



المركز العربي للأبحاث ودراسة السياسات
Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies

The Twelfth Annual Gulf Studies Forum

- Arab Gulf States and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq
- Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere

13-14 December 2025

Timetable

Day 1, Saturday, 13 December 2025

8:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:15	Opening Remarks (Main Auditorium) Alanoud Al-Khalifa	
9:15-10:30	Arab Gulf States and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq (Main Auditorium)	
	<p>Arab Mashreq Transformations and the Gulf States: Engagement and Challenges</p> <p>Chair: Marwan Kabalan</p> <p>Abdullah Al-Shaiji: The Repercussions of Al-Aqsa Flood and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq for the GCC States</p> <p>Asaad Saleh Al-Shamlan: GCC States and Mashreq Transformations: Determinants of Engagement and Response</p> <p>Khalid Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi: Gulf Minilateralism: A New Mode of Cooperation amid Mashreq Transformations</p>	
10:30-10:45	Break	
10:45-12:00	Arab Gulf States and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq (Main Auditorium)	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)
	<p>Transformations in the Arab Mashreq and the Implications for the Gulf States</p> <p>Chair: Abdul Hadi Alajmi</p> <p>Abdullah Al-Ghailani: GCC Security amid Mashreq Transformations: Between Absent Consensus and Multiple Threats</p> <p>Abdullah Rashid Al-Mursel: The Arab Gulf States and Mashreq Transformations: From the Periphery to the Centre</p> <p>Sultan Al-Khulaifi: Mashreq Transformations and Gulf–Great Power Realignment: A Status-Enhancement Perspective</p>	<p>Digital Gulf Societies: A General Perspective</p> <p>Chair: Ghanim Alnajjar</p> <p>Ammar Shamaileh, Charles Harb, Fadi Zaraket, Hadi Hamoud, Mohamed Falha & Yasmine Lahnin: The Gulf's Digital Communities: Influence and Cross-Border Networks</p> <p>Corina Lozovan*: Interest, Influence, and the Digital Commons: The Case of Oman</p> <p>Ahmed Al-Rawi: Social Media Policies toward the Gulf: Facebook as a Case Study</p>
12:00-12:15	Break	

* Attending online.

	Arab Gulf States and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq (Main Auditorium)	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)
	<p>Reshaping Gulf Security: The Impact of Shifts in the International Order and the Arab Mashreq</p> <p>Middle East Council on Global Affairs</p> <p>Chair: Ibrahim Al-Sheikh</p> <p>Rashid Al Naimi: Gulf Defence Strategy During Shifts in the Global Order</p> <p>Rashed Al-Mohannadi: Regional Conflicts and Their Impact on the Security Order in the Gulf States</p> <p>Yousuf Al-Balushi: Gulf Security Integration in a Context of Mashreq Transformations</p>	<p>Social Media and Identity Manifestations</p> <p>Chair: Baqer Al Najjar</p> <p>Saif Al-Maamari & Zainab Al-Gharibi: Reproducing Omani National Identity Through Social Media from the Perspective of Nation-Branding Theory</p> <p>Sumaiya Al Yaaqubi: Citizenship Discourses as Strategic Acts in Omani Digital Debates: An Analytical Study of X</p> <p>Ali Abdel-Wahab*: Identity and Social Media in the Arab Gulf: Symbolic Contestations and Transformations of the Self</p>
12:15-13:30		
13:30-14:30	Lunch Break	
	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)	
	<p>Social Media and Asabiyyah</p> <p>Chair: Khalid Almezaini</p> <p>Shaimaa Al Essai & Safiya Ambusaidi: Asabiyyah in the Digital Space: Cancel Culture among Khaliji X and TikTok Users</p> <p>Hatem Alyafei: The Impact of Social Media on the Reproduction of Tribalism in Dhofar Governorate: A Case Study of the 2023 Shura Elections</p>	
14:30-15:30		
15:30-15:45	Break	
	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Main Auditorium)	
	<p>The Gulf Podcast: A Conversation with Actors from Within</p> <p>Chair: Maisa Alkhawaja</p> <p>Abdulla Al-Khaldi (Sanad Qanuni), Faisal Al-Aql (Bidoon Waraq), Mohammed Al-Hana'i (Jalsat Karak)</p>	
15:45-17:15		

* Attending online.

Day 2, Sunday, 14 December 2025

9:00-10:15	Arab Gulf States and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq (Main Auditorium)	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)
	<p>The Impact of Transformations in the Arab Mashreq on Energy and the Economy</p> <p>Chair: Ibtihal Al-Khatib</p> <p>Abdullah Baabood: The Impact of Transformations in the Arab Mashreq on the Region's Energy Map and Economic Corridors</p> <p>Naji Abi-Aad: Energy Links between the Gulf and the Mashreq: Present Status and Future Prospects</p> <p>Bader Alibrahim: The Challenge of Durability: Redefining Gulf Influence in the Arab Mashreq</p>	<p>Education Through Social Media</p> <p>Chair: Alanoud Alsharekh</p> <p>Rafiah bint Salman Altaiei: Social Media and Gender Issues in the Gulf</p> <p>Moza bint Abdullah Al-Maqbaliya & Yousra Mohammed Al-Mughairi: Media Literacy in the Gulf Context:</p> <p>A Systematic Review of Conceptual Frameworks in the Age of Social Media</p> <p>Ahmad M J Alfawair & Buthaina Nasser Alyahyae: The Relationship between Social Media Addiction and Intellectual Extremism from the Perspective of University of Nizwa Students in Oman</p>
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:45	Arab Gulf States and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq (Main Auditorium)	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)
	<p>Reconfiguring Gulf Agency: Political and Security Approaches</p> <p>Chair: Mohammed Al-Mesfer</p> <p>Dhafer Al-Ajmi: How the Gulf Reintroduced Itself: From Financing to Political and Diplomatic Agency</p> <p>Khalifa Alkuwari: Gulf Cyber Threats in Light of Mashreq Transformations: Toward a Regional Defence System and Effective Cyber Diplomacy</p> <p>Muhanad Seloom: Gulf Security in Trump's Second Term: The Anxious Alliance and the Reconfiguration of Security Guarantees (2025–2029)</p>	<p>Political Interactions as Reflected on Social Media</p> <p>Chair: Saleh Abdullah Al Khulaifi</p> <p>Yagoub Yousif Mohammed Al-Kandari & Mohammad Yaqoub Alkandari: Dissolution of the Kuwaiti National Assembly and Its Impact on Members' Political Views: An Analysis of Their Posts on X</p> <p>Wadhha Shamis Al-Kiyumi & Safiya Salem Al-Hashemi: Transformations in the Digital Engagement of Omani Youth with the Palestinian Cause after the Events of 7 October: An Analytical Reading</p> <p>Ecaterina Elena Matoi: The Abrahamic Family House in the Wake of the Abraham Accords (2020-2025): A Social Media Analysis of UAE's Interfaith Diplomacy</p>

11:45-12:00	Break	
12:00-13:15	Arab Gulf States and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq (Main Auditorium)	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)
	<p>Arab Gulf States and Mashreq Transformations: Case Studies</p> <p>Chair: Abdulnabi Al-Ekry</p> <p>Ahmad Jamil Azem: Saudi Foreign Policy and the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution</p> <p>Faozi Al-Goidi: Why Has US Policy Failed to Halt Houthi Attacks and What Are the Implications for the Gulf States?</p> <p>Betul Dogan-Akkas: Can Gulf States Be a Power Broker in Post-Assad Syria?</p>	<p>Social Media as a Political Act</p> <p>Chair: Sadiq Al Ammari</p> <p>Fahad Al-Fadala: The Role of Small Political Groups in Utilizing Social Media in Kuwait: The Case of the Group of Eighty</p> <p>Sahar Khamis: Digital Spheres of Political Activism in the Diaspora: Voices from the Gulf</p>
13:15-14:15	Lunch Break	
14:15-15:15	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)	
	<p>Social Media and Gulf Influencers</p> <p>Chair: Hasan Madan</p> <p>Mohammed Hassan Al-Kaabi & Abdulrahman Albaker: From Legal Jurist to Influencer: Traditional Structures of Legal Education Confronting Social Media Legal Personalities</p> <p>Magdalena Karolak: Social Media Influencers as Co-Creators of Saudi Arabia's Tourism Image</p>	
15:15-15:30	Break	
15:30-16:30	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)	
	<p>Social Media Between Legal Framework and Regulatory Surveillance</p> <p>Chair: Fahad Alnaser</p> <p>Bilal Sandid: Freedom of Digital Expression and Public Order: A Study in Kuwaiti and Comparative Law</p> <p>Ahmed Badran & Sara Badran: Should Social Media Come Under Regulatory Purview? Ethical Considerations of Influencer Marketing in the GCC Region</p>	
16:30-16:45	Break	

16:45-17:45	Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)
	<p>The Ontology of Social Media</p> <p>Chair: Haider Saeed</p> <p>Nasser Saleh Al Gheilani: The Question of "Being" and the "Being" of Omanis on Social Media</p> <p>Ahmad Khaldi: The Effect of Social Media on Users' Westernization, Lifestyle Dimensions, and Materialism in the Arabian Gulf: The Case of Kuwait</p>