

TENTATIVE AGENDA of the 2020 MUNICH-BERLIN MIDDLE EAST SUMMER SCHOOL

organized by the Middle East and International Affairs Research Group (MEIA Research)
and the Munich International Summer University (MISU)
in cooperation with
the Center for Applied Policy Research (C.A.P.)
and the Institute for Near and Middle East Studies at LMU Munich

Academic Patronage: [Prof. Dr. Andreas Kaplony](#), Institute for Near and Middle East Studies,
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Teaching and instructions will be provided by staffers of the organizing institutions and additional experts

Venue of course: LMU (Subway stop "Universität". Use exit D)

Sun, 8/2	Arrival of Participants		
	Morning Session 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m..	Noon Session 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Afternoon / Evening
Mon, 8/3	Welcome Session and Introduction: Current Affairs in Politics, Economics, and Societies of the Middle East After a first get-to-know, this welcome session will introduce the agenda of the three-week program, and give an overview of the Middle Eastern sub-regions, North Africa, the Levant, and the Gulf, as well as key issues.	The Historical Making of a Region The diversity of today's MENA region is due to a relatively small number, but a variety of internal and external impacts. In this introductory lecture, we will provide a hands-on overview.	MISU Welcome Summer Event 5:30 p.m. Schellingstr. 3, on the terrace
Tue, 8/4	The Arab Spring Reconsidered – Tunisia The Arab uprisings represented a watershed in the Middle East with popular protests ousting long-standing political regimes across the region. This session analyzes the causes of this dynamic with a focus on Tunisia and the latter's attempts to transform from authoritarianism to democracy.	Egypt from Mubarak to Sisi This session analyzes the significant political developments that Egypt, a key Arab state, underwent before and after the fall of long-term ruler Hosni Mubarak in February 2011.	Sightseeing Tour by Bus 5:00 p.m. Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1
Thu, 8/6	The Syrian Civil War Since 2011, Syria has been caught in an increasingly internationalized civil war that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, uprooted millions of others, and destabilized the entire geographic neighborhood. This session analyzes causes and consequences of the ongoing conflict and sheds light on current	Iraq since the Fall of Saddam This session focuses on the political developments in Iraq since the 2003 overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime. We will particularly address the root causes for the interim success of the so-called "Islamic State" (IS or DAESH), and discuss national dynamics following the	

	dynamics and future scenarios.	demise of the jihadi territorial caliphate.	
Thu, 8/6	Gulf Affairs I With the current intensifying rhetoric escalation between the United States and Iran, the notoriously conflict prone Gulf region is once again in the focus of politics and the media alike. This session emphasizes the region's global significance, sketches the development of its security architecture, addresses the numerous conflicts of interest between regional and external actors, and sheds light on current dynamics.	Gulf Affairs II Continuation of the previous session	
Fri, 8/7	The Role of External Actors I: USA and Russia In this session we will first discuss change and continuity in the US Middle East policy. To what degree has US regional influence diminished? We will then turn to Russia: Does Moscow move into the power vacuum the US has been leaving behind?	Role of External Actors II: EU and China Due to their geographic proximity, EU countries are directly affected by developments in the MENA region. We will discuss whether or not the EU has found appropriate answers to current and future challenges. We will also take a look at China and its interests in the region.	14:00 – 15:30 Special Session: Academic Writing In this special session we will explain the requirements for the written assignments.
Sat, 8/8			
Sun, 8/9	Day trip by bus to Neuschwanstein Castle Meeting Time: 7:45 a.m., Departure Time: 8:00 a.m. Meeting Place: Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1, at the fountain		
Mon, 8/10	Islam, Christianity, and Judaism – Religion and Identity (I) In a conflict-laden sense, religion has become an ever more important source of identity in many Middle Eastern societies. We will discuss the factors that contribute to this trend and possible strategies to halt and reverse it.	Islam, Christianity, and Judaism – Religion and Identity (II) In a conflict-laden sense, religion has become an ever more important source of identity in many Middle Eastern societies. We will discuss the factors that contribute to this trend and possible strategies to halt and reverse it.	
Tue, 8/11	Media Industries in the Arab World I We will deal with the history, politics, and economy of the Arab television industries since the 1960s, and discuss the strength of different formats like news, documentaries, and talkshows, and genres and notions like entertainment, politainment and militainment. We will look at cross media practices, from the press to social media.	Media Industries in the Arab World II Continuation of the previous session	
Wed, 8/12	Irregular Migration and Climate Change Over the past years, irregular migration from Northern and sub-Sahara Africa to Europe has significantly increased. We will address the root causes for this intensified dynamic, analyze the recent developments, and discuss political ramifications. In doing so, we will sketch the current political situation in Libya and emphasize	Quo vadis Turkey? After decades of distancing itself from the region to consolidate Kemalist Westernization, Turkey under the AKP of Recep Tayyip Erdogan has got more and more involved into Middle East politics since 2002. We will trace back Turkey's role in the region and rethink current and future domestic and foreign problems of	

	the significant effects of climate change on migratory dynamics.	the country.	
Thu, 8/13	Transfer from Munich to Berlin by train Visits of and Talks at German Public and Private Institutions and Organizations related to the Middle East (1 Session / 90 min.)		
Fri, 8/14	Visits of and Talks at German Public and Private Institutions and Organizations related to the Middle East (cont.) (2 sessions / 180 min.)		
Sat, 8/15	Transfer from Berlin to Munich by train		
Sun, 8/16			
Mon, 8/17	Gender and Biopolitics I Gender equality in the MENA remains one of the lowest world-wide and keeps being understood in usual binary frameworks of Islam vs. human rights and tradition vs. modernity. This session examines these framings and addresses key aspects in shaping gender inequalities and biopolitics in the region, looking into both socio-political and economic structures as well as historically shaped cultural-religious factors.	Gender and Biopolitics II Continuation of the previous session	
Tue, 8/18	The Arab-Israeli Conflict: An Update I This session gives an overview of the historical development of the Arab-Israeli conflict, assesses the current status of the conflict, and analyzes possible scenarios for its resolution.	The Arab-Israeli Conflict: An Update II Continuation of the previous session	
Wed, 8/19	Identity Diversity in Israel Beside the master narrative of Jewish-Israeli identity based on victimization, existential insecurity, and exceptionalism, it is important to note little is "static" in Israeli society. There are several approaches to map the complexity of contemporary Israeli politics and society by identifying distinct dynamics. These mappings are key for understanding the Israeli political landscape and current Israeli political decisions.	Current Issues in Israeli Politics Politics in Israel are highly complex, made up by different sections of the pluralist society, shaped by the Arab-Israeli conflict and by the conflicts and tensions the Israeli society itself has.	
Thu, 8/20	Special Session: Debate (I) In this session, the participants debate controversial hypotheses and political demands relating to current developments in the Middle East.	Special Session: Debate (II) In this session, the participants debate controversial hypotheses and political demands relating to current developments in the Middle East.	
Fri, 8/21	Aesthetics and Politics - Tracing Urban Art This session aims to shed light on trends and transformation processes of art depending on foreign influences and in contrast to local representations of the self. It takes the example of graffiti art in the West Bank	Essay Session In this session, we will discuss the essay topics the participants are going to work on over the ensuing weeks. Final Wrap-up: The Middle East between Crises and Opportunities	

Sat,
8/22

Departure of Participants until 10 am

As the Summer School Program aims to always react quickly to the sudden changes in the region of the Middle East, please note that the agenda may be subject to change, too.