



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

The Arab World and Russia: Current Transformations of an Enduring Relationship

May 23-24, 2015

[Time Table](#)

[Participants](#)



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Time Table

Day One

May 23, 2015

09:00-09:15	Opening remarks
09:15-11:00	Session One: The Cultural and Historical Aspects of the Russo-Arab Relationship and Their Current Implications Chair: Marwan Kabalan Alikber Alikberov: The Arabs and Russia in the Midst of Global Challenges within the World Order: On the Role Played by History in the Interaction of Civilizations Fasih Baderkhan: The Founding Principles of Russian Civilization, and their Influence on Russian Foreign Policy, Past and Present: the Case of the Middle East Kadhim Hashim Niama: Russia and the Middle East in the Wake of the Cold War: Opportunities and Challenges Marina Sabronova: The Dynamics of the Russo-Arab Relationship in the Aftermath of the Bipolar World: 1990-2015
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Session Two: Shifts and Changes in the Global System and the Impact on the Russian Role in the Arab Region Chair: Aref Dalila Faisal Abu Salib: The Impact of Regional and Global Changes on Russian Policy towards the Arab Gulf States James Nixey: Russian Foreign Policy Towards the West - End of Illusions John Parker: Russia's Interests in the Middle East: the Impact of the Ukraine Crisis Mohammed Hemshi: Russia as a Revisionist Power within the World Order: is it Good News for the Arabs?
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break

14:30-16:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session Three: Russian Approaches to the Arab Spring</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Burhan Ghalionn</p> <p>Maxim Suchkov: Russia and the Arab Spring: Changing Narratives and Implications for Regional Policies</p> <p>Marwan Kabalan: Motives and Trends in Russian Foreign Policy towards the Syrian Crisis</p> <p>Omar Abdulaziz: The Russian Position on the Yemeni Crisis After the Arab Spring</p> <p>Sergei Stokan: Arab-Russian Relations: Who Lost Whom?</p>
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-18:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session Four: Russia's Relations with Non-Arab Regional Powers: the Impact on the Arab World</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Elnour Hamad</p> <p>Rod Thornton: Russia-Iran Relations and their Effect on the Wider Middle East</p> <p>Lana Ravandi-Fadai: Russian-Iranian Relations in the Putin-Rouhani Era</p> <p>Hasan Özertem: Turkey-Russia Relations in the 2000s: Compartmentalizing Crises, Conserving Cooperation</p> <p>Mahmoud Muhareb: Russian-Israeli Relations in the Aftermath of the Cold War: the Fallout for the Arab World</p>
18:00 – 18:30	Coffee Break
18:30-19:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Lectures</p> <p>Karim Mroue: A Critique of Russia's Relations with the Arab World Since the Czarist Empire</p> <p>Andrey Kortunov: Is There a Role for Russia in the Arab World?</p>

Day Two

May 24, 2015

9:00-10:30	<p>Session Five: The Arabs, Russians and Islam: Interactions and Reciprocated Stereotypes</p> <p>Chair: Jamel Ardhaoui</p> <p>Mohammad al-Masri: Arab Public Opinion Towards Russia</p> <p>Salam Mosafir: The Arab in the Russian Media</p> <p>Ahmed Abdulhafez Fawaz: Islam in Russia: the Politicization of an Ethnic and Religious Identity</p> <p>Mohammed Al Hajji Al Drissi: The Arab Émigré Community in Russia: a Possible Vehicle for Enhancing Russo-Arab Relations?</p>
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:30	<p>Session Six: Russian Policy in the Levant</p> <p>Chair: Abdulwahab Al Qassab</p> <p>Emmanuel Karagiannis: Russian Foreign Policy in the Eastern Mediterranean: Does it Really Exist?</p> <p>Essam Abdel Shafy: Russian Foreign Policy Towards Egypt After the January 25th Revolution</p> <p>Ahmad Said Nufal: Russian Policy towards the Palestinian Cause: 2000-2015</p> <p>Galia Fazelianova: Russian Business in Arab Countries: Promising Patterns of Development</p>
12:30-13:00	Coffee Break

13:00-14:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Session Seven: Russian-Gulf Relations: Economy, Politics and Security</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Jawad al-Anani</p> <p>Elena Melkumyan: Political Relations Between Russia and the Gulf Region Nasser Bin Ghaith: Russia and the GCC: History, Politics and Economics Majed al-Turki: Saudi-Russian Relations Grigory Kosach: The Political Aspects of the Saudi-Russian Relationship</p>
14:30-16:00	Lunch Break
16:00-17:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel Eight: Russian Policy in the Arab Maghreb and the Horn of Africa</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Abderrahim Benhadda</p> <p>Abderrahim Lataoui: Russia and Morocco: Statics and Dynamics Kacem El Hadeg: Fixed and Changing Variables in Russian Policy towards North Africa: the Cases of Algeria and Morocco Abdulhai Ali Qasem Saleh: Russo-Libyan Relations: Prospects in the Wake of the 2011 Revolution Mohamed Ahmed Sheikh Ali: Somali-Russian Relations: Past, Present and Future Prospects</p>
17:30-18:00	Coffee Break
18:00-19:30	<u>Panel Discussion on Russo-Arab Relations</u>



Participants

Participant	Biography
Abderrahim Benhadda	Associate Dean, Program Head and Professor of History at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He is former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Mohammed V University, Morocco, is the Director of the Mediterranean and the Islamic World laboratory and was Director of the journal Hespéris-Tamuda between 2009 and 2014.
Abderrahim Lataoui	Professor of Russian Language and Literature, Lataoui served as head of the Department of Russian Language and Literature in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University Mohammed V in Rabat, Morocco 1967-2005. He holds a Doctorate of the State from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Hassan II University, Aïn Chok, Casablanca for his 1993 dissertation on the theme "Russian Orientalism and Arabic and Islamic Studies in Russia." In 1988, he received the Pushkin Medal for Russian Language and Literature.
Abdulhai Ali Qasem Saleh	Lecturer in Public Law at Sanaa University, Saleh has also worked as a researcher at the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies. An author of many academic articles and publications, he obtained his doctorate in Public Law specializing in International Relations from the Abdul-Malik al-Saadi University in Tangiers, Morocco, in 2013.
Abdulwahab al-Qassab	Associate Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS). Al-Qassab was a member of the Iraqi Armed Forces from 1966 to 1991, and retired with the rank of Rear Admiral. As a researcher, he worked with the Center for Arab World Studies, Al-Mustansiriya University, and the Center for International Studies, Baghdad University. He earned his PhD in Strategic Studies from Campbell University in North Carolina, USA.
Ahmad Said Nufal	Professor of Political Science at Yarmouk University specializing in International Relations, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and issues of Arab Unity and Political Reform. He has worked in a number of Arab universities including the University of Kuwait, as a visiting professor at Bir Zeit University in Palestine, the Sorbonne and Versailles University in France, the University of Toronto, and as an advisor in the Arab League bureau in Paris. He holds a PhD in International Politics from the Sorbonne and a PhD in Political Science from Cairo University.

Participant	Biography
Ahmed Abdelhafez Fawaz	Lecturer in Political Science in the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University. Fawaz is currently living in the UK where he is a visiting researcher at Aberdeen University. The focus of his research interests is the problematic of diversity, identity politics, and minorities with special reference to Muslim minorities in the former Soviet Union. He holds a PhD in international relations from St. Andrews in Scotland.
Alikber Alikberov	Head of the Central Asia and Caucasus Section at the Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
Andrey Kortunov	Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council, Kortunov was previously the Deputy Director of the Institute for US and Canadian Studies, and is the Founder and first president of the Moscow Public Science Foundation. He graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, pursued postgraduate studies at the Institute for US and Canadian Studies, USSR Academy of Sciences and holds a Ph.D. degree in History. He is the author of over 120 publications dedicated to the analysis of Soviet/Russian-American relations, global security, and the foreign and domestic policy of the USSR and Russia.
Aref Dalila	Senior Economics Researcher at the Orient Center for Research in the United Arab Emirates. Dalila was previously the Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Aleppo, and was an economic advisor in Kuwait from 1981 to 1986. He was dismissed from his later academic duties at the University of Damascus because of his political work and lectures, and was detained by the Syrian authorities. Dalila earned a PhD in Economics from Moscow University in 1972.
Burhan Ghalioun	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 PhD's from France's Sorbonne University: one in Humanities and a second in Political Sociology.

Participant	Biography
Elena Melkumyan	<p>Professor in the Department of Oriental Studies at the Russian State University for the Humanities. Her research interests include International Relations in the Middle East, History of Gulf States, and Regional Organizations. Melkumyan obtained her PhD in 1978 from the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, and the theme of her dissertation was: Socio-political Development of Kuwait after Independence.</p>
Elnour Hamad	<p>is a Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, where he is the Academic Supervisor of the Center's website and is in charge of the Arabic Editing Department. In addition, Hamad is the Managing Editor of Siyasat Arabia. He taught at a number of universities in the United States before moving to Qatar where he was the Head of the Department of Art Education at Qatar University. He holds a PhD in Art Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MA from the University of Miami. His first degree was from Sudan's College of Fine and Applied Arts.</p>
Emmanuel Karagiannis	<p>Senior Lecturer at King's College London's Department of Defence Studies. After completing his PhD in post-Soviet politics, he lived and worked in the former Soviet Union. Karagiannis has published extensively on Russian foreign policy, energy politics, political Islam in Central Asia, and interstate relations in the Eastern Mediterranean.</p>
Essam Abdel Shafy	<p>Academic and a former Visiting Professor at a number of universities across the Middle East, including the universities of Alexandria and Damhour in Egypt, and Beirut Arab University. Abdel Shafy, who earned a PhD in Political Science and International Relations from Cairo University in 2009, was also previously a Professor at the Arab Open Academy, based in Denmark, and Turkey's ROSHD Virtual University. Abdel Shafy is currently the Director of the Research and Studies Department in the Diplomatic Center for Studies and Dispute Resolution (Qatar).</p>

Participant	Biography
Faisal Abu Salib	Assistant Professor in the Political Science department of the Social Science faculty at the University of Kuwait since September 2009. Abu Salib headed the American Studies unit in the same faculty from 2010 to 2014. He has published a number of articles and books on US foreign policy on the Gulf region and gained a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Manchester in 2009.
Fasih Baderkhan	Researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Deputy President of the Scientific Center for Russian-Arab Dialogue.
Galia Fazelianova	Russian scholar of Oriental Studies with extensive practical business background spanning over 15 years in investments and energy sectors. Fazelianova holds a master's degree in Regional Economics from the Moscow State University, Institute of Asian and African Studies. The current scope of her academic and professional interests includes the GCC's energy, investment and financial markets.
Grigory Kosach	Professor at the Contemporary East Department, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow. He earned his PhD from the Institute of Political Science, Russian Academy of Sciences, in 1978, and the theme of his dissertation was: Political Coalitions in Syria: 1960 – 1978. His areas of specialization include International Relations in the Arab World, Middle East and Central Asia, and Political Parties in the Arab World and Central Asia.
Hasan Özertem	Director of the Center for Energy Security Studies at the International Strategic Research Organization (USAK). He is a contributor to the German Marshall Fund's "On Turkey Series" and one of Turkey's prominent foreign policy monthlies "Analist". He is also the co-editor of the academic journal "Review of International Law and Politics". Özertem's research interests are security, political economy, energy, elite politics, Russia, the Caspian Basin, and Turkish Foreign Policy.
Jamel Ardhaoui	Published poet and a journalist at Al Jazeera, where he directs the Al Mashaa ("The Roving" or "The Peripatetic") cultural television program, and was the network's Moscow Bureau Chief from 2007 to 2012. In 1988, Ardhaoui obtained an MA in Philosophy from the Department of Aesthetics at the Kiev State University in the Soviet Union.

Participant	Biography
James Nixey	Head of the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House. His principal area of research concerns the relations between Russia and the other post-Soviet states. He has published papers and articles in books and journals, and commented extensively in national and global media. He has also organized hundreds of private expert roundtables on Russian and Eurasian affairs while at Chatham House and briefed corporate executives, governments and NGOs.
Jawad al-Anani	Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Foreign Minister from 1997-98. He also held a number of other ministerial posts prior to that. Al- Anani was formerly the Head of the Economic Research department at the Jordanian Central Bank. In 1970 he obtained his MA in economics from Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, and a PhD in economics from the University of Georgia also in the United States in 1975.
John Parker	Adjunct Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies of the National Defense University, and a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center. He served from 1974-2010 in the US Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the Office for Russian and Eurasian Analysis. Parker has served two tours at the American Embassy in Moscow. He holds a PhD from Yale University.
Kacem El Hadeq	Research Professor in Modern History, he is interested in the fields of modern and current history and international relations. He has participated in a number of national and international seminars and has published a range of peer-reviewed studies and articles. He received his doctorate from Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Fez.
Kadhim Hashim Niama	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.

Participant	Biography
Karim Mroue	A left-wing thinker, Mroue was Deputy Secretary General of the Lebanese Communist Party from 1984 to 1992. Throughout his professional life he wrote for the Arabic press, and has made many contributions in the field of political thought and theory dealing with issues of culture in the Arab world, questions of socialism, and the major Arab causes. He has written more than 20 published books and many studies in al-Tariq magazine.
Lana Ravandi-Fadai	Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer in Persian language at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. Fadai has published numerous articles on Iranian domestic and foreign affairs. She obtained an MA from the Moscow State University of International Relations and a PhD from the Department of Iranian Studies of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow.
Mahmoud Muhareb	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.
Majed al-Turki	Head of the Center for Media and Arab-Russian Studies, and since 2009 an academy member of the Russian Academy of Social Sciences. He holds a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Moscow, 2004, and a PhD in Media Systems and Policy from Imam University in Riyadh in 1998. He has authored more than 20 articles on media and in political and historical domains and has undertaken the supervision of a number of translations from Russian to Arabic.
Marina Sabronova	Researcher in the Department of Oriental Studies at the Russian Foreign Ministry's Institute of International Relations.
Marwan Kabalan	Associate Researcher 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. Kabalan is the author of several books and essays in politics and international relations. He earned his PhD at Manchester University, UK.

Participant	Biography
Maxim Suchkov	Expert with the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), and a columnist for Al-Monitor's Russia Pulse. He is also a Fellow at the Institute for Strategic Studies based in the North Caucasian city of Pyatigorsk and Associate Professor at Pyatigorsk State Linguistic University's School of International Relations. Formerly a Fulbright Visiting Fellow at Georgetown University, his expertise covers Russian foreign policy in the Middle East and the post-Soviet space, US-Russia relations and developments in the Caucasus.
Michel Kilo	Syrian writer and a member of the Syrian National Coalition. Kilo is a former president of Syria's Center for the Defense of the Freedom of Expression and of Opinion. Kilo took part in the drafting of the Damascus Declaration, and has translated works of political philosophy into Arabic.
Mohamed Ahmed Sheikh Ali	Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Economics and Political and Management Science, International University of Africa. His research interests are in the fields of politics, civil society, religion, development, and Africa's international relations. He has authored and contributed to five books. He obtained a PhD in African studies from the Institute for African and Asian Studies, Khartoum University in 2004.
Mohammad al-Masri	Coordinator of the Arab Opinion Index Project at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. Al-Masri holds an MA and a PhD from Durham University in the UK.
Mohammed Al Hajji Al Drissi	Research Professor in Sociology and International Relations at Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh. He has published a number of publications on the subject of "brain drains". He obtained his PhD in International Law and International Relations in 2011.
Mohammed Hemshi	Doctoral Researcher at the University of Batna in Algeria and Assistant Professor in International Relations at the University of Oum El Bouaghi, Hemshi is now preparing his doctoral thesis on "The Fifth Debate in International Relations: Towards the Incorporation of Complexity Theory in the Field". His research interests encompass theories in the field of international relations, security studies, and studies in global governance.

Participant	Biography
Nasser Bin Ghaith	<p>Researcher in international economic blocs, who has worked as a lecturer at the Sorbonne's Abu Dhabi Branch, 2009 - 2011. He has published a book in English on the decision-making process in the World Trade Organization. He holds a master's degree in international law from Case Western Reserve University and holds a PhD in international economic law from the University of Essex in Britain.</p>
Omar AbdulAziz	<p>Director of Research and Development, Editor of al-Rafid magazine and Chairman of the management board of the Arab Cultural Club in Sharjah. Formerly, he was a Lecturer at the University of Aden, managing director of South Yemeni television, and General Director of the Fine Art Institute in Aden. He holds a PhD in international economics and has dozens of publications in philosophy, aesthetics, criticism, and economics.</p>
Rod Thornton	<p>Professor at King's College London and currently based at the Joann bin Jassim Joint Command and Staff College, Al Wakrah. His original degree being in Russian, Thornton has written widely on the Russian military. He has lived and worked in both Kiev and Moscow and is the author of Asymmetric Warfare: Threat and Response in the 21st Century (Polity Press, 2007).</p>
Salam Mosafr	<p>Chief correspondent and political analyst for Russia Today Arabic-language channel. He worked in local Iraqi media, specifically Al-Joumhuriya, for more than 30 years. He holds a doctorate in journalism from Moscow State University's school of journalism.</p>
Sergei Strokan	<p>Moscow-based geopolitical analyst and an observer with Russia's "Kommersant" Publishing House. He is also a host of "Red Line", a weekly analytical program broadcast by Sputnik International and an author of Troika Report, published by Russia Beyond The Headlines (RBTH) media company. Strokan is a regular contributor to leading international electronic and print media like Aljazeera, BBC World, CNN, CCTB.</p>
Zafer al-Ajmi	<p>Executive Director of the Gulf Monitoring Group. A retired colonel in the Kuwaiti Air Force, tenured professor at the University of Kuwait, and a frequent commentator in the Gulf press, al-Ajmi obtained his doctorate in Arabian Gulf security from the Kuwaiti branch of the Joint Services Command and Staff College based in Camberley, UK.</p>

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