The School for International Studies and the Global Communication MA Program at SFU present
A free public lecture and book launch

“Egypt in Crisis”

Robert Springborg

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Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre campus
515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, Room 7000 (seventh floor)

Egypt is one of the great empires of antiquity that exists today as a nation state. Given its extraordinary record of national endurance it would seem rash to even speculate that Egypt is at risk of fracturing. Yet, the pressures to which it currently is subjected and which are bound to intensify are already straining the ties that hold the political community together, while rendering ever more difficult the task of governing it. As Egyptians become steadily more divided by class, religion, region, ethnicity, gender and contrasting views of how, by whom and for what purposes they should be governed, so do their rulers become ever more fearful, repressive and unrepresentative. Caught in a downward spiral in which poor governance is both cause and consequence of mounting political, economic, environmental, regional and other pressures, Egypt is facing a future so uncertain that it could come to resemble neighboring countries that have collapsed under similar loads, albeit having had weaker states to bear them. The Egyptian “hot spot” is destined to become steadily hotter, with ominous implications for its peoples, its neighbors in the Middle East and North Africa, for Europe and even the world beyond.

Robert Springborg is Professor (ret) of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School and Program Manager for the Center for Civil-Military Relations. His publications include Mubarak’s Egypt: Fragmentation of the Political Order; Family Power and Politics in Egypt; Legislative Politics in the Arab World; Globalization and the Politics of Development in the Middle East; and several others. He has worked as a consultant for the United States Agency for International Development, the US State Department, the UNDP, and various UK government departments, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defense and the Department for International Development. This month, his new book, Egypt, will be published by Polity Press.