



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

\* Attending online.

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

\* Attending online.

## Day 2, Sunday, 14 December 2025

9:00-10:15	<b>Arab Gulf States and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq (Main Auditorium)</b>	<b>Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)</b>
	<p><b>The Impact of Transformations in the Arab Mashreq on Energy and the Economy</b></p> <p>Chair: Ibtihal Al-Khatib</p> <p><b>Abdullah Baabood:</b> The Impact of Transformations in the Arab Mashreq on the Region's Energy Map and Economic Corridors</p> <p><b>Naji Abi-Aad:</b> Energy Links between the Gulf and the Mashreq: Present Status and Future Prospects</p> <p><b>Bader Alibrahim:</b> The Challenge of Durability: Redefining Gulf Influence in the Arab Mashreq</p>	<p><b>Education Through Social Media</b></p> <p>Chair: Baqer Al Najjar</p> <p><b>Rafiah bint Salman Altaiei:</b> Social Media and Gender Issues in the Gulf</p> <p><b>Moza bint Abdullah Al-Maqbaliya &amp; Yousra Mohammed Al-Mughairi:</b> Media Literacy in the Gulf Context:</p> <p>A Systematic Review of Conceptual Frameworks in the Age of Social Media</p> <p><b>Ahmad M J Alfawair &amp; Buthaina Nasser Alyahyae:</b> 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	<b>Arab Gulf States and Transformations in the Arab Mashreq (Main Auditorium)</b>	<b>Social Media in the Gulf: The Construction of the Political and Civil Sphere (Auditorium 2)</b>
	<p><b>Reconfiguring Gulf Agency: Political and Security Approaches</b></p> <p>Chair: Mohammed Al-Mesfer</p> <p><b>Dhafer Al-Ajmi:</b> How the Gulf Reintroduced Itself: From Financing to Political and Diplomatic Agency</p> <p><b>Khalifa Alkuwari:</b> Gulf Cyber Threats in Light of Mashreq Transformations: Toward a Regional Defence System and Effective Cyber Diplomacy</p> <p><b>Muhanad Seloom:</b> Gulf Security in Trump's Second Term: The Anxious Alliance and the Reconfiguration of Security Guarantees (2025–2029)</p>	<p><b>Political Interactions as Reflected on Social Media</b></p> <p>Chair: Amna Sadiq</p> <p><b>Yagoub Yousif Mohammed Al-Kandari &amp; Mohammad Yaqoub Alkandari:</b> Dissolution of the Kuwaiti National Assembly and Its Impact on Members' Political Views: An Analysis of Their Posts on X</p> <p><b>Wadhha Shamis Al-Kiyumi &amp; Safiya Salem Al-Hashemi:</b> Transformations in the Digital Engagement of Omani Youth with the Palestinian Cause after the Events of 7 October: An Analytical Reading</p> <p><b>Ecaterina Elena Matoi:</b> 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><b>Arab Gulf States and Mashreq Transformations: Case Studies</b></p> <p>Chair: Abdulnabi Al-Ekry</p> <p><b>Ahmad Jamil Azem:</b> Saudi Foreign Policy and the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution</p> <p><b>Faozi Al-Goidi:</b> Why Has US Policy Failed to Halt Houthi Attacks and What Are the Implications for the Arab Gulf States?</p> <p><b>Betül Doğan:</b> Can Gulf States Be a Power Broker in Post-Assad Syria?</p>	<p><b>Social Media as a Political Act</b></p> <p>Chair: Sadiq Al Ammari</p> <p><b>Fahad Al-Fadala:</b> The Role of Small Political Groups in Utilizing Social Media in Kuwait: The Case of the Group of Eighty</p> <p><b>Sahar Khamis:</b> 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><b>Social Media and Gulf Influencers</b></p> <p>Chair: Hasan Madan</p> <p><b>Mohammed Hassan Al-Kaabi &amp; Abdulrahman Albaker:</b> From Legal Jurist to Influencer: Traditional Structures of Legal Education Confronting Social Media Legal Personalities</p> <p><b>Magdalena Karolak:</b> 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><b>Social Media Between Legal Framework and Regulatory Surveillance</b></p> <p>Chair: Fahad Alnaser</p> <p><b>Bilal Sandid:</b> Freedom of Digital Expression and Public Order: A Study in Kuwaiti and Comparative Law</p> <p><b>Ahmed Badran &amp; Sara Badran:</b> 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><b>Nasser Saleh Khamis Al Gheilani:</b> The Question of "Being" and the "Being" of Omanis on Social Media</p> <p><b>Ahmad Khaldi:</b> The Effect of Social Media on Users' Westernization, Lifestyle Dimensions, and Materialism in the Arabian Gulf: The Case of Kuwait</p>