



ROUNDTABLE

THE MIDDLE EAST DIRECTIONS PROGRAMME

SYRIA: HOW ARE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTORS RESHAPING THE ASSAD REGIME'S SOVEREIGNTY? LAUNCH EVENT OF THE WARTIME AND POST-CONFLICT IN SYRIA (WPCS) PROJECT

Scientific Organiser: Agnès Favier | European University Institute

Theatre

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

 @medirections #Syriainitiative

3 APRIL 2019

■ INTRODUCTION

The regional and international actors (both strong allies and rivals) involved in the war in Syria have significantly influenced the Syrian regime's capacity to reassert its control over the country. While government forces have regained military control over most of the territory, to what extent are the political agendas and influence of external actors shaping the Syrian regime's ability to regain its sovereignty over the country?

Chatham House rules apply.



The project is funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the Center for Operational Analysis and Research (COAR).

■ PROGRAMME

3 APRIL

- 15.00 - 15.10 **Opening remarks**
Luigi Narbone | Director of the Middle East Directions Programme
- 15.10 - 15.30 **Presentation of the WPCS project and the team**
Agnès Favier | WPCS Project Director, Middle East Directions Programme
- 15.30 - 15.50 **Presentation | Asking Southern Syria's Former Rebels: Is Russia a Reliable Actor in Syria?**
Abdullah al-Jabassini | Research Associate, WPCS project, Middle East Directions Programme
- 15.50 - 16.10 **Open discussion**
- 16.10 - 16.30 Coffee break
Saletta
- 16.30 - 16.50 **Presentation | Reshuffling the Cards in Northern Syria: Who Will Be the Winners and the Losers?**
Manhal Baresh | WPCS project collaborator
- 16.50 - 17.10 **Open discussion**
- 17.10 - 17.30 Concluding remarks
Steven Heydemann | Robert Schuman fellow, EUI; non-resident senior fellow, The Brookings Institution; Janet Wright Ketcham Professor in Middle East Studies and Director of the Middle East Studies Programme, Smith College.
- 17.30 - 18.30 **Drinks reception**
Lower loggia

■ **SPEAKERS**

Abdullah Al-Jabassini

Research Associate, WPCS project, Middle East Directions Programme, Robert Schuman Centre, EUI

Manhal Baresh

Collaborator, WPCS project, Middle East Directions Programme, Robert Schuman Centre, EUI

Agnès Favier

Project Director, WPCS project, Middle East Directions Programme, Robert Schuman Centre, EUI

Steven Heydemann

Robert Schuman Fellow and Professor, Robert Schuman Centre, EUI, and Smith College

Luigi Narbone

Director, Middle East Directions Programme, Robert Schuman Centre, EUI