



NAJLA ABDELWAHID MOHAMMED AL ZAROONI

International Relations Expert, Academic
Lecturer and Researcher on China-Middle East
Relations

East Asia Affairs, China-Gulf Relations, BRICS+, Geopolitics and
Maritime Security

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Nationality: Emirati
Date of Birth: 3.11.1992
Gender: Female

EDUCATION

2021 - Present (Ongoing)
PHD International Relations
Lancaster University, UK

2016 - 2019
MA International Studies
Wollongong University, UAE

2015 - 2018
MA UAE Diplomacy and International
Relations
Emirates Diplomatic Academy, UAE

WORK EXPERIENCE

Deraya Speakers

- 2024 - Present: Outreach Consultant

University of Sharjah

- 2024 - Present: Adjunct Faculty in International Relations - College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

- 2022 - Present: External Relations Expert - Country Engagement and Partnerships Department

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - United Arab Emirates

- 2020-2022: Senior External Relations Supervisor - East Asia and Pacific Department
- 2019: Acting Consul General of UAE to Hong Kong
- 2018 - 2019: Head of Far East Asia Section
- 2015 - 2018: Media and Content Senior Specialist

SECONDMENT EXPERIENCE

Mubadala Investment Company

- 2020 (6 months): External Communications

UAE Mission to the United Nations

- 2018 (6 months): Multilateral Relations

ACADEMIC RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Publications

2024

Global Times - "[Greater BRICS Cooperation](#)": "[The era of 'Greater BRICS' is undoubtedly the beginning of a better future](#)"

Dialogues on China
The 4th International Academic Conference: Harvesting the winds of change: China and the global actors
["An Aligned Partnership: China-Gulf Relations for Greater Global South Coordination in the Middle East."](#)

Future Center - [The Aftermath of Assad's fall: How will China Navigate the new Syria?](#)

Future Center
[Following Beijing Declaration](#)
[What Optimal Scenarios China may Drive to the Palestinian Issue!](#)

US- China Foreign Language Journal
David Publishing Company - [China's Global Maritime Expansion: Between Its Grand Dream and External Trends](#)

Future Center
[China-Arab Relations: Reviewing a Longer-Term Regional Engagement](#)

China Media Group (CMG)
["Why has the First Decade of the Belt and Road Brought to the World?"](#)

NAJLA ABDELWAHID MOHAMMED AL ZAROONI

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

2021 - Present

Research Fellow with the Consortium of Country and Area Studies (CASS) - Beijing Foreign Studies University

2022- 2023

Non-resident Senior Researcher - Trends Research and Advisory Council, UAE

2021 - 2023

Doctoral Fellow with China Center - Lancaster University, UK

LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATIVE POSITIONS

2021

IISS Manama Dialogue Young Leaders Programme (Alumni)

2019

Acting Consulate General, UAE
Consulate General to Hong Kong

2018

UAE Representative to the Third Committee of the UN

2015

Head of AUS Delegation to Al-Maktoum College Training Program

2014-2017

UAE Youth Ambassador to China

2023

The Asian Conference on Asian Studies 2023 (ACAS2023) Forum.
International Academic Forum (IAFOR) - [China's Global Maritime Expansion: Between Its Grand Dream and External Trends](#)

China Global Television Network (CGTN) [Prospects of Chinese-Arab cooperation under the cover of BRICS](#)

China Global Television Network (CGTN) [What did the first decade of Belt and Road bring us?](#)

The 3rd International Academic Forum.
Dialogues on China - [New Chinese Initiatives for a changing global security.](#)

People's Daily - ["The Role of BRICS in Global Governance"](#).

CNN Arabia and Abdulla - ["365 Days of Me" - a short video on my daily life, big goals and action plans.](#)

Conference Papers

3rd Carbon Neutral International Forum - "China and the Middle East: Pivotal Players in the Global Carbon Neutrality Agenda"

Identifying Paths of Least Resistance for BRICS Sustainable Development and Climate Cooperation - "UAE's Multilateral Role in BRICS+ Sustainable Development"

The 12th European Conference on Arts & Humanities (ECAH2024) - ["China's Global Role in the Middle East's Geopolitical Landscape"](#)

13th Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) - "China's Competitive Coexistence in the Gulf"

Conference of the Consortium of Country and Area Studies (CCAS) - "Future Development of Euro-Asia Economic Forum"

Guangdong Emerging Economies Society
Emerging Economies Think-Tank Round Table
"Common Development and Prosperity among BRICS Countries."

Global Strategy Conference Istanbul & Center for Diplomatic affairs (DIPAM) - "China's Global Maritime Security Expansion: Between its Grand Dream and International Limitations."

Global South Think Tank Dialogue.
International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) - "Promoting Low Carbon Transformation to Build a Green Global South"

Institute of International Politics and Economics Belgrade (IIPE) - "New Chinese Initiatives for a Changing Global Security"

BRICS Expert Forum - "What is meant for the UAE to join the BRICS+?"

CASS Conference on Belt and Road Initiative - "The Belt and Road Initiative: A Vision for Connectivity and Prosperity"

Opinions & Media Interviews

2025

Sputnik Radio - ["UAE Membership and Engagement with BRICS"](#)

Viory - ["BRICS de-dollarisation happening already!"](#)

Ad Media - ["IRENA's Priority is to accelerate the transition to renewable energy"](#)

Humanrights.cn - [Xinjiang's development and transformation](#)

2024

Abu Dhabi TV - ["COP 29, What is at Stake?"](#)

Aldhafra TV - ["Role of Emirati Women in International Relations"](#)

Global Times - ["Greater BRICS Cooperation": "The era of 'Greater BRICS' is undoubtedly the beginning of a better future"](#)

China Global Television (CGTN) - [BRICS Summit Panel](#)

Peoples Daily China - ["The Significance of China-Arab relations and the impact of upcoming initiatives on their future"](#)

China Global Television Network (CGTN) - ["Decoding 40 Years of China-UAE Relations"](#)

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Rex Chen - "[China's significant mediating role in Middle East peace](#)"

2023

Green Hydrogen Summit – How it contributes to cutting emissions worldwide

International Institution for Strategic Studies (IISS) Discussion on Climate Security in the Middle East

Dubai TV – Environmental Protection and the Use of Plastic in Dubai

People's Daily China – China has been a reliable friend of the Arab States

People's Daily China – China's Zero COVID Policy

People's Daily China – Towards a more prosperous China

People's Daily China – Injecting more energy to the World Development

People's Daily China – Conducting Joint research will foster China-Arab understanding

Trends Conversation – China-Gulf-Arab Relations

Dubai TV – China doesn't seek to suppress the US in the Arab World (not in its best interest). China promotes the coexistence of both powers

Abu Dhabi TV – Gulf-Arab Chinese Summit

Ministry of Education China and Beijing Language and Culture University – Strengthening people-to-people ties through cultural exchange

Emarat TV – How do these summits contribute to harmonizing Arab visions with Chinese projects?

Dubai TV – Saudi-Chinese Summit

Dubai Media Inc – The Chinese-Arab cooperation brings more sense to the region by aligning development objectives

China Media Group (CMG) – China-Arab Media Forum

Emarat TV – Closing of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh

Speeches & Lectures

2025

IRENA - [Renewables Talk for IRENA Permanent Representatives](#)

2024

ChinaMed - "From the Gulf to the Middle East: The Expansion of China's Mediation Diplomacy"

12th European Conference on Arts & Humanities (ECAH 2024) - "China's Global Role in the Middle East's Geopolitical Landscape"

Youth Circle Dubai - "Bridging Cultures: Fostering Understanding and Cultural Exchange between China and the United Arab Emirate"

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF 2024): BRICS Expert Forum - "Promoting growth through partnerships, jointly exploring paths to modernization"

Faculty Seminar University of Sharjah (UOS) - "Navigating Public Diplomacy in the Digital Age"

2023

Consortium of Country and Area Studies (CCAS) – "Country and Area Studies and International Cooperation"

Global Strategy Conference Istanbul & Center for Diplomatic affairs (DIPAM) – "Securitized World Order and New Security Spaces"

International Academic Forum (IAFOR) – "China's Global Maritime Expansion: Between its Grand Dream and External Trends"

China Media Group Symposium and Trends Research and Advisory – "China's Modernization: Opportunities for the Region and Beyond"

Lecture to the University of Sharjah Students – "China's conflict management strategy in the Gulf: Restoring Iran-Saudi Arabia relations."

HONOURS, AWARDS AND APPRECIATIONS

2023

Certificate of Appreciation from the University of Sharjah

2019

Appreciation letter from the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Appreciation letter from the Assistant Minister for Political Affairs

Appreciation letter from the Chinese Ambassador to the UAE

TRAININGS

June 2024

TOChina Summer School
TOChina Hub

July 2023

Ethics and Integrity Training
IRENA

February 2023

Media Appearance Training
CNN Arabia

February 2021

Strategies for Effective Performance,
Emirates Diplomatic Academy

January 2021

Public Speaking,
Emirates Diplomatic Academy

July 2020

Training the Trainer,
Emirates Diplomatic Academy

January 2020

Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette,
Emirates Diplomatic Academy

November 2019

Communication and Intercultural Awareness,
The Innovation Point Consulting

September-October 2019

Public Diplomacy,
Diplo Foundation

September - December 2018

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research