Minutes (transitional) Steering Committee (SC) Meeting
Political Economy Project
5 May 2015 (1ˢᵗ meeting)

Chaired by Rafeef Ziadah
Present: Wael Gamal, Ahmad Shokr, Sherene Seikaly, Omar Dahi, Mandy Turner, Joel Beinin,
Bassam Haddad, Adam Hanieh
Regrets: Shana marshal

1.   During the first workshop the SC was tasked with moving forward on finalizing the statement drafted and read out by Joel at the meeting. This statement will act as a basic principles / unity statement for the group. The SC agreed to a friendly amendment by Omar Dahi to the statement and it will be circulated to all group members for final approval.

2.   During the workshop we discussed converting our short written introductory interventions on "what is political economy and how its developed in our personal work" into polished final papers. The SC has set a deadline of **July 1** as the dead for receiving these polished papers.

After we have received the papers, we will have further discussion on whether to publish them or not and in what medium, of course only with previous approval from the author. We thought it would be useful for people to know that that the option of publication is there while polishing/redrafting text.

For the moment we are focusing on collecting the papers from everyone by June 1.

3.   The SC was tasked with ensuring that the working groups we established during the workshop begin to function. Here are the proposed actions and dates:

Pedagogy working group: the **top priority to create the annotated bibliography.** As a first step the group will compile a basic bibliography by **June 1**. This will be annotated at a later date through an agreed upon process inside the committee. Ahmad and Omar are both in this committee from the CC and will help move this process forward.

Research/engagement: Mandy and Adam on this committee from SC.

Translation: Wael and Ahmad are on this committee from the SC.

Connecting to other regions: Adam got proposal from the Independent Palestinian Trade Unions, we need more time to sort out details of what support is needed. We don't have further proposal for this working group at this time.

The SC will have a further discussion on the next conference call about how to establish new collaboration and which to prioritize.

4.   Recording audio interviews with members of our group and using audio by permission from the workshop.

There is an opportunity to develop an audio record of the workshop, as well as individual interviews with members by working with Status. The SC will refer back to the group to check if

anyone is interested in working on audio materials stemming from the workshop. Sections of the workshop will only be used in public audio records by explicit permission of workshop participants.

5.   Connecting with KPP (Knowledge Production Project) to establish the PE Research Committee (later)

   There was agreement this would be a good idea, but we parked this one for now until we understand better what is the work entailed and if there's enough capacity to take it on.

6.   Determining the next meeting for our larger group, or perhaps the Steering Committee, depending on funds

   The CC agreed on having a monthly online meeting via google hangouts to be decided through a doodle for the first 10 days of each month. We will rotate chairing and minute taking.

   Agreed that MESA would be a good time to have another face to face meeting point for the group. SC checking how to book room.

   Agreed that those at the Stanford workshop can touch base there as well.

   Agreed that next large physical meeting will be in May of 2016.

   Agreed we want to engage people who were initially invited to join the group, but could not make the workshop. Bassam will send the list of names and they will receive the statement and full minutes. The SC will check in on member engagement at the next monthly meeting.

7.   List upcoming events we are co-sponsoring and see if there are others we want to participate in as PEP.

   SOAS workshop: planning underway

   Ramallah workshop: Mandy checking in with Beirzeit and Al Shabaka people

   Alternative development models conference: Bassam to send us more info about the requirements for this particular event. All members will be encouraged to participate in the planning of the event (we need to set up an events planning committee for this purpose and for future events).

8.   Decision making in SC / next meeting

   Agreed that we always attempt to reach consensus in SC, barring that we take a simple majority vote.

   Next SC meeting: sometime in the first 10 days of June. Omar to arrange doodle, agenda, and chair.