

Workshop No. 9

GCC Futurescapes: Past and Present

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Bader Al-Saif
Kuwait University
Kuwait

Mohammed Alsudairi
Australian National University
Australia

First Workshop Day - Wednesday, 23 July 2025

09:00 - 09:15 – Welcome coffee and tea

09:15 - 09:45 – Introduction of Workshop and Participants

9:45 – 10:30 - Nada Ammagui [Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA] and Kristin Diwan [The Arab Gulf States Institute (AGSI), Washington, DC, USA]
Gulf Futurism in the Visual Arts: A New Optimism?

Discussant: Mohammad Abu Hawash

10:30 - 11:15 – Mohammad Abu Hawash [Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar]
Futurescapes and Sociocultural Critiques in Gulf Science Fiction

Discussant: Nada Ammagui and Kristin Diwan

11:15 – 11:30 – Coffee break

11:30 - 12:15 – Shir Alon [University of Minnesota Twin Cities - UMN - Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA]

GCC Artsapes and the Production of the Future

Discussant: Mahnaz Yousefzadeh

12:15 - 13:00 – Mahnaz Yousefzadeh [New York University, United Arab Emirates]

The Saadiyat Constellation: Faustian Striving, Benjaminian Pearl Diving

Discussant: Shir Alon

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 – Rim El Kadi and Zena Assad [Australian National University, Australia]

RECORDED

Smart cities and sustainability futurescapes in the Gulf Region – Challenges and opportunities

Discussant: Masha Kirasirova

16:00 - 16:45 – Masha Kirasirova [New York University Abu Dhabi - NYUAD - Abu Dhabi, UAE]

Gulf Urbanism on an Arab Scale: GCC Real Estate Developments and Critical Speculative Futures in Egypt

Discussant: Rim El Kadi/Zena Assad (recorded)

16:45 – 17:00 – Coffee Break

End of First Workshop Day

Evening Free

Second Workshop Day - Thursday, 24 July 2025

09:00 – 09:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

09:30 - 10:15 – Andrew Leber [Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana-USA]

Back to the Future(scape): New Saudi Cities of Past and Present

Discussant: Yesmine Abida

10:15 - 11:00 – Yesmine Abida [University of Oxford-United Kingdom]

Unwritten Histories of the Future: A Hauntological Perspective of Urban Nostalgia in Abu Dhabi

Discussant: Andrew Leber

11.00 - 11.15 – Coffee break

11:15 – 12:00 – Laure Assaf [New York University Abu Dhabi-United Arab Emirates]
Creating the Future? Competing regimes of historicity and the making of urban subjects in the United Arab Emirates

Discussant: Ulrike Freitag

12:00 - 12:45 – Ulrike Freitag [Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, ZMO-Germany]
Of Gigaprojects and their Discontent - How Linear is Saudi Arabia's Future?

Discussant: Laure Assaf

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

14:30 - 15:15 – Azim Wazeer [University of Oxford-United Kingdom]
Bounded Dissent in Saudi Cultural Production: Conceptualizing Autocratic Legitimacy Beyond Performance

Discussant: Philippe Thalmann

15:15 - 16:00 – Philippe Thalmann [University of Cambridge-United Kingdom]
Conservative Ethics and the Moral Economy of a Post-Oil Future in Riyadh

Discussant: Azim Wazeer

16:00 – 16:15 - Next Steps and Submission of Online Evaluation Forms

16:15 - 16:30 – Farewell Coffee

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 Farewell Dinner at King's College