

Curriculum Vitae

Abdolrasool Divsallar

Summary of Expertise

Subject Area:

Global and Regional Security. Comparative Regionalism. Comparative Foreign Policy. Theories of Deterrence. Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. Security Reform. Great Power Politics.

Geographic Scope:

Middle East with focus on Iran and GCC. Russia. EU Neighbourhood.

Methodological Approach:

Mix Methods. Interviews and Focused Group techniques. Comparative Analysis. Scenario Planning. Result Chain Analysis.

Leadership skills:

Demonstrated ability to lead major research projects and develop interdisciplinary research agendas. Successful track record in building professional networks and developing partnerships with policy makers and relevant stakeholders. Willingness and ability for supervision and mentorship.

Education

2014-2018

Ph.D. of Political Science, University of Tehran.

Thesis on “Security-Development Nexus in Contemporary Politics: A Structural Limit in the Case of Iran (1925-2015)”.

2011- 2013

MA in Political Science, Faculty of Law & Political Science, Alame Tabatabaei University, Tehran.

Teaching Positions

Feb. 2022 - continued

Visiting Professor, Higher School of Economics and International Relations (ASERI), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan.

Courses taught: Theories of Regional (in)Security; International Security: Concepts and Issues; Iran's Foreign and Security Policy; Regional Security in the Middle East

Level: MA in Middle Eastern Studies.

June 2021 - continued

Adjunct Professor, Limes Geopolitical School, Rome.

Courses taught: Comparative Strategic Culture in the Middle East: The Case of Iran

March. 2020 – Feb. 2022

Adjunct Professor, Higher School of Economics and International Relations (ASERI), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan.

Sep. 2015 – Dec. 2017

Adjunct Lecturer, Islamic Azad University, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Tehran.

Courses taught: IR Theories; Gulf Issues; Research Methods; Foreign Policy Analysis.

Level: BA in political science.

Academic Positions

July 2023

Senior research fellow, Lancaster University

January 2022- continued

Non-resident scholar, Middle East Institute, Washington.

Sep. 2019 – Dec. 2021

Policy Leader Fellow at School of Transnational Governance (Sep.2020 to Jan. 2021)

Project Lead at the Middle East Directions Programme, Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), European University Institute, Florence.

Sep. 2017 - Dec. 2018

Non-resident Senior Fellow, Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS), Tehran.

Jan. 2009 -Dec. 2016

Director, National Resources and Development Program, Institute for Research Activities on Millennium Planning (RAMP) (in this NGO I managed a group of 12 researchers in 3 separate projects), Tehran.

Feb. 2005 – Dec. 2008

Researcher, Center for Strategic Studies, Tehran.

Thesis Supervision (selected)

Davide Marcantoni, MA Thesis, “The Role of Zoroastrians in Iran's Foreign Policy.”

Leonardo Mazzucco, MA Thesis, “The GCC as a Regional Security Model: Challenges and Hopes.”

Alessandro Cassanmagnago, MA Thesis, “The Influence of The Covid-19 Pandemic on Middle East States Strategic Capabilities.”

Lorenzo Tita, MA Thesis, “The Impacts of JCPOA Failure on Iran’s Missile Program.”

Rasool Niknam, MA Thesis, “The Conceptualization of National Resources.”

Memberships

March 2022 - continued

Member, Missile Dialogue Initiative, International Institute for Strategic Studies, London.

May 2021 - continued

Member of the Advisory Board, Climate Change Programme, Middle East Institute.

June 2020 - continued

Member of Standing Group on Mediterranean Politics and Society (MEDNET), European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR).

Research Grants & Awards

upcoming

€ 50,000 (under negotiation), US National Defence University NESA center fund for “*Reforming Regional Security Architecture: Towards Mobilizing a Multilateral Defense Dialogues in the Gulf.*”

2023

€ 75,000 grant, NATO Middle East Section for funding “*Reforming Regional Security Architecture in the Gulf: Towards Mobilizing a Multilateral Defense Dialogues.*”

€ 30,000, ECPR fund to organize a 2-day closed-door workshop on “*Russian Middle East Policy.*”

2021

€ 110,000 project, EU fund for running “Regional Security Initiative” at the European University Institute, Italy.

2020

€ 12,500 grant, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, Florence.

2019

€ 3,000 grant, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA), USA.

2017

Prize winner of *National Post Graduate Yearbook*, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, Tehran.

2016 - 2018

€ 25,000 grant awarded by National Organization of Social Issues for a fieldwork project on “*Social Development Strategic Planning in Iran*”, the project won National prize for “*Excellence in Social Science Research.*”

2016

Prize Winner of twelfth *Book Critique Award*, Iranian Ministry of Culture, Tehran.

2012

€ 12,000 grant, awarded by RAMP for a project “*Discourse Analysis of Idea of Development: Case of Iranian Intellectuals*,” Tehran.

2012

Prize Winner of the *Best post Graduate Researcher in Political Science*, Alame Tabatabaei University, Tehran.

Academic Publications

Peer Reviewed Papers

Forthcomings/in progress

“Protective integration and rising interdependency: Making sense of Iranian response to Russian invasion of Ukraine”, *International Studies Review (ISR)*, (accepted).

“The Perception of Russia in Iran's Military-Industrial Complexes”

“Nuclear Ambiguity as a Military Strategy: The Case of Iran,” with Ludovika Castelli

“Civilizational Turn in Global Politics: the Case of Russia and Iran,” with Maria Engstrom

2023

“[Towards a Non-Western Model of Security Assistance: How Iran Assist Militaries](#)”, co-authored with Hamidreza Azizi, *Mediterranean Politics*.

“[The Militarisation of Iran's Perception of Saudi Threat](#)”, *The Muslim World*.

2022

“[Shifting Threats and Strategic Adjustment in Iran’s Foreign Policy: The case of the Strait of Hormuz](#)”, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 49, No. 5.

2019

“[The Pillars of Iranian-Russian Security Convergence](#)”, *The International Spectator*, Vol.54, No.3.

“[Security-Development Nexus in Foreign Policy: The Case of Soviet-Iran relations 1962-1979](#)” [in Farsi], co-authored with Mohamad Javad Javadi Arjmand, *Politics Quarterly*, Vol.49, No.2, Summer, pp: 311-332.

2017

“[Political Rationality in Iranian Foreign Policy](#)”, co-authored with Keyhan Barzegar, *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol.40, No.1.

2013

“Development and Resource Distribution Structure in Political Regimes”, co-authored

with Mehrdad Nazeri and Hadi Abolfathi, *International Journal of Social Science*, Vol.3, No.1, pp: 19-24.

2008

“[Links of Russian Military Doctrine to its Foreign Policy Objectives](#)” [in Farsi], *Defence Strategy Quarterly*, Vol. 6, No. 22, pp: 57-88.

2007

“[Evaluating Dimensions of Russian Security Doctrine](#)”[in Farsi], *Defence Policy Quarterly*, Vol.15, No.60, ISSN-1025-5087.pp: 9-43.

Authored Books

Forthcoming

Regional Security Reform: Unpacking Strategies, Instruments, and Dilemmas, Cambridge University Press (under evaluation)

2018

Reflections on the Idea of Progress, [in Farsi], (Tehran: Rozane).

2015

The Power of Information: Assessing Changes in Iran's National Security Thinking, [in Farsi], (Tehran: Teesa Publication).

2008

Understanding Iran's Military Environment, [in Farsi], (Tehran: Malek Ashtar University Press).

2007

Russian Command and Control Strategies and Architectures, [in Farsi] 2 Volumes, (Tehran: Malek Ashtar University Press).

Edited Books

Forthcoming

Struggle for Alliance: Russia and Iran in the Era of War in Ukraine, (London: I.B Tauris and Bloomsbury, 2024).

2021

[Stepping Away from Abyss: A Gradual Approach Towards a New Security System in the Persian Gulf](#), co-edited with Luigi Narbone, (Florence: European University Institute).

2013

Development Studies and the Resource Factor: An Alternative Approach to Iranian Issues, [in Farsi], (Tehran: Rozane).

Book Chapters

Forthcoming

“Authoritarian Alliance: The Systemic Factors that Brings Russia and Iran Together” in *Struggle for Alliance: Russia and Iran in the Era of War in Ukraine*, edited by Abdolrasool Divsallar, (London: I.B Tauris and Bloomsbury, 2024).

2023

“The Foreign Policy Establishment in Iran”, chapter in *The Sacred Republic: Power and Institutions in Iran* edited by Mehran Kamrava, (London: Oxford University Press).

2021

“Why Do Regional Security Plans Fail?”, Chapter 3 in *Stepping Away from the Abyss*, L. Narbone and A. Divsallar (eds), (Florence: European University Institute Press).

2008

“Adjusting Political Objectives with Economic Power” [in Farsi], in *Theoretical View on Passive Defense*, edited by Mohsen Fardro, (Tehran: Abaasi Press).

Book Reviews

2017

“[Deep State and Social Science Nexus](#)”, Review of *Science of Coercion* by Christopher Sympton, *Quarterly Book Review of Information and Communication*, No. 15-16.

2016

“[Security and Politics: Critical Assessment in Information Age](#)”, Review of *Reshaping National Intelligence for an Age of Information* by Gregory Treverton, *Quarterly Book Review of Information and Communication*, No. 7-8.

2015

“[Information Power or Communication Power: Rethinking Castel's Theory of Networked Power](#)”, Review of *Communication Power* by Manuel Castells, *Quarterly Book Review of Information and Communication*, No. 3-4, Autumn 2014.

Translated Books

2013

Political Rationality and Strategic Logic, edited by Bradford Lee and Karl Walling, Translated to Persian, Tehran: Imam Sadeq University Press, 540 p.

Policy Publications

Policy Papers (selected)

Forthcoming (2024)

“Iran’s Foreign Policy: The Security Dimension,” with Chatham House with Sanam Vakil.

“Making Regional Security Dialogues Sustainable in the Middle East,” with Gawdat Bahgat

2023

[“The Strategic Calculus behind the Saudi-Iranian Agreement,”](#) with Hesham Alghannam, The Cairo Review of Global Affairs, April 9.

2022

[“Rising interdependency: How Russo-Iranian relations have evolved with the war in Ukraine”](#), Research Brief, Trends Research and Advisory.

[“The Gulf Regional Security After the JCPOA Revival”](#), Expert Policy Brief, Al Sharq Strategic Research.

2021

[“The Fallouts of US-Iran Confrontations for Russia: Revisiting Factors in Moscow’s Calculus”](#), co-authored with Pyotr Kortouev, Joint *RSCAS/Middle East Directions* and *Russian International Affairs Council Research Report*, European University Institute.

2020

[“A US-Iran Zero-sum Game on COVID-19 Could Threaten Global Health Security”](#), co-authored with Luigi Narbone, *RSCAS/Middle East Directions Policy Brief*, European University Institute.

[“De-escalating the Iran Crisis: Is there a Role for Europe”](#), *RSCAS/Middle East Directions Policy Brief*, European University Institute.

2019

[“Reviving Security Function: EU's path to Save the JCPOA”](#), co-authored with Marc Otte, *Egmont Security Policy Brief*, No.113, Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations.

2018

“The Military-Security Alliances and their Implications on the Future of Persian Gulf”, [in Farsi], *Tehran International Studies and Research Institute*, Strategic Report.

2016

“Weak Signals in Russia’s Syria Policy: Impacts on Iran and Turkey”, [in Farsi], *Institute for Islamic World Future Studies*, Working Paper No.20.

2013

“Challenges to Iranian Development: A Resource-Based Approach”, [in Farsi], *RAMP Working Paper* No.2.

2009

“New Approach to Study the Nature of Information”, [in Farsi], *Center for Strategic Research*, Working Paper No.15.

Op-eds and Commentaries (selected)

2023

[“Can the West stop Russian-Iranian convergence?”](#) With Alex Vatankha, Middle East Institute, April 3

[Iran, Russia, and the Militias: Seeds of Tactical Cooperation](#), with Julia Roknifard, ISPI, March 23,

[“A message to Tehran: What Drone Attacks on Iranian Critical Infrastructure Tell Us”](#), *Middle East Institute*, February 1.

2022

[“The Military dimension of Iran Protests”](#), *The Gulf States Institute in Washington* (AGSIW), Oct. 19.

[“Israel’s New Iran Strategy Complicates Regional Security”](#), co-authored with Gawdat Bahgat, *Middle East Institute*, July 27.

[“Iran is Learning From Russia’s Use of Missiles in Ukraine”](#), *Middle East Institute*, May 2.

[“Per L’Iran Più Geopolitica Che Virus”](#), *Limes (Italian Review of Geopolitics)*, January, pp.141-149.

[“A Military Strike on Iran is the Worst Non-Proliferation Strategy”](#), *Middle East Institute*, January 10.

2021

[“L’Iran Festeggia la Vittoria di Hamas”](#), *Limes*, June, pp. 211-215.

[“Why Biden Shouldn’t Deprive Iran from Conventional Deterrence”](#), *Middle East Institute*, February 25.

[“Ora Teheran Pensa Davvero Alla Bomba Atomica”](#), *Limes*, January, pp. 273-278.

2020

[“Will Iran Benefits from the Assassination of the Fakhrizadeh?”](#), *MEDirections Blog*, December 4.

[“Is COVID-19 Changing US-Iran State of Deterrence?”](#), *ISPI Dossier*, May 12.

[“The Annexation is a Double Opportunity for Iran”](#), *ISPI Dossier*, June 30.

[“USA Contro Iran L'occasione per Attaccare?”](#), *Limes*, March, pp. 247-252.

[“Morto Soleimani se ne fa un altro”](#), *Limes*, January, pp. 31-37.

2019

[“Iran's more offensive security policy in the post-protest period”](#), *MEDirections Blog*, December 9.

[“Ostpolitik all'Iraniana”](#), *Limes*, December, pp 161-167.

["It's time for Iran-US Military De-confliction Line"](#), co-authored with K. Barzegar, *Lobellog*, August 9.

"Hormuz e i mari contesi", *Limes*, August, pp. 211-221.

["Will Iran Adopt a Massive Retaliation Doctrine?"](#), *Lobellog*, May 28.

["Moscow's Options in the Wake of US Military Confrontation with Iran"](#), co-authored with Pyotr Kortunov *American Herald Tribune*, May 27.

"Why Iran's Military Doctrine is Still Deterrent", *Donyay-e Eghtesad Daily*, May 20.

"L'Iran Gioca all'Attacco Per Difendersi da Israele ", *Limes*, February, pp:180-191.

2018

"The Strategic Message of US Withdrawal from Syria", *Donyay-e Eghtesad Daily*, December 31.

"L'odio Arabo Spinge Teheran Sull'orlo Della Guerra", *Limes*, August, 2018, pp: 39-46.

"Iran's Pivot to East?", *Iranian Council on Foreign Relations*, July 28.

"The Challenge of Stability Operation in Syria for Iran, Russia and Turkey", *Donyay-e Eghtesad Daily*, April 5.

2017

"What Security Aliances in Persian Gulf Shows about Iranian Defense Diplomacy?", *Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies*, March

"Iran and the Russian Grand Bargain in the Trump Era", *Donyay-e Eghtesad Daily*, March 13.

["Judging the Effects: The shaping Iranian Perspective on JCPOA and Trump's Options"](#), *Russian International Affairs Council*, January 19.

2014

"Political Economy of Resource Crisis in Iran", *Hamshahri Newspaper*, No 132.

"How Officer Corps are Interrupting Development", *Etemad Newspaper*, No 1409.

2013

"The Problem of Resource and Obstacles for Iranian Development", *Political and Economic Ettelaat*, Vol.27, No.290, pp: 83-114.

"Elections, National Resources, and Development in Iran", *Bahar Daily*, July.

Keynote Speeches, Invited Panels, and Lectures (selected)

2023

Arab-Iranian Strategic Dialogue, Third Session, Amman, July
Budapest Peace Forum, MCC, 6-7 May

“Russia in Middle East After the War in Ukraine”, Lancaster University, 31 January

“Building a Stable Regional Security Architecture in the Middle East: Regional Views of Cooperative Efforts”, Joint Chatham House and UCLA workshop, Muscat, 23-24 January

2022

“The Prospects of Great Power Politics in the Post Ukraine War”, Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies (IRAS), on-line, April 12

“To Deal or Not to Deal: the JCPOA at the Crossroads”, ISPI MED Dialogues, on-line, April 6.

“The Russian Invasion of Ukraine from a MENA Perspective”, Al Sharq Strategic Research, Istanbul, March 10.

2021

“Security Architecture in the Middle East: Explaining Theoretical Complexities”, Cardiff University, on-line, December 6.

“Will a New Security System Can Emerge in the Persian Gulf?”, Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations, Brussels, Brussels, October 11.

“Cooperation in the Middle East: Fact or Fantasy?”, Middle East Institute, on-line, Nov.5

“The Return of Taliban: Regional Calculations of Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey”, the Qatar University, on-line, September 13.

“Towards Building a Security System in the Persian Gulf”, Speech at the Russian International Affairs Council , on-line, June 28.

“The Parameters of Russian-Iranian Partnership: Security Convergence and Beyond”, Speech at the Workshop on “The Russian-Iranian Partnership in the Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities”, LSE Middle East Center, On-line, April 1.

“Focused Interview as an Effective Research Technique in International Relations”, Speech at the Workshop on “Doing Interviews: A Transdisciplinary Conversation with Experts”, European University Institute, Florence, May 28.

2019

“From political Engagment to Political Demonisation: US-Iran Relation 2013-2019”, Speech at the *Middle East Directions Program*, Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, June 4.

“How Strategic Thinking Shapes Iran's Regional Security Policies”, Speech at the *Middle East Directions Program*, Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, April 9.

“National Interest or Security Environment? The Origins of Strategy-making in Iran”, Speach at *Limes Annual Festival*, Genova, March 10.

2018

“Security Implications of Trump's Iran Policy on Europe”, Keynote Speech at the *Institute for Global Studies (IGS)*, Rome, July 4.

“Salvaging the Iran Nuclear Deal: What Europe Can Do?”, Speech at the *European Policy Center (EPC)*, Brussels, June 25.

“Russian Foreign Policy and the Future of the JCPOA”, Briefing for MPs at *Iran's Parliament Research Center*, Tehran, March 12.

2017

“Analysing Political Rationality of Iranian Security Policy”, Speach at the *Institute for Global Studies (IGS)*, Brussels, November 8.

2016

“Russian Intervention and Polarization of Regional Powers”, Panelist at IMESS-ORSAM-IPSA Joint Workshop on *Iranian-Turkish Perspective of Regional Events*, Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (IMESS), Tehran, January.

2015

“Science and Crisis of Global Disorder”, Speech at Hamshahri Newspaper Panel for *The World Day on Science for Peace and Development*, Tehran, October.

Conferences with paper presented (selected)

2022

“Militarization of Saudi-Iran Relations”, Second Annual Conference on Iran, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha, August 22-23.

2021

“Decision making in Iran’s Foreign Policy Institutions”, Conference on *Institutions and Politics in Iran*, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, on-line, August 18.

2020

“Military Confidence Building: A Starting Point for New Security Architecture in the Persian Gulf”, Conference on *Toward a New Gulf Security Order: Abandoning Zero-sum Approaches*, Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University, on-line, March 19.

2019

“CTBT in the Middle East: Forgotten Logic”, paper presented at the Conference on *CTBT's Impact on the International Non-Proliferation Regime*, CTBT Preparatory Commission and Saint Petersburg University, Saint Petersburg, November 10-11.

2017

“The Order-Freedom Paradox in the Iranian Conception of Modernity (1850-1911): Roots of the Security-Development Dilemma”, Paper Presentation at Conference on *Paradigms of Change in Modernizing Asia and America*, Ghent University, Ghent, October 14.

“Threat Perception and Misrecognition: Understanding Why Iran and Russia Cooperate”, paper presented at the preparatory Workshop of *Second Tehran Security Conference*, Beirut, September 8-7.

2016

“The Evolving Security-Development Nexus in Iran: New Trends and Lessons”, Paper Presentation at *Development & Security in Conflict Zones, Migration Crisis, Lessons Learned and Future Lessons* Conference, European Association of Development Studies and Training (EADI), Krakow, December 1-3.

“Developmental Approach: Iran's Regional Policy Deficit”, paper presented at the *First Tehran Security Conference*, Tehran, December 11.

2014

“Is Iran's Nuclear Diplomacy Challenging Russian National Security Doctrine?” Paper Presentation at eighth Annual Conference of *Iranian Political Science Association*, Tehran, December.

2013

“*Lessons Learned from New Trends in Development Studies for Political Development in Iran*”, Paper Presentation at National Conference on Islamic-Iranian Model of Progress, Tehran, May.

Organized Conferences, Workshops and Panels (selected)

2022

Convenor, A series of three expert panels/workshops on “Implications of War in Ukraine on Russian Middle East Policy”, the Middle East Institute, Washington, May - September

2021

Scientific Coordinator (jointly with Joost Hiltermann), International Crisis Group and Middle East Directions Workshop titled “Testing Times in the Gulf: Is De-escalation Possible in a context of Regional Turmoil”, Brussels, December 10.

Scientific Coordinator (jointly with Luigi Narbone), 2-day Annual Conference of Middle East Directions titled “Where Do We Start: Designing Steps Towards a Regional Security System”, Florence, May 20-21.

- 2020** *Convenor*, nine expert panels/roundtables, Middle East Directions Programme, EUI
- 2019** *Convenor*, five expert panels/roundtables, Middle East Directions Programme, EUI
- Scientific Coordinator*, Workshop on “Kurdish Crisis: Implications and Future Crisis”, Middle East Directions Programme, EUI

Media Presence and interviews (selected)

TV Channels

BBC World; DW News; BBC Persian; Rai 3; Fox News; TRT World; Al-Jazeera; Al-Arabiya; Voice of America (VOA).

Other outlets

Bloomberg; Newsweek; Asia Times; AGI; Formiche; Limes; Inside Arabia; Lorient Le Jour.