



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



China and the Mideast/Mediterranean: Contemporary Perspectives Conference Announcement and Workshop Call for Applicants, 7-12 July 2019

The International Conference, Sunday, 7 July, 2019

Themes include:

- Great Power Competition in a Multipolar Era (China, Russia, and USA);
- China and the Middle East;
- China and the Mediterranean Region;
- China and the Belt and Road's Functional Infrastructure in the Region.

Participating Scholars include:

1. **Douglas H. Paal** - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Vice President for Studies and Director of the Asia Program)
2. **Shi Yinhong** - Renmin University of China (Professor and Director of the Center on American Studies)
3. **Aron Shai** – Tel Aviv University (Professor for East Asian Affairs, Pro-Rector)
4. **Ivan Timofeev** - Director of Programs at the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)
5. **Enrico Fardella** - Peking University (Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Mediterranean Area Studies) and ChinaMed Research Program (Director)
6. **Giovanni B. Andornino** - University of Torino (Assistant Professor) and TOChina Hub (Director)
7. **Wu Bingbing** - Peking University (Associate Professor and Director of Institute of Arab-Islamic Culture)
8. **Andrew Scobell** - RAND Corporation (Senior Political Scientist)
9. **Marina Skordeli** - University of Athens (Director of the Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence)
10. **Altay Atlı** - Koç University (Adjunct Professor) and Boğaziçi University (Adjunct Professor)
11. **Massimo De Andreis** - Studi Ricerche Mezzogiorno (Director)
12. **Andrea Ghiselli** - Fudan University (Research Assistant) and ChinaMed Research Program (Project Manager)
13. **Ori Sela** – Tel Aviv University (Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies)
14. **Brandon Friedman** - Tel Aviv University (Assistant Professor and Director of Research at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle East and African Studies)
15. **Capt. Yigal Maor** - Director General, Administration of Shipping and Ports (Ministry of Transportation, State of Israel)

Organizing Institutions:

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

The Conference & Workshop Rationale:

In early July, 2019, the Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University — jointly with TOChina’s ChinaMed Research Program, the Center for Mediterranean Area Studies (CMAS) at Peking University, and the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University — will host a joint program of conference and workshop on the theme: “China and the Mideast/Mediterranean: Contemporary Perspectives.” Building on our first “China and the Middle East” conferences (in June 2018), we invite scholars and graduate students from around the world to participate in an intensive one-week event that includes a one-day conference; a full-day tour; and then a four-day workshop.

We see the Middle East and the Mediterranean regions as closely connected (past and present), with interactions – certainly involving China – as intertwined. Therefore, we propose addressing the two regions in conjunction, as “Mid-Med.” It is our aim, to establish long-term research and analysis networks, to exchange ideas and promote new research about the various perspectives of China in these regions, both from the inside-out and from the outside-in. In other words, we want to focus on both the ways China understands its role and interests in the Mid-Med, and the ways Mid-Med actors perceive China’s involvement therein.

The Study Tour in Israel (for conference speakers and admitted students only), Monday, 8 July, 2019



Israel is situated at the intersection of the Middle East, the Mediterranean, and North Africa. A crossroads, historically, of both contention and productive interaction between powers from East and West alike. Israel, as the traditional land bridge connecting Africa and Asia, is still coming to terms with the emerging new geopolitical architecture, which may offer it opportunities to create better relations among the regional actors. Our educational tour will combine both visits to historical sites and reflections on a better future for the region, in which China’s role seems potentially dominant.



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The Workshop, Tuesday to Friday, 9-12, 2019

The workshop is intended for a small group of 25 selected graduate students with a background in international and regional studies (Middle East and Asia/China in particular). The workshop program includes six teaching/discussion sessions spread across four days and led by scholars from Tel Aviv University, the ChinaMed Research Program, and leading institutions around the world, who will also participate in the conference. Each session will include two sub-sessions of 1-1.5 hours – two sub-sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. The workshop will also include Q&A sessions between students and scholars, along with short one-on-one meetings between the scholars and students. The workshop will also include a visit to a contemporary Chinese-related initiative in Israel; and there will also be a short educational tour related to historical great-power involvement in the region.

Additional Information:

The Conference is open to the public, RSVP required at: eas@tauex.tau.ac.il

The Study Tour is for conference speakers and admitted students only.

Workshop tuition: €500 (excluding travel and accommodation etc.)

A limited number of fellowships (covering the expenses for on-campus accommodation, the tuition fee of the workshop, and up to €500 for flight reimbursement) is available for qualified applicants.

Workshop application Process:

The number of participants at the Workshop is limited to 25.

Deadline for applications: April 28, 2019. A reply will be sent by May 19, 2019.

Applicants must be registered at academic institutions for advanced degrees (MA, PhD, etc.) at time of application.

Applicants should send one PDF file to eas@tauex.tau.ac.il with the following:

- Curriculum vitae.
- A cover letter with an outline of the applicant's motivations, research interests, and experience in relevant fields of study/practice (up to 500 words).
- One recommendation letter from faculty in the applicant's current home institution.

Further information for visitors to Tel Aviv University can be found at:

https://english.tau.ac.il/visitors_kit

On behalf of the organizing committee,

Dr. Ori Sela

Chair, Department of East Asian Studies

Gilman Building

Tel Aviv University