

**SOAS Centenary Conference**



**LONDON  
MIDDLE EAST  
INSTITUTE**

**SOAS University of London**  
— 100 Years —

# **Environmental Challenges in the MENA Region: The Long Road from Conflict to Cooperation**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS**

# Environmental Challenges in the MENA Region: The Long Road from Conflict to Cooperation

The London Middle East Institute (LMEI) at SOAS, University of London, is pleased to host the first international conference focused on the Middle East and North Africa's environmental challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century on the occasion of SOAS's centenary in 2016.

## Day 1, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016

- 9.00 – 9.40      **Registration & Coffee**
- 9.40 – 10.00    **Welcome Addresses**  
Hassan Hakimian (Director, London Middle East Institute, SOAS)  
Richard Black (Pro-Director, Research & Enterprise, SOAS)
- 10.00 – 11.00    **Keynote Speaker 1: Global Environment Outlook for West Asia**  
**Iyad Abumoghli (Director and Regional Representative, United Nations Environment Programme, West Asia, Bahrain)**  
Moderator & Discussant: John Waterbury
- 11.00 – 11.30    **Coffee Break**
- 11.30 – 13.00    **Session 1: Conflict and Political Ecology**  
Chair: John Waterbury
- Extreme Environmental Challenges in the Context of Lasting Political Crisis: the Case of Yemen**  
*Helen Lackner (LMEI, SOAS)*
- Do Virtual Waters Actually Flow? A Political Ecology of Agricultural Virtual Water (Non)flows in Palestine during the Post-Oslo Period**  
*Maria Jesus Beltran Munoz (Department of Economics, Pablo de Olavide University, Seville)*
- The Evolution of the Nile Regulatory Regime: History of Cooperation and Conflict**  
*Ahmed Tayia\* & Kaveh Madani (Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London) and Antonio Ramos & Fernando Alonso (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)*
- 13.00 – 14.00    **Lunch Break**
- 14.00 – 15.00    **Keynote Speaker 2: Science and Hope in the MENA: the SESAME Project**  
**Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith (Director of Energy Research, Oxford University and President, SESAME Council)**  
Chair: Hassan Hakimian (LMEI, SOAS)
- 15.00 – 16.00    **Session 2: Sustainable Energy (1)**  
Chair: Hamid Pouran (LMEI, SOAS)
- The Impact of Renewable Electricity on Growth: Evidence and Policy Implications for the MENA Region**  
*Philipp Dees\* & Georgeta Vidican Auktor (Frederich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg)*
- A System of Systems (SoS) Approach to Sustainable Energy Planning in the MENA Region**  
*Maral Mahlooji\*, Bora Ristic, Katherine Price, Kaveh Madani (Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London)*
- 16.00 – 17.30    **'Dust Storm' Film and Panel Discussion**  
*Andrew Goudie (Emeritus Professor of Geography, Oxford University)*  
*Carlos Perez Garcia (Barcelona Supercomputing Center)*  
*Hamid Pouran (LMEI, SOAS)*
- 17.30 – 18.30    **Reception (all welcome)**

## Day 2, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016

10.00 – 11.30

### **Session 3: The Future of the Environment in the MENA Region**

Chair: Kaveh Madani (Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London)

#### **Two Possible Climate Futures**

*Nancy Lindisfarne\* (SOAS) and Jonathan Neale\* (Global Climate Jobs)*

#### **Is the Environment of the MENA Region Already Ruined?**

*Nathalie Hilmi\* (Centre Scientifique de Monaco), Alain Safa (Skill Partners), Victor Planas-Bielsa (Centre Scientifique de Monaco) & Mine Cinar (Loyola University of Chicago)*

#### **Air Pollution in Tehran: Information Systems and Emergent Forms of (In)visibility**

*Mazyar Lotfalian*

11.30 – 12.00

### **Coffee Break**

12.00 – 13.00

### **Session 4: Water and Food Security**

Chair: Richard Black (Pro-Director, Research & Enterprise, SOAS)

#### **MENA Water and Food Security since 1950: Evidence and Economic Diversification**

*Tony Allan\* (SOAS and King's College London) & Marta Antonelli, EAWAG, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology*

#### **Achieving Water and Food Security in the MENA: Evidence and Potential for Decoupling Economic and Population Growth from National Water Needs**

*Michael Gilmont\* (Institute for Science, Innovation and Society & Environment Change Institute, Oxford University), Lara Nassar\* (West Asia-North Africa Institute, Amman), Hilmi S. Salem (EcoPeace Middle East, Bethlehem Office), Nadav Tal (EcoPeace Middle East, Tel Aviv Office), Erica Harper (West Asia-North Africa Institute, Amman) & Steve Rayner (Institute for Science, Innovation and Society, Oxford University)*

13.00 – 14.00

### **Lunch Break**

14.00 – 16.00

### **Session 5: Sustainable Energy (2)**

Chair: Massoud Karshenas (Professor of Economics, SOAS)

#### **Techno-Economic Assessment of Roof-Top Solar PV in Oman; Can Domestic Electricity Go Off-grid?**

*Juman Al-Saqlawi\*, Niall Mac Dowell & Kaveh Madani (Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London)*

#### **Renewable Energy Potential in Algeria: Opportunities and Setbacks**

*Safia Saouli (Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London)*

#### **Understanding the Islamic Perspective on the Environment: Doctrine and Practice**

*(Emmanuel Karagiannis, King's College London)*

16.00 – 16.30

### **Coffee Break**

16.30 – 17.45

### **'Aghbalou' Film and Panel Discussion**

*Tony Allan (SOAS and King's College London)*

*Kaveh Madani (Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London)*

## Poster Sessions

These posters are on display in the Brunei Suite on the Ground Floor of the Brunei Building

- Mino H. Esfehani, University of Otago  
**Disappeared Culture, Extinct Nature; a Comparative Study on the Role of Culture in Promoting Environmental Sustainability**
- Fidaa F. Haddad, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Amman, Jordan  
**Customary Law Does Count for Community Climate Change Resilience**
- Shirin Hakim and Kaveh Madani, (Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College, London)  
**Iran Post-Sanctions: An Analysis of New Opportunities for Diversifying the Nation's Energy Mix in Light of Re-Entry into the Global Economy**
- Christian Henderson, SOAS  
**The Role of Financial Markets in Gulf Capital's Acquisition of Egyptian Food and Agribusiness**
- Carly Krakow, New York University  
**Volatile Environments: Armed Conflict-Induced Water Crises in the MENA Region – Denial of Water Access and Destruction of Water Infrastructure in Syria, Iraq, and the Gaza Strip**
- Yasir Mohieldeen, Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI), HBKU, Qatar Foundation, Qatar  
**Solar Energy Resource Assessment and Solar Energy Development in Qatar**
- Tobias Zumbrägel, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
**Being Green or Being Seen as Green? Fostering Reputation and Legitimacy through Climate Protection**

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## SOAS Centenary Conference

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### Date

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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### Venue

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre  
SOAS, University of London  
Russell Square  
London WC1H 0XG

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### Admission

Corporate: £100.00 Standard: £20.00  
Students and SOAS Alumni: £10.00  
(proof of student status required)

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### Organised by

The London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI)

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### Enquiries

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