



المركز العربي للأبحاث ودراسة السياسات
Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies

The Arab World and China

Future Prospects of Relations with a Rising Power

May 21 - 22, 2016

[Time Table](#) | [Participants](#)



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Time Table

Day One

May 21, 2016

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| 9:00-9:15 | Opening Remarks |
| 9:15-11:00 | Session One: Chinese Strategy in the Arab Region Chair: Marwan Kabalan Wu Bingbing : China's Policy towards the Arab World: Foundations and Elements Kadhim Niama : The Arab World within China's Global Strategy Degang Sun : China's Soft Military Footprints in the Middle East Rabeh Zaghouni : China's Transformed View of the Arab World: from Global Economics to Geopolitics |
| 11:00-11:30 | Coffee Break |
| 11:30-13:00 | Session Two: Historical and Cultural Aspects of the Sino-Arab Relationship Chair: Faleh Al-Hajri Moain Sadeq : Sino-Arab Relations and Maritime Trade: from the Seventh to the Tenth Centuries Gao Youzhen : Sino-Arab Relations: Partnership Throughout History Zakaria Sadek El-Refaiey : The Islamic Revival Movement in China (1912-1949) Chamseddin Alkilani : Medieval Arab Appreciation for Chinese Wisdom and Organization |
| 13:00-14:30 | Lunch Break |

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| <p>14:30-16:00</p> | <p>Session Three: The "Belt and Road" and Sino-Arab Economic Interaction</p> <p>Chair: Hassan Aly</p> <p>Laurence J. Brahm: One Belt One Road and the New Consensus Jonathan Fulton: China's One Belt One Road and the GCC Ayman Al Hammad: The New Silk Road and Prospects for Cultural Exchange: Obstacles and Challenges Samir Seifan: Economic Development: Comparative Approaches of China and the Arab States</p> |
| <p>16:00-16:30</p> | <p>Coffee Break</p> |
| <p>16:30-18:00</p> | <p>Session Four: A Reading of Sino-Gulf Relations</p> <p>Chair: Khalid Al-Jaber</p> <p>Timothy Niblock: Situating the GCC in China's Transforming Role in Asia Mohammed Al-Sudairi: Sino-Saudi Relations: in Need of a Different Narrative? Hassan Aly: Unlimited Supplies of Labor: a Comparison of the Gulf and Chinese Experiences Hamed Al Abdullah and Hasan Johar: The Role of the Media and Public Diplomacy in Bolstering China-Kuwait Relations</p> |

Day Two

May 22, 2016

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| 9:00-10:30 | <p>Session One: China's Position on the Arab-Israeli Conflict</p> <p>Chair: Mohammed Al Misfer</p> <p>Ezzat Shahrour: Transformations in Chinese Public Attitudes towards the Arabs and the Arab-Israeli Conflict</p> <p>Mahmoud Muhareb: China-Israel Relations since the End of the Cold War</p> <p>Mansur Hou Yuxiang: The Belt and Road: Deepening China's Role in the Middle East Peace Process</p> <p>Abdulhamid Shalabi: China and the 1956 "Suez Crisis": Reading into the Egyptian Foreign Ministry Archives</p> |
| 10:30-11:00 | <p>Coffee Break</p> |
| 11:00-12:30 | <p>Session Two: Chinese Policy towards the Arab Spring</p> <p>Chair: Burhan Ghalioun</p> <p>Jin Liangxiang: China's Policy Toward the Arab World in the Changing Regional Context</p> <p>I-wei Jennifer Chang: Evolution of Chinese Policies on the Syrian Conflict</p> <p>Ho Wai-Yip: How China thinks about Yemen: Towards a Responsible Policy in the Middle East</p> <p>Jie Wang: Sino-Libyan Relations in the post-Jamahiriya Era: the Logic of Exploring Overseas Market(s)</p> |
| 12:30-13:00 | <p>Coffee Break</p> |

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| 13:00-14:30 | <p>Session Three: China's Relations with Non-Arab Regional Powers</p> <p>Chair: Ayman Al Hammad</p> <p>Manochehr Dorraj: China's Relations with Iran and Saudi Arabia: a Delicate Balancing Act</p> <p>Tugrul Keskin: Turkish-Chinese Relations in the Crucible of Modern Uyghur Nationalism</p> <p>Saeed Shafqat: China's Rise: How is it Impacting the Gulf, Iran and Pakistan?</p> <p>George Jiuzhou Duan: The Implication of US Global Strategy Shift on Sino-Gulf Relations</p> |
| 14:30-16:00 | <p>Lunch Break</p> |
| 16:00-17:30 | <p>Session Four: China's Relations with Arab States</p> <p>Chair: Abdelwahab El-Affendi</p> <p>Ali Yousef Ahmad Alsharif: China-Sudan Relations: Partnership or Dependency?</p> <p>Ibtisam Mohammed Abed Yass: China's Policy towards Iraq Since 2003</p> <p>Mahmoud Zakaria Ibrahim: China-Egypt Relations Since the End of the Cold War</p> <p>Asmaa Ben Musheirah: Chinese Soft Power in Algeria: Mechanisms and Future Prospects</p> |
| 17:30-18:00 | <p>Coffee Break</p> |
| 18:00-19:30 | <p>Roundtable Discussion</p> <p>Chairs: Imad Mansour and Mohammed Al-Sudairi</p> |



Participants

| Participant | Biography |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Abdel Aziz al-Uwaishiq | Commissioner for international economic relations at the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He is also Head of the Economic Integration Department and Studies at the GCC General Secretariat. He formerly served as an economic consultant with the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations, New York. |
| Abdulhamid Shalabi | Professor of Modern and Contemporary History and Head of the Department of History and Civilization at Hail University, Saudi Arabia, he is a member of the Arab Historians Union and the Egyptian Historical Association. He received his PhD in History from Ain Shams University, Egypt. |
| Abdelwahab El-Affendi | Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Doha Institute For Graduate Studies. He previously served as Associate Professor of Political Science at the Center for Democratic Studies at the University of Westminster in London. Since 1998, he supervised the Democracy and Islam program at the center he founded. He earned a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Reading in Britain. |
| Ali Yousif Ahmed Alsharif | Executive Director of the Association of the Arab Chinese Friendship Societies. Alsharif has been Ambassador of Sudan to China, Belgium, the European Union and South Africa, and worked as a diplomat in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kenya, Czechoslovakia and Tunisia. He holds a PhD in International Law from Charles University in Prague. |
| Asmaa Ben Musheirah | Professor at the College of Law and Political Science, Mouloud Mammeri University of Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria. A researcher specializing in international competition in Asia with a focus on the role of China in the regional and global order, Musheirah received her MA in Political Science from the University of Constantine, Algeria. |
| Ayman Al Hammad | Lead writer for <i>Al Riyadh</i> newspaper and political analyst interested in Chinese affairs and nuclear energy. He has lectured at the Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Riyadh and at the College of Media and Communications, Imam Muhammad ibn Saud University. He has an MA in Media from King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. |

| Participant | Biography |
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| <p>Burhan Ghalioun</p> | <p>Director of the Centre d'Etudes sur l'Orient Contemporain (CEOC, “the Center for the Study of the Contemporary East”). He is professor of Political Sociology at the Université de Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle). In March of 2011, Ghalioun became the first President of the Syrian National Council, the body which brought together all factions of the Syrian opposition under one umbrella. He is widely published in both Arabic and French, and holds two doctoral degrees from France’s Sorbonne University: one in Humanities and a second in Political Sociology.</p> |
| <p>Chamseddin Alkilani</p> | <p>Researcher within the Unit for Contemporary Syrian Studies at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. Alkilani has written extensively in the fields of culture and politics, with a special focus on Arab cultural perceptions of Europe, East Asia, and Africa. His book <i>The Transformation of Syrian Elites’ Attitudes Toward Lebanon</i> was published by the ACRPS in 2012.</p> |
| <p>Degang Sun</p> | <p>Professor at the Middle East Studies Institute, Shanghai International Studies University, China. His latest articles (with Yahia H. Zoubir) are, “China's Response to the Revolts in the Arab World: A Case of Pragmatic Diplomacy,” <i>Mediterranean Politics</i>, and “China’s Economic Diplomacy towards the Arab Countries: challenges ahead?” <i>Journal of Contemporary China</i>.</p> |
| <p>Ezzat Shahrour</p> | <p>Al Jazeera Bureau Chief in Beijing and a political analyst specializing in Chinese affairs. He was a Palestinian diplomat in a number of Asian countries and official spokesman for the Palestinian embassy in Beijing.</p> |
| <p>Faleh Al Hajri</p> | <p>Deputy Editor-in-Chief at Qatar’s <i>Al Sharq</i> newspaper. He holds a degree in Mass Communication from Qatar University.</p> |
| <p>Gao Youzhen</p> | <p>A former Ambassador and Diplomat with posts in Egypt, Yemen, Algeria, Oman, the UAE, and Qatar, Youzhen is interested in international affairs and is a Middle East specialist. He was formerly the translator for the Chinese president and the Chinese cabinet of ministers.</p> |

| Participant | Biography |
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| George Jiuzhou Duan | PhD candidate in Political Science at Tsinghua University, China. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School and will become Visiting Scholar at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, American University in Cairo. Duan received his Masters degree in Middle East studies from Peking University, China. |
| Hamed Al Abdullah | Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, Kuwait University, as well as the Assistant Dean for Research, Consultancy and Training at the Faculty of Social Sciences. A specialist on Islamist movements and Middle Eastern affairs with several papers to his name, Al Abdullah earned his PhD at Manchester University in 1989. |
| Hasan Johar | Kuwaiti academic and Head of the Department of Political Science at Kuwait University. Johar earned a PhD in International Relations at Florida State University in 1989, and is the author of several research papers covering Gulf security, energy policy and political Islam. Johar was elected to Kuwait's National Assembly and served as a parliamentarian from 1996 to 2011. |
| Hassan Aly | The Founding Dean of the School of Public Administration and Development Economics and Professor of Economics at the Doha institute for Graduate Studies. Aly is also Professor Emeritus of Economics at Ohio State University and currently serves as President of the Middle East Economics Association. He is a member of the Economic Research Forum's Board of Trustees. |
| Ho Wai-Yip | Associate Professor of the Department of Social Sciences, Hong Kong Institute of Education. Previously a Visiting scholar at the Oxford Centre for Muslim-Christian studies, Visiting Researcher at the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies in Sana'a, and Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University. He specializes in Islamic Studies, China's Christian-Muslim relations and sociology of Muslim societies. |
| Ibtisam Mohammed Abed Yass | Researcher specializing in Asian affairs, she was formerly Chair of the Asian Studies Department at the Center for International Studies at Baghdad University (2012-2013). She has written numerous books and articles and holds a PhD in political science from the Political Science Faculty, Baghdad University (2007). |

| Participant | Biography |
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| <p>Imad Mansour</p> | <p>Assistant Professor in the Department of International Affairs, and Director of the research group on International Affairs and Security at the Center for Humanities and Social Sciences - Qatar University. He is also Vice Chair of the Global South Caucus of the International Studies Association. He is the author of 'Statecraft in the Middle East: Foreign Policy, Domestic Politics and Security' (I.B.Tauris, 2016).</p> |
| <p>I-wei Jennifer Chang</p> | <p>Research Assistant in International Affairs and U.S. foreign policy at an embassy in Washington, D.C. She has written for the Middle East Institute's "Middle East-Asia Project," Jadaliyya, Middle East Research and Information Project, and Duke University's ISLAMiCommentary. She received a Masters in International Relations from the University of Maryland.</p> |
| <p>Jie Wang</p> | <p>An independent researcher focusing on transnational demographic movement between China and the MENA region, and Libya exile politics. She has published academic papers on the Chinese migrant community in pre-2011 Libya and Chinese multilingual practice in Cairo. She holds a (res) M.A. (cum laude) in modern Middle Eastern studies from Leiden University, the Netherlands.</p> |
| <p>Jin Liangxiang</p> | <p>Research fellow with Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS). Liangxiang mainly focuses on Middle East international relations and China-Middle East relations. He was formerly a visiting fellow at the Truman Institute, the Baker Institute and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He holds a PhD in international relations from the Shanghai International Studies University.</p> |
| <p>Jonathan Fulton</p> | <p>Teaches Political Science at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. His research focuses on Chinese foreign policy and China's relations with the Middle East. He is currently completing a PhD at the University of Leicester, where his dissertation analyses China-GCC relations.</p> |
| <p>Kadhim Niama</p> | <p>Editor of the Journal of International Studies and Director of the Center for International Studies at Baghdad University, Niama also chairs Strategic Studies at al-Bakr University and Regional Studies in Libya. He has authored numerous published works and studies in International Relations. Niama obtained his master's degree and his doctorate from the School of International and Strategic Policy at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.</p> |

| Participant | Biography |
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| <p>Khalid Al-Jaber</p> | <p>Head of the Al-Sharq Center for Research and Opinion Surveys and Assistant Professor of Political Communication in the Gulf Studies Program at Qatar University. Al-Jaber was previously the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of <i>Al-Sharq</i>, and is now the Editor-in-Chief of the English language <i>Peninsula</i>, a part of the same newspaper group. He is a scholar of Arab and Gulf studies whose research focuses on media, political communication, and international relations.</p> |
| <p>Laurence J. Brahm</p> | <p>International lawyer, economist and author. He is the founder of the Himalayan Consensus Institute and one of the earliest spokespersons for an African Consensus. He has advised a number of Asian governments on economic reform and environmental policy, and was advisor to China's Environmental Protection Ministry on the drafting of the Ecological Civilization policy for nation-wide conversion from fossil fuels to renewable and efficient energy.</p> |
| <p>Leila Chérif-Chebbi</p> | <p>Associate member at Cetobac (Centre of Turkish, Ottoman, Balkanic and Central Asian studies, EHESS, Paris). She holds a Masters diploma of Contemporary Arab World Analysis from Sciences-Po. Her latest publication is "Between 'Abd al-Wahhab and Liu Zhi: Chinese Muslim Intellectuals at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century", in Jonathan Lipman ed., <i>Islamic Thought in China. Sino-Muslim Intellectual Evolution from the 17th to the 21st Century</i>.</p> |
| <p>Mahmoud Muhareb</p> | <p>Associate Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. A Palestinian academic, his publications cover Zionism and Israel, the Palestinian Cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Muhareb earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Reading in the UK.</p> |
| <p>Mahmoud Zakaria Ibrahim</p> | <p>Researcher in International Relations and Assistant Lecturer in Political Science at the Institute for African Research and Studies, Cairo University. He has published widely and holds an MA in political science from the Institute for African Research and Studies, Cairo University.</p> |

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| <p>Makio Yamada</p> | <p>Visiting Fellow in GCC Energy at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, and a Teaching Fellow at SOAS, University of London. His publications include "Saudi Arabia's Look-East Diplomacy" in <i>Middle East Policy</i> (2015), and "Gulf-Asia Relations as 'Post-Rentier' Diversification?" in <i>Journal of Arabian Studies</i> (2011). Yamada received his DPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford.</p> |
| <p>Manochehr Dorraj</p> | <p>Professor of International Affairs at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. He has published extensively on China-Middle East relations and has presented his scholarship in national and international symposiums, including those in Johns Hopkins, Yale, Harvard, Queens University, and Nottingham University. He received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin, USA.</p> |
| <p>Mansur Hou Yuxiang</p> | <p>Researcher at the Strategy Center for Silk Road Studies at the International Relations University, Shanghai. He holds an MA from the Arabic Language Department of International Relations University, Beijing, and was a visiting student at the Arabic Language Institute at King Saud University. He has many contributions and translations in Arab/Chinese cultural fields.</p> |
| <p>Marwan Kabalan</p> | <p>Head of the Policy Analysis Unit and Contemporary Syria Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He was previously Dean of the Faculty of International Relations and Diplomacy at the University of Kalamoon, Damascus, Syria. Kabalan is the author of several books and essays in politics and international relations. He earned his PhD at Manchester University, UK.</p> |
| <p>Moain Sadeq</p> | <p>Professor of History and Archaeology at Qatar University. He previously taught at the University of Chicago and the University of Toronto. His major teaching and research interests are in history and archaeology of the Middle East. He excavated at various archaeological sites in Qatar (1980-1984) and Palestine (1994-2000). Sadeq received his PhD from the Free University of Berlin.</p> |
| <p>Mohammed Al Misfer</p> | <p>Professor of Political Science at Qatar University. He is a regular columnist for both Doha-based and pan-Arab newspapers, and writes widely on Arab nationalism and related issues. Al Misfer earned his PhD in Political Science from New York University.</p> |

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| Mohammed Al-Sudairi | PhD candidate in Comparative Politics at the University of Hong Kong and a research affiliate with both the King Faisal Center and the Gulf Research Center. He is a graduate of Peking University, the London School of Economics, and Georgetown University. Al-Sudairi has spent several years in China, and speaks Arabic, English and Chinese. |
| Rabeh Zaghouni | Lecturer in International Relations at Guelma University, Algeria, he is interested in foreign policy analysis and political development. Zaghouni has contributed to many academic conferences and has a PhD in International Relations and Strategic Studies from Batna University, Algeria. |
| Saeed Shafqat | Professor and Founding Director, Centre for Public Policy and Governance, Forman Christian University, Lahore, Pakistan. He is a founding member and former Chairman of the Department of Pakistan Studies at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. Shafqat has also been an Adjunct Professor at the School of International Affairs and Public Policy (SIPA), Columbia University (New York, USA). He obtained his PhD in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. |
| Samir Seifan | Associate Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He has published widely on economic affairs and has a particular interest in economic reforms in Syria. Seifan is the author of a 2011 Arabic language volume on the Chinese economy. He received a Higher Diploma from the Higher Technical Institute in Leipzig, Germany, in 1987. |
| Shaojin Chai | Research fellow at the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development in the UAE. He previously taught at Zayed University, UAE, and several prominent universities in China. Chai got his PhD in Comparative Political Theory from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA. His research interests include comparative religions/political philosophy, cultural dialogues and China-Arab cultural relations. |

| Participant | Biography |
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| <p>Timothy Niblock</p> | <p>Emeritus Professor of Middle East Politics at the University of Exeter, having previously served as Director of the University's Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies from 1999 to 2005. He also holds visiting professorships at a number of Chinese universities. Among his recent books are the edited works <i>Asia-Gulf Economic Relations in the 21st Century: the Local in Global Transformation</i>, (2013), and <i>Security Dynamics of East Asia in the Gulf Region</i> (2014).</p> |
| <p>Tugrul Keskin</p> | <p>Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Maltepe University, Turkey and also teaches African Society and Politics at Isik University. He previously taught at the Department of International and Global Studies and as an affiliated faculty of Black Studies, Sociology and the Center for Turkish Studies at Portland State University. Keskin received his PhD in Sociology from Virginia Tech.</p> |
| <p>Wu Bingbing</p> | <p>Senior Research Fellow of the Institute for International and Strategic Studies (IISS), Peking University, Deputy Director of the Department of Arabic Language and Culture as well as Director of the Institute of Arab-Islamic Studies. He obtained his PhD from Peking University, China.</p> |
| <p>Zakaria Sadek El-Refaiey</p> | <p>Associate professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the Faculty of Arts, University of Hail, Saudi Arabia. He is a member of the Union of Arab Historians, and the Egyptian Historical Association. He holds a PhD in Arts, Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University in Egypt.</p> |

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