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(AS OF 12 SEPTEMBER 2023)

Bilgehan Alagoz, Marmara University, Center for Iranian Studies (IRAM), Istanbul, Turkey

Bilgehan Alagoz is a full-time faculty member at the School of Political Science at Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey. In addition, she is a senior expert at the Center for Iranian Studies in Istanbul, Turkey. She received her BA in International Relations from Istanbul University and her MA and Ph.D. in Middle Eastern Studies from Marmara University. She was a visiting fellow at the University of Wisconsin–Madison Middle East Studies Program in 2008. Her doctoral thesis is entitled ‘*Securitization Policy as an Effective Tool in the Foreign Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Iran’s Persian Gulf Policy After the 2003 Iraqi War*’. Her research interests are foreign policy analysis focusing on Turkish–Iranian Relations and Iranian Foreign Policy, IR theory, particularly Copenhagen School, Middle East Politics, and Persian Gulf Studies.

Chiara Barbati, Università di Pisa, Italy

Chiara Barbati is a professor of Iranian Studies at the University of Pisa, and a visiting professor at the *Pontificio Istituto Orientale* (Rome). Study of Glottology and Indo–European languages in Rome ‘Sapienza’ University. PhD in Iranian Studies in 2009, ‘Sapienza’ University, after spending two years at the Turfanforschung, The Berlin–Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. 2009–2010 Post-doctoral fellowship at the Faculty of Arts, ‘Sapienza’ University of Rome. 2010–2012 Junior scientist at the Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna. 2013–2014 Senior postdoc with the Lise Meitner Program at the Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna. 2014–2017 APART fellowship at the Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna. She is also senior researcher, FWF Stand–Alone Project *Scribal habits. A case study from Christian Medieval Central Asia* at the Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna.

Guillaume Dye, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgique

Guillaume Dye is professor of Islamology at the *Université Libre de Bruxelles* (ULB). His work focuses on Koranic studies and the history of the beginnings of Islam. He is co-founder and co-director of the Early Islamic Studies Seminar. He has notably published *Heresies: a construction of religious identities* (with Christian Brouwer and Anja van Rompaey, Editions de l’Université de Bruxelles, 2015). He recently co-edited *Le Coran des historiens* [The Quran of Historians] (with Mohammad Ali Amir Moezzi), ed. du Cerf, 2019, a 3,000-page scholarly monument which has received the grand prize for best book 2020 from the *Institut du Monde Arabe* (Paris), and *Early Islam. The Sectarian Milieu of Late Antiquity?* Editions de l’Université de Bruxelles, 2022.

Radosław Fiedler, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland

Radosław Fiedler is an Associate Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan in Poland, head of the Department for Non-European Political Studies at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism. Author of numerous articles and monographs related to research topics as the Middle East and Central Asia regional dynamic, the Belt and Road Initiative, US policy toward Iran and the role of think tanks in the making the US foreign policy.

Bruno Genito, Università degli Studi di Napoli, L'Orientale, Italy

Bruno Genito is a professor of Central Asia Art and Archaeology at the Università degli Studi di Napoli, L'Orientale. He was previously a member and director of various Italian Archaeological Missions (MAI) in Russia, Turkmenistan, Iran, China, and Uzbekistan, and a member of the *Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l'Oriente* (ISMEO) in Rome.

Slobodan Janković, Institute of International Politics and Economics (IPE), Belgrade, Serbia

Slobodan Janković is Research Fellow and head of the Centre for Neighbourly and Mediterranean countries at the Institute of International Politics and Economics (Belgrade, Serbia). He joined the Institute of International Politics and Economics in 2006, where his main areas of academic interest include the Middle East politics, relations between big powers and the MENA region countries, Italian political history, Middle East peace process, borders in the Balkans and on migration trends. He obtained his PhD on '*Obstacles to the Middle East Peace process*' at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade (2014). He had earned his M.A. degree in Geopolitics and global security at the Faculty of Politics, University 'La Sapienza' in Rome (thesis on '*Radical Islam in Turkey*'), and had graduated from the Department of History, Faculty of Letters, University Roma TRE in Rome, Italy.

Jaafar Jotheri, Faculty of Archaeology, University of Al-Qadisiyah, Iraq

Jaafar Jotheri is Assistant Professor at the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Archaeology, University of Al-Qadisiyah (Iraq), and Honorary research fellow at the Department of Archaeology, Durham University (United Kingdom), where he obtained a PhD in Geoarchaeology (2016). He has been a member of the core team of the Nahrein Network, University College London (UCL).

Burcu Kurt, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey

Burcu Kurt is associate professor at Istanbul Technical University. PhD at Marmara University (2012) (Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Department of International Relations and Political History). Her thesis was entitled '*II. Meşrutiyet Döneminde Basra Vilayeti (1908-1914)*' [The Ottoman Administration of Basra Province (1908-1914)]. Her research interests and recent publications focus on modern history of the Middle East, including the late Ottoman Empire and the British Mandate on Mesopotamia.

Abbas Moghaddam, Iranian Center for Archaeological Research (ICAR), Tehran, Iran

Abbas Moghaddam is Assistant Professor at the Prehistoric Archaeology Department, Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (ICAR) in Tehran, Iran. He has conducted extensive field research, and has directed the 'Zohreh Prehistoric Project' (ZPP) under which excavations have been conducted from 2015 to 2020 on the important prehistoric burial site of Chega Sofla in Khuzestan (Iran). He has published a number of books and articles on the archaeology of Iran.

Przemyslaw Osiewicz, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland

Przemyslaw Osiewicz is Associate Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, and a non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute, Washington D.C. He is a Board Member of the Polish International Studies Association (PTSM). He has published extensively on Middle Eastern international relations and politics, in particular on the foreign policy of Iran and on the Belt and Road initiative.

Mohamed Ouerfelli, Aix-Marseille University and CNRS, France

Mohamed Ouerfelli is lecturer in history at Aix-Marseille University (France). His main research interests are the economic and social history of the mediaeval Mediterranean world, relations between Europe and the mediaeval Muslim world, and diplomatic and commercial relations. He has authored numerous publications, and coordinated various edited volumes, one of the most recent being *De la guerre à la paix en Méditerranée*

médiévale. Acteurs, propagande, défense et diplomatie, with E. Malamut (Aix-en-Provence: Presses Universitaires de Provence 2021).

Erwin M. Ruprechtsberger, Institut für Antike, Fachbereich Archäologie, Universität Graz, Austria

Erwin M. Ruprechtsberger is professor emeritus at the Universities of Salzburg and Graz. He studied Classical Studies, Classical Philology, Byzantine Studies, and Christian Archeology at the Universities of Vienna and Salzburg. In 1978 he was appointed archaeologist of the city of Linz, where he also served as deputy director of the city museum of Linz (Nordico) from 1990. He has published more than 500 publications, including more than 50 monographs, and conducted excavations in Austria and France, as well as in the Middle East, in particular in Baalbek (Lebanon), in Palmyra and on Mount Hermon (Syria), but also in North Africa (Sahara) and in Tobruk (Libya).

Rustam Shukurov, Moscow State University, Russia

Rustam Shukurov graduated in 1984 at the History Faculty of the Moscow State University, where he has been working since 1990. In 2012, he defended his habilitation dissertation in History. He is Professor of Byzantine studies at Moscow State University, and Visiting Scholar at the University of St Andrews (United Kingdom). He has published monographs, translations, and many articles on the Byzantine, Iranian and Turkic worlds, including 'The Grand Komnenoi and the Orient (1204-1461)' (Moscow: 2001) and 'The Byzantine Turks. 1204-1461' (Leiden: Brill, 2016).