

## Arab-Iranian Relations: Discourses of Conflict and Cooperation

Wednesday, 7 September 2011

Thai Theatre (Room LG.03), New Academic Building, LSE

### Speakers and Chairs

#### Professor Ali Ansari



Ali Ansari is Professor of Iranian History & Director of the Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of St Andrews. He is also an Associate Fellow of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House. Professor Ansari's publications include: *Crisis of Authority: Iran's Presidential Election of 2009*, (RIIA, 2010); *Iran Under Ahmadinejad* (Adelphi Paper, IISS, January 2008); *Confronting Iran: the failure of US policy and the roots of mistrust* (Hurst, 2006); *Modern Iran since 1921: the Pahlavis and after* (2nd Edition, Longman, 2007); *Iran, Islam & Democracy - The Politics of Managing Change* (2nd Edition RIIA, 2006). His forthcoming publications include *The Politics of Nationalism in Modern Iran* (CUP, 2012)

#### David Butter



David Butter is the Regional Director, Middle East & North Africa / Views Wire Editor at the Economist Intelligence Unit. He has a degree in Arabic and Persian from Oxford University and has spent four years in Beirut, first as a researcher and then as correspondent for Interpress Service. Following his return to the UK in 1982, David completed an MA in Comparative Politics at Sussex University. He was News Editor at Middle East Economic Digest and joined the Economist Intelligence Unit in 2000.

#### Dr Katerina Dalacoura



Katerina Dalacoura is Senior Lecturer in International Relations at LSE. She previously worked at the University of Essex and at IISS. Her main research interests are: human rights; democracy and democracy promotion in the Middle East; political Islam; and culture and religion in International Relations. Her most recent book, *Islamist Terrorism and Democracy in the Middle East*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2011. She is the author of *Islam, Liberalism and Human Rights: Implications for International Relations* (IB Tauris, 2003) and *Engagement or Coercion: Weighing Western Human Rights Policies towards Turkey, Iran and Egypt* (RIIA, 2003).

#### Dr Nelida Fuccaro



Nelida Fuccaro is Reader in Modern Middle Eastern History at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Her research focuses primarily on the Arab States of the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Syria with particular reference to urban history, the history of oil and violence, ethnicity, nationalism and Middle Eastern frontier societies. She is the author of *The Other Kurds: Yazidis in Colonial Iraq* (IB Tauris, 1999) and *Histories of City and State in the Persian Gulf: Manama since 1800* (CUP, 2009). She is currently editing a special issue of Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East entitled 'Histories of Oil and Urban Modernity in the Persian Gulf and Iraq'.

### Dr Hassan Hakimian

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Hassan Hakimian is Director of the London Middle East Institute and a Reader in the Economics Department at SOAS. He previously was an Associate Dean at Cass Business School, City University. His research focuses on the Middle East, specifically human resources and demographic change, labour markets and employment policy, and globalisation and economic integration. Hassan is the author of *Labour Transfer and Economic Development* (1990) and co-editor of *The State and Global Change* (2000), and *Trade Policy and Economic Integration in MENA* (2003). He is the founder and Series Editor for the series, 'Routledge Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa'.

### Dr Noha Mellor

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Noha Mellor is Reader in Media & Cultural Studies, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at Kingston University London. She is a former journalist and is the author of *The Making of Arab News* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005), *Modern Arab Journalism* (Edinburgh University Press, 2007), *Arab Media Industries* (Polity, 2011) and *Arab Journalists in Transnational Media* (Hampton Press, 2011). She is member of Taskforce Euromed & the Media (EU Commission) and until recently was a member of the UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum.

### Dr Neil Partrick

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Neil Partrick is an affiliate of the Kuwait Programme at LSE and of RUSI, the defence think tank. He has specialised in Middle East analysis for 20 years. Neil has written extensively on Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Palestine. He obtained his PhD on Kuwait, including its relations with Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the West from LSE. From 1993-95, he worked in Jerusalem as an editor and researcher with a Palestinian institute, Panorama, and from 1995-98 worked at the House of Commons as a research analyst. Neil has also worked as a Senior Gulf Analyst for the International Crisis Group and as a lecturer and researcher at the American University of Sharjah.

### Professor Sajjad Rizvi

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Sajjad Rizvi is Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter, having previously taught at the Universities of Cambridge and Bristol. He completed his PhD in Islamic philosophy at Cambridge University. A specialist on Islamic intellectual history and Muslim political thought, Dr Rizvi has published widely on Islamic philosophy, Shi'ism and Qur'anic hermeneutics. He is the author of *Mulla Sadra* (Oxford University Press, 2006), and with Feras Hamza, *Understanding the Word of God* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2007).

## **Sadeq Saba**

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Sadeq Saba is the Head of the BBC Persian Service. Born in Iran, Sadeq studied law and politics at Tehran University and at LSE. He joined the BBC Persian Service as a producer in 1990. He was the BBC Iranian affairs analyst for over a decade prior to joining BBC Persian television. He travels to Iran regularly and has covered three presidential elections and other major events in the country. Most recently, Sadeq travelled to Iran to present the acclaimed television series 'A Taste of Iran'.

## **Nahid Siamdoust**

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Nahid Siamdoust has worked as a correspondent for Time magazine, Al Jazeera English in Doha, Qatar, and The Los Angeles Times. During Iran's June 2009 Presidential elections, Ms. Siamdoust provided on-the-ground reportage for Time on the disputed election results and ensuing street demonstrations. She is a doctoral candidate in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at St. Antony's College, Oxford University.

## **Professor Gary Sick**

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Gary Sick served on the National Security Council staff under Presidents Ford, Carter and Reagan. He was the principal White House aide for Iran during the Iranian Revolution and the hostage crisis and is the author of two books on US-Iran relations. Professor Sick is a captain (ret.) in the US Navy, with service in the Persian Gulf, North Africa and the Mediterranean. He was the deputy director for International Affairs at the Ford Foundation from 1982 to 1987. Professor Sick has a PhD in political science from Columbia University, where he is adjunct professor of international affairs, and former director of the Middle East Institute. He teaches in the School of International and Public Affairs. He is a member (emeritus) of the board of Human Rights Watch in New York and founding chair of its advisory committee on the Middle East and North Africa. He is the executive director of Gulf/2000, an international online research project on political, economic and security developments in the Persian Gulf.

## **Dr Mahjoob Zweiri**

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Dr Mahjoob Zweiri is an Assistant Professor in Modern Middle Eastern History and head of the Humanities Department at Qatar University. Previously, Dr Zweiri was a Teaching Fellow in Middle East Politics and Director for the Centre of Iranian Studies at Durham University as well as an Assistant Professor in Iran and Middle East Politics at the University of Jordan. He received his PhD in the Modern History of Iran from Tehran University. His core areas of research are: domestic politics in Iran; Iran's foreign policy; Iran-Arab relations; Shi'ism; and politics in the Middle East.