



THE HOBBESIAN SOCIAL CONTRACT AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Maher Mughrabi, *The Age*, in conversation with
Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh, *Deakin University*
12:00pm - 1:30pm Monday 9 September
Level 2, Building BC, Deakin University Burwood

In this conversation, Maher Mughrabi builds on his 2015 *Arena* essay titled 'Hunting Leviathan in the Middle East.' Mughrabi argues that competing governmental forces across the Middle East - Israelis and Palestinians, Iranians and Saudi Arabians, the "axis of resistance" and the forces of "stability" and even the increasingly extreme anti-national Islamists who are currently in retreat – are competing to offer restive Middle Eastern populations a Hobbesian social contract. Such a contract, however, can never be secure in the absence of political enfranchisement.

Maher Mughrabi is Features Editor at *The Age* and from 2014 to 2017 was Foreign Editor of *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*, during which time those papers' foreign reporting won four Walkley Awards, including a Gold Walkley for reporting from Mosul during its liberation from the so-called Islamic State. He has worked in newspapers for 24 years, including stints at *The Independent*, *The Scotsman*, *The Daily Mail* and the *Khaleej Times*.

Please RSVP to mesf@deakin.edu.au by 3 September for catering purposes.

