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The eighth annual session of the Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) took place from August 1 to 4, 2017. As with previous editions, the GRM brought together about 300 participants spread over 9 workshops that focused on the different social, political, security and economic dynamics shaping the Gulf region. Workshops were selected from more than 40 proposals received while the subsequent Call for Papers resulted in more than 400 applications. As such, the GRM has truly established itself as one of the preeminent annual gathering dedicated to research and deliberation of the Gulf region.

The Gulf Research Meeting takes place at a time when the Middle East and Gulf region continue to experience a high degree of turmoil, volatility and change. Being an integral part of the Middle East, the Gulf region cannot isolate itself from much of the turmoil happening in places such as Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. At the same time, the Gulf states themselves are undergoing several layers of transformation at the political, social and economic level which by themselves have far-reaching consequences for the years and decades to come. If one combines this with the numerous external relationships which exists and the role that foreign powers play in the Gulf, the complexity of the situation becomes quickly apparent.

In such an environment of transition and uncertainty, it is all the more important to contribute to a better understanding of the many forces that are shaping the current environment. This can be done in a variety of ways – by conducting objective and fact-based research, by bringing people together from different backgrounds and perspectives to analyse current developments, and to establish links whereby experienced practitioners can interact with a younger and up-and-coming policy-interested community to order to exchange knowledge and promote understanding of complex issues. All the above is what the Gulf Research Meeting attempts to contribute to and we are thankful for the tremendous response and contribution we have received over the years from the community of individuals interested in Gulf affairs.

We provide the attached pages once again to reflect on the many interesting debates and discussions that took place during the 2017 Gulf Research Meeting. In addition to the workshops participants and paper presenters, a special note of thank you goes to the workshop directors for the tremendous commitment and enthusiasm they have shown through the year in order to put their workshop together and guide the discussion and output. I must also mention the sponsors to the GRM without whose support the meeting would not have been possible. You will find their names and more information about them in the following pages.

The 2018 Gulf Research Meeting will be held from July 31st - August 3, 2018. We look once again forward to bringing together an exciting mix of scholars, researcher, policy analysts and students in an effort to better understand our part of the world.
About the Gulf Research Meeting
The GRM in its eight years has brought together almost 3000 participants; more than 1,500 papers have been presented and discussed in the 106 workshops that have been held so far.
About the Gulf Research Meeting

At the Gulf Research Center (GRC), one of the most important goals remains the spread of scholarly research and knowledge relating to the Gulf throughout the international community. In a bid to foster greater understanding of the GCC and the challenges the region faces, and to strengthen the links between scholars from different regions, we decided to create the Gulf Research Meeting (GRM). Led by the commitment of the GRC’s founder and chairman, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, the GRM is unparalleled in both its scope and value as far as scholarly and policy-oriented research about the critical Gulf region is concerned. A flagship event that is hosted annually at the University of Cambridge, the GRM brings together hundreds of specialists, policy practitioners, and aspiring academics from the Arab region and the rest of the world to discuss and debate the key challenges and changes facing the GCC and enhance their knowledge about this unique part of the world.

Advancing Knowledge

At a time when the Gulf region continues to gain in strategic relevance and importance, it is more urgent than ever to expand knowledge about this critical part of the world and to become more familiar with the issues that are defining its overall development. Of equal importance is the promotion of scholarly and balanced research about the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), its adjacent neighbors that constitute the wider Gulf region (Iran, Iraq and Yemen) and their relations to one another as well as with the wider external environment.

Through parallel workshops dedicated to specific topics in the fields of politics, economics, energy, security and the wider social sciences, the Gulf Research Meeting addresses the existing shortcomings, to provide correct and insightful information about the region and to promote mutual understanding between the Gulf and the rest of the world.
Producing Output

Committed to a high-level academic standard, the GRM’s objectives are to produce policy input and generate solutions to many of the region’s pressing challenges. Each year, workshops are selected on both their ability to contribute to the development of literature on the Gulf and their relevance to issues of present and common concern. In this manner, and through the intensive debates that are part of the individual meetings, concrete ideas and initiatives are created that can then be disseminated to a wider audience through generated publications, whether as short policy briefs, extended essays or more broader edited books. Such discussions also lead to additional collaborative efforts among the participants and their institutions beyond the framework of the GRM.

Creating Networks

Through its workshops and constant interaction among participants, the GRM also promotes widespread research efforts among different institutions from within the Gulf and other parts of the region to heighten awareness of Gulf-specific issues. At the core lies the partnership between the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge and the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. Universally recognized as one of the world’s leading educational institutions, the University of Cambridge together with the Centre of Islamic Studies has provided a strong commitment to foster cooperation and promote exchanges such as the Gulf Research Meeting. Such collaboration opens the door to promote further work and link into a worldwide network of leading individuals and research initiatives.
Beyond the University of Cambridge, the GRM brings together institutions from throughout the world, thereby creating additional opportunities for networking and cooperation. Particular importance and emphasis is given to encourage young scholars, in particular from the GCC countries – including those studying abroad - to engage in the debate and take part in research collaboration. In this way, GRM provides a path into the future generation and the role it will play in shaping the region’s development.

The Gulf Research Meeting is a ground-breaking and progressive project that the GRC is proud to be at the forefront of.
2017 Gulf Research Meeting Program
The 2017 GRM Program

Monday, July 31st, 2017

09:00 - 17:30  Registration for all GRM Attendees

Tuesday, August 1st 2017

09:00 – 15:00  Registration for all GRM Attendees
16:00 - 18:00  GRM 2017 Opening Ceremony, West Road Concert Hall

Welcome Remarks:
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman, Gulf Research Center

Welcome remarks on behalf of the University of Cambridge:
Stuart Laing, Master of Corpus Christi College

Panel Session: Panel Session: Challenges Facing the Gulf Economies

Chair:
Tim Niblock, Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

Speakers:
Manaf Alhajeri, CEO, Kuwait Financial Center (Markaz)

Giacomo Luciani, Scientific Director, Master in International Energy, Paris School of International Affairs at SciencesPo
Anand K Rohatgi, CEO, Synergy Consulting IFA, Inc.
18:15 – 18:45  GRM Group Photograph 2017, King’s College
19:00 - 21:00  Reception and Gala Dinner, Kings College

**Wednesday, August 2nd, 2017**
08:00 - 19:00  Registration
9:00 – 13:00  Morning workshop sessions
13:00 - 14:15  Lunch, Kings College
14:30 – 18:00  Afternoon workshop sessions

**Thursday, August 3rd, 2017**
8:00 – 18:00  Registration
9:00 – 13:00  Morning workshop sessions
13:00 - 14:15  Lunch, Kings College
14:30 – 18:00  Afternoon workshop sessions
19:00-21:00  Closing dinner, Kings College

**Friday, August 4th, 2017**
9:00 – 12:00  Registration
9:00 – 13:00  Morning workshop sessions
12:30 - 14:30  Buffet Lunch, Hilton Cambridge City Center
Opening Ceremony
The Gulf Research Meeting enters its eighth year at a time when the Gulf region is experiencing one of the most tumultuous years in recent memory. The last 12 months, since we gathered here in Cambridge in August 2016, have been a period of great turmoil amidst widespread change throughout the region to the point that it has become difficult to keep up with the events as they occur. The change in succession in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the dispute within the GCC over the policies of the state of Qatar, and the coming to power of a new highly unpredictable administration in the United States, just to name the most obvious developments, have been added to the regional portfolio alongside the continued deterioration of the political and humanitarian scenario in places such as Yemen, Syria and Libya, the proliferation of non-state groups hollowing out state structures and their effectiveness, and the continuance of terrorism and extremism that threatens all populations of the region. Equally, the intensity of the conflict between Iran and its Arab Gulf neighbors shows no sign of abating with some fears being raised that the confrontation could aggravate and possibly become violent. Indeed, the Gulf region currently does not present a comforting picture.

Last year too, I spoke of the fact that the recent past has not provided much room for optimism in the region and that instead of the ‘Arab Spring’ hopes and aspirations being realized, the opposite has occurred in terms of increased national political contention along with the inability to provide lasting solutions to pressing economic and social issues, widespread regional devastation, and an international environment that appears to be at a loss in the search for viable alternative paths toward conflict resolution.
Against such a backdrop, it is heartening that we have once again been able to bring together a diverse and experienced group of specialists, academics, and policy practitioners in order to try to gain a better sense of what is happening in the Gulf region and use their knowledge to analyze events from a broader, a more wide-angle perspective.

The Gulf Research Meeting was not established to provide immediate solutions to the critical problems of our times. Instead, the idea behind the meeting was to provide a space for an open and frank exchange of views, for deeper research collaboration, and where people of different backgrounds and specialties could gather together to gain a better understanding of the forces defining and shaping the Gulf region. I agree that it can be a frustrating experience to study a region that seems to be falling apart and suggest solutions that can have only a limited impact on the day-to-day happenings, if at all. But I also know from past Gulf Research Meeting experiences that we always tend to leave these gatherings with at least a renewed sense of optimism and some sparks of enthusiasm to continue moving forward in the hope of eventually achieving some sort of breakthrough on what was hitherto seen as an insurmountable challenge. I am sure that the discussions during this meeting too will allow us to leave with renewed hope.
Moving on to a different issue, we have been asking ourselves whether the format of the Gulf Research Meeting adopted in the last eight years is still appropriate and whether we are achieving the objectives that we set out at the outset. I strongly believe that one should never stop re-inventing oneself whether as an individual or an organization. In light of this, I want to encourage everyone who is attending this year’s meeting to also use the next few days to reflect on the possible changes that can be made in terms of future Gulf Research Meetings and to communicate this at the end of the meeting to our staff either directly or through the evaluation forms that will be distributed in your workshops. The key aspects to consider include the continuation of the present format of parallel running workshops vs. a different structure, the practice of requiring long academic papers vs. the focus on shorter and possibly more policy-oriented outputs, and the current approach of bringing together many diverse topics vs. focusing on one specific issue of importance to the Gulf. Let me assure you that, on our side, we are currently reviewing all aspects in order to continue making the Gulf Research Meeting as relevant and topical as possible. I look forward to receiving your inputs.

As always, the Gulf Research Meeting would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our donors and sponsors as well as individuals who have dedicated themselves to promoting the GRM and ensuring that we achieve our objectives. This year, I would like to take the opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Qatar, the
Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), Knowledge Corporation, the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), as well as Bahamdan Group of Companies, and Al-Muhaideb Contracting for their unstinted support. Their support is absolutely critical for an event such as this and we are extremely grateful for their commitment.

There are also a few individuals who deserve special mention: First and foremost, H.E. Maj. Gen. Dr. Abdul Latef Bin Rashid Al-Zayani, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, who has been one of the most ardent supporters of the Gulf Research Meeting since its very beginning. Second, I want to extend my thanks to Ambassador Stuart Laing, the Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and a member of the GRC Cambridge Board of Trustees, as well as Professor Yasir Suleiman, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa’id Professor of Modern Arabic Studies and the Director of the Centre of Islamic Studies here at the university, and also a member of the GRC Cambridge Board of Trustees for their continued support and efforts being undertaken on behalf of this gathering. Third, a special thank you to my staff at the Gulf Research Center in Saudi Arabia, in Geneva, including those who are now here in Cambridge. They have always gone the extra mile to ensure that all aspects of the meeting proceed smoothly.

Finally, I once again welcome everyone here to Cambridge and the Gulf Research Meeting and I wish you fruitful discussions over the next few days.
2017 Gulf Research Meeting
Workshops
The chaos following the 2003 invasion of Iraq removed many of the checks and balances which provided our region with an uneasy stability.
List of Workshops / Directors

**Workshop 1**
Smart Cities in the Gulf: Current State, Opportunities and Challenges
Dr. Elie Azar, Assistant Professor of Engineering Systems and Management, Masdar Institute, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Wael Abdel Samad, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Rochester Institute of Technology, United Arab Emirates

**Workshop 2**
Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Delivery in the GCC: Challenges and The Opportunities
Dr. Khalid Othman Al-Yahya, Senior Research Fellow, King Salman Center for Local Governance, and Director of Palladium, Saudi Arabia
Dr. Amer Al Adhadh, Senior Economic Advisor and PPP Expert, Ministry of Commerce and Economy, Qatar
Mhamed Biygautane, Research Fellow / Non-resident Research Fellow, Center for Commercial Law and Regulatory Studies, Monash University /Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government, Australia / UAE

**Workshop 3**
Brexit and GCC
Dr. Abdullah Baabood, the Gulf Studies Centre, Qatar University, Qatar
Dr. Geoffrey Edwards, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

**Workshop 4**
The GCC and the Indian Ocean: Economic Opportunities and Political Challenges
Prof. Tim Niblock, Emeritus Professor of Middle Eastern Politics, University of Exeter United Kingdom
Prof. Degang Sun, Professor and Deputy Director, Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai, International Studies University, China
Amb. Talmiz Ahmad, Former Ambassador of India in SA, UEA and Oman Indian Foreign Service
Workshop 5
Electoral Frameworks, Party Systems and Electoral Outcomes: Comparing Elections in the Gulf
Dr. Luciano Zaccara, Research Assistant Professor, Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University, Qatar
Dr. Kristin Smith Diwan, Senior Resident Scholar, Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, United States of America

Workshop 6
Transforming Business Education in the GCC: Transitioning from Theoretical to Applied, and Applied to Impactful
Dr. Asma Siddiki, Founding Dean, Student Affairs, Enrolment and Outreach, Prince Mohammed Bin Salman College of Business & Entrepreneurship, King Abdullah Economic City, Saudi Arabia
Workshop 7
Gender and Identity in the Gulf: Cultural Constructions and Representations
Dr. Sabrina DeTurk, Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Creative Enterprises, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates
Prof. Dr. Laila Prager, Senior Research Associate, NYU Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Sarina Wakefield, Adjunct Faculty, College of Arts and Creative Enterprises, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Workshop 8
The Arab Gulf in The West: Perceptions and Realities—Opportunities and Perils
Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib, Executive director, Al Istishari Al Strategy for Economic and Future Studies, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Marwa Maziad, University of Washington, United States of America

Workshop 9
Migration Policies in the Gulf: Continuity and Change
Prof. Philippe Fargues, European University Institute, Italy
Prof. Nasra M. Shah, Kuwait University, Kuwait
Workshop Summaries
Workshop Summaries

Workshop 1:  
Smart Cities in the Gulf: Current State, Opportunities, and Challenges

This workshop aimed at achieving a comprehensive understanding of the emerging notion of ‘Smart Cities’ in the Gulf context and their implications on people. Spanning three days, the workshop drew more than 25 international experts in the areas of smart cities, urban planning, public policy, government strategy, IoT, big data, cyber security, sustainable engineering and blockchain, from various research institutes and government entities including the Golisano Institute of Sustainability at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, RIT – Dubai, Smart Dubai Office, Carnegie Mellon University, Arctic University of Norway, National Technical University of Athens and Heriot-Watt University, the University of Bahrain and the Qatar University.

On day one, Okan Geray from Smart Dubai Office presented Dubai’s impact-driven smart sustainable city framework in the context of evolving urban challenges. While priorities and challenges differ significantly from one city to another, the presentation paved the way to excellent conversations on how similar frameworks can be adopted in other cities in the GCC. The fact that the city of Dubai is currently implementing many of those strategies really helped in bringing the topic to life. This was followed by another framework approach presentation, where early initiatives undertaken in the Kingdom of Bahrain were explained. The talk highlighted the implementation hurdles related to the public sector’s readiness in adopting new technologies. Another presentation from the Smart Dubai Office followed with a very novel insight into the quantification of the city’s inhabitants’ state of well-being or happiness. The notion of happiness, the components it entails, and the model for measuring it were addressed in the presentation. Quite intriguing, the talk steered the conversation on smart cities towards the ultimate, often overlooked goal, which is the citizens’ well-being. Later that same day, presentations focused on smart city demands when it comes to governance and policy. Discussions highlighted the importance of government readiness and acceptance, as such city transformations can never be successfully implemented without a proper governance model. Along similar lines, Giovanna Potesta focused her talk on the people’s sense of place in the implementation of smart cities as well as the corresponding consequences in the cultural references and social
behaviors of the citizens. Other critical questions addressed related to the fast pace of adopting new data sharing platforms which raises the dangers of connecting people on a virtual level while undermining the connections on a physical level.

On the second and third day attention shifted to the technology, infrastructure and academic aspects of smart cities. Two researchers from RIT–Dubai presented the various cyber security challenges faced in light of the surplus of data, while highlighting the opportunities GCC countries have in mitigating them. Moreover, and with the tremendous projected increase in population in GCC cities, smart cities will require a great deal of clean and sustainable energy – this was the focus of two presentations out of Masdar Institute, where an effective power and water pricing mechanism in smart cities and the water-energy-food nexus and a smart city’s role in managing these resources in a more sustainable way was introduced. Along similar lines, Harris Doukas’ presentation focused on the holistic intelligent energy management within smart cities, highlighting a great opportunity ahead for EU–GCC cooperation. On the topic of cooperation, Rasmus Bertelsen presented his work on the role of transnational knowledge and triple-helix relations between GCC countries and both the West and Asia for pursuing smart cities in the GCC, a topic which drew a great deal of interest as it paved the way for excellent discussions on the role of foreign academia in GCC.

**Workshop directors’ profiles**

**Dr. Elie Azar**

Dr. Elie Azar is an Assistant Professor of Engineering Systems and Management at Masdar Institute in Abu Dhabi, UAE. His research focuses on optimizing the performance of buildings and cities through shifts in current energy consumption patterns of people. Dr. Azar has worked as a construction engineer and building energy analyst in North America, the Middle East, and Europe. He has also authored more than 25 publications in peer reviewed journals and refereed conference proceedings including the journals ‘Energy and Buildings’, ‘Energy Policy’, ‘Computing in Civil Engineering’, and ‘Management in Engineering’. His research has been internationally recognized on several occasions, most recently in a Best Paper Award at the ASCE Workshop on Computing in Civil Engineering, as primary author. Dr. Azar received his bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, and his Master of Science and Doctorate of Philosophy in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Dr. Wael Abdel Samad

Dr. Wael Abdel Samad is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology - Dubai Campus. He earned his BE from the American University of Beirut - Lebanon in 2007, and his MSc and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2008 and 2013, respectively, all in Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Abdel Samad’s research efforts to date have focused on investigating the state of stress of mechanical structures having unknown loading condition through hybridizing a variety of different nondestructive approaches. Most recently, and along with other colleagues at RIT, Dr. Abdel Samad successfully completed a one-year funded project for Emirates Global Aluminum (EGA) on improving the lifespan of ingot molds for a more sustainable aluminum production in EGA’s cast house facility in Al Tawila, Abu Dhabi. He has authored/co-authored more than 15 publications in peer reviewed journals and refereed conference proceedings including the journals ‘Experimental Mechanics’, ‘Engineering with Computers’, and more recently ‘Aerospace and Technology’. 
**Workshop 1 papers**

**Evaluation of Dubai’s Road Networks Resilience against Disruptions Using Graph Theory-Based Approach** (presented by Mohamed Alzaabi)
Baiherula Abula, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates
Abdulla Galadari, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates
Latifa A. Youssef, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates
Sameh El Khatib, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates

**Development of a National Smart City Initiatives Framework for the Kingdom of Bahrain: A Blueprint for Successful Smart Cities**
Hesham Al-Ammal, University of Bahrain, Kingdom of Bahrain
Maan Mubarak Aljawder, University of Bahrain, Kingdom of Bahrain

**Dubai Happiness Agenda: Engineering the Happiest City on Earth**
Ali Al-Azzawi, Smartdubai, United Arab Emirates

**Effective Pricing of Water and Power with Different Perspectives**
Moza Al Naimi, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates
Mohamed I. Ali, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates

**Linking Smart Cities Concept to Energy-Water-Food Nexus: The Case of Masdar City in Abu Dhabi UAE**
Mohamed Alzaabi, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates
Toufic Mezher, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates
Zeinelabidin E. Rizk, Ajman University of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates

**Smart Governments for Smart Cities: the Case of Dubai Smart Government**
Ahmed Badran, College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University, Qatar

**Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure for Smart Cities in GCC**
Ashwin Kumar Balaji, Carnegie Mellon University, United States of America
Prashanth K Soori, Heriot-Watt University, United Arab Emirates
Trishna Raj, Oxford University, United Kingdom
Firoza Patel, University of Southampton, United Kingdom

**Transnational GCC Triple-Helix Relations for Building Smart Cities under Globalization**
Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen, UiT-The Arctic University of Norway, Norway
Intelligent Energy Management within the Smart Cities: An EU-GCC Cooperation Opportunity
Haris Doukas, National Technical University of Athens, Greece

An Impact Driven Smart Sustainable City Framework to Address Urban Challenges: Smart Dubai Experience
Okan Geray, Smart Dubai Office, United Arab Emirates

The influence of Big Data and IoT on Smart Cities
Ioannis Karamitsos, Rochester Institute Technology-Dubai Campus, United Arab Emirates
Charalampos Manifavas, Rochester Institute Technology-Dubai Campus, United Arab Emirates

Smart Cities and Blockchain
Natalie Karayaneva
Aleksey Konashevich

Smart Cities and Place Making: the sense of place in the implementation of Smart Cities through the Arabian Gulf
Giovanna Potesta, Rochester Institute of Technology, Golisano Institute for Sustainability, United States of America

Opportunities and Challenges in Internet-of-Things (IoT) deployment for Smart Cities: A GCC Perspective
Ali Raza, Rochester Institute of Technology, United Arab Emirates
Workshop Summaries

Workshop 2:
Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Delivery in the GCC: Challenges and the Opportunities

In modern times, security issues in the Gulf have seen prominent external involvement at every stage – whether in terms of supporting existing governments/states against domestic change or external attack, or monitoring or controlling the movement of shipping and naval vessels in the waters of the Gulf and the sealanes leading to and from the Gulf. Today, however, the character of the regional threats which the eight Gulf States face, the value of their existing alliances, the emergence of new international actors with strong interests in the region, and the shifting domestic bases underpinning regimes, require all the states to recalibrate their security strategies and priorities. The workshop sought to focus on one particular possibility: that the eight Gulf States might establish a cooperative security system – taking collective control of their own security.

The central concern, therefore, was to identify the parameters within which a Gulf security organisation could function, and the dynamics which might facilitate/impede its effective establishment and organisation. The papers presented in the workshop covered aspects of these possible parameters and dynamics. Some sought to apply the collective security or security community theory to the case of the Gulf; others looked at the problems inherent to the region (especially the ongoing confrontation between Saudi Arabia and Iran) which made it difficult to envisage a cooperative relationship developing; others considered the role which outside powers or institutions could play in helping to heal existing divisions and in encouraging pan-Gulf security cooperation; others again assessed whether the process and procedures which had created the P1+5 nuclear accord with Iran could be used to carry forward...
wider reconciliation and cooperative security-building in the Gulf. The value of the workshop lay, on the one hand, in its engagement with a topic which has rarely been seriously examined in the past but whose characteristics, potential, and dynamics need now to be given urgent consideration. Such consideration needs to be undertaken not only by all Gulf governments but also by other governments maintaining close relations with Gulf governments. It is hoped that the workshop’s presentations and discussions will help to inform future governmental analyses, enabling such analyses to be more focused and coherent than they might otherwise be. On the other hand, the creation of a forum for diverse and divergent views is in itself of value. The articulation of sharply divergent assessments of the feasibility and potential for security cooperation in the Gulf encourages all researchers to take account of the full range of possibilities, limitations, institutional approaches, and negotiating frameworks. This was indeed what happened in the workshop. The sharpest division lay between those who thought that European experience with the CSCE and OSCE provided the most suitable model and framework for security cooperation in the Gulf, and those who saw experiences in Asia (and the potential role which Asian countries could play) as providing the most productive way forward. Yet each of these approaches could borrow elements from the perspectives and institutional proposals of the other. In short, the proceedings of the workshop have laid a substantive basis for significant developments on this issue in the future – at both the governmental and research levels.
Workshop directors’ profiles

Dr. Khalid Al-Yahya

Dr. Khalid Al-Yahya is Senior Research Fellow at King Salman Center for Local Governance, and Director of Palladium, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Al-Yahya is a leading expert in Strategy, Development Policy, and Governance with over 20 years of global and regional experience in government, consulting, and academia. His previous work focuses on areas related to public sector transformation and innovation, strategic planning and implementation, public-private partnerships, human capital and labor, competitiveness and sustainability. He has advised and led transformative projects with several governments and international development organizations including the Ministry of Finance, SAMA, SAGIA, Ministry of Labor, Aramco in Saudi Arabia; and Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Labor; Ministry of Interior; Executive Councils in Dubai Government, Abu Dhabi Government, and Ajman Government in the UAE; the OECD, UN, UNDP, World Bank, Bill Gates Foundation, Shell Foundation, and Citi. He is currently Palladium’s Saudi Arabia country director. He has held senior leadership positions including the Managing Director of Accenture Strategy and Public Sector lead in the Middle East, Official at the MOF in Saudi Arabia, Director of Governance and Innovation in Dubai Government, and Associate at Harvard University Kennedy School (2012-2008), Assistant Professor at Arizona State University (USA) (2008-2005). Dr. Al-Yahya is an influential thought leader and has been a speaker in more than 110 international conferences and forums in 42 countries, and a regular commentator in TV news channels. He is a member of several international professional associations. He is also a certified instructor in “Strategic Thinking & Leadership”, «Public-Private Partnerships», «Public Sector Innovation», “Knowledge Management” and “Public Policy Implementation”. He has more than 50 published works that were presented in international and regional venues including WEF, Government Summits, Harvard University, WB.
He completed his post-doctoral study at Harvard University’s CMES, and has a Ph.D. in Development Policy and Management from University of Connecticut and MPA & MBA from University of Hartford, all in the USA.

**Dr. Amer Al-Adhadh**

Dr. Amer Al-Adhadh is Economic Advisor at the Ministry of Economy and Trade, Qatar and adjunct faculty at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He is Adviser to Qatar’s Ministry of Economy and Trade and specializes in Private Sector Development and Public Private Partnership. He is well known for his extensive background in both finance and economic institutional development in the Middle East. Dr. Al-Adhadh was economic development adviser in Iraq in 2006 following a Summer Fellowship with the Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Science in 2005.

In 2007, he was awarded a research prize from the Institute for the Study of Complexity, Paris. He received his Ph.D. in Political Economy from the University of California following the completion of his mathematical undergraduate studies at the University of California, San Diego in 2000. In 2009, he established a 500$ million SME Initiative for Qatar, and has recently been nominated Vice Chairman of the UNECE PPP Team of Specialists. Dr. Al-Adhadh has lectured on Econometrics at the University of California and on Public Policy at Georgetown University.

**Mhamed Biygautane**

Mhamed Biygautane is currently a Research Fellow at the Center for Commercial Law and Regulatory Studies at Monash University in Australia where he specializes in infrastructure public-private partnerships in the context of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. He is also a Non-resident Fellow at the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG) in Dubai, Visiting Research Fellow at the American University of Kuwait, and a regulator contributor to Oxford Analytica where he provides strategic analysis on the political-economic development of the GCC and the wider MENA region. He has published numerous peer-reviewed studies on public-private partnerships, privatization, knowledge management and training in the public sector, and administrative reform within public sector organizations in the GCC.

Mr. Biygautane has also authored and co-authored various studies and reports for organizations such as the World Bank, OECD, UNDP, the United Nations, and Oxford Analytica. With Dr. Khalid Al-Yahya, Mr. Biygautane co-authored a series of policy briefs on public management and innovation in Dubai and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Biygautane has presented at more than 60 international conferences such as the Jeddah Economic Forum in Saudi Arabia, Academy of Management in Canada, International Project Management conference in Dubai and the Gulf Research Meeting at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. His work has appeared in journals such as Thunderbird International Business Review, Public Works Management and Policy, and Digest of Middle East Studies. His work has also been featured in international and regional media such as BBC, Dubai One, the New York Times and other news outlets.
Workshop 2 papers

PPPs in Qatar: Challenges and Opportunities
Amer Adhadh, Ministry of Commerce and Economy, Qatar

Public-Private Partnerships in Education within the GCC Region: Learning from International Benchmarks
Omar Ahermouch, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

The Role of Diversification, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Innovation in Achieving the GCC Visions and the Sustainable Development
Thamer Al-Ani, League of Arab States, Egypt

Public-Private Networking: the Case of SADAD
Khalid Al-Yahya, Salman Center for Local Governance / Palladium, Saudi Arabia

The Role of Public Private Partnership in Infrastructure Development: Lessons Learnt from the New Cairo Wastewater Project in Egypt
Ahmed Badran, Qatar University, Qatar

The Evolution of PPPs in Saudi Arabia: Challenges and the Path Forward
Mhamed Biygautane, Center for Commercial Law and Regulatory Studies, Monash University / Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government, Australia / United Arab Emirates

Role of Clusters in Enhancing Entrepreneurship at National Level in GCC Countries
Ayesha Farooq, Aligarh Muslim University, India
Maryam Fozia, Aligarh Muslim University, India

PPPs from Theory to Practice
Per Fremlin, Terraborg, United Kingdom

SOHAR Port and Freezone and Public-Private Partnerships in the Food Industry
Mark Geilenkirchen, SOHAR, Oman

Private Sector and Public Services: What is the nexus in The GCC States?
Hela Miniaoui, Gulf Studies Center, Qatar

Comparative Study of SMEs in Dubai and South Korea
Jewan Park, Qatar University, Qatar
The UK’s decision to leave the European Union (BREXIT) raises important questions about the future trilateral and bilateral relationships of the UK, the EU and the countries of the Gulf. The workshop sought to address the inter-connected issues of trade and investment flows, and cooperation on political and strategic concerns including counter-terrorism and other security issues. At a time of considerable uncertainties and risk in the international system, the workshop examined the complexities of the relationship between the UK and EU on the one side and the Gulf States and the GCC, with a multitude of different actors – official and unofficial, national and supranational/multilateral – involved.
Workshop directors’ profiles

Dr. Abdullah Baabood

Dr. Abdullah Baabood is the Director of the Gulf Studies Center at the College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University. His teaching and research interests are in the areas of international relations, international political economy especially globalization and regionalism, security and energy studies. He particularly focuses on the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and their economic, social and political development as well as external relations.

Abdullah’s publications include:
A chapter; in Maaike Warnaar, Luciano Zaccara and Paul Aarts (eds), Iran’s Relations with the Arab States of the Gulf: Common Interests over Historic Rivalry (Gerlach Press-GRM Series, Berlin, forthcoming 2016);
- “Oman Foreign Policy,” in Khalid Almezaini and Jean-Marc Rickli (eds), The Gulf Small States: Foreign and Security Policies, (Routledge, forthcoming);
- Changing Global Dynamics between the Gulf, the US, and Asia: Implications for the EU in The Gulf Monarchies Beyond the Arab Spring. Changes and Challenges. 2015 http://wwwispionline.it/it/publicazione/rising-gulf-new-ambitions-gulf-monarchies13880;-

In Arabic:
- 2010: Europe and the Gulf: Balance and Future Perspective, in The European Union and the Arab World, What the Arabs Think and Expect from Europe? Casa Arabe, CIDOB, Spain, p. 50-42;
- “Gulf- Europe Relations: Constraints and Opportunities”, in Gulf Yearbook 2009-2008, Gulf Research Center, Dubai, p.155-141;

**Dr. Geoffrey Edwards**

Dr. Geoffrey Edwards is Deputy Director Europe @POLIS; Reader Emeritus in European Studies, University of Cambridge; Jean Monnet chair in Political Science, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge; Emeritus Fellow, Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Recent publications include:
- ‘The EU’s Foreign Policy and the Search for Effect’ September 2013;
- ‘Conceptualizing the Middle East as a Region of Strategic Interest: a Critical Assessment of the Barcelona Process and the European Neighbourhood Policy’ in Christian-Peter Hanelt & Almut Möller Bound to Cooperate – European and the Middle East II, Verlag Berelsmann Stiftung, 2008;
Workshop 3 papers

Brexit: Lessons for the GCC
Omar Al-Ubaydli, Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies, Bahrain
Ghada Abdulla, Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies, Bahrain

The Status of the EU-GCC Relations after “Brexit”: Stalemate or Future Revamp?
Pasquale Borea, Royal University for Women, Kingdom of Bahrain

The Geopolitics of EU-GCC Relations in the Post-Anglosaxon Gulf
Dario Cristiani, Vesalius College, Belgium

How National Identity will Shape the Future of Liberalism: the Consequences of Brexit in the EU and the GCC
Diana Galeeva, Durham University, United Kingdom

Saudi-Iran Rivalry, Brexit and Strategic Partnership Dilemma for European Union
Umer Karim, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

The UK and the Security of the Arabian Gulf: Limits Of Contributions and Obstacles: Bahrain as an Example
Ashraf Keshk, Strategic Studies Program, Kingdom of Bahrain

Linkage Diplomacy: GCC and EU in Comparative Perspective in the Light of Brexit
Shady Mansour, Future for Advanced Research and Studies, United Arab Emirates

Impact of Brexit on EU-GCC Trade Relations
Ashraf Mishrif, Qatar University, Qatar

The Quest for Knowledge-based economies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) – Impact of Brexit
Wafa Sultana Mohiddin, Qatar University, Qatar

“Britain is Back, East of Suez”: Brexit and the Implications for British Re-engagement with the Gulf
Jessie Moritz, Australian National University, Australia
Emma Vines, Australian National University, Australia
What Lessons does Brexit Teach the GCC?
Sally Rabei, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt

A De-sanctioned Iran: Prosperity at Home, Cooperation in the Region
Behzad Shahandeh, Teheran University, Iran

The UAE-UK Relations Post-Brexit: An insight into the Opportunities and Challenges
Mohammed Sharfi, The Diplomatic Institute, MoFA, Qatar
Workshop Summaries

Workshop 4:
The GCC and the Indian Ocean: Economic Opportunities and Political Challenges

The workshop stemmed from the growing realization that the Indian Ocean will play a critical role in global relations over the coming decades. There is a danger that competing interests, and struggles to secure leading positions, will disrupt international harmony, and a corresponding need to promote forms of cooperation which will ensure the safety and security of the sea-lanes. The interests of the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council are at stake here: their economic survival is more dependent on trade (especially the export of oil, and the import of their means of survival) than is the case with almost any other country. The key concern of the workshop, therefore, was to gain a deeper understanding of how the major users of the Indian Ocean (the countries which are most dependent on the sea-lanes across the Ocean, whether Indian Ocean coastal states or not) relate to the GCC countries – politically, economically and strategically – and to examine the means whereby the GCC states can safeguard their interests in the region.

The papers presented covered the roles of most of the major Indian Ocean user nations, with individual papers looking at the roles of China, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Russia. There were also papers looking at Iran’s engagement in the Indian Ocean region, and others covering the external defense and foreign policies (in the Indian Ocean region) of the UAE and Oman. A number of papers examined in depth the economic relationships around the Indian Ocean, linking this dimension to the strategic importance attached to the relationships. Discussion in the workshop generally sought to put individual country experiences into comparative perspective: how the policies and experience of any one country could be related to that of other countries in the region.
The outcome of the workshop was an overall appreciation of the importance of developing an Indian Ocean regional architecture based on cooperation. The existing frameworks for cooperation were discussed, taking into account the positive elements of cooperation which are already in place and also their inadequacies. A prerequisite for effective GCC engagement in the projected development of Indian Ocean cooperative frameworks was seen as the establishment of effective cooperative arrangements within the Gulf itself – covering all of the eight states of the Gulf. Without such arrangements, there was the danger that the Gulf could become a cause of disarray and division within the larger region. With an effective Gulf cooperative security arrangement, on the other hand, the dependence of all the Indian Ocean states on Gulf oil could enable the Gulf States to play a positive and critical role in ensuring the peace and security of the Indian Ocean region.
Workshop directors’ profiles

Amb. Talmiz Ahmad
Amb. Talmiz Ahmad joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1974. Early in his career, he was posted to Kuwait and Baghdad, was Charge d’Affaires in Sanaa in 81-1979, and then Consul General in Jeddah (90-1987). He headed the Gulf/Haj Division in the Ministry of External Affairs in 2000-1998. He was Ambassador to Saudi Arabia twice (03-2000 and 11-2010); to Oman (04-2003), and the UAE (10-2007). He was also Additional Secretary responsible for international cooperation in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs, India’s premier foreign policy think-tank (17-2004). At the end of his tenure as Ambassador to Saudi Arabia in August 2011, the Saudi government conferred on him the King Abdulaziz Medal First Class in recognition of his role in the promotion of Indo-Saudi relations. After retirement from the Indian Foreign Service, he joined the corporate sector for three years as the Dubai-based president of an Indo-German joint venture, with responsibility for business development in West Asia, North Africa, and Central Asia. He is now an independent consultant based in Dubai and is advising Indian and local companies on business expansion and diversification.

He has authored three books: Reform in the Arab World: External Influences and Regional Debates (2005); Children of Abraham at War: the Clash of Messianic Militarisms (2010), and The Islamist Challenge in West Asia: Doctrinal and Political Competitions after the Arab Spring (2013). He writes and lectures frequently on political Islam, the politics and economics of the Middle East, and energy security issues.

Prof. Tim Niblock
Prof. Tim Niblock is Emeritus Professor of Middle Eastern Politics at the University of Exeter. He is also currently Visiting Professor at Shaanxi Normal University, Xi’an, and has held the position of Vice-President of the European Association for Middle Eastern Studies, and Vice-President of the British Society for Middle East Studies. He was the founding Director of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter, and previously served at the University of Khartoum, the University of Reading, and the University of Durham.


**Prof. Degang Sun**

Prof. Degang Sun is Professor and Deputy Director of the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, China. He was an academic visitor to the Middle East Centre, Oxford University, and Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (2013-2012). His research interest is China and the Middle East. His most recent works are: Quasi-alliance Diplomacy in Theory and Practice: An Empirical Studies of the Relations between Great Powers and the Middle East (Beijing: World Affairs, 2012); “China’s Response to the Revolts in the Arab World: A Case of Pragmatic Diplomacy,” (Mediterranean Politics, Vol. 19, No. 2014 ,1, with Professor Yahia Zoubir); and “China’s Economic Diplomacy towards the Arab Countries: Challenges Ahead?” (Journal of Contemporary China, forthcoming, with Prof. Yahia Zoubir).
Workshop 4 papers

Integrating the GCC Countries and Iran in a New India Ocean Economic and Security Architecture: An Indian Diplomatic Initiative
Amb. Talmiz Ahmad, Symbiosis School of International Studies, India

The UAE as the Premier Player in the Indian Ocean
Ahmed Al-Attar, The Delma Institute, United Arab Emirates
Rose Murad, The Delma Institute, United Arab Emirates

Oman and the Indian Ocean: Economic Opportunities and Political Challenges
Yousuf Al Balushi, Supreme Council for Planning, Sultanate of Oman, Oman

The Confrontation between Iran and GCC in the Naval Ports of the Red Sea and the Northern Part of the Indian Ocean
Haifa Al Maashi, Dubai Public Policy Centre, United Arab Emirates

Positioning as Hubs in the Indian Ocean: Challenges and Opportunities for Saudi Arabia and India
Sameena Hameed, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Multidimensional Perspectives of Malaysia’s Relationships with the Arab-Persian Gulf
Mohd Fauzi Hussin, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia
Asmady Idris, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia

Indonesian - UAE Relations
Sterling Jensen, National Defense College, United Arab Emirates

Russian Foreign Policy towards the Indian Ocean Region and the GCC-Iran Rift: A New Trap for Moscow’s Diplomacy?
Nikolay Kozhanov, European University at St. Petersburg, Russia

The GCC and the Indian Ocean: Trade Dependence, Strategic Balance and Frameworks of Cooperation
Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
The Economic and Trade Cooperation between ASEAN and the Gulf Cooperation Council
Song Niu, Shanghai, International Studies University, China

Securing Energy from the Gulf amid Geopolitical Strife: Japan, South Korea and the GCC in a New Energy Order
June Park, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Emma Ashford, Cato Institute, United Kingdom

Iran and the Indian Ocean
Erzsébet N. Rózsa, Institute of World Economics, Hungary
The Role of Japan and Potential Cooperation with the GCC for the Stability and Prosperity of the Indian Ocean Rim Region
Nakamura Satoru, Kobe University, Japan

Big Power Relations under the Framework of IOR-ARC
Meng Shu, Shanghai International Studies University, China

From the Indian Ocean to the Gulf: China’s Seaport Constructions along the Maritime Silk Road
Degang Sun, Shanghai International Studies University, China

Evolving Concept: One Belt One Road and the Changing Role of Gulf States
Jin Wang, University Haifa, Israel

UAE Defence Diplomacy and the Indian Ocean Region
Athol Yates, Khalifa University, United Arab Emirates

Regional Cooperation Organizations and the Emerging Indian Ocean-Arabian Gulf Integration
Zhen Yu, Xiangtan University, China
This workshop focused on the electoral processes in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, examining changes in the electoral systems since the Arab uprisings of 2011 and the diverse cleavages that affect political and electoral behavior. The eight papers included in the workshop took both case study and comparative approaches and touched on all of the GCC countries. The workshop benefitted from the inclusion of informed listening participants, and the intimate grouping contributed to make the debates very active and participatory.

The workshop started with two papers providing an overview into elections and electoral changes in the GCC since 2011. In his presentation, “The Impact of Arab Spring on the Electoral Process in GCC Countries,” Abdulnabi Alekry argued that the demands for more political participation, democratization, and public freedoms were answered by the regional governments with “more restrictions, manipulation, and interference in the electoral processes and the parliaments.” In contrast to this argument about regression in democratic practice, Luciano Zaccara’s paper “Comparing Legislative Electoral Processes in the Gulf Cooperation Council States (2015-2014)” concluded that transparency and reliability of the processes conducted in Bahrain, Oman and UAE increased. Nonetheless, he concluded that the elections cannot be considered as “internal drivers for change.”

Two more papers looked at reactions of political societies and participants to electoral changes. The paper by Kristin Diwan “Election Boycotts in Kuwait & Bahrain: Political Pressure or Political Suicide?” examined the decision-making behind and impact of post2011- electoral boycotts in the Gulf’s parliamentary monarchies. She concluded that boycotts can be leveraged for benefits by individual politicians and blocs, but they have proven ineffective in forcing a structural or systematic change in governance. In “Political Behaviours on Elections in Kuwait: The Adaptation to the Electoral Reform by Tribes and its Socio-economic Consequence,” Hirotake Ishiguro used quantitative studies...
to determine the differential impact of electoral reforms on tribes. He stated that while electoral reform improved the proportionality of electoral constituencies, small and medium tribal groups lost representation in the National Assembly.

Two co-authored papers, by Cihat Battaloglu and Fadi Farasin, were dedicated to Qatar. The first, "Tribalism and Elections in Qatar" underlined that "elections (…) become a vote for tribal affiliation and thus there will be heightened vertical cleavages along tribal lines, instead of horizontal cleavages along class lines." The second one, "Women's Political Participation and Representation in Qatar" stressed the important steps taken by Qatar to empower women through electoral means.

Two papers looked more deeply at tribal politics in Kuwait. In his paper entitled "Enduring Authority: Kinship, State Formation, and Resource Distribution in the Arab Gulf", Scott Weiner analyzed the ways in which differences in resource access shaped state outreach to kinship hierarchies, cooperative or competitive. Courtney Freer presented a co-authored paper "Electoral Tribalism in Kuwait: An Instrument of the State or a Civil Society Movement?" which argued that tribes in Kuwait are increasingly shifting away from the government and towards a cross-ideological opposition. It further used statistical analysis of tribal gains in elections before and after redistricting in 2006, and before and after the change to electoral law in 2012, to show how tribes have been affected by executive policies directed, in part, to restrict their oppositional impact.

The discussion of individual papers was supplemented by thematic sessions dedicated to the consideration of technical aspects of elections and the role of identity in electoral systems in the GCC.
Workshop directors’ profiles

Dr. Luciano Zaccara

Dr. Luciano Zaccara is Research Assistant Professor in Gulf Politics at the Qatar University Gulf Studies Center. He is also a Visiting Research Fellow at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, a Honorary Research Fellow at the Exeter University Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies in United Kingdom, and Director of the Observatory on Politics and Elections in the Arab and Muslim World in Spain. He obtained a BA in Political Science from National University of Rosario, Argentina, and a PhD in Arab and Islamic Studies from Autonoma University of Madrid, Spain.

His research focuses on the political and electoral systems in Iran and the GCC countries as well as international politics in the Gulf. He has published an edited volume on Electoral Processes in Middle East and North Africa (in Spanish), and numerous articles, chapters and a monograph on Iranian and Gulf politics. He is founder and director of the Spanish OPEMAM project (Observatory on Politics and Elections in Arab and Muslim Countries) composed of more than fifteen researchers.

Dr. Kristin Smith Diwan

Dr. Kristin Smith Diwan is a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, D.C. She works in both comparative politics and international relations and specializes in Arab and Islamist politics. Her current projects concern political activism, generational change, and the evolution of Islamism in the GCC states. Her analyses of Gulf affairs have appeared in many publications, among them Geopolitics, Middle East Report, Financial Times, Foreign Affairs, and Foreign Policy.

Diwan was previously an assistant professor at the American University School of International Service where she still teaches in an adjunct capacity. She has held visiting scholar positions at both the George Washington University Institute for Middle East Studies and the Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. From 14-2013, she served as a visiting senior fellow at the Atlantic Council Hariri Center for the Middle East where she published on youth movements and participated in the Strategic Dialogue for a New US-Gulf Partnership. She received her PhD in political science from Harvard University and holds an MA in international affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).
Workshop 5 papers

Women’s Political Participation and Representation in Qatar
Cihat Battaloglu, Researcher, Turkey

Election Boycotts in Kuwait & Bahrain: Political Pressure or Political Suicide?
Kristin Smith Diwan, Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, United States of America

Tribalism and Elections in Qatar
Fadi Farasin, The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Turkey

Electoral Tribalism in Kuwait: An Instrument of the State or a Civil Society Movement?
Courtney Freer, London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Political Behaviours on Elections in Kuwait: The Adaptation to the Electoral Reform by Tribes and its Socio-Economic Consequences
Hirotake Ishiguro, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan

Enduring Authority: Kinship, State Formation, and Resource Distribution in the Arab Gulf
Scott Weiner, George Washington University, United States of America

Comparing Legislative Electoral Processes in the Gulf Cooperation Council States (-2014 2015)
Luciano Zaccara, Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University, Qatar
Workshop Summaries

Workshop 6: Transforming Business Education in the GCC. Transitioning from Theoretical to Applied, and Applied to Impactful

Dr. Asma Siddiki
MBSC of Business & Entrepreneurship in KAEC, Saudi Arabia

The main objective of this workshop was to explore how the necessary pedagogical approaches and strategies for strengthened alliances and engagement are being adopted and implemented across institutions offering business (and related) programs in the GCC to meet the growing concerns of the region, namely an entrepreneurship ecosystem that is wanting and a shortage of employable next-generation leaders. The workshop was informed by efforts in optimizing of ‘entrepreneurship ecosystems’ across the GCC countries. Challenges, but more importantly, success stories and opportunities were explored and analyzed, and recommendations were identified for an engaged, collaborative, and multi-stakeholder approach to ensure that business education in the GCC countries truly transitions from theory to application, and even more pertinently, from application to impact, justifying the considerable efforts and financial commitments of the countries to education, empowerment, and training.
Workshop directors’ profiles

Dr. Asma Siddiki

Dr. Asma Siddiki is the Founding Dean for Student Affairs, Outreach and Enrollment at MBSC of Business & Entrepreneurship in KAEC, Saudi Arabia. (MBSC was established in collaboration with Babson Global, a whole-owned subsidiary of Babson College, USA). She also serves as Senior Director for Special Projects for Emaar Economic City, at the King Abdullah Economic City in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Siddiki has been involved in the education and higher education sectors in the region for the past twenty years. Most notably, she held leadership roles at corporate and academic institutions, in particular working with universities in their early stages of development focusing extensively on student services, institutional effectiveness, curriculum development, organizational development, and global institutional partnerships.

Prior to joining MBSC and EEC, Dr. Siddiki was a Higher Education Management Consultant as well as the Founder and CEO of Alpha1 Education, an education company specialized in developing and delivering educational programs for youth. She is a Founder of Oxbridge Summers, a summer school hosted at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in the UK. Previously, Dr. Siddiki was Director, Global Higher Education at Huron Consulting Group based in Dubai; Associate Dean for Development and Director of Degree Programs at the Dubai School of Government (in association with Harvard Kennedy School), and served at Effat University (then College) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs as well as Student Affairs. She was also a Senior Fulbright Scholar in 2004 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst focusing on civic engagement as it relates to the student experience. She has also taught at the Oxford University, King Abdul Aziz University, Dar Al Fikr Schools and Effat University. Dr. Siddiki serves on the Saudi-British Society Committee, an initiative for cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, and She was selected for the Vital Voices VV Grow Fellowship for female entrepreneurs (2014) and was recently recognized for her professional achievements and contributions to society by the World Economic Forum, as a Young Global Leader (Class of 2014). Educated in England, Switzerland, and Saudi Arabia, she has a Doctoral degree (DPhil) as well as Master’s (MSt) degree from the University of Oxford.
Workshop 6 papers

Promoting Female Employment and Entrepreneurship in Saudi Arabia through Online Education: A Literature Review and Case Study Analysis
Victoria Heath, MaRS Discovery District, Canada

Transforming the Business of Education: Embedding 21st Century Skills for the Future of Work
David Jones, The Talent Enterprise, United Arab Emirates
Radhika Punshi, The Talent Enterprise, United Arab Emirates
Yara Mirdad

Designing Curricula for Business Studies in the Gulf Region: The Conflict between Global Compatibility and Regional Specificity
Joachim Kolb, Trinity College Ireland, Ireland

Partnering with Business and EQUIS Accreditation: Sultan Qaboos University’s College of Economics and Political Science Road to Quality Business Education
Jacqueline McGlade, College of College of Economics and Political Science, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

Success in Developing Leadership and Team Working Capability in Business School Classrooms
Amanda Nimon-Peters, Hult International Business School, United Arab Emirates
Thomas Sullivan, Hult International Business School, Boston Campus, United States of America
Alexander Urquhart, Hult International Business School, Boston Campus, United States of America

Human Capital Production at Business Departments of GCC Universities
Mariam Orkodashvili, Georgian American University, Georgia

Building Effective School-to-Work Transition Systems in Saudi Arabia: Addressing Key Issues and Revisiting the Experience of Japan
Makio Yamada, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Saudi Arabia
Workshop Summaries

Workshop 7:
Gender and Identity in the Gulf: Cultural Constructions and Representations

In constructing this workshop, the directors sought contributions that would explore the relationship between gender, identity and cultural production in the Gulf. We were pleased to receive a wide variety of proposals on topics ranging from the fields of anthropology, sociology, political science, literary studies and heritage studies. The selected papers were then loosely organized by related themes into six panels; each group of presentations was followed by a discussion led by one of the workshop directors. In this way, participants were able to identify and discuss connections between papers. The workshop culminated in an exchange of how the topics could complement each other in one or more publications.

On the first day of the workshop, the papers focused on themes of women’s leadership and empowerment, sometimes as mediated through popular culture and oral tradition and in other instances through an examination of specific political moments and movements. In the first panel, Ahmed Al-Maazmi discussed the concept of “pious fashion” as presented in the popular Emirati sitcom Shaabiat Al-Cartoon while Marielle Risse offered an analysis of the ways in which language shapes the public and private presentation of a gendered self among the Ghabali people of the Dhofar region in Oman. These presentations were followed by three papers that investigated perceptions of leadership and women’s roles as leaders in the Gulf. Halah Eldosri and Magdalena Karolak (in a paper co-authored with Hala Gupta) presented case studies of women’s leadership and political participation in Saudi Arabia, while Rana Al-Mutawa examined students’ beliefs about their own potential as women leaders in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). In the afternoon, Frances Carter...
continued the exploration of women in the UAE through an investigation of the experiences of one specific group – Irish women expatriates living in the UAE. Hamideh Sedghi closed out the first day with her paper examining identity politics in post-Revolution Iran and the “conflictual identities” expressed between Iranian feminists and the state.

Day two of the workshop saw a shift towards presentations that focused on cultural production as a means of reflecting and shaping gender identity within the countries of the Gulf. In the first panel, Rami Abu Shehab and Sarah Al-Qahtani explored Qatari literature, both short stories and novels, by women writers to identify and critique the methods used by these authors to present women’s roles within Qatari society in both positive and negative ways. Following the literary discussion, Marjorie Kelly, in a paper co-authored with Sara Al-Ajmi, shifted to visual representations with an examination of the use of photography to portray women in Kuwait. Elizabeth Derderian continued the visual analysis with her discussion of the role played by women artists in the emerging and growing art scene of the UAE. In the last panel of the workshop, Ayisha Khansaheb and John Willis considered gender-specific cultural traditions as a means of shaping national heritage and identity with Ayisha’s paper on culinary history in the UAE and John’s presentation of the pearling industry in Bahrain.

The workshop succeeded in the directors’ goal of addressing the issues of gender and identity in the Gulf through a variety of lenses and brought together a diverse and talented group of scholars for two stimulating days of presentations and discussion.
Workshop directors’ profiles

Dr. Sabrina DeTurk
Dr. Sabrina DeTurk is currently Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean in the College of Arts and Creative Enterprises at Zayed University in Dubai. From 2008 to 2014, she served as Associate Dean and Executive Director of Graduate Arts and Sciences at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. DeTurk’s research interests center on art as a form of social commentary, the contemporary visual culture of trauma and conflict, and the development of global art history curricula. Current projects include a comparative study of memorial architecture and memorial museums in the US, Europe and the Middle East as well as research on street art and visual culture in the Middle East and North Africa. Recent publications include “SALTWATER: The 14th Istanbul Biennial (Afterimage: The Journal of Media Arts and Cultural Criticism, 2016) and “The ‘Banksy Effect’ and Street Art in the Middle East” (Street Art and Urban Creativity Scientific Journal, 2015). Dr. DeTurk received her BA in the History of Art from Wellesley College (Wellesley, MA) and her MA and PhD in the History of Art from Bryn Mawr College (Bryn Mawr; PA).

Dr. Sarina Wakefield
Dr. Sarina Wakefield is an Adjunct Lecturer in the College of Arts and Creative Enterprises at Zayed University in Dubai. She has lectured at UCL Qatar and has worked on museum and heritage projects in the UK and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Dr. Wakefield’s research interests center on critical heritage studies of the Gulf. She has a particular interest in ‘trans-national’ identity formation and representation, globalization, and migrant heritage and identity in the Gulf. Her PhD research focused upon the heritage industry in Abu Dhabi (UAE), and the inter-relationship between franchised and autochthonous heritage. Current projects include exploring the relationship between futurology and heritage in Dubai as well as research on how migrants use ‘outdoor’ heritage space in the Gulf States. She has published work in international journals and books relating to the museums and heritage sector in the Gulf. Recent publications include the co-edited volume Museums in Arabia: Transnational Practices and Regional Processes (Exell and Wakefield, London & New York: Routledge, 2016); ‘Hybrid Heritage and Cosmopolitanism in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi’ in Reimagining Museums: Practice in the Arabian Peninsula, edited by Pamela Erskine-Loftus (Edinburgh and Boston: MuseumsEtc, 2013). Dr. Wakefield received her BSc in Archaeology and her MA in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester (UK) and her PhD from the Open University (UK).
Prof. Dr. Laila Prager

Prof. Dr. Laila Prager is a Senior Research Fellow in the Humanities Research Fellowship Program at NYU Abu Dhabi. She is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Hamburg (Germany) and a member of AGYA (Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities). Formerly, she worked as a researcher and senior lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Münster and Leipzig (Germany). Dr. Prager’s research interests center on the narrative representation and performance of the past among Bedouin societies in Syria and Jordan; kinship, cosmology, inter-religious conflicts, ritual healing, and migration among the Arab speaking Alawi/Alawite (Nusairiy) society in South Eastern Turkey (Hatay/Çukurova) and Alawi migrant communities in Germany. Current projects include a comparative study of the various ways in which heritage is displayed, enacted, and appropriated at local, national, and transnational levels in the Gulf region as well as an interdisciplinary research project on the societal transformations emerging from the increase of major diseases in the Gulf region, such as diabetes type 2, thalassemia, and other genetically induced illnesses. Recent publications include (as guest editor of the Special Issue of Nomadic Peoples), Reshaping Tribal Identities in the Contemporary Arab World. 2) 18; Bedouinity on Stage (2014) The Rise of the Bedouin Soap Opera (Musalsal Badawi) in Arab Television. Nomadic Peoples 77-53 18 and “Displaying Origins: Heritage Museums, Cultural Festivals, and National Imageries in the UAE” Horizons in Humanities and Social Sciences 46-22 1 (2015) 1. Dr. Prager received her MA and PhD degrees from the University of Münster, Germany.
Workshop 7 papers

Feminist Discourse Strategies of Estrangement and Transcendence in the Modern Qatari Story
Rami Abu Shehab, Qatar University, Qatar

Women Leadership Appointments and the State’s Construction of Women’s National Identity in Saudi Arabia
Halah Aldoseri, The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington DC, United States of America

The Apocalyptic Hijab: Mediating Gendered Conflict Talk in an Emirati Animated Sitcom
Ahmed Almaazmi, Rutgers University, United States of America

“I Want to be a Leader, But Men Are Better than Women in Leadership Positions”: State Feminism and Legitimizing Myths in the United Arab Emirates
Rana Al Mutawa, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

The Rise of Feminism in the Gulf: Qatar as a Case Study
Sarah Al-Qahtani, Al-Jazeera Network, Qatar

Blazing a Trail in the Dubai Desert? How Irish ‘Wafideens’ Exploit their Agency to a Level of Empowerment
Frances Carter, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

Engendering Change: Charting the Art Scene in the UAE
Elizabeth Derderian, Northwestern University, United States of America

Saudi Women as Decision Makers: Analyzing the Image of the Female Political Participation in Saudi Arabia
Magdalena Karolak, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates
Hala Guta, Qatar University, Qatar
From Invisible to Actualized: Imagery and Identity in Photos of Women in the Gulf
Marjorie Kelly, Independent scholar, United States of America
Sara Essa Al-Ajmi, Gulf University of Science and Technology, Kuwait

Exploring the Nation: Gender, Identity and Cuisine in the UAE
Ayisha Khansaheb, New York University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Excavating Gender Construction and Representation in Contemporary Omani Poetry
Emily O’Dell, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

Bu’Atsloom and Abu Suheil: Female, Femininity, Male and Masculinity in the Gibali-speaking Tribes of Southern Oman
Marielle Risse, Dhofar University, Oman

Conflictual Identities: The Masculinist State and Feminist Women in Iran
Hamideh Sedghi, Columbia University, United States of America

«Man” vs. Nature: Constructing National Identity and Heritage
John Willis, Carleton College, United States of America
Workshop Summaries

Workshop 8:
The Arab Gulf in the West: Perceptions and Realities; Opportunities and Perils

How do they see us?” At the heart of international relations, as well as intercultural communication, lies this question of ‘perception.’ How do you perceive the Other? How does the Other perceive you? What is the nature of the encounter when it happens? Recognizing, yet extending beyond a traditionally realist framework which had dominated the analysis of Arab Gulf States’ foreign relations with western countries—conceptualized in the broader sense to be based on sheer pragmatic economic and security interests—this workshop tackled both the materialist and the symbolic in the efforts and initiatives launched by the Arab Gulf States as they pursue endeavors to create themselves in Western imagination.

Arab Gulf States’ commercial activities, lobbying and politicking, cultural and sports sponsorships, as well as academic endowments have all witnessed a surge in the last decade or so. The workshop offered a forum to dissect successes and failures, taking up the cases of countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, which have engaged with such ambitious enterprise of penetration into the West. The objective of the workshop was to curate papers that discuss and analyze Arab Gulf States’ previous and current outreach efforts into the West. Emphasis throughout the workshop was given to the dual issue of image projection and image perception.

The different papers explored these questions employing a number of angles, theoretical frameworks, as well as research methods. Eighteen papers were presented while several participants, including two listening participants, attended the workshop. The outcome of these scholarly deliberations was the revision of the paper contributions, which will eventually constitute chapters in a proposed book, with the same title as the workshop, to be co-edited by the workshop directors Marwa Maziad and Dania Koleilat Khatib. The book is currently under review with UK publisher Routledge. The current manuscript has fifteen chapters, including one each by the co-editors.
The topics covered in the workshop were broad in scope, yet specific in focus, and therefore the theoretical frameworks of the papers were interdisciplinary in nature. Authors bridged humanities and social sciences research methods. As reflected in the list of workshop participants, the papers had authors with various backgrounds, including scholars, researchers, strategic communication practitioners and policymaking experts. Some papers offered theoretical overviews of the notion of ‘perception’ as such. Others employed a historical approach across the social sciences and the humanities, to focus on the question of ‘image.’ Moreover, presenting empirical research, case studies, and or ‘hands-on’ ethnographic qualitative data were also greatly encouraged and reflected in the various selected contributions. All papers could be sorted into the following four thematic threads:

Theme I: Evolving Perceptions and the Arab Gulf States in the US
Theme II: The Arab Gulf States in Europe and the Non-Arab Middle East: France, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and Israel
Theme III: Competing Images of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates: Nation Branding, Regional Leadership, and Self-Projections in Film, Media, and Culture.
Theme IV: The Arab Gulf States in International Organizations: NATO, the United Nations, and European Union
Workshop directors’ profiles

Dr. Marwa Maziad

Dr. Marwa Maziad is an International Relations and Middle East Media and Politics Expert. She is a weekly columnist for Almasry Alyoum, Egypt’s leading daily independent newspaper, as well as Al Jazeera English. She received training in news presentation and talk show presentation at Al Jazeera Training Center and has been repeatedly invited as guest anchor for a number of talk shows in Egypt.

Dr. Maziad has 15 years’ experience teaching and lecturing internationally in higher education institutions in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East, on topics pertaining to international relations and intercultural political communication. She is also a conflict resolution practitioner at the Conflict Resolution Intervention Services (CRIS), employing the Marwa Maziad MMMethod© to “confront and deflate” conflicts.

She has appeared for cultural and political analysis on CNN International, Al Jazeera English, BBC World Service, National Public Radio (NPR) and a number of other Arab and international media.

She has held academic positions as Faculty Member of Qatar University’s Department of Social Sciences as well as Northwestern University in Qatar’s Journalism Program. This experience in Qatar led to setting a research agenda in Gulf Studies, which shaped up through her consultancy on a number of peer-reviewed international academic research grants. This also led to her participation in several Gulf Studies conferences at the University of Exeter and at the Gulf Research Meetings at University of Cambridge (2016-2014). A series of academic articles and/or book chapters ensued from these forums, including “Qatar: Cultivating ‘The Citizen’ of the Futuristic State” which was a chapter in an edited volume entitled “Representing the Nation: Heritage, Museums, National Narratives and Identity in the Arab Gulf States” (Routledge 2016). One of her two forthcoming academic articles is on Egypt-GCC relations entitled “Qatar in Egypt: The Politics of Al Jazeera.” The other is on Qatar’s national security policies within a dynamic regional order entitled “Mercenaries-on-Demand: Jihadists as Means of Military Diversification in Qatar’s Foreign Policy.”

Dr. Maziad received her Masters in International Communication from the University of Washington and has been a Fellow at the Middle East Center of Jackson School of International Studies. Her MA thesis entitled “Youssef Chahine’s Cinema: The Hospitable Space between ‘Self’ and ‘Other’” traced depictions of East-West relations in the work of internationally renowned Egyptian Filmmaker Youssef Chahine (1908-1926). She succeeded in securing interviews with the prominent director around two critical historical moments: September 2001, 11 and the US War on Iraq in 2003.
Her PhD work on comparative politics of the Middle East, with a focus on “oscillating civil-military relations in Turkey, Egypt and Israel 2015-1980” was done at the University of Washington. She was a selected Fellow at Columbia University’s Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), 2015. Her paper was selected for the European Research Group on Military and Society (ERGOMAS), 2015. She was also an invited Fellow to chair a panel at the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society (IUSAFS) in Chicago, 2015. She presented her comparative research in Rio de Janeiro (2016), at the International Conference on Transformations in the Military Profession as part of the International Sociological Association’s (ISA) Research Committee (RC01) on Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution.

Dr. Maziad is also a photojournalist by training and has produced two documentary films. Conversation 1: American Perceptions of the War on Iraq (2003) has been internationally screened in the United States and Europe. USA-SA: A Dialogue between American and South African Women (2004) addressed common challenges and opportunities facing women in both countries and beyond. She is fluent in Arabic, English, French, Turkish, and Hebrew and has also studied Spanish, Italian, and German.
Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib currently holds the position of advisor at the Abu Dhabi-based think tank Al Istishari for strategic consultancies on economic and future studies. She has ten years of work experience in strategic communication at the agencies’ level as well as the client level.

She earned her PhD in Politics from the University of Exeter in 2014. Her thesis examined Arab Gulf lobbying attempts within the US. The thesis was entitled: “Aspects of Arab Lobbying: Factors for Winning and Factors for Losing”. In the fall of 2000, Dania obtained an MBA from the American University of Beirut. The thesis was entitled, “Truthfulness in Advertising.” She also received her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut in 1997. Among Dania’s recent publications is a book stemming from her dissertation work: The Arab Lobby: Factors for Success and Factors for Failure (Routledge 2015). The book has been translated into Arabic by the Center for Arab Unity for Studies Lebanon (2015).

Dr. Koleilat Khatib’s media appearances include TV commentaries as well as articles on various political topics pertaining to Arab Gulf-US relations. Her analyses have appeared in various regional newspapers, including Annahar—Lebanon and Riyadh (Saudi Arabia); Al Khaleej and Gulf News—UAE; Al Ahram—Egypt; and Contemporary Arab Affairs, Araa—Al Mustaqbal Al Arabi. She is a weekly columnist in the Bahraini newspaper Al Watan. Dania is fluent in English, Arabic, and French.
Workshop 8 papers

Evolving Perceptions of the GCC
Lana Abdelhameed, Dubai Public Policy Research Centre, United Arab Emirates
Angus Taverner, Dubai Public Policy Research Centre, United Arab Emirates

Arab Gulf States’ Film Festivals: Global Image Projection or Local Industry Construction?
Abdulrahman Alghannam, University of St Andrews, United Kingdom

The Gulf States and D.C. Think Tanks: The Effects of Funding on the Results of Middle East Policy Analysis
Fatema Alhashemi, Brookings Doha Center, Qatar

Between ‘Hijra’ and ‘Expat’: Migratory Perceptions of the UAE among ‘Second Generation’ Maghrebi-Muslims in Europe
Jaafar Alloul, University of Leuven, Belgium

The Perception of Gulf Countries in France: From Terrorism Support to Risks for National Sovereignty
Rachid Chaker, University Pantheon-Assas Paris, France

It Didn’t JASTA Be This Way: The Passage of the Justice against Sponsors against Terrorism Act as a Failure of Arab Lobbying
David Des Roches, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, United States of America

The United States and the Gulf in the Age of Trump: Perceptions, Possibilities and Challenges
Charles Dunne, Middle East Institute, United States of America

International Relations and Faith-based Diplomacy: The Case of Qatar
John Fahy, Georgetown University Qatar / The Woolf Institute, Qatar / United Kingdom

Islam and UN Human Rights Treaty Ratification in the GCC
Rachel George, The London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom
Image Change after the Arab Spring: Saudi Arabia Transition from Warranted Ally to Proactive Regional Leader
Luíza Gimenez Cerioli, University of Marburg, Germany

Bashing Qatar and Saudi Arabia - Western Narrative and Perception of Islamism Issues
Hichem Karoui, Center for China and Globalization, Qatar

The NATO and the Threats to the Gulf Regional
Ashraf Keshk, Strategic Studies Program, Kingdom of Bahrain

The Relation between GCC Countries and EU: A Need to Rethinking
Amal Sakr, Future for Advanced Studies and Research, United Arab Emirates

Virtual Enlargement in Practice: The Comparison of the Branding Efforts and Investment Policy of Qatar and the UAE in the European Union
Máté Szalai, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Relations between Gulf Cooperation Council and NATO – Perception of Change
Angus Taverner, Dubai Public Policy Research Centre, United Arab Emirates

The Continuity and Change of Gulf States Image in Israeli Epistemic Community
Mohamed AbdAllah Youness, Future for Advanced Research and Studies, United Arab Emirates

Arab Gulf States’ Lobbying in the US in the wake of the Arab Uprisings
Dania Koleilat Khatib, Al Istishari Think Tank, United Arab Emirates

The Turkish Burden: Mercenary Jihadists as Means of Military Diversification in Qatar’s Foreign Policy
Marwa Maziad, University of Washington, United States of America

Arabs in the Arctic? 1973 Egypt-Israel War and how the Arab Oil Embargo led to Arctic Mobilization and Indigenous Internationalism
Marwa Maziad, University of Washington, United States of America
Perceptions about the costs and benefits of migration differ between the policy makers of origin countries and the receiving Gulf countries. Such perceptions conform to an apparently universal rule, with the former viewing their emigrants as benefactors and the latter regarding immigrants as a threat. At the sending end, there is the belief that emigrants will improve the lives of the families and communities left behind, while, at the receiving end, there is the fear that immigrants will bring multiple problems to their hosts and may disrupt the traditional social order. These fears are likely to have been exacerbated by the rising levels of unemployment among Gulf nationals, even though nationals and migrants do not compete for the same jobs. In sum, the sending countries desire to increase or at least maintain the outflows, while the GCC countries wish to reduce immigration, sometimes through punitive measures.

The objective of this workshop was to take stock of the major policies of host as well as origin countries in order to arrive at a better understanding of the continuity and change in such policies and the factors motivating such changes. A total of 15 papers were presented at the workshop, covering a wide range of topics including the policies relating to high costs paid by migrants to find a job in the Gulf, earning differentials between national and foreign workers, wage policies and programs in the Gulf, the impacts of educational policies on future labor markets of the Gulf, policies of major Asian and Arab sending countries, and specific policies for the protection of migrant workers, especially low skilled and domestic workers.

The breadth of the topics makes it difficult to draw a simple, straightforward conclusion about the findings of the workshop. Some conclusions worth highlighting are as follows: (a) Policies of the Gulf countries aimed at reforming the much criticized system of ‘Kafala’ that regulates migration are faced with many challenges, a major one being the support of the nationals who benefit from the status quo and are reluctant to see reform; (b) policies relating to education of nationals will result in an
occupational skill set whereby nationals become “over-skilled” for many jobs required by the market, thus necessitating the immigration of foreign workers to continue; (c) the stagnant socio-economic development in many sending countries together with their policies to encourage emigration will sustain the large-scale supply of workers to the Gulf; (d) policies to protect emigrants and bargain on their behalf will remain weak in most sending countries that are competing with each other to capture the Gulf labor market; (e) wage protection policies, while ensuring some improvements, are still faced with major weaknesses; (f) international bodies such as ILO are playing an important role in formulation of decent work and protective policies and may be partially successful in mediating an improvement in the protection of workers; (g) while sending countries share views on pro-migration policies, they differ in several ways in their efforts to protect workers and regulate migration.
Workshop directors’ profiles

Prof. Nasra M. Shah
Prof. Nasra M. Shah is Professor of Demography at the Department of Community Medicine and Behavioral Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University. She received her doctoral degree in Population Dynamics from the Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health, USA. She is the Scientific Co-Director of the Gulf Labor Market and Migration Program (http://gulfmigration.eu/) with Philippe Fargues. Labor migration, especially from Asian to oil-rich Gulf countries, has been a consistent theme in her multi-faceted research interests. Her numerous migration-related publications focus on: socioeconomic profiles and economic progress of migrant workers, domestic worker migration, violence against women migrants, increasingly restrictive policies of host countries, the role of social networks in migration, second generation non-nationals in the Gulf, and irregular migration. Her recent publications on migration include: Skillful Survivals. Irregular Migration to the Gulf (with Philippe Fargues, GRC, Cambridge, forthcoming 2016). Her other books include Asian Labor Migration: Pipeline to the Middle East; Pakistani Women: Basic Needs, Women and Development; and Population of Kuwait: Structure and Dynamics.

Prof. Philippe Fargues
Prof. Philippe Fargues is a sociologist and demographer. He is the founding Director of the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute, in Florence, Italy, and an Affiliate at Harvard Kennedy School. He has held senior positions at the National Institute for Demographic Studies in Paris and the American University in Cairo and taught at Harvard and various universities in France, the Middle East, and Africa. His research interests include migration, population and politics, demography and development. His recent publications include: Skillful Survivals. Irregular Migration to the Gulf (with Nasra Shah, GRC, Cambridge, forthcoming 2016); Migration from North Africa and the Middle East: Skilled Migrants, Development and Globalisation (IB Tauris, 2015); Is What We Hear about Migration Really True? Questioning Eight Migration Stereotypes (EUI, 2014); International Migration and the Nation State in Arab Countries (Middle East Law and Governance, 2013); Demography, Migration and Revolt in the South of the Mediterranean (Brookings, 2012); Immigration without Inclusion: Non-Nationals in Nation-Building in the Gulf States (Asian and Pacific Migration Journal, 2011); International Migration and the Demographic Transition: a Two-Way Interaction (International Migration Review, 2011).
Workshop 9 papers

The High Cost of Migrating for Employment to the Gulf
Manolo Abella, Philippines

Caught Between Fiat and Price Distortions: An Alternative Approach to Nationalization in the GCC
Usamah Alfarhan, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

Indian Migration to the Gulf: Policies and Practices
Rupa Chanda, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, India
Pralok Gupta, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, India

Migration Policies of Sending Arab Countries: Successes and Failures
Francoise De Bel-Air, Migration Policy Center, European University Institute / Gulf Research Centre, Italy / Switzerland

Migration Policies across the GCC: Challenges in Reforming the Kafala
Abdoulaye Diop, Qatar University, Qatar
Kien Le
Trevor Johnston
Shaping Smart Societies - How Migration and Education Policies Meet in the Gulf States
Philippe Fargues, European University Institute, Italy

Wage Policies and Programs in Various Gulf States
Ray Jureidini, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar

Gender, Migration and State Responses: The Case of India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka
Rakkee Kuttikadan Thimothy, Singapore Management University, Singapore

The Challenges of Dual-Societies: The Interaction of Workforce Naturalization and National Identity Construction through the Comparative Case Studies of Saudisation and Emiratisation
Júlia Palik, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Enforcing Protections for Migrant Domestic Workers in the Gulf
Anju Mary Paul, Yale-NUS College, Singapore

The Importance of Implementing Post Arrival Training Programs in Destination Countries; a Pilot Program in the Emirate of Dubai
Dina Sameh Habib, Middle East Centre for Training and Development, United Arab Emirates
Ahmed Al Hashemi, Middle East Centre for Training and Development, United Arab Emirates

Emigration Policies of Major Asian Countries Sending Temporary Labor Migrants to the Gulf
Nasra Shah, Kuwait University, Kuwait

Illiberal Emigration States in World Politics
Gerasimos Tsourapas, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Does Proactive State Protection Policy Lead to Better Worker Welfare? The Role of Front-Line State Bureaucrats in the Gulf Region
Froilan, Jr. Tuccat-Malit, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs, United States of America
The 2018 Gulf Research Meeting

The Gulf Research Center, in association with the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge, is pleased to announce the 2018 Gulf Research Meeting. GRM 2018 will be held from July 31 to August 1, 2018, at the University of Cambridge. Building on the success of past editions of the GRM, the ninth annual Gulf Research Meeting will provide an academic environment to foster Gulf studies and promote scholarly and academic exchange among scholars. Through wide-ranging discussions in the 10 workshops being organized as part of the 2018 GRM, GRC hopes to offer deeper insights into the issues facing the GCC, thereby adding to scholarly research on the region.

- Gulf Cooperation Council Culture and Identities in the New Millennium: Resilience, Transformation, (Re)Creation and Diffusion
  Dr. Magdalena Karolak, Associate Professor, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates
  Dr. Nermin Allam, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Rutgers-Newark University, United States of America

- The Gulf and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
  Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
  Prof. Degang Sun, Shanghai International Studies University, China
  Amb. Talmiz Ahmad, Symbiosis International University, Pune, India

- The Gulf States in East Africa: Security, Economic and Strategic Partnerships?
  Dr. Robert Mason, Associate Professor and Director, Middle East Studies Center, American University in Cairo, Egypt
  Dr. Simon Mabon, Lecturer in Politics, Philosophy and Religion / Director, Richardson Institute / Lancaster University, Egypt

- The Rise of International Sport on the Arab Peninsula: Politics, Art, Ethics
  Dr. Rita Elizabeth Risser, Assistant Professor, College of humanities, Department of Philosophy, United Arab Emirates University, United Arab Emirates
  Dr. Andrew Edgar, Deputy Head of School, Head of Subject English, Communication and Philosoph, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

- Iraq and Arab Gulf Countries: Rapprochement?
  Dr. Sterling Jensen, Assistant Professor, UAE National Defense College, United Arab Emirates
  Dr. Waleed al-Rawi, Author and member, Arab Historians Union, United States of America
- The Future of Population and Migration in the Gulf
  Dr. Philippe Fargues, European University Institute, Italy
  Prof. Nasra M. Shah, Kuwait University, Kuwait

- Shaping the Future of the GCC Countries through Language Policy and Planning: Concepts, Challenges and Aspirations
  Dr. Ahmar Mahboob, University of Sydney, Australia
  Dr. Ali Al-Issa, Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman
  Dr. Tariq Elyas, King Abdulaziz University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Fintech, Digital Currency and the Future of Islamic Finance in the GCC - Strategy, Operational and Regulatory Issues
  Dr Nafis Alam, Associate Professor, Henley Business School, University of Reading Malaysia, Malaysia
  Prof. S. Nazim Ali, Director and Professor, Center for Islamic Economics & Finance, College of Islamic Studies, Hamad bin Khalifa University, Qatar Foundation, Qatar

- The Gulf Post-Syrian-Crisis Political Architecture and the Roles of the External Actors: the USA, Russia and China
  Prof. Alexey Vasiliev, Honorary President, Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia
  Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib, Executive Director, Al Istishari Al Strategy for Economic and Future Studies, United Arab Emirates

- A Debate on Economic Sustainability: in the GCC and Elsewhere
  Prof. Giacomo Luciani, Adjunct Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland
  Tom Moerenhout, PhD candidate, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland
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The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge expresses its deep thanks and gratitude to all our sponsors and donors, as without their generous support and enthusiasm, the Gulf Research Meetings would not be possible.

Arab Center & Policy Studies

The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS) is an independent research institute for the study of the social sciences and humanities, with particular emphasis on the applied social sciences. The Center seeks to examine the key issues afflicting the Arab world, governments, and communities; to analyze social, economic, and cultural policies; and to provide rational political analysis on the region. In addition to timely research, studies and reports, the ACRPS publishes 5 peer-reviewed academic journals and translates key foreign contemporary works into Arabic. The Policy Analysis Unit within the ACRPS is dedicated to the study of the region’s most pressing current affairs. The Center’s public opinion program, the Arab Opinion Index, is the largest opinion poll of its kind in the Arab region. In 2014, the Center established the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, an independent institute for learning and research in the fields of Social Science, Humanities, Public Administration and Development Economics.

Asyad Holding Group

Asyad Holding Group is a leading private wealth management organization that manages a wide portfolio of real estate, private equity, and financial investments. The beginnings of Asyad Holding Group can be traced to the founding of a construction company by Eng. Osama Alsayed in 1975, which grew to become a very successful business and diversified into the four main business units that exist today: Asyad Capital, Asyad Real Estate, Asyad Aviation, and Asyad Investments.
Bahamdan

The Group is comprised of a number of closely aligned investment arms. While independent, they share a set of common values and approach to effectively making and managing investments across asset classes and geographies. Our activities are undertaken by three investment arms - the Bahamdan Group, Safanad and Arcola. While the Bahamdan Group makes and manages local investments in Saudi Arabia and across the MENA region, Safanad, which was established with the backing of Bahamdan in 2009, is a global principal investment vehicle used to execute and manage the Group’s global assets including investments in real estate, private equity and public markets. Arcola acts as a supporting entity, serving as the Group’s liquidity and wealth management platform and the manager of its investments into global securities. Today the Group has investments across multiple asset classes and industries including substantial holdings in the financial services, education, healthcare, real estate, telecommunications and media, aviation, industrial and construction sectors. Our investments, which are made independently and alongside well respected partners, range from start-up ventures to established growth businesses and turnaround situations, which not only require capital but access to the expertise, know-how and business acumen that define Bahamdan and have allowed us to establish ourselves as a strategic global investor over the past 60 years.

Derasat

Derasat is a think tank in the Kingdom of Bahrain dedicated to encouraging the use of research and dialogue to inform policy makers and interest groups and to increase understanding of current and emerging international issues in the pursuit of a prosperous and peaceful world for all. In today’s rapidly changing world of opportunities and challenges, Derasat aims to build bridges between differing perspectives, create forums for open debate, use strategic insight to enhance understanding and to promote new thinking and independent thought that can generate creative solutions for our future peace, security and stability.
The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) is a cooperative framework established on 25 May 1981 joining the six states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to effect coordination, integration and inter-connection in all fields in order to achieve greater unity. The GCC Charter emphasizes the deepening and strengthening of relations, links and areas of cooperation among all six states. On one hand, the GCC is a continuation, evolution and institutionalization of old prevailing realities; on the other, it is a practical answer to the challenges of security and economic development in the region. It is also a fulfillment of the aspirations of its citizens towards Arab regional unity. In addition to strengthening cooperation and integration, the GCC also has as its goal, the formulation of similar and thus unifying regulations for the member states in various fields, including: economic and financial affairs; commerce, customs and communications; education and culture; social and health affairs; information and tourism; as well as legislative and administrative affairs. The GCC also aims to: stimulate scientific and technological progress in the fields of industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources; to establish scientific research; to establish joint ventures; and to encourage cooperation by the private sector for the good of the peoples of the GCC states.

Jabal Omar Development Company

Jabal Omar Development Company is one of the largest real estate developers in the Middle East and one of the largest listed companies on the Saudi stock market (Tadawul). It engages in the investment, development, management, sale and lease of the Jabal Omar project in Makkah. Its flagship project, Jabal Omar, is a multi-use real estate mega development project within walking distance of the Holy Mosque in Makkah Al Mukarramah. As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continuously seeks to increase the capacity for Makkah Al Mukarramah pilgrims, Jabal Omar Development Company is proud to contribute to this by developing the areas overlooking the Holy Mosque to give visitors and residents of Makkah a unique living and spiritual experience.
The total area of the Jabal Omar project is 230,000 square meters. The project includes 40 hotel towers and is mixed use with commercial markets, apartments, luxury residential units and hotels. The hotels are owned by a company which is managed by major international hotel companies. Every room has a dedicated space for private prayer and contemplation that provides direct views of the Holy Mosque. Hotels under their operation include Jabal Omar Conrad Hotel, Jabal Omar Hyatt Regency Hotel, Jabal Omar Marriott Hotel, Jabal Omar Hilton Suites Hotels and Jabal Omar Hilton Conference Hotel, which has the largest conference room in Makkah Al Mukarramah. Jabal Omar Development Company was founded in 2006 and is headquartered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Knowledge Corporation

Knowledge Corporation (KCORP) is a multifaceted company providing a broad range of first class services, including: ICT services covering both technology and content; education and training; event-related services; management consulting; and media services. There are many companies that offer various technical services, but it is rare to find a company that can cover such a broad range of services in an integrated way. KCROP prides itself in being a total solution provider that caters for client needs not only during all project phases, but also before and after a project, always striving to help the client fulfill its goals and objectives. Knowledge-based systems to serve knowledge-based societies are at the heart of KCROP’s work. Established in 2008, KCROP has offices in the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
About the Gulf Research Center
The Gulf Research Center (GRC) is an independent research institute founded in July 2000 by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, a Saudi businessman, who realized that in a world of rapid political, social and economic change, it is important to pursue politically neutral and academically sound research about the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and disseminate the knowledge obtained as widely as possible. GRC seeks to provide a better understanding of the challenges and prospects of the GCC countries.

Since its establishment, the Gulf Research Center has grown from its original Dubai, UAE location to become a global organization with a well-established worldwide network of cooperation partners and offices in both the Gulf region and Europe. Key steps have been the opening of the Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) in Geneva, the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC) and the Gulf Research Center Foundation Asia in Tokyo. GRC operates its regional offices from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

GRC focuses on achieving the following main objectives:

• Conducting objective and scholarly research bearing on political, economic, social and security issues, as they relate to the GCC states in particular and the Gulf region in general.

• Promoting communication and cooperation among GCC citizens, along with propagating information about the GCC states and the Gulf region through a series of conferences and workshops the GRC organizes and hosts.

• Publishing and disseminating relevant and useful information and data on the GCC states within and outside the region.

• Interacting with and answering the knowledge requirements of individuals and organizations, including GCC nationals and expatriates living in the GCC countries, university students, academics/researchers, the press community, businessmen, and decision-makers.