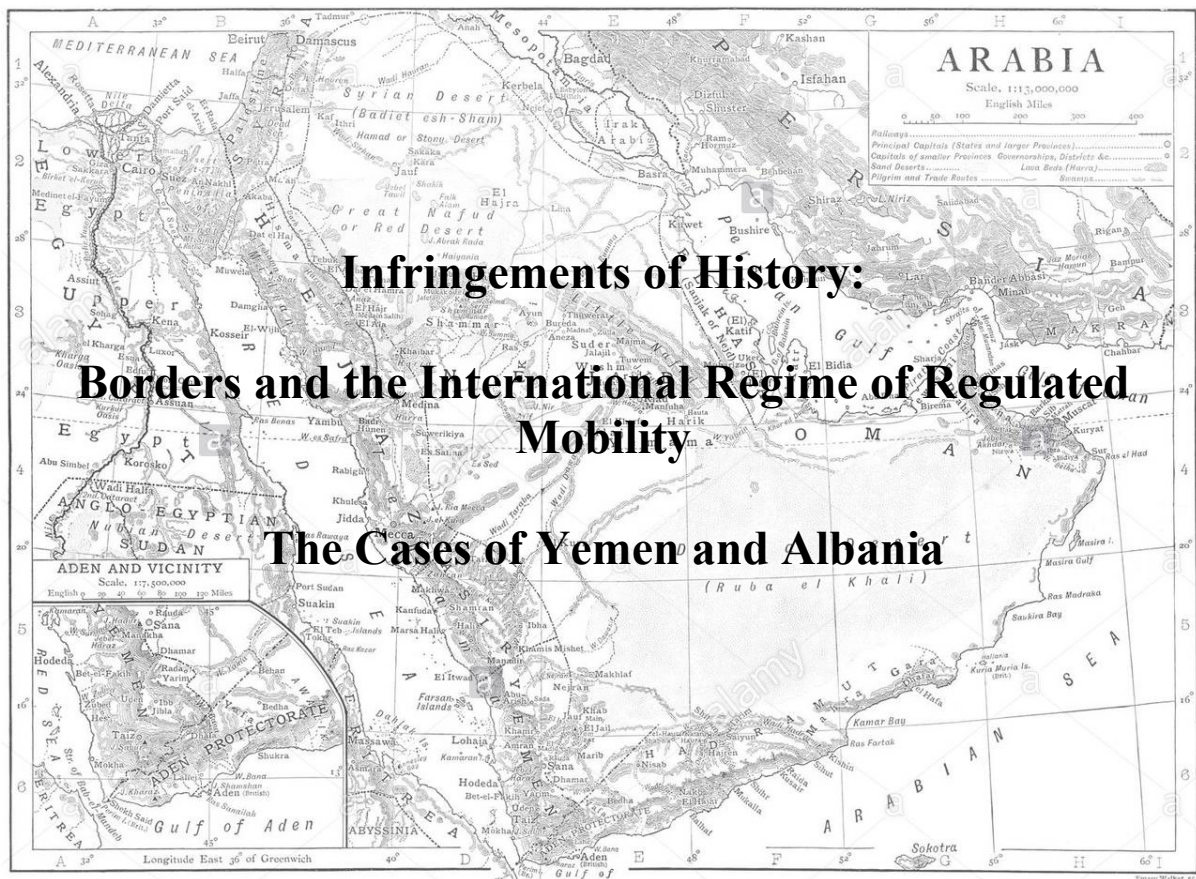


L'institut d'histoire accueille

**Prof Isa Blumi**

de l'Université de Stockholm



Le mercredi 12 Décembre 2018 à 12h

Université de Neuchâtel – alvéole RO.12

(Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines – Espace Louis-Agassiz 1)

## ABSTRACT

An international order remains the vision in the 21st Century, a political and economic superstructure that as much seeks to regulate human mobility as to steer the capital of human productivity in managed ways towards (or away) certain contentious geographies. In a comparative study of the last century of attempts to regulate the economic practices of historically mobile peoples by way of a regime of boundaries imposed after major international conflicts, this lecture aims to illuminate the contingent factors that lead to the rapid collapse of "order" in regions considered of high strategic value. Considering the major forces trying to impose order on previously under-regulated regions like Northern Yemen and Northern Albania, two distinctive regions that have frustrated efforts to manage the flow of human and natural resources to/from the Red and Adriatic Seas (and their littorals), the critical investigation of the last century of border controls highlights how "borderland" conditions necessarily require a comparative political economy frame of analysis that is also emphatically historical in scope. As such, this is a lecture to discuss disciplinary approaches to the study of conflict in far-too-often neglected comparative pairings--the Balkans with Southern Arabia. This presentation will draw on my years of investment into the study of these regions as zones of resistance to neo-liberal regimes incrementally over the last century imposed on the historic frontiers of modernity, illuminating the limits to traditional methods of historic (and current IR) analysis of conflict and the wide range of themes usually contained within the larger umbrella of such studies--migration, ethnicity, identity, and state formation.

## BIOGRAPHY



Isa Blumi is Docent/Associate Professor at Stockholm University, the Department of Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies. Author of numerous books, the most recent with a particular focus on migration, borderlands, and mobility being:

*Destroying Yemen: What Chaos in Arabia Tells Us About the World* (University of California Press, 2018); *Ottoman Refugees, 1878-1939: Migration in a Post-Imperial World* (Bloomberg Academic, 2013); and *Foundations of Modernity: Human Agency and the Imperial State* (Routledge, 2012).