

S-7: Gilbert Achcar

(Professor, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)

Sunday 16 October, 13.30–15.00, Z-salen

"Arab Spring to Arab Winter: What Happened?"

The Arab Spring of 2011 was but the beginning of a long-term revolutionary process, rendered much more complicated than other revolutionary processes by specific socio-political features -- rentierism and patrimonialism -- of the dominant Arab state system. Another complicating specific feature is the fact that counter-revolution in the Arab region is two-pronged: the revolutionary process confronts not only the established regimes, but also their Islamic fundamentalist contenders. These peculiarities, combined with the intrinsic weakness of progressives in the region, provide the main explanation for the shift from the initial revolutionary phase to the ongoing counter-revolutionary phase that started in 2013. The various dynamics of this shift will be assessed in the light of the particular conditions that prevail in the different key theaters of the 2011 uprising. The region will find no new stability as long as no solution emerges for the explosive socio-economic factors behind the Arab Spring.

Moderator: Håkan Blomqvist.

Gilbert Achcar is a Lebanese scholar, writer and socialist. He is Professor of Development Studies and International Relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. His latest book is *The People Want: A Radical Exploration of the Arab Uprising* (2015).

(I svensk översättning finns Achcars *Barbariernas kamp: 11 september och den nya världsordningen*)