

China and the Middle East/Mediterranean (“Mid-Med”): Contemporary Perspectives An International Conference

July 7, 2019

Tel Aviv University, Gilman Building 496



Themes include:

- Great Power Competition in the New Era;
- China and the Middle East;
- China and the Mediterranean Region;
- China and the Belt and Road's Functional Infrastructure in the Region.

Organizing Institutions:

The Department of East Asian Studies (EAS), Tel Aviv University;
The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (MDC), Tel Aviv University;
ChinaMed Research Program (TOChina Hub);
Center for Mediterranean Area Studies (CMAS) at Peking University.

The Conference is sponsored by

The Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, and:
The Rector, Tel Aviv University; Vice President, Tel Aviv University; The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (MDC), Tel Aviv University; The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University; The S. Daniel Abraham Center for International and Regional Studies, Tel Aviv University.
We are grateful for their support.

For more information please contact us at: eas@tauex.tau.ac.il



החוג ללימודי מזרח אסיה
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין
אוניברסיטת תל אביב
DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES



**China and the
Middle East/Mediterranean (“Mid-Med”):
Contemporary Perspectives
An International Conference—Program
July 7, 2019
Tel Aviv University, Gilman Building 496**

08:30 **Greetings:**

Matan Vilnai, Major General (Ret.), Ambassador to China, President of the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce

Ori Sela, Tel Aviv University (Associate Professor and Chair, Department of East Asian Studies)

08:45 **Opening Remarks:**

Aron Shai, Tel Aviv University (Professor for East Asian Affairs, Pro-Rector)

09:15 - 11:00 Panel 1: Great Power Competition in the New Era

Chair: **Enrico Fardella**, Peking University (Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Mediterranean Area Studies) and ChinaMed Research Program (Director)

Douglas H. Paal, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Vice President for Studies and Director of the Asia Program)

Strategic Competition between the US and China: The Turning Point

Shi Yinhong, Renmin University of China (Professor and Director of the Center on American Studies)

China-US Rivalry in the Recent Past, Present, and Future

Ivan Timofeev, Russian International Affairs Council (Director of Programs)

Russia and the Future of International Order

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 13:15 Panel 2: China and the Middle East

Chair: **Paul Rivlin**, Tel Aviv University (Associate Professor, The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, MDC)

Brandon Friedman, Tel Aviv University (Assistant Professor and Director of Research at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, MDC)

The China-Saudi Arabia Nexus: Pakistan

Andrew Scobell, RAND Corporation (Senior Political Scientist)

China's Search for Security in the Middle East

Yoram Evron, University of Haifa (Associate Professor at the Department of Asian Studies)

The Middle East in China-Japan Relations: Non-confrontational Competition

Wu Bingbing, Peking University (Associate Professor and Director of Institute of Arab-Islamic Culture)

China and GCC

13:15 – 14:45 Lunch



החוג ללימודי מזרח אסיה
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין
אוניברסיטת תל אביב
DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES



14:45 – 16:30 Panel 3

China and the Mediterranean region

Chair: **Brandon Friedman**, Tel Aviv University

Enrico Fardella, Peking University

A New Intermediate Zone: The BRI, the Med and Italy

Altay Atlı, Koç University and Boğaziçi University (Adjunct Professor)

Relations Between Turkey and China: Expectations of Increasing Economic Interdependence

Ori Sela, Tel Aviv University

Sinophiles and Sinophobes: Facts, Fiction, and History from an Israeli Perspective

Andrea Ghiselli, Fudan University (Researcher) and ChinaMed Research Program (Project Manager)

Instability in the Mediterranean, a Chinese Solution?

16:30 – 16:45 Coffee Break

16:45 – 18:45 Panel 4

China and Belt and Road's Functional Infrastructure

Chair: **Gadi Ariav**, Tel Aviv University (Associate Professor, Ret., Management of Tech & Information, Global Business, Business Consulting)

Massimo De Andreis, Studi e Ricerche per il Mezzogiorno (Director)

China's Growing Role in the Mediterranean

Zeno D'Agostino, Port Authority of Trieste (President)

How to Escape the "Red Ocean": (Re)Thinking Med-China in the Port Sector

Yigal Maor, Israeli Transportation Ministry's Administration of Shipping and Ports (Director General)

To Be or Not to Be? Israel's Integration into the MSR Concept

Onno De Jong, Ecorys, Rotterdam (Advisor)

Changing the Playing Field: the BRI Project and Its Implications for the European Maritime Economy

18:45 – 19:15 Discussion

19:30 Dinner

Organizing Institutions:

The Department of East Asian Studies (EAS), Tel Aviv University;
The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (MDC), Tel Aviv University;
ChinaMed Research Program (TOChina Hub);
Center for Mediterranean Area Studies (CMAS) at Peking University.

The Conference is sponsored by

The Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, and:
The Rector, Tel Aviv University; Vice President, Tel Aviv University; The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (MDC), Tel Aviv University; The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University; The S. Daniel Abraham Center for International and Regional Studies, Tel Aviv University.

We are grateful for their support.



החוג ללימודי מזרח אסיה
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין
אוניברסיטת תל אביב
DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES



Workshop Program

July 8: Study Trip to Haifa Port and Acre

08:30 Departure, Full Day, Evening Free

July 9: Workshop, Tel Aviv University, Gilman Building 133

09:30-11:00

Douglas H. Paal, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Vice President for Studies and Director of the Asia Program)

“Strategic Competition between the US and China: The ‘Turning Point’”

Chair: **Enrico Fardella**, Peking University (Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Mediterranean Area Studies) and ChinaMed Research Program (Director)

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00

Aron Shai, Tel Aviv University (Professor for East Asian Affairs, Pro-Rector)

“The Belt and Road Initiative, the Red-Med Railway and Israel”

Chair: **Ori Sela**, Tel Aviv University (Associate Professor and Chair, Department of East Asian Studies)

13:00-15:00

Lunch & Mentoring

15:00-16:30

Andrew Scobell, RAND Corporation (Senior Political Scientist)

“What Drives Xi Jinping’s China?”

Chair: **Andrea Ghiselli**, Fudan University (Researcher) and ChinaMed Research Program (Project Manager)

16:30-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-18:30

Ivan Timofeev, Russian International Affairs Council (Director of Programs)

“The U.S. Sanctions against Russia and China: Comparative View on Key Trends”

Chair: **Enrico Fardella**, Peking University

Evening: Free



החוג ללימודי מזרח אסיה
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין
אוניברסיטת תל אביב
DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES



July 10: Workshop, Tel Aviv University, Gilman Building 133

09:30-11:00

Altay Atlı, Koç University and Boğaziçi University (Adjunct Professor)

“Placing Turkish-Chinese Relations in Context”

Chair: **Brandon Friedman**, Tel Aviv University (Assistant Professor and Director of Research at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, MDC)

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00

Marina Skordeli, University of Athens (Director of the Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence)

“The perception of China’s growing role in Greece”

Chair: **Enrico Fardella**, Peking University

13:00-15:00

Lunch & Mentoring

15:00-16:30

Brandon Friedman, Tel Aviv University

“China's Expansion into the Middle East: Between Strategy and Contingency”

Chair: **Andrea Ghiselli**, Fudan University and ChinaMed Research Program

16:30-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-18:30

Roundtable discussion

Chair: **Ori Sela**, Tel Aviv University

Evening: Free



החוג ללימודי מזרח אסיה
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין
אוניברסיטת תל אביב
DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES



July 11: Workshop, Tel Aviv University, Gilman Building 133

09:30-19:00

Full Day:

Scenario Building Workshop: The Futures of China in the Middle East

Led by: **Enrico Fardella**, Peking University & **Alessandro Fergnani**, NUS Business School (Singapore)

Coffee Breaks: 11:00-11:15, 16:00-16:15

Lunch: 13:00-14:30

July 12: Workshop, Tel Aviv University, Gilman Building 133

08:30-09:30

Students finalize the reports

09:30-10:00 Coffee Break

10:00-12:30

Student Presentations

12:30-16:30 Free

16:30-21:30 **Trip to Old Jaffa, Dinner, and Closing Ceremony**



For more information please contact us at: eas@tauex.tau.ac.il