

Social Movements and the Question of Citizenship

Beyond the view of the Middle East as a map for sectarian identities, since World War II, non-governmental organizations have also tried to highlight other identities that cross the religious divides. In some countries, such as Jordan, NGOs have also been used by the regime to further an image of itself as reform-oriented and modernizing. In other countries, such as Syria, NGOs have been historically suppressed and hindered from presenting an alternative to the regime. What types of NGOs have characterized the development of organizations in the Middle East? What relationship have they had with successive regimes? What alternative notions of citizenship have they introduced? And how successful have they been at effectuating change?

Some general themes for master's theses under this rubric include:

- LGBTQ movements and organizations (for example, [Helems Facebook page](#))
- New political movements and the question of class
- Women's organizations
- Citizenship in opposition to the state
- International donors and NGOs
- Youth citizenship

NB: The proposed themes are only meant to illustrate a range of possible topics. Students are also encouraged to bring in their own proposals and interests.