



A Virtual Conference of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Conference Participants: Biographical Notes



Jessy Abouarab, Ph.D.

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies
Center for Women's and Gender Studies
Florida International University*

Jessy Abouarab holds a Ph.D. in International Relations, majoring in foreign policy and security studies in the Middle East, specializing in women's and gender studies. Her interdisciplinary academic approach is legal-normative, fostering critical thinking about security studies, refugee governance, and norm translation through participatory learning methods when probing the nature of questions, issues, materials, and problems under study. She recently published a book on *Reframing Syrian Refugee Insecurity Through a Feminist Lens: The Case of Lebanon* (Lexington Books, 2020). In addition, as a feminist Middle Eastern scholar and an enthusiastic activist, Abouarab's non-academic work includes grassroots advocacy and community organizing to increase the power, voice, and leadership of marginalized communities in advancing global justice.



Cemil Aydin, Ph.D.

*Professor of International/Global History
Department of History
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill*

Cemil Aydin is professor of international/global history at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's Department of History. He studied at Boğaziçi University, İstanbul University, and the University of Tokyo before receiving his Ph.D. degree at Harvard University in 2002. Cemil Aydin's publications include his book on the *Politics of Anti-Westernism in Asia* (Columbia University Press, 2007); *The Idea of the Muslim World: A Global Intellectual History* (Harvard University Press, Spring 2017); "Regions and Empires in Political History of the World, 1750-1924" in *A Emerging Modern World, 1750-1870* (A History of the World, Book 4) Ed. by Jurgen Osterhammel and Sebastian Conrad (Harvard University Press, May 2018), pp: 33-277.



Antonella Caruso
Founder and Executive Director
LAMEDINA Institute
Los Angeles, CA

Antonella Caruso is Founder and Executive Director of LAMEDINA, Los Angeles Institute for International Dialogue, in the process of being formed and filing for nonprofit status. She was previously the UN Director of the Middle East and West Asia division in the Department of Political Affairs. She previously worked in Baghdad where she developed and directed a track II Iraqi Dialogue on national reconciliation that led to the formation of the first parliamentary caucus on national reconciliation (2008-12). She worked in private and public sectors, in particular as senior adviser on the MENA region to the CEO of the Italian energy company ENI and to the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs. She has collaborated with the Italian media group l'Espresso and she has authored several scientific publications on medieval and contemporary Islam.

LAMEDINA fosters peaceful coexistence in increasingly multicultural societies across the world, through high-level dialogue processes and in-depth studies and analysis of issues of interest. LAMEDINA co-organized the LA Dialogue on Creating Cities of Belonging in Los Angeles on March 4-5, 2020 under the chairmanship of the HR United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Miguel Angel Moratinos and the Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti. Click [here](#) to read full bio.



Jocelyne Cesari, Ph.D.
J. Dernot Dunphy Visiting Professor of Religion, Violence, and
Peacebuilding at Harvard Divinity School
Professor of Religion and Politics
Director of Research at the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public
Understanding of Religion at Birmingham University
Senior Fellow at Georgetown University's Berkeley Centre
President of the European Academy of Religion

Jocelyne Cesari holds the Chair of Religion and Politics and is director of research at the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom; at Georgetown University she is a senior fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. President elect of the European Academy of Religion (2018-19), her work on religion and politics has garnered recognition and awards: 2020 Distinguished Scholar of the religion section of the International Studies Association, Distinguished Fellow of the Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs and the Royal Society for Arts in the United Kingdom. She is a Professorial Fellow at Australian Catholic University's Institute for Religion, Politics and Society. Her new book, *We God's Nations: Political Christianity, Islam and Hinduism in the World of Nations* is forthcoming at Cambridge University Press.

Her most recent publications are: *What is Political Islam?* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2018 special mention of the religion section of the International Studies Association); *Islam, Gender and Democracy in a Comparative Perspective* (Oxford University Press, 2017), co-authored with Jose Casanova; *The Awakening of Muslim Democracy: Religion, Modernity and the State* (Cambridge University Press, 2014); and *Why the West Fears Islam: An Exploration of Islam in Western Liberal Democracies* (2013). Her book *When Islam and Democracy Meet: Muslims in Europe and in the United States* (2006) is a reference in the study of European Islam and integration of Muslim minorities in secular democracies. She edited the 2015 *Oxford Handbook of European Islam*.

She coordinates a major web resource on Islam in Europe.



Juan R.I. Cole, Ph.D.

*Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History
University of Michigan*

Juan R. I. Cole is Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan. For three and a half decades, he has sought to put the relationship of the West and the Muslim world in historical context. His most recent book is *The New Arabs: How the Millennial Generation is Changing the Middle East* (Simon & Schuster, July 2014). He also authored *Engaging the Muslim World* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007) and many other books. He has translated works of Lebanese-American author Kahlil Gibran. He has appeared on PBS's *Lehrer News Hour*, *ABC World News Tonight*, *Nightline*, the *Today Show*, *Charlie Rose*, *Anderson Cooper 360*, *Rachel Maddow*, *Chris Hayes' All In*, the *Colbert Report*, *Democracy Now!* and many others. He has given many radio and press interviews. He has written widely about Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and South Asia. He has written about the upheavals in the Arab World since 2011, including about Sunni extremist groups and Shiite politics. He has regular columns at *The Nation* and *Truthdig*. Cole commands Arabic, Persian and Urdu and reads Turkish, knows both Middle Eastern and South Asian Islam. He lived in various parts of the Muslim world for more than a decade, and continues to travel widely there. A bibliography of his writings may be found [here](#).



Mohammad Homayounvash, Ph.D.

*Director, Jaffer Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and Education, Miami-Dade College
Lecturer, Steven J. Green. School of International & Public Affairs, FIU
and the Religious Studies Department, University of Miami*

Mohammad Homayounvash is the founding director of the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and Education at Miami-Dade College and a lecturer at the School of International & Public Affairs at FIU and the Religious Studies Department at the University of Miami. He is the author of *Iran and the Nuclear Question* (Routledge, 2017). Formerly, he has been a fellow at Hertog Global Strategy Initiative at Columbia University and a Nuclear History Research fellow for Wilson Center's Nuclear Proliferation International History Project (NPIHP) at Monash University in South Africa. He has previously been a visiting scholar at Miami Dade College and a visiting professor of international relations at Garodia International College and Louisiana State University (LSU).



Robert E. Hunter, Ph.D.

*Former U.S. Ambassador to NATO under President Clinton
The Ambassador Partnership*

Ambassador Hunter served as United States Ambassador to NATO (1993-98) and at the Ambassador Partnership (London). He has served as the National Defense University, Director of West European and Middle East Affairs on the National Security Council Staff in President Jimmy Carter's administration, and as President of the Atlantic Treaty Association headquartered in Brussels. He is Chairman of the Council for the Community of Democracies, a member of the Secretary of State's International Security Advisory Board, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of the American Academy of Diplomacy.

Ambassador Hunter has written more than 1200 publications, including journal articles, book chapters, op-eds, and books: *Building Security in the Persian Gulf* and *Education Never Ends*. He has also been a leading speech writer for several U.S. Presidents and Vice Presidents. A Fulbright Scholar, Ambassador Hunter attended Wesleyan University (B.A.) and the London School of Economics (PhD).



Tugrul Keskin, Ph.D.

*Professor and Director, Center for Global Governance
Institute of Global Studies
Shanghai University*

Tugrul Keskin is Professor and Director of the newly established Center for Global Governance at Shanghai University. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Virginia Tech, with graduate certificate degrees in African Studies, Social and Political Thought, and International Research and Development. He has been the graduate director at the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Maltepe University in Turkey. He taught at the Department of International and Global Studies and at the Center for Turkish Studies at Portland State University, where he also served as the Middle East Studies coordinator for six years. His research and teaching interests include international and global studies, social and political theory, African society and politics, sociology of human rights, islamic movements, and sociology of the Middle East.

Professor Keskin is also the founder and moderator of the *Sociology of Islam* mailing list, and the founder and editor of the *Sociology of Islam* (Brill journal) and region editor for Middle East and North Africa of *Critical Sociology* (Sage journal).

Among his most recent publications: "Middle East Studies after September 11: Neo-Orientalism, American Hegemony and Academia", Brill 2018; "U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East: from American Missionaries to the Islamic State", Palgrave 2018.



Eric Lob, Ph.D

Associate Professor

Department of Politics & International Relations

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Eric Lob is an associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University. His research focuses on the politics of development in the Middle East and beyond. He is the author of the book *Iran's Reconstruction Jihad: Rural Development and Regime Consolidation after 1979* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). His articles have appeared in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Iranian Studies*, *Middle East Critique*, *The Middle East Journal*, and *Third World Quarterly*, among other publications. He received the 2014 Foundation for Iranian Studies annual award for best dissertation and honorable mention for the biannual Association for Iranian Studies Mashayekhi Dissertation Award. In 2013-14, he earned a PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University and was a postdoctoral research fellow at Brandeis University's Crown Center for Middle East Studies. He is a Board of Trustees member of the American Institute of Iranian Studies (AIrS) and a member of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA).



Mohiaddin Mesbahi, Ph.D

Founding Director, Moshin & Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies

Associate Professor, Department of Politics & International Relations

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Areas of Specialization: Islam and Politics, National Security and Strategic Studies, Soviet/Russian Foreign Policy, International Relations of Central Asia.

Mohiaddin Mesbahi is a Professor at the Department of Politics and International Relations and the Director of the Moshin & Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies at School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at FIU. He received his Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies of the University of Miami in 1988. He conducted his post-doctoral research at Oxford University (England) in 1992. He teaches in the areas of Strategic Studies and National Security, Islam in international relations, Central Asia and Post-Soviet Studies and International Relations Theory.

He is the author of numerous works on Soviet-Iranian Relations and the International Relations of Central Asia and the former Soviet Union, including among others *Russia and the Third World in the Post-Soviet Era* and *Central Asia and the Caucasus after the Soviet Union: Domestic and International Dynamics*. His articles have appeared in *Central Asian Survey*, *Middle East Journal* and *Middle East Insight*. He is a member of the editorial board of leading academic journals such as *Central Asian Survey* (London), *Journal of Political Ideologies* (Oxford). His most recent works include, *Eurasia between Russia, Turkey and Iran* (2010), and "Free and Confined: Iran in the International System"(2011) A frequent speaker in major international conferences in the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, Lithuania, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Japan, Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, France, Italy, Switzerland, and Sweden, in organizations and think tanks, such as the United Nations, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Marshall Center for European Security (Germany), the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI-Sweden), the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS- London), Stockholm Defense Institute (Sweden), Stanley Foundation Forum (Washington), The Woodrow Wilson Center (Washington), The Carnegie Endowment (Washington), the Royal Institute for International Affairs (London), the Japan Institute for International Affairs (Tokyo), as well as universities such as Harvard, Oxford, the National Defense University, John's Hopkins University, Stanford and Georgetown. He has attended several United Nations sponsored conferences including the UN conference on Dialogue of Civilizations (2001), the UN sponsored conference on Environment and Security and Peace in (2005), and the UN sponsored conference on UN Reform (2005), and the International Seminars on "Planetary Emergencies-Terrorism", organized by the prestigious World Federation of Scientists in Erice (Italy) where his ideas were included in the final draft documents and reports. His current research agenda includes the role and impact of securitization of culture, identity and religion (Islam) on shaping the key characteristics of contemporary international security systems.



Costanza Musu, Ph.D
Associate Professor
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
University of Ottawa

Dr. Costanza Musu is Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *International Politics* (Palgrave). She obtained her PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Subsequently she was a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence and Assistant Professor of International Relations at Richmond University (London-UK). She has been a consultant for the Military Center for Strategic Studies – Center for Advanced Defense Studies (CeMiSS-CASD), the think tank of the Italian Ministry of Defence. She has published extensively on Western policies towards the Middle East. Her current research, supported by a SSHRC Insight Grant, focuses on the fight against the illicit trafficking of antiquities looted from conflict areas in the Middle East.



Terence G. Peterson, Ph.D
Assistant Professor
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Terrence Peterson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History, and a faculty affiliate in African & African Diaspora Studies and the Center for Muslim World Studies. From 2015 to 2016 he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. He completed his PhD in History at the University of Wisconsin Madison (2015) with a dissertation examining the French Army's efforts to win Algerian 'hearts and minds' during Algeria's war of independence from France (1954-1962). He is currently writing a book that explores the intersections between the Cold War, decolonization, and the development of contemporary counterinsurgency doctrines during the same period. His research has been supported by the Council for European Studies, the American Historical Association, and the Fulbright Program.

Dr. Peterson's teaching and research interests include Modern Europe, North Africa, and the Mediterranean; France, the French Atlantic, and the French Empire; Colonialism and Imperialism; Military, Gender, and Oral History.



Eugene Rogan, Ph.D.

*Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History
Director of the Middle East Centre
St Antony's College
University of Oxford*

Eugene Rogan is Director of the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College, University of Oxford. He has a B.A. in economics from Columbia, and an M.A. and PhD in Middle Eastern history from Harvard. He taught at Boston College and Sarah Lawrence College before taking up his post in Oxford in 1991, where he teaches the modern history of the Middle East to both undergraduates and graduates as well as providing DPhil supervision. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2017.

He is author of *The Arabs: A History* (Penguin, 2009, 3rd edition 2018), which has been translated in 18 languages and was named one of the best books of 2009 by The Economist, The Financial Times, and The Atlantic Monthly. His earlier works include *Frontiers of the State in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), for which he received the Albert Hourani Book Award of the Middle East Studies Association of North America and the Fuad Köprülü Prize of the Turkish Studies Association; *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948* (Cambridge University Press, 2001, second edition 2007, with Avi Shlaim), which has been published in Arabic, French, Turkish and Italian editions; and *Outside In: On the Margins of the Modern Middle East* (I.B. Tauris, 2002). His new book, *The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East, 1914-1920*, was published in February 2015.



Reza Sanati, Ph.D

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Reza Sanati is a research fellow in the Middle East Studies Center at Florida International University in Miami. He has contributed to *Alternatives: Turkish Journal of International Relations*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *National Interest*, PBS, and *Al-Monitor*, among others.



Naisy Sarduy, Ph.D

Instructor

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Dr. Naisy Sarduy specializes on the international relations of the Middle East, with a particular focus on Iran, Islamic political movements and their relations with the West. She received her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Oriental Studies from the University of Oxford in England. She holds a Master's degree in International Studies from the University of Miami, where she wrote a thesis on "The West in Modern Islamic Political Thought", and a Bachelors' degree in French and International Relations from Florida International University.

She is currently working on a manuscript based on her research at Oxford, titled, *Iran's America: Iran's Post-Revolutionary Narrative of the United States*. The manuscript explores the narrative of the United States in the public discourse of the Islamic Republic of Iran, from the triumph of the revolution through the presidency of Hassan Rouhani. It examines the official pronouncements of Iranian leaders and ruling elite in their speeches, writings and interviews, organizes this narrative into key and central pillars and connects this discussion to the concrete policy issues that have engaged the two countries for over three decades.

Dr. Sarduy was assistant editor for *American Muslim Quarterly*, and has published on the Muslim community of the United States. She has presented her research in national conferences including the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) and the International Studies Association (ISA). Dr. Sarduy studied Persian at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, at the University of Oxford and in Tehran.

She teaches Introduction to International Relations, International Relations of the Middle East, Comparative Politics of the Middle East, Contemporary Problems in International Relations, and International Relations of Iran and the Persian Gulf.



Markus Thiel, Ph.D.

*Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence
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Markus Thiel is associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, Miami and director of FIU's Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Dr. Thiel's research interests are the political sociology of the EU and European (Union) Politics more generally, as well as Nationalism & Identity Politics. He graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 2005 and has published several EU-related articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, his research on the political sociology of the EU produced the monograph, 'The Limits of Transnationalism' (Palgrave, 2011), and 5 co-edited volumes on: 'Diversity and the European Union' (with Lisa Pruegl, Palgrave, 2009), 'Identity Politics in the Age of Globalization' (with Roger Coate, Lynne Rienner/First Forum Press, 2010), 'European Identity & Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging' (with Rebecca Friedman, Ashgate, 2012), 'Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ Claims Shape International Relations' (with Manuela Picq, Routledge, 2015) and 'EU Development Policies between Norms and Geopolitics' (with Sarah Beringer & Sylvia Maier, Palgrave, 2019). Most recently, he published a book on the linkage of European transnational civil society groups with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency: 'EU Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy' (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).

He supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics and International Organizations.




Sarah Wolff, Ph.D.

*Reader in European Politics and International Relations
Director of the Centre for European Research
Queen Mary University of London, UK
Principal Investigator Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence NEXTEUK (2019-2022)
Visiting Professor at the College of Europe*

Dr. Wolff is the Director of the Center for European Research at Queen Mary. Since 2019, she is Principal Investigator for the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence NEXTEUK project on the future of EU-UK Relations. Senior Research Associate at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations (Clingendael), her research interests include EU politics and public policy, non-majoritarian agencies, Justice and Home Affairs policy (EU migration and border management policies), as well as EU external relations and EU development aid. She is an expert on EU-Islam relations, Euro-Mediterranean relations and is since 2017 Editor of Mediterranean Politics. She is co-convenor of the ECPR Mediterranean Politics and Society Research Network since 2019 with F. Volpi. She is also a member of the advisory body to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Tunisia at the UK Parliament. She has taught at University College of London, the London School of Economics, the University Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona) and is Visiting Professor at the College of Europe.

Sarah's experience on EU politics and foreign policy was gained in various public, think tanks and higher education institutions. Before joining academia, Dr Wolff worked at the European Commission and the European Parliament. She is involved in facilitating a permanent and dynamic dialogue between citizens, academia and practitioners, as well as for active public engagement. Sarah regularly contributes in various media (Le Monde, Today Zaman, Al-Jazeera, Skynews, etc), blogs at <http://sarahwolffeu.wordpress.com/>, and tweets @drsarahwolff



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