

Workshop No. 12

Enhancing the Gulf States Security against Hybrid Threats: Building Resilience and Regional Cooperation within GCC

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Dr. Juha Makela
Finnish Defence Research Agency
Finland

Dr. Antti Sillanpaa
National Emergency Supply Agency
Finland

Dr. Fai Ben Salamah
National Cybersecurity Center
Kuwait

First Workshop Day - Wednesday, 23 July 2025

08:15 - 08:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:30 - 09:00 – Introduction of Workshop and Participants

09:00 – 09:45 – Paper 1

Author 1: Leonardo Jacopo Maria Mazzucco, Independent Research Analyst, Italy
Author 2: Dr. Kristian P. Alexander, Rabdan Security and Defense Institute, USA
“Time for NATO-GCC Cooperation against Naval Hybrid Threats: A Role for Defense Diplomacy?”
Discussant: PhD Researcher Talal Mulla Ali/Dr. Nadarajah Manivannan

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 2

Author: Prof. David B. Des Roches, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, USA

“A Copenhagen School Analysis of the Challenges of Hybrid Warfare in the Gulf”

Discussant: Prof. Nurul Amin/Md. Thowdihul Islam

10.30 - 10.45 – Coffee break (coffee and tea will be available from 10:30 till 11:30 and can be taken into the room)

10:45 - 11:30 – Paper 3

Author: Dr. Fatima Moussaoui, Sciences Po University, France

“The Hybrid Warfare’s Doctrine in Contemporary Persia – The Islamic Republic of Iran”

Discussant: Furkan Güldemir

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 4

Author 1: Prof. Nurul Amin, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Author 2: Dr. Thowhidul Islam, Int. Islamic University Chittagong

“The US policy towards Kurdistan in Iraq and Its Impact on Iran’s Security Dimension”

Discussant: Prof. David B. Des Roches

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 5

Author 1: Dr. Tony Sowang Kuo, Shih Chien University, Taiwan

Author 2: Cheng en Kao, Shih Chien University, Taiwan

“Navigating Regional Security Challenges: Taiwan’s Experience with Hybrid Threats”

Discussant: Prof. Valentin Yakushik

13:30 - 15:00 – Lunch break (lunch is served at 13.45, please make sure to be on time as it is roughly a 15 minutes’ walk to King’s College from the workshop venue)

15:15 - 16:00 – Paper 6

Author: Amna Ben Amara, University of Tours, Tunisia

“Populism as Crisis Politics: Revisiting Security Policy in the Age of Populism – A U.S. – Saudi Perspective”

Discussant: Prof. Sanjay Pooran

16:00 - 16:15 – Coffee break (coffee and tea will be available from 16:00 till 17:00 and can be taken into the room)

16:15 - 17:00 – Paper 7

Author 1: PhD Researcher Talal Mulla Ali, Ministry of Interior, Kuwait

Author 2: Dr. Nadarajah Manivannan, Brunel University, UK

Author 3: Dr. Yanmeng Xu, Brunel University, China

“The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Social Media Security Platforms in Kuwait: Alleviating Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)”

Discussants: Leonardo Jacopo Maria Mazzucco & Dr. Kristian P. Alexander

17:00 - 17:45 – Paper 8

Author 1: PhD Researcher Awrad J R H Mulla Ali, University of Birmingham, Kuwait

Author 2: Prof. Emma Tyler, University of Birmingham, UK

Author 3: Assistant Prof. Yazid Haroun, University of Birmingham, UK

"The use and value of AI in legal translation and protecting from hybrid threats – A case study: Kuwait"

Discussant: Dr. Fai Ben Salamah

End of First Workshop Day

Evening Free

Second Workshop Day - Thursday, 24 July 2025

08:15 – 08:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:30 - 09:15 – Paper 9

Author: Ye Minn Thein, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Myanmar

"Evolving cyber-scams in the Gulf Region: Trends, Threats and Strategic Responses"

Discussant: Viktor Kiss/Henry Leverett

09:15 - 10:00 – Paper 10

Author: Dr. Fai Ben Salamah, National Cybersecurity Center, Kuwait

"Toward a Unified Cybersecurity Readiness Framework for Gulf Cooperation Council Countries"

Discussant: PhD Researcher Awrad J R H Mulla Ali/Prof Emma Tyler/Dr. Yazid Haroun

10:00 - 10:45 – Paper 11

Author: Prof. Sanjay Pooran, Ross University

"GCC Health system strengthening in a new world order of conflict and contagion"

Discussant: Amna Ben Amara

11.00 - 11.15 – Coffee break (coffee and tea will be available from 10:30 till 11:30 and can be taken into the room)

11:15 - 12:00 – Paper 12

Author: Prof. Valentin Yakushik, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Ukraine

"Some obvious and latent lessons for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries from various models of socio-political destabilization of post-Soviet states"

Discussant: Dr. Tony Sowang Kuo/Cheng en Kao

12:00 - 12:45 – Paper 13

Author: Prof. Yasmine Abdel Moneim, University of London - EUE, Egypt

"Policy Measures and Legal Defence Against Hybrid Threats: Detection and Countermeasures Response"

Discussant: PhD Researcher Mariem Kouki

12:45 - 14:15 – Lunch break (lunch is served from 13:00 till 14:00 at the workshop venue)

14:30 - 15:15 – Paper 14 (recorded)

Author: Furkan Güldemir, SSAM Defense Industry Research Center, Türkiye

“Analysing Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2023 and security policies: The main reasons for and the feasibility of Mohammed bin Salman’s economic and security diversification policies”

Discussant: Dr. Fatima Moussaoui

15:15 - 16:00 – Paper 15 (recorded)

PhD Researcher Mariem Kouki, Shanghai International Studies University, country ?

“Applying Resilience to Hybrid threat in Gulf Countries: a whole Government Approach”

Discussant: Prof. Yasmine Abdel Moneim

16:00 - 16:15 – Coffee break (coffee and tea will be available from 15:45 till 16:45 and can be taken into the room)

16:15 - 17:00 – Paper 16

Author 1: Viktor Kiss, Nakhla Atlantic, Hungary

Author 2: Henry Leverett, John Hopkins University, USA

“From High-Tech to High-Trust: A Whole-of-Society Approach to Countering Threats in the Gulf Cooperation Council”

Discussant: Ye Minn Thein

17:00 - 17:30 – Next Steps and Submission of Online Evaluation Forms

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 Farewell Dinner at King’s College