



CONFERENCE

THE MIDDLE EAST DIRECTIONS PROGRAMME (MEDIRECTIONS)

BEYOND BORDERS AND STATES: THE NEW ACTORS OF THE GLOBALISED MIDDLE EAST

Scientific Organiser: Luigi Narbone | European University Institute

Theatre

Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini, 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole



3 - 5 JULY 2017

■ INTRODUCTION

The MEDirections Programme

The Middle East Directions Programme (MEDirections) of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) at the European University Institute (EUI) is an international reference point for research on the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA). It is based on fieldwork research and mid- to long-term analysis on the under-investigated topics that are having a profound impact on societies and on the regional order, and consequences at the international level. MEDirections promotes an integrated and multidisciplinary approach, that can be of valuable use to policy makers.

The Conference

The conference will provide academic analysis and fieldwork research findings on the main dynamics and actors that are transforming the region, as well as on the links between the local dynamics and broader trans-national trends. The conference will be structured in three thematic panels, dedicated respectively to:

- the social roots of radicalisation and violence, the transformations in the religious friends and sectarianism;
- the new forms of governance that took place in the post Arab-Spring movements at the local level, including their social, political and economical relevance;
- the conventional and unconventional diplomatic processes and initiatives, the role played by non-state actors, the faith-based diplomacy, the interplay between different levels and actors of mediation.

To conclude the conference, a roundtable of a selected group of international experts from the worlds of academics, practitioners and mass media will flesh out the main points highlighted during the three panels. The objective of this debate is to encourage connections, comparisons and further perspectives.

■ DRAFT PROGRAMME

3 JULY

09.00 - 09.30

Welcome and introduction

Brigid Laffan | Director of the Robert Schuman Centre | European University Institute

Luigi Narbone | Director of the MEDirections Programme | Robert Schuman Centre | European University Institute

PANEL I - EXAMINING THE SOCIAL ROOTS OF RADICALISATION IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

What feeds religious and sectarian tensions? What are the roots of violent radicalisation? What does that entail in terms of prevention of violent extremism?

The panel will advance this debate by taking a comparative and grounded approach, presenting case studies from Western Europe and United States, including mass killings committed by non-Muslims. It will also study comparatively the foreign fighters phenomenon in the Balkans, Tunisia, Egypt and Russia. A special focus will be dedicated to Jihadisation of existing local struggles and cleavages in the Islamic world, with perspectives from South and South-East Asia, Mali, Iraq and the Caucasus.

Chair: Olivier Roy | MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

Discussants: Tine Gade & Sophie Lemièr | MEDirections, Max Weber Programme, European University Institute

09.30 - 10.30

Focus on ASIA

A tale of three groups - Understanding the social roots of Islamist radicalisation in South Asia

Speaker: **Aida Mihaela Arosoaie** | NUS-National University of Singapore

Social Roots of Radicalisation in the Bastions of Moderate Islam

Speaker: **Mohammed Nawab Bin Mohamed Osman** | NUS-National University of Singapore

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 - 13.30

Roundtable

Speakers:

Nagwan Abdelmaboud | European University Institute | Topic: Egypt

Geraldine Casutt | University of Fribourg | Topic: Women Salafis

Asiem El Difraoui | Institut für Medien- und Kommunikationspolitik | Topic: Jihadism and digital recruitment

Shpend Kursani | European University Institute | Topic: Balkans

Hamza Meddeb | MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute | Topic: Tunisia

Pascal Menoret | Brandeis University | Topic: Saudi Arabia

Lamis Muhtaseb | Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan | Topic: Jordan

Nicolas Pouillard | International Crisis Group | Topic: Lebanon

Francesco Strazzari | S.S.Sant'Anna, Pisa | Topic: Sahel

Julie Wilhelmsen | Norwegian Institute of International Affairs | Topic: Chechnya

13.30 - 14.30

Lunch

Lower Loggia

14.30 - 17.00

Roundtable continued

17.00 - 17.30

Coffee break

17.30 - 18.30

Wrap-up

18.30 - 19.30

Welcome drink

Lower Loggia

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PANEL 2 - WHO REALLY GOVERNS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

Which actors have gained prominence in the crisis areas? Which models of governance have they put in place? What does that mean for conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction? What new patterns of interaction between political and economic actors have emerged locally and at the regional level? How will the new political economy of the region impact stabilisation and reconstruction policies?

The panel will focus on the new map of formal and informal actors and powers on the ground, that emerged as consequence of the withering away or collapse of central states. It will take into consideration the local, national and transnational mechanisms and networks. It aims to analyse the new forms of governance from above and from below, as well as their interactions in the new regional order. The objective of the panel is to provide inputs for rethinking inclusive and functioning polities, stabilisation and conflict resolution, reconstruction and development within the context of a new regional order.

Panel organisers: Virginie Collombier | MEDirections | Robert Schuman Centre | European University Institute, **Amr Adly** | Carnegie Middle East Center & **Hamza Meddeb** | MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

09.00 - 09.20

Introduction

Virginie Collombier | MEDirections | Robert Schuman Centre | European University Institute

Amr Adly | Carnegie Middle East Center

Hamza Meddeb | MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

09.20 - 11.00	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Heterarchy, connectivity and locality: Emerging forms of political organisation in Libya Speaker: Thomas Hüsken University of Lucerne</p> <p>Libya's hybrid local structures, islands of stability in the midst of chaos Speaker: Ahmed Labnouj Interpeace</p> <p>Who governs the Lebanese border areas? Speaker: Jamil Moawad Institut Francais du Proche Orient & Agnès Favier MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute</p> <p>The unprecedented progression of the PYD in Syria: chellnges and risks of destabilisation Speaker: Patrick Haenni Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue</p>
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 - 12.15	<p>Tunisia's new ruling elites and the Challenges of exercising power in post 2011 context Speaker: Nejmeddine Hamrouni Former Secretary of State of Tunisia</p> <p>The Moroccan monarchy's reconfiguration of power after 2011 Speaker: Mohamed Masbah Chatham House & Crown Center for Middle East</p>
12.15 - 13.15	Discussion
13.15 - 14.30	<p>Lunch Lower Loggia</p>
14.30 - 15.30	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Power networks in Egypt Speaker: Mohammad Shaaban Madareek</p> <p>The role of bilateral investment treaties in empowering foreign investors: the case of Egypt after 2011 Speaker: Mohammed Mossallam SOAS</p> <p>The impact of fiscal and monetary policies and practices on Libya's armed conflict Speaker: Amr Farkash European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</p>
15.30 - 16.00	Session wrap-up
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 - 18.00	General discussion and panel wrap-up

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PANEL 3 - MANY PLAYERS FOR A HIGH STAKE GAME: ASSESSING MULTI-TRACK DIPLOMACY AND ITS ROLE IN ADDRESSING CRISES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Which initiatives have achieved positive results, which have failed, and why? What kind of interplay and complementarity can we observe between state and non-state diplomatic action, and more specifically between conventional and non-conventional diplomatic processes? More generally, what type of tools are

needed to achieve stabilisation and sustainable long-term resolution of crises and conflicts in the region?

The panel will examine the advantages and limits of both conventional and non-conventional diplomatic processes and mediation tools in the Middle East and North Africa, post-2011. It will cast a critical look on successful but also foiled or failed initiatives and assess the innovative role played by non-conventional actors in the diplomatic sphere.

Chair: Luigi Narbone | MEDirections | Robert Schuman Centre | European University Institute

Discussants: Agnès Favier | Institution & **Cynthia Salloum** | MEDirections | Max Weber Programme | European University Institute

09.00 - 11.00

Iraq: Diplomacy of a fragile truce is not a sustainable solution

Speaker: **Yahia Kubaisi** | Iraqi Centre for Strategic Studies

Iran after the nuclear deal: the role of economic, religious and political actors and the potential normalisation of relations with its regional neighborhood

Speaker: **Clément Therme** | International Institute for Strategic Studies

How the international actors impacted on the Syrian crisis

Speaker: **Joseph Bahout** | Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

The role played by local actors in Southern Libya

Speaker: **Mohammed Abu Swedr & Virginie Collombier** | MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

The paradoxes of Saudi “religious diplomacy”

Speaker: **Stéphane Lacroix** | Sciences Po

‘Faith-based’ and ‘conventional’ actors in international conflict mediation: between competition, co-optation and cooperation

Speaker: **Jenny Holmsen** | European University Institute

11.00 - 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00

State and non-State Diplomacy: Discussion

Animated by Luigi Narbone, Agnès Favier & Cynthia Salloum | MEDirections, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch

Lower Loggia

14.00 - 16.00

Roundtable

Crises and conflicts in the Middle East: what policy responses ?

Speakers:

Ali Erfan | Former Head of Cabinet at the Arab League General Secretary

Ersel Aydınli | Department of International Relations, Bilkent University, Ankara

Andrey Kortunov | Russian International Affairs Council

Kareem Shaheen | The Guardian

Michael Koehler | Directorate-General for Development Cooperation, European Commission

16.00 - 17.00	Break
17.00 - 17.20	<p>Launch of the MEDirections-School of Transnational Governance Summer School 'Conflicts in the Middle East: Formulating New Responses to Crises'</p> <p>Renaud Dehousse President of the European University Institute Luigi Narbone Director of the MEDirections Programme Robert Schuman Centre European University Institute Miguel Maduro Director of the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute</p>
17.20 - 19.00	<p>Opening session of the Summer School</p> <p>Luigi Narbone Director of the MEDirections Programme, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute Olivier Roy Scientific Advisor of the MEDirections Programme, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute Tarek Mitri American University of Beirut, Former Head of UNSMIL, Former Member of the Lebanese Government Jean-Marie Guéhenno Former UNDPKO, President-CEO of ICG</p>
19.00 - 19.30	<p>Aperitif Lower Loggia</p>
19.30 - 21.30	<p>Dinner Upper Loggia/Sala Bandiere</p>