



# *Middle East Dialogue 2015: Glorious Past, Uncertain Future*

February 26, 2015- Whittemore House, Washington D.C.

**8:00 AM Registration** With coffee and Refreshments

**9:00-10:00 AM Morning Plenary in Auditorium**

*Who is the Enemy? From Al Qaida to ISIS and Paris.....*

**A talk given by Alain Bauer**

*President of the French National Strategic Research Council to the President, Professor of Criminology at the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts in Paris, Senior research Fellow at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and the University of Law and Political Science of China in Beijing*

*Conference Chairs: Professors Mohammed M. Aman & Paul J. Rich as commentators*

**10:10-11:25 – Breakout Session I: 4 Rooms**

**1. LANDSCAPES NEW & OLD: 1870s Room**

SESSION CHAIR: David R. Oppenheimer, *Oppenheimer Information Services-International Business and Scientific Services*

**The Onymic War in Syria: What Names for the New Landscape?-** Jack Keilo, *Université Paris IV Sorbonne*

**Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Carriers of Sectarianism?-** Sarah Tobin, *Brown University*

**The Shi'a Crescent-** Arash Reisinezhad, *Florida International University*

**2. RELIGION AND ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS: Harriman Room**

SESSION CHAIR: Charles Manto, *Infragard National EMP SIG*

**Islam in Morocco and Moroccan Islamic Movements-** Najah Mahmi, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

**Freedom in Islam in the Thought of Tarek al-Suwaidan-** Bader Al-Saif, Georgetown University

**Global Islamic Fundamentalism-** Susmit Kumar, *Kumar Consultancy*

### **3. WOMENS RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: Library**

SESSION CHAIR: Gwendolyn Hall, *American Public University System*

**Unholy Matrimony: Religion and Women's Rights in the State of Israel-** Michal Allon, *Tel Aviv University*

**How the WomanStats Database Advances Empirical Research that Reveals Disparities in Saudi Arabia and Yemen regarding the Security Status of Women and its Impact on Regional Security-** Jason Anderson, *American Military University*

**The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and Human Rights: Which Commitment?-** Mauro Saccol, *University of Genoa*

### **4. JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: Pub Room**

SESSION CHAIR: Mohammed Aman, *University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*

**Saudi Arabia at a Cross Road-** Ali H. Alyami, *Founder and Director, Washington-based Center for Democracy and Human Rights in Saudi Arabia, CDHR*

**Can Corporal Punishment Verses in the Qur'an be Reinterpreted to Counter Extremist Practices without Reneging on Rich Islamic Tradition?-** Wayel Azmeh, *Muslim Public Affairs Council*

**The Use and Abuse of Transitional Justice Norms in the Wake of the Arab Spring-** Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm, *University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

## **11:35-12:50 – Breakout Sessions II: 4 Rooms**

### **5. NEW TERRITORIES AND THE ARAB SPRING: 1870s Room**

SESSION CHAIR: Edward Proctor, *Logan Thornton Institute for Policy Studies and Research*

**The Diaspora of transformation: Islamism as case study-** Baballah Mahmoud, *University Abdelmalek Saadi*

**The “Arab Spring”, Democracy and Religiosity: Is Tunisia an exception?–** Hedi BenAicha, *American Public University System*

**The Role of Social Media in the Arab Spring: The Libyans Fall-** Abir El Shaban, *Washington State University*

### **6. INTERNAL SECURITY: Harriman Room**

SESSION CHAIR: Cheryl Walker, *Policy Studies Organization*

**Understanding the Sunni Realignment in Iraq using Complexity Theory-** Diane Maye, *George Mason University*

**The Contending Logics of Interventionism within Today's Middle East: a Telling Sign of Conundrums in the Late-Modern Age-** Andrew Wender, *University of Victoria*

**Assessing Iranian Security Capabilities: The Case of the Green Movement Protests, 2009-2012-** Martin Scott Catino, *American Military University/APUS*

**7. NEW STATES AND SOCIETY: Library**

SESSION CHAIR: John Ingersoll, Philosophical Society of Washington

**Political Blogging and Socio-Political Transformation: The Case of Egypt-** Sahar Khamis, *University of Maryland*

**The Egyptian Constitutions of 2012 and 2014: a Comparative Analysis-** Anja Schoeller-Schletter, *Independent Researcher and former Max-Planck Fellow*

**The Status of Entrepreneurship in Iran: Opportunities and Obstacles-** Leila Piran, *George Mason University* and Azadeh Tajdar, *ECAS Consulting Ltd.*

**8. FOOD SECURITY AND WATER POLICY: Pub Room**

SESSION CHAIR: Deborah Wheeler, United States Naval Academy

**Food Security and the Wheat Value Chain in the Middle East and North Africa-** A panel with Ghada Ahmed, Danny Hamrick, of *Duke University*

**Water and War in the Modern Age: the Enduring Hydro-Politics of The Nile-** Justin D. Leach, *Troy University*

**1:00- 2:20 –Breakout Session III: 2 Rooms**

**9. LIBYA AND SYRIA: Auditorium**

**The Failings of Western Policy:** A discussion with honored guests...

**Siwar Al-Assad-** Vice President, *The United Nationals Democratic Alliance* and Director of Arab News Network and *Al Alamia* satellite television channels

**Mark Hambley-** United States Ambassador to Qatar and Lebanon. Consul General, Alexandria and Jeddah. United States Envoy to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and the Special Negotiator for Climate Change (Kyoto).

**William Morris-** Secretary General, Next Century Foundation. Chair, International Council for Press & Broadcasting. Chair, Election Monitoring Commissions, Iraq. Former advisor, Sultanate of Oman, Liaison for relief of Misrata, Libya, 2011, Labour candidate for Police Commissioner of England & Wales, 2012.

**10. RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST: Pub Room**

**Religious Dimension of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:** A discussion with honored guests...

[Warren Clark](#)- Executive Director, *Churches for Middle East Peace*, [Patrick Theros](#)- US Ambassador to Qatar (1995-1998), [Rabbi Charles Feinberg](#)- Adas Israel, [Jonathan Brown](#)-Georgetown and led by [Alon Ben-Meir](#), *New York University*

## 2:30- 3:45 PM- Breakout Sessions IV: 3 Rooms

### 11. ISLAMIC EXTREMISM: Pub Room

**Causes Behind the Rise of Islamic Extremism and How to Address It: A discussion with honored guests...**

**Siwar Al-Assad**-*The United Nationals Democratic Alliance*, [Robert Worth](#)- *New York Times*, and [Radwan Ziadeh](#)- *Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies*, led by **Alon Ben-Meir** (*New York University*)

### 12. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: 1870s Room

SESSION CHAIR: David R. Oppenheimer, *Oppenheimer Information Services-International Business and Scientific Services*

**An Optimistic Possibility for the Future Middle East-** Lawrence Davidson, *West Chester University*

**Dynamics of Foreign Policy-Making in China, with a Focus on the Middle East-** Yiyi Chen, *Center for Middle East Peace Studies Shanghai Jiao Tong University*

**Ethnocentrism and Negotiations in International Settings-** Bagher Fardanesh, *University of Maryland, R. H. Smith School of Business*

### 13. TERRORISM: Harriman Room

SESSION CHAIR: Zoreh Ghavamshahidi, *Middle Eastern Studies Coordinator, Department of Political Science and Women Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater*

**Suicide Terrorism: Competing Explanations and Policy Implications-** Ivan Sascha Sheehan, *University of Baltimore* and David V. Sheehan, (Professor Emeritus) *University of South Florida*

**Middle East and Global Transnational Terrorism – How can the West Win?-** Sariel Birnbaum, *San Diego State University*

## 3:55- 5:10 PM – Breakout Sessions V: 3 Rooms

### 14. PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT: 1870s Room

SESSION CHAIR: Hedi Ben Aicha, *American Public University System*

**Intergroup Dialogue as a Just Dialogue: How to Avoid Normalization in Campus Dialogues-** Diala Khalife, Adrienne Dessel and Hind Omar of the *University of Michigan*

**Past and Present: The Role of Historic Narratives in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict-** Josef Olmert, *University of South Carolina*

**Instilling Hope for Resolution in the Context of Intractable Intergroup Conflicts-** Oded Adomi Leshem, *School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University*

**15. IRAN: Library**

SESSION CHAIR: Akram R. Elias, *Capital Communications*

**Iran's Nuclear Program-** Arash Reisinezhad, *Florida International University*

**Surveying and Assessing Iran: Ideology, Proxies, and Technology in the 21st Century-** Tony Rivera, *Laboratory for Unconventional Conflict Analysis & Simulation*

**Lessons from Iran's System of Compensated Kidney Donation-** Sigrid Fry-Revere, *Stop Organ Trafficking Now!*

**16. BOOK SIGNING WITH ALON BEN MEIR: Pub Room**

Hosted by Professor Mohammed Aman, **books are complimentary for guests, kindness of *Westphalia Press* and the *Digest of Middle East Studies***

Dr. Alon Ben-Meir will be signing and discussing his two books ***Spring or Cruel Winter? The Evolution of the Arab Revolutions*** (2014) and ***Toward the Abyss: Israel and the Palestinians*** (2015)

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