

## ***Section 8 – Relazioni internazionali***

### **Panel 16. Changing alliances and power rearrangement in the Middle East: towards a new regional order?**

**Chairs: Federico Donelli, Alberto Gasparetto**

In the wake of the so called “Arab Spring”, scholarship has shown a renewed interest in analysing the ongoing development of the new regional order using a wide array of theoretical approaches. Each of the countries in the region was affected by the upheavals and has experienced specific processes and consequences. In order to limit its military failures, the US has embarked on a strategy of military and political retreat from the region. However, by underestimating the geopolitical importance of Syria, they involuntarily opened the doors to Russia and gave it the chance to reinstate itself as a global power that reclaims its ancient role in world affairs, from Central Asia to the Mediterranean Sea, by passing through the Middle East. Moreover, the US inaction in Syria has spurred other Middle East countries, such as Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia, to look for a space to enlarge their respective role towards regional hegemony.

The panel aims at discussing the ongoing situation in the Middle East by primarily relying on existing theoretical perspectives developed within the IR theory. Many scholars (Fawcett, Hinnebusch, Korany, Halliday, Owen, Walt) gave their own original contribution to the matter. We are purposefully open to receive papers which even propose new ones. Moreover, it is particularly interesting for us to approach the processes framed within the post-Arab Spring, which has been actively affected by extra-regional actors (Russia, EU, United States, China) and by other regional actors and the effects of this pressure in order to consolidate changing or continuation of the former regimes. We welcome proposals which both have a focus on theoretical aspects and explore single case studies. This panel seeks to bring together interested academics and others to discuss the state of addressing various aspects of the contemporary international relations of the Middle East. Potential topics for a productive discussion around the general theme of new regional order include, but not limited to: the role of a specific country, analyse specific relations between two or more countries, or even stress the importance on particular factors in shaping and altering alliances (power distribution, energy, religion, perceived threats and so on).

The deadline for the submission of abstracts (200 words maximum) is May 20th 2018. You will be informed of the result by June 10th 2018. Abstracts can be submitted by email in Word or Pdf format. Please, include information about your institutional affiliation and contact.

Submissions should be emailed to:

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