

China and the Middle East: Contemporary Perspectives

5-6 June 2018

Gilman Bldg. 496

Tuesday, June 5:

16:00-16:30 Opening Remarks

Eyal Zisser

Vice Rector of Tel Aviv University and the Yona and Dina Ettinger Chair in the Contemporary History of the Middle East

Uzi Rabi

Director of the Moshe Dayan Center (MDC) for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University

Asaf Goldschmidt

Director of Confucius Institute and Co-Director of Asia on Its Own Terms Program at the Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University

16:30-18:00

Panel#1:

Chair: Asaf Goldschmidt, Tel Aviv University

Ori Sela, Tel Aviv University

“History is Our Best Teacher’: The Role of the Past in Shaping Current Sino-Middle Eastern Relations”

Geoff Wade, Australian National University

“Avenues of China’s External Influence in the Age of Xi”



12:45-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:45

Panel#4:

Chair: Brandon Friedman, Tel Aviv University

Daniel Markey, Johns Hopkins University

“China, Iran and Saudi Arabia”

Raz Zimmt, Tel Aviv University

“Longing for the West, Settling for the East: The Iranian Perspective”

15:45-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-18:00 [Gilman Bldg. room 282]

Panel#5:

Chair: Ori Sela, Tel Aviv University

Jerome Doyon, University of Oxford

“The management of Islam in China under Xi Jinping: between force and judicialization”

Andrew Small, The German Marshall Fund

“The implications of China’s changing counter-terrorism calculus for its Middle East policy”

18:00-18:15 Coffee Break

18:15-19:00 [Gilman Bldg. room 282]

Roundtable:

China and the Middle East vis-à-vis the US Withdrawal from the Iran Deal

Wednesday, June 6:

09:30-11:00

Panel#2:

Chair: Asher Susser, Tel Aviv University

Paul Rivlin, Tel Aviv University

“China’s economy, energy needs and the Middle East”

Sun Degang, Shanghai International Studies University

“China’s Participation in the Conflict Resolution in the Middle East”

Brandon Friedman, Tel Aviv University

“Through the Looking Glass: An Inside-Out Approach to China’s Evolving Role in the Middle East”

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-12:45

Panel#3:

Chair: Ori Sela, Tel Aviv University

Aron Shai, Tel Aviv University

“The Belt and Road Initiative and the Middle East – A Trying Balloon?”

Enrico Fardella, Peking University

“The BRI role in the history of the PRC and its impact on the Mediterranean region: past, present and future”

Irit Bak, Tel Aviv University

“China, Sudan and South Sudan: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives”