

Workshop No. 5

Great Power Competition in the Asia-Pacific: Challenges for Gulf Economic and Political Interests

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Prof. Tim Niblock
University of Exeter,
United Kingdom;
Tsinghua University,
China

Amb. Talmiz Ahmad
Symbiosis International University
India

Prof. Degang Sun
Fudan University
China

Wednesday, 23 July 2025

08:30 **Welcome coffee and tea**
-08:45

08:45-09:00 **Introduction of Workshop and Participants**

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09:00-09:35 **Paper One**
Umud Shokri (George Mason University, the USA):
“GCC-Asia-Pacific Energy Nexus: Navigating Shifts in
Demand and Geopolitics”

Discussant: **Haifa AlMaashi (Dubai Consultancy Research
and Media Center, UAE)**

9:35-10:10

Paper Two

Shivali Lawale & Talmiz Ahmad (Symbiosis University, India): “Maritime Choke Points in the Asia Pacific: Geo-economic & Security Challenges for the GCC”

Discussant: **Kazuto Matsuda (Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar)**

10:10-10:45

Paper Three

Priyamvada Sawant (HSNC University, Mumbai, India): “Gulf and the Asia-Pacific: Potential for Diversifying Ties to Maintain Regional Balance”

Discussant: **Vorachai Israsena Pichitkanjanakul (Qatar University, Qatar)**

10:45-11:00

Coffee break

11:00-11:35

Paper Four

Haifa AlMaashi (Dubai Consultancy Research and Media Center, UAE): “UAE’s Military Relations with India and China and the Potential for Military Alliances in the Asia-Pacific Region”

Discussant: **Norafidah Ismail (Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia):**

11:35-12:10

Paper Five

Kazuto Matsuda (Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar): “Qatar’s Foreign Policy towards Japan: A Hedging Strategy amid the Persian Gulf’s Shifting Political Dynamics?”

Discussant: **Yuan Zhang (University of Exeter, UK)**

12:10-12:45

Paper Six-[RECORDED]

Ghulam Ali (Hong Kong Research Center for Asian Studies): “How Does China’s Refrain from Military Alliances Affect Its Relations with GCC Countries”

Discussant: **Umud Shokri (George Mason University, the USA)**

12:45-13:00

Summary of the Morning Session

13:30-15:00	Lunch break (lunch is served at 13:30, please make sure to be there on time as it will roughly be a 15/20 minutes' walk to King's College)
15:00-15:35	Paper Seven Erzsebet Nagyne Rozsa (University of Public Service, Hungary): "Great Power Competition in Defence Technology – What Can the Asia-Pacific Offer for the Gulf?" Discussant: Talmiz Ahmad (Symbiosis University, India)
15:35-16:10	Paper Eight Degang Sun & Yu Ye (Fudan University, China): "US-China Institutional Competition in the Gulf: Challenges for Gulf Economic and Political Interests" Discussant: Robert Mogielnicki (Arab Gulf States Institute, the USA)
16:10-16:25	Coffee break
16:25-17:00	Paper Nine Yuan Zhang (University of Exeter, UK): "Greenback or Redback? Saudi Arabia in the Vortex of US–China Monetary Competition" Discussant: Xiaoyu Wang (Fudan University, China)
17:00-17:35	Paper Ten [Recorded] Gleb Doroshenko (Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russia) & Andrei Shelkovnikov(Higher School of Economics, Russia): "Russia's policy towards the Gulf: a factor in promoting "Global majority" organizations" Discussant: Sara Bazoobandi (Center for Conflict Analysis and Crisis Management, Germany)

END OF FIRST DAY

Thursday, 24 July 2025

09:00-09:30	Welcome coffee and tea
09:35-10:10	Paper Eleven

Robert Mogielnicki (Arab Gulf States Institute, the USA):
“Between Competition and Opportunity: China’s Digital Silk Road in the Gulf”

Discussant: **Degang Sun (Fudan University, China)**

10:10-10:45 **Paper Twelve**
Zhiqiang Zou (Fudan University, China): “The Gulf States in the US and China Competition on New Infrastructure: Politicization and Depoliticization”

Discussant: **Priyamvada Sawant (University of Mumbai, India)**

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-11:35 **Paper Thirteen**
Ayesha Alketbi (Zayed University, the UAE): “The Role of Holding Companies in Strengthening Gulf Economic and Political Interests Among Great Power Competition in the Asia-Pacific”

Discussant: **Zhiqiang Zou (Fudan University, China)**

11:35-12:10 **Paper Fourteen**
Xiaoyu Wang (Fudan University, China): “Revisiting China–Middle East Trade Relations: A Global Value Chain Perspective”

Discussant: **Erzsebet Nagyne Rozsa (University of Public Service, Hungary)**

12:10-12:45 **Paper Fifteen**
Norafidah Ismail (Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia) and Alhussein Nanaa (Independent Researcher, Malaysia): “ASEAN-GCC Cooperation Amidst China-U.S. Competition in the South China Sea: Opportunities and Challenges”

Discussant: **Talmiz Ahmad (Symbiosis University, India)**

12:45-14:15 Lunch break at workshop venues

14:15-14:50 **Paper Sixteen (recorded)**
Vorachai Israsena Pichitkanjanakul (Qatar University, Qatar): “Gulf-Asia Synergy: Normalization and Strategic Realignment in Thailand-Saudi Arabia Relations”

Discussant: **Tim Niblock (University of Exeter, UK)**

14:50-15:25 **Paper Seventeen**

Sara Bazoobandi (Center for Conflict Analysis and Crisis Management, Germany): “Iran, the Arab states of the Gulf and ‘East’”

Discussant: **Ayesha Alketbi (Zayed University, the UAE)**

15:25-16:00 **Concluding Remarks**

DINNER JULY 24TH 19:00 (BST) AT KING'S COLLEGE