



## Spring 2026 Collaborations

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### **Project Leads:**

Oscar Knox - Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia (MISA)

Aidan Panotes-Bengzon - Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the UN

Tia Bhatnagar - Honorary Consul of Finland in New England

Sam Weinstein - Middle East Institute (MEI)

Kanika Pachisia - Carnegie Europe

Aiden Wasserman - Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)



**وزارة الاستثمار**  
**Ministry of Investment**

### **Miami Office of the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia - Oscar Knox**

The Miami Office of the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia (MISA) aims to attract American outbound FDI into key Saudi sectors. BRG's collaboration with MISA is split into two stages. In the first stage, a holistic analysis of all Saudi sectors and US investor types is conducted to identify several potential sector/investor pairings. These pairings will be based on investors' global investment trends and the growth potential and risk factors of various Saudi Arabian sectors. This research will be presented to MISA Ambassador Abdulrahman Bakir, who will decide which sector/investor pairing interests him. In the second stage, from February to April, we will do far more in-depth research into the chosen sector/investor pairing. The primary component of this is comprehensive baseline market research, focusing on reaching out to potential investors to ask key questions about their perceptions of Saudi Arabia, the current regulatory framework, and whether the present incentive structures appeal to them. BRG seeks analysts who are not only familiar with global financial markets but also with the implications of geopolitical issues on those markets and with how/why countries invest where they do.

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**REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**  
**PERMANENT MISSION**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**NEW YORK**

### **Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations - Aidan Panotes-Bengzon**

Slovenia is focused on advocating for international agreements that codify the protection of water resources and infrastructure in conflict zones. BRG's work for this mission seeks to accomplish two tasks. 1. To categorize the trends within the global landscape of advocacy surrounding protecting water in armed conflicts since the 2023 UN water convention. Slovenia seeks to understand whether traction is being gained or lost, if nations are tending toward one format over another, and whether the measures they advocate for changed. Slovenia is particularly interested in identifying other nations that strongly advocate on this issue and are flying under the radar, with whom they could reach out to as potential new partners in their advocacy. 2. To quantify Slovenia's impact in advocating for this issue. Is their claim that Slovenia has been a global leader in advocacy true, and how can this be proven? What aspects of Slovenia's rhetoric have been most effective? How could they shift their advocacy to become more effective?

This research will be conducted by examining debates and outputs from the UNSC, the GA, expert bodies on climate, peace, and security, international conventions, and international messaging. Desirable analysts are those experienced in examining large volumes of primary-source documents, such as debates, statements, and legal documents, to track advocacy positions across UN forums and defend Slovenia's influence with transparent evidence.

Upon delivery of a successful product, this research will be presented to the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the UN, Samuel Žbogar.



## Honorary Consulate of Finland in New England

### **Henrik Totterman, Honorary Consul of Finland in New England - Tia Bhatnagar**

As the Honorary Consul of Finland to New England, Dr. Totterman's primary goal is to bring Finnish mid-sized companies into New England and scale their growth. Finland presently has a very limited presence in the region; however, there is significant potential for growth.

Our work with Dr. Totterman seeks to answer how Finnish mid-sized companies can establish and scale in New England amid current geopolitical, economic, and regulatory uncertainty. In our analysis, we will focus on one specific sector. Although not yet decided, sector opportunities range from manufacturing to clean energy to digital infrastructure, and more. Our analysis will begin by analyzing how foreign mid-sized firms typically enter New England and then scale once they are here. Using this information, a strategic plan to attract Finnish companies will be developed that increases the appeal of expansion to New England while mitigating economic and geopolitical risks.

A key part of the project will involve mapping key regional players with whom Finnish firms could enter into JVs. Once those partners are found, we will conduct interviews with key stakeholders to gauge their opinions on relevant questions to the topic. For this project, we are looking for analysts interested in international market entry and firm scaling with strong strategic and qualitative research skills, including policy and industry analysis



**Middle  
East  
Institute**

### **John Calabrese, Senior Fellow at the Middle East Institute - Sam Weinstein**

John Calabrese is particularly interested in China's growing influence in the MENA region. He is interested in both MENA perspectives on China and Chinese perspectives on MENA geopolitics. We plan to develop a data-driven basis for a US policy memo to counter China's growing influence in MENA, then submit it to Dr. Calabrese for writing and submission to MEI's signature journal, the Middle East Journal. A specific topic has not been selected yet. BRG will first submit a policy proposal document to Dr. Calabrese outlining 3-4 topics we generated that align with his interests, from which he will select one. For this project, we are looking for a team of four analysts with expressed interest in the MENA region who are comfortable handling primary-source data.



# CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

## **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace - Europe Division - Kanika Pachisia**

The dominant narrative is that Europe is punching below its weight on the international stage and struggles to be a powerful or effective global actor. However, Carnegie Europe seeks to prove that Europe is a global leader in many areas but is often not recognized as such. Some areas they named were tech, R&D, climate legislation, international student inflow, and cultural diplomacy. Carnegie seeks to map these soft power indicators to form a data-driven argument that Europe is a global leader in many sectors.

Carnegie seeks to collaborate with us to outsource the majority of the data collection and aggregation for the argument. BRG will collect and organize the data to form the basis of the argument by identifying key sectors and selecting data metrics to support it. This data will be organized into a final report to submit to Carnegie to be evolved into writing and then published. For this project, we are looking for a mix of data science/quant specializing analysts as well as researchers with strong data and policy analysis skills.

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## **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute - Dual Use & Arms Trade Control Division - Aiden Wasserman**

BRG will be assisting SIPRI with a project they are piloting this spring to map the main developments in the tech trade war between the USA and China from the Biden administration to the most recent events under the second Trump administration. They are particularly focused on export control measures adopted by the USA to restrict the transfer of technology to China, their scope, rationale, and timing. The project also seeks to investigate whether the measures adopted by the two administrations reflect different approaches to export controls or are aligned in terms of the objectives they seek to pursue.

In parallel, an overview of the responses China has adopted should be provided (a general timeline is sufficient). The sources to be used include formal statements from the US government, relevant legislative and regulatory documents (if applicable), media coverage, analyses, and commentaries from US experts.

BRG is looking for four analysts who are well-versed in contemporary US-China competition and experienced in analyzing primary-source documents. Demonstrated knowledge of dual-use export control regimes is an added bonus.