



CONFERENCE

Unthinking the Convention: Unlearning Religious Divides, Deconstructing the Past and Reforming the Future in the Middle East

7-8 December 2018

UNESCO Amphitheatre, University of Nicosia

Main organiser:



Dialogue Chair
In Middle Eastern Studies

Co-organisers:



EMSI

Eastern
Mediterranean
Studies
Initiative



**DIPLOMATIC
ACADEMY**
UNIVERSITY of NICOSIA

Friday 7th December

- 08:30-08:45 **Registration.** Hot and cold drinks served
- 08:45-08:55 **Welcoming Remarks:** Professor Farid Mirbagheri, Dialogue Chair in Middle Eastern Studies, University of Nicosia
- 08:55-09:15 **Inauguration:** H.E. Dr Nicos Christodoulides, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cyprus
- 09:15-09:30 Video message by H.R.H. Prince Hassan of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- 09:30-10:15 **Keynote Address:** H.E. Ambassador Hesham Youssef, Assistant Secretary-General, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
Chair: Professor Farid Mirbagheri
- 10:15-11:00 Q&A
- 11:00-11:30 Break
- 11:30-12:30 **PANEL ONE: THE FUTURE OF THE PAST: REVISITING THE HISTORY OF RELIGIOUS-POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**
Chair: Dr Christina Ioannou, Associate Dean, School of Law, University of Nicosia
- Islam Contextualized or Context Islamicezed: A Discursive Narrative of Political Islam – Professor Farid Mirbagheri, Dialogue Chair in Middle Eastern Studies, University of Nicosia
 - The Ambivalence of Political Islam: Between Heresy and Heritage - Dr Naveed Sheikh, University of Keele, UK
- 12:30-13:00 Q&A
- 13:00-15:00 Lunch
- 15:00-16:00 **PANEL TWO: DIFFERENTIATED RELIGIOUS POLITICS: THE CASE OF TUNISIA VS THE TALIBAN AND THE ISIS**
Chair: Professor Achilles Emilianides, Dean, School of Law, University of Nicosia
- Nahdas's Claims on Islam vs ISIS Claiming Islam: What is at Stake for Regional and World Politics? - Professor Ahmad Moussalli, American University of Beirut
 - Rethinking Security Religious Politics: The case of extremism in Tunisia and Maghreb countries - Professor Kamal Ben Younes, Tunisian University
- 16:00-16:30 Q&A
- 16:30-17:00 Break
- 17:00-18:00 **PANEL THREE: IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES**
Chair: Dr Constantinos Adamides, Assistant Professor & Director of the Diplomatic Academy
- Iran and the United States: Natural or Convenient Enemies? - Professor Mohammad Marandi, University of Tehran
 - Why All Rapprochement Efforts Have Failed So Far? - Dr Kayhan Barzegar, University of Tehran
 - Iran and West: Week Engagement under Deep Confrontation – Dr Davood Kiani,
- 18:00-18:30 Q&A

Saturday 8th December

- 10:00-11:00 **PANEL FOUR: EGYPT: HOW CAN NATIONALISM LIVE WITH ISLAM?**
Chair: TBA
- TBA
 - TBA
- 11:00-11:30 Q&A
- 11:30-12:00 Break
- 12:00-13:00 **PANEL FIVE: INTERPLAY OF POLITICS AND RELIGION: DISPUTES IN THE ARAB WORLD**
Chair: Professor Farid Mirbagheri
- The Quartet's viewpoint - TBA
 - The Qatari viewpoint - Dr Yahya Al-Naemi, Qatar University.
- 13:00-13:30 Q&A
- 13:30-15:00 Lunch
- 15:00-16:30 **PANEL SIX: CAN A NATO-SUBSCRIBED TURKEY SURVIVE ERDOGAN'S POLITICS?**
Chair: Professor Andreas Theophanous, Head, Department of Politics and Governance, University of Nicosia
- Turkey's Hybrid Political Systems And Its Affects On The Region's Affairs: The Case Of The Cyprus Problem - Dr Nikolaos Stelgias
 - Turkey's Relations With NATO: The Past, Present And Future Of An Alliance - Dr Sevki Keralp
- 16:00-16:30 Q&A
- 16:30-16:45 Concluding Remarks: Professor Farid Mirbagheri
- 16:45 Ending of Conference, Refreshments and Snacks

