



Asian Powers in the Eastern Mediterranean Conference

Organizers: Yaşar University Center for Mediterranean Studies
International Business School of Guangdong University of Finance & Economics
University of East London Centre for the Study of States, Markets & People (STAMP)



24 September 2021 | ONLINE



ASIAN POWERS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Conference Program, 24 September 2021
Online

(09:00-18:00 UTC+3, Izmir)
(14:00-23:00 UTC+8, Guangdong)
(07:00-16:00 UTC+1, London)

Opening Session

09:00- 10:30 (UTC+3)
14:00- 15:30 (UTC+8)
07:00 – 08:30 (UTC+1)

09:00 – 09:30: Institutional Greetings and Welcome
Defne GÖNENÇ, *Yaşar University*

Opening Speech: **Sinan ÜNLÜSOY**, *Yaşar University*

Opening Speech: **Aylin GÜNEY**, *Yaşar University*

Opening Speech: **Qingan A. HUANG**, *Guangdong University of Finance and Economics & University of East London*

09:30- 10:30: Keynote Speech

Vassilis K. FOUSKAS, *University of East London*

“*State Competition and Capital Accumulation Regimes in the Eastern Mediterranean*”

Break: 10:30 – 10:45 (UTC+3) / 15:30 – 15:45 (UTC+8) / 08:30 – 08:45 (UTC+1)

1st Session

10:45 – 12:15 (UTC+3)
15:45 – 17:15 (UTC +8)
08:45 – 10:15 (UTC+1)

Chair: Aylin GÜNEY, Yaşar University

10:45 – 11:00: Stefanos KORDOSIS, International Hellenic University

“What does Macrohistory tell us about the role of the Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean in trans-Eurasian Communication? An Approach to Belt and Road Initiative beyond Economy”

11:00 – 11:15: Meliha ALTUNIŞIK & Derya GÖÇER, Middle East Technical University

“Iran’s presence in the Eastern Mediterranean: Identity, Pragmatism and Survival”

11:15 – 11:30: Hayriye KAHVECİ, Middle East Technical University Northern Cyprus Campus

“Balancing Act Between East and West: China factor in Greece and Cyprus’s Search for Geopolitical Upper Hand in the Eastern Mediterranean”

11:30 – 11:45: Hua GENG, Benzhao YANG & Qingan A. HUANG, Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology, North-western Polytechnical University, Guangdong University of Finance and Economics & University of East London

“Chinese Corporate Outbound Investment in the Eastern Mediterranean Region under Belt and Road Initiative”

11:45 – 12:15: Q&A

Lunch: 12:15 – 13:15 (UTC+3) / 17:15 – 18:15 (UTC+8) / 10:15 – 11:15 (UTC+1)

2nd Session:

13:15 – 14:45 (UTC+3)
18:15 – 19: 45 (UTC+8)
11:15 – 12:45 (UTC+1)

Three Themed Sessions on “China”

Session 2A: 13:15- 14:45 (UTC +3)/ 18:15 – 19: 45 (UTC+8) / 11:15 – 12:45 (UTC+1)

Chair: Ekaterina KOLDUNOVA, Moscow State Institute of International Relations & Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia

13:15 – 13:30: Zhiqiang ZOU, Fudan University

“China’s Port Investment in the Mediterranean and EU’s Perception”

13:30 – 13:45: Yahya GÜLSEVEN, *Başkent University*
“China and the South-South Cooperation: The Case of Egypt”

13:45 – 14:00: Clemens HOFFMAN & Ceren ERGENÇ, *University of Stirling & Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University*
“China's Role in the Geopolitical Ecology of Decarbonisation in the Eastern Mediterranean”

14:00 – 14:15: Çağdaş ÜNGÖR, *Marmara University*
“Vaccine Shots in the Eastern Mediterranean: Chinese Propaganda and Soft Power in the post-Covid World”

14:15 – 14:45: Q&A

Session 2B: 13:15- 14:45 (UTC +3)/ 18:15 – 19: 45 (UTC+8) / 11:15 – 12:45 (UTC+1)

Chair: Qingan A. HUANG, *Guangdong University of Finance and Economics & University of East London*

13:15 – 13:30: Melda AKOĞLU ŞİŞMAN, *Republic of Turkey Ministry of Trade*
“A Comparative Analysis of Commercial Relations of East Mediterranean Countries with the EU and China”

13:30 – 13:45: Jiuzhou DUAN, *Tsinghua University*
“Strategic Synergy: Production Capacity Cooperation Between China and East Mediterranean Countries”

13:45 – 14:00: Selim ÖTERBÜLBÜL, *Ankara University*
“China's Foreign Policy in the Eastern Mediterranean: Zone of Conflict or Zone of Cooperation?”

14:00 – 14:15: Ahmet Faruk IŞIK, *Shanghai International Studies University*
“50th Anniversary of Turkey-China Diplomatic Ties: Expectation and Feasibility”

14:15 – 14:45: Q&A

Session 2C: 13:15- 14:45 (UTC +3)/ 18:15 – 19: 45 (UTC+8) / 11:15 – 12:45 (UTC+1)

Chair: Emre İŞERİ, *Yaşar University*

13:15 – 13:30: Degang SUN, *Fudan University*
“China's Party Diplomacy towards the Arab Countries”

13:30 – 13:45: Cem YILMAZ, *Independent researcher*
“Egypt as the Gateway for China to Europe through Eastern Mediterranean”

13:45 – 14:00: Ahmet ATEŞ and Anıl Çağlar ERKAN, *Iğdır University & Mehmet Akif University*
“The Levant in Chinese Grand Strategy”

14:00 – 14:15: Meysune YAŞAR, *İstanbul Medeniyet University*
“Maritime Security Regime in the Eastern Mediterranean: The Role of Chinese Navy towards Booth Model in Xi Jinping Era”

14:15 – 14:45: Q&A

Break: 14:45 – 15:00 (UTC+3) / 19:45 – 20:00 (UTC+8) / 12:45 – 13:00 (UTC+1)

3rd Session:

15:00 – 16:30 (UTC+3)
20:00 – 21:30 (UTC +8)
13:00 – 14:30 (UTC+1)

Themed Session on “Russia and Eurasia”

Chair: Meliha ALTUNIŞIK, *Middle East Technical University*

15:00 – 15:15: Pavel SHLYKOV & Ekaterina KOLDUNOVA, *Moscow State University, Moscow State Institute of International Relations & Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia*
“Russia and China in the Eastern Mediterranean: on the Parallel Tracks?”

15:15 – 15:30: Hasan Selim ÖZERTEM, *Independent researcher*
“Russia’s Power Projection in the Eastern Mediterranean: The Cases of Libya and Syria”

15:30 – 15:45: Volkan ÖZDEMİR, *Başkent University*
“Geopolitical Economy of Turkey and its Interactions with Eurasian Powers”

15:45 – 16:00: Mehmet BARDAKÇI, *İstanbul Aydın University*
“Geopolitics of Religion: The Russian Religious Soft Power in the Eastern Mediterranean”

16:00 – 16:30: Q&A

Break: 16:30 – 16:45 (UTC+3) / 21:30 – 21:45 (UTC+8) / 14:30 – 14:45 (UTC+1)

4th Session: 16:45 – 18:00 (UTC+3)
21:45 – 23:00 (UTC +8)
14: 45 – 16:00 (UTC +1)

Themed Session on “Foreign Policy”

Chair: Sinan ÜNLÜSOY, Yaşar University

16:45 – 17:00: Rajeev Ranjan CHATURVEDY & Defne GÖNENÇ, *Nalanda University and Yaşar University*
“Indian Foreign Policy towards the East-Mediterranean in a Changing Regional Order”

17:00 – 17:15: Hatice ÇELİK, *Social Sciences University of Ankara*
“South Korea's East Mediterranean Policy: A New Geopolitical Region?”

17:15 – 17:30: Elif ÇETİN & Kohei IMAI, *Yaşar University, University of Cambridge & Japan External Trade Organization Institute of Developing Economies*
“Japan’s Shifting Policy Priorities in the MENA Region: Japanese-Turkish Relations as a Case Study”

17:30 – 18:00: Q&A and Concluding Remarks

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