

York Centre for Asian Research

South and Central Asia Project

Workshop Nine



Iran and Its Eastern Neighbours

As Iran seeks to boost its status of a regional power, its attention is focused not only on the Middle East, but also on its eastern neighbours. The contrasts between Iran's western and eastern neighbourhoods are glaring. On the western side, Iran faces Iraq and Syria mired in civil wars, traditional regional rival Turkey, hostile Saudi Arabia and even more hostile Israel, all aligned with the United States. In Iran's eastern neighbourhood, the main challenges have to do mostly with assuring Afghanistan's stabilization and

more incentives - and find it easier - to engage in deeper regional cooperation with its Eastern neighbours. Some of those neighbours may be wary of a significant increase in Iran's regional influence, while China and Russia might favour it. To examine the lesser-known eastern vector of Iran's foreign policy, SCAP Workshop Nine will focus on the following questions:

What role is Iran playing in Afghanistan?

How can we characterize relations between Iran and Pakistan?

How important is Central Asia for Iran? How important is Iran for Central Asia?

If Iran should join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, what could be the international impact of such a move?

Speakers:

Hussein Banai, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Occidental College, Los Angeles

Didier Chaudet, Head of the Iran and South Asia Program, Institut Prospective et Sécurité en Europe (IPSE), Paris

Petr Topychkanov, Associate, Non-Proliferation Program, Moscow Center, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Friday, February 27, 9:30 a.m. –

1:00 p.m.

Room 120E Stedman Hall

York University, Toronto, Canada