

Workshop No. 6

GCC States and Non-Arab Regional Middle Powers: Opportunities and Challenges Amidst Shifting Regional Balances

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Dr. Sinem Cengiz
Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University
Qatar

Dr. Hamad Albloshi
Kuwait University
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

Albert Vidal Ribe, IISS, Bahrain

Evolving Defence Partnerships between GCC States and Non-Arab Regional Middle Powers

Discussant: Laszlo Csicsmann

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 2

Mate Szalai, Clingendael Institute, the Netherlands

Dependency or clientism? Asymmetric relations between the smaller Gulf states and non-Arab regional powers

Discussant: Loubna Madani

10.30 - 10.45 – Coffee break

10:45 - 11:30 – Paper 3

Gülriş Şen, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Turkey

Saudi Arabia-Iran Reconciliation Amidst the Gaza War: Enduring or Faltering?

Discussant: Alexander Lohse

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 4

Hamoon Khelghat-Doost (University of Lincoln, UK) & Deniz Ülke Kaynak (Üsküdar University, Turkey)

Navigating Tensions: The Impact of Turkey and Israel's Security Strategies on Iran-Gulf Trio Relations

Discussant: Ashraf Keshk

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 5

Mehran Haghirián (Qatar University, Qatar) & Henrietta Toivanen (Bourse & Bazaar Foundation, UK)

A Pragmatic Search for Strategic Agency: The Role of the GCC in Shaping the Geopolitics of the Gulf

Discussant: Engin Koç

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

Omar Munassar (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

Continuity and Change: Iran, Turkey, and Israel in Saudi National Role Conceptions

Discussant: Nurşin Güney & Vişne Korkmaz

16:00 - 16:15 – Coffee break +

16:15 - 17:00 – Paper 7

Serhat Çubukçuoğlu & Rashed Al Hosani (Trends Research & Advisory, UAE)

Saudi Arabia's Approach to the Evolving Role of Non-Arab Middle Powers in Syria

Discussant: Fadi Hilani

17:00 - 17:45 – Paper 8

Behar Sadriu (UCL-UK)

Turkey and the GCC: areas of interest and the future of cooperation

Discussant: Salar Ismael & Hassan Hussein

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

Loubna Madani (Université Clermont-Auvergne France)

Redefining UAE's relations with Iran and Turkey: Dynamics of Reciprocal Influence in a Multipolar Middle East

Discussant: Serhat Çubukçuoğlu & Rashed Al Hosani & Gina Bou

09:15 - 10:00 – Paper 10

Alexander Lohse (Philipps-University Marburg, Germany)

A comparative analysis of Qatar's and the UAE's relations with Iran, Israel, and Turkey since 2011

Discussant: Mehran Haghiriian & Henrietta Toivanen

10:00 - 10:45 – Paper 11

Fadi Hilani (National Council on US-Arab Relations, USA)

How are Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar Framing Non-Arab Regional Powers Competition?

Discussant: Omar Munassar

11.00 - 11.15 – Coffee break

11:15 - 12:00 – Paper 12

Engin Koç (Bursa Technical University, Turkey)

Turkey and the GCC States in the Ukraine War: Divergent Priorities, Shared Concerns

Discussant: Hamoon Khelghat-Doost & Deniz Ülke Kaynak

12:00 - 12:45 – Paper 13 (recorded)

Nurşin Güney (National Intelligence Academy, Turkey) & Vişne Korkmaz (Istanbul Nisantasi University, Turkey)

Middle/Small Power Activism in the Middle East: Can Turkey-GCC states coordination be part of a solution?

Discussant: Mate Szalai

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

Laszlo Csicsmann (Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary)

Türkiye's interconnectivity initiatives within the context of the West Asian geopolitical landscape

Discussant: Gülriz Şen

15:15 - 16:00 – Paper 15

Salar Ismael & Hassan Hussein (Soran University, Iraq)

GCC Involvement in the Iraq-Türkiye-Europe Development Road Project: Challenges and Opportunities

Discussant: Albert Vidal Ribe

16:00 - 16:15 – Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 – Paper 16

Ashraf Keshk (Bahrain Center for Strategic International and Energy Studies (DERASAT), Bahrain)

Gulf Cooperation Council-Iran Relations in Light of the Current Regional Transformations

Discussant: Umer Karim -- (Video Discussion Record)

17:00-17:45 – Paper 17

Umer Karim -- (Video Presentation) (University of Birmingham/King Faisal Center of Research and Islamic Studies, KSA)

Saudi-Turkish Relations: Between Systemic Variables and Decision Makers Perspectives

Discussant: Behar Sadriu

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