

Intervention in Syria? Problems, Prospects, and Contexts

A Public Roundtable Discussion for Students and Citizens

Tuesday, September 3, 5:00-6:30pm

Nelson Mandela Auditorium, Fedex Global Education Center, UNC-Chapel Hill



Sponsored by the Curriculum in Peace, War, and Defense and the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations

Sarah Shields

History



Sarah Shields is the Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professor at UNC. Her research interests include the impact of the League of Nations on the Middle East and the ways in which colonialism and notions of empire have shaped nationalism and identity politics in the Middle East. Her new book, *Fezzes in the River: Identity Politics and European Diplomacy in the Middle East on the Eve of World War II* (Oxford University Press, 2011), is a social and diplomatic history of the contest between France and Turkey over the Sanjak of Alexandretta (1936–1940), an important coastal province. It analyzes tensions of nationalism, diplomacy, and international obligations. She also teaches courses on Israeli/Palestinian conflict and revolutions in the modern Middle

East.

Cemil Aydin

History



Cemil Aydin is an associate professor for UNC's history department, with a M.A. from Istanbul University and a Ph.D. from Harvard. Aydin's interests focus on both Modern Middle Eastern History and Modern Asian history, with an emphasis on the Ottoman and Japanese Empires. He is particularly interested in historical processes that shape transnational racial and civilizational identities, such as Muslim, Asian, African. His research and publications offer new ways to understand the contemporary world order by describing the process of imperial era conflicts and decolonization. Other research and teaching interests deal with questions of internationalism and orientalism, and modern world history. He has taught courses on empires,

nations, and revolutions.

Michael Morgan

History



Michael Morgan is an assistant professor for UNC's History Department, with a M.Phil. from the University of Cambridge and a Ph.D. from Yale. His research focuses on the international history of the twentieth century, especially the Cold War. Morgan's current project examines the origins of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, a 35-country agreement that was a turning point in East-West relations and a landmark in the history of human rights. He teaches courses on the history of international relations since the seventeenth century, the history of human rights, and human rights in the modern world.

Mark Weisburd

Law



Weisburd, a native Arkansan, joined the Foreign Service after earning his undergraduate degree, and he served in East Pakistan/Bangladesh from 1971 to 1973. He resigned in 1973 to enter law school at Michigan, where he was a notes editor on the Michigan Law Review. From 1976 to 1981, he was an associate with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. He teaches civil procedure, international law and a course on international human rights. He writes mainly in the area of international law at UNC.

Ali Reza Eshraghi

Ph.D. student, Comm. Studies



Ali Reza Eshraghi was a senior editor at several of Iran's reformist dailies. He is Iran's Project Manager at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) and a teaching fellow in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During his more than 15-year career in journalism, Ali has published hundreds of articles and op-ed pieces in various Persian, Arabic and English media including The NY Times, CNN and Aljazeera. Ali is a Rotary Alumnus in World Peace and Conflict Studies. Formerly, he was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley School of Journalism and The Institute of International Studies (IIS). He was also a research fellow at the Religion, Politics and Globalization Program at UC Berkeley. Ali studied Political Science and Islamic studies at Imam Sadiq University in Tehran.

Patricia Sullivan

Public Policy



Dr. Patricia Sullivan is an assistant professor in the Department of Public Policy and the Curriculum in Peace, War, and Defense at UNC, Chapel Hill. Dr. Sullivan's research explores the utility of military force as a policy instrument, the determinants of war outcomes, and the factors that affect leaders' decisions to initiate, escalate, or terminate foreign military operations. Her book, *Who Wins? Predicting Strategic Success and Failure in Armed Conflict*, was recently published by Oxford University Press.

LTC Bob Curris

U.S. Army, currently a National Security Fellow at UNC



Lieutenant Colonel Curris graduated from the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) and holds an MBA degree from Webster University. LTC Curris served in several capacities in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY and deployed with the 1st Armored Division in support of stability operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 2001 LTC Curris transitioned into the Special Operations Forces as a Psychological Operations Officer and has deployed to multiple locations throughout the Middle East in this capacity.

COL Richard Menhart

U.S. Army, currently a National Security Fellow at UNC



Colonel Richard Menhart graduated from the California University of Pennsylvania in 1991. COL Menhart holds a Master's degree in Military Studies from the Marine Corps University. He has served in multiple units, including the 82nd Airborne Division, the 25th Infantry Division, the Joint Readiness Training Center, and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). His most recent assignment was as the Director of the Army Compartmented Element with USASOC.