

The Department of Communication presents the  
James Pence Lecture

# **Beyond Al Jazeera and the 'Arab Spring': Media, Politics and the Struggle Over Modernity in the Arab World Today**

**Jaafar Aksikas**

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Recent accounts of Arab media, both in the Arab world and in the West, tend to focus on Al Jazeera or on social media during and after the “Arab Spring” of 2011. Aksikas considers how other newly popular forms of media, such as reality TV, use the ideals of modernity - such as citizenship, democracy, freedom, and equality - to present corporate culture as a champion for globalization and modernization and as an ally for younger audiences especially. Holding on to the specificity of contemporary Arab societies and cultures, Aksikas explains how commercial media increasingly articulate both to the energies and strengths of emerging Arab modernities and to the production of global neoliberal Arab subjects.

**University Room, Hyde Hall**

**Tuesday, April 10th 5:30-7:30PM**

**Hosted by The Institute of Arts and Humanities**

**Discussion and reception to follow**

**Free and open to the public**



Jaafar Aksikas is a Moroccan-born American scholar, whose research focuses on media, culture, law and politics in the Middle East and North Africa. His books and edited volumes include *Cultural Studies and the 'Juridical Turn': Culture, Law, and Legitimacy in the Era of Neoliberal Capitalism* (2016) and *Arab Modernities: Islamism, Nationalism and Liberalism in the Post-Colonial Arab World* (2009).

Co-sponsors: African Studies Center, Asian Studies, Cultural Studies, Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, Geography, Global Studies, Religious Studies

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