

## Participants' Bios

**Valentina Colombo** teaches Geopolitics of the Islamic World at the European University, Rome and is Senior Fellow at the European Foundation for Democracy, Brussels. After graduating in Arabic Language and Literature from Cattolica University, Milan, she earned a PhD in Islamic Studies from Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples. She published various studies on Islam, intellectuals and civil liberties.

**Emanuela C. Del Re** is an Italian scholar, expert in geopolitics and conflict studies, specialist in the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Middle East (in particular Iraq, Syria, Israel and Jordan). She has carried out long researches on field in conflict areas since 1990, and has vastly published on the themes of her researches, being also regular contributor of leading international scientific journals. She is full professor in Political Sociology at the University Niccolò Cusano of Rome, and President and Founder of EPOS International Mediating and Negotiating Operational Agency. She is the creator and leader of "My Future", a project for the Syrian Refugees in the Middle East funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She directed and authored of several documentaries, the most recent of which on the Yazidi in Iraq.

**Lara Fatah** is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh and SOAS (School of oriental and African Studies, London) in the field of Political and Social Science, with a specialisation in Kurdish and Middle Eastern Affairs. After graduating she worked in the Kurdish press before over seeing the research on the Anfal Genocide and an overview of Modern Kurdish History for the Kurdistan Memory Programme. In 2013 Lara co-founded Zanraw Consulting, a PR and Business Consultancy in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and continues to write and research on various Kurdish affairs.

**Anita Friedman** graduated in Comparative Literature and Anthropology from Hofstra University. She is president of the association "Appuntamento a Gerusalemme", which disseminates information and organizes meetings, debates and visits related to Israel's politics, economy, culture and society.

**Amal Marogy** is Affiliated Researcher in Neo-Aramaic Studies at the University of Cambridge and Founding Director of Aradin Charitable Trust that seeks to advance education in minority and little used languages of the Middle East, in particular Aramaic, and related cultural and historical heritage ([www.aradin.org.uk](http://www.aradin.org.uk)). Amal taught Arabic at the University of Cambridge and was Director of Studies in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at King's College. She holds a PhD in Oriental Languages and Cultures from the University of Ghent (Belgium).