



Speaker Bios

Democracy in Crisis: Geopolitical Shifts and US Challenges in MENA

Opening Keynote Address

Democratic Transition in the Arab World: Challenges and Prospects

Mohamed Moncef Marzouki is a former President of the Republic of Tunisia, and was the country's first democratically elected president after the January 14th Revolution in 2011. He is a doctor of medicine, a human rights activist, and the author of numerous works on political philosophy in the Arab world. More recently, during the fall semester of 2022, he was a senior fellow with the Democracy in Hard Places Initiative at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School. During his presidency, Marzouki was a voice for social and revolutionary activism, calling for civilian rights, curtailment of the security apparatus, economic sovereignty, and transforming the presidency into a position of service to the Tunisian public. He was also the founder of the center-left Congress Party for the Republic (CPR), one of the parties that formed the governing coalition from November 2011 to February 2014. In 2015, Dr. Marzouki founded the Movement for Popular Citizenship (Hirak Shaab al-Muwatineen), a civil movement seeking to encourage active citizen participation among all Tunisians, particularly those who were marginalized under previous regimes. He earned his medical degree at the University of Strasbourg in 1973, with specialties in neurology, internal medicine, and public health. @MMarzouki01



Khalil E. Jahshan is a Palestinian American political analyst and media commentator. He serves as Executive Director of Arab Center Washington DC. Between 2004 and 2013, he was a Lecturer in International Studies and Languages at Pepperdine University and Executive Director of Pepperdine's Seaver College Washington DC Internship Program. Previously, Jahshan served as Executive Vice President of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and Director of its government affairs affiliate, National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA)-ADC. Throughout his career, he has held numerous leadership positions in Arab American organizations, including Vice President of the American Committee on Jerusalem, President of the National Association of Arab Americans, National Director of the Association of Arab-American University Graduates, Assistant Director of the Palestine Research and Educational Center, and Lecturer in Arabic at the University of Chicago Extension and at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Jahshan has also served on the boards of directors and advisory boards of several Middle East-oriented organizations, including ANERA, MIFTAH,



and Search for Common Ground. He appears regularly as a political commentator on Arab and American media outlets. @KhalilEJahshan

Panel I

Rehabilitating Dictators, Supporting Repression: Shifting Geopolitics and Democratic Regression in MENA

Natasha Hall is a senior fellow with the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Hall has over 15 years of experience as an analyst, researcher, and practitioner in complex humanitarian emergencies and conflict-affected areas, with a specialty in the Middle East. Most recently, she has worked on the Syrian conflict with the Shaikh Group, GIZ, Mayday Rescue, Center for Civilians in Conflict, and the US government's Refugee Affairs Division. She has lived and worked in over 15 countries in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, the Southern Caucasus, and Europe. Her work has focused on conflict resolution, governance, displacement, environmental issues, resilience, and civilian protection. Her reports have spurred congressional hearings and high-level donor responses on Syria. As a director with Mayday Rescue, Hall led these responses, working with the White Helmets to reinforce critical civilian infrastructure and protect civilians from explosive weapons and other consequences of the war. She is a commentator and contributor for a number of media outlets and think tanks, including CNN, BBC, and MSNBC. She has written articles and in-depth analyses for the Washington Post, Newsweek, US News & World Report, the Atlantic Council, the United States Institute for Peace, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, among others. Hall is also the founder of Art in Exile. She earned her master's from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and her bachelor's from the University of Virginia in foreign affairs and Middle East studies. She did a Fulbright Fellowship in Jordan from 2006-2007 and a Boren Fellowship in Syria in 2010. @NatashaHallDC



Nader Hashemi is Director of the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding and an Associate Professor of Middle East and Islamic Politics at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Previously, Dr. Hashemi was an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Northwestern University, a Visiting Assistant Professor at the UCLA Global Institute, and the founding Director of the Center for Middle East Studies at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. While at Denver, he was also Co-Director of the Religion and International Affairs certificate program, as well as the Political Theory Initiative. His intellectual and research interests lie at the intersection of comparative politics and political theory, in particular in debates on the global rise of authoritarianism, religion and democracy, secularism and its discontents, Middle East and Islamic politics, democratic and human rights struggles in non-western societies, and Islam-West relations. He is the author of *Islam, Secularism and Liberal Democracy: Toward a Democratic Theory for Muslim Societies* (Oxford University Press, 2009) and co-editor of *The People*



Reloaded: The Green Movement and the Struggle for Iran's Future (Melville House, 2011), *The Syria Dilemma* (MIT Press, 2013), *Sectarianization: Mapping the New Politics of the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2017) and a four-volume study on *Islam and Human Rights: Critical Concepts in Islamic Studies* (Routledge, 2023). He is frequently interviewed by PBS, NPR, CNN, Al Jazeera, Pacifica Radio, Alternative Radio, and the BBC, and his writings have appeared in the New York Times, Newsweek, the Wall Street Journal, the Nation, Al Jazeera Online, and CNN.com, among other media outlets. Dr. Hashemi obtained his doctorate from the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto. @naderalhashemi

Amy Hawthorne is a Middle East Expert with over two decades of experience working on democracy and reform in the Middle East and North Africa. At POMED, Amy oversaw the research program from 2015 to 2023 as Deputy Director for Research. She also chaired the Working Group on Egypt (a bipartisan group advocating for more principled US policies toward Egypt), and served as a resident expert on Egypt, Arab politics, human rights, and US policy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Prior to joining POMED in 2015, Amy held a number of positions in government, NGOs, and think tanks, including: senior fellow at Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East; senior advisor and Egypt coordinator at the US Department of State during and following the 2011 Arab Spring; founding executive director of the Hollings Center for International Dialogue (an NGO based in Washington and Istanbul); fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and senior program officer for MENA at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. Amy has testified before Congress, published a number of widely read analyses on Egypt, US policy in MENA, and democracy promotion in the Arab world, and is regularly quoted in the media. For five years, she served on the editorial committee for USAID's Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index for the Middle East. She graduated with honors in history from Yale University, with a focus on the Middle East, and obtained her MA in modern Middle Eastern studies at the University of Michigan, where she concentrated on Islamic law. Amy has advanced skills in Arabic and has lived and traveled extensively in the Arab world, including as a Fulbright Scholar in Egypt, as well as in Turkey. @awhawth



Dana El Kurd is a Non-resident Senior Fellow at Arab Center Washington DC and Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Richmond. Her work focuses on authoritarianism, international intervention, and state-society relations in the Arab world. Her book, *Polarized and Demobilized: Legacies of Authoritarianism in Palestine* was published in January 2020 with Oxford University Press. Dr. El Kurd holds a PhD in government with concentrations in comparative politics and international relations from the University of Texas at Austin. @danaelkurd



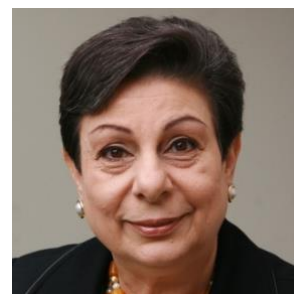
Daniel Brumberg is a Non-resident Senior Fellow at Arab Center Washington DC, Director of Democracy and Governance Studies at Georgetown University, and a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED). From 2008 through 2015 he also served as a Special Advisor at the United States Institute of Peace. In addition to his position at Georgetown, he has served as Visiting Professor of Kuwait-Gulf Studies at Sciences Po in Paris and continues to serve as a faculty member for the St. Martin-Georgetown University Program in Public Policy in Buenos Aires. Prior to coming to Georgetown University he was a Visiting Professor in the Department of Political Science at Emory University, a Visiting Fellow in the Middle East Program in the Jimmy Carter Center, and a Lecturer at the University of Chicago's Social Science Masters Program. Brumberg has published articles on political, social, and economic change in the Middle East and wider Muslim World. His articles have appeared in leading print and on-line journals, including the Journal of Democracy, Foreign Policy, and the Atlantic. His books include *Reinventing Khomeini*, *The Struggle for Reform in Iran* (University of Chicago Press, 2001); *Conflict, Identity, and Reform in the Muslim World: Challenges for US Engagement* (USIP Press, 2009), co-edited with Dina Shehata; and most recently, *Power and Political Change in Iran*, co-edited with Farideh Farhi and published by Indiana University Press in 2016. Brumberg has served as a consultant to the US Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, focusing on human rights, security sector reform, and governance issues in the Arab world. Daniel Brumberg holds a PhD from the University of Chicago. @derboland



Luncheon Keynote Conversation

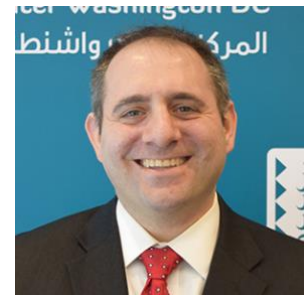
Human Rights and Just Peace in a Changing World: Lessons Learned 30 Years after the Oslo Accords

Hanan Ashrawi is a former member of the Palestinian National Council, and was elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council in 2006. In 2009 she was elected as member of the PLO Executive Committee and heads the Department of Culture and Information. She has founded a number of bodies and institutions, most importantly the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), and the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). Dr. Ashrawi is also a member of advisory bodies for several institutions, including the Institute for Palestine Studies and the International Human Rights Commission. Dr. Ashrawi holds many honorary degrees, including local and international awards in the field of women's issues, peacemaking, international affairs, human rights, and higher education. She has authored poems, short stories, papers, and articles on culture, literature, and Palestinian politics. Dr. Ashrawi holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from the American University of Beirut and a PhD in comparative and medieval literature from the University of Virginia. She served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Birzeit University, where she continued to teach until 1995. She also established and headed Birzeit University's



Legal Aid Committee, and served as Palestinian Authority Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research from 1996-1998. @DrHananAshrawi

Yousef Munayyer is Head of Palestine/Israel Program and Senior Fellow at Arab Center Washington DC. He also serves as a member of the editorial committee of the Journal of Palestine Studies and was previously Executive Director of the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights. Some of his published articles can be found in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Nation, Boston Globe, Foreign Policy, Journal of Palestine Studies, Middle East Policy, and others. Dr. Munayyer holds a PhD in International Relations and Comparative Politics from the University of Maryland. @YousefMunayyer



Panel II

The Prospects for Political Reform: Centering Human Security and Rights in MENA

Yara M. Asi is an Assistant Professor at the University of Central Florida in the School of Global Health Management and Informatics. Her research agenda focuses on global health, human rights, and development in fragile populations. She is a 2020-2021 Fulbright US Scholar to the West Bank and was the Fall 2021 US Fellow at Al Shabaka Palestinian Policy Network. She has presented at multiple national and international conferences on topics related to global health, food security, health informatics, and women in healthcare, and has published extensively on health and well-being in fragile and conflict-affected populations in the form of journal articles and book chapters. Her work has also been featured in the Washington Post, the Guardian, the Nation, +972 Magazine, the Conversation, Al Jazeera, the World, and other outlets. Dr. Asi holds a PhD in Public Affairs on the Health Services Research and Management track from the University of Central Florida. @Yara_M_Asi

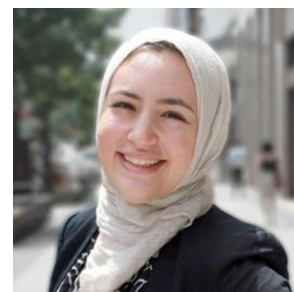


Marwa Daoudy is Assistant Professor in International Relations at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) and the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Prior to arriving at Georgetown, she taught in the University of Oxford's department of Politics and International Relations and was a fellow of Oxford's Middle East Center at St Antony's College. In 2011-2012, Princeton University invited her to join the Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs as visiting lecturer and research scholar. She was previously a visiting fellow and graduate affiliate at the London School of Economics, Harvard University, and the University of Pennsylvania, a pre-doctoral fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies (London), and a post-doctoral fellow at CERI-Science-Po (Paris). Her research and teaching focus is on international and regional security, international relations, the environment, and Middle East politics. Daoudy is also a member of the Scientific Reference Group of the International Center for Water Cooperation (UNESCO/SIWI). She has also



worked as a consultant (UNESCO-World Water Assessment Program for the 3rd World Water Development Report, Oxford Analytica, and others) and has advised the United Nations Development Program/UNDP (Jerusalem) on Middle East water/peace negotiations. Dr. Daoudy has also provided training in International Negotiation Theory and Practice to executives within international organizations (European Commission, UNDP) and international businesses, as well as MBA students (Switzerland). She is also a frequent contributor to news publications and provides regular comments to international media (BBC, France 24, NPR, Al Jazeera, RFI, and others), and holds a PhD from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. @MarwaDaoudy

Mai El-Sadany is Executive Director of the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP). She was previously TIMEP's Managing Director and Legal and Judicial Director. She previously worked at the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, among other organizations. El-Sadany's published work has covered legal and constitutional issues in Egypt, human rights issues in Syria, transitional justice in the Middle East, and the split between Sudan and South Sudan. She holds a JD and a certificate in refugees and humanitarian emergencies from the Georgetown University Law Center, and a BA in political science from Stanford University. @maitelsadany



Ahmed Morsy is a Senior Researcher with the Middle East and North Africa Program at SIPRI, focusing on state-society relations and post-conflict dynamics in the MENA region. His research interests include foreign and security policies in the Middle East, as well as political reform in the Arab world. Before joining SIPRI, he was Senior Analyst at Eurasia Group, providing research, analysis, and risk assessments focusing on North African political and socioeconomic issues. Dr. Morsy was also Manager of the MENA program at the American Political Science Association (APSA), and is a co-founder of the Arab Political Science Network (APSN). His work has been published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Middle East Institute, Atlantic Council, and the Tahrir Institute, among others. Dr. Morsy received a PhD in International Relations from the University of St Andrews, focusing on Egypt's policy toward Iran. @ASMorsy



Tamara Kharroub is the Deputy Executive Director and a Senior Fellow at Arab Center Washington DC. Her research work focuses on the intersection of technology and human rights and democracy in the Middle East and North Africa. She publishes research and policy analysis papers and editorials exploring the role of media and communication technology in the political process including issues of digital authoritarianism and repression, disinformation and information environments, cyber power and geopolitics, surveillance technologies, propaganda and media representation, identity politics online, artificial intelligence and autonomous weapons, and digital rights, in addition to research on Palestine/ Israel and US policy



there. Kharroub holds a PhD from Indiana University Bloomington and an MA from the University of Westminster, and is the recipient of several awards and fellowships including Fulbright. @tamarakharroub1

Panel III

Democracy in US Foreign Policy: Impact, Legacy, and the Implications of the 2024 Elections

Kyle Kondik is managing editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball, the University of Virginia Center for Politics' authoritative, nonpartisan newsletter on American campaigns and elections. He is a frequently cited expert on American politics who has appeared on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, PBS NewsHour and Comedy Central's The Daily Show. His book on Ohio's presidential voting history, *The Bellwether: Why Ohio Picks the President*, was published in June 2016. He also serves as the Center for Politics' communications director and is based in Washington, where he manages the Center's DC office. Before joining the Center for Politics in 2011, Kyle served as director of policy and research for former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray and as a reporter, editorial page editor, and political columnist at newspapers in Northeast Ohio. He is a 2006 graduate of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, where he also served as editor of the university's student-run newspaper, the Post. @kkondik



Tess McEnery is POMED's Executive Director, and has dedicated her career to standing up for a US foreign policy that advances democracy, protects civic space, and defends universal human rights. She has significant expertise working on conflict prevention, stabilization, fragile states, elections, political transitions, and the strategic use of foreign assistance and foreign policy. Ms. McEnery served two tours as a Director for Democracy and Human Rights at the White House National Security Council. At the State Department, she led a Global Democracy and Human Rights Policy Team and served as a Senior Conflict Prevention Advisor. Ms. McEnery began her career at the US Agency for International Development (USAID), where she managed some of USAID's largest foreign assistance mechanisms and pioneered the agency's electoral security initiative. Ms. McEnery received her Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and her Bachelor of Arts in political science from Guilford College. @TessMcEnery



Shibley Telhami is the Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland, College Park, and non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Before coming to the University of Maryland, he taught at several universities, including Cornell University, the Ohio State University, the University of Southern California, Princeton University, Columbia University, Swarthmore College, and the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Telhami has also been active in the foreign policy arena. He has served as Advisor to the US Mission to the UN (1990-91), advisor to former Congressman Lee Hamilton, as senior advisor to George Mitchell (President Obama’s United States Special Envoy for Middle East Peace from 2009 to 2011), as a member of the US delegation to the Trilateral US-Israeli-Palestinian Anti-Incitement Committee, and as an advisor to the United States Department of State. He also served on the Iraq Study Group as a member of the Strategic Environment Working Group. He has contributed to the Washington Post, the New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times, and regularly appears on national and international radio and television. He has served on the US Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World, which was appointed by the Department of State at the request of Congress, and he co-drafted the report of their findings, “Changing Minds, Winning Peace.” He has also co-drafted several Council on Foreign Relations reports on US public diplomacy, the Arab-Israeli peace process, and Persian Gulf security. Dr. Telhami received his doctorate in political science from the University of California at Berkeley. @ShibleyTelhami



Patricia J. Karam is a Non-resident Fellow at Arab Center Washington DC. She held multiple senior managerial positions in nongovernmental organizations over the past 20 years, working at the nexus of problem analysis, policy formulation, and impactful program implementation aimed at social and policy change in a range of complex, conflict-ridden settings across the globe. Most recently, Karam was Middle East North Africa (MENA) Regional Director at the International Republican Institute, where she was responsible for the strategic oversight and leadership of a multimillion-dollar portfolio of programs focused on citizen-responsive governance, political party development, legislative strengthening, and civil society capacity-building. Prior to that, as MENA Director at the Natural Resource Governance Institute, Karam was responsible for research, advocacy, grant-making, and technical assistance projects aimed at improving natural resource governance managed through country offices she established in Lebanon, Iraq, Tunisia, and Libya. As a deputy director at the International Center for Transitional Justice, she oversaw educational transitional justice programs and spearheaded the expansion of a Documentation Affinity Group, a global network of action-oriented and grassroots documentation-focused human rights groups. She also held a combination of senior management, fundraising, and grant-making roles at the US Institute of Peace, Iraq Foundation, the Iraqi Embassy, and New York University’s Trauma Studies Program. Karam’s research expertise covers political party development, conflict-mitigation, peacebuilding and transitions, good governance and anti-corruption, natural resource management, transitional justice and human rights, and gender/women’s rights and empowerment. She has published widely on the politics of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and North



Africa, as well as on great power competition and the dynamics of authoritarianism and conflict in the broader Middle East region. She holds a dual Political Science/Religious Studies BA from Brown University and an MSFS degree with an Arab Studies concentration from Georgetown University. Her PhD work at New York University revolved around identity politics in the Western Sahara. @PatriciaJKaram

Imad K. Harb is the Director of Research and Analysis at Arab Center Washington DC. He is the Founder and Director of Quest for Middle East Analysis, a research and consulting firm. Previously, he worked as Adjunct Professor of Middle East Studies at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University. He also served as Senior Analyst at the Abu Dhabi, UAE-based Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research and taught political science and international relations at the University of Utah and San Francisco State University. In addition, he worked as Senior Program Officer at the United States Institute of Peace. Harb writes and publishes on a number of topics including civil-military relations, regional politics, and US policy in the Middle East/North Africa and the Arabian Gulf, and is co-author, with John Bruni, of *Domestic and Regional Challenges to US-Iran Relations* (Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, 2015). He is the co-editor, with Zeina Azzam, of *The Arab World Beyond Conflict* (ACW, 2019). Harb earned a PhD in political science from the University of Utah. @harb3imad

