“What went wrong with the Arab revolutions? Current drivers of Middle East Politics”
When: August 16 6-8pm
Where: W6A107
All Welcome: No RSVP required
This discussion will focus on explaining why most of the Arab revolutions have not resulted in smooth transition to peace, stability, and development, and instead slid into violence and civil wars as in Yemen, Libya, and Syria. Factors like resilient "deep states," institutional reform, reintegration of ex-combatants, dealing with former regime elements, accountability, justice for victims of past human rights violations, and others all impacted the transition to varying degrees. Furthermore, the discussion will address the major issues that are shaping Middle East politics today, most importantly, Iran-Saudi cold war, terrorism, counter-revolutions, external intervention, and the Israel-Palestine conflict. Finally, the discussion will conclude with some proposed solutions to the current chaos that is engulfing the Middle East region and insights into how the region can transition to peace and stability.

Bio:
The speaker, Dr. Ibrahim Fraihat, is a senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution's Doha Center and an affiliate scholar at Georgetown University. He is the author of the recently released book Unfinished Revolutions (Yale University Press, 2016). He has published extensively on Middle East politics, with articles appearing in the New York Times, Los Angles Times, Financial Times, Christian Science Monitor, Foreign Policy, and Foreign Affairs, as well as on the CNN and Al Jazeera websites, and elsewhere. He is the recipient of George Mason University's Distinguished Alumni Award (2014) for his achievements in the field of conflict resolution. Dr. Fraihat received his Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University in 2006. He is on Twitter @i_fraihat and facebook https://www.facebook.com/ibrahim.Fraihat2015

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