



SEMINAR

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Bounded Rationality and Land Reform in the Middle East

Matthew Goldman

Matthew Goldman's dissertation explores how social reformers in the Middle East sought to reduce poverty through the redistribution of land, and how political elites manipulated these well-intentioned projects in order to secure their own bases of power. Roughly covering the period from the fall of the Ottoman Empire to the 1980s, this work reveals surprising commonalities between Turkish demographic engineering plans, Zionist colonization projects and Nasserite land reforms. Using written materials in Turkish, Arabic, Hebrew, French and English culled from a variety of archives and libraries, his dissertation aims to transcend geographic and disciplinary boundaries, juxtaposing cases less frequently compared inside the Middle East while situating local projects within transnational movements extending far beyond the region.