REGISTRATION BEGINS 8:00 AM

OPENING REMARKS and ROUNDTABLE SESSION 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

Paul J. Rich, PhD, President, Policy Studies Organization (PSO), Washington, DC

Mohammed M. Aman, PhD, Professor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM)

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:
The Current Situation in Syria: Problems and Prospects

Secretary General William Morris and Ambassador Mark G. Hambley of the Next Century Foundation (NCF)

PANEL SESSIONS BEGIN

*Special Video Presentation:

The Chinese Dream and China’s developing role in the Middle East
Dr. Yiyi Chen, Shanghai Jiao Tong University - This year Dr. Chen will be submitting a virtual presentation, which will be played through-out the day in the Past Presidents Room. We welcome you to watch the video when your schedule permits.

SESSION I - LIBRARY
10:00 – 11:20 AM

CULTURE/CIVIL SOCIETY

Palestinian Sulha and the Rule of Law
Professor Brian Kritz, Conflict Resolution Program at Georgetown

The Role of Culture in Civil Society Promotion in the Middle East: A Case Study Approach
Dr. Soumia Bardhan, Penn State University
The Effects of Current Leadership Models in a Post-Saddam Iraq
Dr. Brandt Smith Jr., American Military University

Debates on Politics, Economics, and Culture as Jordan Joins the GCC
Dr. Sarah A Tobin, Northeastern University

Session Chair: David Oppenheimer, Oppenheimer Information Services
International Business and Scientific Services

SESSION II- 1870S ROOM
10:00 – 11:20 AM

EGYPT

The Transformative Political and Communication Landscapes in Egypt: From Mobilization to Polarization
Dr. Sahar Khamis, University of Maryland, College Park

The Ultras Political Role and the State in Egypt
Mr. Mohamed A Elgohari, New York University

Egyptian Bread Subsidy or CCT: Game Theory Application
Dr. Hebatallah Ghoneim, German University in Cairo

The Resilience of Egypt’s Deep State: Are there any Challengers Left?
Dr. Denis J. Sullivan, Northeastern University

Session Chair: Guillermo de los Reyes, University of Houston

SESSION III- BLAIR ROOM
10:00 – 11:20 AM

RELIGION

Religious Minorities in Egypt: The Challenge of Sectarianism and the Limits of Nationalism
Dr. Lina Beydoun, Brookings Doha Center
The Role of Religion in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Reflections from the Field of Religion
Dr. Robert Eisen, George Washington University

The Liberal Secular-Military Alliance: A Roadblock to Democracy in the Middle East
Professor Lawrence Davidson, West Chester University

Convergences of Politics and Religion within the Contemporary Middle East: A Medium for Reflecting on Existing Paradigms and New Possibilities
Dr. Andrew Wender, University of Victoria

Session Chair: Dr. Jennifer Bremer, American University in Cairo

SESSION IV - PUB ROOM
11:30 – 12:50 PM

ACADEMIC BOYCOTTS CONSIDERED

The American Studies Association’s View on Conflicts in the Middle East: A Review of the Issues Behind the Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions

The ASA Boycott Resolution and the Work of Jewish Voice for Peace
Carolyn Karcher of the ASA, and Temple University

ASA, BDS, and Opportunities for Faculty/Student Campus Coalitions
Craig Willse of the ASA, and George Mason University

Session Chair: Dr. Paul Rich, Policy Studies Organization

Commentators:
Dr. William Zartman, SAIS Johns Hopkins University
Dr. Edward Rhodes, George Mason University,
Dr. Ernst Benjamin, American Association of University Professors

*Because of the contentious nature of the subject, there will be a room provided at the venue in which conversation on the matters discussed, can be continued. We understand that for many this is a controversial subject, but we must insist that discussion be kept on a civil footing.*
SESSION V - LIBRARY
11:30 – 12:50 PM

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Reframing and Addressing Key Issues in Intra- and Inter-state Conflicts: Morocco as a Hub for Regional Dialogue and Conflict Resolution
Dr. Adina Friedman, School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution

An Analysis of Makovsky’s Border Proposals in Light of Palestinian Needs
Dr. Andrew Wilson, Barrytown College of UTS

Post-conflict Transition in Syria: Paths to Democracy
Dr. Radwan Ziadeh, Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies

War Prevention Through Dialogue: An Intervention in the Middle East
Ms. Sahar Namazikhah, George Mason University

Session Chair: Russell Kitchner, VP, Office of Regulatory and Governmental Relations

SESSION VI- 1870S ROOM
11:30 – 12:50 PM

DEMOCRACY

Iranian Constitutional Reform: The Role of Democracy in Drafting a New Constitution
Mr. Amir Fakhravar, Institute of World Politics

The Status of Democratic Reforms in Turkey: Obstacles and Opportunities
Dr. Leila Piran George Washington University

Clarifying a Contested Concept: Regime Change from Within
Dr. Ivan Sascha Sheehan, University of Baltimore

My Tribe is My Country: Violence in Jordanian Universities and What it Means for Jordan’s Reform Movement
Ms. Dima M. Toukan, Integrated Services Indigenous Solutions (ISIS)

Session Chair: Dr. Richard Pera, American Public University System
PLENARY SESSION- AUDITORIUM
1:00- 1:50 PM

A talk given by Dr. John Limbert:

Iran and America: Endless Enemies?

Dr. John Limbert is the Distinguished Professor of International Affairs at the U.S. Naval Academy. He was Dean of the State Department's School of Language Studies and Chief of Mission in Khartoum, Sudan. Ambassador Limbert was president of the American Foreign Service Association and Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. He was one of the first civilian officials to enter Baghdad after the war and was responsible for cultural affairs, including restoring the looted Iraqi Museum.

His overseas experience also included tours in Algeria, Djibouti, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. He holds three Harvard degrees and has been Senior Fellow at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs. His books include Iran: At War with History and Shiraz in the Age of Hafez.

Ambassador Limbert holds the Department of State's highest award - the Distinguished Service Award - and the rarely given Award for Valor, which he received after fourteen months as a hostage in Iran when the embassy there was seized. His foreign languages include Persian, Arabic, and French.

SESSION VII- BLAIR ROOM
2:00 -3:20 PM

THE ARAB SPRING

Ripeness, The Unanswered Question for a Middle East Dialogue
Dr. William Zartman, SAIS-Johns Hopkins

A Sectarian Spring: The Continuing Struggles in Bahrain
Dr. Martin Catino, American Military University

Session Chair: Jill Kurtz, American Public University System
SESSION VIII- 1870S ROOM
2:00 – 3:20 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Harshness in the Middle Eastern Criminal Justice Systems: Contemporary Practice of Capital Punishment in the Middle East
Dr. Sanaz Alasti, Lamar University: Texas State University System

Gendered Bodies in Public Space: Arab Women, Violence, and Change
Dr. Maria Holt, University of Westminster

Nationalism and Universal Human Rights: The Case of Egypt
Mr. Justin Hoyle, Central Michigan University

Session Chair: Matthew Brewer, Policy Studies Organization

SESSION IX- LIBRARY
2:00 – 3:20 PM

SECURITY

Searching for the Man of Peace: Traditional, Cultural, Islamic Mediation
Dr. Jonathan Zartman, Air Command & Staff College

The Elusive Quest for Regional Security after the Arab Spring: external intrusion and internal imbalances in the Middle East
Dr. Keith Grant and Dr. Bernd Kaussler, James Madison University- Co-Presenters

Chair: TBA

SESSION X- LIBRARY
3:30 – 4:50 PM

EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Forgiveness in Arab Schools
Mr. Tarek Maassarani, Salam Institute for Peace and Justice
Dr. Iham Nasser, George Mason University
Infusing Student-Centered Pedagogy and Civic Values in Religious Education Workshop
Mr. Tarek Maassarani, Salam Institute for Peace and Justice
Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Salam Institute for Peace and Justice

Chair: TBA

SESSION XI- BLAIR ROOM
3:30 – 4:50 PM

DIALOGUE AND POLITICS IN MIDDLE EAST

Why has the opportunity of Diplomacy through ‘Dialogue among Civilizations’ lost? A critical analysis of internal reasons regarding to Iran
Ms. Fatemeh Chirani, Duisburg-Essen University- Germany- Presenting via Skype

Universalism and Mutual Recognition: The Holocaust in Contemporary Palestinian Discourse
Ms. Ibtisam Abujad, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Kuwaiti Mother of Child with a Disability Sense of Support and Burden
Ms. Tahani Alsabah, Texas Woman's University

Applying the Deterrence Theory on The Libyan Context
Mr. Abir El Shaban, Washington State University

Chair: Whitney Shepard, Policy Studies Organization

END OF PROGRAM
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