

**MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE
AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE**

Middle East Institute S R Nathan Distinguished Lecture 2026

**Singapore Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel
Ballroom 3, Level 3
320 Orchard Road, Singapore 238865**

PROGRAMME

	Thursday, 22 Oct 2026
1530 hrs – 1615hrs	Registration
1630 hrs	Lecture Starts Welcome Note Prof Joseph Liow <i>Chairman, Middle East Institute, NUS</i>
1635 hrs	IRAN AFTER THE WAR. HOW HAS THE WAR CHANGED IRAN AND WHAT COMES NEXT? Prof Vali R. Nasr <i>Visiting S. Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and Majid Khadduri Professor of International Affairs and Middle East Studies, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, USA</i>
1715hrs	Question and Answer Session Moderated by: Prof Joseph Liow <i>Chairman, Middle East Institute, NUS</i>
1800hrs	End of Session

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About the Speaker



Prof Vali R. Nasr

Visiting S. Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and Majid Khadduri Professor of International Affairs and Middle East Studies, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, USA

Vali Nasr is the Majid Khadduri Professor of International Affairs and Middle East Studies at Johns Hopkins-SAIS. Between 2012 and 2019 he served as the Dean of the School, and between 2009 and 2011 as Senior Advisor to US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. Nasr is the author of several acclaimed books including, *Iran's Grand Strategy: A Political History*; *How Sanctions Work*, *Iran and the Impact of Economic Warfare*; *The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat*; *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam will Shape the Future*; *Democracy in Iran*; as well as articles in scholarly journals and commentary in *The New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. He is a member of Global Board of Trustees of Asia Society, the recipient of Carnegie Scholar Award, and the Frank Guggenheim, and MacArthur Foundation research fellowships. He was selected as Henry Alfred Kissinger Distinguished Scholar at Library of Congress for 2024-25.

About the Moderator



Prof Joseph Liow

Chairman

The Middle East Institute (National University of Singapore)

Prof Joseph Liow (Joseph Chinyong Liow) is Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and Wang Gungwu Professor in East Asian Affairs, National University of Singapore and concurrently, Chairman of the Middle East Institute at the same university. He was previously Dean of College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, where he was also Tan Kah Kee Chair in Comparative and International Politics, and Professor and Dean at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. He held the inaugural Lee Kuan Yew Chair in Southeast Asia Studies at the Brookings Institution, Washington DC, where he was also a Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Program.

Joseph's research interests encompass Muslim politics and social movements in Southeast Asia and the geopolitics and geoeconomics of the Asia-Pacific region.

Joseph is the author, co-author, or editor of 18 books, the most recent being *Navigating Uncertainty: Our Region in an Age of Flux* (World Scientific 2024), *Islam and Political Power in Indonesia and Malaysia* (Cambridge University Press 2022), and *Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Southeast Asia*, fifth edition (Routledge, 2022). A regular columnist for the Straits Times, his commentaries on international affairs have also appeared in New York Times, Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, CNN, National Interest, Nikkei Asian Review, Wall Street Journal, and South China Morning Post. He has testified to the United States Congress, delivered a special closed door briefing to the ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting, and been invited to give briefings to global leaders including former German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. In addition to scholarship and policy analysis, Joseph has also consulted for a wide range of MNCs including Shell, BHP Billiton, Morgan Stanley, Canon, Chevron, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Temasek, Total, Global Dairy Platform, Evli, and Equinor. He is a member of the Trilateral Commission and the Experts and Eminent Persons Group of the ASEAN Regional Forum, and sits on the board of several peer-reviewed academic and policy journals. Joseph is also on the boards of the Social Science Research Council (Singapore), ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and the National Arts Council.

He holds a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science, a MSc in Strategic Studies from the Nanyang Technological University, and a BA (Hons) in Political Science from the University of Madison-Wisconsin.