



SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY
College of Economics and Political Science
Department of Political Science

INSTITUTE
OF LAW,
POLITICS AND
DEVELOPMENT



Scuola Superiore
Sant'Anna

SCUOLA SUPERIORE SANT'ANNA
DIRPOLIS Institute

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference on Peace and Security in the Middle East Muscat, October 16-17, 2017

Rationale

The Department of Political Science at Sultan Qaboos University (Oman) and the DIRPOLIS Institute of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Italy) will hold a joint international conference on 'Peace and Security in the Middle East' on 16-17 October 2017. The question of peace and security in the Middle East is timely. The conference will focus on the interrelated root causes of insecurity as well as on the ways to solve existing problems and anticipate possible future threats. Although the issue of security in the Middle East is connected to global security, the conference will attempt to point out and discuss various underdeveloped security and peace themes peculiar to the region.

The end of the Cold War left a balance of power vacuum that triggered the further fragmentation of the international system and led to what many please to call 'world disorder'. This unprecedented situation posed a direct threat to peace and security all over the world. While the Cold War was about state actors that could contain and deter each other, with possibilities of détente, the new millennium has been the sanctioned site of 'rogue states', terrorism, international organized crime, cyber threats, environmental problems, while at the same time witnessing the resurgence of the radical Far-Right, ethnic hostility, gender oppression and child labour.

PEACE AND SECURITY

The Middle East, the main focus of the conference, has not been immune to such fluctuations and, due to critical political and economic issues, it has been a center of both interest and concern for the world community. Given the historically controversial buffer zones in the Middle East as well as the recent conflicts that have crippled the region, the security situation of MENA countries (in almost all domains) has gone down a winding path. Such uncertainty begs many interesting questions about whether such states could be able to secure their national interests – while keeping strong ties with neighbours – in an uneasy political-economic conjuncture that dictates new terms of state behaviour.

The conference will be held in the Sultanate of Oman, which has constructively challenged the realist paradigm by proving that in a world of turmoil there is always room for cooperation and peace. As security is characteristically bound by conflict resolution, theorizing security should by definition pass through politics at work; and in our case the Sultanate of Oman teaches us that the alleged failure to maintain a more secure world is reduced by wise diplomacy and political common-sense.

The Conference will be organized around 8 main topics:

- *Cyber Security in the ME*
- *Petropolitics and Economic Security*
- *Legal and Political Perspectives on ME Security*
- *Conflict Resolution and Non-state Actors in the ME*
- *Theory of Security and Peace*
- *Migration Flows In and Across the ME*
- *Arms Dynamics in the ME: Trade, Transfers and Illicit Flows*
- *Cultural Diplomacy in the ME*

The final programme with the name of each panel will be made available once the selection process will be concluded.

The organizers are keen on adopting a multidisciplinary approach, which is key to enabling the cross- disciplinary interaction necessary to disentangle the many complex issues addressed in the contemporary security debate. Therefore, the conference is not only open to experts in International Relations or International Security, but also to academics interested in germane areas of study (political philosophy, legal studies, etc.).

The event targets a broad spectrum of undergraduate, graduate and PhD students, lecturers, researchers and other academics, as well as representatives of governments, international organisations and NGOs.

Submission of Paper Proposals

The paper proposal form should include the following information:

- *Name of the topic you wish to contribute to;*
- *Title of the paper (no more than 10 words long);*
- *Abstract of the paper (no more than 500 words);*
- *5 keywords.*

Authors should send their paper proposals to:

pols.conf2017@squ.edu.om

The deadline to submit proposals is 2 May 2017 (midnight CET).

Submitted abstracts will be evaluated by the Conference's Scientific Committee.

Authors will be notified of conditional acceptance or rejection by 30 May 2017.

After the Paper Proposal has been accepted

An advanced draft of the papers will need to be submitted to the Organisers by 12 September 2017.

Papers should be submitted in PDF format, in English, and should be written in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style.

After scholarly double-blind peer review, the Organisers will publish a certain number of the Conference papers in an edited volume and/or in a special issue of an academic journal. Other papers will be submitted to academic journals and, in any event, they will be published on the website of the Conference.

Logistics

The Organizers will provide airfare, accommodation, and travel from/to Muscat airport to selected paper givers.

Important dates

- Paper abstracts submission deadline: 2 May 2017
- Notification of acceptance: 30 May 2017
- Advanced draft submission deadline: 12 September 2017
- Conference dates: 16 and 17 October 2017

For any additional request of information, please contact:

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