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**CALL FOR PAPERS
THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE
MIDDLE EAST STUDIES FORUM**

TRUMP AND THE MIDDLE EAST

29 - 31 October 2018

Deakin University Burwood, Victoria, Australia

Donald Trump's presidency has added a new layer of complexity to the politics of the Middle East, South Asia and Central Asia. The new administration has signalled its intention to reverse key US policy conventions in the region: President Trump vowed to revoke the historic nuclear deal signed between Iran and P5+1, and appeared to endorse Saudi efforts to isolate Qatar. In December 2017, Trump broke ranks with European partners to announce that the US embassy would move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Although this may not represent a shift in long-term US priorities, it certainly presents a break with previous US foreign policy in the region. At the same time, some of the new threads in US politics are deeply familiar to the Middle East. As a bastion of populism and authoritarianism, the region is no stranger to controversial leadership and largescale popular protests. It is in this context of significant domestic and international change that new thinking is needed.

The conference committee welcomes the submission of abstracts and panel proposals that address contemporary Middle East politics and foreign policy, including (but not limited to) the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, women's rights, civil liberties and democracy in the region, extremism in South Asia, and regional security.

For further details, including abstract submission guidelines, please visit: <http://bit.ly/21aS761>

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