

**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>Majid Khadduri Professor of Middle East Studies and International Affairs, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)</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

**Majid Khadduri Professor of Middle East Studies and International Affairs
Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)**

Vali Nasr is the Majid Khadduri Professor of International Affairs and Middle East Studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and Non-Resident Senior Advisor in the Middle East Program at CSIS. He served as the eighth Dean of Johns Hopkins SAIS between 2012 and 2019 and served as Senior Advisor to U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke between 2009 and 2011.

Professor Nasr is the author of *Iran's Grand Strategy: A Political History*, *The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat*, *Forces of Fortune: The Rise of a New Middle Class and How it Will Change Our World*, *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam will Shape the Future*, *Democracy in Iran: History and the Quest for Liberty*, *Islamic Leviathan, Islam and the Making of State Power*, *Mawdudi and the Making of Islamic Revivalism*, *Vanguard of Islamic Revolution: Jama'at-i Islami of Pakistan*, and co-author of *How Sanctions Work: Iran and the Impact of Economic Warfare*; as well as numerous articles in scholarly journals and commentary in *Financial Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Wall Street Journal*.

He has advised senior American policymakers, world leaders, and businesses, including the President, Secretary of State, senior members of the Congress, and presidential campaigns. He has written for *New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*, among others.

Professor Nasr serves as the co-director of the SAIS Rethinking Iran Initiative at Johns Hopkins University, the leading hub for fostering a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of contemporary Iran and its regional influence within academia and the public sphere. He is a member of the International Board of Advisors of the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University, the International Board of Advisors at the American University of Beirut, the Global Board of Trustees of Asia Society, and he is on the Board of Advisors of Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. He has been the recipient of grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, and the Social Science Research Council, and was named a 2006 Carnegie Scholar, and holds the 2024-

25 Henry Alfred Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress.

He received his BA from Tufts University in International Relations summa cum laude and was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa in 1983. He earned his master's from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in international economics and Middle East studies in 1984, and his PhD from MIT in political science in 1991.

About the Moderator



Prof Joseph Liow

Chairman

The Middle East Institute (National University of Singapore)

Prof Joseph Liow (Joseph Chinyong Liow) is Dean of College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He was formerly Dean of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, where he retains an affiliation as Professor of Comparative and International Politics. He is concurrently Chairman of the Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore. 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 Element Series 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 has 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 and been invited to deliver a special closed-door briefing to the ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting. 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.