

# Toms Rātfelders

## Professional experience

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### Commentator/Journalist

2018 – 2021

TVNET Latvia, Riga, Latvia

- Providing [news analysis](#) and other relevant original contribution (e.g. interviews) on foreign affairs for the website of TVNET.LV
- Hosting analytical discussion show on foreign affairs – [“The world in a pocket”](#)

### Senior Desk Officer

2017 – 2018

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia – Middle East and Africa Division, Riga, Latvia

- Monitoring news coming from the Gulf States (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Iraq, Yemen)
- Preparing written material for the high officials meetings of the MOFA with the relevant stakeholders from the Gulf states
- Organising high level outgoing and incoming visits to and from the Gulf states
- Representing the Republic of Latvia in relevant events/conferences dedicated to the politics of the Gulf states and the MENA region
- Preparing the necessary documentation (e.g. texts of bilateral treaties, notes) for the development of bilateral relations between Latvia and the Gulf states.
- Coordinating the work of honorary consuls of Latvia in the Gulf states

### Contributing analyst

2017 – 2018

Omni Advisory Group, Remote

- Drafting analytical articles connected to the political developments in the MENA region for the OAG blog
- Aiding senior staff in monitoring economic, security, and political affairs in the MENA region to provide high quality political risk analysis to OAG clients
- Maintaining interpersonal communication links with other contributing analysts in order to share expertise and improve the quality of written material

### Contributor and editor

2016 – 2018

Public Broadcasting of Latvia, Remote

- Drafting [news analysis](#) articles in Latvian regarding political developments in the MENA region for the website lsm.lv
- Occasionally giving public commentaries on the breaking news pertaining Middle East
- Editing the work of contributors for the lsm.lv world affairs analysis section [“Status Quo”](#). Editorial responsibilities included planning article topics on global political issues, fact-checking, proofreading to detect grammatical errors, and supervising the graphic material added to articles (e.g. maps, graphs and tables)

## Paper presentations in scientific conferences

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Rātfelders, T. *Hedging as a foreign policy strategy in the Arab Spring: Comparing the cases of Qatar and Oman*. In Riga Stradiņš University International Interdisciplinary conference on Social Sciences “Places” 2019, Organizer: Riga Stradiņš University. Riga, 02.04.2019;

Rātfelders, T. *International order after the Cold War: Volatility or Safety?* In International Student conference: Health and Social Sciences 2016, Organizer: Riga Stradiņš University. Riga, 16.04.2017

## Peer reviewed publications

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Rātfelders, T. Shia militias in Iraq: Badr Organization vs. the “Islamic State” – Recipe for disaster or success? In Bator, P. and Ondrejcsak, R. (eds.), *Panorama of Global Security Environment 2015-2016* (2017) pp. 303-312. <http://stratpol.sk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/panorama-2015-2016-FINAL.pdf>

# Toms Rātfelders

## ***Academic teaching experience***

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**Teaching Assistantships:** *Intro to Global Politics and National Security Policy*. University of Delaware (2021 – now).

**Undergraduate course:** *International Relations of the Middle East*. Undergraduate study program: International Relations – European studies. Riga Stradins University (2021 – 2022).

**Undergraduate course:** *Interaction of Media and Politics*. Undergraduate study program: Politics and political communication. Riga Stradins University (2018).

**Graduate course:** *Politics and religion: Governing the Middle East*. Graduate study program: International Relations and Diplomacy. Riga Stradins University. Supervisor: PhD Simona Gurbo (2016-2021).

## ***Research oriented institutional affiliations***

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[Expert](#) on the Middle East politics at the *Topchubashov center*, Think Tank based in Azerbaijan.

[Associated researcher](#) at the Latvian Institute of International Affairs, Think Tank based in Latvia.

## ***Languages***

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- Latvian – Native
- English – Full professional proficiency
- German – Limited working proficiency
- Russian – Professional working proficiency
- French – Elementary proficiency
- Arabic – Elementary proficiency

## ***Professional service***

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**First year mentor coordinator**, Political Science Graduate student association (PSGSA). Department of Political Science and International Relations. University of Delaware (2022-2023).

## ***Education***

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**PhD**, *Political science and International Relations*  
University of Delaware, Newark

**2021 – Present**

**Master of Letters**, *Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia Security Studies*  
University of St Andrews, United Kingdom

**2016 – 2017**

Thesis title: *Hedging as a foreign policy strategy in the Arab spring: Comparing the cases of Qatar and Oman*

**Courses covered:** Core in the Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia Security Studies; Conflict in the Middle East; Political Order and Violence in the Middle East; Conflicts, Security and Democracy in the Greater Caucasus.

**Bachelor of Arts**, *International Relations*  
Riga Stradiņš University, Latvia

**2012 – 2015**

Thesis title: *Regional role of Iran in the Middle East after the beginning of the Islamic State crisis in April 2013*

**Main courses covered included:** Ethnic Conflict in Interstate Relations; Theoretical Concepts of International Relations; New Centres of Power: China, India and East Asia; Foreign Policies of the Largest EU States and Russia in World Politics.