

# New trends in power and politics in the Middle East and North Africa

**Wednesday 31 January 2018, 08.30-16.00**

**Eigtveds Pakhus**

Strandgade 25G

1401 Copenhagen K

**Background**

Since the outbreak of the Arab uprisings in 2011, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has gone through a multiplicity of interrelated conflicts over power and politics. Pre-existing domestic, regional and global conflict potentials have been unleashed, and new dynamics have emerged. According to many observers, the region today faces a complex crisis that in its totality surpasses anything the region has experienced since the European decolonization in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These conflicts are primarily challenges faced by governments and societies inside the region, but are deeply interconnected with broader patterns in global and international politics and thus also interrelate with foreign and domestic policies of European and American governments.

This conference organized by DIIS · Danish Institute for International Studies in collaboration with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims to provide an analysis of six key trends in the conflicts over power and politics in the MENA region today. These trends include the increasing rivalry and competition between regional powers in the MENA region and they include the protracted domestic conflicts between autocratic governments and militarized societies. They encompass the decreasing performance of the region's rentier-based political economies and the changing forms of American hegemony in the MENA region and the emboldening of its challengers. Finally, they cover the changing forms of the European Union's foreign policy in the region following the nationalist turn in Europe and the increase in migration and terrorism.

The conference, which will be opened by the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, offers in-depth presentations by six highly esteemed international scholars as well as comments from four esteemed Danish scholars and experts. It also provides an opportunity for the audience to raise questions and debate with the speakers.

The event is organized by DIIS in collaboration with the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark](#)

### Speakers

[Anders Samuelsen](#), The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Denmark

[Stephen Grand](#), Executive Director, Middle East Strategy Task Force, Atlantic Council

[Kristina Kausch](#), Senior Research Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

[Mehran Kamrava](#), Director, the Center for International and Regional Studies, Georgetown University, Qatar

[Michele Dunne](#), Director, the Middle East Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

[Giacomo Luciani](#), Co-director, Executive Master in International Oil and Gas Leadership, Graduate Institute, Geneva

[Bassam Fattouh](#), Director, the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, and Professor, the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

### Chairs

[Rasmus Alenius Boserup](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

[Louise Riis Andersen](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

[Helle Malmvig](#), Senior Researcher and Academic Coordinator, DIIS

[Luke Patey](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

### Programme

<b>08.30-09.00</b>	<b>Arrival tea and coffee</b>
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<b>09.00-09.05</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	Rasmus Alenius Boserup
<b>09.05-09.15</b>	<b>Danish foreign policy goals in the MENA region</b>
	Anders Samulesen
<b>09.15-11.00</b>	<b>Session one: changes in American and European foreign policy in the MENA region</b>
09.15-09.45	The end of America's unipolar moment, the Trump administration, and implications for the Middle East and North Africa
	Stephen Grand
09.45-10.15	European MENA policies in a changing geopolitical environment
	Kristina Kausch
10.15-11.00	Q&A
	Chair: Louise Riis Andersen
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11.30-13.15</b>	<b>Session two: trends in domestic and regional conflict in the MENA region</b>
11.30-12.00	Persian Gulf security: the untenable balance
	Mehran Kamrava
12.00-12.30	Economy, demography, and governance as drivers of MENA conflicts
	Michele Dunne
12.30-13.15	Q&A
	Chair: Helle Malmvig

<b>13.15-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14.00-15.45</b>	<b>Session three: trends in economy, growth and business in the MENA region</b>
14.00-14.30	On the Arab rentier economies: widening the gaps
	Giacomo Luciani
14.30-15.00	Diversification in the GCC amidst heightened uncertainty: challenges and opportunities
	Bassam Fattouh
15.00-15.45	Q&A
	Chair: Luke Patey
<b>15.45-16.00</b>	<b>Perspectives: Denmark in a changing MENA region</b>
	Rasmus Alenius Boserup
<b>Practical information</b>	
The seminar will be in English and livestreamed on <a href="http://diis.dk">diis.dk</a>	
Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. Please use our online registration form no later than Sunday 28 January 2018.	
<a href="#">Sign up</a>	