

# US-Iran relations in 2018

## If Washington pulls out of the nuclear deal, what does that mean for Tehran and the wider region?

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A week of popular anti-government demonstrations in Iran wrongfooted the regime and generated a strong reaction from President Donald Trump, who promised US support for the protestors and called an inconclusive meeting of the UN Security Council.

But what will be the implications of the bigger decisions Trump must make in mid-January: on whether once more to decertify the Iran nuclear deal (despite Congress's failure to act last time); and, more importantly, on the renewal of waivers on US nuclear sanctions on Iran?

In the wake of those crucial announcements, an Oxford Analytica expert team will answer your questions on the fallout for US relations with Iran and the wider region – and for the Tehran regime.

- Will Iran ever become a better bet for foreign investors?
- Will there be more protests driven by rising unemployment, austerity measures and collapsing financial institutions?
- How safe are the positions of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani?
- Scanting vulnerability, will Saudi Arabia or Israel step up proxy confrontations with Iran?
- How could that affect conflicts in Yemen, Syria, Lebanon?
- Would a breakdown in US-Iran relations push them to back rival candidates in the Iraqi elections due in May 2018 – and who would win?
- How does the Trump administration's policy on Iran relate to its wider foreign relations, including with the EU, Russia and China?

Share your thoughts on the above and raise anything else that concerns or excites you about the future of US-Iran relations in our conference call on **Tuesday, January 16, 15:00 UK / 10:00 EST.**

## Chair

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### **Paul Maidment, Director of Analysis and Managing Editor, Oxford Analytica**

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Paul Maidment joined Oxford Analytica in December 2014 as the Director of Analysis and Managing Editor of the Oxford Analytica Daily Brief.

He is an award-winning journalist who founded the New York-based digital editorial consultancy Bystander Media in 2010. A pioneer in combining digital and print journalism, he was previously Editor of [Forbes.com](http://Forbes.com) and Executive Editor of Forbes, transforming a magazine website into the leading online destination for business, finance and up-scale lifestyle. Before joining Forbes in 2001, Paul was the founding Editor of the Financial Times' award-winning web site [FT.com](http://FT.com) and Assistant Editor of the newspaper. His early career as an editor and foreign correspondent encompassed The Economist, the Asian Wall Street Journal and the BBC in the U.K. the U.S. and Asia — a depth of journalistic experience and breadth of media that gives him a unique perspective on the changes transforming publishing and the world economy. Paul was inducted into the Digital Hall of Fame in New York in 2010.

## Panellists

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### **Trevor McCrisken, Associate Professor, Director of External Affairs, University of Warwick**

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Trevor McCrisken's research interests are in United States foreign policy and US politics and culture. Trevor's research currently focuses on President Donald Trump's attempts to redefine US foreign policy following the Obama presidency, his approach and use of rhetoric, and its impact particularly on counter-terrorism policy. His recent publications include "Obama's Drone War" in the journal *Survival* (April/May 2013) and two articles in the journal *International Affairs* "Ten Years On: Obama's War on Terrorism in Rhetoric and Practice" and "Justifying Sacrifice: Barack Obama and the Selling and Ending of the War in Afghanistan".

He received his BA in American Studies (Politics) from the University of Kent with a year at the University of Maryland, College Park. He then completed an MA in International Affairs at American University, Washington, DC and received his DPhil from the University of Sussex. He has held previous posts at the University of Oxford, Lancaster University, and UWE Bristol. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Rothermere American Institute at Oxford from 2001-2003 and an Associate Fellow from 2003-2009. He joined the department at Warwick in September 2003. He has also been Chair of the British American Security Information Council (BASIC) since November 2007 and a North America Region Head with Oxford Analytica since 2002.

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### **Edmund Herzig, Soudavar Professor of Persian Studies, University of Oxford**

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Region Head: Middle East, Oxford Analytica; previously, Senior Research Fellow at Chatham House; research interests include history of Iran, Afghanistan, Causasus and Central Asia; history, national identity and the state in modern Iran; recent publications include *Iran and the World in the Safavid Age* (2012), edited with Willem Floor; *The Transformation of Tajikistan: The Sources of Statehood* (2013), edited with John Heathershaw.

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**Sara Bazoobandi, Senior Lecturer in International Political Economy, Regent's University London**

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Dr. Sara Bazoobandi is a senior lecturer in International Political Economy at Regent's University London and an associate fellow at Middle East North Africa program of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House.

She has contributed in various global and regional track two initiatives and research projects on political, economic and social affairs of the Middle East North Africa region. Dr. Bazoobandi's core research interest is focused on Iran and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and she has carried out extensive research on various aspects of the Persian Gulf sovereign wealth funds. She is a frequent participant to various international events and media interviews discussing current regional affairs.

Sara has been appointed as a Member of the Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa for 2014-2016. The Council provides advice to Arab economies in transition on how to advance policies and actions for youth-oriented growth and employment.

Prior to joining Regent's, Dr. Bazoobandi worked as a visiting scholar at the Middle East Institute of the National University of Singapore. She also served as an economic analyst for various international corporate organisations, policy advisory institutions and think-tanks including Nomura International, Roubini Global Economics and Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE).

Between 2008 and 2011, Sara has been an advisor to Social Cohesion Working Group of West Asia North Africa Forum (WANA) which is a regional initiative under patronage of Prince Hassan Bin Talal Organisation in Jordan aiming to strengthen regional multilateral dialogue between decision makers and civil society actors regarding shared human concerns.