

On March 4, from 2:00-3:00, Princeton PhD student Daniel Tavana moderated the “Public Opinion Transformations” panel at the Bobst-AUB “After the Uprisings” conference. The first panelist, Mazen Hassan (Cairo University), presented his paper: “Between Scylla and Charybdis: Religion, the Military and Support for Democracy among Egyptians, 2011 – 2014.” Hassan analyzes changes in mass support for democracy, mediated by pressures from both religious and military forces. He finds that Egyptians in large numbers favor both democracy and unfettered military intervention in politics, though negative experiences with democratic procedures in 2011-13 drive decreases in support for democracy. Next, Sabri Ciftci (Kansas State University) presented “Human Development, Corruption, and Political Satisfaction in Arab Societies: A Sub-national Analysis.” Ciftci examines the determinants of political satisfaction in Arab societies in the post-Arab spring period. He argues that human development and perceptions concerning the quality of governance explain political dissatisfaction. Next, Sam van Vliet (PAX) presented “Demands for social justice among youth networks in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon; a comparative analysis of challenges and successes.” Van Vliet analyzes youth networks in these countries, looking more broadly at the current status of youth engagement in the region. Last, Erin Ashley York (Columbia University) presented “Ethnic Framing in the Syrian Civil War: Evidence from a Survey Experiment.” In a recent experiment, York tested the extent to which ethnic framing alters the way individual Syrians self-identify and perceive conflict.