The Political Science Department   
and  
the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Present the

**GORDON SANDISON MEMORIAL LECTURE**

# Dr. Jillian Schwedler

**"** Understanding Geographies of Protest: Insights from Jordan **"**

# Tuesday, May 9, 2023

# 3:00 pm, Carver 104

Protest has been a key method of political claim-making in Jordan from the late Ottoman period to the present day. More than moments of rupture within normal-time politics, protests have been central to challenging state power, as well as reproducing it—and the spatial dynamics of protests play a central role in the construction of both state and society. In this talk based on her new book, Protesting Jordan: Geographies of Power and Dissent (Stanford University Press, 2022), Jillian Schwedler considers how space and geography influence protests and repression, and, in challenging conventional narratives of Hashemite state-making, offers the first in-depth study of rebellion in Jordan.

Based on twenty-five years of field research, Protesting Jordan examines protests as they are situated in the built environment, bringing together considerations of networks, spatial imaginaries, space and place-making, and political geographies at local, national, regional, and global scales. Schwedler considers the impact of time and temporality in the lifecycles of individual movements. Through a mixed interpretive methodology, this book illuminates the geographies of power and dissent and the spatial practices of protest and repression, highlighting the political stakes of competing narratives about Jordan’s past, present, and future.

Jillian's book Protesting Jordan: Geographies of Power and Dissent was the National Endowment for Democracy Notable Book of 2022.

About the Speaker: Dr. Jillian Schwedler is Professor of Political Science at the City University of New York’s Hunter College and the Graduate Center and Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Crown Center at Brandeis University. She is member of the editorial committee for Middle East Law and Governance (MELG) and elected member of the APSA Council, the governing board of the American Political Science Association. Dr. Schwedler’s research currently focuses on contentious politics and political geography, particularly concerning protests in urban and peri-urban settings.

*AA/EO. For disability accommodation, please contact Political Science at 360-650-2505 or* [*politicalscience@wwu.edu*](mailto:politicalscience@wwu.edu)*.*