

Curriculum vitae

Name: Bjørn Olav Utvik
Born 27.08.1954 in Haugesund.
Norwegian citizen.
Married, four children.

Degrees

Dr.art., Faculty of Arts, University of Oslo (UiO) 2000.
Cand. philol., UiO 1990. Subjects: History (*hovedfag* (extended MA)), Arabic and Economy.

Relevant Employment

2010-present	Professor of Middle East History and Cultural Studies, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS), UiO.
2015-2020	Head of Department, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS), UiO.
1996-2010	Associate Professor of Middle East History and Cultural Studies, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS), UiO (until 2004 Department of East-European and Oriental Studies).
2007	Consultant, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Spring 1993/ spring 1995	Assistant Professor, Department of East-European and Oriental Studies, UiO.
1991-1995	Research Fellow, Department of History, UiO.

Languages

Norwegian, English, Arabic, German, French, Persian

Commissions/posts

2022	Member of Prize Committee for the University of Oslo Awards
2017-2020	Member of Board UiO:Energy
2012-2013	Member of Committee for North-South Cooperation, UiO
2012	Member of Accreditation Panel (ACE Denmark) for Master Programme in Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark
2012	Member of Accreditation Panel (ACE Denmark) for Master Programme in Islamic Studies, University of Copenhagen
2011-2015, Fall 2021	Director of Centre for Islamic and Middle East Studies, IKOS/UiO.
2009	Member of Evaluation Committee for Master Programme in Middle East Studies, Lund University, Sweden
2008	Member of Evaluation Committee for Applicants for Position of Lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark
2008	Member of Evaluation Committee for Applicants for Position of Lecturer

	in Regional Studies, Gothenburg University, Sweden
2008	Member of Evaluation Committee for Applicants for Position of Lecturer in Modern Islam, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
2008	Member of Evaluation Committee for Applicants for Position of Lecturer in Middle East Studies, Lund University, Sweden
2007-2008	Member of board, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages
2007	Member of Evaluation Committee for Programme of International Studies, Faculty of Social Science, UiO
2006-7	Member of committee appointed by the Rectorate for the establishment of Centre for Islamic Studies at UiO
2006-7	Member of board, Programme for Asian and African Studies
2006-2008	Member of board, Programme for Religious Studies
2005	Director of Middle East and African Studies, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, UiO
2005	Member and Administrator of Evaluation Committee for Applicants for Associate Professorship in Middle East History, University of Bergen
2004-2005	Director of Programme for Religious Studies, UiO
2004-present	Member of Editorial Council for <i>Babylon</i> , journal of Middle East Studies
2002-2005	Chairman of board Oslo-Gothenburg School of Asian and African Studies (OGSAA) (a cooperative effort between UiO and Gothenburg University)
2002	Member and Administrator of Evaluation Committee for Applicants for Position of Lecturer in Middle East Studies, University of Oslo
2002	Chairman of board Programme for Asian and African Studies, UiO
2002	Head of Coordination Committee for the Introduction of the Master degree at the Faculty of Arts, UiO
2000-2002	Head of Department, Department of East-European and Oriental Studies, UiO, <i>ex officio</i> member of Faculty Board, Faculty of Arts.
1999	Vice-Head of Department, Department of East-European and Oriental Studies, UiO.
1998-2007	President, Nordic Society for Middle East Studies.
1996-2001	Director of Middle East Studies programme, Department of East-European and Oriental Studies
1996-7	Member of Committee for Studies and Education, Faculty of Arts, UiO.
1995-2007	Board Member, Nordic Society for Middle East Studies.
1994	Member of Committee for Gender Equality, Faculty of Arts, UiO.
1993-4	Member of Faculty Board, Faculty of Arts, University of Oslo.

Educational experience (highlights)

2013-2014: designed new international master programme in Middle East Studies, launched autumn 2015.

2005-2008: programme censor, Programme for Middle East Studies, University of Bergen.

2004-present: developed and taught courses at master level on Problems of Democracy in the Middle East, and on Political Islam.

2003-4: led a major revision of Programme of Religious Studies, UiO.

2003: took part in teaching courses at Faculty of Social Sciences, Teheran University: PhD level ("Democracy and Despotism"), master level ("Religion and Development"), and bachelor level ("Religion and Globalisation").

2002: initiated and took part in designing Programme of Asian and African Studies.

2002: led the preparatory work for the introduction of the Master degree at Faculty of Arts,

UiO.

1996-present: supervised 52 dissertations for “hovedfag”/master, within various disciplines: history, history of religion, peace and conflict studies (incl. at Gothenburg University), political science, Arabic, and Middle East studies (currently eleven students under supervision).

1996-1997: Completed the required courses at UiO to acquire basic competence in university pedagogy.

1991-present: involved in designing, developing and administering courses and programmes in interdisciplinary Middle East Studies at UiO.

1991-present: taught courses at bachelor level in history and politics of the region, including specialised courses in political Islam.

1991-present: censor work at bachelor and master level in Middle East Studies at UiO and University of Bergen, as well as political science, Arabic language, history of religion, history and peace and conflict studies at UiO.

Guest lectures: University of Bergen, Lund University, Harvard University, American University in Cairo, Centre Français d’Archéologie et de sciences Sociales (CEFAS) in Sanaa.

Research-related experience (highlights)

2011-2015: Leader of [*The New Middle East: Emerging Political and Ideological Trends*](#), a five-year programme based at IKOS and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2009-2012: co-initiator and -leader of Research Group on Islam within the interfaculty UiO network Religion in pluralistic societies (PluRel)

2008-2009: Completed UiO Research Leadership Programme.

2008-2013: Leader of [*Gulf Research Unit*](#) at University of Oslo, a five-year project under the PETROSAM programme of the Norwegian Research Council

2007-2010: Leader of research group Faultlines of Islamism, a project funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2006-2008: co-initiator and -coordinator of interfaculty research group Forum for Religion and Modernity, UiO

2004-2007: Leader of research group on Socio-economic and Political Development in the Gulf region at IKOS, a project in cooperation with and partially funded by Statoil and Ministry for Oil and Energy,
cf. www.hf.uio.no/ikos/forskning/forskningsprosjekter/utvik/gulf/

2000-present: supervised 9 doctoral dissertations at UiO, one of them in cooperation with Institut d’études politiques in Paris.

1998: Main organiser of 4th Nordic Conference on Middle Eastern Studies: "The Middle East in a Globalizing World", Oslo, proceedings: <http://www.smi.uib.no/pao/paotoc1.html>

1997: Designer and organiser of Nordic PhD course on “Normative Islam and Social Reality”, Lund. This was a week-long course fully funded by NorFa: 20 PhD students from Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway took part, as well as 7 invited teachers.

Member of 8 evaluation committees for doctoral dissertations, 1 at UiO, 4 at University of Copenhagen, 3 at Sciences Po, Paris.

Experience in popularisation of research

Activity within this field includes roughly 90 popular lectures in a variety of forums, 50 articles in press, 60 contributions in radio and television.

Field experience from the Middle East

Extended stays for studies and research: Egypt (1984-5, 1987, 1991-2, 1994, 2010, 2014) and Iran (2002, 2003).

Guest researcher at Teheran University January-June 2003 and at Centre d'Études et de Documentation Économiques, Juridiques et Sociales (CEDEJ), Cairo August-December 2010.

1 year in United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) 1978-9.

Shorter visits to the Middle East include several to above-mentioned countries, plus: Algeria, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Memberships

Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA)

European Association for Middle East Studies (EURAMES)

Nordic Society for Middle East Studies (NSM)

The Norwegian Historical Association (HIFO)

Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association (NFF)

Miscellaneous

Initiated Memorandum of Understanding between UiO and Kuwait University for cooperation and exchange within education and research.

Initiated Memorandum of Understanding between UiO and King Faysal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh for research cooperation and exchange.

Initiated Memorandum of Understanding between UiO and Shahid Chamran University, Ahwaz for cooperation and exchange within education and research.

Initiated Memorandum of Understanding between UiO and Gulf Research Institute, Dubai for research cooperation and exchange.

Initiated Memorandum of Understanding between UiO and Teheran University for cooperation and exchange within education and research.

PUBLICATIONS

A: Books, articles, reports

“Arabisk vår -sjeikenes høst? Renteniststatens usikre bærekraft”, in Berit Thorbjørnsrud and Jon Nordenson (eds.), *Globale veikryss: Golfmonarkiene i endring*, Cappelen Damm Akademisk, Oslo 2022.

“What Role for the Sisters? Islamist Movements between Authenticity and Equality”, *Religions* Vol.13, No.3, 2022.

Islamismen (3d revised and expanded edition), Fagbokforlaget, Bergen 2020.

«Brennpunkt Kairo: politikkens død, fryktens makt», in Nils. A. Butenschøn and Rania Maktabi (eds.), *Brennpunkt Midtøsten: Konflikt og mangfold*, Universitetsforlaget, Oslo 2018.

«A System to the Chaos? The Arab Spring Six Years After», in Nora S. Eggen and Rana Issa (eds.), *Philologists in the World: A Festschrift in Honour of Gunvor Mejdell*, Novus, Oslo 2017.

«A question of faith? Islamists and secularists fight over the post-Mubarak state», *Contemporary Arab Affairs* Vol. 10, No.1, 2017.

“Introduction: The Rentier Bargain at the Trial of the Arab Uprisings”, in Kjetil Selvik and Bjørn Olav Utvik (eds.), *Oil States in the New Middle East: Uprisings and Stability*, Routledge, London 2015.

Oil States in the New Middle East: Uprisings and Stability (with Kjetil Selvik, eds.), Routledge, London 2015.

Accommodation or Fight for Democracy? Egyptian Islamism after Sisi's coup (report), University of Oslo 2015.

“Tilpasning eller kamp for demokratiet? Egyptisk islamisme etter Sisis kupp”, *Babylon*, No.2 2014.

“The Ikhwanization of the Salafis: Piety in the Politics of Egypt and Kuwait”, *Critique*, Vol.23, No.1, 2014.

A question of faith? Islamists and Secularists Fight over the Post-Mubarak State (report), University of Oslo 2014.

“Islamister i åpnere landskap: Hvilken rolle i det nye Midtøsten?”, *Tidsskriftet Politik*, Vol.15, No.1, 2012.

Islamismen, Unipub, Oslo 2011.

“Violence and Power: Iranian Lessons” (with François Burgat), *The Muslim World*, Vol.101 No.2, April 2011.

“Islamists from a Distance”, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol.43 No.1, February 2011.

”For Gud og friheten: politiske salafier i Kuwait og Saudi-Arabia”, *Babylon*, No. 2 2010.

Iranian Reformism: Weak Voice of the Future (*Gulf Studies* No.10), University of Oslo 2008.

"The Secularising Force of Engaged Religion: Reflections on Iranian and Egyptian Islamism", in Kirsi Henriksson and Anitta Kynsilehto (eds.), *Building Peace by Intercultural Dialogue: Essays in Honour of Professor Tuomo Melasuo*, Tampere Peace Research Institute 2008.

"Mellom framskritt og patriarki; islamismen og kvinnene", *Babylon* No. 2 2008.

Islamist Movements in the Middle East: Challenging the Autocrats (co-authored with Truls Hallberg Tønnessen), University of Oslo 2008.

"Iranian Reformists Challenging Theocracy", *Ahram Democracy Review/al-Dimuqratiyya*, No. 28, October 2007.

"Economic Development as a Divinely Imposed Duty", *ISIM Review* No. 20, Autumn 2007.

"An Islamic Road to Europe? On the Political Role of Religion in Turkey", in Edgeir Benum, Alf Johansson, Jan-Erik Smilden and Alf Storrud (eds.), *Are We Captives of History? Historical Essays on Turkey and Europe*. Unipub, Oslo 2007.

Demystifying Power Relations: Iranian Reformists Challenging Theocracy (Gulf Studies No.8), University of Oslo 2007.

"Med Gud for profitt og velstand: islamister og islamsk forretningsvirksomhet i Egypt", *Materialisten*, 1/2006.

Neo-Cons in Power: End of Reform in Iran? (Gulf Studies No.6), University of Oslo 2006.

"Religious Revivalism in 19th Century Norway and in 20th Century Egypt: A Critique of Fundamentalism Studies", *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, Vol.17, No.2 Spring 2006

The Pious Road to Development: The Ideology and Practice of Islamist Economics in Egypt, Hurst, London 2006.

"The *Hizb al-Wasat* Story: The Potential for Change in Egyptian Islamism", *Critique*, Vol.14, No.2 Fall 2005.

The Political Formation of Contemporary Iran (Gulf Studies No.3), University of Oslo 2005.

"The modernizing force of Islamism", in François Burgat and John Esposito (eds.), *Modernizing Islam: Religion and the Public Sphere in the Middle East and Europe*, Hurst, London/Rutgers University Press, Piscataway, NJ 2003.

"Islamism: the Pious Road to Modernity", in Kirsi Virtanen (ed.): *Individual, Ideologies and Society: Tracing the Mosaic of Mediterranean History*, Tampere Peace Research Institute, Tampere 2002.

The Middle East in a Globalized World (co-ed. with Knut S. Vikør), Nordic Society for Middle East Studies, Bergen 2000.

Independence and Development in the Name of God: The Economic Discourse of Egypt's Islamist Opposition 1984-90, University of Oslo 2000.

“Cromwell i Midtausten. Islamismens moderniserende kraft”, in Øyvind Bjørnson, Egil Nysæter og Arve Kjell Uthaug (eds.): *Til debatt. Innlegg ved Norske historiedagar 1996*, Historisk institutt, Universitetet i Bergen 1998.

““A pervasive seriousness invaded the country ...” Islamism - Cromwell’s ghost in the Middle East?”, in Stein Tønnesson, Juhani Koponen, Niels Steensgaard and Thommy Svensson (eds.), *Between National Histories and Global History*, Finska Historiska Samfundet, Helsinki 1997.

“Is there an Islamic Economic Alternative?”, in *Political Islam in the Middle East and North Africa*, North/South Coalition Information Bulletin No.2 1996.

“Filling the vacant throne of Nasser. The economic discourse of Egypt’s Islamist opposition”, *Arab Studies Quarterly*, Vol.17, No.4, Fall 1995.

“Islamism - digesting modernity the Islamic way”, *Forum for Development Studies*, 2/93.

“The Egyptian Labour Party - a New Brand of Islamism”, in Heikki Palva and Knut S. Vikør (eds.), *The Middle East - Unity and Diversity*, Nordic Proceedings in Asian Studies No.5, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Copenhagen 1993.

“Bilder av Egypt. Terje Tvedts oppgjør med avhengighetsteorien”, *Forum for utviklingsstudier*, 2/90.

Kva kom inn den opne døra? Industrien i Egypt under Sadats nye økonomiske politikk. 1970-83, University of Oslo, 1990.

B: Book reviews and dictionary work

“Salafism and Traditionalism: Scholarly Authority in Modern Islam, by Emad Hamdeh”, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, Vol.33, No.3, 2022.

“Islamic Fundamentalism” (with François Burgat), in Bertrand Badie, Dirk Berg-Schlosser, and Leonardo Morlino (eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Political Science*, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, California 2011.

“The Muslim Brotherhood: Hasan al-Hudaybi and Ideology, by Barbara H.E. Zollner”, *The Middle East Journal*, Vol.63, No.3 2009.

“François Burgat: Face to Face with Political Islam”, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, Vol.10, No.2, 2004.

“Finst det håp for Algerie?”, *Aftenposten* 20/11-95.

“Labor Party of Egypt”, in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*, Vol.2, Oxford University Press, New York 1995.

C: Essays, popularisation

”Bekjemper islamistene vestlige verdier?”, *Babylon* No. 1 2006.

”Iran 25 år etter revolusjonen”, in *P2Akademiet*, Vol. XXXI, Transit/NRK, Oslo 2004.

”Islamismens tid - et overstået kapittel?”, in *Carsten Niebuhr Biblioteket* 2003(3).

“Forsvaret for tausheten”, *Klassekampen* 12/1 -02.

“Islamismens dilemma: vil islamistane demokrati?”, *Klassekampen* 24/10-98.

“Guds revansj?”, *Røde Fane* No.5 1998.

“Med Europa som barbarisk fotnote: Verdshistoria sett frå Kairo”, *Samtiden* No.2/3 1997.

“Filling the vacant throne of Nasser”, *Middle East Insight*, Vol.XI, No.2, Jan-Feb 1995.

Dei andre sitt opprør. Islamismen - frigjering eller reaksjonær blindveg?, Studieforbundet Ny Verden/AKP 1994.

“Med røtene først inn i framtida”, *Magasinet X*, November 1993.

“Egypt - den neste islamske republikken?”, *Hva hender der?*, september 1993.

“Hasan al-Banna - ein muslimsk Oftedal?”, *Midtøsten Forum* 1/93.

“- Egypt treng Islam”, interview with Adil Husayn, *Klassekampen* 26/6 1992.

“Egypt - stille før stormen”, *Klassekampen* 19/6 1992.

“Ein muslimsk Oftedal?”, *Vårt Land* 13/6 1992.

“Dei andres opprør”, *Klassekampen* 4 and 5/6 1992.

“Taust om Algerie i vesten”, *Klassekampen* ½ 1992.

“Golfen og Vesten”, *Ikkevold*, april 1991.

“Statsstyrt utvikling i Sør-Korea”, *Klassekampen* 15/3 1991.

“Sør-Korea - liberalismens triumf?”, *Klassekampen* 14/3 1991.

“Vestens heilage krig for olja: Norske media og Golfen”, *SAIH-perspektiv*, November 1990.

“Kommunistar og Gud”, *Røde Fane* No.3/89.

D: Translations from Arabic:

Ahmad Abu Matar: “Bildet av jøden i palestinske romanar”, *Materialisten* 2/3-97.

Mahmud al-Makhzanji: “Leiaren”, Abd al-Hakim Qasim: “Fløyta” and Abu al-Maati Abu al-Naja: “Slutt på leiken”, in Gunvor Mejdell (ed.), *Den arabiske verden forteller : arabiske noveller*, short-stories, Oslo 1997.

Muhammad Hassan: “Forstørta tid”, short-story, *Klassekampen* 17/2 1992.

Naguib Mahfouz: *Midaqq-smuget*, novel, Pax 1989.