*Seminar on State Building*

It is commonly assumed that over the last few hundred years, ‘two interdependent mass processes’-- the growth of national states and the development of capitalism in property and production –came to dominate ‘all other social processes and shaped all social structures’ in increasing parts of the world (Tilly 1984: 15). While conventional political economy approaches treat the structures that are central to these processes -- states and markets -- as two fundamentally different ways of ordering human relationships, a *critical political economy* perspective assumes that in capitalist (or any class) society there is no clear dividing line between the ‘economic’ and the ‘political’ elements in social life; and that structures of social power are closely related to political-economic outcomes. The seminar and readings examine several analytical themes from this perspective.

The **readings** consider

\* the relationship between capitalism and European state-building in the context of a regionally

Interconnected, and essentially transnational, global development;

\* what, if anything, is distinctive about the state in the Middle East;

\* the factors and conditions that, historically, have proved necessary for the reproduction and

transformation of state structures and related developmental outcomes.

The **seminar/lecture** will highlight

\* state-building, nation-building, and governance

\* the emergence and significance of state-based nationalisms

\* the social bases of different types of states and state-building projects

\* transnational and global dynamics in the reproduction of local structures of social power

\* the intersection of neo- patrimonialism, clientelism, militarism, civil society and different kinds

of democracy with the state

\* efforts by nascent governments and external actors to consciously build state institutions

**READINGS**

Sandra Halperin, *Re-Envisioning* *Global Development: a ‘Horizontal Perspective’* (London:

Routledge, 2013), Chapters 2 (pp. 32-60), 3 (pp. 61-90), and 4 (pp. 91-116).

Sandra Halperin, “The Post-Cold War Political Topography of the Middle East: Prospects for

Democracy.” *Third World Quarterly* 26:7 (December 2005), 1135-1156.

Sandra Halperin, ‘Power to the People: nationally-embedded development and mass armies in

the making of democracy’, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 37:3 (May

2009), 605-630.