

# Una McGahern

**POSITION** *Senior Lecturer in Politics* (School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University)

## QUALIFICATIONS

2015 HEA Fellow  
 2010 DPhil in Government and International Affairs (Durham, UK)  
 2006 MA in Research Methods (Durham, UK)  
 2001 BA in Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies (Dublin City University, Ireland)

**INTERESTS** An interdisciplinary social scientist and political ethnographer, my research seeks to bridge the disciplines of IR, political geography and comparative politics, and centre issues relating to security, mobility, space, and borders in Israel-Palestine and beyond within academic conversations and debates.

**TEACHING** POL2012: Politics of the Middle East (UG Stage 2)  
 POL3099: Power, Security and Protest in the Middle East (UG Stage 3)

## CONFERENCE and WORKSHOP ORGANISATION

2024 Co-Convenor of Workshop on 'The Politics of Siege Warfare in the Middle East at the 11<sup>th</sup> European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), Kadir Has University, Istanbul  
 2018 Co-Convenor of Section on 'Political Violence, Trauma and Space,' British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) annual conference, King's College London.  
 2017 Co-Convenor of Section on 'Dislocating Geo-Power: New Approaches to Space, Culture and Violence in World Politics,' European International Studies Association (EISA) annual conference, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.  
 2012 Convenor of Workshop on 'Policing Protest in the Middle East,' Durham University.

## OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISCIPLINE

2023-present Ordinary Trustee, BISA Executive Committee  
 2023-present Associate Editor for *Mobilities*  
 2017-2018 Associate Editor for *Politics*  
 Ongoing Specialist Reviewer for 1 text-book (Polity Press), 3 monographs (SUNY Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge) and over 40 research papers published in 10 major journals, including: the *Journal of Politics*, *International Political Sociology*, *Security Dialogue*, *Political Geography*, *Mobilities*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *The Professional Geographer*, *Cultural Geographies*, *The Middle East Journal*, and *Journal of Mediterranean Politics*.  
 2016-2017 Funding Evaluator for British Council Newton Fund  
 Ongoing External PhD Examiner at Ulster and Durham universities & Internal PhD Examiner at Newcastle Uni. (x3)

## WIDER EVIDENCE OF MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

2020-2022 Undergraduate Director of Politics (Newcastle University), overseeing 5 degrees (including the successful rollout of 2 new degrees in International Politics and Politics and International Politics), during a global pandemic  
 2022 Organised a *Student Focus Group on Decolonising the Curriculum in Politics* to ensure student voices are centred in curriculum review & development at Newcastle Politics  
 2017-present Co-founded Ethnographic Methods Reading Group (School of Geography, Politics & Sociology, Newcastle University) to promote interdisciplinary conversations on ongoing ethnographic research across the school  
 2017-2021 Established a Teaching Circle (Politics, Newcastle University), to support knowledge

exchange, innovative teaching practices and professionalisation which was identified for praise by the Chair of the University's EDI team and submitted as evidence to support the School's achievement of an Athena Swan Bronze Award

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

McGahern, U. (2011) *Palestinian Christians in Israel: State Attitudes Towards Non-Muslims in a Jewish State*.  
Routledge – Durham Modern Middle East and Islamic World Series.

### **Book Chapters**

McGahern, U. (2025) 'Cross-Border Student Mobilities: Mobility Capital and the Pursuit of Mobility Justice among Palestinian Citizens of Israel', in Courtois, A., Marginson, S., Montgomery, C. & Sidhu, R. (Eds.) *The Future of Cross-Border Academic Mobilities*. Bloomsbury Press.

### **Articles**

McGahern, U. (2025) 'Higher Education Under Siege: Attacking Spaces of Hope in Palestine', *Geopolitics* 30(2): 830-858.

McGahern, U., Iriqat, D. and Al Haj, A. (2024) 'Building a Border-City University in Occupied Palestine: Developing a Cross-Border Resistance Economy in Practice', *Political Geography*, 108, 103030.

McGahern, U. (2023) 'Cross-Border Mobilities: Mobility capital and the capital accumulation strategies of Palestinian citizens of Israel', *Mobilities*, 18(6): 903-919.

McGahern, U. (2020) 'The Struggle to be Seen and Heard in Palestine', *Geopolitics* 25(1): 267-271.

McGahern, U. (2019) 'Making Space on the Run: Exercising the Right to Move in Jerusalem', *Mobilities*, 14(6): 890-905.

McGahern, U. (2017) 'Protesting at the Crossroads: Framing 'in-between places' in spatial analyses of contention', *Political Geography*, 59: 92-102.

McGahern, U. (2016) 'They Go to Get A Gun': Hidden Histories of Violence and the Politics of Rumour in Israel, *Security Dialogue*, 47 (6): 481-497.

McGahern, U. (2016) 'Spatial Regimes of Power: Combined Municipal Policing in the Arab City of Nazareth', *International Political Sociology*, 10 (3): 206-222.

McGahern, U. (2011) 'The Limits of Dissent: Palestinian Media in a Jewish Ethnocracy.' *Journal of Arab and Muslim Media Research*, 4 (1): 79-93.

McGahern, U. (2010) 'Multicultural Norms and Strategies: Minority Policy in an Ethnocratic State.' *Journal of Mediterranean Politics*, 15 (3): 415-433.