



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge  
Knowledge for All

2023 Gulf Research Meeting

11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
University of Cambridge

## Workshop No. 10

# Israel and the Gulf Monarchies: A New Regional Security Complex or Just Complex Regional Security?

## Workshop Schedule

### Workshop Directors

**Prof. Clive Jones**

Professor of Regional Security (Middle East)  
Durham University

**Prof. Elie Podeh**

Professor in the History of the Muslim Peoples  
Department of Islamic and Middle East Studies  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Wednesday, 12 July 2023

---

9:00-9:15      **Introduction:** Clive Jones and Elie Podeh

---

9:15-10:45      **Panel One: the Gulf States, and the Question of Palestine**  
**(chair: TBC)**

How have the Gulf states historically expressed solidarity with the Palestinian cause (economically, politically, etc.)? What are the limits of their support?

- Has normalization affected the narratives of Gulf states towards the Palestinians, and their behavior towards Palestine in international forums like the UN Security Council?
- How have the Abraham Accords impacted existing Arab and international initiatives for resolving the Arab-Israeli/Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

**Ariel Admoni:** “Donations and Acquaintances: Development of the Informal Base of Qatari Relations with the Palestinians

**Mate Szalai:** “Reassessing the Regional Political System? The changing of Israel and Palestine in the narrative of Gulf states expressed in the UN Security Council

---

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

---

11:15-12:00 **Q&A for Panel One**

12:00-12:45 **Panel Two: Israel, the Gulf, and the Middle East**  
**(chair: Clive Jones)**

- How do the Gulf states differ in their attitudes towards Israel, and how have their relations with Israel changed over time?
- What are the drivers, and limits of, Gulf engagement with Israel, historically and today?

**Elie Podeh,** “ Israel’s Changing Place in the Middle East in the Aftermath of the Abraham Accords”

**Marwa Maziad,** “ Israel and the Gulf States: Convergences on Interests”

---

12:45-14:30 Lunch break (lunch is served at 13.00, please make sure to be there on time as it will roughly be a 15/20 minutes walk to King’s College)

---

14:30-16:00 **Mustafa Yetim,** Gulf-led Divergent Normalizations with Israel: From Other to Partner for Securing the Monarchies?

**Ludovica Castelli,** The Villa in the Jungle Paradigm: Israel’s ontological discourse in a Changing Regional Security Complex

---

16.00-16:30 Coffee break

---

16:30-17:15 **Q&A for Panel Two**

## END OF WORKSHOP

**Thursday, 13 July 2023**

---

09:00-09:15 **Workshop Summary for Day 1:** Clive Jones and Elie Podeh

---

09:15-10:45 **Panel Three: Regional Responses to Normalization**  
**(chair: Elie Podeh)**

- How have regional states responded to the Abraham Accords? How do these responses reflect their foreign policy priorities, and the evolving regional security landscape?
- How are state policies towards the Abraham Accords reflected in media narratives?

**James Worrall** – Dissenting from the Inevitable? Understanding Omani Approaches to the Abraham Accords

**Mirdef AlQashouti**, “Israel and the Gulf Monarchies: Conflict of Alliances”

**Q&A for Panel Three**

---

10.45-11:15 Coffee break

---

11:15-12:45 **Panel Four: Saudi and UAE Relations with Israel: Motivations and Prospects**  
**(Chair: TBD)**

- How do we explain Saudi Arabia’s continued commitment to its Arab Peace Initiative?
- How likely is Saudi Arabia to normalize its relations with Israel, and on what terms?
- How does Saudi Arabia’s relationship with Israel fit in with MBS’ foreign policy priorities?

**Maged R Botros Salib** - The interregnum flash moment between Boycott and Normalization. Case study: The Proposed Normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel

**Sharooq Al Zaabi** - Rethinking the concept of regional security complex between Israel and the Gulf countries

**Additional speaker TBC**

**Q&A for Panel Four**

---

12:45-14:30 Lunch break (lunch is served at 13.00, please make sure to be there on time as it will roughly be a 15/20 minutes walk to King's College)

---

14:30-16:00 **Panel Five: Normalization and the Transforming Regional Security Order: Practice and Theory**  
**(Chair: Elie Podeh)**

- What does the new regional security order look like? Who are the main players, and what are they looking to accomplish?
- To what extent do the Abraham Accords reflect continuity, or change, when it comes to the regional security order?
- What are the practical, and normative obstacles in deepening Israel-GCC military cooperation? What are the current limits of Gulf-Israel engagement?

**Clive Jones** - Israel and the Gulf Monarchies: A New Regional Security Complex or Just Complex Regional Security?

**Kumar Priya Ranjan** - Gulf Regional Security and Abraham Accords: Opportunities or Obstacles

**Wenhan Zhu**- Normative Obstacles in Potential Israel-GCC Military Cooperation

---

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

---

16:30-17:15 **Q&A for Panel Five**

---

**END OF WORKSHOP**

**DINNER JULY 13<sup>TH</sup> 19:00 (BST) AT KING'S COLLEGE**