

<b>Section A</b>		
<b>Institution:</b> Durham University		
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 19 Politics and International Studies		
<b>Title of case study:</b> Mitigating Youth Exclusion in the Mediterranean Region		
<b>Period when the underpinning research was undertaken:</b> Between 2011 - 2019		
<b>Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:</b>		
<b>Name(s):</b>	<b>Role(s) (e.g. job title):</b>	<b>Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:</b>
Professor Emma Murphy Dr Drew Mikhael Dr Mark Calder	Professor of Political Economy Postdoctoral Research Associate Postdoctoral Research Associate	1993-2020 2015-2018 2016-2017
<b>Period when the claimed impact occurred:</b> Between January 2014 - February 2020		
<b>Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014?</b> No		
<b>Section B</b>		
<b>1. Summary of the impact</b>		
<p>The underpinning research and activities have had a significant impact on the policy understandings and discourses of several international stakeholder communities regarding youth policy. By challenging the positive-development model on which policies have conventionally been constructed and arguing for greater attention to the multiple dimensions of young people's own security, they have re-framed discussions among and within policy communities around the causes of youth exclusion and pathways to inclusion (significance). This impact has been evidenced in activities with policy communities including the World Bank, the European institutions, the Euro-Arab Dialogue, the British Council, European youth-based civil society organisations and the House of Lords (reach).</p>		
<b>2. Underpinning research</b>		
<p>The underpinning research addressed the policy implications arising from evidence of social, political and economic exclusion of young people in the Southern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern states. A wave of youth protest and activism from 2010, including their participation in the Arab Spring uprisings, indicated the extent of young people's social, economic and political marginalisation, and the failures of existing youth policy narratives and paradigms to address them. Durham research expertise on the political economy of the South and East Mediterranean countries meant she was well-placed to examine the causes of their socio-economic and political exclusion, and appropriate policy responses to this failure. Subsequent activities included independent research activity [D1, D3, D4], a policy-oriented work-package of the EU-funded FP7 POWER2YOUTH project (entitled, "Freedom, dignity and justice": A comprehensive approach to the understanding of youth exclusion and the prospects for youth inclusion and overall change in the South and East Mediterranean,' between 2014 and 2017, SSH-2013.4.1-2) [D2], which examined the sources of youth exclusion and pathways to inclusion in the South and East Mediterranean partner states, and contributions to activities of EU Institutions, the British Council and World Bank.</p> <p>Beginning with an assessment of the state-of-the-field of youth studies in, and of, the Middle East conducted in the wake of the 2011 Arab Spring [D1], the research has subsequently focused on critically reviewing the production of youth policies both in, and towards, the region [D3, D4]. It identified and critiqued the dominant policy narratives of both European and MENA (Middle East and North African) state youth policy, constructing original datasets, and drawing on collaboratively produced datasets, to demonstrate how existing policy discourses, structures and institutions reproduce rather than mitigate exclusionary dynamics [D2, D4]. It has further</p>		

demonstrated how youth policy – both procedurally and institutionally – has reinforced these dynamics [D3] and has argued for a more subject-centred, participatory approach to policy-making which acknowledges and seeks to counter the negative impacts on youth of greater integration into a global neo-liberal political economy [D2, D4]. Specific contributions have included the positioning of the securitisation of youth policy discourses against a reality of in-securitisation of youth through both youth-specific and wider policy [D5], and evidence-based advocacy for more attention to be paid by MENA governments and external partners to the institutions and actions for youth policy implementation (including the importance of on-going youth participation) [D5].

### 3. References to the research

**Evidence of at least 2\* quality provided in bold script.**

D1: Murphy, E “Problematizing Arab Youth: Generational Narratives of Systemic Failure”, in *Mediterranean Politics*, 17 (1), March 2012, pp. 5-22. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13629395.2012.655043> **(Peer reviewed journal, 2019 Impact Factor 1.8440, Journal Citation Reports 2019 - 8/77 in Area Studies 29/95 in International relations)**

D2: Calder, M; MacDonald, R, Mikhael, D, Murphy, E and Phoenix, J “Marginalisation, Young People in the South and East Mediterranean, and Policy: An Analysis if Young People’s Experiences of Marginalisation across sic SEM Countries, and Guidelines for Policy-Makers”, POWER2YOUTH Working Paper No. 35, May 2017. ISSN 2283-5792. Available at [https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/p2y\\_35.pdf](https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/p2y_35.pdf)

D3: Murphy, E “A Political Economy of Youth Policy in Tunisia”, in *New Political Economy*, 22(6), pp. 676-691. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2017.1311848>, 2017 **(Peer reviewed journal, 2019 Impact Factor 3.157, Journal Citation Reports 2018 – 46/363 Economics, 20/176 Political Science and 8/91 International Relations)**

D4: Murphy, E “Youth Activism and Protest Around the Mediterranean” in R. Gillespie and F. Volpi, *Routledge Handbook of Mediterranean Politics*, Routledge, London 2018, pp. 342-357. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/e/9781315696577/chapters/10.4324/9781315696577-29>

D5: Murphy, E “The Youth In-Security Nexus: Rethinking Policy Approaches”, *International Spectator*, 53(2): pp.21-37, DOI 10.1080/03932729.2018.1454084, **(The Journal of the Istituto Affari Internazionali, Included in Thomson Reuters Emerging Sources Citation Index)**

### 4. Details of the impact

A first research article on “Problematizing Arab Youth: Generational Narratives of Systemic Failure” [D1] became a reference point in the stakeholder discourse around MENA youth and youth policy. Stakeholders in this context include principally the World Bank, but when two EU-funded FP7 projects were devised around its central premise, the stakeholder community expanded to include European institutions and other bodies engaged in devising and implementing youth policy.

Murphy was invited in April 2014 by the MENA Region Youth Co-ordinator of The World Bank, to assist in reviewing and final editing of the World Bank’s report “*Tunisia: Breaking the Barriers to Youth Inclusion*”, [E2] published on 21 October 2014. The final report referencing [E1] stated: “According to a compelling interpretation of the Arab youth’s uprisings, young people share as an experience ‘a generational narrative of exclusion, which traverses public and private life and results from the political, economic and social failures of authoritarian regimes’ Murphy (2012).” (E2, p.5). The report was the World Bank’s first substantive response to the youth-led protests

of the Arab Spring, which had begun in Tunisia, and was understood to represent a new direction in the organisation's policy making that would respond to the MENA region's youth crisis and beyond. The report (E2, p.xi, also E1) "benefitted greatly from" Murphy's contribution and represented an important shift in World Bank approaches to youth policy to be inclusive of 'youth voice' as both an imperative and an indicator of policy. In doing so, it enabled a broader understanding of young people's life experiences and how youth policy interventions in one area of their lives can create negative impacts in others. It also encouraged policy makers to enable young people to help shape the narratives which frame policy towards them.

While contributing to the report Murphy was invited to participate in a brainstorming event at the World Bank in Washington DC on 12 March 2014 [E1], the invitation referencing the 'agenda-setting' importance of the *Problematizing Arab youth* article at a time when "it is critical to rethink our approach to youth inclusion". Following the event, the organiser noted that Murphy's contribution "set up very well the whole discussion that followed" and set parameters in how youth are treated as a social category by policymakers [E1].

The arguments in Murphy's paper [D1], which call for reframing Arab youth to recognise their shared generational experiences of state failure and multiple exclusions, were also used to theoretically frame two FP7 projects, POWER2YOUTH and SAHWA (Researching Arab Mediterranean Youth: Towards a New Social Contract, FP7 No. 613174), together worth EUR5,000,000, which subsequently collaborated in disseminating their findings and became key reference points in European policy discourse on Mediterranean youth. Murphy led the POWER2YOUTH work package focusing on youth policy, preparing a policy briefing [E3] and a project policy report, [D2], presented to the European External Action Service (at their request in Brussels, December 2016). Subsequent correspondence [E4] confirmed the usefulness of the report, which was used by the EU Policy Lab as a framework for training at a policy dialogue workshop run by the EEAS/DG-Near/DG-EAC/DG-EMPL (Morocco, September 2017). A dialogue workshop discussed pathways to youth policy and its implementation, focusing on employment of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) and Murphy's work was used to challenge narratives behind North African policymaking in this regard. Murphy participated in the workshop, training young policymakers from North Africa [E5].

As evidence that the research project led by Murphy contributed to shaping the agenda of discussion among EU institutions regarding young people in the South and East Mediterranean, the project team was invited to present The POWER2YOUTH Policy Report [E3] as a keynote paper at the EU/Conseil de Europe Youth Partnership Expert Meeting in Brussels 12-13 December 2016 [E4], a meeting which determines parameters for European youth policy. Together with the SAHWA project report, it also comprised the focus of a special meeting at the European Parliament (March 2017) which drew an audience from the constituent agencies of DG-Near, the European External Action Agency, the Commission Policy Lab and other European institutions. Not only did this extend the reach of dissemination beyond the European Commission to encompass the European Parliament, but it also made findings available to representatives from NGOs and other interested parties who were able to access the event. Crucially, the impact is seen in the way this helped support the Youth Policy lobby within Parliament in raising the profile of youth issues within the EU legislature. The 'Policy' account on POWER2YOUTH social media site generated 32,000 impressions in advance of this event, hosted by MEP Alyn Smith and the Youth Intergroup Coordinator of the European Parliament.

Murphy was also invited to present the research as a basis for policy dialogue at the EI-Hiwar II Training and Information Course on Euro-Arab Relations Policy Dialogue on Youth, Civil Society and Socio-economic Needs between the European Commission, the League of Arab States and regional CSOs (Brussels, April 2019). The EI-Hiwar Policy dialogues promote co-operation between the EU and the Arab League by facilitating the flow of information and dialogue between the policy communities. Murphy's argument for greater attention to the counter-

productive outcomes of current policymaking towards youth was incorporated into the recommendations of the El-Hiwar II team to the Arab League and the European Commission for future Euro-Arab co-operation [E6].

Murphy was subsequently invited to act as a 'trainer' on the El-Hiwar II Training and Information Course at Euro-Arab Relations Summer School in Bruges (July 2019) introducing young policymakers from the EU and Arab League Countries to the new approach to policymaking.

As a result of exchanges at the El Hiwar Dialogue event, in June 2019 Murphy was invited to serve as a lead partner in the launch of the International Labour Organisation sponsored Global Network of Policy Research on Youth Transitions. This brings academic and field researchers together with policymakers from large international organisations to better shape research agendas and inform policy on youth. As a result, Murphy's research "has impacted and is impacting policy frameworks and policy discourses", specifically through her work on the concept of 'transition', the dangers of securitising youth policy discourses, and her advocacy of a holistic political economy approach [E7].

Murphy's research on youth has also been useful for the British Council in its Middle East and North Africa engagements. The British Council is particularly proactive in supporting young people in the region, and this became a priority for them after the 2011 Arab Spring. Commencing the pathway to impact prior to the current assessment period, in 2012, Murphy was invited to join the British Council Hammamet Conference Steering Committee, writing the Concept Paper on *The Leadership Challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The paper was described as "absolutely essential in shaping the conference series" of international meetings of youth and policy leaders in Tunisia hosted by the British Council. These events took place annually from 2012 and most recently in 2019 and the impact claimed for the current assessment period occurred between 2014 and 2019. The conferences aimed to provide an international platform for dialogue and progress in relations between the UK and North Africa [E8]. In 2016 she submitted evidence to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the British Council on Building Resilience to Violent Extremism in the Middle East and North Africa. Her evidence regarding youth and policy specifically identified the importance of framing young people through the lens of their own experiences of exclusion and marginalisation, and not through imposed categories of problem and threat. Drawing heavily on the findings from her POWER2YOUTH research, she argued for an approach to countering violent extremism which understood youth as the subjects of insecurity rather than potential perpetrators. The evidence formed the basis of a three-page section of the report (pp.17-20) published on 12 December 2017 [E9 pages 17-20], and it was said to have "educated and influenced the parliamentarians" [E8] such that, in a House of Lords Short Debate on 28 June 2018 [E10] which considered the report, Lord Anderson of Swansea noted that "Finally, young people need to be listened to if they are to be valued. The upstream work set out in the report is wholly relevant to our national interest. If we do not go to them, they will come to us, including in destructive ways (E10, p.11)". The report itself "influenced the British Council's own programmes and policy work in the region" [E8] and Murphy was invited to become a member of the British Council-led Preventing Violent Extremism Community of Practice which advises the UK Government on youth and radicalisation.

## **5. Sources to corroborate the impact**

E1: Correspondence with the World Bank confirming contribution to Brainstorming event on 12 March 2014. 27/01/2014-30/05/2014.

E2: World Bank Report: Breaking the Barriers to Youth Inclusion. 1 October 2014.

E3: European Policy Brief March 2017.

E4: Draft Agenda and email correspondence with European institutions. December 2016 to March 2017

E5: European Commission Taiex Regional Workshop details. 5-21/09/2017

E6: Testimonial from the Team Leader, El Hiwar Project, College of Europe. 24/04/2019.

E7: Testimonial from the Director of Policy, Global Labour Organisation and lead of Global Network of Policy Research on Youth Transitions. February 2020.

E8: Testimonial from the Head of Policy and External Relations, British Council. 10/04/2019.

E9: All-Party Parliamentary Group for the British Council, Report on Building Young People's Resilience to Violent Extremism in the Middle East and North Africa. 12/12/2017.

E10: Excerpt from Hansard: House of Lords Short Debate on British Council All-Party Parliamentary Report on Violent Extremism, 28/06/2018. Accessed 27/02/2020.