The Gulf Research Meeting

Ten Years of Excellence
Promoting Scholarship and Knowledge about the Gulf Region
2010-2020

University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
The Gulf Research Meeting

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THE GULF RESEARCH MEETING - TEN YEARS OF GULF STUDIES

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC) was established to foster Gulf studies and establish strong links with one of the leading educational institutions in the world - the University of Cambridge. The main activity of GRCC is convening the Gulf Research Meeting (GRM), which has been organized annually since 2010. In 2019, GRCC reached a milestone by convening the tenth Gulf Research Meeting. These ten meetings have brought together 3,358 participants, gathering in 127 workshops, in which more than 1,900 research papers have been presented and discussed. Out of this, more than 50 edited volumes of research on the Gulf region have been published, ensuring that together with the GRM Paper Series, the outreach extends far beyond the meetings themselves. Since its establishment, the GRM has also extended its geographical reach, with scholars and policy practitioners attending from throughout the world. Of particular importance is the participation of the growing scholarly community from the Gulf countries themselves.

The goal of the Gulf Research Meetings is to bring together a community of scholars and specialists working on the Gulf region in order to broaden the research literature on this critical region and to create a network through which people from all over the world can come together to exchange views, present their work, enhance their understanding on topical issues related to the region, and plan for future projects and collaborative research.

The Gulf Research Meetings are taking place at an important time, as the Middle East region is undergoing a series of upheavals, and the critical Gulf region in particular is experiencing wide-ranging challenges and transitions.

This only underscores the need to bring people together in order to exchange views and reflect on the current developments which are impacting the Gulf region. The objective of the annual gatherings is to enhance knowledge about the Gulf, promote scholarly and balanced research about the region, and encourage scholarly and academic exchange among those interested in developments that are defining the Gulf region and its constituent societies.

The Gulf Research Meetings stimulate deeper research collaboration and provide a space for an open and frank exchange of research-based views, where people of different backgrounds and specialties can gather together to gain a better understanding of the forces defining and shaping the Gulf region.

The Gulf Research Meetings are also forward looking and address the possible future development of the Gulf region, thus facilitating informed choices and contributing to substantive policy debates. The objective is clear – long-term stability and prosperity for the Gulf region. At a time when a better understanding of the Gulf region is more important than ever, the Gulf Research Meetings provide a much needed platform through which the challenges facing the region are creatively addressed.

Dr. Abdulaziz O. Sager
Chairman
Gulf Research Center
The Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) offers a unique environment to explore matters of key importance to the Gulf region and provides a platform for discussion and dissemination of research in a wide variety of Gulf-related fields, including economic and financial issues, international relations, security, environment, energy and renewable energy, as well as education, labour and social issues. Committed to a high-level academic standard, the GRM’s objective is to help generate solutions to many of the region’s pressing challenges.

### The First 10 Years of GRM

<table>
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<th>Years 2010-2019</th>
<th>Workshops</th>
<th>Hours of Discussions</th>
<th>Workshop Directors</th>
<th>Books Published</th>
<th>Paper Presenters</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Years</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>1,930</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1,726</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3,358</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Participants from 60 Nationalities

40% of Participants from the Gulf Region

**TOPICS**

- Energy and Renewable Energy
- International Relations & Politics
- Social & Media Issues
- Environment
- Education
- Economic and Financial Issues
- Labour and Migration Issues

**Links**

- Gulf Research Center: www.gulfresearchmeeting.net

2018 Gulf Research Meeting participants
About the Gulf Research Meeting

At the Gulf Research Center (GRC), one of the most important goals remains the spread of scholarly research and knowledge relating to the Gulf throughout the international community. In a bid to foster greater understanding of the GCC and the challenges the region faces, and to strengthen the links between scholars from different regions, we decided to create the Gulf Research Meeting (GRM).

Led by the commitment of the GRC’s founder and chairman, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, the GRM is unparalleled in both its scope and value as far as scholarly and policy-oriented research about the critical Gulf region is concerned. A flagship event that is hosted annually at the University of Cambridge, the GRM brings together hundreds of specialists, policy practitioners, and aspiring academicians from the Arab region and the rest of the world to discuss and debate the key challenges and changes facing the GCC and enhance their knowledge about this unique part of the world.

Advancing Knowledge

At a time when the Gulf region continues to gain in strategic relevance and importance, it is more urgent than ever to expand knowledge about this critical part of the world and to become more familiar with the issues that are defining its overall development. Of equal importance is the promotion of scholarly and
balanced research about the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), its adjacent neighbors that constitute the wider Gulf region (Iran, Iraq and Yemen) and their relations to one another as well as with the wider external environment.

Through parallel workshops dedicated to specific topics in the fields of politics, economics, energy security and the wider social sciences, the Gulf Research Meeting addresses the existing shortcomings, to provide correct and insightful information about the region and to promote mutual understanding between the Gulf and the rest of the world.

**Producing Output**

Committed to a high-level academic standard, the GRM’s objectives are to produce policy input and generate solutions to many of the region’s pressing challenges. Each year, workshops are selected on both their ability to contribute to the development of literature on the Gulf and their relevance to issues of present and common concern. In this manner, and through the intensive debates that are part of the individual workshops, concrete ideas and initiatives are created that can then be disseminated to a wider audience through generated publications, whether as short policy briefs, extended essays or more broader edited books. Such discussions also lead to additional collaborative efforts among the participants and their institutions beyond the framework of the GRM.
Creating Networks

Through its workshops and constant interaction among participants, the GRM also promotes widespread research efforts among different institutions from within the Gulf and other parts of the region to heighten awareness of Gulf-specific issues. At the core lies the partnership between the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge and the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. Universally recognized as one of the world’s leading educational institutions, the University of Cambridge together with the CIS has provided a strong commitment to foster cooperation and promote exchanges such as the Gulf Research Meeting. Such collaboration opens the door to promote further work and link into a worldwide network of leading individuals and research initiatives.

Beyond the University of Cambridge, the GRM brings together institutions from throughout the world thereby creating additional opportunities for networking and cooperation. Particular importance and emphasis is given to encourage young scholars, in particular from the GCC countries – including those studying abroad - to engage in the debate and take part in research collaboration. In this way, GRM provides a path into the future generation and the role it will play in shaping the region’s development.

The Gulf Research Meeting is a ground-breaking and progressive project that the GRC is proud to be at the forefront of.
Ten Years of GRM Donors and Supporters

A sincere thank you to all the generous Donors and Supporters of GRM 2010 – 2019

Dr. Beverly Metcalfe
Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM)
University of Manchester

“An excellent success that will yield some excellent publication/policy developments”
Dr. Elie Azar of Masdar Institute in Abu Dhabi and Dr. Oskar Ziemelis of the Gulf Research Center discuss sustainable growth in the Gulf region.

Prof. Toshiya Hoshino, Dean of the Osaka School of International Public Policy, Osaka University with his daughter and Noriko Suzuki, Director, GRC Foundation Asia.

Dr. John Duke Anthony and Dr. Abdulkhaleq Abdulla with GRM 2018 participants Nadia Mohammed Osman of the Research Council, Oman with Shaikha Latifa Al-Khalifa of the University of Bahrain.

Workshop on the Relationship between the Gulf Countries and Latin America - The Role of Non-State Actors.

GRC Chairman Dr. Abdulaziz Sager and Dr. Jennifer Barnes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for International Strategy, University of Cambridge.

H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif Al Zayani, Shaikh Abdullah Al-Khalifa and Dr. Abdullah Baabood.

GRM 2019 Workshop on Domestic Policy Making and Governance in Saudi Arabia.

Audience at 2013 GRM Opening Ceremony.

Eman Ragab, Al-Ahram Center, Egypt with Prof. Satoru Nakamura, Kobe University, Japan.


Dr. Khalid Al-Ruwaihi, DERASAT, Bahrain with Shaikh Abdullah Al-Khalifa and Yuji Takagi, President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation.


Abdulah Alshoaibi from the Saudi Fund for Development; Salem Almahri and Richard Common from the York Management School.

Prof. Sujata Ashwarya Cheema, Centre for West Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Kottapurath Mohammed Seethi, Mahatma Gandhi University, Prof. Girijesh Pant, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Jinwoog Kim from the Korea Institute for Military Affairs.

Sujata Ashwarya Cheema, Centre for West Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Kottapurath Mohammed Seethi, Mahatma Gandhi University; Prof. Girijesh Pant, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Jinwoog Kim from the Korea Institute for Military Affairs.
Inaugural Dinner in King’s College

Participants in the GRM 2014 workshop on Enhancing the Learning Ecosystem in the GCC

Dynamic discussions in the GRM 2018 workshop on the Post-Syrian-Crisis Political Architecture and the Roles of the USA, Russia and China as External Actors

Dr. Turki Al Rasheed from Golden Grass, Inc. at the Gulf Union Workshop dinner

Work in progress in GRM 2017 workshop on Transforming Business Education in the GCC

Networking session at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge

Makio Yamada from Oxford University in the GRM 2015 workshop on The Gulf Cooperation Council and the BRICS

Participants of the GRM 2018 workshop on Shaping the Future of the GCC Countries through Language Policy and Planning

Latifa Al-Khalifa from Bahrain, Degang Sun from Shanghai International Studies University and Dr. Ashraf Kishk of DERASAT

GRM 2019 Participants at Dinner in King’s College

Work in progress in GRM 2017 workshop on Transforming Business Education in the GCC

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, Mrs. Cynthia Anthony and Dr. John Duke Anthony from the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Lunch at Queens’ College

Participants of the GRM 2016 workshop on Shaping the Future of the GCC Countries through Language Policy and Planning

Dr. Haya Al Hargan and Eng. Salma Bani - participants in the GRM 2018 workshop on the Gulf States in East Africa: Security, Economic and Strategic Partnerships

Daniel Stauffacher, Member of the GRC Foundation Council (2012-2018) and President of ICT4Peace in Geneva

Dr. Ashraf Mishrif from King’s College London, Prof. Yasir Suleiman from Centre of Islamic Studies at University of Cambridge and Prof. Bahgat Korany from American University of Cairo and University of Montreal
“The range of workshops in this conference shows breadth across the arts, humanities and sciences, and the conference gains strength and relevance from this.”

Professor Dame Alison Richard
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge
2010 GRM Workshop on Environmental Policies in the Gulf

2010 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop 1
Natural Resources, Accountability and Democracy
Dr. Richard Youngs, Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Dialogo Exterior (FRIDE)
Prof. Gerd Nonneman, University of Exeter

Workshop 2
Formal and Informal Mechanisms of Political Participation
Prof. Anoush Ehteshami, Durham University

Workshop 3
The Role of the Private Sector in Promoting Economic and Political Reform
Prof. Giacomo Luciani, Gulf Research Center Foundation
Dr. Bassma Kodmani, Arab Reform Initiative

Workshop 4
The GCC Banking and Financial Sector
Dr. Eckart Woertz, Gulf Research Center
Dr. Hatem Al-Shanfari, Sultan Qaboos University

2010 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops
Workshop 5
Population, Labor Markets and National Identity
Dr. Steffen Hertog, Sciences-Po
Dr. Rola Dashti, Kuwait Economic Society

Workshop 6
The Impact of Migration on Gulf Development and Stability
Prof. Philippe Fargues, European University Institute
Prof. Nasra Shah, Kuwait University

Workshop 7
Developing an Agenda for Security Studies in the Gulf
Dr. Mustafa Alani, Gulf Research Center
Prof. Saleh Al-Moni, King Saud University

Workshop 8
The Governance of Higher Education in the Gulf Cooperation Region
Prof. Andre Elia Mazawi, University of British Columbia
Dr. Ronald G. Sultana, University of Malta

Workshop 9
Environmental Policies in the Gulf Region
Dr. Mohammed A. Raouf, Gulf Research Center
Prof. Wael K. Al-Zubari, Arabian Gulf University

Workshop 10
EU-GCC Relations
Dr. Geoffrey Edwards, University of Cambridge
Dr. Abdulrah Babood, Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

Workshop 11
Gulf-China Relations
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter
Dr. Mei Zhang, Shanghai Institute for International Studies

Workshop 12
Islamic Politics in the Gulf
Dr. Stephane Lacroix, Sciences-Po, Paris, supervises the Kuwait Program of Gulf Studies
Saud Al-Sarhan, University of Exeter
2010 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

GCC Banking and Financial Sector Workshop

Islamic Politics in the Gulf Workshop participants

Governance in Higher Education in the Gulf Workshop Directors Prof. Andre Mazawi, University of British Columbia and Prof. Roland Sultana, University of Malta

2010 EU-GCC Relations Workshop participants

Discussion in ‘Natural Resources, Accountability and Democracy in the Gulf’ Workshop

2010 EU-GCC Relations Workshop group
2011 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop 1
Impact of Climate Change on the Gulf Region
Dr. Mohammed Raouf, Gulf Research Center
Dr. Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, Research Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Sciences

Workshop 2
The Transformation of Rentier States and the Provision of Public and Common Goods
Dr. Tarik Yousef, Dubai School of Government
Dr. Eberhard Kienle, CNRS Paris / PACTE IEP de Grenoble, France

Workshop 3
Educational Reform, Public Policy, and the Students of the Gulf Region
Prof. Kathryn Bindon, Advisor, President - University of Bahrain
Dr. Jason E. Lane, State University of New York, Albany

Workshop 4
WTO and Globalization: GCC Impact
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter
Prof. Mohamed Ramady, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals

2011 GRM Workshop on the Role of Business Women in the Economies and Societies of the Arab Region
Workshop 5
Modernization and Socio-Economic Changes in the Gulf Arabic Cities
Dr. Belgacem Mokhtar, Assistant Professor of Economic Geography and Planning, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat
Dr. Montasser I.M. Abdelghani, Assistant Professor of Social and Urban Geography, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat

Workshop 6
India and the Gulf: What Next?
Amb. Ranjit Gupta (Retd.), Member of the National Security Advisory Board, India
Prof. Abu Backer Bagader, Professor of Sociology, King Abdul Aziz University

Workshop 7
Shaping the Gulf National Innovation Systems
Dr. Kenneth Wilson, Professor and Director, National Research Foundation, United Arab Emirates.
Imen Jeridi Bachellerie, MSC, Researcher, Science and Technology Gulf Research Center
Dr. Eoin O’Sullivan, University of Cambridge

Workshop 8
Healthcare Challenges in the Gulf Region
Dr. Ahmed Alawi, Director, Cambridge Consulting Alliance Ltd., Cambridge
Shelley Gregory-Jones, Development Director, PHG Foundation, Cambridge, UK.

Workshop 9
Potential and Limits of Civil Society in the Gulf Region
Prof. Paul Aarts, Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam
Dr. Baqer Al-Najjar, Department of Social Sciences, University of Bahrain

Workshop 10
Media in the GCC
Dr. Abeer Najjar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mass Communication, AUS, Sharjah
Dr. Khaled Hroub, Director, Cambridge Arab Media Project, University of Cambridge

Workshop 11
GCC-Iran Relations
Prof. Saleh Al-Mani, Professor and Dean of College of Law and Political Science, King Saud University, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Prof. Mohmad Saridghom, Professor of International Relations, Shahed Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran

Workshop 12
Migration in the Gulf
Prof. Philippe Fargues, European University Institute, Robert Schumann Centre for Advanced Studies
Prof. Nasra Shah, Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University

Workshop 13  
Human Resource Development in the Gulf Region  
Dr. Christopher J. Rees, University of Manchester  
Nasser AlBadri, Director, Recruitment and Omanisation Department, Royal Court Affairs (RCA), Sultanate of Oman

Workshop 14  
The Role of Business Women in the Economies and Societies of the Arab Region  
Dr. Anja Zorob, Assistant Professor, Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science, Free University Berlin  
Dr. Beverly Dawn Metcalfe, University of Manchester, UK

Workshop 15  
The EU and the GCC in the Mediterranean  
Dr. Tobias Schumacher, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology, Lisbon University Institute  
Dr. Geoffrey Edwards, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge

Workshop 16  
Soft Power in the Gulf: The Politics of the Post-Rentier State  
Dr. Victor Gervais, Associate Fellow, Kuwait Program, Sciences Po Paris
2012 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop 1
The Arab Spring: Impacts and Consequences on the GCC
Dr. May Sekaly, Wayne State University, Detroit, USA
Dr. Khawla M. Mattar, Director, UN Information Center, Cairo, Egypt

Workshop 2
Asia and the Gulf: Comparative Analysis of the Roles of Asian Countries
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter
Dr. Monica Malik, EFG Hermes, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Workshop 3
Gulf Charities in the ‘Age of Terror’ and the ‘Arab Awakening’
Robert Lacey, Author of ‘Inside the Kingdom’, London, UK
Jonathan Benthall, Honorary Research Fellow, London, UK

Workshop 4
Socio-Economic Impacts of GCC Migration
Prof. Philippe Fargues, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
Prof. Nasra Shah, Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University

2012 GRM Workshop on the Impact of the Arab Spring on the GCC

Gulf Research Meeting
Workshop 5
A Growing Gulf: Public and Private Sector Initiatives and the Realities of Youth Employment Outcomes
Dr. Tarik Yousef, CEO, Silatech, Qatar
Dr. Nader Kabbani, Director of Research, Silatech, Qatar

Workshop 6
International Tourism Development in the GCC Countries: Opportunities and Challenges
Dr. Ali Al Harmaneh, Institute of Geography, University of Mainz, Germany
Dr. Marcus Stephenson, Associate Professor of Tourism Management, Middlesex University, Dubai

Workshop 7
The Impact of Globalization on Women in the GCC
Dr. May Dabbagh, Dubai School of Government, Dubai, UAE

Workshop 8
An Assessment of Opportunities and Possibilities: The Gulf and Latin America
Dr. Alejandro Galindo, University of Monterrey, Mexico

Workshop 9
Visual Culture in the GCC
Dr. Nadia Mouajjed, College of Arts and Design, Sharjah
Sharmeen Syed, Arts Foundation, Sharjah

Workshop 10
The Impact of Large-Scale Datasets on Evidence-Based Educational Policymaking and Reform in the Gulf States
Dr. Naif Alromi, Ministry of Education, Saudi Arabia
Dr. Alexander Wiseman, Lehigh University, USA
Dr. Saleh A. Alshumrani, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

Workshop 11
Environmental Cost and Changing Face of Agriculture in the Gulf States
Dr. Shabbir A. Shahid, Centre for Biosaline Agriculture, Dubai, UAE
Dr. Mushtaque Ahmed, Center for Environmental Studies and Research, Oman

Workshop 12
Gulf Energy Challenges
Dr. Naji Abi Aad, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Qatar Petroleum
Dr. Mostefa Ouki, Vice President, Nexant Limited, UK

Dr. Tarik Yousef
Dr. Nader Kabbani

Dr. Marcus Stephenson
Dr. Alejandro Galindo

Dr. May Dabbagh

Dr. Nadia Mouajjed
Sharmeen Syed

Dr. Naif Alromi
Dr. Alexander Wiseman
Dr. Saleh A. Alshumrani

Dr. Shabbir A. Shahid
Dr. Mushtaque Ahmed

Dr. Naji Abi Aad
Dr. Mostefa Ouki
Workshop 13
Housing Markets and Policy Design in the Gulf Region
Gus Freeman, Ernst & Young, UAE
Prof. Peter Williams, Housing and Planning Research, UK
David Smith, Chief Operating Officer, Affordable Housing Institute
Boston, MA, United States

Workshop 14
Structure, Conduct and Performance: The Case of GCC Banks
Dr. Lamia Obay, Abu Dhabi University
Dr. Anis Samet, American University of Sharjah

Workshop 15
State-Society Relations in the Arab Gulf Region
Dr. Mazhar Al Ziyy, Qatar University
Dr. Birol Baskan, Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, Qatar

Workshop 16
The Political Economy of Clean Energy Solutions in the GCC
Dr. Rabia Fennaki, Senior Program Officer, IRENA, UAE
Prof. Giacomo Luciani, Senior Consultant, GRCF, Switzerland
Dr. Manfred Höfner, FEEM, Italy

Workshop 17
Healthcare Policies in the GCC: Challenges and Future Directions
Dr. Ahmed Alawi, Gulf Investment and Marketing Group, UK
Dr. Mohammed Alkhazim, King Saud bin Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia

Workshop 18
Islamic Finance in the GCC
Dr. Mehmet Asutay, Durham University, UK
Dr. Abdullah Turkistani, King Abdullah University, Saudi Arabia

Workshop 19
The Gulf-India Strategic Partnership in a Pan-Asian Cooperative Paradigm
Prof. Abu Backer Bagader, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia
Amb. Ranjit Gupta, (Fmr. Member) National Security Advisory Board, India

Dr. Lamia Obay
Dr. Anis Samet
Dr. Rabia Fennaki
Prof. Giacomo Luciani
Dr. Manfred Höfner

Dr. Ahmed Alawi
Dr. Moh. Alkhazim

Dr. Mehmet Asutay
Dr. Abdullah Turkistani

Prof. Abu Backer Bagader
Amb. Ranjit Gupta
2013 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop 1
The GCC States-Turkey Relations: Opportunities and Challenges
Dr. Özden Zeynep Oktav, Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
Dr. Birol Baskan, Georgetown University Qatar, Doha, Qatar

Workshop 2
The Relationship between the Gulf Countries and Latin America: The Role of Non-State Actors
Dr. Alejandra Galindo Marines, University of Monterrey, Mexico

Workshop 3
The Gulf and Asia Political Relations and Strategic Options in a Developing Scenario
Prof. Tim Niblock, Emeritus Professor, University of Exeter, UK
Prof. Yang Guang, Institute for West Asian and African Studies, Beijing, China
Dr. Marc Valeri, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

Workshop 4
Saudi Arabia and the Arab Uprisings: National, Regional, and Global Responses
Prof. Paul Aarts, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Dr. Saud M. Al Tamamy, King Saud University, Riyadh, KSA

2013 GRM Workshop on the GCC States - Turkey Relations - Opportunities and Challenges
Workshop 5
The Rentier State at 25: Dismissed, Revised, Upheld?
Dr. Steffen Hertog, The London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom
Prof. Giacomo Luciani, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland

Workshop 6
Gulf Cities as Interfaces
Prof. George Katodrytis, RIBA, College of Architecture, Art and Design, American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Sharmeen Syed, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Workshop 7
Sustainable Development Challenges in the GCC
Dr. David Bryde, Research Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom
Dr. Yusra Mouzughi, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom
Dr. Turki Al Rasheed, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Workshop 8
Educational Challenges in the GCC in the 21st Century
Dr. Khadijah Bawazeer, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, KSA
Dr. Tariq Elyas, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, KSA
Dr. Ahmar Mahboob, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Workshop 9
GCC Relations with Post-War Iraq: A Strategic Perspective
Dr. Omar Al-Ubaydli, DERASAT, Manama, Bahrain
Dr. Bashir Zain Al-Abdin, DERASAT, Manama, Bahrain

Workshop 10
Boundaries and Territory in the Gulf Region
Richard Schofield, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, King's College London, United Kingdom

Workshop 11
Challenges Facing the GCC Oil & Gas Industry
Dr. Naj Abi-Aad, COO of PetroLeb, Beirut, Lebanon
Dr. Christian Panzer, Senior Researcher, Department of the Energy Economics Group, Vienna University of Technology, Austria
2014 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop 1
Social Media and the Changing Context of Politics in the Gulf
Prof. Douglas A. Boyd, Professor, University of Kentucky, USA
Dr. Yousef Al-Failakawi, Head, US Culture Relationships Department, Kuwait University, Kuwait

Workshop 2
The United States and the Gulf: Towards a Reassessment of Gulf Commitments and Alignments?
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
Dr. Abdullah Baabood, University of Qatar, Qatar
Prof. Steven W. Hook, Kent State University, United States of America

Workshop 3
Representing the Nation – the Use of Heritage and Museums to Create National Narratives and Identity in the GCC
Dr. Pamela Loftus, Northwestern University in Qatar
Dr. Mariam Al-Mulla, University of Qatar
Dr. Victoria Hightower, Assistant Professor, University of North Georgia, USA

Workshop 4
The Future of Yemen
Dr. Noel Brehony, SOAS, United Kingdom
Dr. Saud Al Sarhan, Head of Research, KFCRIS, KSA

2014 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

2014 GRM Workshop on “Iran and the GCC, Prospects for Change?”
Workshop 5
Employed, yet Underemployed and Underestimated: Leadership, Ownership and Work Motivation in the Gulf
Prof. Mohamed A. Ramady, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Dr. Annika Knopp, University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany

Workshop 7
Enhancing the Learning Ecosystem in the GCC: Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC)
Dr. Asma Siddiki, Alphoi Education, LLC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Rania Ibrahim, Dean of Student Affairs, Ejfic University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Workshop 8
The GCC States’ Foreign and Security Policies after the Arab Spring
Dr. Jean-Marc Rickli, Khalifa University, UAE
Dr. Khalid Almezaini, Qatar University and LSE, Qatar / UK

Workshop 6
Green Economy in the Gulf Region
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf Abdelhamed Aly, Research Fellow, Environmental Research Program, Gulf Research Center, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Dr. Mari Luomi, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, United Kingdom

Workshop 9
Science & Technology Education, Research and Innovation in GCC Countries (Supported by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences)
Dr. Afreen Siddiqi, Harvard University, United States of America
Dr. Laura D. Anadon, Harvard University, United States of America

Workshop 10
Determinants of Future Migration in the Gulf
Prof. Philippe Forges, Director - MPC, European University Institute, Italy
Prof. Nasra M. Shah, Professor, Department of Community Medicine and Behavioral Sciences, Kuwait University, Kuwait

Workshop 11
The Changing Energy Landscape in the Gulf: Strategic Implications
Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, Professor, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Washington DC, United States of America

Workshop 12
Iran and the GCC: Prospects for Change?
Dr. Paul Aarts, Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Dr. Luciano Zaccara, Georgetown University in Qatar / Qatar University
Workshop 13
Doctoral Symposium: Addressing the Sustainability Agenda in the Gulf Region
Dr. Yusra Mouzughi, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom
Prof. David Bryde, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom
Dr. Turki Al Rasheed, Golden Grass Inc., Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Workshop 14
Gulf-Africa Relations: Past and Present Trends (Supported by Georgetown University SFS-Q)
Dr. Rogaia Abusharaf, Associate Professor, Georgetown University, Qatar
Prof. Dale F. Eickelman, Professor, Dartmouth College, USA

2014 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops
Workshop 1
Egypt and the GCC: Renewing an Alliance amidst Shifting Policy Pressures
Christian Henderson, School of Oriental and African Studies, UK
Dr. Robert Mason, British University in Egypt, Egypt

Workshop 2
Building an Institutional Process of Socio-Politics in the Gulf
Dr. Mark Thompson, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Dr. Neil Quilliam, Senior Consulting Fellow, Chatham House, UK

Workshop 3
The Gulf Cooperation Council and the BRICS
Prof. Degang Sun, Shanghai International Studies University, China
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

Workshop 4
The Role of Legislation, Policies and Practices in Irregular Migration to the Gulf – With Support from Qatar University
Prof. Nasra M. Shah, Professor, Kuwait University, Kuwait
Prof. Philippe Fargues, Director - MPC, European University Institute, Italy

2015 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

2015 GRM Workshop on “The Gulf Cooperation Council and the BRICS”
Workshop 5
Intellectual Property in the New Era in the GCC States: Enforcement and Opportunity
Alhanoof Al Debasi, Lecturer, Princess Nobuh University, KSA
Prof. David Price, Associate Professor, Charles Darwin University, Australia

Workshop 6
Transnational Knowledge Relations and Researcher Mobility for Building Knowledge-Based Societies and Economies in the Gulf
Dr. Jean-Marc Rickli, Assistant Professor, King’s College London, Qatar
Dr. Rasmus Bertelsen, Professor, University of Trondheim, Norway
Dr. Neema Noori, Associate Professor, University of West Georgia, USA

Workshop 7
Higher Education in the GCC: Linkages and Independence
Prof. Ragas Alabasharof, Associate Professor, Georgetown University, Qatar
Prof. Dale F. Eickelman, Professor, Dartmouth College, USA

Workshop 8
The Arms Trade, Military Services and the Security Market in the Gulf: Trends and Implications
Prof. David B. Des Roches, National Defense University, USA
Dania Thafer, American University in Washington DC, USA

Workshop 9
Economic Diversification: Challenges and Opportunities in the GCC
Dr. Ashraf Mishrif, King’s College London, United Kingdom
Yousaf Hamad Al Balushi, Supreme Council for Planning, Oman

Workshop 10
The Future of Yemen’s Unity
Dr. Ahmed A. Suf, Sheba Center for Strategic Studies, Yemen
Dr. Iza Biensi, Associate Professor, Georgia State University, United States of America

Workshop 11
Iran-GCC Energy Cooperation
Prof. Gawdat Bahgat, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, United States of America
Participants in the Workshop “Higher Education in the GCC: Linkages and Independence”

Work in progress in the workshop “The Arms Trade, Military Services and the Security Market in the Gulf: Trends and Implications”

Work in progress in the workshop “Egypt and the GCC: Renewing an Alliance amidst Shifting Policy Pressures”

Workshop directors for GRM 2015

Work in progress in the workshop “The Gulf Cooperation Council and the BRICS”

Books based on previous GRM workshops published by Gerlach Press and GRC Cambridge

2015 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops
2016 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop 1
Challenges Facing GCC Oil and Gas Exports
Dr. Naji Abi Aad, Petroleb, Lebanon
Dr. Christian Panzer, CPE ThinkTank, Austria

Workshop 2
Collective Security in the Gulf: Prospects for Pan-Gulf Cooperation
Prof. Degang Sun, Middle East Studies Institute Shanghai, International Studies University, China
Amb. Talmez Ahmed, Indian Foreign Service
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

Workshop 3
Nuclear Energy for the Gulf: Key Questions and Opportunities
Dr. Ali Ahmad, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, United States of America
Prof. Nesreen Ghaddar, Qatar Chair in Energy Studies / Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Workshop 4
Towards a Sustainable Lifestyle in the Gulf
Dr. Elie Azar, Engineering Systems and Management, Masdar Institute, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Environment Research Program, Gulf Research Center, Saudi Arabia / Egypt

2016 GRM Workshop on “New Security Dynamics in the Gulf and the Transformation of the GCC States’ Security Agenda”
Workshop 5
Yemen and the GCC: Future Relations
Prof. Daniel Martin Varisco, American Institute for Yemeni Studies / Center for Humanities and Social Sciences / Member of Gulf Studies Program, Qatar University
Dr. Helen Lackner, British-Yemeni Society, Durham University, United Kingdom

Workshop 6
Arab Gulf Cities in Transition: Space, Politics and Society
Dr. Veronica Deffner, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore
Dipl. Arch. Aurel von Richthofen, The Future Cities Laboratory, Singapore-ETH Centre
Zahra Babar, Research Center for International and Regional Studies, Georgetown University – Qatar

Workshop 7
Exploring the Dynamism of Islamic Finance in the GCC Region
Prof. Mehmet Aysu, Durham Centre in Islamic Economics and Finance, Durham University Business School, Durham University, United Kingdom
Dr. Shehab Marzban, Hamad bin Khalifa University, Qatar

Workshop 8
The Future of GCC Labour Market Reform: Towards a Multi-Disciplinary, Sustainable, Evidence-Based and Practical Understanding
David Jones, The Talent Enterprise, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Sofiane Sahraoui, Arab Governance Institute / Institute of Public Administration of Bahrain, Bahrain

Workshop 9
New Security Dynamics in the Gulf and the Transformation of the GCC States’ Security Agenda
Dr. Jean Marc Rickli, Dept. of Defence Studies, King’s College London / Joaan Bin Jassim Joint Command and Staff College, United Kingdom / Qatar
Dr. Victor Gervais, Emirates Diplomatic Academy, United Arab Emirates

Workshop 10
Foreign Relations of the GCC Countries amid Shifting Global and Regional Dynamics
Dr. Silvia Colombo, Mediterranean and Middle East Programme, International Affairs Institute, Italy
Dr. Eman Ragab, Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt

Workshop 11
The Economics of Migration to the Gulf: Perspectives from Countries of Origin and Destination
Dr. Ganesh Seshan, Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Qatar
Dr. Usamah Alfarhan, Sultan Qaboos University, College of Economics and Finance, Oman
2016 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop directors for GRM 2016

Participants in the workshop on Yemen and the GCC

Participants in workshop on The Economics of Migration to the Gulf. Perspectives from Countries of Origin and Destination

Participants in the workshop on Challenges Facing GCC Oil and Gas Exports

2016 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Participants in the workshop on Foreign Relations of the GCC Countries amid Shifting Global and Regional Dynamics

Participants in the workshop on Towards a Sustainable Lifestyle in the Gulf

Participants in the workshop on Arab Gulf Cities in Transition

Participants in the workshop on Collective Security in the Gulf
Workshop 1
Smart Cities in the Gulf: Current State, Opportunities, and Challenges
Dr. Elie Azar, Masdar Institute, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Wael Abdel Samad, Rochester Institute of Technology, United Arab Emirates

Workshop 2
Public-private Partnerships for Infrastructure Delivery in the GCC: Challenges and the Opportunities
Mhamed Biygautane, Monash University, Australia
Dr. Khalid Al-Tayeb, King Salman Center for Governance and Innovation / Palladium, Saudi Arabia
Dr. Amer Al Adbadh, Ministry of Economy and Trade / Georgetown University, Qatar / United States of America

Workshop 3
Brexit and GCC
Dr. Abdullah Baabood, Qatar University, Qatar
Dr. Geoffrey Edwards, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Workshop 4
The GCC and the Indian Ocean: Economic Opportunities and Political Challenges
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
Amb. Talmiz Ahmad, Former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman and the UAE, Indian Foreign Service
Prof. Degang Sun, Shanghai International Studies University, China

2017 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops
Workshop 5
Electoral Frameworks, Party Systems and Electoral Outcomes: Comparing Elections in the Gulf
Dr. Luciano Zaccara, Qatar University, Qatar
Dr. Kristin Smith Diwan, Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, United States of America

Workshop 6
Transforming Business Education in the GCC: Transitioning from Theoretical to Applied, and Applied to Impactful
Dr. Asma Siddiki, Prince Mohammed Bin Salman College of Business & Entrepreneurship, Saudi Arabia

Workshop 7
Gender and Identity in the Gulf: Cultural Constructions and Representations
Dr. Sabrina DeTurk, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Sarina Wakefield, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates
Prof. Dr. Laila Prager, NYU Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Workshop 8
The Arab Gulf in the West: Perceptions and Realities; Opportunities and Perils
Dr. Marwa Maziad, University of Washington, United States of America
Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib, Al Istishari Al Strategy for Economic and Future Studies, United Arab Emirates

Workshop 9
Migration Policies in the Gulf: Continuity and Change
Prof. Nasra M. Shah, Kuwait University, Kuwait
Prof. Philippe Fargues, European University Institute, Italy

Dr. Luciano Zaccara
Dr. Kristin Smith Diwan
Dr. Asma Siddiki
Dr. Sabrina DeTurk
Dr. Sarina Wakefield
Prof. Dr. Laila Prager
Dr. Marwa Maziad
Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib
Prof. Nasra M. Shah
Prof. Philippe Fargues
2017 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop directors for GRM 2017

Participants in the workshop on Migration Policies in the Gulf

Participants in the workshop on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Delivery in the GCC

Participants in the workshop on Gender and Identity in the Gulf

Participants in the workshop on The Arab Gulf in the West

Participants in the workshop on The GCC and the Indian Ocean

Participants in the workshop on Brexit and the GCC

Workshop directors and participants in the workshop on Smart Cities in the Gulf
2018 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop 1
Gulf Cooperation Council Culture and Identities in the New Millennium: Resilience, Transformation, (Re)Creation, and Diffusion
Dr. Magdalena Karolak, Associate Professor, Zayed University, UAE
Dr. Nermin Al-Amin, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Rutgers-Newark University, United States of America

Workshop 2
Gulf and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
Prof. Degang Sun, Shanghai International Studies University, China
Amb. Talmiz Ahmad, Symbiosis International University, Pune, India

Workshop 3
The Gulf States in East Africa: Security, Economic and Strategic Partnerships?
Dr. Robert Mason, Associate Professor and Director, Middle East Studies Center, American University in Cairo, Egypt
Dr. Simon Molin, Lecturer in Politics, Philosophy and Religion / Director, Richardson Institute / Lancaster University, United Kingdom

Workshop 4
The Rise of International Sport on the Arab Peninsula: Politics, Art, Ethics
Dr. Rita Elizabeth Risser, Assistant Professor, College of Humanities, Department of Philosophy, United Arab Emirates University, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Andrew Edgar, Deputy Head of School, Head of Subject English, Communication and Philosophy, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

2018 GRM Workshop on “Iraq and Arab Gulf Countries: Rapprochement?”
Workshop 5
Iraq and Arab Gulf Countries: Rapprochement?
Dr. Sterling Jensen, Assistant Professor, UAE National Defense College, United Arab Emirates
Dr. Waleed al-Rawi, Author and member, Arab Historians Union, United States of America

Workshop 6
The Future of Population and Migration in the Gulf
Prof. Philippe Fargues, Professor, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Italy
Prof. Nasra M. Shaib, Professor, Department of Community Medicine and Behavioral Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University, Kuwait

Workshop 7
Shaping the Future of the GCC Countries through Language Policy and Planning: Concepts, Challenges and Aspirations
Dr. Ahmar Mahboob, University of Sydney, Australia
Dr. Ali Al-Issa, Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman
Dr. Tariq Elyas, King Abdulaziz University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Workshop 8
Fintech, Digital Currency and the Future of Islamic Finance in the GCC: Strategy, Operational and Regulatory Issues
Dr. Nafis Alam, Associate Professor, Henley Business School, University of Reading Malaysia, Malaysia
Prof. S. Nazim Ali, Director and Professor, Center for Islamic Economics & Finance, College of Islamic Studies, Hamad bin Khalifa University, Qatar Foundation, Qatar

Workshop 9
The Gulf Post-Syrian-Crisis Political Architecture and the Roles of the External Actors: the USA, Russia and China
Prof. Alexey Vasiliev, Honorary President, Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia
Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib, Executive Director, Al Istishari Al Strategy Center for Economic and Future Studies, United Arab Emirates

Workshop 10
A Debate on Economic Sustainability: in the GCC and Elsewhere
Prof. Giacomo Luciani, Adjunct Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland
Tom Moerenhout, PhD candidate, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland
2018 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

GRM 2018 workshop co-directors

A presentation on theFuture of Islamic Finance in the GCC

Participants in the workshop on GCC Culture and Identities

Participants in the workshop on the Future of Population and Migration in the Gulf

2018 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Participants in the workshop on the Gulf States in East Africa

Participants in the workshop on the Gulf and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Participants in the workshop on the Rise of International Sport on the Arab Peninsula

Participants in the workshop on Economic Sustainability
2019 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Workshop 1
A Peace Process for the Gulf: International Initiatives and Gulf Conflict Resolution
Prof. Tim Niblock, University of Exeter, United Kingdom
Prof. Degang Sun, Shanghai International Studies University, China
Amb. Talmiz Ahmad, Former Indian Ambassador to KSA, Oman and UME

Workshop 2
Artificial Intelligence in the Gulf: Prospects and Challenges
Dr. Elie Azar, Masdar Institute, United Arab Emirates
Anthony N. Haddad, Middle East Expansions, United Arab Emirates

Workshop 3
Business-State Relations in the Gulf
Dr. Don Babai, Harvard University, USA
Dr. Manal Shehabi, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, United Kingdom

Workshop 4
Domestic Policy Making and Governance in Saudi Arabia
Dr. Mark Thompson, KFUPM & KFCSR, KSA
Dr. Neil Quilliam, Chatham House, United Kingdom

2019 GRM Workshop on “Re-engaging with the Gulf Modernist City: Heritage and Repurposing Practices”
Workshop 5
Emerging Challenges in International Relations and Transnational Politics of the GCC
Dr. Jessie Moritz, Australian National University, Australia
Dr. Emma Soubrier, Université Clermont Auvergne, France

Workshop 6
Family Changes in the Context of Social Changes in the Gulf Region
Dr. Anis Ben Brik, Doha International Family Institute, Qatar
Dr. Jennifer E. Lansford, Duke University, USA
Dr. Abdallah M. Badahdah, South Dakota State University, USA

Workshop 7
Post-Brexit Britain, Europe and Policy towards Iran and the GCC states: Potential Challenges, and the Possibility of Cooperation
Diana Galeeva, University of Durham, UK
Dr. Abdullah Basboud, Qatar University, Qatar
Dr. Geoffrey Edwards, University of Cambridge, UK

Workshop 8
Quality of Higher Education in the Gulf: Quo Vadis?
Dr. John McKinney, Bournemouth University, UK
Dr. Reynaldo Gacho Segumpan, Rustaq College of Education, Oman

Workshop 9
Quotidian Youth Cultures in the Gulf Peninsula: Changes and Challenges
Dr. Emanuela Buscemi, University of Monterrey, Mexico
Dr. Ildiko Kaposi, Gulf University for Science & Technology, Kuwait

Workshop 10
Re-engaging with the Gulf Modernist City: Heritage and Repurposing Practices
Prof. Roberto Fabbi, University of Monterrey, Mexico
Sultan Sooud al Qassemi, Barjeel Art Foundation, UAE

Workshop 11
The Consequences of the Kurdistan Independence Referendum: Relations between KRG – Iran the GCC
Dr. Marianna Charountaki, University of Leicester, UK
Irfan Azeez Azeez, University of Durham, UK

Workshop 12
The Role of Sovereign Investment Vehicles in the GCC
Dr. Juergen Braunstein, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center, USA
Mattia Tomba, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Workshop 13
Towards Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Gulf
Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Gulf Research Center, KSA/Egypt
Dr. Robert Mason, American University in Cairo, Egypt
Prof. Maurie Cohen, New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA

Workshop 14
Women, Nation Building and Modernization Projects in the Gulf: Explorations in State Instrumentalization of Women
Dr. Magdalena Karolak, Zayed University, UAE
Dr. Abeer AlNajjar, American University of Sharjah, UAE
Dr. Rima Sabban, Zayed University, UAE

2019 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Discussions in the workshop on the Consequences of the Kurdistan Independence Referendum: Relations between KRG-Iran/the GCC
A presentation taking place in the workshop on the Role of Sovereign Investment Vehicles in the GCC

Participants in the workshop on Women, Nation Building and Modernization Projects in the Gulf
2019 Gulf Research Meeting Workshops

Participants in the workshop on Artificial Intelligence in the Gulf

A discussion during a presentation in the workshop on Business-State Relations in the Gulf

Workshop on the Quality of Higher Education in the Gulf

Participants of the 2019 GRM Workshop on “Family Changes in the Context of Social Changes in the Gulf
“I wanted to spend a few moments to consider what Dr. Jennifer Barnes
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for
International Strategy
University of Cambridge

this annual Gulf Research Meeting, the Gulf not simply to pay homage to your achievements, organization that is turned to – in order to to identify the right fora for discussions, to what you have done over the past 13 years”
The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC) was established in August 2009 through a cooperative effort between the Gulf Research Center Foundation in Geneva and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. The primary goal of the GRCC is to advance research and education on political, economic, social, environment, security, and energy issues relating to the Gulf region. As part of its work to organize the annual Gulf Research Meeting, the GRCC identifies subjects of importance to the Gulf region, stimulates research in these subject areas, and provides a forum for broad dissemination of the research results, with the goal of helping to generate solutions to many of the challenges facing the Gulf region.

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge is a non-profit, registered charity organization under the Charity Commission for England and Wales and can therefore receive tax deductible donations.

About the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

Dr. Oskar Ziemelis
Interim Director
GRC Cambridge

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC) was established in August 2009 through a cooperative effort between the Gulf Research Center Foundation in Geneva and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. The primary goal of the GRCC is to advance research and education on political, economic, social, environment, security, and energy issues relating to the Gulf region. As part of its work to organize the annual Gulf Research Meeting, the GRCC identifies subjects of importance to the Gulf region, stimulates research in these subject areas, and provides a forum for broad dissemination of the research results, with the goal of helping to generate solutions to many of the challenges facing the Gulf region.

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“It was an exceptional media workshop in Cambridge - interesting, valuable, diverse, and enjoyable”

Prof. Frank Kalupa
James Madison University,
United States
The Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) was established in 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland, under the Swiss Civil Code relating to foundations. It is by definition a non-profit institution and an umbrella organization under which research, training, and educational programs about the Gulf region are developed. Cooperation with renowned research institutions, universities, and other organizations is an essential part of the Foundation’s work.

In 2011, the GRCF was awarded special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. In 2012, the GRCF, together with the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, established the Gulf Labour Markets and Migration (GLMM) Programme, promoting better understanding and policies in these key domains for the Gulf and the countries of origin of the migrants.

The establishment of the GRCF is an important step to facilitate research on Gulf issues, promote academic excellence both in and about the Gulf region, and ensure objective and comprehensive information and analysis about this vital part of the world. This is accomplished through numerous research projects that GRCF carries out, often in partnership with other research organizations. The Foundation qualifies to receive funding and participate in programs supported by international organizations, the European Union, the United States, and various independent international foundations. Under the laws of Switzerland and the Canton of Geneva, donors based in Switzerland are eligible to receive tax benefits for supporting the work of the GRCF Foundation.
“In the short span of three years, the GRM has become the main gathering of scholarly expertise on the Gulf”
"The China-Gulf session which I was involved in was without doubt, the most useful gathering I have been to on this subject."

Prof. Tim Niblock
Chair of the Management Board
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies
University of Exeter

GCC Relations with Post-War Iraq: A Strategic Perspective
Edited by: Omar Al-Ubaydli and Andrea Plebani
This volume contains the contributions to the Gulf Research Center workshop entitled: "Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Relations with Post-War Iraq: A Strategic Perspective," held during the July 2013 Gulf Research Meeting in Cambridge, UK. The papers examine the history and future of the often fractious relationship between Iraq and the GCC countries. The backdrop is the US dominance of security arrangements in the Arabian Gulf region for most of the post-war period. The volume's contributions explore the underlying reasons for the region's instability from a variety of perspectives and with an emphasis on the GCC's relationship with Iraq. Topics covered include Iraq's federal architecture, the highly controversial role of Iran, the effects of regional sectarianism, the possibility of Iraq becoming a member of the GCC, the impact of Chinese oil demand, the evolving nature of US regional military deployments, and the expanding use of social media by religious clerics. The volume's goal is to produce operational recommendations for senior government figures. To that end, each author provides two lists of recommendations for improving the region's stability, one targeting GCC policymakers and the other targeting their Iraqi counterparts. There is a strong consensus concerning the need for a more inclusive and multilateral approach to regional security, and for any such approach to be spearheaded by the region's principle stakeholders: Iraq, Iran and the GCC countries themselves. However, the precise nature of a potentially successful common security strategy remains an area of considerable controversy.

Housing Markets and Policy Design in the Gulf Region
Edited by: David A. Smith and Angus Freeman
Housing is what creates and defines cities, and affordable housing is what makes successful and scalable cities. Indeed, housing is the spatial expression of a society's values and morality, and of its commitment to an inclusive society. In the Gulf region, characterized by rapid urbanization and astonishing transformation over the last two decades, housing is absolutely urgent as a national priority. The Gulf region has an unusually large number of factors that make the emergence and development of quality affordable housing a challenge without obvious parallels or examples elsewhere in the world. As a result, the region presents a set of housing and affordable housing delivery challenges unique in their own right. These challenges will require solutions based on innovation in both the private and public sectors.
Asia-Gulf Economic Relations in the 21st Century: The Local to Global Transformation
Edited by Tim Niblock and Monica Phlik

Asia constitutes the hub of the transformation of global economic power today. The Gulf, itself part of Asia, is of growing importance in this transformation. This book documents the growing interactions between the economies of the Gulf states and those of the rest of Asia. These relationships are critical to how the world economy develops over the next decade, and how economic and (perhaps strategic) power is distributed. This volume assembles cutting-edge thinking by 16 specialists on a wide variety of topics covering Arab Gulf relations with China, Japan, ASEAN, Korea and India, as well as with Russia, Iran and Turkey.

The Gulf and Latin America: An Assessment of Expectations and Challenges
Edited by Anayrina Galdino

Since the last decade of the 20th century, there has been an increase in South-South trade, which is also reflected in the trade between the Gulf and Latin American countries. While trade between the two sides grew substantially during the last decade, there are also renewed attempts to cooperate in other fields. The opening of embassies in Latin America by the Gulf countries and vice versa in the last few years, direct flights between Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela to some of the capitals of the Gulf region, investments are also renewed attempts to cooperate in other fields. The opening of embassies in Latin America by the Gulf countries and vice versa in the last few years, direct flights between Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela to some of the capitals of the Gulf region, investments.

Edited by: Alejandra Galindo
The Gulf and Latin America: An Assessment of Expectations and Challenges

State-Society Relations in the Arab Gulf States
Edited by Mosleh A. Al-Zoby and Birol Baskan

This book examines the strategies and dynamics through which state-society relations in the Arab Gulf region have been cultivated, and explores the alternative political, social, economic and popular changes that threaten these relationships. The work focuses on understanding how state sovereignty has been shifting to accommodate internal social, cultural and intellectual forces and how these forces have managed to balance social and political powers in order to function within and co-exist alongside the state. Case studies give specific examples of how social forces, popular movements, social media and youth culture are actively influencing cultural attitudes and practices as well as political actions.

Environmental Cost and Face of Agriculture in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries
Edited by Shabbir A. Shahid and Mushtaque Ahmed

This volume presents the outcome of an Agriculture Workshop organized by the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC), and held at Cambridge, University, UK during the Gulf Research Meeting 11-14 July 2012. The workshop, entitled "Environmental Cost and Changing Face of Agriculture in the Gulf States" was attended by participants from Australia, Bahrain, India, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE, UK, and Morocco. These scientists, educators, researchers, policy makers and managers share their experience in agriculture in the Gulf States, with the aim of helping to improve agriculture production and thus bridge the gap between local production and the food import. The book covers topics such as the prospects of agriculture in a changing climate; the potential of climate-smart agriculture in this context; the impact of food prices, income and income distribution on food security; improved efficiency in water use; challenges in using treated wastewater in agriculture; investment in foreign agriculture and agricultural research and development. The papers span the nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council, with specific case studies set in Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Edited by Giacomo Luciani and Rabia Ferroukhi

Climate change requires coordinated global responses. All nations, including major Gulf Arab oil producers, should implement policies to contain greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Yet, we lack realistic scenarios to the continuing global need for fossil fuels. The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) thus face a dilemma between continuing development and use of their fossil fuel endowments and increasing reliance on low carbon sources, such as nuclear and wind. This book explores various facets of this dilemma. The volume is the product of a workshop held during the 2012 Gulf Research Meeting, organized by the Gulf Research Center, Cambridge.
eventually loses its salience. The volume is a product of a workshop held during the 2012 Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Centre, Cambridge.

The development and consequences of Islamic Finance articulates the development and consequences of Islamic Finance. The studies presented in these volumes have been the outcome of various stakeholders and agencies interacting to develop a political economy based on Islamic values to generate religiously and culturally authentic financial institutions and instruments. The book articulates the development and consequences of Islamic Finance. Individual volumes deal with the key issues of: Political Economy, Values and Innovation; Risk, Stability and Growth; and Performance and Efficiency. Islamic Finance has had a transformational impact on markets well beyond the Muslim world. This book, a collaboration of historians, political scientists, development planners, and a biomedical engineer explores Arabic, African relationships in their many overlapping dimensions. Thus histories constructed from the “bottom up” – records of the everyday activities of commerce, intermarriage, and gender roles – offer an innovative complement to the “top down” histories of dynasties and the elite. Topics such as migration, collective memory, scriptural and oral narratives, and contemporary notions of food security and “soft” power pose new questions about the ties that bind Africa to the Gulf.

A New Gulf Security Architecture: Prospects and Challenges for an Asian Role
Edited by Ranjit Gupta, Abdulaker Bagader, Talmiz Ahmad and N. Janardhan
This book explores how growing economic ties between Asian countries and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) could impact their future relationships. It postulates that the stage is now set for strategic partnerships and highlights how some Asian countries have been explicit about showcasing their power and influence in the Gulf region. While exploring an alternative and broad-based security architecture, it identifies the challenges that any probable Asian cooperative approach could face as the countries of the Arabian Gulf show signs of looking beyond the United States to develop their long-term strategic interests. The volume is a product of a workshop held during the 2012 Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Centre, Cambridge.

Gulf Charities and Islamic Philanthropy in the “Age of Terror” and Beyond
Edited by Robert Lacey and Jonathan Benthall
“Gulf Charities and Islamic Philanthropy in the Age of Terror and Beyond” is the first book to be published on the charities of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region focusing on their work both domestically and internationally. From a diversity of viewpoints, the book addresses the historical roots of Islamic philanthropy in religious traditions and geopolitical movements; the interactions of the Gulf charities with “Western” relief and development institutions – now under pressure owing to budgetary constraints; numerous case studies from the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia; the impact of violent extremism on the sector; and the legal repercussions that have followed – especially in the USA. The recent history of attempts to alleviate the obstacles faced by bona fide Islamic charities, whose absence from major conflict zones now leaves a vacuum for extremist groups to penetrate; and the prospects for a less politicized Islamic charity sector when the so-called “war on terror” eventually loses its salience. The volume is a product of a workshop held during the 2012 Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Centre, Cambridge.

Islamic Finance: Political Economy, Performance and Risk (Three Volume Series)
Edited by Mehmet Arslan and Abdullah Turki
This collection of new research brings together state of the art thinking by 45 experts from academia and business on all key aspects of Islamic Finance. Individual volumes deal with the key issues of Political Economy, Values and Innovation, Risk, Stability and Growth, and Performance and Efficiency. Islamic finance has had a transformative impact on markets well beyond the Muslim world. This book, a collaboration of historians, political scientists, development planners, and a biomedical engineer explores Arabic, African relationships in their many overlapping dimensions. Thus histories constructed from the “bottom up” – records of the everyday activities of commerce, intermarriage, and gender roles – offer an innovative complement to the “top down” histories of dynasties and the elite. Topics such as migration, collective memory, scriptural and oral narratives, and contemporary notions of food security and “soft” power pose new questions about the ties that bind Africa to the Gulf. This volume is based on a workshop held at the 5th Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2014.

India and the Gulf: What Next?
Edited by Abdulaker Bagader, Ranjit Gupta, Talmiz Ahmad and N. Janardhan
A combination of global political and economic factors helped Asia and the Gulf “rediscover” their ties in the beginning of the 21st century. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries adopted a Gulf East policy as a result of which India further consolidated its age-old partnership with the region against the backdrop of the renewed East East camaraderie. This book explores how growing GCC-India economic ties could impact the future course of their relationship. It postulates that the stage is now set for the construction of a strategic GCC-India partnership, including the evolution of a strategic role for India in the region.

Africa and the Gulf Region: Blurred Boundaries and Shifting Ties
Edited by Rogaia Mustafa Abdusufar and Dale F. Eickelman
The ties that bind Africa and the Gulf region have deep historical roots that influence both what Braudel called the long durance and the short-term events of current policy shifts, market-based economic fluctuations, and global and local political vicissitudes. This book, a collaboration of historians, political scientists, development planners, and a biomedical engineer explores Arabic, African relationships in their many overlapping dimensions. Thus histories constructed from the “bottom up” – records of the everyday activities of commerce, intermarriage, and gender roles – offer an innovative complement to the “top down” histories of dynasties and the elite. Topics such as migration, collective memory, scriptural and oral narratives, and contemporary notions of food security and “soft” power pose new questions about the ties that bind Africa to the Gulf. This volume is based on a workshop held at the 5th Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2014.

The Green Economy in the Gulf
Edited by Mohammed Rashid and Mari E. Luomi
Filling a void in academic and policy-oriented literature on the topic of the green economy in the Arabian Gulf, this edited volume provides an interdisciplinary analysis of the key themes and challenges relating to the green economy in the region, including in the energy and water sectors and the urban environment, as well as with respect to cross-cutting issues such as labour, intellectual property and South-South cooperation. Channelling the course of the book, academics and practitioners from various fields demonstrate why transitioning into a “green economy” – a future economy based on environmental sustainability, social equity and improved well-being – is not an option but a necessity for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States. Through chapters covering key economic sectors and cross-cutting issues, the book examines the GCC states’ quest to align their economies and economic development with the imperatives of environmental sustainability and social welfare, and proposes a way forward, based on lessons learned from experiences in the region and beyond. This volume will be of great relevance to scholars and policy makers with an interest in environmental economics and policy.
GCC-Turkey Relations: Dawn of a New Era
Edited by Osman Zeynep Çihan and Helin San Eren

In 2008, Turkey became the first country outside the Gulf to be given the status of strategic partner of the GCC. This was a turning point in Turkey-GCC relations, as, for long, Turkey’s relations with the region had been quite weak, and the two sides had not spent much effort to revert trust-based mutual relations since the Ottoman period. Since 2008, relations have improved in an unprecedented way. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Jeddah in December 2011 led to the foundation of a regular dialogue at the ministerial level. Turkey’s trade volumes with the Gulf monarchies reached $17.1 billion in 2012. What explains these remarkable changes? What can be done to encourage technical exchange, improve economic relations, and initiate negotiations to establish free trade zones? The contributions in this volume address these questions and evaluate the historical, cultural, economic, and political reasons for the improving GCC-Turkey ties with a special emphasis on changing security perceptions after the start of the Syrian civil war and specifically the impact of these on the Arab Spring. The book analyzes the potential areas for future cooperation and the impact of economic interdependence, cultural interactions, and power balances on the evolving relationship between the two sides. To sum up, this timely book provides comprehensive assessments from a multi-disciplinary perspective on GCC relations, and Culture and Politics as Interface.

Visual Culture(s) in the Gulf: An Anthology
Edited by Nada Mourajid

The most comprehensive representation of the Gulf depicts megastructures and a network of infrastructural landscapes organised within a highly visualized urban landscape. The Gulf cities aspire to compete in a global market and tend to accentuate their symbolic economies through use of art and signature architectural projects to promote their image. In this process, through identity negotiation via a capitalist supermodern tendency and Arab Islamic conservatism, Dubai is a good reflection of this archetype. Yet beneath this image, there exist countless narratives that are inherently integrated within regional visual practices: the particularities and cultural limitations of visual territories, local ways of seeing, imagery production and display, as well as visual and spatial perceptions of the city and issues of physis and form in urban morphology. This book is about the visual turn in the Gulf’s tricky landscape consumption and production and examines the existing visual landscape in the Gulf. It takes a further step in understanding the relationship between cultural production, visual practices, and the politics of representation while ultimately arguing for a multidimensional reality in the cultural production of the Gulf region. Authors depart from various theoretical perspectives on iconology, museology, urban morphology, globalization, post-colonial narratives, feminist critique, transnational cultural shifts, and identity politics.

The Changing Energy Landscape in the Gulf: Strategic Implications
Edited by Gawdat Bahgat

Extreme fluctuations in oil prices (such as the dramatic fall from mid-2014 into 2015) raise important strategic questions for both importers and exporters. In this volume, specialists from the US, the Middle East, Europe and Asia examine the rapid global energy dynamics in the region, including renewable and nuclear power; challenges to producers, including the shale raw material, and legal issues. Each chapter provides in-depth analysis and clear policy recommendations. This book is based on a workshop held at the 5th Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2014.

Employment and Career Motivation in the Arab Gulf States: The Rentier Mentality Revisited
Edited by Anikka Kropf and Mohamed A. Ramady

The notion of ‘rentier mentality’ has haunted the literature on the Gulf States for almost 40 years now. However, few studies have examined the factors that stem from career motivations, employability and productivity. The eleven studies of this book present both empirical findings and case studies that reveal what nationals expect from their workplace and what hinders them from a personal, meaningful contribution. While it seems that an initially high work motivation is often annihilated by structural impediments such as a strong hierarchy or widespread waste, it also seems that many nationals fail to understand the urgent requirements of the GCC labour markets.

Gulf Cities as Interfaces
Edited by George Katodrytis and Sharmeen Syed

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), known as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), represents one of the most urbanized regions in the world, with an estimated 70 percent of the population residing in cities. The GCC states have adopted strategies to balance growth and shift dependence on oil Architecture and urban form are seen as dynamic facilitators and flexible connectors in the network of transnational urbanities and global capitalist forces. Cities in this region are shaped by various forces: historical, geopolitical, demographic, and topographical contexts as well as large influences of investments and worldviews. These cities now shape 21st century urban concepts. This volume is an exploration of specific Gulf cities as interfaces. Twenty-first century cities continue to act as interfaces not only as physical spaces but also as evolving metaverses and tools of capital. From food urbanism and edible landscape to modernist ideals, grandiose visions, and new orientalisms, the papers in this volume address and examine city in four variances: Urbanism and Identity as Interface; Landscape and Geography as Interface; Social Condition and History as Interface; and Culture and Politics as Interface.

Rebuilding Yemen: Political, Economic and Social Challenges
Edited by Noel Breugel and Soal Al-Surani

As Yemenis start planning the reconstruction and rebuilding of their country after recent turmoil they face huge challenges in every major sphere. This book discusses the political and economic breakdown and analyses the most urgent post-conflict issues: the option of improved governance through a federal government addressing the powerful and patronage networks of the previous regime, investing in Yemen’s human and natural resources to compensate for falling revenues from oil and gas, maintaining rural life and livelihoods, and social dependence on irrigated agriculture and investing in enhancing rain-fed agriculture addressing the issue of urban water shortage through desalination; and involving women in enhancing security. This volume is based on a workshop held at the 5th Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2014.

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The United States and the Gulf: Shifting Pressures, Strategies and Alignments
Edited by Steven W. Hoh and Tim Niblock
Gulf region’s relations with the outside worlds are changing rapidly. The US’s major trading partners are now more predominantly Western, in particular, now has a significant stake and high-level interests in the region. The US still dominates the security field, yet US allies have come to dislike the strength of US commitment. Meanwhile the Arab monarchies of the Gulf are struggling to cope with multiple divisions, problems and threats the radical forces of change unleashed by the Arab Spring. The mixing power of ISIS and the destabilizing impact of their unsettled relations with Iran. This book examines the range of security issues which this situation has given rise to the nature and scope of US power and the likely directions of future policy options open to American powers.

Sustainable Development Challenges in the Arab States of the Gulf
Edited by David Bryne, Yousef Al-Suwaidi and Torki Faisal Al-Rashed
This volume surveys the increasing challenges facing the Arab Gulf states in terms of sustainable consumption and production. Topics include: environmental sustainability; waste, recycling, water, energy, renewables, and pollution; economic sustainability; employment, education, and training; business engagement; social sustainability; equality and diversity, pollution, congestion, community participation. It includes contributions from specialists from the UAE, Bahrain, Lebanon, Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Qatar as well as from the US and the UK. This volume is based on a workshop held at the 5th Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2014.

The Gulf and Latin America: Exploring New Avenues of Exchange
Edited by Anupam Goyal and Marmar
In the last few years there has been a substantial increase in trade investment between Latin America and the Gulf region as well as the opening of new embassies among these countries, a trend that started in the second half of the last decade. Besides the diverse encounters at the official level through the Arab South American Summits, an increasing number of non-state actors are participating in the growing exchange between these regions, reflecting a renewed interest in enhancing cooperation beyond the state and the growing businessmen networks is assessed. Further the cooperation between the private sector, foreign investors and the state and its effect on liberalization policies in Latin America is weighed as an opportunity to apply to the GCC economies. At the level of society and the role played by the Muslim/Arab communities in Latin America, this book looks at their transnational links as well as their influence in the foreign policies of the Latin American countries towards the Gulf region, besides their input in the formation of identities across the regions. This volume offers a non-traditional view focusing on specific actors and issues in the evolving relationship between the Gulf and Latin America, thus providing an understanding of the possible and obstacles in the relationship.

Higher Education Investment in the Arab States of the Gulf: Strategies for Excellence and Diversity
Edited by Dale Eickelman and Rogaia Mursoli Abusharaf
This volume surveys the increasing challenges facing the Arab Gulf states in terms of sustainable consumption and production. Topics include: environmental sustainability; waste, recycling, water, energy, renewables, and pollution; economic sustainability; employment, education, and training; business engagement; social sustainability; equality and diversity, pollution, congestion, community participation. It includes contributions from specialists from the UAE, Bahrain, Lebanon, Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Qatar as well as from the US and the UK. This volume is based on a workshop held at the 5th Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2014.

Intellectual Property Rights: Development and Enforcement in the Arab States of the Gulf
Edited by David Price
This volume includes a range of topics addressing aspects of the current status of intellectual property (IP) protection regimes in the Gulf Cooperation Council and its individual member states, and aspiring GCC members Jordan and Yemen. It examines the opportunities and challenges facing the GCC in becoming a real union, with at least harmonized, IP laws and regulations, while still allowing flexibility for domestic imperatives and interests. IP is a crucial part of commercial and trade activity which the GCC needs to address as a union to maximize outcomes and benefits for the GCC members collectively and individually. Contributions represent a broad-based and truly international interest in Gulf IP, with authors from Australia, Bahrain, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. This volume provides a catalyst for further deliberation and debate on these above issues and other Gulf-related IP issues, as well as a worthy contribution to the expansion of Gulf studies in the broader context.
The Arms Trade, Military Services and the Security Market in the Gulf States: Trends and Implications
Edited by: Doaa Thofiel and David B. Des Roches

The Gulf’s in the forefront of potential global flashpoints. It is the largest market for weapons imports in the world and is considered to be a vital international region where nearly all of the arms transfers are conducted. To address this, the editors have assembled a collection of contributions from leading experts in the field. This book provides an in-depth examination of the trends, challenges, and implications of the arms trade in the Gulf, making it an essential resource for policymakers, military strategists, and security analysts.

Social Media in the Arab World
Edited by: Barrie Gunter, Mokhtar Elarashi and Khalid Al-Jaber

Following the Arab Spring, the use of social media has become instrumental in organising activist movements and spreading political dissent in the Middle East. New online behaviours have transformed traditional communication channels, enabling young people all over the region to express their political viewpoints. This book offers a unique insight into the role of online communications as a force for change in the Gulf States. Featuring examples of social and political movements in the region, this book provides an essential resource for understanding the role of social media in contemporary Arab affairs.

Science and Technology Development in the Gulf States: Economic Diversification through Regional Collaboration
Edited by: Afreen Siddiqi and Laura Diaz Ansalon

The book examines the role of science, technology, and innovation in the Gulf region, focusing on initiatives for economic diversification and the promotion of regional collaboration. It showcases various examples of successful projects, including regional initiatives to support entrepreneurship and innovation. The book is an essential resource for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders interested in the future of science and technology in the Gulf region.

Egypt and the Gulf: A Renewed Regional Policy Alliance
Edited by: Robert M. Press

This edited volume provides a comprehensive analysis of the strained Egyptian-Gulf relationship. It explores the changing dynamics between Egypt and its Gulf allies, examining the political, economic, and security challenges facing the region. The book is a valuable resource for understanding the complex interplay between Egypt and the Gulf states, and the implications for regional stability.

Iran’s Relations with the Arab States of the Gulf: Common Interests over Historic Rivalry
Edited by: Maska Wusunser and Paul Aarons

This book offers a critical examination of the historical and contemporary relations between Iran and the Gulf States. It explores the factors that have shaped these dynamics over time, including economic, political, and security concerns. The book is a valuable resource for understanding the evolving relationship between Iran and the Gulf States, and the implications for regional stability.

The Arab States of the Gulf and BRICS: New Strategic Partnerships in Politics and Economics
Edited by: Tim Niblock, Alejandro Galindo and Degang Sun

This book examines the potential for cooperation between the Arab States of the Gulf and the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries. It explores the commonalities and differences in economic and political interests between these countries, and assesses the potential for cooperation that might arise from shared concerns over regional security and stability.

Social Media in the Arab World (Second Edition)
Edited by: Barrie Gunter, Mokhtar Elarashi and Khalid Al-Jaber

This second edition of the groundbreaking book explores the immense impact of social media on politics, culture, and society in the Arab world. It addresses the rapid evolution of online platforms, the ways these are used, and the changing landscape of political mobilization. It offers a comprehensive analysis of the role of social media in contemporary Arab affairs, making it an essential resource for understanding the region's digital landscape.

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Migration to the Gulf Policies in Sending and Receiving Countries
Edited by Philippe Fargues and Nasr M. Shah

International migration is a ubiquitous reality in the Gulf states where foreign citizens are a majority in the workforce as well as in the total population of several states. Migration is instrumental in the Gulf nations’ prosperity and at the same time regarded as a challenge to their identity. For many countries of origin in Asia, the Arab world and East Africa, migration to the Gulf is an integral part of the daily lives of tens of millions and a constitutive element of economies and societies. This book is about policies designed to regulate migration and protect the migrants and enable them to contribute to the prosperity of the Gulf and the development of their home countries. It brings unique knowledge to all those striving to improve current systems from a state’s as well as a migrant’s perspective.

Challenges to Education in the GCC during the 21st Century
Edited by Ammar Alhebshi and Tariq Elbas

This volume examines the applied and theoretical frames of reference that operate in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and provides insight into the relevant aspects of teaching and learning in the GCC states. Together, these papers raise and discuss issues of critical importance as we plan for education in the GCC for the 21st century.

Skillful Survivals
Edited by Philippe Fargues and Nasr M. Shah

The Gulf States are among the most sought-after destinations by global migrants. Part of this migration is irregular due to five main causes: entering with no proper visa, overstaying once a visa or residence permit has expired, being employed by someone who is not the sponsor, absconding from a sponsor and being born in the Gulf to parents with an irregular status. The treatment reserved for migrants in an irregular situation marks out the Gulf States. Arrest and detention are widespread practices in spite of constitutional guarantees against arbitrary imprisonment. Staying without a proper visa or absconding from a sponsor is regarded as a criminal act, and foreign nationals who commit such acts are detained in the same prisons as common law criminals with no clear right of recourse. Domestic workers, most of whom are women employed by private households and, therefore, not reserved for migrants in an irregular situation marks out the Gulf States. Arrest and detention are widespread practices in spite of constitutional guarantees against arbitrary imprisonment. Staying without a proper visa or absconding from a sponsor is regarded as a criminal act, and foreign nationals who commit such acts are detained in the same prisons as common law criminals with no clear right of recourse. Domestic workers, most of whom are women employed by private households and, therefore, not protected by labour laws which in the Gulf apply only to businesses, are particularly subject to arbitrary sanctions and jail.

Special issue: "Foreign Relations of the GCC Countries amid Shifting Global and Regional Dynamics"
Edited by Siria Colombo and Brun Régis

This Special issue examines the foreign policies of the GCC countries six years after the Arab uprisings in terms of drivers, narratives, actions and outcomes, paying particular attention to Middle Eastern Islam and Western international powers. The assessment focuses on current affairs, but also contributes to establishing a productive link between empirical studies and the existing theoretical frameworks that help explain the increasing foreign policy activism of the GCC countries. All in all, the articles collected in this Special issue shed light on and provide a more solid and fine-grained understanding of how regional powers like Saudi Arabia, as well as the other smaller GCC countries, act and pursue their interests in an environment full of uncertainty in the context of changing regional and global dynamics and power distribution. The special issue brings together a selection of articles originally presented and discussed at the Seventh Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) organized by the Gulf Research Centre Cambridge at the University of Cambridge on 16-19 August 2016.

Conflict Resolution and Creation of a Security Community in the Gulf Region
Edited by Tim Niblock, Talmiz Ahmad and Degang Sun

The bitter confrontation between Saudi Arabia and Iran is not only stoking conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, but now threatens the stability security and well-being of the whole Gulf region. All the major global powers have significant interests in this area, and all the pursuit of these interests adds further layers of division and conflict. The book goes to the heart of this issue, examining the critical modalities whereby the “Gulf Cold War” can be brought to an end. What is needed, the contributors argue, is the creation of a security community among the states of the Gulf. The processes through which this could be achieved are carefully examined. All those interested in the future and well-being of the Gulf region should give consideration to the perspectives advanced. This volume is based on a workshop held at the Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2016. The letter confrontation between Saudi Arabia and Iran is not only stoking conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, and now threatens the stability security and well-being of the whole Gulf region. All the major global powers have significant interests in this area, and all the pursuit of these interests adds further layers of division and conflict. The book goes to the heart of this issue, examining the critical modalities whereby the “Gulf Cold War” can be brought to an end. What is needed, the contributors argue, is the creation of a security community among the states of the Gulf. The processes through which this could be achieved are carefully examined. All those interested in the future and well-being of the Gulf region should give consideration to the perspectives advanced. This volume is based on a workshop held at the Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2016.
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The Future of Labour Market Reform in the Gulf Region: Towards a Multi-Disciplinary, Evidence-based and Practical Understanding
Edited by: David B. Jones and Sofiana Sahraoui

As governments across the GCC strive to implement labour policies which accelerate the transition to “post oil” knowledge-based economies, this volume provides insights into the size of this challenge, along with analysis of progress to date. With a comprehensive coverage of the region (each GCC member is included in some respect), this new work provides unique insights into how the domestic policy agenda is shifting the region’s moribund labour markets inexorably towards greater productivity, positivity, sustainability and efficiency. This volume is based on a workshop held at the Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2016.

Strategies of Knowledge Transfer for Economic Diversification in the Arab States of the Gulf
Edited by: Rasmus Gjerde Børsting, Neema Noori and Jean-Marc Rickli

Diversification is the principal economic objective for the Gulf States. The steep and sustained fall in oil prices over the last few years has added to the collective urgency to seek new sources of revenue. As such, the overarching theme of regional economic summits has become how do we transition to a knowledge-based economy. This is the central question taken up by the contributors to this volume. A growing body of literature has begun to address how state policy in conjunction with universities, think tanks, and businesses can create the groundwork to support knowledge-intensive industries. But, so far, comparatively little work has been done on the potential of this matrix of policies to succeed in the current political and economic context of the GCC. This volume assesses current policies designed to engender knowledge-based economies in the region and comparative little work has been done on the potential of this matrix of policies to succeed in the current political and economic context of the GCC. This volume assesses current policies designed to engender knowledge-based economies in the region and comparative little work has been done on the potential of this matrix of policies to succeed in the current political and economic context of the GCC.

Energy Transitions in the Gulf: Key Questions on Nuclear Power
Edited by: Ali Ahmad

Several countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have expressed a growing interest in nuclear energy as a component of their efforts to diversify their economies and reduce dependence on oil. The focus of this book is on discussing the security dilemmas small states face, and suggests a multitude of foreign and security policy options, ranging from autonomy to influence, to small and medium enterprises, boost entrepreneurship for job creation, and strengthen organizational structure and efficiency.

Economic Diversification in the Gulf Region, Vol. I (The Private Sector as an Engine of Growth)
Edited by: Khalid S. Almezaini and Jean-Marc Rickli

This volume focuses on the role of the private sector in diversifying the economies of Gulf countries in the post-petroleum era, when fluctuating and declining oil prices are negatively impacting national expenditures. It explores current policies of countries in the GCC, as well as the opportunities associated with the deployment of nuclear power in the region. This volume aims to examine the challenges as well as the opportunities associated with the deployment of nuclear power in the region. The key focus areas of this book are the economics of nuclear power; nuclear security and potential for regional cooperation; and technology overview.

The Small Gulf States: Foreign and Security Policies before and after the Arab Spring
Edited by: Khalid S. Almezaini and Jean-Marc Rickli

Small states are often believed to have been resigned to the margins of international politics. However, the recent increase in the number of small states in the region and the GCC states has increased their influence on regional and international politics. This book examines the security dilemmas small states face, and suggests a multitude of foreign and security policy options, ranging from autonomy to influence.

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This volume is based on a workshop held at the Gulf Research Meeting organized by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge in summer 2015.

Yemen and the Gulf States: The Making of a Crisis
Edited by: Helen Lackner and Daniel Martin Verreta

Yemen is the only state on the Arabian Peninsula that is not a member of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council). It is also the only state in the region that has a royal dynasty, a royal family. Relations between Yemen and the GCC states have increased their influence on regional and international politics. This book examines the security dilemmas small states face, and suggests a multitude of foreign and security policy options, ranging from autonomy to influence.

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Economic Diversification in the Gulf Region, Vol. II (Comparing Global Challenges)
Edited by Ashraf Mishrif and Yousuf Al Balushi
This volume explores the challenges to diversification in Gulf countries, which can no longer rely on profits from hydrocarbons to fund national expenditures. It elaborates on the problem of weak institutions, lack of coordination between policy makers and executives, limited investment in research and development, and a workforce that is too poorly skilled to compete in the private sector. In addition to analyzing issues in areas such as education, labor, business, and trade, the contributors underscore the importance of using global best practices to overcome fundamental weaknesses in the Gulf Cooperation Council’s economic structure that limit opportunities for economic diversification.

Smart Cities in the Gulf: Current State, Opportunities, and Challenges
Edited by West A. Samed and Elia Azar
In this edited volume, academics and practitioners from various disciplines investigate the challenges, opportunities and frameworks in the implementation of Smart Cities in the Gulf. The volume presents insightful analyses and identifies key lessons learned through case studies covering four main themes, including smart city frameworks and governance, resources and infrastructure, information and communication technologies, and the social perspective. In doing so, the book provides policy recommendations related to smart governance, as well as overall frameworks that cities can adopt in their process of transition, and knowledge that is integral to bridge the gap between various stakeholders in the Smart City milieu. This edited volume comprises extended versions of papers presented at a workshop titled “Smart Cities in the GCC: Current State, Opportunities and Challenges” held at the 2017 Gulf Research Meeting, which took place at University of Cambridge, UK.

The Arab Gulf States and the West: Perception and Realities - Opportunities and Perils
Edited by Chris Kunes, Khaled Al-Khafaji, and Marwa Maziad
This book examines the relations and image of the Arab Gulf states in the West. It addresses the question of perception in International Relations and how the Arab Gulf States of the Arab Gulf States pursue various endeavors to project themselves into the West. The book chapters generate ideas on how perceptions came about and ways to improve cultural and political realities on the ground in the Arab Gulf States. Thus, it paves the way for a new area of research in the field of Gulf Studies that extends beyond traditional international relations frameworks by weaving elements of intercultural communication into the mix. Recognizing yet extending beyond, a traditionally realist framework, which had dominated the analysis of Arab Gulf States foreign relations with western countries, this book tackles both the materialist and the symbolic in the efforts and initiatives launched by the Arab Gulf States actively engage with the West, the book would widely appeal to students and researchers of Gulf politics and international relations.

Foreign Relations of the GCC Countries: Shifting Global and Regional Dynamics
Edited by Eman Ragabi and Silvia Colombo
This book examines the foreign policies of the GCC countries six years after the Arab Spring, in terms of drivers, narratives, actions and outcomes, paying particular attention to Middle Eastern countries, Iran and Western international powers. The assessment focuses on current affairs, but also contributes to establishing a productive link between empirical studies and the existing theoretical frameworks that help explain the increasing foreign policy activism of the GCC countries. All in all, the articles collected in this handbook shed light on and provide a more solid and fine-grained understanding of how regional powers like Saudi Arabia, as well as the other smaller GCC countries, act and pursue their interests in an environment full of uncertainty, in the context of changing regional and global dynamics and power distribution. The book brings together the articles published in a Special Issue of the International Spectator.

Policy-Making in the GCC: State, Citizens and Institutions
Edited by Mark C. Thompson and Neil Quilliam
The GCC is a major player in the post-2011 reordering of the Middle East. Despite the rise in prominence of individual Gulf states - especially Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - and the growth of the GCC as a collective entity, surprisingly little attention has been paid to the actual mechanics of policy-making in the region. This book analyzes the vital roles institutions are coming to play in shaping policy in the Gulf Arab states. The research coincides with two key developments that have given institutions new importance in the policy process: the emergence of a new generation of leaders in the Gulf and the era of oil prices. Both developments, along with dramatic demographic change, have compelled state and citizens to re-evaluate the nature of the social contract that binds them together. Contributors assess the changing relationship between state and citizen and evaluate the role that formal and informal institutions play in mediating such change and informing policy. The book shows how academic, social and economic institutions are responding to the increasingly complex process of decision-making while citizens demand better services and further empowerment, and states are obliged to seek wider counsel, although wanting to retain ultimate authority. With contributions from both academics and practitioners, this book is highly relevant for researchers and policymakers alike.
Sustainability in the Gulf: Challenges and Opportunities
Edited by: Ela Asar and Muhammad Abdel Raouf
Sustainability is a topic of great interest today, particularly for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which have witnessed very rapid economic and demographic growth over the past decade. The observed growth has led to unsustainable consumption patterns of vital resources such as water, energy, and food, highlighting the need for an urgent shift towards green growth and sustainable development strategies. Sustainability in the Gulf covers the region’s contemporary development challenges through the lens of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which place sustainability at the centre of the solution to the current environmental, economic, and social imbalances facing GCC countries. The book presents multiple analyses of Gulf-specific sustainability topics, examining the current status, challenges, and opportunities, as well as identifying key lessons learned. Innovative and practical policy recommendations are provided, as well as new conceptual angles to the evolving academic debates on the post-oil era in the Gulf. Through chapters covering sector-related studies, as well as the socio-economic dimensions of the sustainability paradigm, this volume offers valuable insights into current research efforts made by the GCC states, proposing a way forward based on lessons learned.

The Gulf States, Asia and the Indian Ocean: Ensuring the Security of the Sea Lanes
Edited by: Tim Niblock with Talima Ahmed and Deqang Sun
Among the many strategic and economic issues facing the Gulf in the coming years, those relating to the Indian Ocean are set to be among the most challenging. In the re-ordering of global economic and political power which is currently underway, the Indian Ocean constitutes a key arena for regional and global competition and rivalry. With the leading Asian powers playing a more proactive role in the region, sometimes with conflicting ambitions, and the United States intent on maintaining its established maritime hegemony there, the potential dangers for the Gulf states are considerable. Gulf economic interests and perhaps regime stability would be severely affected by conflict. This book contends that the Gulf states need to play an active part in the promotion of regional stability and security, working with other Indian Ocean states to develop institutional structures and practices which encourage cooperation.

Regional Disorder and New Geo-economic Order: Saudi Security Strategies in a Reshaped Middle East
Emma Soubrier
The Arab uprisings which started in early 2011 from the Maghreb to the Mashreq have rightfully provoked an incredible burgeoning of research projects and fuelled existing ones with new energy. Among the issues so-called Arab Spring has put the focus on is the question of its impact on the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Here, narrowing the focus to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the international research community faced two main questions. First, would the wave of Arab uprisings submerge the Kingdom or stop on its shores? Second, it appeared that Saudi Arabia had proven rather resilient to the regional disturbances, but how could one analyze its response to the ambient disorder? This paper aims at answering the latter question.

Transforming GCC’s Oil and Industry in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges
Vijay Varkey ThetsyoparEntityManager and Ali Vezvaei
For decades, GCC countries have relied on conventional oil and gas revenues to power their economies. Advancements in the up-, mid-, and downstream technologies in union with supportive regulatory and political systems, has positioned GCC as a leading exporter of oil and gas. However, findings of new oil and gas reserves from unconventional sources are expected to rival the region as leading exporters of oil and gas. This has introduced both opportunities and challenges for the regional hydrocarbon industry. In this study, the drivers and barriers in the oil and gas industry across three focus areas are identified: technical, regulatory, and economic. As an outcome, key recommendations for GCC policy-makers that could support the development of GCC’s hydrocarbon industry are put forward.

In Search of Stability: Saudi Arabia and the Arab Spring
René Rieger
This paper challenges the widespread assertion that the Saudi reaction to the developments related to the Arab Spring has been purely counterrevolutionary in nature. While it is true that Riyadh has been supporting the monarchy-driven regimes in Bahrain and Oman and backed the Musharraf regime in Egypt right until its fall, the Kingdom supported the overthrow of the Gaddafi regime in Libya and, after initial hesitation, also became a strong supporter of the anti-regime forces in Syria. The Saudi reaction to the Arab Spring has been dynamic in nature and differed from one state to another. The Saudi bolstering of the political status quo and regime stability in some states, support of revolutionary forces in others, and interference in post-revolutionary processes yet elsewhere may ostensibly be a contradiction but is in fact the result of a coherent strategy.

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Perpetuating the Rentier State: Patrimonialism in a Globalized World
Ahmed O. Evin, Manfred Hafner and Simone Tagliapietra
This paper examines whether the rentier state exists today according to the criteria formulated by Hazem Beblawi and Giacomo Luciani some 25 years ago and whether it is possible to sharpen the definition of the rentier state with the benefit of hindsight. Since the rentier state theory was first articulated, a great deal has changed in respect to the economies of the energy-producing Gulf countries. They have not only grown much richer but also adopted sophisticated means for governing their finances and have become significant players in global financial markets. Moreover, they have begun planning for the time when they would run out of hydrocarbon reserves by directing a significant portion of their rents into Sovereign Wealth Funds. The Gulf is no longer at the periphery but constitutes one of the significant centers at the global crossroads.

Realigning Ecological Needs and Economic Growth to Formulate Environmental Policy for the Gulf States
Azhan Hasan and Hezlina Mohd Hashim
The concept of sustainable development first presented in the Brundtland Report in 1987 underlined the simultaneous and mutually reinforcing pursuit of economic growth, environmental improvement, as well as global and social equity together with an emphasis on global redistribution. It marked the start of a new phase in the hitherto antagonistic environment-economy relationship based on the recognition that ecosystem degradation and global warming pose serious threats both for poverty reduction and development. During the 1990s, sustainable development became the predominant feature of the environmental discourse, underlying global, supranational, national, regional, and local environmental policy strategies.

A key implication of the interdependence of environmental-development goals as outlined in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) Scenario Report emphasizes the need for a meaningful integration of environmental sustainability concerns in national development plans and strategies of individual donors and inter-governmental development agencies. In addition, there is also the need for closer coordination between multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions in the development policy sphere.

It is necessary to understand the forces that will determine environmental change as well as to choose a set of environmental policies that will move us toward a sustainable future. This, in turn, needs a better understanding of social institutions, and ecological and economic processes. After an extensive analysis of these issues, this paper presents steps that the GCC could take in framing the right environment policies.

Disputed Islands between UAE and Iran: Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb in the Strait of Hormuz
Noura S Al-Marzooqi
This study describes the history of the territorial dispute between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran over Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb islands located in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz through which 40 percent of the world’s oil and most of the oil from the Gulf region passes. The paper discusses the status of the three islands during the pre-colonial, British colonial, and post-colonial periods. Of particular note is Great Britain’s role in the Gulf and how it shaped the development of the claims of Iran and the emirates of Sharjah and Ras al-Khaimah over the three disputed islands. The paper also examines the Iranian and UAE legal perspectives concerning the islands in order to get a better understanding of why Iran has consistently refused to submit the case to the International Court of Justice.

The Gulf Arab Countries’ Foreign and Security Policies Post-Arab Uprisings: Toward Greater Regional Independence of the Middle East
Valentina Kostadinova
This paper examines the Gulf Arab countries’ foreign and security policies in the immediate aftermath of the Arab uprisings (until mid-2014) and compares them to the policies of the US and the EU. Building on a detailed outline of the different facets of power and a comparison with the respective actor’s capabilities in the aftermath of World War I, it argues that relatively speaking the power of the Western actors has declined, while that of the Gulf Arab players has increased. The analysis lays out the factors that have contributed to this outcome. Analytically, the paper engages with the concept of power but starts from the perspective of the entities that experience the exercise of power. This allows the author to develop the investigation using traditional power measurements, while simultaneously avoiding a Western-centered viewpoint. Thus, a sense of agency for the Middle East and, more specifically, the Gulf Arab region is restored.

Salalah: The Economic Development and Spatial Fragmentation of a Globalized Port City in Southern Oman
Steffen Wippel
This paper studies the spatial and economic development of the Greater Salalah area in the southern governorate of Dhofar (Oman) in a conceptually well-informed manner referring to theories of post-modern urban development, especially of “globalized” cities and global and local fragmentation, post-modern urbanisation and characteristics of contemporary port cities.

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Al Diyar

Al Diyar is a real-estate development company focusing on the local Saudi Market. Al Diyar is also an investment management company that manages diversified investment portfolios across many sectors.

Al Fozan Holding Company

Al Fozan Holding Company is part of the Al Fozan Group, which is a successful conglomerate with operations throughout the GCC and Middle East. Led by a talented team of professionals, Al Fozan Group has evolved and diversified over the years to become one of the fastest-growing regional success stories today. The businesses in the group make it a leading player in retail, manufacturing, real estate and trading while its approach to corporate social responsibility puts the group on an even footing with the world's best. The group has the strength and commitment that comes from over half a century of business experience distinguished by excellence in achievement and attention to detail in everything it does. The results of its highly successful track record speak for themselves in the form of its multibillion dollar annual turnover from more than 30 operating companies in over 200 retail locations in Saudi Arabia and the wider GCC.

Al Muhaidib Contracting

A.K. Al Muhaidib Group, one of the largest, most successful, and most diversified groups in the region, Al Muhaidib Contracting has been working on a single project since first opening its doors for business in Dammam in 1973: building one of the best construction companies in the Middle East. A member of the A.K. Al Muhaidib Group, one of the largest, most successful, and most diversified groups in the region, Al Muhaidib Contracting’s goal is to construct the highest quality projects while placing a strong emphasis on safety, quality, workmanship, an advanced moral code, and relationships. Al Muhaidib Contracting is unwavering in its quest to create solutions that contribute positively to the living standards of the communities it serves. This is an important aspect of the company’s Corporate Social Responsibility program, which encompasses, amongst many other things, sustainability and Saudization. As a Class-A certified contractor for Saudi Aramco, as well as with the Saudi government for public works, Al Muhaidib Contracting has built a reputation for delivery on complex jobs that call for detailed thought and planning in relation to schedules, logistics or complicated systems. Moreover, having formed successful joint-ventures with blue-chip organizations such as Six Construct, which is part of the famous Belgian BESIK Group, and Taylor Woodrow, which is owned by the VINCI Group, the company has underlined its ability to form long-term business partnerships with developers, corporations, government agencies, companies and organizations on local, regional and international levels.

Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation – Global

Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation – Global prides itself in its slogan “Commitment without Boundaries” as it serves the need of communities around the world, regardless of race or religion. Its international philanthropic activities span the four focus areas of Global Cultural Understanding, Community Development, Disaster Recovery and Women’s Empowerment. The Foundation has supported effective non-profits in over 65 countries around the world, benefiting communities in the Arab, Asian and African regions, as well as in Europe, Oceania and the Americas.

His Royal Highness Prince Alwaleed has a long history of supporting those less fortunate, particularly in the developing world. This Foundation was established to institutionalize his international philanthropic activities, and its strategy is built on Prince Alwaleed’s belief that philanthropy is a humanitarian obligation, with an emphasis on extending needed-based help to communities the world over. Alwaleed Foundation strives to build global intercultural understanding through academia and creative learning. It supports sustainable and innovative programs that use high-quality research, media and art to bring about much needed peace and understanding in communities around the world. With a special focus on promoting the exchange of knowledge between the world of Islam and the West, the Foundation forms long-term partnerships with leading universities and innovative organizations, helping to bridge gaps of knowledge between cultures, thus creating better global understanding suitable for the 21st century’s interdependent world.

Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies

The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS) is an independent research institute for the study of the social sciences and humanities, with particular emphasis on the applied social sciences. The Center seeks to examine the key issues affecting the Arab world, governments, and communities to analyze social, economic, and cultural trends in the Arab world. In addition to timely research, studies and reports, the ACRPS publishes 5 peer-reviewed academic journals and translates key foreign contemporary works into Arabic. The Policy Analysis Unit within the ACRPS is dedicated to the study of the region’s most pressing current affairs. The Center’s public opinion program, the Arab Opinion Index, is the largest opinion poll of its kind in the Arab region. In 2014, the Center established the China Institute for Graduate Studies, an independent institute for learning and research in the fields of Social Science, Humanities, Public Administration and Development Economics.
The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (the Arab Fund), based in the State of Kuwait, is an Arab regional financial institution focused on funding economic and social development by financing public and private investment projects and providing grants and expertise. The Arab Fund’s activities are characterized by a number of important aspects that make it a model of cooperation and Arab economic integration, and a reflection of outstanding joint Arab action. With all the Arab countries as its members and concentrating on economic and social development affecting the same countries, the Arab Fund carefully follows guidelines on neutrality in pursuing its activities and organizes itself under substantive rules to ensure independence from any political considerations when conducting its operations.

Asyad Holding Group

Asyad Holding Group is a leading private wealth management organization that manages a wide portfolio of real estate, private equity, and financial investments. The beginnings of Asyad Holding Group can be traced to the founding of a construction company by Eng. Osama Alsayed in 1975, which grew to become a very successful business and diversified into the four main business units that exist today: Asyad Capital, Asyad Real Estate, Asyad Aviation, and Asyad Investments.

Atheeb Group

Atheeb Group is a major diversified group established in 1985, based in Saudi Arabia and operating across the Middle East and in the wider region. Atheeb Group has succeeded in the market, and is in the stage of expanding its business in the region. Its business activities focus on Shipping Stevedoring, Medical Services, IT & Telecommunications, Operations & Maintenance, Real Estate Investment, Contracting, Fund Investment and providing products and services to the defense sector. Atheeb Group’s workforce is about 7,000 people, led by a professional and well-qualified management team. They are guided by a clear mission and vision for growth, and a set of core values that include quality, professionalism, and the highest level of ethics and social responsibility.

Bahamdan

Bahamdan is comprised of a number of closely-aligned investment arms. While independent, they share a set of common values and approach to effectively making and managing investments across asset classes and geographies. The Group’s activities are undertaken by three investment arms - the Bahamdan Group, Safanad and Arcola. The Bahamdan Group makes and manages local investments in Saudi Arabia and across the MENA region, Safanad which was established with the backing of Bahamdan in 2009 in a global principal investment vehicle which used to execute and manage the Group’s global assets including investments in real estate, private equity and public markets. Arcola acts as a supporting entity, serving as the Group’s liquidity and wealth management platform and the manager of its investments into global securities. Today the Group has investments across multiple asset classes and industries including substantial holdings in the financial services, education, healthcare, real estate, telecommunications and media, aviation, industrial and construction sectors. The Group’s investments, which are made independently and alongside well respected partners, range from start-up ventures to established growth businesses and turnaround situations, which not only require capital but access to the expertise, know-how and business acumen that define Bahamdan and have allowed it to establish itself as a strategic global investor over the past 60 years.

Bank Dhofar

Bank Dhofar

The bank started as Bank Dhofar al-Omani al-Franji in January 1990, with a paid up capital of $5 million Omani Rials. The bank acquired the assets and liabilities of Banque Paribas through a sale and purchase agreement and entered into a five year management contract with the French bank. It commenced operations with two branches, one in Muscat and the other branch in Salalah.

Bank Muscat

With assets worth over USD 15 billion, Bank Muscat is the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman with a strong presence in Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Investment Banking Treasury, Private Banking and Asset Management. The Bank has the largest network in Oman exceeding 130 branches, 386 ATMs, 131 CDPPs and 4500 PoS terminals. The international operations consist of a branch each in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait and a Representative Office in Dubai (UAE).

Centre for International and Regional Studies - Georgetown University

Georgetown University is a private, Jesuit, research university whose main campus is in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. Founded in 1789, it is the oldest Catholic university in North America and one of the first post-colonial institutions of higher learning in the United States. Georgetown administers 180 academic programs in four undergraduate and three graduate and professional schools, of which the schools of international affairs and law are particularly selective and well regarded. In addition to its main campus, Georgetown operates a Law Center on Capital Hill, as well as auxiliary campuses in Italy, Turkey and Qatar.
The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) is a cooperative framework established on 25 May 1981 joining the six states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to effect coordination, integration and inter-connection in all fields in order to achieve greater unity. The GCC Charter emphasizes the deepening and strengthening of relations, links and areas of cooperation among all six states. On one hand, the GCC is a coordination, evaluation and institutionalization of old prevailing realities; on the other, it is a practical answer to the challenges of security and economic development in the region. It is also a fulfillment of the aspirations of its citizens towards Arab regional unity. In addition to strengthening cooperation and integration, the GCC also has as its goal, the formulation of similar and thus unifying regulations for the member states in various fields, including economic and financial affairs; commerce, customs and communications; education and culture; social and health affairs; information and tourism; as well as legislative and administrative affairs. The GCC also aims to: stimulate scientific and technological progress in the fields of industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources; to establish scientific research; to establish joint ventures; and to encourage cooperation by the private sector for the good of the peoples of the GCC states.

Dallah Albaraka

Dallah Albaraka was founded in Riyadh by Sheikh Saleh Kamel in 1969 as a small proprietorship and has evolved over a period of 30 years into a diversified international conglomerate, incorporating investments in billions in over 40 countries worldwide. The group impacts on almost every sector of economic life, including industry, trade, real estate, tourism, health care, communication, media, production, technical maintenance and operation, transport, banking and financial services as well as education and training.

Derasat

Derasat is a think tank in the Kingdom of Bahrain dedicated to encouraging the use of research and dialogue to inform policy makers and interest groups and to increase understanding of current and emerging international issues in the pursuit of a prosperous and peaceful world for all. In today’s rapidly changing world of opportunities and challenges, Derasat aims to build bridges between differing perspectives, bring new and independent thought that can generate creative solutions for our future peace, security and stability.

Emaar Properties

Emaar Properties PJSC is rapidly evolving to become a global provider of premier lifestyles. A Dubai-based Public Joint Stock Company, Emaar is listed on the Dubai Financial Market and is a part of the Dow Jones Arabia Titans Index. In tandem with Dubai’s rapid growth, Emaar has been shaping landscapes and lives in the Emirate since the company’s inception in 1997. Not just building homes, Emaar develops value-added master-planned communities that meet the homemakers’ full spectrum of lifestyle needs. A pioneer of innovative community-living concepts, Emaar is the prime mover of the Emirate’s real estate and construction sector.

Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar (SFS-Q)

Established in 1978, Georgetown University is one of the world’s leading academic and research institutions. It provides students with a world-class learning experience focused on educating the whole person and engaging with different fields, cultures and beliefs, preparing the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a positive difference in the world. Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service (SFS) is particularly selective and highly regarded. Since 2005, Georgetown’s Qatar campus offers the same highly ranked four-year SFS curriculum as in Washington D.C. The students – Qataris, non-Qatari residents, and international students – are ranked with their peers in D.C. as one single cohort. The curriculum offers four Majors (Culture and Politics, International Economics, International History, and International Politics) with ‘Certificates’ (minors) in Arab & Regional Studies, American Studies, and Media & Politics, and is underpinned by a Liberal Arts education across the social sciences and humanities. Research ranges across the same spectrum: the in-house Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) focuses particularly on the Middle East. The Qatar campus is an integral part of Georgetown University, while actively engaging with its local and regional environment. Qatar.dhs.georgetown.edu

Goldman Sachs

Goldman Sachs focuses on the following four business segments: Investment banking - providing a broad range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and individuals. Founded in 1869, the firm is headquartered in New York and maintains offices in all major financial centers around the world. Goldman Sachs offers a wide range of financial products. Investing and lending - investing in and originating loans to provide financing to clients. Investment management - providing investment management services and offering investment products across all major asset classes to a diverse set of institutional and individual clients.
Jabal Omar Development Company

Jabal Omar Development Company is one of the largest real estate developers in the Middle East and one of the largest listed companies on the Saudi stock market (Tadawul). It engages in the investment, development, management, sale and lease of the Jabal Omar project in Makkah. Its flagship project, Jabal Omar, is a multi-use real estate mega development project within walking distance of the Holy Mosque in Makkah Al Mukarramah. As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continuously seeks to increase the capacity for Makkah Al Mukarramah pilgrims, Jabal Omar Development Company is proud to contribute to this by developing the areas overlooking the Holy Mosque to give visitors and residents of Makkah a unique living and spiritual experience. The total area of the Jabal Omar project is 230,000 square meters. The project includes 40 hotel towers and is mixed use with commercial markets, apartments, luxury residential units and hotels. The hotels are owned by a company which is managed by major international hotel companies. Every room has a dedicated space for private prayer and contemplation that provides direct views of the Holy Mosque. Hotels under their operation include Jabal Omar Conrad Hotel, Jabal Omar Hyatt Regency Hotel, Jabal Omar Marriott Hotel, Jabal Omar Hilton Suites Hotels and Jabal Omar Hilton Conference Hotel, which has the largest conference room in Makkah Al Mukarramah. Jabal Omar Development Company was founded in 2006 and is headquartered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

KAB Holding

KAB Holding was established by Sheikh Khaled Ahmed Bagedo and focuses on promoting the real estate business and building materials manufacturing, mainly targeted at the Saudi Arabian and Middle Eastern markets. Based in Jeddah, KAB Holding is known for its ambition, enthusiasm and devotion to community development, through large scale business.

Khaled Juffali Company

Khaled Juffali Company, KJC Ltd., is a multifaceted personal investment company with a vast local, regional, and international network of investments. Having an underlying focus on the creation and incubation of growth business ventures, KJC has generated industries that include automotive, petrochemicals, banking, insurance, venture capital funds, buyouts, distribution, information technology education, real estate development, project management and consulting services, biotechnology, heavy cranes, auto/equipment leasing and telecommunication. KJC’s strength lies in its strategic mix of innovative projects that have a solid financial foundation coupled with an excellent network of multinational partnerships, know-how and a proven track record.

Knowledge Corporation

Knowledge Corporation (KCORP) is a multifaceted company providing a broad range of first class services, including: ICT services covering both technology and content; education and training; event-related services; management consulting; and media services. There are many companies that offer various technical services, but it is rare to find a company that can cover such a broad range of services in an integrated way. KCORP prides itself in being a total solution provider that cares for client needs not only during all project phases, but also before and after a project, always serving to help the client fulfill its goals and objectives. Knowledge-based systems to serve knowledge-based societies are at the heart of KCORP’s work. Established in 2008, KCORP has offices in the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences

The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences aims to stimulate, support, and invest in initiatives and human resources that contribute to the building of a strong STI system and culture and fostering an enabling environment. The initiatives include improving public understanding of science, strengthening innovation and research capacity and enhancing the enabling cultural environment, supporting the gifted and talented, as well as translating knowledge into innovation and encouraging more private technological capability.

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) Kuwait Programme

The LSE Kuwait Programme on Development, Governance and Globalisation in the Gulf States is a ten year multidisciplinary global research programme. It focuses on topics such as globalisation and the repositioning of the Gulf States in the global order; capital flows, and patterns of trade; specific challenges facing carbon and resource-rich economic development; diversification, educational and human capital development into post-oil political economies; and the future of regional security structures in the post-Arab Spring environment.

Maceen Capital

Maceen Capital is a closed joint stock investment company authorized and regulated by the Saudi Capital Market Authority (CMA) with license (08132 – 37) for dealing, managing, custody advising and arranging. Since its inception in 2009, Maceen Capital has managed to establish a solid and credible reputation that translated into a remarkable growth and success. Maceen Capital oversees a wide portfolio of local & international investment opportunities and operates as a full-fledged investment group.
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
Founded in 1983 and based in Washington, D.C, the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is an American non-profit, non-governmental, educational organization dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. The National Council’s vision is a relationship between the United States and its Arab partners, friends, and allies that rests on as solid and enduring a foundation as possible. Such a foundation, viewed from both ends of the spectrum, is one that would be characterized by strengthened and expanded strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation; increased joint ventures; a mutuality of benefit; reciprocal respect for each other’s heritage and values; and overall acceptance of each other’s legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and objectives.

The National Council’s mission is educational. It seeks to enhance American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world. Its means for doing so encompass but are not limited to programs for leadership development, people-to-people exchanges, lectures, publications, an annual Arab-U.S. policymakers conference, and the participation of American students and faculty in Arab world study experiences. As a public service, the Council also serves as an information clearinghouse and participant in national, state, and local grassroots exchanges, lectures, publications, and school community, civic, educational, business, and professional associations. In these ways the Council helps strengthen and expand the overall Arab-U.S. relationship.

NEC
NEC Corporation is a leader in the integration of IT and network technologies that benefit businesses and people around the world. By providing a combination of products and solutions that cross-utilize the company’s experience and global resources, NEC’s advanced technologies meet the complex and ever-changing needs of its customers. NEC brings more than 100 years of expertise in technological innovation to empower people, businesses and society. For more information, visit NEC at http://www.nec.com.

Nesma
Nesma Holding is a privately owned Saudi Arabian company that maintains a varied business portfolio in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Egypt and Turkey. Nesma Holding and its subsidiaries enjoy a long-standing reputation of financial strength and stability honed over many years of sound management and prudent practices at all levels. Nesma’s business integrity and quality standards translate into exceptional services and products offered to businesses and individual consumers alike. Since Nesma Holding was established in 1979, its creation of joint ventures and partnerships with international companies as well as its acquisition and development of subsidiary companies has bolstered its reputation as a serious player in the diversifying economy of Saudi Arabia.

Qatar University
Qatar University (QU) has grown and progressed significantly since its founding in 1977, gaining a wealth of academic, research and institutional accomplishments that have served to position it as an effective partner in the Qatari society and one of the leading universities in the region. The international reputation of QU continues to grow, as evidenced by its 11th place ranking among 100 universities in the MENA region. Added to this, is a growing number of highly-popular specialist Masters and PhD programs, multiple significant research successes, an ambitious research roadmap fielding national development priorities, and a large body of talented sought-after graduates. QU also boasts a large portfolio of internationally-accredited colleges and programs that attest to a high level of excellence and quality QU continues to be proud of its close relationship with the public and private sector and has signed a number of MOUs and collaborative agreements that benefit its students, faculty and the institution as a whole. These agreements have engendered a number of Professional Chair positions at QU that serve to enhance its research objectives, incorporate students’ learning by doing, and further expand partnerships with leading organizations in Qatar and beyond. As a national university, QU recognizes its responsibility to uplift the culture and the identity of the Qatari society. This is in keeping with, and with the support of, the State of Qatar’s vision and development strategies, under its Social Development Pillar, to “preserve Qatar’s national heritage and enhance Arab and Islamic values and identity.”

Saudi Binladin Group
The history of Binladin begin in 1931. During the Kingdom’s early years, under the reign of King Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Mohammed Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Binladin group was formed in response to 1930s oil boom.

Binladin's history has been intertwined with that of the Kingdom ever since. As Saudi Arabia prospered, developed and became active on the international front, Binladin evolved simultaneously. Under the leadership of Salem M. Binladin, the company’s activities expanded from road works and construction, to diversified activities with numerous offshoots worldwide. To prepare for an ambitious and more active international role, the Saudi Binladin Group (SBG) was set up to incorporate various Binladin companies under a single association.
Sciences Po - Kuwait Program

The Kuwait Program is a Gulf-focused research and teaching program based at the Chaire Moyen-Orient Méditerranée at Sciences Po Paris, created in 2007 thanks to a generous grant from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). KFAS and Sciences Po share an awareness of the common challenges facing the Gulf region and Europe in fields such as security, sustainable development, geopolitics of energy, economic diversification, the new role of the private sector, international migration, civil society development, and the shift of public policies from domestic to global levels. The two institutions have hence agreed to work together in creating a structure that provides new approaches and fresh ideas in these fields to leaders, senior officials, academics and researchers.

Silatech

Silatech promotes large-scale job creation, entrepreneurship, access to capital and markets, and the participation and engagement of young people in economic and social development. Founded in 2008 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the company finds innovative solutions to challenging problems, working with a wide spectrum of NGOs, government and the private sector to foster sustainable, positive change for Arab youth.

The Zubair Corporation

Founded in 1967 as Muscat Trading Company by Mohammad Al Zubair, which then became Zubair Enterprises, Zubair is one of a number of leading business houses that operates successfully both nationally and internationally. Its growth in size and diversity, across a wide range of interests, has highlighted the entrepreneurial flair, informed risk-taking and awareness of national interests that reflects Oman’s successes.

The Anglo-Omani Society

The Anglo-Omani Society (AOS) is a charitable organisation working with the objective of preserving the longstanding friendship between Britain and Oman. Through its central London premises, the Society offers a confluence for the government, academic and private sectors of both countries to develop their cross-cultural activities, and offers support in the form of bursaries, scholarships and grants for external projects that are aligned to its charitable objectives. The Society arranges a series of cultural, educational and networking events throughout the year showcasing well-known and experienced speakers who are specialists in their own field. In addition, the Anglo-Omani Society is engaging with the younger members of both countries through its New Generation Group (NGG), which organises its own programme of events and annual delegations to the UK and Oman.

Our Contacts

For further details on the Gulf Research Meeting, participation, attendance and sponsor information, please contact:

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I would like to express my admiration for the GRC’s solid scientific effort in the field of research and studies on Gulf issues

H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al Zayani
Secretary-General, The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)