

### Mr. Adam Weinstein



is deputy director of the Middle East program at the Quincy Institute. His current research focuses on security and the rule of law in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. He is also a non-resident fellow at Tadblab, a think tank and advisory firm based in Islamabad, and regularly travels throughout Pakistan. Adam's analysis has been featured in the Washington Post, Guardian, Foreign Policy, War on the Rocks, Lawfare, and The National Interest.

### Dr. Mojtaba Mahdavi



is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Middle East Studies at the University of Alberta. His areas of research and teaching involve domestic and international politics of the Middle East and the Muslim World. They include socio-political developments, democratization, Islamism and post-Islamism, political economy of social movements, the impact of globalization/global structure on the rise of these movements, and the practical policy guide to the question of inclusion/exclusion.

### Dr. Dina Hosni



gender politics.

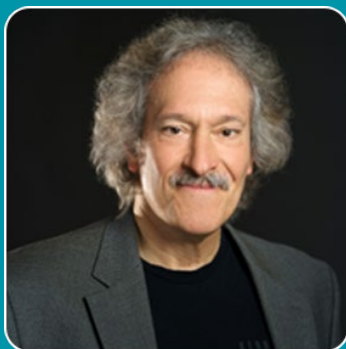
is a lecturer at the Academy of Liberal Arts at the American University in Cairo. She also works as the Assistant to the Chair of Political Science at the American University in Cairo. Dina received her Ph.D. at the Sociology Institute, Frankfurt Goethe University, with her dissertation on post-Islamism female youth activism in contemporary Egypt. Her doctoral dissertation is published as a book entitled "Female Youth in Contemporary Egypt: Post-Islamism and a New Politics of Visibility." Her research interests include political Islam, the public sphere, and

### Dr. Kamran Bokhari



is the Senior Director of the Eurasian Security and Prosperity portfolio at the New Lines Institute. He served as Director of the Analytical Development Department from 2019 to 2023. Dr. Bokhari is also a national security and foreign policy specialist at the University of Ottawa's Professional Development Institute. He has also served as the Central Asia Studies Course Coordinator at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. He was a Fellow of the Program on Extremism at the George Washington University (2016-2018).

### Dr. Ori Z Soltes



currently teaches theology, art history, philosophy, and political history at Georgetown University. He has also taught across diverse disciplines for many years at The Johns Hopkins University, Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University, Siegel College in Cleveland, and other colleges and universities. Soltes has lectured at dozens of museums across the country, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He has been interviewed for a score of programs on archaeological, religious, art, literary, and historical topics on CNN, the History Channel, and Discovery Channel, and he hosted a popular series on Ancient Civilizations for middle school students.

### Dr. Dipali Mukhopadhyay



is an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. She is the author of Warlords, Strongman Governors, and the State in Afghanistan (Cambridge University Press, 2014), which was shortlisted for the biennial Central Eurasian Studies Society Book Award in the Social Sciences, and, with Kimberly Howe, Good Rebel Governance: Revolutionary Politics and Western Intervention in Syria.

### Ms. Kathya Kenza Berrada



is a research associate at the Arab Center for Scientific Research and Humane Studies and a contributing researcher at the Moroccan Institute for Policy Analysis. Her current research interests relate to institutional changes, entrepreneurial dynamics, and inclusive economic development in the MENA region. Before returning to Morocco, Kathya worked for a rating agency and consultancy firms in France and Belgium. Kathya holds a Master's degree in Business from Grenoble Graduate Business School.

### Dr. Sayed Hassan Hussaini (Akhlaq)



teaches for the MA program in Islamic Studies at George Washington University. His courses focus on various aspects of Shi'ite Islam, including political thought, philosophy, mysticism, and law. His research and teaching areas encompass Islamic studies, philosophy of religion, comparative philosophy, ethics, modernization and critical theory, inter and intra-religious dialogues, and religion and environment.

### Dr. James Pickett



focuses on empire and Islam as entangled sources of authority, with particular attention to historical memory and state formation. His first monograph, *Polymaths of Islam: Power and Networks of Knowledge in Central Asia* (Cornell University Press, 2020), examines transregional networks of exchange among religious scholars in the Central Asian city-state of Bukhara. Through mastery of arcane disciplines, these multi-talented intellectuals enshrined their city as a peerless center of Islam, and thereby elevated themselves into the halls of power.

### Dr. Shireen T. Hunter



is an independent scholar with more than fifty years of experience in international affairs as a diplomat (Iran's Foreign Service 1965-1979), a think tank analyst and program director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington, D.C. 1983-2005) and the Center for European Policy Studies (Brussels) (1994-1997), and a university professor. From 2005 to 2007 she was a senior visiting fellow at the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding of Georgetown University, from 2007 to 2014 a visiting professor, from 2014 to July 2019 a research professor, and was instated as an ACMCU Honorary Fellow in September of 2019.

### Mr. Mujib Mehrdad



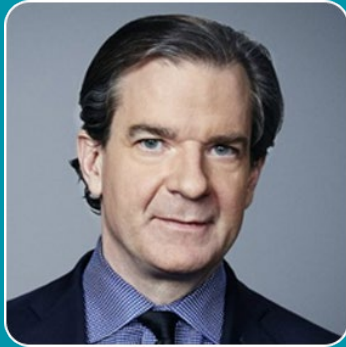
is a poet, playwright, translator and journalist. He is the author of several poetry collections, including "Gladiators Are Still Dying" (2007), which won the Afghan Civil Society's literature contest. His other works include "The Fishes Have Fled Our Veins" (2008), "Audience" (2009) and "Soldiers" (2014). His latest poetry collection, "Dolphin's Alley," won the Ahmad Shamlu Award for the Best Collection of the Year in Iran in 2021. He has also penned a collection of essays titled "The Rain Passed," as well as translated the works of notable writers such as Allen Ginsberg, Sylvia Plath, Langston Hughes, Vladimir Mayakovsky and Rabindranath Tagore into Farsi.

### Ms. Katherine Krueger



is a senior development expert with more than 20 years of experience working at the nexus of governance and stabilization in conflict-affected countries. Recently serving as the Senior Technical Advisor for Conflict and Peacebuilding at Creative Associates International (Creative), Ms. Krueger provides technical and strategic implementation expertise in political and governance transition, iterative program learning, and successful programmatic and operational implementation in conflict settings, including Burkina Faso, Iraq, Mali, South Sudan, and Syria.

### Mr. Peter Bergen



documentary.

is a journalist, producer, vice president for global studies & fellows at New America, CNN national security analyst, professor of practice at Arizona State University, where he co-directs the Future Security Initiative, and the author or editor of ten books, three of which were New York Times bestsellers and four of which were named among the best non-fiction books of the year by The Washington Post. The books have been translated into twenty-four languages. Documentaries based on his books have been nominated for two Emmys and won the Emmy for best

### Dr. Husnul Amin



is a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the South Asia Center, University of Pennsylvania. His research project is titled "From Quiet to Loud Encroachment of Pashtun Youth on Pak-Afghan Borderland: A Study of Victims as Actors in the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM)." Amin obtained his Ph.D. in Development Studies with specialization in Political Sociology from the International Institute of Social Studies in 2010.

### Mr. Hussain Abdul-Hussain



is a research fellow at FDD. He focuses on the Gulf region and Yemen, including on Gulf relations with Iran and Gulf peace with Israel. Born and raised in Beirut, Baghdad and Baalbek, cities that have been the theater of major Middle Eastern events, Hussain earned a degree in History and Archeology from the American University of Beirut, after which he worked as a reporter, and later managing editor, at Beirut's The Daily Star. He reported from war zones on the Lebanese border with Israel, and from Iraq. In Washington, Hussain helped set up and manage the Arabic satellite network Alhurra Iraq, after which he headed the Washington Bureau of Kuwaiti daily Alrai.

**Mr. Mehdi Khalaji**



is an Iranian-American writer, scholar of Islamic studies, political analyst, and a former Shia cleric. He has been researching at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy since 2005 and is now a senior research fellow focusing on the politics of Iran and Shiite groups in the Middle East. He has frequently contributed to media outlets such as The Guardian, BBC, The Washington Post, and The New York Times.

**Gen. H. R. McMaster**



is the Fouad and Michelle Ajami Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He is also the Bernard and Susan Liautaud Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute and lecturer at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. He was the 26th assistant to the president for National Security Affairs. Upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1984, McMaster served as a commissioned officer in the United States Army for thirty-four years before retiring as a Lieutenant General in June 2018.

**Ms. Nazila Jamshidi**



a professional in inclusive international development and democratization, boasts a decade-long career in Afghanistan's progress. As an advisor and program creator, she focuses on empowering marginalized communities and promoting gender and diversity inclusion through international development, foreign aid, and institution building. Nazila's journey began by closely examining human rights barriers, gender equality, and social justice across Afghanistan's provinces. Nazila earned degrees from Georgetown and Columbia University and collaborated with organizations such as the UN, USAID, and IFRC in institutionalizing and promoting social justice.

**Ms. Catherine (Katie) Putz**



is the managing editor of The Diplomat. She manages the monthly magazine and writes about Central Asia and Afghanistan. She writes about politics, security, and culture in former Soviet spaces, particularly where they link to greater Asia. Katie also co-hosts The Diplomat's Asia Geopolitics Podcast.

**Amb. Said Tayeb Jawad**



is an Afghan politician, businessman, academic, and diplomat. He is the Chief Executive officer of Capitalize LLC, a Global Political Strategist and Senior Counselor at APCO Worldwide, and the Chairman of the American University of Afghanistan, a prominent private, liberal arts, not-for-profit, co-education University. As a diplomat, he has served as the last ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the Russian Federation from 2021 to 2022. From 2017 to 2020, Jawad served as Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. From December 2003 to September 2010, Jawad served as Ambassador to the United States.

**Amb. Robin Lynn Raphel**



a career Foreign Service Officer, became the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia in November 1997. Ambassador Raphel served as Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs 1993-1997. She began her career as a lecturer in history at Damavand College in Tehran, Iran. She first worked for the United States Government as an economic analyst for the CIA from 1973 to 1975. She then moved to Islamabad, Pakistan, where she worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development as an economic/financial analyst. She then joined the State Department.

### Ms. Dalia Ziada



is an Egyptian writer. She is the author of *The Curious Case of the Three-Legged Wolf - Egypt: Military, Islamism, and Liberal Democracy* and other internationally acclaimed non-fiction books on Middle East politics. She currently works as the Chairperson of the Liberal Democracy Institute and executive director of the MEEM Center for Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean Studies.

### Professor Benjamin Hopkins



oversees the Elliott School's Academic Programs, Graduate Admissions, International Exchanges, and Student Services as senior associate dean of academic affairs,. Benjamin D. Hopkins is a historian of modern South Asia, specializing in the history of Afghanistan and British imperialism on the Indian subcontinent.