

## **The V4 and the Middle East: Relations, Interests and Prospects**

*20 October 2015, Qatar University: Conference Room, Administration Building*

*SCHEDULE*

<b>09.00-09.15</b>	<b>Welcome Address</b> Luciano Zaccara, Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University
<b>09.15-09.30</b>	<b>Introduction of Visegrad Group</b>
<b>09.30 -10.15</b>	<b>Attractiveness of the V4 countries to Gulf Investment</b> Ashraf Mishrif, Qatar University
<b>10.15-11.00</b>	The Visegrad countries in the EU-GCC cooperation framework Erzsébet N. Rózsa, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	Coffee Break
<b>11.30-12.15</b>	Polish-Gulf Relations Patrycja Sasnal, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>12.15-13.00</b>	Why the Cooperation between Visegrad Group and Iran has no Ground for Being? Anna Aleksandra Gawlik, Qatar University
<b>13.00-14.00</b>	Lunch Break
<b>14.00-14.45</b>	Cooperation in the field of Higher Education and Human Capital between Hungary and the Gulf. Máté Szalai, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>14.45-15.30</b>	The Syrian Refugee Crisis and East-Central Europe in the Gulf Arab Media Imaginary Peter Polak-Springer, Qatar University
<b>15:30-16:00</b>	Closing Remarks

## About the Speakers

### Dr. Luciano Zaccara



Dr. Luciano Zaccara joined the Gulf Studies Center on Fall Semester, 2014. He holds a Ph.D. in Arab and Islamic Studies from Autónoma University of Madrid and a BA in Political Science from the National University of Rosario, Argentina. He was Visiting Assistant Professor at Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service in Qatar, between 2013 and 2014. He is also the director of the OPEMAM-Observatory on Politics and Elections in the Muslim and Arab World based in Spain. Since 2009 he is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University. He has published extensively on Iranian politics in English and Spanish languages, and he is interviewed regularly by Spanish speaking media on Middle East politics. His main areas of interest are Iranian politics and foreign policy; elections and political reform in GCC countries; international politics in the Persian Gulf; and comparative electoral systems.

### Anna Aleksandra Gawlik



Anna Aleksandra Gawlik is a PhD candidate in Gulf Studies at the Qatar University. She holds a MA degree from Oriental Science Institute in Cracow, Poland and supplemented her education at the Institute of Oriental Studies at La Sapienza University in Rome, Italy and Tehran University, Iran. For many years she worked as a Diplomat for the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Middle East. Her areas of interests revolve around the economic and energy sector in the Gulf and Iran, the politics of the modern Middle East and Islamic Arts particularly Oriental manuscripts.

### Prof. Erzsébet N. Rózsa



She graduated from the Faculty of Arts at Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest. She holds MA degrees in English Studies, Semitic (Arabic) Philology and Iranian Studies. She received her PhD from the University of Economy of Budapest. Her main fields of research are: the political, security and social processes of the Middle East; Islam; the Euro-Med cooperation; Muslim minorities in Europe; nuclear non-proliferation. She is the Head of the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy at the Faculty of International and European Studies at the National University of Public Service. She is a guest lecturer at Corvinus University of Budapest, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, and the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj, Romania. She is a supervisor in several doctoral schools. She speaks English, Arabic, Farsi and German.

### **Dr. Patrycja Sasnal**



Dr Patrycja Sasnal - Head of Middle East and North Africa Project at the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw, and a member of the advisory European Working Group on Egypt. Fulbright scholar at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC in 2010 with a PhD in Political Science, she was associate at the American University in Beirut and lectures at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland where apart from the PhD she also holds MA in International Relations and MA in Arabic Language and Culture. She has written on U.S. and EU policies in the Middle East, the challenges of transition in the Arab world, the Arab-Israeli conflict, modern Arab thought, and published in Al-Ahram, LeMonde.fr, Insight Turkey, EUobserver and Polityka.

### **Máté Szalai** Research Fellow



He obtained his MA degree in International Studies at Corvinus University of Budapest, where he is currently studying at the International Relations Multidisciplinary Doctoral School. His main fields of research are: the Middle East – with a special emphasis on the Persian Gulf – as well as small state foreign policy theory. He speaks English and Italian.

### **Peter Polak-Springer**



Peter Polak-Springer is Assistant Professor of Modern History at the Humanities Department. He has a PhD from Rutgers University and is a specialist of 20th century Central Europe as well as comparative world history. His book is coming out this month, entitled "Recovered Territory: A German-Polish Conflict of Land and Culture, 1919-1989," and he has several articles and chapters published in American and European journals and collections. He is currently working on representations of refugees in German media and politics, 1871-present.