

# Gulf Studies Newsletter

## Joint International Conference on Public Diplomacy in the Arab Gulf States: Policies and Practices in collaboration with Katara Public Diplomacy Center



In cooperation with the Katara Public Diplomacy Center, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a two-day "Public Diplomacy Conference in the Arab Gulf States" at Katara on February 19-20, 2023. The conference was attended by numerous ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, academics, researchers, and experts in the field of public diplomacy.

The event began with a welcoming speech by H.E. Prof. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti, General Manager of Katara Village Foundation, followed by opening remarks from Dr. Omar Al Ansari, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Qatar University. Participants from 12 countries around the world presented 30 papers, discussing the role of public diplomacy in the Gulf states. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, and featured keynote speeches by Prof. Nicholas Cull and Dr. Rhonda Zaharna.

On the second day of the event, H.E. Dr. Majed Mohammad Hassan Abdullah Al-Ansari, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, delivered a keynote speech moderated by Prof. Saban Kardas.

The outcome of the event will be a book containing the papers, which will be published in due course.

## Ambassadorial Visit Series



As an interdisciplinary graduate program and research center, Gulf Studies aims to collaborate with a variety of institutions and sectors to expand students' knowledge, diversify their resources, and unlock new opportunities for them. One of the most influential and prominent collaborations is with different embassies in Qatar.

Since January 2023, which marked the start of the spring semester, the Gulf Studies Center has hosted four Ambassadors to deliver speeches to the Gulf Studies Center community.

On February 5, 2023, the Gulf Studies Center hosted H.E. Dr. Cristian Tudor, the Ambassador of the European Union to The State of Qatar, to discuss "EU- Qatar relations in a post-World Cup Gulf region"

H.E. Mr. Timmy Davis, Ambassador of the United States of America to the State of Qatar, was invited on February 12, 2023, to discuss "America's Future Role in the Region." On March 19, 2023, the Gulf Studies Center hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina to the State of Qatar, H.E. Guillermo Nicolas, who delivered a talk on "Argentina, Qatar, and the GCC: Bilateral and Regional Relations." On May 7, the center hosted H.E. Dr. Claudius Fishbach, Ambassador of Germany to the State of Qatar, to discuss "German-Qatari Relations: Current Topics, Future Perspectives."

## Russia's War in Ukraine and the Geopolitics of the GCC Hydrocarbons

On June 4, 2023, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a talk presented by Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov, Associate Research Professor at the center, titled "Russia's War in Ukraine and the Geopolitics of GCC Hydrocarbons." Dr. Kozhanov discussed the transformation of hydrocarbon markets in light of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, highlighting the challenges faced by Gulf oil and gas producers. The lecture explored how the ongoing war in Ukraine shapes the development of the GCC oil and gas sectors, as well as their strategies for hydrocarbon exports.

# Issues of Higher Education in the Middle East: Cases of Qatar and Iran.

In collaboration with the Chair of the State of Qatar for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a workshop titled "Issues of Higher Education in the Middle East: Cases of Qatar and Iran" on February 8, 2023. The workshop commenced with opening remarks by Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Director of the Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University, and Dr. Abdullah Baabood, Chair of the State of Qatar for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University, Japan.

By addressing different important topics, the workshop aimed to shed light on the unique aspects of higher education in Qatar and Iran. The discussions provided valuable insights into the coexistence of tradition and modernity, the experiences of women faculty members, and the impact of higher education expansion.



## 3 MT Competition- 3rd Place Winner



The Gulf Studies Center extends congratulations to Thomas Bonnie James for achieving third place in the 3MT competition and for being selected to represent Qatar University at the National 3MT Competition. Mr. James presented his research on "Conflict Management and the 2022 World Cup." The 3MT competition challenges graduate students to communicate the significance of their research to a broader audience within a three-minute timeframe, celebrating their discoveries and promoting effective knowledge dissemination.

# The Gulf and the European Union: Navigating Shifting Sands



In collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a two-day workshop titled "The Gulf and the European Union: Navigating Shifting Sands" on April 30 and May 1, 2023. The workshop commenced with opening speeches by Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Director of the Gulf Studies Center, and Dr. Alexander Radwan, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, German Bundestag..

Through the engaging panels and discussions, the workshop facilitated an in-depth exploration of the evolving relationship between the Gulf region and the European Union. It provided a platform for scholars, experts, and ambassadors to exchange insights and perspectives, contributing to a better understanding of the political, economic, and diplomatic dynamics between the EU and the GCC countries.

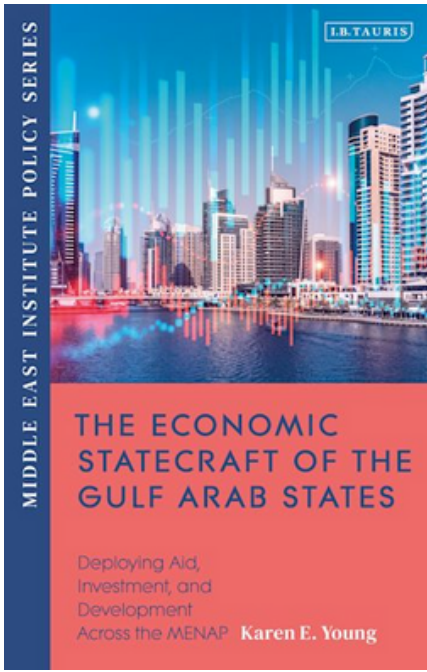
## Restoring Diplomatic Relations Declaration between Saudi Arabia and Iran: Motivations and the Implications for the Gulf and wider Middle East.

On March 21, 2023, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a closed round table discussion titled "Restoring Diplomatic Relations Declaration between Saudi Arabia and Iran: Motivations and Implications for the Gulf and wider Middle East." Participants with diverse expertise in the field were invited to discuss the restoration of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, exploring the motivations behind this significant development and its potential implications for the Gulf region and the broader Middle East.



## Book Launch

# “The Economic Statecraft of the Gulf Arab States: Deploying Aid, Investment and Development Across the MENAP” by Prof. Karen Young.



The Gulf Studies Center organized a book launch event on March 20, 2023, to celebrate the release of Prof. Karen Young's book titled "The Economic Statecraft of the Gulf Arab States: Deploying Aid, Investment, and Development Across the MENAP." The book provides a comprehensive study of the shifting dynamics in politics and finance of development, examining the transition from a post-World War II global political economy to the emergence of South-South economic ties and the rise of authoritarian or state capitalism as an alternative model of development.

## Webinar




# AI and Policy Making in the MENA Region Impact and Risks

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Director of the Gulf Studies Center, delivered a presentation in the webinar titled "AI and Policy Making in the MENA Region: Impact and Risks." The webinar, hosted by the Gulf Studies Center in collaboration with the Middle East Council on Global Affairs, took place on June 5, 2023, providing insights into the impact and potential risks associated with the implementation of artificial intelligence in policy making across the MENA region.



# Memoranda of Understanding and Agreement

The Gulf Studies Center actively seeks collaborations and partnerships to promote cooperation and achieve its goals. During the Spring 2023 semester, the center signed a number of memoranda of understanding with other organizations, fostering formal collaborations and facilitating joint initiatives in research and academic endeavors.

		
<b>Memorandum of Agreement</b>	<b>Memorandum of Understanding</b>	<b>Memorandum of Understanding</b>
On January 26, 2023 <b>Qatar University and International Network for Arab Societies</b> signed a MoA	On April 9, 2023 <b>Qatar University and Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University</b> signed a MoU	On May 11, 2023 <b>Qatar University and International Network for Arab Societies Study</b> signed a MoU

## Academic Research Grants



Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Prof. Saban Kardas, and Dr. Amna Al Sadeq, faculty members of the Gulf Studies Center, submitted proposals for academic research grants under the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). These proposals, totaling approximately 2 million USD, aim to advance knowledge, drive innovation, and support impactful research projects.

# Publications

The Gulf Studies Center is committed to maintaining an active and productive research agenda, which is a key focus of our work. Our faculty members and students actively contribute to publications and participate in conferences. In addition to publishing in esteemed journals and media outlets, the Gulf Studies Center provides a platform for its community and other experts in the field to share their research outcomes through internal publication series. Gulf Insights, Policy Briefs, Working Papers, and Monographs offer wide-ranging avenues for publishing Gulf-focused research papers and commentaries.

During this semester, the Gulf Studies Center has released several internal publications, as listed below. These research papers and articles are authored by experts specializing in various fields of Gulf Studies and are meticulously supervised by our research coordinators. The internal publications are made available on the Gulf Studies website and shared through the center's social media accounts. Additionally, our faculty members and students also publish in other academic platforms and media outlets.

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri co-authored a book chapter titled "Social Science and Humanities in Future University" with Lakshmi Venugopal Menon. The chapter is part of the book "The Sustainable University of the Future: Reimagining Higher Education and Research," published by Springer and edited by Mariam Ali S A Al-Maadeed, Abdelaziz Boras, Mohammed Al-Salem, and Nathalie Younan.

Prof. Saban Kardas, Research Professor of Politics and Security, co-edited a book titled "Geopolitics of the New Middle East: Perspectives from Inside and Outside" with Prof. Bulent Aras. The book, to be released by the end of June 2023 through Routledge, offers diverse perspectives on the evolving geopolitics of the Middle East. Additionally, Prof. Kardas and Prof. Aras co-authored the chapter titled "Revisionism and Resecuritization of Turkey's Middle East Policy: A Neoclassical Realist Explanation" in the same book.

# Journal Articles

Author(s)	Article Title	Journal Name	Volume
Mahjoob Zweiri Leen Al-Rabbat	Navigating Murky Waters: Iranian-Gulf Relations a Year into Raisi's Presidency	Muslim World Journal	113
Mizanur Rahman Reem Al-Ahbabi Sahar Al Sayed	Gulf Studies: The Imperatives of Area Studies in the Gulf Region	Social Sciences	12
Farah Al-Qawasmi	Climate change impact and action: Qatar at the forefront	Orient	
Nikolay Kozhanov	Between Development, Growth, and Survival: Iran's Economic Priorities before and under President Raisi	Muslim World Journal	113
	Iran's Economy under Sanctions: Two Levels of Impact	Russia on Global Affairs	20

# Gulf Insights

Author(s)	Title
Abdulla Farooq Hassan	Challenges Facing the Iraqi Government for 2023
Mahjoob Zweiri Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu	Reconciliation in the Gulf: the Case of Iran-Saudi Arabia Talks
Sharique Umar	Quest for the Best: Foreign Athletes as High-Skilled Migrants in the Gulf Region
Nikolay Kozhanov	Between Development, Growth, and Survival: Iran's Economic Priorities before and under President Raisi
E. Esra Erturan-Ogut	Lifestyle Barriers to Physical Fitness in Kuwait and the Need for a Revision in Public Policies
Lakshmi Venugopal Menon & Farah Al Qawasmi	Al-Zubara – Preserving History and Making History
Sinem Cengiz	Her Excellency, Not His: Gulf Women Breaking Diplomatic Tradition
Luciano Zaccara	What Iran gains from the recently signed deal with Saudi Arabia
Abdulla Al-Khazraji	Political Dynamics Surrounding Iraq's Electoral Law
Sharique Umar	Qatar's Humanitarianism: Between Altruism and Realpolitik

# Policy Briefs

Author(s)	Title
Glnar Eskandar	Growing but Nonmutual: Unequal Trade Dependencies and the Future of the GCC's Economic Integration
Charbel Bassil	A note on the potential economic contribution of Al-Zubarah world heritage site
Meliha Benli Altunışık Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu	Türkiye-GCC Relations at Turkish Republic's Centennial: Trends, Prospects and Challenges
Report prepared by Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu	Restoring Diplomatic Relations Declaration between Saudi Arabia and Iran: Motivations and the Implications for the Gulf and wider Middle East
Gulf Studies Research Team	GCC's 'Disaster Diplomacy' toward Türkiye and Syria
Report prepared by Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu	Expert Assessment Report Saudi-Iranian Normalization and its Repercussions on Israel-Iran Confrontation
Gulf Studies Research Team	Stability in Sudan Crisis Diplomacy in Action: GCC's Efforts to Restore
Musllam Al Maashani Lakshmi Venugopal Menon	Traditional Date Presses (madabis) in Qatar



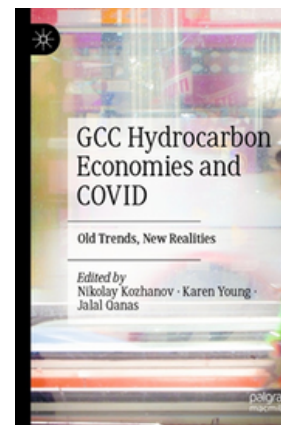
# Monographs

Author(s)	Title
Robert Mason	UK Policy towards the GCC States Post-Brexit: Influence, Adaptations, Impact
Matthew Gray	Gulf Security and Minilateralism: The Potential, the Problems, and the Prospects

# Books



Book Editors	Book title
<p><u>Dr. Mizanur Rahman:</u> Associate Research Professor, Gulf Studies Center</p> <p><u>Dr. Amr Al- Azm:</u> Associate Professor, Gulf Studies Program</p>	<p><b>Social Change in the Gulf Region</b> Multidisciplinary Perspectives</p>
Author(s)	Chapter Title
Lakshmi Venugopal Menon:	Tujjar in the Gulf: Changes in Political Influence
Sharique Umar and Salem Ghurab	The 2017 Gulf Crisis and Changes in Qatar's Economic Landscape
Huzeyfe Altioek	Kuwait's Mediation in the Gulf Crisis: Dynamics of Kuwait's Foreign Policy Approaches
Reem Ali Al Derham	Political Power and Material Identity: Saudi Women in Real and Virtual Societies



Book Editors	Book title
<p><u>Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov:</u> Associate Research Professor, Gulf Studies Center, QU</p> <p><u>Karen Young:</u> Senior Research Scholar, Columbia University</p> <p><u>Jalal Qanas:</u> Assistant Professor of Economics, QU</p>	<p><b>GCC Hydrocarbon Economies and COVID</b> Old Trends New Realities</p>
Author(s)	Chapter Title
Luciano Zaccara and Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu	Dealing with the Challenges: GCC Institutional Responses to the Covid-19 and Arab Spring
Lakshmi Venugopal Menon	Gulf's Migrant Workers Amidst Covid-19 and Workforce Nationalization: A Focus on Qatar's Social Protection Systems
- Mahjoob Zweiri, Farah Al Qawasmii and Thomas Bonnie James	Energy Security and Diplomacy: A Double-Edged Sword. The Case Study of Saudi Arabia and Iran

# Congratulations graduates of Spring 2023

Muhammed Yakup MA	• TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL CONTRACT IN SAUDI ARABIA FROM RENTIERISM TO NATIONALISM
Fatima Al Khulaifi MA	• MIGRATION DIPLOMACY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH - A CASE OF QATAR
Areej Abu Haieh MA	• THE ENTREPRENEURIAL STATE: REMAKING QATAR'S FOREIGN RELATIONS APPROACH
Betul Dogan PhD	• HEGEMONIC PRACTICES IN THE GCC POLITICAL COMPLEX (GPC): EVOLVEMENT OF COUNTER-HEGEMONIC FORMATIONS
Alanoud Al Khalifa Ph.D.	• RE-IMAGINING NATIONAL IDENTITY IN QATAR: QATAR NATIONAL MUSEUM AND THE BLOCKADE

## CURRENT STATISTICS

40%



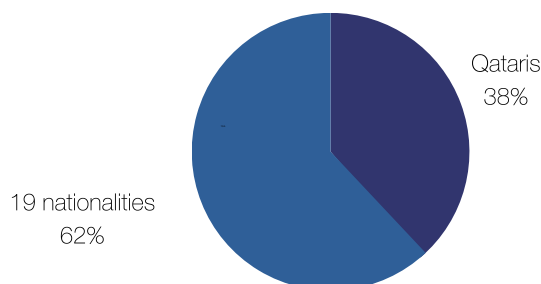
Male

60%

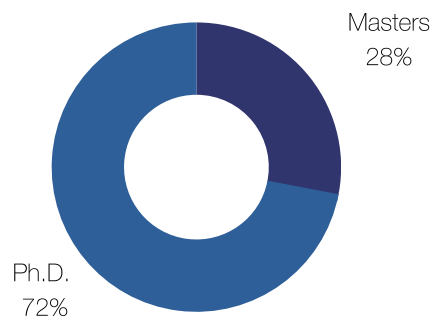


Female

### Qatari/ Non-Qatari



### Masters/ Ph.D.



# Gulf Studies Team

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

Prof. Şaban Kardaş Gulf Studies Program Coordinator and Research Professor of Social Sciences

Dr. Amr Al- Azm, 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

Ms. Farah Qawasmi, Researcher

Ms. Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu , Researcher

Ms. Sinem Cingez, Researcher

Ms. Noora Abdulaziz, Senior Engagement and Communication Specialist

Ms. Thouria Mahmoud, Senior Editor

Ms. Nourhan Bulble, Administrative Coordinator

---

## Editor- in - Chief

Ms. Thouria Mahmoud- Senior Editor, Gulf Studies Center

## Editorial Board

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri- Gulf Studies Center Director

Ms. Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu , Researcher

---

## Contact us

### Center



[gulfstudiescenter@qu.edu.qa](mailto:gulfstudiescenter@qu.edu.qa)



+974-4403-7598

### Program



[gulfstudiesprogram@qu.edu.qa](mailto:gulfstudiesprogram@qu.edu.qa)



+974-4403-6523

## Find us on



[qugufstudies](https://www.instagram.com/qugufstudies)



[QuGulfStudies](https://twitter.com/QuGulfStudies)



[qugufstudies](https://www.facebook.com/qugufstudies)



[gulf-studies-center](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gulf-studies-center)