Abstract
Dr Elisabetta Costa will present the results of 15 months of ethnographic research on the effects of social media in Mardin, a medium-sized town in southeast Turkey. The lecture will describe the social change brought by social media not as a linear and uniform process, but rather as the combination of contrasting transformations: public-facing social media is mainly a conservative space, whereas private channels of communication facilitate new social relationships. The lecture will examine these changes, along with the emergence of new notions of private and public.

Dr Elisabetta Costa
Dr Elisabetta Costa (Rijks Universiteit Groningen, the Netherlands) is an anthropologist specialising in the study of social media, politics and gender in South East Turkey and the Middle East. She has collaborated in the project WhyWePost of the UCL Department of Anthropology. It is a global research project on the impact of social media involving nine anthropologists who each conducted 15 months of fieldwork on locations around the world. The results were published in a series of free open-access books.

AALS
The Amsterdam Anthropology Lecture Series (AALS) is a year-long event organised by the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam. It involves public lectures regarding current events for the academia and the wider public. We believe that anthropologists are uniquely situated to provide in-depth analyses of current events due to their immersion in various contexts around the world. The second series runs in the academic year 2016-2017 and the theme is ‘Current Affairs and Anthropology’. The series is linked to our new research theme Mobilities, belonging and Beliefs (MOBB).