

Joint Special Operations University and the University of South Florida presents

Using Advanced Data Analytics to Predict the Afghanistan Endgame

Is a Peace Agreement Possible?

Thursday

April 5, 2018

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

SOCOM JSOU

MAIN AUDITORIUM



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With the war in Afghanistan entering its seventeenth year, a consensus has emerged among diplomats, scholars, and the military that, ultimately, “endgame” to conclude the decades-long conflict in Afghanistan requires a negotiated peace agreement. The Afghan Government and the Taliban are essentially locked in a strategic stalemate and war of attrition with no meaningful peace negotiations taking place. ***But do we fully understand what a peace agreement will mean for Afghanistan, the region and the U.S.? Who belongs at the negotiating table? What are the ‘zones of possible agreement’ (ZOPA) between warring parties?***

Dr. Farhadi will discuss the viability of a peace agreement for Afghanistan with game theory-based advanced predictive analytics using big data. The study’s initial analysis is based on Senturion agent-based modeling, outcome simulations and spatial bargaining. The study will allow policymakers to focus their efforts on changing the strategic and structural barriers to the negotiation process, and to identify which stakeholders are inclined toward a peace agreement and who may potentially be the spoilers. The study will further allow policymakers to understand the actors’ decision-matrix, including their positions, interests, influence, and power.

Dr. Farhadi is an Assistant Professor of Peace & Conflict and Faculty Director of Executive Education at University of South Florida. Dr. Farhadi previously served as the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Executive Director of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) for the Afghan Government. He has been a visiting scholar at the Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Canberra, Institute for Governance & Policy Analysis. Dr. Farhadi earned a B.S. from East Carolina University, an M.A. from New York University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Canberra.

