

# Short Biographies

1-Day Workshop on

## Strategic Uncertainty in National Security

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## Douglas Macgregor

Douglas Macgregor is a decorated combat veteran, the author of five books, a PhD and the executive VP of Burke-Macgregor Group LLC, a defense and foreign policy consulting firm in Reston, VA. He was commissioned in the Regular Army in 1976 after 1 year at VMI and 4 years at West Point. Macgregor retired with the rank of Colonel in 2004. He holds an MA in comparative politics and a PhD in international relations from the University of Virginia.

Macgregor is widely known inside the U.S., Europe, Israel, China and Korea for both his leadership in the Battle of 73 Easting, the U.S. Army's largest tank battle since World War II, and for his ground breaking books on military transformation: *Breaking the Phalanx* (Praeger, 1997) and *Transformation under Fire* (Praeger, 2003). His book, *Warrior's Rage: The Great Tank Battle of 73 Easting* (Naval Institute Press, 2009) describes the 1991 action for which he was awarded a Bronze Star with "V" device for valor. His books have been translated into Hebrew, Chinese, Russian and Korean. His fifth book, *Margin of Victory: Five Battles that Changed the Face of Modern War*, is currently available from Naval Institute Press. <http://www.usni.org/store/books/history/margin-victory>

In 28 years of service Macgregor taught in the Department of Social Sciences at West Point, commanded the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, and served as the Director of the Joint Operations Center at SHAPE in 1999 during the Kosovo Air Campaign. He was awarded the Defense Superior Service medal for his role in the Kosovo Air Campaign. In January 2002, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld insisted that General "Tommy" Franks meet with Colonel Macgregor on 16–17 January 2002 to hear Macgregor's concept for the attack to Baghdad. Though Macgregor's offensive concept assumed the rapid restoration of control to the Iraqi Army and no occupation his offensive scheme of maneuver was largely adopted.

Macgregor has worked as a consultant for the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, the Joint Staff, Bell Laboratories, and Raytheon Corporation on strategic roadmaps and the integration of disruptive technologies. He has testified as an expert witness before the Senate and House Armed Services Committees and appears on Fox News, BBC, CNN and PBS.

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## Doron Avital

Dr Doron Avital has a celebrated military history from the time he commanded a leading paratroopers company in the Lebanon war of 1982, to the planning and commanding of numerous complex special operations in Israel elite Special Forces unit, Sayeeret Matckal — also known as “The Unit” — all the way to holding the position of chief-commanding-officer of “The Unit” in the early 1990s. His tenure as a commander is registered as one of the most complex and shaping chapters in the history of the unit. During his service Doron Avital received numerous IDF military and special operations awards. He is considered a commander and a thinker who shaped an overall philosophy and strategy of planning, execution and command — if in the battlefield and if in the domain of special and secretive operations — that stands to this day as a leading point of reference to commanders of the IDF and to the classified security establishment of Israel. In many respects, Doron Avital’s book, *Logic in Action* (in Hebrew), carries — alongside his more philosophical and political insights — the main tenets of his philosophy and strategy of action.

In 1995, after completing his tenure as a commander of “The Unit” and equipped with a letter of recommendation from the late prime minister of Israel, Yitzchak Rabin, Doron Avital enrolled in a PhD program with the School of Philosophy of Columbia University in the City of New York, where after a few years he completed his Doctoral thesis in Logic and Philosophy. He was awarded Columbia University’s Presidential Fellowship for the years 1995–2001 and taught there classes in advanced logic and analytic philosophy. Dr Avital holds in addition a BSc in Mathematics and Computer Science (1985) as well as MA (Summa Cum Laude) from the Cohen Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas (1996), both from Tel Aviv University.

Upon returning to Israel, Dr. Avital headed the Georges Leven High-Tech Management School at Tel Aviv University, and later established and directed the BRM Institute of technology and society at the Faculty of Management. In the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dr Avital held the prestigious post of the Director-General of the Jewish National and University Library. Alongside his academic pursuit, Dr Avital served as a consultant and venture partner to one of Israel’s leading venture capital firms, Evergreen Venture Partners.

In the domain of Home Land Security, Dr Avital implemented his military anti-terror background and experience with security and risk management, in advising some of Israel’s top HLS firms, consulting in a wide array of large scale security projects, from design of overall security strategy and planning, to design of security standards — and all the way to hands-on questions of practical implementation.

With the 2009 elections, Dr Avital moved into politics, and served on behalf the Kadima party as MP in the 18th Knesset, Israel parliament. Dr Avital served on the foreign and security committee as well as the constitution committee and led the parliamentary Knesset delegation to the Council of Europe.

## **Milo Jones**

Dr. MILO JONES is a Visiting Professor at IE University in Madrid. At IE, Milo teaches “Intelligence Tools for the Finance Professional”, “Geopolitics” and “Approaches to Complex Problems” in the MBA, Masters in Advanced Finance, Masters in Cybersecurity and Executive Education programmes.

In 2013, Stanford University Press published Milo’s book, *Constructing Cassandra: Reframing Intelligence Failure at the CIA, 1947-2001*. This work, based on his PhD dissertation, traces the influence of the CIA’s internal culture and identity on four major strategic surprises: the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Iranian Islamic Revolution, the collapse of the USSR, and 9/11.

In the past, Milo worked as a stockbroker in New York and as a consultant in London. He began his career by serving as an officer in the US Marine Corps, during which he graduated from the US Army’s Airborne Course. In addition to his PhD from the UK’s University of Kent, Milo holds an MA with Distinction in International Relations from Kent, an MBA from London Business School, and a BA from Northwestern University.

Milo is a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar, a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and a member of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. He currently lives in Warsaw with his wife and daughter.

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## **Meir Finkel**

Brigadier General (Res.) Meir Finkel is the Director of the Dado Center for Interdisciplinary Military Studies/IDF-J3. BG Finkel’s service in the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) spanned a period of 28 years. For the first 20 years of his career he held various command positions at the IDF Armored Corps, from company to brigade, and participated in combat operations in Lebanon, the Golan Heights, Judea & Samaria and Gaza. He was commander of the 847th Armored Brigade during the Second Lebanon War (2006). Between 2007–2013 BG Finkel served as the head of the Ground Forces Doctrine and Concept Development Department. In 2014 he was appointed the Director of the Dado Center which he continues to lead as a civilian after his retirement in mid-2015. BG Finkel’s academic education includes an MA in Neurobiology at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem and a PhD in Evolutionary Biology, Haifa University. He is also a graduate of Israel’s National Defense College/Haifa University (MA) and completed his PhD in Political Studies in Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan. More recently, he received his MA in Archaeology and is currently working towards obtaining his third PhD in Prehistoric Archaeology at the Tel Aviv University. BG Finkel’s book, *On Flexibility: Recovery from Technological and Doctrinal Surprise on the Battlefield* was published by Stanford University Press (2011). In addition, he has published many papers (in Hebrew) on various military and strategic issues and won three prizes for military writing.

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## **Rob Johnson**

Dr Rob Johnson is the Director of the Changing Character of War (CCW) research centre at Oxford University ( [www.ccw.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ccw.ox.ac.uk) ). CCW brings together academics, policy makers and armed forces professionals in the study of war, pursuing a variety of research themes including war and the state in a connected world, violent non-state actors, strategy and war, and the moral-legal dimensions of war. Rob's primary research interests are in the history of war and strategy with a particular focus on the wider Middle East, but he is also concerned with how we conceive of future conflict environments and strategic thinking across the globe.

During Western operations in Afghanistan, Rob acted as a specialist advisor to the British, American, European and Afghan armed forces on security, stabilisation and transition. He ran 'Insight and Understanding' courses for a number of agencies both on Afghanistan and other areas of Western security interest, and worked in Zabul and Kandahar as well as the capital. He now works with General John Nicholson on the development of the Afghan security forces.

He recently published *The Great War in the Middle East: A Strategic Study* (Oxford University Press, 2016) illustrating the interaction of operations and military strategy, and relations with the government. The volume is a useful case study on how operations were managed and orchestrated to create the conditions for a strategic victory. In 2017 he published *True to Their Salt*, a history of partnering regular and irregular indigenous forces (Hurst and OUP).

He acts as an academic support to the Royal College of Defence Studies as well as other branches of professional military education in the UK and overseas.

Rob is currently assisting NATO, the British, and United States armed forces, in planning for reconfigured structures and missions, including information warfare /CEMA, intelligence, urban operations and unconventional environments. He is part of the US Army Unified Quest project, visiting lecturer to the NATO Defence College in Rome, NATO Centres of Excellence, and the Royal College of Defence Studies.

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## **Yakov Ben-Haim**

Yakov Ben-Haim initiated and developed info-gap decision theory for modeling and managing deep uncertainty. Info-gap theory has impacted the fundamental understanding of uncertainty in human affairs, and is applied by scholars and practitioners around the world in engineering, biological conservation, economics, project management, climate change, natural hazard response, national security, medicine, and other areas (see [info-gap.com](http://info-gap.com)). He has been a visiting scholar in many countries and has lectured at universities, technological and medical research institutions, public utilities and central banks. He has published more than 100 articles and 6 books. He is a professor of mechanical engineering and holds the Yitzhak Moda'i Chair in Technology and Economics at the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology.

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