



Call for papers

Foreign state influence in the Middle East and South Asia

Conference at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

Dates: To be announced

Protracted conflicts continue in the Middle East and South Asia, complicated by the interference of foreign states and actors from near and afar. These conflicts have witnessed the full range of external involvement, from proxy relationships to external diplomatic and political meddling, to full-blown foreign military intervention. Undoubtedly, the involvement of external players has seriously affected the course of conflicts from Syria to Yemen and Afghanistan, adding to conflict complexity, and impacting human security, political stability and economic development.

With the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Middle East Studies Forum has been working to shine a spotlight on the dynamics of foreign interference, including proxy war, and its myriad conflict implications. As our project comes to a close, we are now bringing together leading scholars and policy makers to examine the theoretical and practical aspects of foreign influence and proxy wars with the aim of spurring new debates and developing policy alternatives. Some key questions that will be asked at the conference include:

1. What is the nature of proxy relations and how does it impact the dynamics of the conflict?
2. How have regional and international security fears influenced proxy wars in Afghanistan to Syria?
3. How do proxy wars affect sectarian and ethnic tensions in the Middle East and South Asia?

4. What is the impact of proxy relations on state-building and democratization processes?
5. What tools and measure may be helpful in resolving proxy wars?

The conference committee welcome submissions on all aspects of external involvement in conflicts (past and present) in the Middle East and South Asia. Please submit a 200-word abstract to mesf@deakin.edu.au using the individual paper proposal template available on the on the 2020 Conference page on the website.

Presenters may be invited to submit a full length paper for consideration in an edited book. The expected length of the paper will be between 7-8,000 words. Deadline for full papers: To be announced.

A limited number of AU\$500 travel grants are available for PhD candidates to facilitate their conference participation.

Style Guide

- Manuscripts are accepted in English following UK English spelling (e.g., behaviour, centre, centred, civilisation, colour, fitted, kilometre, labour, neighbour, organisation, realise, recognise, etc.). Please use this style consistently throughout your manuscript.
- All manuscripts should be typed in double-space with [Chicago](#) 16th footnotes (not endnotes)
- Please use single quotation marks, except where ‘a quotation is “within” a quotation’.
- Please note that long quotations over 40 words should be indented.
- Section headings should be concise.

All manuscripts must comply with the strict condition that:

- The manuscript is your own original work, and does not duplicate any other previously published work, including your own previously published work.
- The manuscript has been submitted only for this edited collection; it is not under consideration or peer review or accepted for publication or in press or published elsewhere.

Note: If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Mr Abbas Farasoo: A.Farasoo@deakin.edu.au