

Emerging Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Scholars Workshop

By the Defence and Security
Foresight Group

Monday

May 3, 2021

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

 **Defence & Security Foresight
Group**





About

Defence and Security Foresight Group

The Defence and Security Foresight Group (DSF Group), directed by Dr. Bessma Momani from the University of Waterloo, is a network of academics across Canada, and abroad, who provide foresight on pivotal defence and security issues. We have five thematic teams and one GBA+ team.

Middle East and North Africa

Led by Dr. Aisha Ahmad (University of Toronto) and Dr. Thomas Juneau (University of Ottawa), this team focuses on emerging threats in the region, on challenges posed by jihadist movements and terrorist organizations, as well as on CAF stabilization engagements and assistance to local security forces.

Agenda

9:30-9:40 a.m.

Welcoming remarks

Thomas Juneau

Associate Professor – Graduate School of Public & International Affairs, University of Ottawa

9:40-10:55 a.m.

I. Digital Media, Mobilization & Contestation

Discussant: Bessma Momani

Full Professor – Department of Political Science; Assistant Vice-President, Research and International – Office of Research, University of Waterloo

Ruba Ali Al-Hassani

Doctoral candidate – Osgoode Hall Law School, University of Toronto

State Sovereignty in Social Media Discourse: Post-2003 Iraq

Alexei Abrahams

Data scientist – Shorenstein Center, Harvard University

Measuring the (in)security of Palestinian civil society web infrastructure

Hiba Zerrougui

Doctoral candidate – Department of Political Science, McGill University

When Taking to the Streets Delivers the Good: Making Sense of Protest Politics in Bouteflika's Algeria

Julie A. Gramaccia

Doctor – Information & Communication Sciences, Université Bordeaux-Montaigne; Public Communication, Université Laval

Targeting French-speaking audiences in Isis propaganda: a semiotic analysis of strategic narratives

10:55-11:05 a.m.

Coffee break

11:05 a.m. –
12:20 p.m.

II. Theories of Decision & Policy Making

Discussant & Chair: Laurence Deschamps-Laporte

Visiting Professor and Researcher – Department of Political Science; Montreal Centre for International Studies (CÉRIUM), Université de Montréal

Azadeh Momeni

Doctoral candidate – Department of Political Science, Carleton University

Iranian Foreign Policy Paradigm Shift Under Khatami Presidency Based on His Operational Code

Ezra Karmel

Doctoral candidate – Department of Political Science, University of Guelph

Governing Authoritarian Monarchies: Policy Making in Jordan

Neslihan Akpınar

Doctoral student – Department of Political Science, University of Alberta

Turkey's Education Policies towards Syrian Refugees: A Critical Multicultural Education Approach

Sari Madi

Doctoral candidate – School of Industrial Relations, Université de Montréal

A Comparative Look at Policy change in the MENA region: What Can We Learn from Labour Market

12:30-1:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker**Sandra McCardell**

*Assistant Deputy Minister – Europe, Arctic, Middle East & Maghreb
Global Affairs Canada*

1:00-1:15 p.m.

Break

1:15-2:30 p.m.

III. Institutions & Security**Discussant & Chair: David B. Dewitt**

University Professor Emeritus & Senior Scholar – Department of Politics, York University

Benjamin Toubol

Doctoral candidate – Department of Political Science, Université Laval

From fragmentation to hybridization: Military multipolarity and the oligopoly of violence in Iraqi Kurdistan

Abdul Yosufi

Doctoral student – Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University

Political Institutions and State Capacity

Karim El-Baz

Doctoral candidate – War Studies, Royal Military College of Canada

Some Other “WMD” Rationale in the Middle East: The Conditional Legitimacy Model

Dilan Okcuoglu

Postdoctoral fellow – School of International Service, American University

A Micro-Analysis of Territorial Control in Turkey: Rethinking the Kurdish Case at the Local Level

2:30-2:40 p.m.

2:40-3:55 p.m.

3:55-4:00 p.m.

Coffee break

IV. Politics, Religion & Identities

Discussant & Chair: Aisha Ahmad

Associate Professor – Department of Political Science; Co-Director of the Islam and Global Affairs Initiative – Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto

Mathieu Rowsell

Doctoral candidate – Department of Political Science, University of Ottawa

Moderate Islam as a diplomatic tool: a comparative analysis of religious diplomacy between Morocco and Senegal

Vahid Yucesoy

Doctoral candidate – Department of Political Science, Université de Montréal

Political Economy of Islamists' Moderation: Comparative Evidence from Iran and Turkey

Mohamad El-Jabi

Doctoral student – School of Conflict Studies, Saint Paul University

The Islamic State” and the “Iraqi Islamic Party:” Competing Rationalizations and the Question of Iraq’s Christian Minority

Seyed Ali Hosseini

Doctoral candidate – Balsillie School of International Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University

Resurgence of Fundamentalism in Post-Taliban Afghanistan; A Sociocultural Perspective on Peacebuilding

Closing remarks

Thomas Juneau

Associate Professor – Graduate School of Public & International Affairs, University of Ottawa