

REL POSTGRAD PRESENTATIONS



Tackling Monuments
of Myth, Might, and
Movement



20 MAY 2026

10:45 - 11:15

REL SEMINAR ROOM

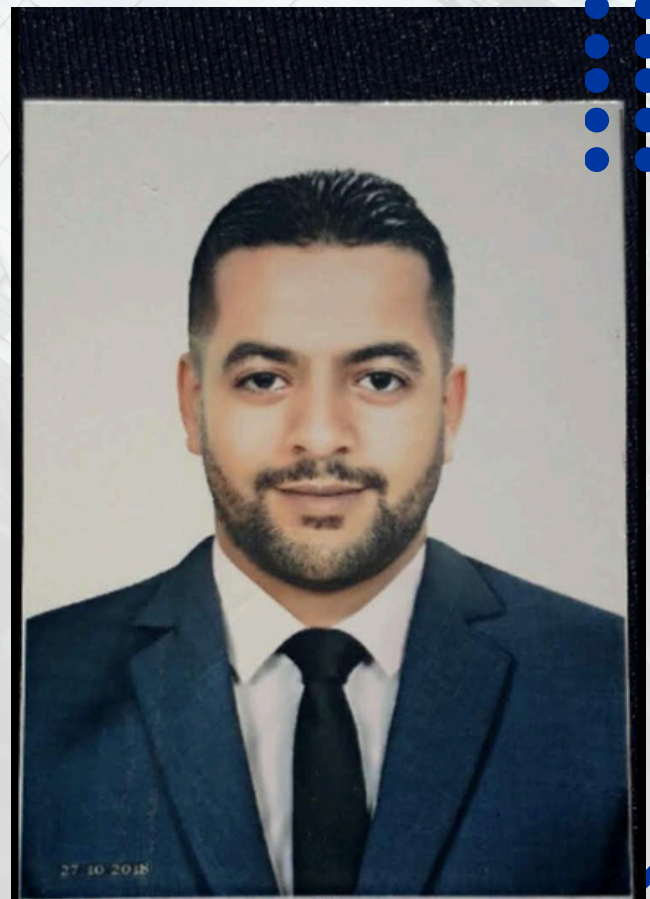
LS 5.67

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WAEL ALSHAYKHI
(PHD STUDENT)





Religion and International Relations in the Middle East: A Comparative Study of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel, and Turkey

10:45 - 11:15

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Wael Alshaykhi
(PhD Student)

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This research examines how religion shapes the foreign policies and international relations of four Middle Eastern states — Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel, and Turkey. Drawing on post-secular theory and foreign policy analysis, the study compares how each state invokes religion as a source of political legitimacy, soft power, and diplomatic identity. It also investigates the role of religion in the Palestine-Israel conflict and critically assesses the limits of secular frameworks in understanding Middle Eastern international relations. The study contributes a state-centred comparative analysis that bridges Religious Studies and International Relations.