

# 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), 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.

The Conference is Open to the Public

For more information please contact us at: [eas@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto: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



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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 (Chief 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

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