**New America**

New America is dedicated to the renewal of American politics, prosperity, and purpose in the Digital Age. Our hallmark is big ideas, impartial analysis, pragmatic policy solutions, technological innovation, next generation politics, and creative engagement with broad audiences.

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Arizona State University has developed a new model for the American research university, creating an institution that is committed to excellence, access and impact. ASU measures itself by those it includes, not by those it excludes. ASU pursues research that contributes to the public good, and ASU assumes major responsibility for the economic, social and cultural vitality of the communities that surround it.

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**Examing the Crisis in Syria**

**Featured speakers**

- **Anne-Marie Slaughter** is currently the president and CEO of the New America Foundation, a public policy institute and idea incubator based in Washington and New York. She is also the Bert G. Kerstetter ’66 University Professor Emerita of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. From 2007–2011 she served as director of Policy Planning for the United States Department of State, the first woman to hold that position. Upon leaving the State Department she received the Secretary’s Distinguished Service Award for her work leading the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, as well as meritorious service awards from USAID and the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe. Prior to her government service, Dr. Slaughter was the Dean of Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs from 2002–2009 and the J. Sinclair Armstrong Professor of International, Foreign, and Comparative Law at Harvard Law School from 1994–2002.

- **Aaron Y. Zelin** is the Richard Bowor Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and the Rena and Samii David Fellow at the International Center for Radicialisation and Political Violence. He is also a PhD candidate at King’s College London. His research focuses global jihadiism within the Arab world.

- **Jim Zogby** is the founder and president of the Arab American Institute (AAI), a Washington, D.C.-based organization which serves as the political and policy research arm of the Arab American community. He is also Managing Director of Zogby Research Services, which specializes in groundbreaking public opinion polling across the Arab world.

- **Megan Price** is the Director of Research for the Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG) where she designs strategies and methods for statistical analysis of human rights data for HRDAG projects. She is leading the project with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights enumerating casualties in the Syrian conflict and has contributed analyses presented in two court cases in Guatemala. She was recently named a research fellow at the Center for Human Rights Science at Carnegie Mellon University.

- **Daniel Rothenberg** is Professor of Practice in the School of Politics and Global Studies, the Lincoln Fellow for Ethics and International Human Rights Law and Co-Director of the Center on the Future of War as well as a 2015 Fellow at New America, a DC-based think tank. From 2004 to 2010, he designed and managed human rights and rule of law projects in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Latin America. Before joining the faculty at ASU, Rothenberg was Managing Director of International Projects at the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University College of Law, Senior Fellow at the Oriville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights Yale Law School, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, and a Fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows.

- **George Sabra** was born in Syria 1947 and is a leadership member of Syrian Democratic People Party, an opposition party since 1970. He was arrested in 1987 for 8 years, and twice in 2011 for his opposition activities. Syrian National Council elected him as a president in 2012.

- **Oubai Shahbandar** is a Syrian-American who formerly served for nearly 9 years as a Defense Intelligence analyst and foreign affairs specialist in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. While in DOD, he deployed on multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan supporting military operations and tribal outreach. Based in D.C. and the Middle East, he provides regular commentary and analysis on Syrian political, tribal, and military dynamics.

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Hannah Allam is an American journalist and the Middle East Bureau Chief (Baghdad) for McClatchy Newspapers. Early in her career, Ms. Allam interned for the Washington Post. She then became a staff reporter for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, from which McClatchy recruited her in 2003 to assist them with, and later to lead, their in-depth coverage of the Iraqi War. She is fluent in English, French, and Arabic. She was a 2008-2009 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

Honey Al-Sayed is an award-winning broadcast journalist and an accomplished bilingual communications professional. After the outbreak of the Syrian uprising, Al-Sayed came to the United States and co-founded SouriJa – an independent, nonprofit, online radio station where she works as a producer, host, and media consultant. She is also a co-founder of the ROYA Association ("Vision for a Better Syria"), independently, she works as a media and creative consultant advancing the interplay of art and cultural dialogue on advancing social and political change.

Farah Atassi is a prominent political activist with over 15 years of knowledge and experience in governments and international affairs specializing in U.S.-Middle Eastern Relations. Since the start of the Syrian Revolution, Atassi was involved in major political conferences and activities with other Syrian Opposition Groups and Friends of Syria. She was elected as an independent member at the Syrian National Coalition, but immediately, she gave up her seat to a woman from inside Syria. She frequently writes and appears on major media outlets in U.S. and the Middle East including CNN, BBC Al Arabia, Al Jazeera and SkyNews among many others. She was chosen by the Syrian National Census Bureau as the “most popular and influential opposition leader” inspiring youth, women, and NGOs in Syria.

Peter Baker is an American political and newspaper writer who is White House correspondent for The New York Times and a contributing writer for The New York Times Magazine responsible for covering President Barack Obama and the Obama Administration.

Barak Barfi is a Research Fellow at New America, where he specializes in Arab and Islamic Affairs. Previously, Barak was a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution. His articles have appeared in The Washington Post, International Herald Tribune, Foreign Policy, Daily Beast, the Atlantic and the New Republic, in addition to being regularly featured in Project Syndicate. He has also extensively published in leading foreign publications such as Australia’s The Australian, Austria’s Der Standard, England’s The Guardian, and Spain’s El Pais. Barak has published several monographs and encyclopedia articles on topics such as al-Qaeda, Libya and Yemen. He is a frequent commentator on CNN, BBC, MSNBC and Fox News. Barak frequently testifies before Congress on issues ranging from al-Qaeda to the Syrian conflict.

Peter Bergen is an American print and broadcast journalist, author, documentary producer, and CNNs national security analyst. In 1997, Bergen produced the first television interview with Osama bin Laden. The interview, which aired on CNN, marked the first time that bin Laden declared war against the United States to a Western audience. Bergen has written four books: Holy War, Inc.: Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden (2001), The Osama bin Laden I Know (2006), The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict Between America and al-Qaeda (2011), and Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for Bin Laden From 9/11 to Abbottabad(2012). He is also Vice President of New America.

Alexandra Brosnan is an International Rescue Committee’s senior advocacy and policy officer covering humanitarian crises in the Middle East. She leads IRC’s policy initiatives in Washington, DC as they pertain to the region; in particular helping to call the attention of policy makers to the needs of those affected by the Syria crisis. She is the co-author of IRC’s policy reports on the Syria crisis, “Syria: A Regional Crisis” and “Reaching the Breaking Point: Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.”

Rajiv Chandrasekaran is a senior correspondent and associate editor of The Washington Post. He has served as The Post’s national editor, an assistant managing editor and as bureau chief in Baghdad, Cairo and Southeast Asia. His reporting for The Post has been recognized with honors from the Overseas Press Club and the Society of Professional Journalists. In 2012, he received the Arthur Ross Award for Distinguished Reporting and Analysis of Foreign Affairs from the American Academy of Diplomacy. He has served two terms as a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. He also has been the author in residence at the Center for a New American Security and the journalist in residence at the International Reporting Project at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies.

Kelly Clements has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State since 2010 with responsibility for humanitarian issues in Asia and the Near East, the Office of Policy and Resource Planning, and the Comptroller’s Office in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. She served from April – August 2014 as Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy Beirut, Lebanon. As Deputy and then Director, she led the Office of Policy and Resource Planning from 2002 - 2010, where she was responsible for the Bureau’s strategic planning, policy development, budget, and performance activities. She currently guides the Bureau’s substantial humanitarian portfolio and articulates to the Department and interagency community sound stewardship of financial resources of over $2 billion provided annually to major international and non-governmental organizations to protect and assist refugees, conflict victims, and vulnerable migrants worldwide.

David Crane, professor of practice at Syracuse University College of Law, served over 30 years in the federal government of the United States. Appointed to the Senior Executive Service of the United States in 1997, Mr. Crane held numerous key managerial positions during his three decades of public service prior to his tribunal appointment. From 2002-2005 he was the founding Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, an international war crimes tribunal, appointed to that position by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, on 19 April 2002. Among those he indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity was the President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, the first sitting African head of state in history to be indicted and convicted for such international crimes.

Jennifer Daskal is an Assistant Professor of Law at American University Washington College of Law. From 2009-2011, Daskal was counsel to the Asst. Attorney General for National Security at the Department of Justice and, on other things, served on the Secretary of Defense and Attorney General-led Detention Policy Task Force. Prior to joining DOJ, she was the senior counterterrorism counsel at Human Rights Watch, worked as a staff attorney for the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and clerked for the Honorable Jed S. Rakoff. Daskal is a graduate of Brown University, Harvard Law School, and Cambridge University, where she was a Marshall Scholar.

Robert Ford finished a thirty-year career with the Peace Corps and the U.S. Department of State in April 2014 and now is a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington. He was the U.S. Ambassador to Syria 2011-2014, receiving wide recognition for his work on human rights, including the John F. Kennedy Library Peace Award in 2012. He was the U.S. Ambassador in Algeria 2006-2008, boosting cooperation in education and the rule of law. He served five years in Iraq helping the Iraqis establish their permanent government through three rounds of elections and preparation of a new constitution. He has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, Fox, NPR and numerous print media.

Leila Hilal is a senior fellow for the International Security Program and the former director of the Middle East Task Force at the New America Foundation. She focuses on Syria, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and issues related to U.S. foreign policy, community-based change, constitution-making, and transitional justice in the broader Middle East and North Africa.

Joyce Karam is the Washington Bureau for Al-Hayat Newspaper, an International Arabic Daily based in London and a weekly columnist with Al-Arabiya English. Joyce writes extensively on US foreign policy in the Middle East, and the ongoing challenges in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Joyce holds a B.A. in journalism and an M.A. in International Peace and Conflict Resolution.

David John Kilcullen is an Australian author, strategist and counterinsurgency expert and is currently the non-executive Chairman of Casus Associates, a strategy and design consulting firm that he founded. From 2005 to 2006, he was Chief Strategist in the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the U.S. State Department. Kilcullen was a senior counter-insurgency advisor to General David Petraeus in 2007 and 2008, where he helped design and monitor the Iraq War troop surge. He was then a special advisor for counter-insurgency to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Kilcullen has been a Senior Fellow of the Center for a New American Security and an Adjunct Professor at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Thomas O. Melia is Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL). He is responsible for DRL’s work in Europe, including Russia, and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa region. In addition to serving as Head of DRL, he also chairs several meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Melia was the U.S. co-chair of the Civil Society Working Group in the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission.