



Gulf Studies Symposium



April 11-12, 2025



Georgetown University, Washington DC

Gulf Foreign Policies in Flux: Drivers Developments and Trends

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	Nicolas Reeves, <i>Project Manager at Regional Programme Gulf States, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung</i> Philip Dienstbier, <i>Project Manager at Regional Programme Gulf States, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung</i>	Between Aiding Allies and Bolstering Bottom Lines: Gulf powers' evolving engagement with their Arab neighbors	Daniel Sidiqie
10:05 AM – 10:40 AM	Daniel Sidiqie, <i>Research Assistant at the Institute of Political Science and Sociology, University of Bonn</i>	Through the Eyes of MbS: Explaining Saudi Arabia's Foreign Policy Shift Wards Israel and Iran	Nicolas Reeves
10:40 AM – 11:15 AM	Dr. David Warren, <i>Lecturer of Middle East Studies and Arabic at Washington University in St. Louis</i>	'Tolerance is Lived and Practiced Here': Interfaith Dialogue as International Relations in Gulf Foreign Policies	Dr. Kristin Diwan
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Coffee Break and Networking		

11:30 AM – 12:00 AM	Omar H. Rahman, <i>Fellow at the Middle East Council on Global affairs</i>	Gulf-Israel Normalization: Past, Present and Future	Dr. Tyler B. Parker
12:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Dr. Mirdef Alqashouti, <i>Non-Resident Fellow at the East Council</i>	The Evolution of Qatari–Iranian Relations beyond 2017: After the Blockade	Albert Vidal Ribe
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 – Reiss Building Room number 281		
2:00 PM – 2:35 PM	Dr. Tyler B. Parker, <i>Professor of Political at Mercer University</i>	Qatar and Oman as Mediators at Home and Abroad	Omar H. Rahman
2:35 PM – 3:10 PM	Dr. Chuchu Zhang, <i>Associate Professor and Deputy Director at Symbiosis School of International Studies</i>	Participation or Non-Participation? Gulf States' Strategic Approaches to China's Third-Party Market Cooperation under the	Dr. Omar Munassar
3:10 PM – 3:45 PM	Albert Vidal Ribe, <i>Research Analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies</i>	Evolving Defence R&D Efforts in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar	Dr. Mirdef Alqashouti
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM	Coffee Break and Networking		
4:00 PM – 4:35 PM	Dr. Omar Munassar, <i>Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Zurich</i>	Assessing GCC Security: Pitfalls and Lessons from the Saudi-led Arab Coalition's Intervention in Yemen	Dr. Chuchu Zhang
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	Dr. Farid Boussaid, <i>Associate Professor at the University of Amsterdam</i> Dr. Gertjan Hoetjes, <i>Lecturer at the University of Amsterdam</i>	Enacting Geographical Imaginations: State Capitalism and the Regional Foreign Policy of Saudi Arabia and the UAE	Haley Bobseine
9:35 AM – 10:10 AM	Dr. Kristin Diwan, <i>Senior Resident Scholar at The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington</i>	The New Nationalist Foreign Policies of Saudi Arabia and the UAE	David Warren

10:10 AM – 10:45 AM	Dr. Omar Bortolazzi, <i>Associate Professor And Program Director of the Master in International Affairs at American University in Dubai</i>	Non-Traditional Security, Economic Transition Strategies, and Nation Branding Initiatives in the UAE	Dr. Sean Yom
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Coffee Break and Networking		
11:00 AM – 11:35 AM	Haley Bobseine, <i>Consultant to International Organizations and PhD Candidate at King's College London</i>	Saudi Arabia-Iraq's Improving Security Relations: Opportunities, Challenges, and Iraq's Armed Factions	Dr. Farid Boussaid and Dr. Gertjan Hoetjes
11:35 AM – 12:10 PM	Dr. Máté Szalai, <i>Research Fellow at Clingendael Institute</i>	Future trajectories of cooperation, competition, and conflict between Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates	Islam Alhalwany
12:10 PM – 12:30 PM	Open Discussion		
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch		
1:30 PM – 2:05 PM	Dr. Sean Yom, <i>Associate Professor of Political Science at Temple University</i>	The Domestic Sources of Kuwaiti Foreign Policy	Dr. Máté Szalai
2:05 PM – 2:40 PM	Islam Alhalwany, <i>Assistant professor of Business Practice and Assistant Dean of International Collaborations at Jindal Global University in India</i>	KSA's security paradigm shift: from hedging by capital to hedging by multi-alignment	Dr. Omar Bortolazzi
2:40 PM – 3:10 PM	Haley Bobseine, <i>Consultant to International Organizations and PhD Candidate at King's College London</i>	Saudi Arabia-Iraq's Improving Security Relations: Opportunities, Challenges, and Iraq's Armed Factions	Dr. Farid Boussaid and Dr. Gertjan Hoetjes
3:10 PM – 3:30 PM	Coffee Break and Networking		
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Discussing publication plan and workshop wrap up		