

Gulf Studies Newsletter

Gulf Studies 7th Annual Conference "The FIFA 2022 World Cup in Qatar: Looking into Global and Local Perspectives"

It came as no surprise that the FIFA World Cup 2022 was going to be a successful event. Anticipating this success, the Gulf Studies Center hosted its 7th Annual Conference titled "The FIFA 2022 World Cup in Qatar: Looking into Global and Local Perspectives". The Conference hosted scholars, policymakers, and students from 15 countries covering a wide range of disciplines. The two-day conference, held on the 19th and 20th of September, discussed the non-conventional aspects of the World Cup.

The discussion was not limited to sports diplomacy or the technical and organizational dimensions of the massive international event; but it also shed light on the socio-cultural, economic and political aspects of the World Cup.

The conference commenced with a welcome speech by H.E. Dr. Hassan Rashid Al Derham, President of Qatar University, followed by a welcome note by the Gulf Studies Center Director, Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri. "Fundamentally, I believe sport is the best diplomat we have," said Dr. Simon Rofe as he spoke about sports diplomacy during his keynote speech. On the second day of the conference, keynote speaker Prof. Richard Guilianotti explored where Qatar 2022 sits with respect to the key transitional processes: globalization, glocalization and cosmopolitanism.

The live-streamed conference engaged its participants and attendees in a nuanced debate on the multifaceted impact of the 2022 FIFA World Cup on Qatari society and the region as a whole. An edited volume, that will be covering all topics and issues presented by our speakers, will be published in due course.



Workshop

Al-Zubarah: Prospects and Challenges for the Next Decade

In collaboration with Qatar Museums and Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a one-day workshop on the UNESCO world heritage site - Al Zubara titled "Al-Zubarah: Prospects and Challenges for the Next Decade."

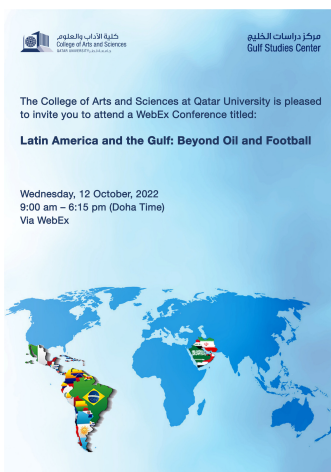
The workshop, which was held on the 23rd of October, started off with opening remarks delivered by H.E. Dr. Hamda bint Hassan Al-Sulaiti, the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council; H.E. Dr. Hassan Rashid Al-Derham, President of Qatar University; Mr. Ali Abdulrazzaq Al-Marafie, Secretary General of the Qatar National Committee for Education, Culture and Science; Mr. Salah Khaled, Director of UNESCO Doha Office for Gulf States and Yemen; and Mr. Ahmad Al Namla, CEO-Qatar Museums.

H.E. Dr. Nasser bin Hamad Al Hanzab, the permanent representative of the state of Qatar to UNESCO delivered the keynote speech. The workshop aimed to raise awareness regarding the Al Zubara site against the backdrop of the history of Qatar and the larger Arabian Gulf while also elaborating on the various aspects of the economic and social life in Al Zubarah City.

Following the sessions presented by experts in the field, a panel discussion, chaired by Dr. Rashid Ali Malheya, International Cooperation Department, Qatar Museums, started a lively interaction between the panelists and the attendees discussing challenges for the future of Al Zubarah Project and exploring the way forward with a focus on possible future research projects and ways to engage academic communities and students in protecting, promoting, and interpreting national heritage sites in Qatar.



Webinar: Latin America and the Gulf- Beyond Oil and Football



On October 12, 2022, The Gulf Studies Center organized a webinar titled "Latin America and the Gulf- Beyond Oil and Football." The one-day webinar was presented by 19 speakers from across the globe who discussed Latin America- Gulf relations. The topics covered in this webinar include regionalism and inter-regionalism, comparative politics, south-south cooperation, migration, and more. The papers presented in the webinar will be published in two peer-reviewed special issues in well-renowned journals in due course.

Research Productivity

The Gulf Studies Center pursues an active, sustained and productive research agenda as one of its key pillars. Our faculty members and students actively engage in publications and conference participation. In addition to publishing in various prominent journals and media outlets, the Gulf Studies Center gives its community, as well as other experts in the field, an opportunity to share their research outcomes via internal publication series. Gulf Insights, Policy briefs, Working papers, and Monographs provide far-reaching avenues to publish Gulf-focused research papers and commentaries.

During this semester, the Gulf Studies Center published seven Gulf Insights, a policy brief and a working paper. These research papers and articles are conducted by experts focusing on various fields in the Gulf Studies and carefully supervised by our research coordinators. The internal publications were posted on the Gulf Studies web page and shared on the center's social media accounts. Additionally, our faculty members and students publish in other academic platforms and media outlets too.

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Gulf Studies Center Director, co-authored with Ph.D. candidate Muyasar Suleiman a book chapter titled "The impact of the Arab Spring on GCC Countries: Opportunities and Risk" in the book " Global Disruptions and the Making of a New Middle East" edited by Prof. Talip Küçükcan. Prof. Zweiri also published an article titled "Iran and the Gulf: The Era of Hassan Rouhani" in Insight Turkey. Additionally, Prof. Zweiri's article titled "Iran's Trade with Neighbors: Sanctions' Impact and the Alternatives" is published in the Middle East Policy.

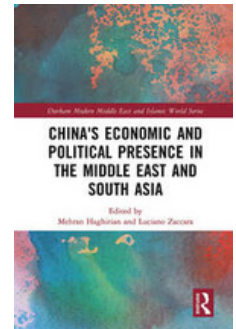
Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov, Research Associate Professor at the Gulf Studies Center, inked an op-ed titled "OPEC+: Neither with the West, nor with the East" published at the Middle East Institute website. The op-ed argues that the continued instability in the global oil market will not only strengthen the unity between the key OPEC+ players but also force them to focus primarily on ensuring their own interests, before taking those of their consumers into consideration.



Dr. Kozhanov also discussed the role of the GCC countries in the replacement of Russian oil in the European market in his op-ed for Chatham House titled "Timing is the Key to the Gulf Replacing Russian Oil."

Dr. Luciano Zaccara, Research Associate Professor at the Gulf Studies Center, along with GCS Ph.D. student, Mehran Haghirian, co-edited a book titled "China's Economic and Political Presence in the Middle East and South Asia" published by Routledge. Gulf Studies Ph.D. student Vorachai Israsena-Pichitkanjanakul also contributed to the book with a chapter titled " China's Foreign Policy in the Middle East and the Position of the GCC States." Dr. Zaccara also published a peer-reviewed article in the journal Asia Maior titled "Iran 2021: The year of transition."

Prof. Şaban Kardaş, Gulf Studies Research Professor, co-edited a book with Prof. Haldun Yalcinkaya titled "Security Agenda of Turkish Foreign Policy" published by Orient Publications, Ankara.



Ms. Suleiman also authored a book with Prof. Mohammed Almusfir titled "Gulf Studies: examining History, State and Society" published by Dar Al Sharq. Additionally, along with Dr. Mohammed Al-Zarir, she co-authored a book published by HBKU press titled " The formation of identity in Qatar: (Historical study during 1868-1913)"

Ms. Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu, Gulf Studies Center Research Assistant, wrote an op-ed titled "FIFA 2022 Qatar and Building Bridges in the Gulf" that was published in the Gulf International Forum. In addition to his book chapter contribution, Mr. Israsena-Pichitkanjanakul edited a book published by Routledge titled "China's Foreign Policy in the Middle East and the Position of the GCC States." Sharique Umar, Gulf Studies Ph.D. candidate published a journal article titled " Migration and Health in the Gulf: Healthcare Provision for Migrants in Qatar."

Conference Participations

In addition to their publications, members of the Gulf Studies Center also participate in many conferences. On October 22 and 23, 2022, Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri participated in the 9th Annual Gulf Studies Forum for the Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies with his paper titled "The Russian War on Ukraine and the Future of the Nuclear Agreement with Iran." Gulf Studies Ph.D. student, Kazuto Matsuda, also participated to the conference with his discussion on "Japan-GCC States Relations: Discussing the Japanese Government's Perspective through the Lens of Energy Diplomacy". Prior to that, Prof. Zweiri presented his paper "Navigating Murky Waters: Iranian-Gulf Relations a Year into Raisi's Presidency," at the conference "Iran Presidency: One Year On" organized by Iran Studies Unit at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies on August 22 and 23, 2022. During this conference, Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov discussed his paper "Between Development, Growth and Survival: Iran's Economic Priorities before and under President Raisi." Dr. Kozhanov also participated in a Conference on Economic Diversification in the Gulf States on August 30 and 31, 2022 organized by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The topic of his presentation was "Adjusting to New Realities: Qatar's Gas Sector and the Issue of Diversification in the Age of Energy Transition." Dr. Amr Al-Azm, Associate Professor at the Gulf Studies Program, presented a paper titled "To Loot or not to Loot: a New Modus Operandi for Non-State Actors in Conflict Zones: the ethical dilemma of what happens when looters and destroyers become carers and preservers" in the workshop "Cultural Heritage: Before, During, and After Crisis" in Boston on November 16 to 19, 2022.



Dr. Al-Azm gave a lecture on social media and the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in the Joint Interdisciplinary Workshop on Countering Trafficking of Cultural Property Including Documentary Heritage at the Qatar National Library on the 5th to 8th of September. As an expert panelist on the role of trafficking of looted antiquities in terrorism finance, he participated in a virtual roundtable discussion on "Threats and Trends: The Traffic and Illicit Trade of Cultural Property for Terrorist Purposes" on September 7, 2022.

Prof. Şaban Kardaş, Research Professor at the Gulf Studies Center, and Prof. Bulent Aras, visiting Professor at the Gulf Studies Center, jointly presented a paper titled "The Implications of the Ukraine crisis on Relationship between the GCC countries and Türkiye" at The Ninth Gulf Studies Forum on October 22-23 2022. They also discussed "Qatar's Asia Policy" at the Research Workshop "GCC-Asia Relations, and Qatar's Asia Diplomacy" on November 3, 2022. On December 3 and 4, 2022, Prof. Kardaş discussed "Threat and Underbalancing: A Neoclassical Realist Analysis of Turkey's Iran Policy during the Ahmedinejah Period (2005-2013)" at the International Studies Association –South Annual Conference in Gainesville, Florida.

Doctorate candidate, Vorachai Israsena Pichitkanjanakul, joined the Gulf Research Meeting at the University of Cambridge, with his paper titled: "Economic Diversification in the Arabian Peninsula: Nation Branding and the Role of Religious Tourism Sub-sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia".

GCC- Asia Relations and Qatar's Asia diplomacy

The Gulf Studies Center and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the State of Qatar co-hosted a conference on the GCC- Asia Relations and Qatar's Asia diplomacy on November 3, 2022. The conference commenced with welcoming remarks delivered by the Korean Ambassador to Qatar H.E. Joon-ho Lee followed by a welcome speech by Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Gulf Studies Center Director. The Keynote speech was delivered by H.E. Dr. Khaled Fahad Al-Khater, Director of Policy and Planning, MOFA. A discussion panel and a Q&A session with the audience took place followed by a series of presentations by:

- Prof. Adel Abdel Ghafar, Foreign Policy and Security Program Director, Middle East Council and Global Affairs
- Dr. Munsu Kang, Head of Africa and Middle East Team, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy
- Prof. Şaban Kardaş, Research Professor, Gulf Studies- Qatar University
- Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov, Research Associate Professor, Gulf Studies- Qatar University
- Dr. Luciano Zaccara, Research Associate Professor, Gulf Studies- Qatar University
- Dr. Tingyi Wang, Visiting Scholar, Gulf Studies- Qatar University
- Prof. Bulent Aras, Visiting Scholar, Gulf Studies- Qatar University

Ambassadorial Talk Series

On October 3, 2022, the Gulf Studies Center hosted the Ambassador of Spain to the State of Qatar, His Excellency Javier Carbajosa where he discussed with the Gulf Studies Center community Spain in the Gulf: Some Considerations from the National and EU perspective. This speech was a part of the Ambassadorial Talk Series.



مركز دراسات الخليج
Gulf Studies Center

The Gulf Studies Center at the College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to invite you to attend a talk titled:

Spain in the Gulf: Some Considerations from the National and EU Perspective

Speaker:

HE Javier Carbajosa
Ambassador of Spain to The State of Qatar

Moderator:

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri
Director of The Gulf Studies Center

Monday, 3rd October, 2022
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Doha Time)
Main Male Building, (B05) Room 113



Welcoming new faculty members



The Gulf Studies Center is proud to acknowledge its growing community. This year, the center has recruited two new faculty members. Prof. Şaban Kardaş and Sinem Cengiz. Prof. Kardaş is a research professor at the Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University. He has published articles and book chapters on Turkish domestic and foreign policies, energy politics and international security, and has been an occasional contributor to international media. He has taught classes at the Diplomacy Academy, Sakarya University, Police Academy, Military Academy, and TOBB University of Economics and Technology.

Ms. Cengiz is a Research Assistant at the Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar. Currently, she is also a Ph.D. Candidate at the Area Studies Department of the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey, where she also earned her Master's Degree in 2015 at the department of International Relations. She is also the author of the book titled "Turkish-Saudi Relations: Cooperation and Competition in the Middle East" published by Gerlach Press in 2020. Her research interests are international relations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Turkey-GCC relations, and internal and foreign policy nexus in the Gulf region.

About The Gulf Studies Center

The Gulf Studies Center was established in 2013, to cover topics of Politics and Security, Energy and Economics and Culture and Society. The Center aims to conduct and advance thought-provoking research on the Gulf Region.

Prior to establishing the Gulf Studies Center, the Gulf Studies launched its one-of-a-kind Gulf Studies MA Program in 2011. The program takes a fundamental approach where classes are delivered in small groups, with maximized interaction and engagement between the student and the instructor. Following the great success of the MA program, the Gulf Studies launched a Ph.D. program, which allows its students to take their research and academia a step forward. The MA and Ph.D. students explore fundamental questions about the economics, politics and security in the Gulf, and all other aspects of the Gulf identity from interdisciplinary perspectives. In addition, the students are exposed to exciting opportunities arising from the unique curriculum.

With the solid combination of research and academia, the Gulf Studies offers its community a unique opportunity to engage with leading academics in the field through workshops, seminars, guest lectures and most importantly, through the enriching experience of its classes and coursework.

CURRENT STATISTICS

41%



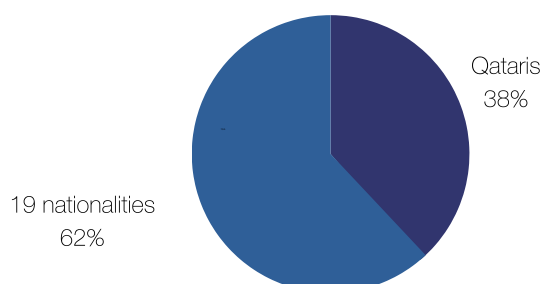
Male

59%

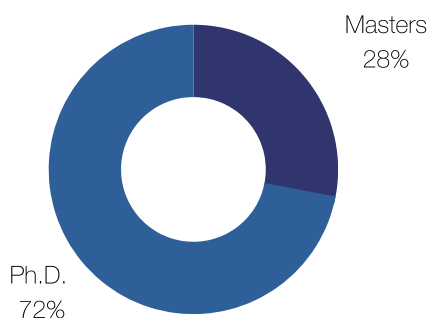


Female

Qatari/ Non-Qatari



Masters/ Ph.D.



Gulf Studies Team

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Director of Gulf Studies Center and Professor of Contemporary Middle East History

Dr. Amr Al- Azm, Gulf Studies Program Coordinator and Associate Professor in Social Sciences/ Anthropology

Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov, Research Associate Professor in Energy and Economy

Dr. Luciano Zaccara, Research Associate Professor in Gulf Politics

Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Research Associate Professor in Social Sciences/ Sociology

Dr. Farhan Chak, Associate Professor in International Relations and Politics

Prof. Şaban Kardaş, Research Professor

Ms. Farah Qawasmi, Research Assistant

Ms. Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu , Research Assistant

Ms. Sinem Cingez, Research Asistant

Ms. Dima Arar, Research Assistant

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Ms. Nourhan Bulble, Administrative Coordinator

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