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‘The Legitimate’ after the Uprisings: Justice, Equity, and Language Politics in Morocco (Published in *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 2020, DOI: [10.1080/13530194.2020.1863772](https://doi.org/10.1080/13530194.2020.1863772))

Debates on languages have been omnipresent in the Moroccan public space since independence. This article examines the regimes of justification employed by language advocates to approach historically the norms of legitimacy, i.e., ‘the legitimate’. It argues that a new discourse on languages has emerged in 2011 in Morocco employing *justice* and *equity* as the main legitimating principles in language politics. After the phases of *unity* (justifying the Arabization policy, which replaced French by Standard Arabic in administrations, courts, and schools) and *recognition* (supporting the standardization of Tamazight and its recognition as an official language), the discursive shift to *justice* and *equity* in 2011 marks the entry of Morocco in a third phase in language politics and points out a shift in the norms underpinning political legitimacy. The article highlights that the 2011 uprisings in Morocco, though seemingly unsuccessful, did nonetheless provoke an evolution of ‘the legitimate’ in Moroccan politics.

About the author

Kaoutar Ghilani is a PhD candidate in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Oxford. After a master’s degree in political theory at Sciences Po Paris, she joined the University of Oxford to write a thesis on language politics in Morocco. Entitled *Discourses of Failure: Arabisation and Nation-Building in Morocco*, her thesis is a genealogy of the discourse on the failure of Arabisation in Morocco.