

Workshop No. 12

Silk Road or Spice Route? The Gulf's Rising Connectivity with Asia, Africa, and Europe

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Jan Claudius Völkel

DAAD Seconded Professor, University of Ottawa, School of Political Studies
Canada

Riham Bahi

Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University
Egypt

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

9:00-9:15

Introduction

Bahi, Riham (Cairo University) & **Völkel, Jan Claudius**
(University of Ottawa)

Section I | IMEC: Essential considerations

9:15-10:00

Paper One

Karim, Umer (University of Birmingham/King Faisal Center
for Research and Islamic Studies): “IMEC and the
Transformation of Regional Security Dynamics in Southwest Asia”

Discussant: **Bahi, Riham** (Cairo University)

10:00-10:45

Paper Two

**Israsena Pichitkanjanakul, Vorachai / Al-Obaidly, Ghoson
Abdulaziz** (Qatar University): “Leveraging Silk Route and Spice
Route and Look East: the Gulf’s Rising Connectivity with
Southeast Asia”

Discussant: **Babu M, Sameer** (Jamia Millia Islamia)

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11:15-12:00 **Paper Three**
Al Riyami, Ahmad (National Defense College, Oman) / Baig, Saranjam (Sultan Qaboos University): “IMEC Unveiled: Navigating Opportunities, Challenges, and Geopolitical Dynamics in a Transformative Economic Collaboration”

Discussant: **Tsukerman, Irina** (Scarab Rising, Inc.)

12:00-12:45 **Paper Four**
Ullah, AKM Ahsan (University of Brunei Darussalam): “Connectivity and Mobility: Transformative Impact of BRI on Migration Dynamics in the MENA”

Discussant: **Elfiki, Rahima** (Cairo University)

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 minutes walk to King’s College)

Section II: Regional dynamics

14:30-15:15 **Paper Five**
Siddiqa, Arhama (Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad): “From Corridor to Crossroads: Pakistan's Strategic Repositioning in the Wake of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)”

Discussant: **Tsupokyemla** (Nehru University)

15:15-16:00 **Paper Six**
Babu M, Sameer (Jamia Millia Islamia): “Employees to entrepreneurs: South Indian Changing patterns of migration of youth in the Post COVID-19 scenario”

Discussant: **ElSayed, Omkolthoum** (Cairo University)

16.00-16:30 Coffee break

Section III: Focus Oman

16:30-17:15 **Paper Seven**
Ayverdi, Rumeysa (Sakarya University): “Examining Oman's Foreign Policy Through the Lens of Leader Visits”

Discussant: **Al-Juburi, Tamara** (SOAS London)

17:15-18:00 **Paper Eight**

Tsupokyemla (Nehru University): “Oman and India: Retracing Historical voyages and forging New Strategic connectivity”

Discussant: **Al Riyami, Ahmad** (National Defense College, Oman) & **Baig, Saranjam** (Sultan Qaboos University)

END OF FIRST DAY

Thursday, 11 July 2024

09:00-09:15 **Workshop Summary for Day 1**
Bahi, Riham (Cairo University) & **Völkel, Jan Claudius** (University of Ottawa)

Section IV: GCC-Asia relations

09:15-10:00 **Paper Nine**
Battaloglu, Nesibe Hicret (Qatar University): “GCC-Central Asia Relations: An Exemplary Cooperation within Global South”

Discussant: **Israsena Pichitkanjanakul, Vorachai & Al-Obaidly, Ghoson Abdulaziz** (Qatar University)

10:00-10:45 **Paper Ten**
ElSayed, Omkolthoum (Cairo University): “Using Health Diplomacy and The Silk Road Initiative to Achieve Foreign Policy Goals”

Discussant: **Ullah, AKM Ahsan** (University of Brunei Darussalam)

10.45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:00 **Paper Eleven**
Kumar, Prabhat (Central University of Gujarat): India’s Comprehensive Proposal of IMEC: Prospects and Problems **(recorded)**

Discussant: **none** (*collective discussion of video presentation*)

12:00-12:45 **Paper Twelve**
Chan, Lok Hang Abraham (Freie Universität Berlin): “Mind of the Dragon in Europe: A Study of the Cooperation between China and the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC)”

Discussant: **Karim, Umer** (University of Birmingham/King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies):

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

Section V: GCC-Europe relations

14:30-15:15 **Paper Thirteen**
Al-Juburi, Tamara (SOAS London): “The North Corridor: An opportunity for increased European connectivity or a consolidation of Gulf states’ power?”

Discussant: **Ayverdi, Rumeysa** (Sakarya University)

15:15-16:00 **Paper Fourteen**
Elfiki, Rahima (Cairo University): “Integrating the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) into the European Infrastructure: *Potential, Challenges, and Geopolitical Implications*”

Discussant: **Siddiqa, Arhama** (Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad)

Section VI: Geopolitical developments & implications

16:00-16:45 **Paper Fifteen**
Tsukerman, Irina (Scarab Rising, Inc.): “The impact of the regional escalation prompted by the Israel-Hamas War on the Geopolitical Rivalries in the context of the Silk/Spice Road Frameworks”

Discussant: **Battaloglu, Nesibe Hicret** (Qatar University)

16:45-17:15 **Paper Sixteen**
Bahi, Riham (Cairo University): “The Geopolitical implications of Competitive Connectivity Strategies in the Middle East”

Discussant: **Chan, Lok Hang Abraham** (Freie Universität Berlin)

17:15-17:45 **Concluding remarks and next steps (publication plans)**
Bahi, Riham (Cairo University) & **Völkel, Jan Claudius** (University of Ottawa)

17:45-18:00 **Publication Plans, Questionnaire, Conclusion**
All participants and authors

END OF SECOND DAY

DINNER JULY 11TH 19:00 (BST) AT KING’S COLLEGE