8:00 AM Registration  With coffee and Refreshments

9:00-10:00 AM Morning Plenary in Auditorium

Who is the Enemy? From Al Qaida to ISIS and Paris…..

A talk given by Alain Bauer
President of the French National Strategic Research Council to the President, Professor of Criminology at the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts in Paris, Senior research Fellow at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and the University of Law and Political Science of China in Beijing

Conference Chairs: Professors Mohammed M. Aman & Paul J. Rich as commentators

10:10-11:25 – Breakout Session I: 4 Rooms

1. LANDSCAPES NEW & OLD: 1870s Room
   SESSION CHAIR: David R. Oppenheimer, Oppenheimer Information Services-International Business and Scientific Services

   The Onymic War in Syria: What Names for the New Landscape?- Jack Keilo, Université Paris IV Sorbonne

   Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Carriers of Sectarianism?- Sarah Tobin, Brown University

   The Shi’a Crescent- Arash Reisinezhad, Florida International University

2. RELIGION AND ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS: Harriman Room
   SESSION CHAIR: Charles Manto, Infragard National EMP SIG

   Islam in Morocco and Moroccan Islamic Movements- Najah Mahmi, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco

   Freedom in Islam in the Thought of Tarek al-Suwaidan- Bader Al-Saif, Georgetown University

   Global Islamic Fundamentalism- Susmit Kumar, Kumar Consultancy
3. WOMENS RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: Library
   SESSION CHAIR: Gwendolyn Hall, American Public University System

   Unholy Matrimony: Religion and Women’s Rights in the State of Israel- Michal Allon, Tel Aviv University


   The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and Human Rights: Which Commitment? - Mauro Saccol, University of Genoa

4. JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: Pub Room
   SESSION CHAIR: Mohammed Aman, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

   Saudi Arabia at a Cross Road - Ali H. Alyami, Founder and Director, Washington-based Center for Democracy and Human Rights in Saudi Arabia, CDHR

   Can Corporal Punishment Verses in the Qur'an be Reinterpreted to Counter Extremist Practices without Reneging on Rich Islamic Tradition? - Wayel Azmeh, Muslim Public Affairs Council

   The Use and Abuse of Transitional Justice Norms in the Wake of the Arab Spring - Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

11:35-12:50 – Breakout Sessions II: 4 Rooms

5. NEW TERRITORIES AND THE ARAB SPRING: 1870s Room
   SESSION CHAIR: Edward Proctor, Logan Thornton Institute for Policy Studies and Research

   The Diaspora of transformation: Islamism as case study - Baballah Mahmoud, University Abdelmalek Saadi

   The “Arab Spring”, Democracy and Religiosity: Is Tunisia an exception? – Hedi BenAicha, American Public University System

   The Role of Social Media in the Arab Spring: The Libyans Fall - Abir El Shaban, Washington State University

6. INTERNAL SECURITY: Harriman Room
   SESSION CHAIR: Cheryl Walker, Policy Studies Organization

   Understanding the Sunni Realignment in Iraq using Complexity Theory - Diane Maye, George Mason University
The Contending Logics of Interventionism within Today’s Middle East: a Telling Sign of Conundrums in the Late-Modern Age - Andrew Wender, University of Victoria

Assessing Iranian Security Capabilities: The Case of the Green Movement Protests, 2009-2012 - Martin Scott Catino, American Military University/APUS

7. NEW STATES AND SOCIETY: Library
SESSION CHAIR: John Ingersoll, Philosophical Society of Washington

Political Blogging and Socio-Political Transformation: The Case of Egypt - Sahar Khamis, University of Maryland

The Egyptian Constitutions of 2012 and 2014: a Comparative Analysis - Anja Schoeller-Schletter, Independent Researcher and former Max-Planck Fellow

The Status of Entrepreneurship in Iran: Opportunities and Obstacles - Leila Piran, George Mason University and Azadeh Tajdar, ECAS Consulting Ltd.

8. FOOD SECURITY AND WATER POLICY: Pub Room
SESSION CHAIR: Deborah Wheeler, United States Naval Academy

Food Security and the Wheat Value Chain in the Middle East and North Africa - A panel with Ghada Ahmed, Danny Hamrick, of Duke University

Water and War in the Modern Age: the Enduring Hydro-Politics of The Nile - Justin D. Leach, Troy University

1:00- 2:20 –Breakout Session III: 2 Rooms

9. LIBYA AND SYRIA: Auditorium
The Failings of Western Policy: A discussion with honored guests…

Siwar Al-Assad - Vice President, The United Nationals Democratic Alliance and Director of Arab News Network and Al Alamia satellite television channels


10. RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST: Pub Room
Religious Dimension of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A discussion with honored guests…

2:30 - 3:45 PM - Breakout Sessions IV: 3 Rooms

11. ISLAMIC EXTREMISM: Pub Room
Causes Behind the Rise of Islamic Extremism and How to Address It: A discussion with honored guests...

Siwar Al-Assad - The United Nationals Democratic Alliance, Robert Worth - New York Times, and Radwan Ziadeh - Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies, led by Alon Ben-Meir (New York University)

12. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: 1870s Room
SESSION CHAIR: David R. Oppenheimer, Oppenheimer Information Services - International Business and Scientific Services

An Optimistic Possibility for the Future Middle East - Lawrence Davidson, West Chester University

Dynamics of Foreign Policy-Making in China, with a Focus on the Middle East - Yiyi Chen, Center for Middle East Peace Studies Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Ethnocentrism and Negotiations in International Settings - Bagher Fardanesh, University of Maryland, R. H. Smith School of Business

13. TERRORISM: Harriman Room
SESSION CHAIR: Zoreh Ghavamshahidi, Middle Eastern Studies Coordinator, Department of Political Science and Women Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Suicide Terrorism: Competing Explanations and Policy Implications - Ivan Sascha Sheehan, University of Baltimore and David V. Sheehan, (Professor Emeritus) University of South Florida

Middle East and Global Transnational Terrorism – How can the West Win? - Sariel Birnbaum, San Diego State University

3:55 - 5:10 PM – Breakout Sessions V: 3 Rooms

14. PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT: 1870s Room
SESSION CHAIR: Hedi Ben Aicha, American Public University System

Intergroup Dialogue as a Just Dialogue: How to Avoid Normalization in Campus Dialogues - Diala Khalife, Adrienne Dessel and Hind Omar of the University of Michigan
Past and Present: The Role of Historic Narratives in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict - Josef Olmert, University of South Carolina

Instilling Hope for Resolution in the Context of Intractable Intergroup Conflicts - Oded Adomi Leshem, School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University

15. IRAN: Library
SESSION CHAIR: Akram R. Elias, Capital Communications

Iran's Nuclear Program - Arash Reisinezhad, Florida International University

Surveying and Assessing Iran: Ideology, Proxies, and Technology in the 21st Century - Tony Rivera, Laboratory for Unconventional Conflict Analysis & Simulation

Lessons from Iran’s System of Compensated Kidney Donation - Sigrid Fry-Revere, Stop Organ Trafficking Now!

16. BOOK SIGNING WITH ALON BEN MEIR: Pub Room
Hosted by Professor Mohammed Aman, books are complimentary for guests, kindness of Westphalia Press and the Digest of Middle East Studies

Dr. Alon Ben-Meir will be signing and discussing his two books Spring or Cruel Winter? The Evolution of the Arab Revolutions (2014) and Toward the Abyss: Israel and the Palestinians (2015)

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