**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN A MULTI-POLAR MIDDLE EAST**

**SEPAD E-CONFERENCE: 29th JUNE – 1st JULY 2020**

**MONDAY 29th JUNE:**

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| **09:00 - 11:00 BST** | **PANEL 1:** | **REGIONAL POWERS 1** |
| **11:15 - 13:15 BST** | **PANEL 2:** | **THEORETICAL REFLECTIONS ON POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST** |

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| **14:00 - 16:00 BST** | **PANEL 3:** | **PALESTINE, ISRAEL AND CHANGING REGIONAL DYNAMICS** |
| **16:30 - 18:30 BST** | **PANEL 4:** | **REGIONAL POWERS 2** |

**TUESDAY 30th JUNE:**

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| **13:00 - 14:00 BST** | **KEYNOTE:** | **MAY DARWICH: THREATS AND ALLIANCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST** |

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| **14:00 - 16:00 BST** | **PANEL 5:** | **IRAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST** |
| **16:30 - 18:30 BST** | **PANEL 6:** | **NORMS, DEMOCRATISATION AND MULTIPOLARITY IN A GLOBAL MIDDLE EAST** |

**WEDNESDAY 1st JULY:**

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| **09:00 - 11:00 BST** | **PANEL 7:** | **RISING POWERS AND REGIONAL DYNAMICS** |
| **11:15 - 13:15 BST** | **PANEL 8:** | **RACE, RELIGION AND SECTARIAN POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST** |

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| **14:00 - 16:00 BST** | **PANEL 9:** | **DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY IN A CHANGING TURKEY** |
| **16:30 - 18:30 BST** | **PANEL 10:** | **CIVIL CONFLICT AND DISORDER IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST** |

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**MONDAY 29th JUNE:**

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| **PANEL 1:** | **REGIONAL POWERS 1 | CHAIR: JASMINE GANI**   * **Ideological Polarity and Decision Makers Perceptions: Under-Balancing in the Middle East-The Case of Saudi-Turkish Engagement after the Arab Spring**   **Umer Karim | University of Birmingham**   * **Historical Legacies and Inter-State Order in the Middle East: Competing Perceptions of Polarity**   **Aidan Parkes | The Australian National University**   * **Agents of Change: Ideological Selection Preference in State-Militia Partnerships**   **Dylan Maguire | Northeastern University**   * **Turning Gulf Security Upside Down**   **James Dorsey | Nanyang Technological University** |
| **09:00**  **–**  **11:00 BST** |
| **PANEL 2:** | **THEORETICAL REFLECTIONS ON POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST | CHAIR: EDWARD WASTNIDGE**   * **A Bridge Between Middle East Studies and International Relations: Neoclassical Realism as a Path for Growing Collaboration Across Discipline, Area and Scholars**   **Luíza Cerioli | Philipps University of Marburg**   * **Why is There No ‘Arab’ Theory in International Relations? History, Agency and Coloniality**   **Mekia Nedjar | Oran 2 University**   * **Saudi Arabia, Iran and the ‘Second Image Reversed’: Regional Structures and Their Domestic Impact in the Contemporary Middle East**   **Simon Mabon | Lancaster University**   * **The Arab League, Sovereignty and Human Rights**   **Raslan Ibrahim | State University of New York** |
| **11:15**  **–**  **13:15 BST** |

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| **PANEL 3:** | **PALESTINE, ISRAEL AND CHANGING REGIONAL DYNAMICS |**  **CHAIR: FRANCESCO BELCASTRO**   * **Global Logistics and Israel’s ‘Tracks for Regional Peace’: The International Relations of a ‘Corridor-in-the-Making’**   **Sharri Plonski | Queen Mary University of London**   * **The Power of Scales: Changing Global Imaginations of Israel and Palestine Through Local Politics**   **Jan Wilkens| University of Hamburg**   * **How Close is Too Close: Saudi-Israeli Passive Cooperation**   **Abdulaziz Alghashian | University of Essex**   * **Surveilling Rawabi: Urban Regimes and the Reconfiguration of Israeli-Khaleeji Relations**   **Javier Guirado Alonso | Georgia State University** |
| **14:00**  **–**  **16:00 BST** |
| **PANEL 4:** | **REGIONAL POWERS 2 | CHAIR: OLIVIA GLOMBITZA**   * **The Impact of Multipolarity on Regional Alliances in the Middle East**   **Curtis R. Ryan | Appalachian State University**   * **A Yemeni Solution for Yemen: Seeing Beyond the Sectarian Perception of Conflict**   **Asher Orkaby | Princeton University**   * **Crossing Roads: Middle East’s Security Engagement in the Horn of Africa**   **Ariel González Levaggi | Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina**  **Federico Donelli | University of Genoa**   * **‘Clash of Vision’: How to Account for Ideational Factors in the ‘New’ Saudi Approach to the Middle East**   **Eyad Al Refai | Lancaster University** |
| **16:30**  **–**  **18:30 BST** |

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**TUESDAY 30th JUNE:**

**13:00 – 14:00 BST**  **THREATS AND ALLIANCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**KEYNOTE BY MAY DARWICH | UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

**CHAIR: JASMINE GANI**

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| **PANEL 5:** | **IRAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST | CHAIR: SIMON MABON**   * **Iran’s Initiatives of Constructive Engagement with the GCC**   **Luciano Zaccara | Qatar University**  **Olivia Glombitza | Autonomous University of Barcelona**   * **Oil and the US in the Saudi-Iranian Rivalry**   **Sukru Cildir | Lancaster University**   * **Locating Iran-US Relations in the Multipolarity of Middle East Politics**   **Gulriz Sen | TOBB University of Economics and Technology** |
| **14:00**  **–**  **16:00 BST** |
| **PANEL 6:** | **NORMS, DEMOCRATISATION AND MULTIPOLARITY IN A GLOBAL MIDDLE EAST |**  **CHAIR: FRANCESCO BELCASTRO**   * **International Socialisation in Reverse? The Change of Course in Morocco-EU Relations and its Influence on Morocco’s Engagement with Democratic Norms and ‘New Migration Policy’**   **Irene Fernández-Molina | University of Exeter**   * **German Soft Power in Tunisia’s Democratisation**   **Pietro Marzo| Laval University**   * **US Democracy Promotion and Syrian Civil Society**   **Jasmine Gani | University of St. Andrews**   * **Recalibrating Empires: The Agency of Small Powers in a Multipolar Middle East**   **Jeffrey G. Karam | Lebanese American University** |
| **16:30**  **–**  **18:30 BST** |

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| **PANEL 7:** | **RISING POWERS AND REGIONAL DYNAMICS | CHAIR: CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS**   * **The UAE and India in the (western) Indian Ocean: Co-operation with Elements of Competition?**   **Sumitha Narayanan Kutty | Nanyang Technological University**   * **Rising Power Responses to Middle East Conflict: Russia, India and China in Yemen, Syria and Libya**   **Guy Burton | Vesalius College**   * **India and a Multi-Polar Middle East: A Silent ‘Elephant’ in the Room**   **Mudassir Quamar| Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses** |
| **09:00**  **–**  **11:00 BST** |
| **PANEL 8:** | **RACE, RELIGION AND SECTARIAN POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST |**  **CHAIR: EYAD AL REFAI**   * **On Societal Sectarianism and Tribalism: Which Hinders Modern State Development in Saudi Arabia?**   **Mamdouh Shouman | King Abdulaziz University**   * **Decolonising the Literature on Legitimacy in the Arab Gulf**   **Hessa Alnuaimi| University of St. Andrews**   * **Iran’s Shi’i Diplomacy: Religious Identity and Foreign Policy in the Axis of Resistance**   **Edward Wastnidge| Open University** |
| **11:15**  **–**  **13:15 BST** |

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| **PANEL 9:** | **DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY IN A CHANGING TURKEY |**  **CHAIR: EDWARD WASTNIDGE**   * **The Changing China-Paradigm of Turkey**   **Beste Macaes | Tsinghua University**   * **Russia, Turkey and the Mediterranean: A Preview of a New Regional (Dis)Order?**   **Michael McCall| Syracuse University**   * **Revisionism, Law and Bureaucratic Self-Definition in ‘New’ Turkey**   **Benjamin Beames| University of Chicago** |
| **14:00**  **–**  **16:00 BST** |
| **PANEL 10:** | **CIVIL CONFLICT AND DISORDER IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST |**  **CHAIR: OLIVIA GLOMBITZA**   * **The Potential of Nationalism in Iraq: Caught Between Domestic Repression and External Co-optation**   **Maria-Louise Clausen| Danish Institute for International Studies**   * **When the Wrong Side Wins: What History Tells Us About the Prospect of a US-Syrian Reconciliation After Civil War**   **Christopher Phillips| Queen Mary University of London**   * **The ‘Odd One Out’? The Algerian Civil War and External Involvement**   **Francesco Belcastro | University of Derby** |
| **16:30**  **–**  **18:30 BST** |

**18:30 – 18:45 BST**  **CLOSING REMARKS**

**SIMON MABON | LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**