

GULF STUDIES CENTER NEWSLETTER

Issue 8

December 2025

10th Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference of the Gulf Studies Center *Bridging Tradition and Progress: Social Transformation Trends in the GCC States*



The Gulf Studies Center at the College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University, hosted the 10th edition of its annual international interdisciplinary conference on November 16-17, 2025, titled “Bridging Tradition and Progress: Social Transformation Trends in the GCC States”



The conference brought together academics and experts from Qatar University and regional and international institutions, including universities from the Gulf region.

Throughout seven specialized sessions, participants discussed key issues related to national identity, family, artificial intelligence, cultural diplomacy, law, and language, with a focus on social transformation in the Gulf region.

The discussions highlighted the challenges facing GCC societies in balancing modernization with the preservation of cultural heritage and social values.

The Gulf Studies Center aims to produce an edited volume based on the scholarly work presented by the speakers.



Talk by Dr. Ahmed Abozaid

Infinite Debate: Theories of International Relations and the Study of War and Peace



The Gulf Studies Center hosted a seminar titled “Infinite Debate: Theories of International Relations and the Study of War and Peace”, delivered by Dr. Ahmed Abozaid on 16 September 2025. The seminar featured a thought-provoking and engaging discussion on key theoretical perspectives pertaining to the study of war, peace, and international relations, sparking meaningful dialogue among participants.



Seminar

The Arabian Gulf in Global History



The Gulf Studies Center organized a seminar titled “The Arabian Gulf in Global History” on October 13, 2025. Dr. Lindsey Stepenson, Historian of the Middle East and Indian Ocean, and Dr. Fahad Bishara, Associate Professor of Indian Ocean History, presented papers during the seminar examining the Gulf’s historical role within broader global contexts.

The seminar offered valuable insights into the political, economic, and cultural interactions that have shaped the Arabian Gulf across different historical periods.

This event reflects the Gulf Studies Center’s continued commitment to advancing interdisciplinary research and fostering scholarly dialogue on the Gulf’s place in world history.



Women in Diplomacy in the State of Qatar: Exploring Ambitions and Challenges



On 20 October 2025, the Humanities and Social Sciences Cluster, College of Arts and Sciences, hosted a conference titled “Diplomatic Relations: Historical, Social, and Political Perspectives”. The Gulf Studies Center participated in the event with a panel entitled “Women in Diplomacy in the State of Qatar: Exploring Ambitions and Challenges.”



Students' Visit to Mediation Exhibition



On December 9, 2025, PhD students from the Gulf Studies Program visited the Pathway to Peace exhibition as part of Dr. Pinar Akpinar's Foreign Policy Analysis of the Gulf States course. The guided tour enabled students specializing in Gulf and mediation studies to engage directly with Qatar's mediation and peacebuilding efforts, effectively linking classroom theory with real-world diplomatic practice. By presenting mediation as an evolving foreign policy tool grounded in dialogue and facilitation, the exhibition deepened students' understanding of how peace processes operate in practice and highlighted the value of experiential learning in advanced graduate training. Pathway to Peace is a permanent exhibition curated by the International Media Office (IMO) of the State of Qatar and hosted at the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel, a symbolic venue where many of Qatar's mediation efforts have taken place, underscoring the power of mediation to save lives and build sustainable peace.



Nikolay Kozhanov

The GCC Energy Future Amid New Russia-China Deals



Maryam Al Kuwari

Foundations of the Qatari Stance on the Israeli Occupation of Palestine: Reading of the British Archives



Amna Sadiq

GCC Joint Defense in the Shadow of the US Indifference



Sinem Cengiz

September 9 attacks: Is a paradigm shift in Gulf security underway?



Farah Al Qawasmi

Israel's attack on Qatar: The Coup de Grace for Traditional Mediation with Israel



Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu

Israel's Strike in Doha: A Dangerous Breach of International Law and the Reactions International Community



Saban Kardas

The coming age of security competition in the wake of Israel-Iran conflict and challenges for the Gulf countries

155,496 QR
2 YEARS

The Social Determinants and Factors Shaping Qatari Identity from the Perspective of Qatari Youth

THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Grant's research team seeks to provide a comprehensive scientific understanding of the social determinants and factors shaping Qatari identity from the perspective of youth.



DR. AMNA SADIQ
(LEAD PI)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
GULF STUDIES PROGRAM



PROF. SABAN KARDAS (PI)
PROFESSOR
GULF STUDIES CENTER

Political Stances of Large Language Models on Regional Issues: Evaluating Persistence and Persuasiveness

LEAD PI- DR. MUCAHID KUTLU (CENG)

QNRF

The project investigates the political stance of state-of-the-art LLMs and the persistence of these stances

Developing a Virtual Social Media Platform with AI Agents for Ethical Social Media Research

LEAD PI- DR. MUCAHID KUTLU (CENG)

QATAR UNIVERSITY INTERNAL GRANT

This project seeks to develop a virtual social media platform that will allow researchers to study online behavior in an ethical, controlled, and cost-effective environment

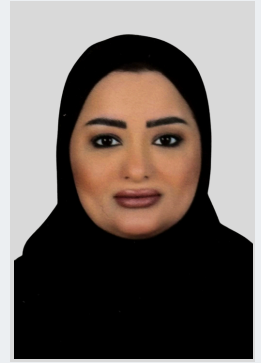
9856 USD
9 MONTHS

300.000 QR
2 YEARS

Safya Almarri , PhD

Healthcare Accreditation:
A Study of the Role Accreditation in the Quality
of Private Healthcare Facilities in Qatar

Supervisor: Dr. Mizanur Rahman



Said Albimani, PhD

Prospects for a Common Maritime Security Policy in the GCC:
A Comparative Case Study of Saudi Arabia,
the UAE and Oman's Approaches

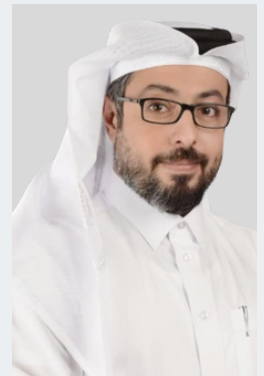
Supervisor: Prof. Saban Kardas



Ahmad Aldasuqi, PhD

Financial Technology (FinTech) and the Issue of Economic
Diversification in the GCC:
The Case of Qatar

Supervisor: Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov
Co-Supervisor: Dr. Andrew Dahdal



Dina Abu Rumman, PhD

The Making of Migrant Community Schools in the Gulf:
A Case Study of Jordanian and Filipino Schools in Qatar

Supervisor: Dr. Mizanur Rahman



Dilruba Zeynep Kalin Alabab

Strategic Perception and Representation of Qatar in the
U.S. Policy Establishment during the 2017 Blockade

Supervisor: Prof. Hassan Al Barari
Co-Supervisor: Dr. Pinar Akpinar

