



Gulf Studies Symposium



April 11-12, 2025



Georgetown University, Washington DC

Beyond Investment and Security: The GCC-Turkey Relations

Workshop Program

Friday, April 11, 2025			
8:15 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration and meeting at CCAS		
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Workshop directors' welcome remarks and setting the rules of presentation and discussion		
Time	Participant	Paper Title	Discussant
9:30 AM – 10:05 AM	Bichun Lu, <i>PhD candidate at École des Hautes études en Sciences Sociales</i>	The Horn of Africa as the New Battleground for Middle Powers: Strategic Competition Between Turkey and the Gulf States	Yunus Turhan
10:05 AM – 10:40 AM	Ferhat Polat, <i>Senior Researcher at TRT World</i>	Bridging the Divide: Türkiye and the UAE's Compelling Interests in the Libyan Conflict	Hae Won Jeong
10:40 AM – 10:55 AM	Coffee Break and Networking		
10:55 AM – 11:30 AM	Dr. Helin Sarı-Ertem, <i>Associate Professor at Istanbul Medeniyet University</i>	Assessing The Two 'Swing States' of The Middle East: The Future of Türkiye and Saudi Arabia in Global Politics	Veysel Kurt

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Dr. Yunus Turhan, <i>Associate Professor at Harvard University</i>	Emerging Donors’ Aid to Africa: A Comparative Analysis of Türkiye, Qatar, The UAE	İsmail Köse
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Veysel Kurt, <i>Lecturer at Istanbul Medeniy University</i>	Security Dimension in TR-GCC Relations: Tendencies, Risks and Expectations	Yılmaz Acar
12:30 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch		
1:15 PM – 2:00 PM	Networking at CCAS Reception		
	Meeting with Gulf Studies Editors & Publishers (RSVP Required – Venue TBD)		
2:00 PM – 2:35 PM	Dr. Engin Koç, <i>Lecturer at Bursa Technical University</i>	Turkey’s Support for the Muslim Brotherhood and Its Impact on Relations with Arab Gulf States	Nurşin Güney
2:35 PM – 3:10 PM	Hae Won Jeong, <i>PhD Candidate at Rutgers University - Camden</i>	UAE-Turkish Rapprochement: Emotions, Diplomacy, and Communication	Sabah Aslam
3:10 PM – 3:25 PM	Coffee Break and Networking		
3:25 PM – 4:00 PM	Yilmaz Acar, <i>Graduate Student at University of Chicago</i>	GCC-Türkiye Strategic Alliance: Navigating Shifting MENA Geopolitics Amid Relative U.S. Decline	Ferhat Polat
4:00 PM – 4:35 PM	Dr. Muzaffer Şenel, <i>Associate Professor at Binghamton University</i>	Türkiye as an Emerging Actor in the Wider Gulf Region: The Case of ürkiye’s Military Deployments	Hani Albasoos
4:35 PM – 5:15 PM	First day wrap up and discussing second day plan		
Saturday, April 11, 2025			
Time	Participant	Paper Title	Discussant

9:00 AM – 9:35 AM	Huzeyfe Altıok, <i>Graduate Assistant Georgia State University</i>	Overcome Isolation or Asymmetric Relations: The Impact of Intra-GCC Dynamics to the Turkey GCC Relations	Muzaffer Şenel
9:35 AM – 10:10 AM	Dr. Nurşin Güney, <i>Professor at the National Intelligence Academy</i> Vişne Korkmaz, <i>Professor at Nisantasi University</i>	A New Dynamic in the GCC- Turkey Relations: Middle Power Activism	Bichun Lu
10:10 AM – 10:45 AM	Dr. Hani Albasoos, <i>Associate Professor at Joaan Bin Jasim Academy for Defence Studies</i>	Beyond Qatar-Türkiye Defense Relations	Özlem Tür
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Coffee Break and Networking		
11:00 AM – 11:35 AM	Dr. İsmail Köse, <i>Professor at Karadeniz Technical University</i>	Türkiye's New Proactive Foreign Policy in The Gulf and Development of Turkish-Qatar Relations	Engin Koç
11:35 AM – 12:15 PM	Mehm Alaca, <i>Senior Correspondent at Anadolu Agency</i>	The Development Road Project: Turkey-Gulf Connectivity Versus Geopolitical Risks	Veysel Kurt
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch and Networking		
1:30 PM – 2:05 PM	Dr. Özlem Tür, <i>Professor at Middle East Technical University</i>	A Neoclassical Realist Analysis of Turkey's Alignment with Qatar	Helin Sarı-Ertem
2:05 PM – 2:40 PM	Sabah Aslam, <i>Executive Director at Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution</i>	The Role of Soft Power in Shaping Turkey-GCC Relations: A Multidimensional Analysis	Huzeyfe Altıok
2:40 PM – 3:00 PM	Coffee Break and Networking		

3:00 PM – 3:35 PM	Batu Coskun, <i>Nonresident Fellow at TRENDS Research & Advisory</i>	The Turkish Military-Industrial Complex as a Semi-Autonomous Actor in Turkey-GCC Relations	Bichun Lu
3:35 PM – 4:10 PM	Dr. Umer Karim, <i>Associate Fellow at King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies</i>	Ideological Polarity and Decision makers Perceptions: The case of Saudi Turkish Engagement after the Arab Spring	Mehmet Alaca
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM	Discussing publication plan and workshop wrap up		