

**First international Webinar to mark the cooperation agreement between  
The University of Haifa, Israel and University of the Free State, South Africa**

## **Developments in the Middle East**

**Webinar open to a public online audience on 14 October 2020**

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In April 2018 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation was signed between the University of Haifa, Israel and the University of the Free State, South Africa. An international workshop was due to be hosted by the University of Haifa on 12 March 2020 to mark this agreement and to further it. The COVID-19 / CoronaVirus prevented this event from taking place. On 14 October 2020 an Online Webinar will take place to ensure that even due to this Global Pandemic, the academic interchange and discourse continues. The Online Event will commence at 15:30 (Israel Summer Time). It is open to the Public. Each speaker has 7-10 minutes. The Audience may submit written questions during the presentations that will answered at the end of the event.

### **Webinar Commences (14:30 South Africa Standard Time / 15:30 Israel Summer Time)**

**Welcome Remarks by** Professor Philippe Burger - Pro Vice-Chancellor: Poverty, Inequality and Economic Development, and Vice Dean (Strategic Projects): Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, University of the Free State, South Africa

#### **Iran**

**Chair: Dr Samuel Lebens (University of Haifa)**

**(14:35-15:25 South Africa Standard Time / 15:35-16:25 Israel Summer Time)**

- ◆ Dr Thamar E. Gindin (University of Haifa) **The people's voice: What can we and what can't we learn from social media**
- ◆ Dr Eben Coetzee (University of Free State) **The threat of a nuclear Iran: a dissident view**
- ◆ Dr Soli Shahvar, (University of Haifa) **The Iranian angle (domestic, regional and international policy)**
- ◆ Ashkan Safaei Hakimi (University of Haifa) 1) **Iran and Hezbollah: Same soul, Two bodies or 2) Hujjatye Society (Anti-Bahai society of Iran)**
- ◆ Dr Yossi Mansharof (University of Haifa)

#### **The Persian Gulf**

**Chair: Dr Eben Coetzee (University of Free State)**

**(15:25-16:05 South Africa Standard Time / 16:25-17:05 Israel Summer Time)**

- ◆ Professor Amatzia Baram (University of Haifa) **The new government in Iraq and the Iraqi scene**
- ◆ Dr Eran Segal (University of Haifa) **Saudi Arabia and Kuwait - toward a new model for the order of succession in the ruling family**
- ◆ Dr Ido Zerkovitz (Yezreel Valley College and the University of Haifa) **Israel, the Gulf, and the Palestinian Question: a new Area?**
- ◆ Dr. Glen Segell (University of Haifa) **New diplomatic relations transforms geopolitics**

#### **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

**Chair: Dr Glen Segell (University of Haifa)**

**(16:05-16:35 South Africa Standard Time / 17:05-17:35 Israel Summer Time)**

- ◆ Professor Theo Neetling (University of Free State) **China's military presence in Djibouti: driving forces and some implications for the MENA region**
- ◆ Professor Hussein Solomon (University of Free State) **Managing identity politics in the fractious MENA region**
- ◆ Dr. Moshe Terdiman (University of Haifa) **1) Developments in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean or 2) Renaissance dam in Ethiopia.**

**Concluding Comments by** Professor (Rear-Admiral) Shaul Chorev (Phd) - Director, Ezri Center for Iran & Persian Gulf Studies, University of Haifa, Israel

**MoU Facilitator and Webinar Convener:** Glen Segell (DPhil, FRGS) – Research Associate: Ezri Center for Iran & Persian Gulf Studies, University of Haifa, Israel / Visiting Professor: Political Studies and Governance, University of the Free State, South Africa