



SPRING SCHOOL

**Outer Space Cooperation in the
Middle East
4 - 6 April 2025**

United Nations City of Bonn, Germany

Festsaal / University of Bonn
Regina-Pacis-Weg 3
53113 Bonn

From strategic competition to cooperation in space

The space-based infrastructure has performed various vital tasks for our planet, which have become indispensable for the functioning of all ultra-modern industrialized societies. This includes error-free navigation via global satellite-based navigation systems such as Galileo, Glonass, or GPS (Global Positioning System), but also the functioning of energy supply, stock exchange trading, ATMs, weather forecasting, the recording of data and trends on climate change and the transmission of critical data and information to the military. The dependence on satellites for communication, data collection, and crisis response will continue to increase. As dependence on space resources grows, so does the potential to influence the people, institutions, systems, and states that depend on them through strategic technological control.

Extraterrestrial space, the fifth domain of human civilization — after land, sea, air, and cyberspace — is a place for the projection of power and power politics of and between states with enormous economic, military, and strategic consequences for the entire international community. As a new arena of competition, space is exposed to tensions between major powers, while middle and regional powers are also interested in space due to its promising strategic advantages.

The space sector is also gaining strategic importance in the Middle East region. Investments in space technologies promote economic progress and create new industries and jobs. Countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are investing heavily in their space programs as part of their national visions, which are driving technological progress and regional development. Other actors, such as Egypt and Oman, are also increasingly interested in the sector. Developing comprehensive space infrastructures requires considerable investment, increasing competition for limited resources. Military applications in space intensify the security dilemma, while geopolitical alliances further influence competition.

At the same time, space also offers opportunities for cooperation among countries in the region. This harbors enormous potential for economic progress, security and regional stability, technological innovation, and international cooperation.

Objectives

This Spring School will examine the Middle Eastern states' space policies and strategic approaches and the legal, military, economic, and technological challenges to identify the potential for cooperation among them.

Participants will gain an in-depth insights into space policies in the Middle East and develop innovative ideas for cooperative approaches between the states through workshops.

Excursions to leading international space institutions in the UN city of Bonn are also planned. This will give participants a practical insight into the space sector.

Participants

Young students from related disciplines (political science, international relations, etc.) from the Middle East will be invited to the United Nations city of Bonn to exchange ideas with students from Germany and develop innovative ideas for potential cooperation.

International experts from science, politics, and industry will provide the participants with in-depth insights into space policy. These insights will form the basis for the subsequent workshops.

PROGRAMME

Day 1 | Friday, 04 April 2025

	Arrival of participants
18:00	Welcome Dinner Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstraße 45-49, 53179 Bonn (Bad Godesberg)
	Keynote Address
	<u>Dr. Gilles Rabin</u> Space Advisor to the French Embassy in Berlin and Advisor to the President of the French Space Agency

Day 2 | Saturday, 05 April 2025

09:00-9:30	Welcome Address
	<u>Dr. Iulian Romanyshyn</u> Head Scientific Programme, ICI Institute
	<u>Dr. Enrico Fels</u> Managing Director, Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies (CASSIS), University of Bonn
	Opening Remarks (<i>online</i>)
	<u>H. E. Eng. Salem Butti Salem Al Qubaisi</u> Director General, UAE Space Agency
09:30-11:00	Session I: Space as a Battleground: The Geopolitics of Outer Space Security
	<u>Juliana Süß</u> Researcher in the Security Policy Research Group in the Strategic Threat Analysis and Nuclear (Dis-)Order (STAND) Project, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)
	<u>PD Dr. Antje Nötzold</u> Acting Professor for Political Systems and System Comparison, Technical University of Dresden
	<u>Moderator: Dr. Arne Sönnichsen</u>

	Scientific Advisor, Institute for Qualifying Innovation Research and Consulting
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	<p>Session II: The Middle East in Space: Capacities, Strategies, and Regional Collaboration</p> <p><u>Fatima Al Shamsi</u> (<i>tbc</i>) Acting Director of Space Policy and International Relations Department, UAE Space Agency</p> <p><u>Prof. Dr. Lawrence P. Rubin</u> Associate Professor, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta</p> <p><u>Moderator: Lina Pohl</u> (<i>tbc</i>) Research Fellow and Relations Officer for German and Austrian Stakeholders, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	<p>Workshop Session I</p> <p><u>Bianca Santi</u> Research Fellow, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)</p> <p><u>Lars Petzold</u> Research Fellow, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)</p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	<p>Workshop Session II</p> <p><u>Bianca Santi</u> Research Fellow, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)</p> <p><u>Lars Petzold</u> Research Fellow, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)</p>
18:00	<p>Dinner Restaurant Bastei, Von-Sandt-Ufer 1, 53173 Bonn</p>

Day 3 | Sunday, 06 April 2025

09:00-12:00	UN Simulation <u>Gina Petrovici</u> Legal Advisor in the UN-Affairs Department at the German Space Agency at DLR and Co-Coordinator of the Space Generation Advocacy and Policy Platform (SGAPP) at SGAC
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-14:30	Session III: Space Economy in the Middle East: Industry, Innovation, and Investments <u>Bahiya Al Shuaibi</u> Founder & CEO of Global Space and Technology Company, Oman <u>Tal Inbar</u> Research Fellow at the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance <u>Moderator: Nivedita Raju</u> Researcher in the SIPRI Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
14:30-15:00	Closing Remarks: Cooperation and Sustainable Peace in Outer Space in the Middle East