



POWER-SHARING FOR PEACE?

Between Adoptability and Durability
in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq

Project funded by  snis

Final Conference

Presentation of research findings and practitioner panel discussion

**23 August 2024, 08h30 – 12h00 (CEST)
Perolles Campus, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Bldg. PER 21, room C120**

(The event will occur as part of the Institute of Federalism's Summer University on Federalism, Decentralization and Conflict Resolution
<https://www.unifr.ch/federalism/en/capacitybuilding/summeruniversity.html>)

The “Power-sharing for Peace? Between Adoptability and Durability in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq,” project, sponsored by the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS), assesses the performance of power-sharing proposals and political systems in three countries in the Middle East. The overall aim of the project is twofold. First, we consider *adoptability*, that is, the conditions under which power-sharing agreements come into being or fail to do so. Second, we consider *durability*, that is, once agreed, how power-sharing agreements are implemented, how they perform, and whether they are conducive to functional governance and sustainable peace.

The project brings together researchers and practitioners from Switzerland, Canada, Lebanon and Iraq to track convergences and divergences in relation to power-sharing adoptability and durability. Why have some power-sharing provisions remained unimplemented in cases such as Iraq, while others have proven particularly resilient against major political reforms, as in Lebanon despite public unrest, dissatisfaction and growing political and economic crises? And why has a power-sharing system failed to emerge in Syria?

The project's findings direct attention to the variable role of national and international actors in the coming-into-being and implementation of power-sharing arrangements in the Middle East. These findings underscore the critical impact of incentive structures - or the absence thereof - for elites to amend the system and allow power-sharing to evolve and adapt to ultimately ensure accountability under the rule of law. A growing distance has emerged between the perception of citizens, non-governmental organizations and political elites on the durability question, that calls into question system legitimacy and sustainable peace over the long term.

We invite project partners, researchers, practitioners, and other interested parties to join us for a presentation of our main findings followed by a roundtable discussion of their relevance with selected conflict mediation practitioners and policymakers, who will discuss the impact of the findings for their own work. The sessions will thus inform wider debates on power-sharing in the Middle East and beyond.

Program

08h30	Arrival and registration
09h00	Welcome address
09h10	Presentation of research findings & Q&A
10h20 – 10h40	Break
10h40	Panel discussion: “Power-sharing: Solution or Challenge? Insights from Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq” & Q&A
12h00	Aperitif

Welcome address

Matthias Boss	Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director swisspeace, associated Institute of the University of Basel
Prof. Eva Maria Belser	Chair for Constitutional and Administrative Law Co-Director, Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg

Presentation of research and findings by members of the research team

Dr. Sibel Gürler	swisspeace, associated Institute of the University of Basel
Sahar Ammar	swisspeace, associated Institute of the University of Basel
Dr. Sören Keil	Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg
Prof. Allison McCulloch	Brandon University, Canada
Dr. Eduardo Aboutaif	Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon
Clara Pergola	Peace Paradigms Organisation, Iraq
Manar Zaiter	Arab NGO Network for Development, Lebanon

Roundtable panel discussion:

“Power-sharing: Solution or Challenge? Insights from Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq”

Hanaa Edwar	Head of the Iraqi Women Network
Dr. Tamirace Fakhoury	Associate Professor of International Politics and Conflict, Fletcher School, Tufts University
Dr. Julian Hottinger	Rtd. Senior Peace Mediator, previously with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.
Dr. Zedoun Alzoubi	Governance Expert and Researcher
Dr. David Lanz	Deputy Director for Mediation Support and Policy, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), Geneva

The panel discussion will be moderated by Prof. Allison McCulloch, Brandon University

Registration

This event is open to the public at no cost. Registration is, however, required. Attendees who cannot join in person may participate via Zoom.

Registration link for **attendance in person** in Fribourg: [Registration link \(in person\)](#) (click hyperlink).

Registration link for **online attendance via Zoom**: [Registration link \(online\)](#) (click hyperlink).

Register by August 11, 23h59 (CEST). For late registration please contact: sebastien.luo@unifr.ch

