

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

European and Eurasian Studies Program



Panel Discussion: An Update on Europe – Iran Relations

Florida International University – Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Live Webinar

Participants: Biographical Notes

Tuesday, November 17, 2020



Shireen Hunter, Ph.D

Honorary Fellow

*The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU)
Georgetown University*

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.

She is the author of 16 books and monographs and editor/contributor of 12 books and monographs. Her latest books include: *God On Our Side: Religion and International Affairs* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), *Iran Divided: The Historical Roots of Iranian Debates On identity, Culture and Governance* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014; Choice Outstanding Academic Title, 2015), *Iran's Foreign Policy in the Post-Soviet Era: Resisting the New International Order* (Praeger, 2010), and [*Reformist Voices of Islam: Mediating Islam and Modernity*](#) (Routledge, 2008). She has written more than 100 book chapters and Journal articles and over 500 opinion pieces. She has lectured widely and participated in conferences in the United States, Europe, Russia, the Middle East and Central Asia and appeared frequently in US and other media.



Eldar Mamedov, Ph.D.
Political Advisor
European Parliament

Eldar Mamedov has degrees from the University of Latvia and the Diplomatic School in Madrid, Spain. He has worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and as a diplomat in Latvian embassies in Washington D.C. and Madrid. Since 2007, Mamedov has served as a political adviser for the social-democrats in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament (EP) and is in charge of the EP delegations for inter-parliamentary relations with Iran, Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, and Mashreq.



Mohammad Homayounvash, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and Education, Miami-Dade College
Lecturer, Steven J. Green. School of International & Public Affairs, FIU
and the Religious Studies Department, University of Miami

Mohammad Homayounvash is the founding director of the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and Education at Miami-Dade College and a lecturer at the School of International & Public Affairs at FIU and the Religious Studies Department at the University of Miami. He is the author of *Iran and the Nuclear Question* (Routledge, 2017). Formerly, he has been a fellow at Hertog Global Strategy Initiative at Columbia University and a Nuclear History Research fellow for Wilson Center's Nuclear Proliferation International History Project (NPIHP) at Monash University in South Africa. He has previously been a visiting scholar at Miami Dade College and a visiting professor of international relations at Garodia International College and Louisiana State University (LSU).



Eric Lob, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Politics & International Relations
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
Florida International University

Eric Lob is an associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University. His research focuses on the politics of development in the Middle East and beyond. He is the author of the book *Iran's Reconstruction Jihad: Rural Development and Regime Consolidation after 1979* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). His articles have appeared in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Iranian Studies*, *Middle East Critique*, *The Middle East Journal*, and *Third World Quarterly*, among other publications. He received the 2014 Foundation for Iranian Studies annual award for best dissertation and honorable mention for the biannual Association for Iranian Studies Mashayekhi Dissertation Award. In 2013-14, he earned a PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University and was a postdoctoral research fellow at Brandeis University's Crown Center for Middle East Studies. He is a Board of Trustees member of the American Institute of Iranian Studies (AIrS) and a member of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA).



Markus Thiel, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations
Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University*

Markus Thiel is associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, Miami and director of FIU's Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Dr. Thiel's research interests are the political sociology of the EU and European (Union) Politics more generally, as well as Nationalism & Identity Politics. He graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 2005 and has published several EU-related articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, his research on the political sociology of the EU produced the monograph, 'The Limits of Transnationalism' (Palgrave, 2011), and 5 co-edited volumes on: 'Diversity and the European Union' (with Lisa Pruegl, Palgrave, 2009), 'Identity Politics in the Age of Globalization' (with Roger Coate, Lynne Rienner/First Forum Press, 2010), 'European Identity & Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging' (with Rebecca Friedman, Ashgate, 2012), 'Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ Claims Shape International Relations' (with Manuela Picq, Routledge, 2015) and 'EU Development Policies between Norms and Geopolitics' (with Sarah Beringer & Sylvia Maier, Palgrave, 2019). Most recently, he published a book on the linkage of European transnational civil society groups with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency: 'EU Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy' (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).

He teaches CPO 3103 Comparative (Western) European Politics, CPO 3104 EU Politics, INR 3214 International Relations of Europe, INR 3502 International Organizations, as well as graduate courses on European/EU Politics, International Organization and Research Design in IR. He supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics and International Organizations.

