

Cameron Thibos

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Current Positions: Managing Editor, Beyond Trafficking and Slavery at openDemocracy.net

THEMATIC INTERESTS AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Thematic focus areas: Syrian refugees and regional response; Euro-Mediterranean relations and EU Neighbourhood policy; Mediterranean migration patterns and movements; migration management; politics and society in Turkey and the Arab World; diaspora; identity politics; nationalism; discourse and media studies.

Geographic focus areas: Euro-Mediterranean area, Turkey, and the Arab World (esp. the Mashreq).

Research methods and methodologies include: Reflexive and interpretive methodologies (discourse & media analysis; interviewing); interpretive policy analysis; computer-automated data collection and content analysis.

EDUCATION

2009-2014

University of Oxford • *D.Phil in Development Studies*

- *Thesis Title:* Competitive Identity Formation in the Turkish Diaspora

This thesis examines the politics of narrative control, and how it relates to the formation of diasporic consciousness among Turkish migrants in the United States. It examines the roots, motivations and activities of Turkish American activists in Washington DC. Based on an analysis of their political orientations and internal fissures, it focuses on the current debate over official recognition of the deportations and massacres of Armenians by Ottoman forces as genocide. It argues that Turkish American activists have coalesced on the defensive around this issue, framing it as a matter critical to the identity of Turks. Their manifold activities to prevent the further institutionalisation of the 'genocide' label in American political discourse do not, however, always resonate with the passive majority of Turkish Americans.

- *Supervisors:* Prof. Robin Cohen and Dr. Hein de Haas
- D.Phil awarded 17 September 2014

2006-2009

University of Texas at Austin • *Master of Arts in Middle Eastern studies*

- *Thesis Title:* Corporate Social Responsibility in the Arab World

The thesis adds to the slowly growing body of work on corporate social responsibility (CSR) in non-Western countries by examining its discourse in the Middle East. It analyses Arabic-language media reports in conjunction with corporate self-reporting to discover areas of convergence (i.e. national employment, education) and divergence (i.e. worker health, sport sponsorships) between official rhetoric and corporate policies. The thesis also explores how and why CSR in the Middle East not only mimics European and American practices but also adapts to its own specific surroundings, circumstances and needs.

- Dual language certificate in Arabic and Turkish
- *Honours:* David Bruton Jr. Fellowship (2006-2008); National Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship for studying Arabic in Damascus (2007)

2002-2006

Indiana University Bloomington • *Bachelor of Arts with distinction in Journalism*

- Outside majors in Economics and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
- *Honours:* The Poynter Scholarship, one of the most prestigious scholarships at the Indiana University School of Journalism (2004)

LANGUAGE

- English (native)
- Turkish (advanced)
- Arabic (advanced)
- German (intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2014-present **Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, a partnership with openDemocracy.net** • *Managing Editor*
- Serve as primary point of contact for a nine-person team spread across several countries
 - Manage and execute the entire publication workflow, including editing, post-processing, and publishing all articles in the section.
 - Maintain the technical side of the section using a cloud-based content management system
 - Develop and maintain the section’s publicity and social media presence.
- 2015 **Council on International Educational Exchange** • *Teaching Fellow*
- Convene the following courses:
 - The Middle East in Alternative Perspectives
 - The Politics of Development in the Middle East
 - Design syllabi appropriate for small classes of American undergraduates in a foreign setting
 - Lecture on class topics before moderate classroom discussions in 2.5 hour, weekly seminars
 - Supervise and grade bi-termly essay exams and otherwise administer the courses
 - Consult with students during office hours on course topics and draft essay assignments
- 2014 **Migration Studies Centre, European University Institute** • *Research Associate*
- Research and produce mid-length policy analyses on Syrian refugees and other regional issues
 - Compile and maintain datasets on Syrian refugees, response measures and humanitarian aid
 - Translate scientific research papers produced at MPC into accessible policy materials
 - Collaborate with MPC researchers on joint projects regarding the Euro-Mediterranean area
- 2013 **Tana for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark** • *Consultant*
- Survey and analyze private and public reports on Syrian refugee policies and livelihoods
 - Collate and compare data across the research team
 - Contribute to the preparation of project reports
- 2010-2014 **Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford** • *Page Designer*
- Design and produce OPHI research briefs for print publication
 - Creatively solve design issues while maintaining a consistent organizational style
 - Re-interpret data, models and results for graphic visualization
 - Produce these works in constant collaboration with the rest of the OPHI team and often under severe time constraints
- 2009-2014 **Commission for Nomadic Peoples** • *Web Designer*
- Re-design and create the nomadicpeoples.info website
 - Periodically update content and upload announcements
 - Maintain email list and send periodic e-bulletins to members
- 2007-2009 **University of Texas at Austin** • *Graduate Teaching Assistant*
- *Classes include:* Introduction to the Middle East, Religions of the Middle East, Iranian Cinema, Sacred Textiles
- 2004-2005 **The St. Petersburg Times (Florida) and The State Journal (Kentucky)** • *Intern Reporter*
- Published 38 articles during these internships on topics ranging from consumer finance and municipal planning to lifestyle and sports
 - *Honours:* Received two writing awards in the crime reporting and sports features categories from the Kentucky Press Association in 2004

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS & CONFERENCE PAPERS

- forthcoming ‘Turkish-German relations: A discursive analysis,’ currently under revision for resubmission to *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*.
- forthcoming ‘Stalemate in the Armenian Genocide debate: the limits of diasporic political engagement’, in *Diasporas Reimagined: a collection of the Oxford Diasporas Programme*.
- 2015 (July) ‘Expert survey report on migrant integration’, *INTERACT Research Report 13*, 18 June 2015.
- 2014 (Oct.) ‘35 years of forced displacement in Iraq: Contextualising the ISIS threat, unpacking the movements,’ *Migration Policy Centre Policy Brief 2014/04*, RSCAS, EUI.
- 2014 (Oct.) ‘Why we need to move Beyond Trafficking and Slavery’, *openDemocracy.net*, 3 October.
- 2014 (Sept.) ‘Half a country displaced: The Syrian refugee and IDP crisis’, in *Mediterranean Yearbook 2014* (Barcelona: Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània.).
- 2014 (July) ‘Is what we hear about migration really true? Questioning eight stereotypes: CORE MESSAGES’, companion publication to Fargues, P. (ed.) *Is what we hear about migration really true? Questioning eight stereotypes*, MPC, RSCAS, EUI.
- 2014 (June) ‘One million Syrians in Lebanon: a milestone quickly passed’, *Migration Policy Centre Policy Brief 2014/03*, RSCAS, EUI.
- 2014 (March) ‘A flood of refugees, or a drop in the bucket? UNHCR’s Asylum Trends 2013 report contextualised’, *MPC Blog*, 31 March, <http://blogs.eui.eu/migrationpolicycentre/a-flood-of-refugees-or-a-drop-in-the-bucket-unhcrs-asylum-trends-2013-report-contextualised/>.
- 2014 (Feb.) *The Syrian displacement crisis and a Regional Development and Protection Programme: Mapping and meta-analysis of existing studies of costs, impacts and protection*, commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. Study team comprised of Roger Zetter (PI), Héloïse Ruaudel, Sarah Deardorff-Miller, Eveliina Lyytinen, and Cameron Thibos.
- 2013 ‘Identity politics in German-Turkish relations: A discursive analysis,’ paper presented at the conference *Rethinking Diasporas*, St. Anne’s College, University of Oxford, July 1-2.
- 2012 ‘Dana Declaration +10 Workshop Report,’ *Nomadic Peoples*, 16(2) 95–136. Co-written with Dawn Chatty and Adrian Mylne.
- 2012 ‘Should the Arab Spring become a Turkish Summer?’ *Democracy in Africa Blog*, 16 May, <http://democracyinafrica.org/should-the-arab-spring-become-a-turkish-summer/>.
- 2011 ‘Corporate Social Responsibility in the Arab World’, in Özlem Sandıkçı and Gillian Rice (eds.), *Handbook of Islamic Marketing* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar). Co-written with Kate Gillespie.