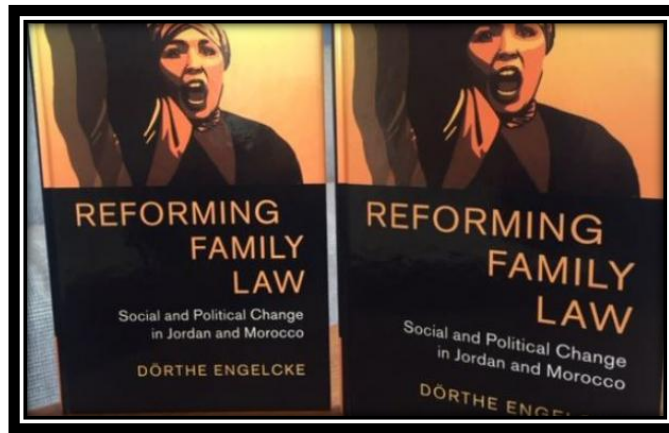




**MEC SEMINAR**  
TRINITY TERM 2019

## Lecture and Book Launch

*The politics of family law reform in Jordan and Morocco:  
Two seemingly similar monarchies, two different approaches*



**Friday, 14 June at 5pm**

Board Room, Kirdar Building, Middle East Centre, St Antony's College

**Dr Dörthe Engelcke**

(Max Planck Institute, Hamburg)

Family law – the law regulating marriage, divorce, custody, polygyny and guardianship among others – is one of the most sensitive areas in Muslim-majority countries. Morocco and Jordan both issued new family codes in the 2000s, but there are a number of differences in the ways these two states engaged in reform. These include how the reform was carried out, the content of the new family codes, and the way the new laws are applied. In Morocco, the process of reform became less dominated by actors who had received religious training, whereas in Jordan the *dā'irat qāḍī al-quḍāt*, the shari'a court administration, retook control over family law reform. In Morocco it was King Muhammad VI who took the lead. By contrast, in Jordan King Abdullah II was largely absent from the reform process. The 2004 Moroccan code proclaims international law as one of its sources, whereas the preamble of the Jordanian 2010 law states that the law is based entirely on Islamic sources. Whereas international actors like UN Women were engaged in the implementation of the 2004 family code in Morocco, they did not play a similar role in Jordan. This talk investigates why similar states varied in their engagement with family law reform.



**ALL WELCOME**

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