underdevelopment, and conceptualisations of post-state political organisation in the Middle East and Africa. With Lebanese parents and grounding in the work of the late Palestinian-Egyptian-American theoretician and political activist Edward Said, the politics of the Middle East is in the forefront of Noah's academic and intellectual concerns. An interest in Critical Theory is also underlying Noah's focus on the Middle East and North African region and its relationship with the international.



Academic Qualifications:

BA (Hons), UNSW, 2002, Thesis:

Constructing and Deconstructing the Dark Continent: *Colonial Representations of Africa*

PhD Thesis: *A Political History of Racial and Ethnic Conflict in Dar Fur, Western Sudan*

Refereed Articles

“Causes of the Conflict in Sudan: The failure of the Islamist State and the Darfur rebellion”, *Review of African Political Economy* (under review)

“The Arab versus African Myth in Darfur”, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* (under review)

“A Brief History of the Keira Sultanate of Dar Fur, Western Sudan” *Journal of North African Studies*, Vol 11. No. 4, December 2006 (18).

Review Article: “Understanding Racial Conflict in Darfur”, *Australian Review of African Studies*, (accepted for publication).

Book Chapters

“The Colonial Discourse of Race in Africa and the Origins of Afro-Pessimism” in P.Eric Louw, Keyan Tomaselli and Boulou de B’beri, *Afropessimism* (forthcoming)

Encyclopaedia Entries

“Political Transformations in Northern Africa 1900-1945” in ABC-Clio Encyclopaedia of World History (accepted for publication)

Other Articles

“Intellectuals & Political Activism: The Role of “Arab” Cultural Elites in Contemporary Australia”, *AQ: Australian Quarterly*, Vol 79 Issue 2 March-April 2007

“The Legacy of Colonial Racism in Africa”, *AQ: Journal of Contemporary Australian Studies*, Vol 77 Issue 4, pp16-24.

“The Failure of the State in Africa: The Case of Dar Fur”, *AQ: Journal of Contemporary Analysis*, Vol 76, Issue 4, July- August, 2004, pp23-30.

“Is the Australian State Ill?” *AQ: Journal of Contemporary Australian Studies*, Vol 76 Issue 3, May-June, 2004, pp24-29.

Conference Papers

“Reconfiguring the International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa”, OCIS, University of Queensland, July, 2008 (forthcoming)

“War and Racism in the Sahel”, OCIS, University of Queensland, July, 2008 (forthcoming)

“The Implications of the Iraq War for Politics in the Middle East”, Iraq Never Again, Customs House, 2008.

“Gramsci’s Notion of Hegemony and the Construction of a Critical IPE of Identity Politics”, Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) Annual Conference, Newcastle 2006

“Social Group Interdependence in Darfur”, African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific AFSAAP, Macquarie University, 2006

“Politico-Economic Factors contributing to the Conflict in Dar Fur: A neo-Gramscian Perspective”, BISA, St. Andrews, 2005

“Understanding and Resolving the Conflict in Dar Fur”, co-presented with Geoffrey Hawker, at, (AFSAAP) Annual Conference. Nov 29-Dec1, 2004, University of Western Australia, Perth, WA

Seminar Papers

“Reconfiguring the International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa: A Critical Theory Perspective”, Department of Politics and International Relations Staff/HDR Student Seminar Series, Macquarie University, 11 May, 2008.

“The Role of “Arab” Cultural Elites in Contemporary Australia”, Centre for Middle East and North African Studies, Macquarie University, 23 May, 2007

“Colonial Sudan: A Critical Historiography”, Department of Politics and International Relations Staff/HDR Student Seminar Series, Macquarie University, 27 April, 2007

“The myth of the Janjaweed”, Darfur Development Fund of Australia Symposium, Macquarie University, 11 November, 2006.

“Conflicts in Darfur”, Department of Politics and International Studies, Guest Speakers Series, Rhodes University, May 25, 2006.

“The Political Economy of Ethnic Conflict in Dar Fur”, Department of Politics and IR, Seminar Series, May 29, 2005, Macquarie University.

“Critiquing the Clash of Civilisations”, Huntington Symposium, September 17, 2004, Macquarie University, Sydney

Recent Teaching Experience

Lecturer-in-Charge

2nd Year Units

The Politics of Terrorism, Macquarie University, 2007, 2008

3rd Year Units

International Relations of the Middle East, Macquarie University, 2007

Europe and Islam, Macquarie University, 2007

Thinking African Politics: The Darfur Crisis and Politics in Sudan, Rhodes University, South Africa, 2006.

Honours Level Units

Co-Convenor: The Politics of International Development, Macquarie University, Department of Politics and International Relations, 1st Semester, 2005 in collaboration with Dr Davies.

Masters Level Units

International Relations of the Middle East, Macquarie University, 2008

Other Lecturing

International Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment in the Global Leadership Program, Macquarie University, 2006-08.

Membership of Professional Organisations

African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific

Australian Political Studies Association.

British International Studies Association

Public Appearances

Media

Noah has commented in the media (2BL, Sky News, Community radio, etc) on international relations of the Middle East and North Africa, in particular on the conflict in Darfur, Sudanese politics and the international relations pertaining to the conflict in Darfur.

Noah has appeared at numerous public politics forums over the past four years.