

## [Asli Bâli - From Revolution to Devolution? Dilemmas of Federalism & Decentralization in the Middle East](#)

Discussion published by Jennifer Derr on Thursday, October 6, 2022

Type:

Lecture

Date:

October 14, 2022

Location:

California, United States

Subject Fields:

Arabic History / Studies, Area Studies, Middle East History / Studies, Law and Legal History, Political Science

Please join the Center for the Middle East and North Africa (CMENA) and the Legal Studies Program at UC Santa Cruz - over zoom - on Friday, October 14th, 12-1:30 pm PST to listen to and think with Professor Asli Bâli of Yale Law School.

Click [here](https://thi.ucsc.edu/event/asli-bali-from-revolution-to-devolution-dilemmas-of-federalism-and-decentralization-in-the-middle-east/) to register:  
<https://thi.ucsc.edu/event/asli-bali-from-revolution-to-devolution-dilemmas-of-federalism-and-decentralization-in-the-middle-east/>

### **“From Revolution to Devolution? Dilemmas of Federalism and Decentralization in the Middle East”**

This seminar engages in a qualitative comparison of four experiences with decentralization in the Middle East to explore the ways in which decentralized governance arrangements might address governance crises, identity-based conflict and self-determination demands in the Middle East. Bâli argues that the failure to engage with these and other experiences in the MENA region in the growing literature on decentralization in comparative politics and law produces gaps in both the institutional design strategies available in the prescriptions derived from the literature, and also in our accounts of the region that focus exclusively on the macro politics of authoritarianism without paying attention to experiments on the ground that have sought to formulate alternative governance strategies.

Kent Eaton of UCSC's Department of Politics will comment.

Asli Bâli is Professor of Law at the Yale Law School. Previously, she was on the faculty at the UCLA School of Law where she was Faculty Director of the Promise Institute for Human Rights, a core faculty member of the Critical Race Studies Program and served as the Director of the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies. Bâli's research focuses on two broad areas: public international law—including human rights law and the law of the international security order—and comparative constitutional law, with a focus on the Middle East. Her scholarship has appeared in leading international and comparative law reviews and peer reviewed journals such as the *American Journal of International Law*, *International Journal of Constitutional Law* and *Law & Social Inquiry*; her edited volume *Constitution Writing, Religion and Democracy* was published by Cambridge University

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Press in 2017 and a second edited volume, *Identity Conflict, Governance and Decentralization in the Middle East* is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press in 2022. She received her J.D. from Yale, her M.Phil. from Cambridge University and her Ph.D in Politics from Princeton University.

Contact Info:

Jennifer Derr is an Associate Professor of History and the Founding Director of the Center for the Middle East and North Africa at UC Santa Cruz.

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