

# Dr Teije Hidde Donker

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## *Background*

March 9, 1983  
Zwijndrecht, Netherlands  
+31 (0)6 17583700  
teijehidde@gmail.com

## *Work Address*

University of Cambridge  
Department of Sociology  
Free School Ln, Cambridge  
td402@cam.ac.uk

## *Home Address*

7 Cedar Drive  
N2 0PS, London, UK  
+44 7845733807  
teijehidde.org

## Academic Interests

My academic interests fall at the intersection of political sociology, sociology of religion and Middle East area studies. My latest research project is a comparative study of the impact of religion on contentious episodes in Aleppo (Syria, 2012-2016) and Sfax (Tunisia, 2013-2015). The analysis builds on a Bourdieusian relational sociology: using a mixed method approach (combining multiple correspondence analysis of original survey data with extensive ethnographic fieldwork), I explore the cognitive and structural impact of constructing religion in relation to these episodes. I published a number of articles and am currently drafting a monograph on the basis of this project.

## Education

*Dilmer Institute, Istanbul*  
Nov 2013 - Aug 2014

Turkish language department. **Language Student.** Language certificate (intermediate).

*European University Institute*  
Sep 2009 - Oct 2013

**PhD in Political and Social Sciences.** Defended on 17 October 2013. Jury members were Donatella della Porta (EUI, supervisor), Olivier Roy (EUI, co-supervisor), Sidney Tarrow (Cornell University) and Farhad Khosrokhavar (EHESS).

*European University Institute*  
Sep 2009 - Aug 2010

Department of Political and Social Sciences. **MRes Political and Social Sciences.**

*University of Amsterdam*  
Sep 2007 - Oct 2008

International School for Humanities and Social Sciences. **MSc Conflict Resolution and Governance** (Political Science), Cum Laude, graduation date: October 2008.

*Private tutors, Syria & Egypt*  
2006 - 2007

**Certificate Arabic Language (Fusha)** and Islam studies. Tutors and certificate in Egypt via the Fajr Centre, Cairo.

*Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen*  
2002 - 2006

Centre for Development Issues in Nijmegen, CIDIN. **BSc. Development Studies**, Graduation date of Bachelor's degree: August 2006.

*University of Damascus*  
2004 - 2005

Language department. **Certificate Arabic language.** Date of certificate: June 2005.

## Research Experience

*University of Cambridge*  
Oct 2017- Sep 2020

Department of Sociology. Three year **Lecturer** position. Concurrently I am a **Fellow** at Murray Edwards College and hold a **College Teaching Affiliation** with St. Catherine's College.

*CARA*  
Jan 2019- Nov 2019

Council for At Risk Academics (CARA). **Co-PI** (with Faek Menla Ali, University of Sussex) in a research project titled "Economic Impact of Displaced People on Host Community: the Case of Al-Bab Region." The project consists of three Syrian researchers and is managed by additional two UK based scholars.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>University of Bergen</i><br><i>Aug 2014- July 2017</i>                                     | Department of Comparative Politics. Three year <b>Postdoctoral Fellowship</b> . Teaching SAMPOL211 “Islamist Movements and Contentious Politics in the Middle East” and supervising students. Remainder of my time devoted to independent research.   |
| <i>EHESS &amp; CUNP</i><br><i>Nov - Dec 2016</i>  | L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). <b>Two month research stay</b> funded by the Centre Universitaire de Norvège à Paris (CUNP). Affiliated with the CESSP. Institutional affiliation with the Centre Européen de Sociologie et de Science Politique (CESSP). Strengthened knowledge of Multiple Correspondence Analysis. |
| <i>European University Institute</i><br><i>Dec 2014 - Mar 2015</i>                            | Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and Consortium on Social Movement Studies, COSMOS. <b>Research Assistant</b> for Donatella della Porta. Drafting a research report on the situation in Syria as case of failed mobilization for democracy.   |
| <i>IFEA</i><br><i>Jan - Aug 2014</i>  | Institute Français d'Etudes Anatoliennes (IFEA). <b>Affiliated Researcher</b> while residing in Istanbul, Turkey.   |
| <i>European University Institute</i><br><i>Feb - Apr 2014</i>                                 | Department of Political and Social Sciences. <b>Research Assistant</b> for Donatella della Porta. Tasked to conduct and translate interviews (life histories) of activists in Tunisia.  |
| <i>Princeton University</i><br><i>Jan - May 2013</i>  | Department of Near Eastern Studies. <b>Visiting Student</b> Research Collaboration (VSRC) position from January until May 2013, institutional sponsor: Bernard Haykel.  |
| <i>European University Institute</i><br><i>Oct 2012 - Oct 2013</i>                            | Consortium on Social Movement Studies, COSMOS. <b>Affiliated Researcher</b> at the consortium.  |
| <i>CEMAT</i><br><i>Jan - Apr 2011</i>   | Center for Maghrib Studies in Tunis (CEMAT). <b>Affiliated Researcher</b> during fieldwork in Tunisia.  |
| <i>University of Amsterdam</i><br><i>July 2009 - Nov 2010</i>                                 | Department of Political Science. <b>Research fellow</b> at the Hivos/University of Amsterdam's research program on state-society relations in West Asian societies.   |
| <i>University of Amsterdam</i><br><i>Jan - June 2009</i>                                      | Department of Political Science. <b>Research position</b> on Syrian regime - Islamic activists interaction. Included fieldwork in Damascus, Syria.  |
| <i>Neth. Institute of International Relations, Clingendael</i><br><i>Mar 2008 - Jan 2009</i>  | Conflict Research Unit. <b>Research position</b> on religion in politics and peacebuilding in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Included fieldwork to Israel, West Bank and Gaza. Senior consultant was Dr. Pamela Scholey.   |
| <i>Neth. Institute of International Relations, Clingendael</i><br><i>Dec 2005 - June 2006</i> | <b>Internship</b> . Created and analyzed a “terrorists database” used in the Clingendael Publication “Jihadi Terrorists in Europe” (December 2006). Supervisor was Edwin Bakker.  |

*Tharwa Project, Damascus  
May - July 2005*

**Internship.** As a junior intern, I wrote articles on Syrian youth for the website of the Tharwa project, managed by Ammar Abdulhamid. The project was discontinued due to government intervention in July 2005.

## Teaching Experience

*University of Cambridge  
Oct 2018-Sep 2020*

**Soc8: Religion and Contentious Mobilization.** I designed, organized and taught this Soc8 paper. It focuses on the political sociology of mobilization of religion. There were a number of guest lecturers, among which David Lehmann and Olivier Roy. Average student feedback score was 1.20: “excellent”.

*University of Cambridge  
Oct 2018- Sep 2020*

**PES MPhil pathway.** I co-taught three topics in the Political and Economic Sociology Mphil pathway. These topics focused on neoliberalism and its discontent, right-wing populism around the globe and religion and contentious mobilization.

*University of Cambridge  
Oct 2017- Sep 2020*

**SOC1: Introduction to Sociology: Modern Societies I.** Lectured five topics of paper SOC1 “Introduction to Sociology: Modern Societies I”, exploring the sociology of power through topics related to ideology, economic neoliberalism, war and institutionalized politics. (Originally these topics were created by Hazem Kandil, a student of Michael Mann.) In student feedback almost half placed my lectures in the ‘excellent’ category. With 1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest score, the average feedback score was 1.76. To contextualize this, a senior lecturer teaching another part of the same paper - who just received the Pilkington Prizes for outstanding teaching - scored 1.94.

*University of Cambridge  
Oct 2017- Sep 2018*

**SOC8: Revolution, War and Militarism.** The first year at Cambridge I taught Hazem Kandil’s original SOC8 paper. The paper was reviewed by students as good/excellent.

*University of Bergen  
Spring 2016 & 2017*

**SAMPOL211: Islamist Movements and Contentious Mobilization in the Middle East.** Designed, managed and lectured the course during the spring term of 2016 and 2017. It broke a departmental record of number of registered students in an elective course and received positive student feedback.

*European University Institute  
July 2013*

**Teaching Training Certificate.** One week teaching training. Tutors included Neil McLean (LSE Teaching and Learning Centre) and Angela O’Neil (College of Europe). Date certificate: September 2013.

*Boğaziçi University, Istanbul  
June - Aug 2012*

**POLS317: Middle East Politics and Society.** Taught during the summer term of 2012. The course focused on the wave of popular mobilization in the Arab world. Rated second best among courses taught that term.

*In addition I have provided guest lectures at the University of Bergen (2015), Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan (2016) and the Norwegian Royal Naval Academy (2017).*

## Administrative Experience

*University of Cambridge*  
Oct 2019- Sep 2020

**PES MPhil pathway coordinator.** Department of Sociology. Coordinator for the Political and Economic Sociology pathway of the department of sociology.

*University of Cambridge*  
Mar 2019- Jan 2020

**Internal examiner PhD examinations.** Department of Sociology. Internal examiner in three PhD examinations: Tiago Carvalho, Maha Shash and Naim Bro Khomasi.

*University of Cambridge*  
Oct 2018- Sep 2020

**Departmental member of the IT Committee.** Department of Sociology. Once per term participation at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences IT Committee.

*University of Cambridge*  
Oct 2018- Sep 2020

**Member of the Academic Policy Committee (APC).** Murray Edwards College. Once per term participation at the Academic Policy Committee of the college, discussing and setting out its educational and research strategies.

*University of Cambridge*  
Jan 2018- Sep 2020

**Member of hiring committees.** Murray Edwards College. Participated in the hiring of Junior Research Fellows and temporary lecturers throughout my tenure at the college.

*European University Institute*  
Nov 2010 - Jan 2011

Department of Political and Social Sciences. **Working group supervisor.** I co-initiated and moderated a two-weekly Social Movement Studies Working Group at the EUI.

## Peer-reviewed Publications

Donker, T.H., (Under Review) The Ideational Morphology of Islamism in the Syrian Uprising. *British Journal of Sociology*.

Donker, T.H., (2019) Sacred as Secular: State Control and Independence of Mosques in Post-revolutionary Tunisia. *Politics and Religion*, vol 12, no 3: 501-523.

Donker, T.H., (2019) Between Rebellion and Uprising: Intersecting Networks and Discursive Strategies in Rebel Controlled Syria. *Social Movement Studies*, vol 18, no 1: 17-35.

Donker, T.H., (2018) Dschihadismus und Governance in Nordsyrien (Jihadism and Governance in North-Syria). *Mittelweg 36*, vol 27, no 2: 58-85.

Della Porta, D.; Donker, T.H.; Hall, B.; Poljarevic, E.; Ritter, D. (2017) *Social Movements and Civil War: When protests for democratization fail*, Routledge.

Donker, T.H., Netterstrom, K.L. (2017) The Tunisian Revolution and the Governance of Religion. *Middle East Critique*, vol. 26, no. 2: 137-157.

Donker, T.H. (2013) Reemerging Islamism in Tunisia: Repositioning Religion in Politics and Society. *Mediterranean Politics*, vol. 18, no. 2: 207-224.

Donker, T.H. (2013) Islamic Social Movements and the Syrian Authoritarian Regime: Shifting Patterns of Control and Accommodation. In: Heydemann, S. and Leenders, R. (eds.) *Middle East Authoritarianisms: Governance, Contestation, and Regime Resilience in Syria and Iran*. Stanford University press. pp. 107-124.

Donker, T.H. (2010) Enduring Ambiguity: Sunni Community-Syrian Regime Dynamics. *Mediterranean Politics*, vol. 15, no. 3: 435-452.

*I peer-reviewed articles for Middle East Law and Governance, Mediterranean Politics, Peace and Change, Mobilization, Democratization, Review of International Studies, Nations and Nationalism, Perspectives on Politics, American Behavioural Scientist, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society and the Journal of Comparative Politics.*

## Other Publications

Donker T.H. (2018) “Beyond the Spectre of Sectarianism: The Case of Tunisia”. *LSE Middle East Center Blog*, 15 September.

Donker T.H. (2016) “Aleppos Håp” (Aleppo’s Hope). *Bergens Tidende*, 19 August.

Donker T.H. (2015) “Fredsprisens skyggeside” (Peace Prize’s shadow side). *Bergens Tidende*, 10 December.

Hoekstra, S. (2013) “We vertellen onszelf dat ingrijpen in Syrië nog erger zou zijn. Onterecht” (We tell ourselves that intervening would be worse. A mistake). *Volkskrant*, 27 March. (published under a pseudonym).

Donker, T.H. (2012). Working Paper. *No Way Back: Actors, structures and mobilization opportunities in the 2011-2013 Syrian uprising*. European University Institute: ERC Project Mobilizing 4 Democracy.

Donker, T.H. (2012). Working Paper. *Tunisia: Surprise, Change and Continuity: Relating actors, structures and mobilization opportunities around the 14 January 2011 Revolution*. European University Institute: ERC Project Mobilizing 4 Democracy.

Donker, T.H. and Janssen, F. (2011) *CRU Policy Brief 18: Supporting the Syrian Summer: Dynamics of the Uprising and Considerations for International Engagement*. Netherlands Institute of International Relations ‘Clingendael’, Conflict Research Unit (CRU), 14 August.

Hoekstra, S. (2011) “Syrisch Regime heeft belang bij chaos” (Syrian regime has a stake in chaos). *Volkskrant*, 3 August. (published under a pseudonym).

Donker, T.H. (2009) *Working Paper 1: Moth or Flame? The Sunni Sphere and Regime Durability in Syria*. Knowledge Programme Civil Society in West Asia. University of Amsterdam.

Scholey, P & Donker, T.H. (2008) *Bridging Faith, Building Barriers: Mapping inter-faith dialogue and religious leaders in the Middle East*. Netherlands Institute of International Relations ‘Clingendael’.

Bakker, E., & Donker, T.H. (2006) Bestrijding terrorismefinanciering – Succes en falen in beleid (Anti terrorist financing– success and failure in ATF policies). *Atlantisch Perpectief*, 3:11-17.

## Research Grants

*UiB*  
*Aug 2014- July 2017*

University of Bergen (UiB). **Postdoctoral Fellowship**. Included monthly income of net NOK26,000.- (£2,600.-) for 36 months, in total approximately £93,600.- In addition a yearly research grant of NOK30,000.-.

*CUNP*  
*Nov - Dec 2016*

Centre Universitaire de Norvège à Paris (CUNP). **Travel Research Grant**. Included a NOK20,000.- residency grant.

*European University Institute*  
*Sep 2012 - Aug 2013*

European University Institute. **Dissertation Completion Grant**. Included a €12,000.- fee waiver and €14,400.- grant.

NUFFIC  
Sep 2012 - Aug 2013

Netherlands Universities' Foundation for International Cooperation (NUFFIC). **Additional Dissertation Completion Grant.** Included a €4,000.- grant.

NUFFIC  
Sep 2009 - Aug 2012

Netherlands Universities' Foundation for International Cooperation (NUFFIC). **Doctoral Research grant.** Included a €36,000.- fee waver, €55,080.- grant and €945.- additional travel grant.

## Selected Conferences and Summer Schools

University of Manchester  
June 2019

**Keynote speaker** at the PGR Sociology Conference "Identity in Times of Change" at the University of Manchester.

LSE  
June 2018

Participated as an **invited speaker** at the "The Comparative Politics of Sub-state Identity in the Middle East" at the Middle East Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science.

University of Oxford  
Jan 2018

Participated in the **University of Oxford** conference on "Rethinking Nationalism, Sectarianism and Ethno-religious Mobilisation in the Middle East", presenting a first draft of the article *Jihadism and Governance in North-Syria*

ECPR Joint Sessions  
April 2017

Participated in the **ECPR Joint Session 2017** workshop "Political secularism and religious difference in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa" and presented a first draft of the article *Independence or Neutrality? State Control and Independence of Mosques in Post-revolutionary Tunisia*.

Hamburger Institut für  
Sozialforschung  
December 2016

Participated in the **Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung** workshop Violence and Control in Civil Wars – Violent State-Making and presented a initial findings of the project *Governance and Mobilized Islam in Northern-Syria*.

ECPR Joint Sessions  
April 2016

Participated in the **ECPR Joint Session 2016** workshop The Local Politics of Protest Movements and presented a first draft of the article *Strategies of Mobilized Religion: The Case of Islamist Mobilization in Sfax and Aleppo*.

MED Research Meeting  
March 2016

Selected for and participated in **Middle East Directions Research Meeting** Rethinking the Middle East: Transformations, Flows and (Dis)orders. Presented a first draft of the article *Strategies of Mobilized Religion*.

London School of Economics  
August 2015

One week workshop on **Multiple Correspondence Analysis** at the LSE Methods summer school. Final analysis executed in R. Final grade: A+

## Additional Skills

R Statistical Programming  
Dutch  
English  
Syrian colloquial  
Modern Standard Arabic

First language  
Fluent  
Fluent  
Fluent

Turkish  
French  
German  
Italian

Working knowledge  
Intermediate knowledge  
Intermediate knowledge  
Intermediate knowledge