**Principal Investigators:**

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**Deborah Gerner**: Department of Political Science, University of Kansas, 504 Blake Hall Lawrence, Kansas 66045, gerner@ku.edu (*deceased*)

**Phil Schrodt**: Department of Political Science, University of Kansas, 504 Blake Hall Lawrence, Kansas 66045, schrodt@ku.edu

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**Consultant:**

**Helen Rizzo**: Department of Sociology, The American University in Cairo, 113 Kasr El Aini St., P.O. Box 2511, Cairo 11511, Egypt, hrizzo@aucegypt.edu

*Lead Co-Principal Investigator*
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Dissent/Repression Nexus in the Middle East (2005-2008)

The interaction between political dissidents and states is critical for many aspects of human life, cutting across politics, culture, economics, and psychology; yet, it remains poorly understood. How do dissent and repression influence each other? What kinds of repression produce what kinds of dissent and vice versa? How are contentious activities influenced by the dominant forces of economic and political globalization? How do they operate as "agents of change?"

Additionally, how should the interactions between dissidents and the state be analyzed, especially addressing the interactive nature of dissent and repression as well as the often contradictory findings of qualitative and quantitative research? Although scholarship examining the "dissent/repression nexus" has been quite productive over the last 40 years, it has also produced dissimilar, even contradictory results. We maintain that this conundrum results from underdeveloped conceptualizations that are also balkanized into different social scientific disciplines and from methodologies that rely on a single approach.

To tackle the dissent/repression nexus, we come together as an interdisciplinary team of political scientists and sociologists with expertise in international relations and complementary theoretical and methodological skills to focus on dissent and repression in the Middle East. The project aims to:

• develop a database that incorporates data from both quantitative and qualitative sources
• train students and professionals in the use of multiple methodologies related to understanding the repression/dissent nexus
• maintain a webpage with frequent updates on the theoretical and methodological aspects of the project
• develop a special journal issue on multi-method techniques and their applications to problems of dissent and repression, and
• write a monograph on understanding repression and dissent in a globalized society.
While this project tackles establishing a general framework to be applied broadly, it focuses on dissent and repression in the Middle East; in particular, Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait and Turkey, from 1990 to the present. These geographical locations make it possible to examine the process of transformational change, the reciprocal relationship between individuals and social action, and the implications of cultural variation for conflict across different environments with nuanced geographical features.

Despite the general importance of dissent and repression as well as the significance of the Middle East itself, there has been little systematic analysis of conflict dynamics within and particularly across the relevant countries in this region. Even more, most research has drawn on a single methodology - either event analysis, field research, or social surveys. Each omits important aspects of the dissent/repression nexus. The research proposed here creates event catalogs from computer-generated as well as human-generated data, field research, social surveys, and historical records in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of dissent and repression as well as their interactions.
People | The Dissent/Repression Nexus in the Middle East

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Deborah Gerner – University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
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Jillian Schwedler – University of Maryland, College Park, MD
Christian Davenport – University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Consultant:

Helen Rizzo – The American University in Cairo, Egypt

Student Project Staff:

Lindsey Peterson – The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Samir Fayyaz – University of Maryland, College Park, MD
Danny Hosein – Trinity University, San Antonio, TX

Student Affiliates:

Lauren Pinkus – The Ohio State University
Thomas Maher – The Ohio State University
Anne Price – The Ohio State University
Nassar Haddad – The Ohio State University
Elizabeth Johnson – Trinity University
Caitlan Howell – Trinity University
Project Activities:

Conferences
Meetings
Other Grants
Datasets:

- World Values Survey
- World Handbook IV
- Kuwait Surveys
- Field Research: Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Turkey
- Kansas Event Data System
- Minorities at Risk

For more information, please email MidEastNexus@osu.edu
Related Links:

- Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University
- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Ohio State University
- The Mershon Center for International Security Studies
- National Science Foundation, Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

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Current research interests include political participation, support for democracy in the Middle East, social change, democratization and globalization, women’s rights, religion, and political sociology.
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Current research interests include political participation and support for democracy in the Middle East. Meyer’s publications on political participation and democratic attitudes and practices have derived from survey data from longitudinal general social surveys of Kuwaiti citizens, the World Values surveys, survey of U.S. farm populations, and citizen surveys in South Korea.
Deborah “Misty” Gerner (deceased)
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Dr. Gerner's homepage

Dr. Gerner’s major areas of research are United States and Comparative Foreign Policy, Arab-Israeli Conflict and Palestinian Nationalism Mediation, Conflict Resolution and Crisis Early Warning, Human Rights, Ethnicity, and Democratization and Gender
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Dr. Schrodt's major areas of research are formal models of political behavior, with an emphasis on international politics, and political methodology. His current research focuses on predicting political change using statistical methods.
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Dr. Tétreault’s research interests include the Middle East (with an emphasis on Kuwait and the Gulf), violent conflict, international political economy, feminist theory and gender studies, and democratization and human rights.
Jillian Schwedler
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Dr. Jillian Schwedler is Assistant Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP), publishers of the quarterly Middle East Report. Primary research interests include Islam and Politics, Gender, and the Middle East.
Christian Davenport
Visiting Scholar, Russell Sage Foundation-2006/2007
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Christian Davenport is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Maryland - College Park, as well as Director of the Radical Information Project (RIP). Primary research interests include state repression (e.g., human rights violations, genocide/politicide, torture and political surveillance/covert repressive action), social movements, measurement, and racism.
Helen Rizzo  
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Current research interests include political sociology, with a focus on democratization, development and the Middle East, and stratification, particular gender and race/ethnic inequality.
Dr. Deborah (Misty) Gerner died Monday, June 19, 2006 at her home after a long illness. A graduate of Earlham College, with her master’s and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University, she was a professor of political science at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She was an expert on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Palestinian nationalism, and most recently completed field work in Israel, Palestine and Gaza in January 2006 as a part of this project. Misty’s contributions to this research, both in its conception and progress to date, have been invaluable. Our research team joins with her spouse and collaborator, Philip Schrodt, in mourning her loss. Misty not only inspired this research project, she also inspired us and all of the graduate and undergraduate students who are part of this enterprise.
The Dissent/Repression Nexus in the Middle East

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World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies
Amman, Jordan
June 11-16, 2006

Attendees:
Jillian Schwedler
Mary Ann Tétreault
Helen Rizzo

Papers Presented:
a. “Investigating the Continuum of Softer Forms of Repression and Everyday Forms of Dissent”: Presenter: Schwedler
b. “Understanding Dissent and Repression in the Middle East”: Presenter: Tétreault
c. “Assessing the Potential for Women’s Rights in the Middle East: The Case of Kuwait”: Presenter: Rizzo

American Sociological Association
Montreal, Canada
August 11-16, 2006

Thematic Panel:
Session on the State and Society in the Middle East.

Paper Presented:
a. "Repression and Resistance in the Middle East." Presentors: Meyer and Jenkins

Middle East Studies Association of North America
Boston, Massachusetts
November 18-21, 2006

Attendees:
Katherine Meyer
Helen Rizzo
Mary Ann Tétreault

Presentations:

a. Panel - “Multiple Views of Repression and Dissent in the Middle East.” Organizer: Rizzo, Chair/Discussant: Tétreault
   
Papers:
   1. "(De)Constructing Middle East Contentious Politics." Presenter: Jenkins,
   2. "Hidden Forms of Repression." Presenters: Meyer, Schwedler, Tétreault

b. "The Dissent/Repression Nexus and Gender in the Middle East." Presenters: Tétreault & Danny Hosein

The Ohio State University Collegium Fireside Chats
Columbus Ohio

Presenters:
OSU Graduate Students

Audience:
OSU Undergraduate Students

Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting
Florence, Italy
March, 2007

Presenters:
Helen Rizzo
Katherine Meyer

Paper to Be Presented:
"The Relationship Between Political Opposition and the State in Women’s Struggles for Political Rights in Kuwait"
Planning Meeting
The Mershon Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio
October 2-8, 2005

Attendees:
Deborah Gerner
Phil Schrodt
Mary Ann Tétreault
Jillian Schwedler
Christian Davenport
J. Craig Jenkins
Katherine Meyer
Lindsey Peterson
Lauren Pinkus

Planning Meeting
Washington D.C., MESA meetings
November 19-20, 2005

Attendees:
Mary Ann Tétreault
Jillian Scwedler
Katherine Meyer
Helen Rizzo

TABARI Training Workshop
Center for International Policy Analysis, The University of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas
February 24-16, 2006

Attendees:
Deborah Gerner
Phil Schrodt
Mary Ann Tétreault
Jillian Schwedler
Christian Davenport
J. Craig Jenkins
Katherine Meyer
Lindsey Peterson
Lauren Pinkus
Tom Maher
Danny Hosein
Elizabeth Johnson
Jonathan Argaman
David Armstrong
Abra Bron
Dennis Hermreck
Annie Ingram
Bari Kesgin
Milos Jekic
Lee McMullin
Lauren Prather
Jomana Oaddour
Ömür Yilmaz

Planning Meeting
Washington D.C.
September 16-17, 2006

Attendees:
Phil Schrodt
Mary Ann Tétreault
Jillian Schwedler
Christian Davenport
J. Craig Jenkins
Katherine Meyer
Other Grants Received:

**Katherine Meyer and Craig Jenkins**
Title: The Dissent/Repression Nexus in the Middle East.
Funding Source: Mershon Center Faculty Grant, The Ohio State University
Year: 2005 – 2006

**Katherine Meyer, Craig Jenkins, Phillip Schrodt, Deborah Gerner, Mary Ann Tetreault, Christian Davenport, and Jillian Schwedler**
Title: The Dissent/Repression Nexus in the Middle East
Funding Source: Mershon Center Faculty Grant, The Ohio State University
Year: 2006 - 2007

**Craig Jenkins and Katherine Meyer**
Title: TABARI and Events Analysis Data for the Middle East.
Funding source: College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Allocation Award.
Year: 2006

**Helen Rizzo**
Title: The Dissent/Repression Nexus in the Middle East: The Case of Egypt.
Funding Source: Faculty Support Research Grant, The American University in Cairo
Year: 2006-2007

**Lindsey Peterson**
Title: Summer Methods Training Grant
Funding Source: The Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University