EUROPEAN UNION
MIDDLE EAST
Relations in a Changing World

Wednesday, March 24, 2021
Florida International University, Modesto A. Maidique Campus | WEBINAR
This conference will examine the opportunities and constraints that exist for the EU to maintain and expand diplomatic and commercial relations with the Middle East, while seeking to preserve the transatlantic partnership and to promote global stability. The conference will explore the ways in which bilateral relations are vital to both regions’ geostrategic and economic interests, and how security, human rights, refugee and other issues produce a complex interrelationship. 3 virtual panels with top scholars in this area shed light on the historical context, on joint issues of concern, and on the geopolitics in which EU-Middle East relations are embedded.

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. PANEL I: HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF EU-MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS
Panel 1 addresses the histories and legacies of bilateral relations between Europe and the Middle East.

Welcome & Opening Remarks:
Markus Thiel, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department Politics & International Relations, and
Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
Florida International University

Mohiaddin Mesbahi, Ph.D.
Department of Politics & International Relations, and
Founding Director, Mohsin & Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
Florida International University

Moderator:
Dr. Naisy Sarduy
Instructor, Department of Politics & International Relations, Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, Florida International University

Panelists:
Juan R.I. Cole, Ph.D.
Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History
University of Michigan

Eugene Rogan, Ph.D.
Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History
Director of the Middle East Centre
St Antony’s College
University of Oxford

Cemil Aydin, Ph.D.
Professor of International/Global History
Department of History
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Terrence G. Peterson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of History
Florida International University
10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. PANEL II: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN EU-MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS
Panel 2 focuses on contemporary cultural, economic and political issues in bilateral relations.

Moderator:
Dr. Markus Thiel
Associate Professor
Department of Politics & International Relations, and
Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, FIU
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
Florida International University

Panelists:
Jocelyne Cesari, Ph.D.
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

Jessy Abouarab, Ph.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies
Center for Women’s and Gender Studies
Florida International University

Reza Sanati, Ph.D.
Research Fellow
Mohsin & Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies
Department of Politics & International Relations
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
Florida International University

Sarah Wolff, Ph.D.
Reader in European Politics and International Relations
Director of the Center for European Research
Queen Mary
University of London

1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. PANEL III: THE GEOPOLITICS OF EU-MIDDLE EASTERN RELATIONS
Panel 3 assesses bilateral relations between Europe and the Middle East in light of the rise of other global powers.

Moderator:
Dr. Eric Lob
Associate Professor, Department of Politics
& International Relations,
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
Florida International University

Panelists:
Antonella Caruso, Ph.D.
Founder and Executive Director
LAMEDINA Institute
Political Analyst North Africa and the Middle East

Robert E. Hunter, Ph.D.
Former U.S. Ambassador to NATO under President Clinton
Senior Fellow, John Hopkins School of
Advanced International Studies

Costanza Musu, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Co-directrice/Co-Editor: International Politics journal, Palgrave
University of Ottawa

Mohammad Homayounvsh, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and
Education at Miami-Dade College;
Lecturer, Steven J. Green School of International &
Public Affairs at FIU, and Religious
Studies Department at the University of Miami

Tugrul Keskin, Ph.D.
Professor and Director
Center for Global Governance
Institute of Global Studies
Shanghai University