

## ***CURRICULUM VITAE***

Name : Bassma KODMANI  
Home address : 12 Tulumbat Street  
Garden City, Cairo/Egypt  
Date of birth : 29/04/1958  
Nationality : (Dual) French and Syrian  
Marital status : Single, mother of three children.  
  
Professional address : Ford Foundation – Middle East and North Africa Office  
1 Osiris Street  
Garden City- Cairo

## ***PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE***

**Dec. 1998 - present: Program Officer, Governance, Civil Society & International Cooperation  
Ford Foundation – Middle East and North Africa Office**

This dual program supports activities of organizations in the fields of governance and civil society on one hand, foreign policy, regional cooperation and conflict resolution on the other. The geographic scope is the Middle East region with extensions into North African countries. Special focus is on four countries: Egypt, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon with some activities covering Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Tunisia, Morocco and Turkey as part of regional projects.

Within a largely defined set of goals, namely the advancement of good governance, the fostering of vibrant civil societies and the enhancement of Arab voices in international debates, special initiatives have been implemented within the program around certain specific topics used as entry points to pursue the above mentioned goals. These are 1/the promotion of a culture of citizenship in the Arab world; 2/ building knowledge, fostering debates and supporting efforts at redefining the role of the State in light of the new global environment; and 3/ building constituencies for peace in the Middle East.

Types of organizations supported through grants are research centers (university based and independent think-tanks), advocacy institutions, independent media organizations and members of professional journalists associations, NGOs including women's organizations, networks of scholars and activists, as well as government agencies for certain specific projects.

Types of activities supported include: policy research for knowledge building and support for decision-making instances; public debates through the media; civic education and civic awareness-raising; advocacy for civic participation; mobilization of citizens around specific issues; public opinion polling (FORD played a pioneering role in the Middle East in this area); professional training for journalists; support for independent media coverage, particularly in the context of conflict between Palestine and Israel; developing networks of organizations and collaborative projects; specific innovative projects in Information Technology and regular support for the development of grantee institutions' websites.

Building constituencies for peace is an initiative that included support for developing knowledge on Israel within the Palestinian community through research, teaching, media coverage and public education activities, activities that fostered a more participatory peace process, and a selected number of informal negotiations. Since the outbreak of the new intifadah however,

increased support has been directed towards media institutions and women's organizations to cope with the conflict situation: enhancement of media NGOs' capacity to produce independent narratives on the situation (including on their websites), to provide information and support to the foreign press, and to organize media events; enhancement of women's organizations capacity to provide support for the most affected sectors of society.

The program also includes support for fellowships programs, research competitions, and exchange programs across the world, building on the strong global network of the Ford Foundation in Asia, Africa, and Latin America in addition to Western Europe and the United States.

The program scope recently extended into related activities such as Higher Education reform as part of a continent-wide initiative for higher Education reform in Africa, and a Foundation administered project on Tradition, Religion and Social Change.

Direct research and learning activities for the benefit of Foundation grantees and Foundation program staff, including international conferences, seminars and lectures; leading a learning and grant-making group within the Foundation on the Changing Role of the State worldwide; developing strategic thinking on the Middle East through regular notes on socio-political developments in Egypt, implications of the conflict situation for the Palestinian society and recommendations for a focused strategy for grant-making, including the allocation of an emergency fund to support Palestinian institutions.

Current individual research: A study on the shifting relationship between political authority and religious authority in the Muslim world.

*Program Officer's position tasks also include:*

- Evaluation and discussion of proposals received, initiation of projects around the initiatives stated above, regional grant-making and collaborative grant-making with New York and Africa offices (involving negotiation and drafting of grant recommendations), commissioning consultants, conducting evaluations, supporting the restructuring of certain institutions and networks; managing a grant-making team and working closely with grants administration, writing a Program Officer Memorandum on the focus areas of the program and regular reflections memos.
- Regular contacts with other donors in the region, leading to occasional joint grant-making
- Meeting with public figures and officials to develop in-depth understanding of the domestic systems and build trust with key figures with a view to strengthening support for the Foundation's work in Egypt and the region
- Public relations and communication activities to inform the public about Foundation work and to produce a brochure for the Cairo office

Personal activities conducted in parallel: Lectures in universities of the region, Europe and the US; participating in international conferences of scholars, activists, media and civil society representatives and policy-makers; participating in Arab-Israeli Track II meetings to maintain close relations with protagonists for the benefit of sustaining significant grant-making in this area.

*Collaborative work beyond the Cairo office*

- Member of the Planning Committee for the Peace and Social Justice unit (one of three units in the Foundation) for the worldwide meeting of 2000
- Initiated the idea for global activities on the changing role of the state and presently leading the learning group on the subject
- Member of learning exercises and brainstorming activities for strategic planning in the International Cooperation field, Governance and civil society fields

- Member of the program staff group on Iran to explore funding opportunities in this country
- Joint grant-making with New York and other offices in the areas of research, advocacy, media and collaborative activities between the Middle-East and countries in the West.

**1981 – 1998**

**Head of Middle East Department**

**Institut Français des Relations Internationales, Paris, France**

- Provided on-going coverage of current events in the Middle East for the Institute;
- Prepared an annual plan for the department
- Designed and directed research programs
- Raised funds for the department
- Managed the research and the administrative team and planned program budgets
- Worked regularly with human resources unit, financial unit, other program staff and director of the Institute
- Conducted research on political, social and strategic issues (topics covered included Middle Eastern societies and political systems, strategic perceptions and regional conflicts, US and European policy in the region, Islam, migrations and diasporas, conflict resolution)
- Organized lectures, seminars and conferences; coordinated research groups
- Lectured in various academic institutions and public debate forums
- Coordinated and edited publications and published personal research and editorial pieces (see list of publications below)
- Conducted collaborative projects with European and Middle Eastern institutions
- Developed a wide network of contacts for the Institute
- Member of the editorial committee of the Institute's journal
- Organized and facilitated meetings between Israeli and Arab high-ranking officials and academics as part of Track-II discussions and took part in several informal meetings between Israelis and Arabs since 1988
- Participated in conferences, symposia, meetings, working groups worldwide

**1990 – 1998**

**Associate Professor of Political Science**

**University of Marne-la-Vallée and Sorbonne, Paris**

- Founded and co-directed a Masters + (first year PhD) program in International Relations at Université de Marne-La-Vallée on conflict resolution, peace-building and collective security
- Taught courses in conflict prevention and resolution, geopolitical developments in the Middle East, Europe and the Arab world in Sorbonne and Marne-La-Vallee Universities
- Lectured in various other universities, research institutes, military academies and private corporations in France, other European countries, the United States, Japan and the Middle East

**1996 – 1998**

**Consultant**

**French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris**

- Served as a regular consultant, providing analysis and conducting studies for the Policy Planning unit on Arab-Israeli affairs, country issues and regional security, organized seminars and dialogues and participated in meetings and conferences.

## Since 1981

## Other activities

- Consultancy work for various French government departments (Prime Minister's office, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Planning)
- Political analysis for major radio and television networks (including special commentator for CNN for the duration of the Middle East Peace conference in Madrid in 1991 and special analyst for French television during the Gulf war of 1991)
- Consultancy work for various French and multinational corporations
- Lectured at the French Ecole Nationale d'Administration and the Military College of Saint-Cyr, 1985-1991

## Experience prior to 1981

- Conducted special reports for the Policy Planning unit, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Middle East political issues and Islamic movements in the Arab world, 1979-1980
- Translated (on a free-lance basis) various works from and into French, Arabic and English, 1978-1980.
- Taught French to Arab students in Great Britain, 1977

## EDUCATION

- PhD in Political Science from Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po).  
PhD thesis "The Palestinian Issue. A Fragmented Settlement for a Dispersed People" (awarded with *Félicitations du Jury* (honors))
- Diplôme d'études approfondies in Contemporary History (MA+)  
Dissertation: "The European Community and the Arab-Israeli Conflict"
- Diploma of International Relations from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Paris (MA)
- High School at the French Lycée in London, Britain

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, French and Arabic  
Good knowledge of Spanish  
Some knowledge of Italian.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- Author of « *La diaspora palestinienne* », Coll. Perspectives Internationales, Paris : Presses Universitaires de France, 1997. Awarded special Prize of the French-Arab Association
- Co-author of "*Golfe et Moyen-Orient : les conflits*", RAMSES Points (IFRI), Paris : Dunod, 1991.  
Co-editor of "*Les Etats arabes face à la contestation islamiste*" (Arab States and Islamism. Strategies of Re-Legitimization), Travaux et Recherches de l'IFRI, Paris : Masson, 1997.  
Author of :
  - *Introduction*
  - « *Palestine : des rapports pouvoir-opposition ou un partenariat ?* (Government/Opposition Relations or Partnership ?)
- Co-editor of « *Perceptions de sécurité et stratégies nationales au Moyen Orient* »

- (Security Perceptions and National Strategies in the Middle East), Travaux et Recherches de l'IFRI, Paris : Masson, 1994
- Author of :
- *Introduction*
  - « *Syrie : anciens dilemmes, nouvelles stratégies* » (Syria . Old Dilemmas, New Strategies)
  - Editor of « *Maghreb : les années de transition* », Travaux et Recherches de l'IFRI, Paris : Masson, Spring 1990.
  - Author of :
  - *Introduction*
  - « *Maghreb-Machrek : histoire d'une relation complexe* » (Relations between North Africa and the Middle East.)
  - Editor of "*Liban : Espoirs et réalités*" (Lebanon. Between Hope and Reality), Travaux et Recherches de l'IFRI, Paris : Economica, November 1986
  - Author of :
  - *Introduction*
  - « *Le conflit libanais et les relations interarabes* » (The Arab States and Lebanon)
  - « *L'Iran nouvel acteur fort au Liban* » (Iran's Strategy in Lebanon).
  - Editor of "*Quelle sécurité pour le Golfe*", Travaux et Recherches de l'IFRI, Paris : Economica, 1984.
  - Author of :
  - « *La sécurité dans le Golfe arabo-persique. Perceptions internes et régionales* » (Security in the Persian Gulf. National and Regional perceptions)
  - « *Le conflit israélo-arabe et la sécurité dans le Golfe* » (The Arab-Israeli Conflict and Gulf Security).

### Papers and articles

- "*François Mitterrand face aux défis de l'islamisme*" (Mitterrand and the Challenge of Islamic Fundamentalism) in "Mitterrand et la sortie de la guerre froide", Paris : Presses Universitaires de France, 1998.
- "L'Etat palestinien ou l'incongruité de l'espace politique et de l'espace social" (A Palestinian State. Inadequacy of the Social and Political Space), in Cahiers du CERMOC, n° 17, Beyrouth, 1997.
- "Islamismus und Staat in der arabischen Welt", (Islam and the State in the Arab World), *Internationale Politik*, n° 8, Bonn, August 1997.
- "*Les réfugiés palestiniens à l'épreuve du règlement de paix*" (Palestinian Refugees and the Prospect of a Peace Settlement), *Confluences Méditerranée*, n° 18, Summer 1996.
- Co-editor of the Policy Paper "*Le Liban ou les dérives du processus de paix*" (Lebanon and the 1996 Operation Grapes of Wrath), les Notes de l'Ifri, Paris : Ifri, 1996.
- Author of "*Le retour de la France*" (French Policy in the Israeli-Lebanon Crisis of 1996)
- "Arafat and the Islamists : Conflict or Cooperation?", *Current History*, vol. 95 n° 597, January 1996.
- "*L'OLP : de l'incarnation du peuple au gouvernement de l'Etat*" (The PLO. From Representation to Governance) in "Etat moderne, nationalismes et islamismes", *Revue du monde musulman et de la Méditerranée*, Aix-en-Provence : Edisud, n° 68-69, 1995.
- "*La France et le Moyen-Orient : entre nostalgie et réalisme*" (France and the Middle East), *Politique étrangère*, n° 4, 1995.
- Editor of a special issue on "The Great Movements of People in the World", author of "*Au-delà de la Conférence du Caire*" (Beyond the Cairo Conference on Population), *Politique étrangère*, n° 3, 1994 ;
- "*La question des réfugiés et l'émergence d'une diaspora palestinienne*" (Palestinian refugees and the emergence of a diaspora), *Confluences Méditerranée*, n° 9, Winter 1993-1994 ;

- "*Arabes et Israéliens : la paix avant la réconciliation*" (Arabs and Israelis. Peace before Reconciliation), *Politique étrangère*, n°4, 1993 ;
- Co-author of "The Gulf Crisis and the French Decision Making Process" in "The War in the Gulf. The Diplomatic Dimension", Pew Educational Case Studies, 1992 ;
- "International Security and the Forces of Nationalism and Fundamentalism" in "New Dimensions in International Security", Brassay's for the IISS, *Adelphi Papers*, n° 266, Winter 1991/1992 ;
- Editor of a special issue on "The Arab-Israeli Peace Process", *Politique étrangère*, n° 4, 1992 ;
- Articles on current political issues in *Al Wasat* (Arabic weekly magazine), February-May 1992 ;
- "*La Jordanie en première ligne*" (Jordan in the front line), *Confluences Méditerranée*, n° 1, Autumn 1991 ;
- "*Koweït-Palestine : l'incontournable lien*" (Koweït-Palestine. The Linkage), *La Croix-L'Événement*, January 14, 1991 ;.
- "*Que faire de l'Irak*" (How to handle Iraq ?), *Politique étrangère*, n° 4, 1990 ;
- "*Les Palestiniens face à Israël : de la guerre à la guerre civile*" (Palestinians facing Israel : from war to civil war), *Politique étrangère*, n° 2, 1990 ;
- "*Israël et la crise du Golfe*" (Israel and the Gulf Crisis), *L'Express*, October 18, 1990 ;
- "*Islam et lutte nationale palestinienne : avantages et inconvénients de l'intrusion du religieux dans le politique*" (Islam and Palestinian National Struggle. Advantages and Disadvantages of the Intrusion of Religion in Politics), in *Religions et Géopolitiques : dialogues ou confrontations autour de la Méditerranée*, L'Observatoire européen de géopolitique, Lyon, June 8, 1990 ;
- "A French Initiative for Lebanon", *Oxford Analytica*, August 29, 1989 ;
- Co-author of a 200 page section "*L'islam aujourd'hui : religion ou idéologie ?*" (Islam as a political ideology), Ramses 1987-1988 ;
- "*Maghreb : un monde en gestation*" (Changing North Africa), Ramses, 1986-1987 ;
- "*Du côté des Saoud*" (French Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia) in *Armes, Editions Autrement*, October 1985 ;
- "*La France et le Liban*" (France and Lebanon), *Politique étrangère*, n° 2, 1985 ;
- "*Les Relations franco-turques*" (Relations between France and Turkey), *Politique étrangère*, n° 1, 1985 ;
- "*La France : un allié sûr pour le Liban*" (France : a Reliable Ally for Lebanon) in *Beiträge zur Konflikt Forschung*, n° 3, 1984 ;
- "*L'Islam dans le monde*" (Islam in the World), *Politique étrangère*, n° 4, 1983 ;
- "*Syrie : l'heure de la revanche*" (Syria : the Hour of Revenge), *Politique étrangère*, n° 3, 1983 ;
- Chapters on the political developments in the Middle East for IFRI's annual report RAMSES, every year since 1983 ;
- Occasional articles and interviews in French and Arabic newspapers ;
- Occasional columns in IFRI's *Lettre d'information*.