

FROM IMMOLATION TO PRESERVATION

The Self & Identity Politics
Since the Arab Uprisings

ADEL ISKANDAR

ASST. PROFESSOR OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATION, SFU

THURSDAY JAN 22 2015

7 TO 9PM

ROOM HC 1700

SFU, HARBOUR CENTRE

515 W. HASTINGS ST/COAST

SALISH TERRITORIES

Why are most of the once-iconic Arab uprisings faltering and descending into conflict? To address this question, Prof. Iskandar will discuss how counterrevolutionary forces successfully exploited post-colonial identitarian divisions in their respective nation-states and societies. These divisions have entrenched discourses and narratives, which precipitated dramatic transformation by shifting the focus from the collective good to self-interest, from sacrifice to preservation, from the utopian imaginary to status quo protectionism. As Prof. Iskandar will demonstrate, identity politics—Islamist, secularist, nationalist, pa-Arabist, ethnic, racialized, gendered, etc.—has become the defining features of contemporary political expression in Syria, Egypt, Bahrain, Libya, Yemen, and Tunisia.

Adel Iskandar is an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University. Previously he taught at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He is author, coauthor and editor of *Egypt In Flux: Essays on an Unfinished Revolution* (AUCP/OUP), *Al-Jazeera: The Story of the Network that is Rattling Governments and Redefining Modern Journalism* (Basic Books), *Edward Said: A Legacy of Emancipation and Representation* (University of California Press), and *Mediating the Arab Uprisings* (Tadween Publishing). His most recent volume is *Media Evolution on the Eve of the Arab Spring* (Palgrave Macmillan). Prof. Iskandar is also a co-editor of *Jadaliyya*.



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