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