



## **Welcome to GRM 2026**

Dear Participants of GRM 2026,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the sixteenth annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM). GRM is the largest annual gathering dedicated solely to the study of the Gulf region and it is gratifying to see that the meeting has become an established tradition. As has been the case for the past few years, GRM 2026 will once again bring together about 380 participants divided into 12 research workshops. As usual, the topics also this year range across the social sciences and they reflect many of the developments taking place in the Gulf region. This underlines the academic and scholarly interest in the field of Gulf studies, as well as the need for a more thorough and in-depth analysis of how current issues are impacting the Gulf studies field as a whole.

As part of GRM, we seek to bring as much of the knowledge gathered here to a wider audience so that they can also partake in the deliberations that are the hallmark of meetings such as GRM. A key aspect is the publishing of the papers presented here. Just during the past twelve months since the last Gulf Research Meeting, we have had 6 new edited volumes published, bringing the total to over 60 books published since the first GRM and there are also a substantial number of special issues of journals based upon GRM workshop papers. In addition, numerous individual GRM papers have also appeared in published form. All of this represents a very significant contribution to the literature on the Gulf region, and we look forward to seeing many of the papers from this year's meeting follow the same path.

As has been the case since the initial Gulf Research Meeting, the objective is to provide an academic environment to foster Gulf studies and promote academic, research-based exchange among scholars focusing on issues related to the Gulf region. While the individual workshop topics vary each year, they cover the social sciences in the broad sense, and as such, they constitute a basis for academic, empirical, and interdisciplinary research in many areas. In addition, we view it as one of our core missions to expand the network of people working on, researching and addressing Gulf issues. A particular focus in this regard is on the inclusion of young scholars in the deliberations taking place at GRM and thus to hopefully encourage them to take part in research collaborations.

The annual Gulf Research Meeting would of course not be possible without the support of our generous donors. I express my sincere gratitude to all the supporters of this year's event for their commitment and shared vision in regard to the importance of an event such as GRM. More detailed information about the donors can be found on the event homepage, in the GRM brochure, and in the GRM seminar reports.

In this participant package, you will find all the information related to your workshop and participation at GRM 2026. The opening ceremony this year is of particular interest with participation of high level policy makers and experts from different GCC states. The traditional GRM group photograph will take place immediately after the opening ceremony at about 18:15 on July 21st on the grounds of King's College. Please make sure not to miss either. The GRM staff will be available to guide you to the place where the picture will be taken, and we kindly ask you to follow their instructions and gather quickly for the picture.

Should you require any assistance during your stay in Cambridge, please do not hesitate to contact any member of our staff. We wish you all a successful and enjoyable time at GRM 2026!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Abdulaziz Sager', enclosed within a faint, light blue oval border.

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager  
Founder & Chairman  
Gulf Research Center