

Workshop No. 7

Gulf States' Engagement with Sport: Domestic and Global Drivers-

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Kristin Smith Diwan

Senior Resident Scholar, The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, Adjunct
Professorial Lecturer, George Washington University
United States

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen

Fellow for the Middle East, Director, Political Economy of the Gulf Program, James A. Baker
III Institute for Public Policy, Rice University
United States

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

9:00-9:15	Introduction
9:15-10:00	GEOPOLITICS Paper One Simon Chadwick (Skema Business School): “In Pole Position: A Geopolitical Economy of Sport in the Gulf Region” Discussant: Taufiq Rahim (New America)
10:00-10:45	Paper Two Raphael Le Magoariec (Tours University): “Sport and the Geopolitics of the GCC Countries: Thinking Power with Regard to the Spatiality of the Sports Industry Players” Discussant: Patel Pruthvi-Gerben (University of Paris-Nanterre) and Bimal Patel (United Nations International Law Commission)

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11:15-12:00 **POLITICAL LEGITIMACY**
Paper Three
Azim Wazeer (University of Oxford):
“Sportswashing at Home: Stoking Nationalism and Building Legitimacy in Saudi Arabia”

Discussant: Ahmed Al Omran (Financial Times)

12:00-12:45 **Paper Four**
Joze Pelayo, Hezha Barzani (Atlantic Council):
“Gulf States’ Sports Rush & Sovereign Wealth Funds: Vying for Sports Fans’ Hearts and Minds as a Foreign and Domestic Policy”

Discussant: Rikard Jalkebro (Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy)

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 minute walk to King’s College)

14:30-15:15 **SPORTS STRATEGY-ECONOMICS**
Paper Five
Majid Al Busafi (Sultan Qaboos University):
“Harnessing Sports for Economic Development: Insights from Developed Economies and Strategies for GCC”

Discussant: Khaled Alsofyani (Durham University), Idir Moualek

15:15-16:00 **Paper Six**
Erhan Akkas (Sakarya University):
“Myths and Realities: How Do Gulf Sports Investments Contribute to Economic Diversification?”

Discussant: Raphael Le Magoariec (Tours University)

16.00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-17:15 **WOMENS' EMPOWERMENT**
Paper Seven
Hussa Al-Khalifa (Loughborough University), Dwa Al-Khalifa (University of Portsmouth), Menatella Sharafeldin (Royal University for Women, Bahrain):
“Girl Playing: Empowering Women through Sports Participation in Padel and Football in Bahrain”

Discussant: Saud Shbeer (University of Leicester) and Zaid AlSubaie (Bournemouth University)

17:15-18:00 **Paper Eight**
Zarqa Parvez (Georgetown University):
“The Politics of Women’s Sports Participation in Qatar”

Discussant: Fadi Hilani (National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations)

END OF FIRST DAY

Thursday, 11 July 2024

09:00-09:15 **Workshop Summary for Day 1**

NATIONAL HISTORIES

09:15-10:00 **Paper Nine**
Ahmed Al Omran (Financial Times):
“From “Youth Welfare” to Commercial Investment: An Analytic History of Saudi State Involvement in Football”

Discussant: Simon Chadwick (Skema Business School)

10:00-10:45 **Paper Ten**
Ariel Admoni (Bar Ilan University) - recorded:
“In the Footsteps of Our Forefathers: The Utilization of the Past in Qatari Sport”

Discussant: Majid Al Busafi (Sultan Qaboos University)

10.45-11:15 Coffee break

SPORTS STRATEGY-SECTOR

11:15-12:00 **Paper Eleven**
Taufiq Rahim (New America):
“Full Gulf Press: Exploring Hoop Dreams in the New Middle East”

Discussant: Erhan Akkas (Sakarya University)

12:00-12:45 **Paper Twelve**
Rikard Jalkebro (Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy):
“Beyond the Field: The Strategic Match of Sports Diplomacy in the Gulf States”

Discussant: Azim Wazeer (University of Oxford)

12:45-14:30 Lunch break at workshop venues

14:30-15:15	<p>E-SPORTS</p> <p>Paper Thirteen Patel Pruthvi-Gerben (University of Paris-Nanterre), Bimal Patel (United Nations International Law Commission): “Investigating Esports Integrity Strategies in BRICS Nations – A Sustainable Multilateral Legal Perspective”</p> <p>Discussant: Husa Al-Khalifa (Loughborough University) Dwa Al-Khalifa (University of Portsmouth), and Menatella Sharafeldin (Royal University for Women, Bahrain)</p>
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15:15-16:00	<p>Paper Fourteen Fadi Hilani (National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations): “Strategic Joystick Diplomacy: The Rise of Esports and Gaming in Saudi Arabia and its Economic and Diplomatic Horizons”</p> <p>Discussant: Joze Pelayo (Atlantic Council)</p>
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16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
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16:30-17:15	<p>MEDIA</p> <p>Paper Fifteen Saud Shbeer (University of Leicester), Zaid AlSubaie (Bournemouth University): “A Comparative Analysis of International Media Coverage of Cristiano Ronaldo in the Saudi Pro League and Lionel Messi in the US Pro League”</p> <p>Discussant: Hezha Barzani (Atlantic Council)</p>
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17:15-18:00	<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Paper Sixteen Khaled Alsofyani (Durham University), Idir Moualek (freelance researcher): “Enhancing Physical Activity among Secondary School Children and Adolescents: A Comprehensive Integrated Approach using Socio-Ecological Model and Intelligent Group Decision Support System”</p> <p>Discussant: Zarqa Parvez (Georgetown University)</p>
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<p>DINNER JULY 11TH 19:00 (BST) AT KING’S COLLEGE</p>	