



SESSION #4A

CHAIR: Dr. Julie Ellison-Speight

Science and Diplomacy in the Middle East

Friday, Oct. 25, 2019

9:15– 10:45 am

- 1. Academia's Role in Science Diplomacy and Connecting Regions**
Sharon B. Megdal, Director, Water Resources Research Center, UA
- 2. Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (Middle Eastern NGOs in Science Diplomacy)**
David Lehrer, Director, Arava Institute for Environmental Studies
- 3. Science Diplomacy in Immigration Policy**
Megan Carney, Assistant Professor, School of Anthropology, UA
- 4. The Private Sector in Middle Eastern Scientific Diplomacy**
Mohamad Amin Saad, MASAR Technologies, Inc.
- 5. HIVE: Harnessing Innovation through Virtual Exchange Program**
Julie Ellison-Speight, Assistant Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UA

ABSTRACT: This panel organized by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) will emphasize science and diplomacy in the context of the Middle East bringing a comparative regional aspect to the “Sustainable Development in the Americas” theme. **Dr. Sharon Megdal**, Director of the Water Resources Research Center and Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, will speak to the role of the academy in matters of science and diplomacy and connect aspects of water issues confronting the US and Mexico border area to those of the Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian region. **Mr. David Leher**, who holds a joint Master’s Degree in Management Science from Boston University and Ben Gurion and is the Executive Director of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, will take part via Zoom to discuss the role of his Middle Eastern non-governmental organization in scientific diplomacy. **Dr. Megan Carney**, an Assistant Professor of Anthropology, specializes in transnational and gendered migration and serves as the Director of the Center for Regional Food Studies. Carney will share from her research with Mexican and Central American migrant populations in the US and with African migrants in Italy to discuss the role scientific diplomacy plays in matters of immigration policy formation. **Mohamad Amin Saad**, an Expert Desalination Consultant at MASAR Technologies, Inc., will discuss the role of the private sector in Middle Eastern scientific diplomacy. **Dr. Julie Ellison-Speight**, CMES Assistant Director, will present on the University of Arizona (UA) Harnessing Innovation through Virtual Exchange Program (HIVE), which was a Stevens Initiative project housed at the Aspen Institute and funded by the US State Department. For the HIVE project, CMES assisted UA and American University in Cairo science classes in their interactions.