



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

The Fourth Annual Gulf Studies Forum

The Gulf Crisis: Regional and International Dynamics and the Role of the Media

2 - 4 December, 2017

[Time Table](#)

[Participants](#)



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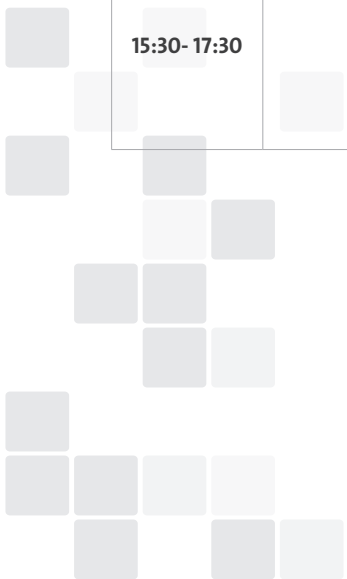
Time Table

Day 1: Saturday, 2 December, 2017

Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies
Cultural Foundation Building

Main Auditorium	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Opening Remarks
9:15 – 10:00	Public Lecture Bertrand Badie “The Gulf Crisis: Regional and Global Aspects” Chair: Marwan Kabalan
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break

Media Sessions (Auditorium 2)		International Relations Sessions (Main Auditorium)
10:30-12:00	<p>Media Ethics and the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Chair: Shafeeq Al-Ghabra</p> <p>Noureddine Miladi: Media and the Propaganda War: GCC Media in the Midst of the Gulf Crisis and Ethical Decadence</p> <p>Deborah L. Wheeler and Brannon M. Wheeler: Shaming, Blaming and Blockading: Tactics in the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Nawaf Al-Tamimi: The Crisis of the Qatar Blockade: Smear Campaigns and Misinformation</p>	<p>The Gulf Crisis: Causes, Patterns and Contexts</p> <p>Chair: Ghanim Al-Najjar</p> <p>Gerd Nonneman: The Gulf Crisis in Light of Long-Term Patterns and Recent Changes</p> <p>Majed Al-Ansari: The Blockade of Qatar: Factors and Repercussions</p> <p>Mehran Kamrava: Chronic Insecurity in the Gulf: Causes and Consequences</p>
12:00 - 12:30	Coffee Break	
12:30 - 14:00	<p>The Media and the Making of Gulf Public Opinion</p> <p>Chair: Hend Al-Muftah</p> <p>Khalid Al-Jaber: Manufacturing Consent: Media and Public Opinion in the Gulf States</p> <p>Liqaq Makki Al Azzawi: New Media and Political Communications in the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Kamal Hamidou: The Print Media in the Blockading Countries: News and Propaganda</p>	<p>The Gulf Crisis: Economic Consequences and Legal Aspects</p> <p>Chair: Hassan Al –Sayed</p> <p>Khalid Rashid Alkhater: The Economic Blockade of Qatar: Shock and Response</p> <p>Naser Al-Tamimi: The Gulf Crisis: the Impact on the Economies of the Blockading Countries</p> <p>Yusuf Hamad Al Balushi: Gulf Economic Relations in Light of the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi: The Gulf Crisis and Conflict Resolution Within the Framework of International Organizations</p>
14:00 – 15:30	Lunch Break	



15:30- 17:30

Main Auditorium
Special Media Panel

“A Media Crisis or a Crisis- Driven Media?”

Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad, Salah Negm, Marwan Bishara, Yasser Abu Hilala, Basim Tweissi

Chair: Ali Al Sand

Day 2: Sunday, 3 December, 2017

Media Sessions (Auditorium 2)		International Relations Sessions (Meeting Room)
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Al Jazeera and the Information Revolution</p> <p>Chair: Yacoub Al Kandari</p> <p>Haydar Badawi Sadig: In the Heart of the Storm: How Al Jazeera Is Changing the Gulf and the World</p> <p>Hugh Miles: Aljazeera and the Information Revolution in the Arab world</p> <p>Mahmoud M. Galander: Explaining the Wrath Against Al-Jazeera: A New Model for the Analysis of Arab Media Systems</p>	<p>Regional Approaches to the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Chair: Faisal Abu Salib</p> <p>Murat Yesiltas: Making Sense of Turkey's Strategy in the Gulf Region: Prospects and Challenges</p> <p>Luciano Zaccara: The Iranian Factor in the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Zahid Shahab Ahmed: Pakistan's Position on the Gulf Crisis</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	

<p>11:00 - 12:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Media in the Gulf Crisis I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Jaber Al Harmi</p> <p>Maryam Al-Khater: Propaganda and Mobilization on Twitter in the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Andrew Leber and Alexei Abrahams: Social Media and Authoritarian Thought Hegemony: Evidence from the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Abdulrahman Mohammed Al Shami: Qatari Journalists on Social Media During the Gulf Crisis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Gulf Crisis: the Role of the World Powers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Khalil Jahshan</p> <p>John Duke Anthony: The Future of US-GCC Relations under the Trump Administration in Light of the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Sergey Strokan: Russia-GCC Relations: It Takes Two To Tango</p> <p>Jeremias Kettner: Qatari-German Relations and the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Ahmed Qasem Hussein: The European Union and the Gulf Crisis: Contexts, Roles and Actors</p>
<p>12:30 – 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>	
<p>18:30 - 20:00</p>	<p>Main Auditorium Public Lecture</p> <p>“The Gulf Crisis in Regional Context”</p> <p>Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar</p>	

Day 3: Monday, 4 December, 2017

Auditorium 2		
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Public Lecture Alexander Stille</p> <p>“Trump’s Tweets and the Gulf Crisis: Between Rhetoric and Reality”</p> <p>Chair: Hamid Dabashi</p>	
Media Sessions (Auditorium 2)	International Relations Sessions (Meeting Room)	
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Social Media in the Gulf Crisis II</p> <p>Chair: Ohood al Bulushi</p> <p>Banu Akdenizli: Digital Diplomacy in the Gulf: How the Gulf Crisis Played Out in the Twittersphere?</p> <p>Omair Anas: Public Sphere against Social Media Sphere: Gulf Region as a Case Study</p> <p>Marc Owen Jones: Social Media and Online Information Wars in the Gulf Crisis</p>	<p>Challenges to Gulf Integration in Light of the Qatar Crisis</p> <p>Chair: Sharifa Al-Yahyai</p> <p>Mohamed Alrumaihi: The Fate of GCC Integration in Light of the Gulf Crisis</p> <p>Abdulwahab Al-Qassab: The Gulf Crisis: the Net Strategic Loss for the GCC States</p> <p>David Des Roches: GCC Military Cooperation: A Promise Unfulfilled</p> <p>Ahmet Üçagaç: The Gulf Crisis: An Attempt to Alter the Regional Order?</p>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break	

<p>12:00 – 13:30</p>	<p>Gulf Media: a Question of Identity or a Deeper Crisis?</p> <p>Chair: Fayez Al Nashwan</p> <p>Hala Asmina Guta: Discourse of Identity in time of Crisis Mohamed Elamin Musa: The Gulf Crisis and the Dilemma of Media Objectivity Ilhem Allagui: The Gulf Countries in the Dust of an Information War</p>	<p>The Policies of the Gulf States towards the Crisis</p> <p>Chair: Suhaim Al Thani</p> <p>Abdullah Baabood: Oman's Position on the Gulf Crisis: Drivers and Challenges Andreas Krieg: The GCC Crisis: a Clash of Narratives Dhafer Al Ajmi: Kuwaiti Mediation in the Gulf Crisis: Motives and Prospects Umer Karim: Saudi-Qatar Relations and the 2017 Gulf Crisis</p>
<p>13:30 -15:00 Lunch Break</p>		
<p>15:00 – 16:30</p>	<p>Auditorium 2</p> <p>The Gulf Crisis: State Building and the Dynamics of Competition</p> <p>Chair: Hatem Al Shanfari</p> <p>William R. Thompson: Gulf State Making: War, Economic Growth, and Political Leaders: Gulf Crisis as Case Study Imad Mansour: Competition as a State-Building Activity in the GCC Timothy Niblock: Situating the Gulf in the Changing Dynamics of the Indian Ocean Region</p>	



Participants

Participant	Biography
Abdullah Baabood	Director of the Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University's College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Baabood completed MA degrees in Business Administration and International Relations in the UK, before also completing a PhD in Political Economy in Britain.
Abdulrahman bin Hamad:	CEO of the Qatar Media Corporation.
Abdulrahman Mohammed Al Shami	Associate Professor in Broadcast Journalism in the Department of Mass Communication, University of Qatar, formerly professor at the University of Sanaa (2012-2014), where he served as Dean of the Department of Mass Communication, and Chair of Radio & TV Department (2010-12). Former Vice-Dean of the College of Fine Arts, Hodeidah University. He also served as a media and communication officer for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Sanaa (2006-2010), now the editor in charge of the Arabic version of the Journal of Middle East Media. He received his doctorate in Journalism and Media from Al-Azhar University, Egypt. He is a member of several academic societies including AUSACE. He has published more than 20 of his research articles in academic journals.
Abdulwahab Al-Qassab	Expert on military affairs and armaments and a retired rear-admiral in the Iraqi navy, he now works as Associate Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS). Prior to this he worked as a researcher at the Centre for Arab World Studies at Mustansiriya University, the Center for International Studies at Baghdad University, and at Beit al-Hikmah in Baghdad. He has also worked as a consultant to a number of other research centers. Al-Qassab has written and translated numerous books and articles and contributed to several multi-author volumes published by the ACRPS.
Ahmed Qasem Hussein	Resident researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He is the Editor in Chief of the Siyasaat Arabia journal. He received a PhD in International Relations from the University of Florence, Italy and has published a number of articles and studies on international relations.
Ahmet Üçagaç	is research assistant at the Department of International Relations and Middle East Institute in Sakarya University, Turkey. He graduated from the Department of International Relations at İstanbul Kültür University and obtained his MA degree from the Department of International Relations at Sakarya University. Üçagaç is currently a PhD candidate at the Department of International Relations at Sakarya University. He has been in the University of Wroclaw under the Erasmus exchange program.
Alexander Stille	San Paolo Professor of International Journalism in Columbia Journalism School. He has worked as a contributor to many newspapers and magazines. He is the author of "Benevolence and Betrayal: Five Italian Jewish Families Under Fascism" (1991); "Excellent Cadavers: The Mafia and the Death of the First Italian Republic" (1995); "The Future of the Past" (2002); and "The Sack of Rome: How a Beautiful European Country with a Fabled History and a Storied Culture Was Taken Over by a Man Named Silvio Berlusconi" (2006). Stille is the winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Award for best work of history (1992), Premio Acqui (1992), San Francisco Chronicle Critics Choice Award (1995), and the Alicia Patterson Foundation award for journalism (1996).

Participant	Biography
Alexei Abrahams	Research fellow at Princeton University's Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance (Woodrow Wilson School) focused on sub-national conflict in the Middle East. He holds a PhD in Economics from Brown University (2015) and is an affiliate of Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC). He was previously a research fellow at the Middle East Initiative (Harvard Kennedy School - Belfer Center) and the University of California at San Diego's Institute of Global Conflict and Cooperation. He also regularly consults for the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. His past work focused on the Israel-Palestine Conflict.
Ali Al Sand	Al Sanad is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Islamic Studies at the Faculty of Basic Education at Qatar University. His PhD thesis, submitted at Cairo University, presented a comparative study on the varying approaches of the Muatazalites and Ibn Taymiyya towards the "promotion of virtue". Al Sanad is a regular media commentator, and presents the political talk show "The Arab Gulf" on Al-Araby satellite television station.
Andreas Krieg	Assistant professor at the Defence Studies Department of King's College London and currently seconded to Qatar's Joint Command and Staff College, acting as an advisor to the Qatari Armed Forces.
Andrew Leber	Currently a PhD student at Harvard University's Department of Government, where he researches regional inequality in the Middle East. His dissertation will utilize comparative historical analysis, public opinion data, data on regional economies and oral histories to understand why non-democratic governments choose to foster development in some areas and not others - even when significant resource revenues would imply otherwise. He was previously a research assistant at the Brookings Doha Center.
Banu Akdenizli	Associate professor of Communications at Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) where she teaches courses in digital and mobile media. Prior to joining NU-Q, Akdenizli was an associate professor in the School of Communication at Yeditepe University in Turkey. She has also worked as an analyst and index methodologist with the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism in Washington D.C., and served as adjunct faculty in communication at George Mason University and at Temple University in telecommunications and mass media. She received her PhD in mass media and communication from Temple University, and earned her MA (in translation and interpretation studies) and BA (in sociology) from Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey.
Basim Tweissi	He was the director of the center for studies, consultations and community development at the University of Al-Hussein Bin Talal (AHU), advisor to (AHU) President for Cultural Affairs, and an associate Professor in the department of media and strategic studies at (AHU). He founded the "voice of the south" radio station and the Jordanian Korean Information Centre. He has published six books, in addition to editing and reviewing several others. He also published many research studies with international scientific journals. His research interests are focused on media affairs, media and development, community media, investigative journalism and the media in conflicts. He is a founding member of a number of committees and civil society organizations in Jordan and the Arab world.

Participant	Biography
Bertrand Badie	Emeritus Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the Paris Institute of Political Studies and at the Center for International Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, He has published many books in French and English. He is a Member of the advisory board of several journals: European Review of International Studies (Chairman), International Journal of Human Rights, Journal of International Relations and Development, Contemporary Politics, Brazilian Journal of Strategy and International Relations, Etudes Internationales, Indian Journal of Law and International Affairs.
Brannon M. Wheeler	Professor of History at the United States Naval Academy. He holds a Phd from the University of Chicago. He is the author and editor of nine books in Islamic studies including, Mecca and Eden: Ritual, Relics and Territory in Islam (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006) and Moses in the Quran and Islamic Exegesis (London: Routledge, 2002). He has been a visiting scholar at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, the College of Shariah and Islamic Studies at Kuwait University, the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies at the University of Bergen in Norway.
David Des Roches	Associate Professor and Senior Military Fellow, National Defense University and Senior Military Fellow at the Near East South Asia Center for Security Studies. Prior to this, he was the director responsible for defense policy on Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. He also served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as the DoD Liaison to the Department of Homeland Security, as the senior country director for Pakistan. His first job in government was as special assistant for strategy and later as the international law enforcement analyst in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.
Deborah L. Wheeler	Associate professor of Political Science at the United States Naval Academy. She holds a PhD from the University of Chicago, and has published two books on Internet use in the Arab world, The Internet in the Middle East: Global Expectations and Local Imaginations in Kuwait (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2006) and Digital Resistance in the Middle East: New Media Activism in Everyday Life (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017). She has conducted original fieldwork in Palestine, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco.
Dhafer Al Ajmi	Executive director of the Gulf Monitoring Group. A retired Colonel in the Kuwait Air Force, he has published articles and studies on issues of Gulf security and is a regular contributor to the Gulf press. In Arabic, he has authored, among other works, "Arabian Gulf Security: Its Evolution and Dilemmas in Regional and International Relations". He holds a doctorate in Arabian Gulf Security from the British Staff College, Camberley.
Faisal Abu Salib	Assistant Professor in the Political Science department of the Social Science faculty at the University of Kuwait since September 2009. Abu Salib headed the American Studies unit in the same faculty from 2010 to 2014. He has published a number of articles and books on US foreign policy in the Gulf region and gained a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Manchester in 2009.

Participant	Biography
Fayez Al Nashwan	A Professor of International Law and International Relations, Al Nashwan is an Advisor at the Amiri Diwan in Kuwait, where he is an expert on issues of extremism and terrorism. He is also an Advisor to the Social Development Center (Kuwait) on education curriculum reform. Al Nashwan earned his doctorate in Political Science with an emphasis on International Law and International Relations from Cairo University.
Ghanim Al-Najjar	Al-Najjar is a Professor of political science at Kuwait University and a member of the Board of Directors of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS). Previously, he was a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center, served as Director of Kuwait University's Center for Strategic and Future Studies, of which he was the founder, and was Editor-in-Chief of the Gulf Studies Series Journal, published in the United Arab Emirates.
Gerd Nonneman	Professor of International Relations & Gulf Studies. He holds a PhD in Politics (1993) from the University of Exeter, UK as well as Licentiate in Oriental Philology (Arabic) (1980) and Development Studies (1981) from the University of Ghent, Belgium. He joined Georgetown in 2011 as Dean of SFS-Qatar, while also taking up a tenured Full Professorship. A former Executive Director of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES), he is also a Council member of the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES). Aside from his academic work, he has worked in the private sector in the Gulf region, and as a consultant to a range of companies, NGOs, governments and international institutions.
Hala Asmina Guta	Assistant professor of Mass Communication, Qatar University. Her research interests include communication for social change; and the intersection of communication, culture, and identity. Her publications and conference presentations include papers on the role of media in peace building in societies emerging from conflict, and the role media and other cultural institutions in social change and the construction of identity. Guta has a PhD in Mass Communication from Ohio University, United States.
Hamid Dabashi	is the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. He is a founding member of the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society and a founding member of the Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia University. Dabashi holds a dual Ph.D. in Sociology of Culture and Islamic Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.
Hassan Al –Sayed	Al Sayed is a Professor of Law at Qatar University, and a Judge at Qatar's International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre. Al Sayed earned a PhD in Law from East Anglia University in the United Kingdom, after having earned an MA from Jordan University in 1997 and a BA from Kuwait University in 1993. He is the author of a number of papers which have appeared in peer reviewed journals.
Hatem Al Shanfari	Al Shanfari is an Assistant Professor of Economics and Finance at the Sultan Qaboos University in Oman. He earned a PhD from the University of Strathclyde in 2001 and was previously a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge and a Visiting Researcher at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC. His work is widely recognized in Oman, the wider Arab region and further afield.

Participant	Biography
Haydar Badawi Sadig	Professor of Mass Communications at the University of Qatar with focus on international, cultural, and development communications and their reflections on the Arab world. He gained his PhD in Media from Ohio University, and has published several research studies on media issues. Sadek has previously worked for international organizations and television programs in the Arab world, America, Africa, and Europe.
Hend Al-Muftah	Received her MA in Development Studies from SOAS in 1999, and her PhD in Human Capital Formation from Exeter University in 2004. Since January 2015 she has been working as Associate Professor and Vice-President for administrative and financial affairs at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Previously worked as manager of human resources at the University of Qatar and at Qatar Rail Company, a consultant at Qatar University and the Ministry of Trade and Business, and CEO at the Childhood Cultural Center. She has published many research papers in in the area of human development in international journals, a book in English entitled Human Capital Formation in Qatar and another in Arabic, entitled “Concerns in Administration,” and has also contributed chapters to several books in English
Hugh Miles	Award-winning author and freelance journalist whose articles have appeared on the front pages of the Guardian, Independent and Telegraph newspapers. His recent work includes the BBC TV documentary “Kidnapped! Saudi Arabia’s Missing Princes”, broadcast in September, and the e-book “The Future of the Middle East”, published in October. He is the author of two books, Al Jazeera: How Arab TV News Challenged the World (published Jan 2005) and Playing Cards in Cairo (April 2008).
Ilhem Allagui	Associate Professor at Northwestern University in Qatar. Prior to NUQ, she served as an Associate Professor at the American University of Sharjah (UAE) and Lecturer at the University of Montreal (Canada). Allagui specializes in teaching strategic communication courses and has worked in the advertising and public relations industry in Montréal. Her research interests include strategic communication practices in the MENA region, the social integration of new media in the Arab region, as well as the political economy of the Internet. She earned her M.Sc. and PhD in Communication Studies from the University of Montreal, Canada.
Imad Mansour	is Assistant Professor in the Department of International Affairs at Qatar University. His research interests are in interdisciplinary approaches to studying the influence of narratives in governing, state-building and statecraft, and the social roots of international politics especially conflicts and rivalries. Of particular interest is constructing theoretical propositions which build on non/pre-Westphalian contemporary and historic realities. He is author of Statecraft in the Middle East: Foreign Policy, Domestic Politics and Security (London: I.B. Tauris, 2016).
Jaber Al Harmi	Al Harmi first entered the world of journalism in 1990, when, while a student at Qatar University, his pieces first appeared in the daily Ar Raya newspaper. He moved to the Al Watan newspaper in 1995, helping to found the newspaper and rising from Chief of Local News to Editor-in-Chief, becoming the first Qatari to hold such a position. By 2004, Al Harmi moved to the Al Sharq newspaper, becoming Deputy Editor-in-Chief, rising to Editor-in-Chief between December, 2008 and 2016. His achievements as a media personality and journalist have been recognized at home in Qatar, regionally and abroad.

Participant	Biography
Jeremias Kettner	A non-financial risk and policy analyst, strategic consultant, government relations and communication expert with in-depth knowledge in German Foreign Policy towards the Middle East. Jeremias has worked in the corporate, the non-profit, and academic sectors. Currently he is writing his PhD about Qatari-German relations at the Free University of Berlin. He advises various organizations and companies in the field of non-financial risk analysis, business development, stakeholder management and the search for investment capital. Jeremias is a member of the German-Qatari Association, the German Business Council Qatar and the German-Arab Association's (DAG). He served as the Vice-Chairman of the YOUNG German Council on Foreign Relations from 2011-2013 and as the Curator and Global Shaper of the Hamburg Hub at the World Economic Forum from 2015-2017.
John Duke Anthony	Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council on US-Arab Relations. He currently works for the Advisory Committee to the US State Department on international economic policy and its subcommittee on sanctions. He received a PhD in Middle Eastern Studies and International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.
Kamal Hamidou	Professor in the Department of Mass Communication at the University of Qatar, he holds a doctorate from the Paris-Sorbonne University. He is a researcher at the Multimedia Center at the Paul Verlaine University in France. He published a book in Belgium on the cultural and social influences of television and was a contributor to the Encyclopedia of Modern Concepts of Information and Communication, as part of the Arab project for the standardization of terminology issued in 2013 by the Dar Al Nahda Al Arabiya publishing house in Beirut. Hamidou has published several research papers in collaborative books and Arab journals in topics related to television, the media, virtual communities and belonging in the age of globalization, information and communication sciences in the Maghreb and the Arab world, and institutional communication.
Khalid Al-Jaber	Director of Studies & Research Center, Assistant Professor of Political Communication in the Gulf Studies Program, Qatar University, and Editor in Chief of The Peninsula Newspaper. Previously the deputy editor-in-chief of Al-Sharq Daily, Al-Sharq Press in Doha. He also serves as the principal at Global Media Consultants in the United States. Al-Jaber is a scholar of Arab and Gulf studies whose research focuses on media, political communication, and international relations.
Khalid Rashid Alkhatir	Administrative Director of Research and Monetary Policy at the Central Bank of Qatar, a member of the Monetary Policy Committee and of the Central Bank's Investment Board. He is specialized in monetary policy and political economy and has worked as a visiting professor at Georgetown University and at the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. He holds a Master's degree in Economics with a Minor in Mathematics from the University of West Michigan and a PhD in Economics from the University of California.

Participant	Biography
Khalil Jahshan	is a Middle East consultant and media commentator based in the United States. He has served as the Executive Director of the Arab Center in Washington, DC since its foundation. Between 2004 and 2013, he served as Executive Director of Pepperdine University's Washington DC Internship Program and Lecturer in International Studies and Languages. Prior to that, he held senior executive positions in various Arab-American organizations.
Liqaa Makki Al Azzawi	Executive Producer and News Supervisor at Al-Jazeera channel/website since 2005 and the Deputy Secretary General of the Iraqi Forum of Intellectuals and Academics. Previously worked as professor and as Head of the Media Department at the University of Baghdad, and as a visiting professor in universities in Yemen, Qatar, and Bahrain. He holds a Master's degree in Media from the University of Baghdad where he focused on propaganda and psychological warfare, and a doctoral degree in Media from the University of Baghdad in news journalism. His articles are regularly published in academic journals.
Luciano Zaccara	Assistant professor at Qatar University, where he also coordinates research efforts at the Gulf Studies Program. He also directs a Spanish observatory on elections in the Muslim world. Zaccara was formerly a Visiting Assistant Professor at Georgetown University Qatar (2013-2014) and earned his PhD in Arab and Islamic Studies at the University Autonoma de Madrid in Spain.
Mahmoud M. Galander	Associate Professor in the Department of Mass Communication, Qatar University. Prior teaching posts include ones at the universities of al-Fatih, Libya (1994-96), Khartoum, Sudan (1996-1997); International Islamic University, Malaysia (1997-2006), and Qatar University (2006-todate). He has authored 9 books (5 academic, and 4 on media and politics in Sudan); and has written numerous refereed articles in Arabic and English media and social science journals, as well as having contributed to numerous books. He was formerly the editor of a Sudanese newspaper, and is a member of Sudan Journalists Union. Galander is also the Chair of the Islam and Media Working Group of the IAMCR, and the coordinator of Qatar Chapter of the Arab European Association of Communication Education (ARECORE). He has a PhD from Howard University.
Majed Al-Ansari	Professor of Political Sociology and Researcher in the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at the University of Qatar. His research interests include social capital and civil society. Al- Ansari holds an MA in Social Transformation from Manchester University, UK and a PhD from the Cathie Marsh Institute at Manchester University on "The effect of religious, social, and political values on social cohesion in Qatar." He also writes a weekly article for the Qatari newspaper Al-Arab and has worked as a consultant for several charitable foundations.

Participant	Biography
Marc Owen Jones	Currently a teaching fellow at Tübingen University in Germany, where he lectures on Gulf Politics. He has also taught on the Middle East Politics Module at Durham, and has written a number of articles, chapters, and pieces on Bahrain, including in the Independent, the New Statesman, and CNN. He is also co-editor of Bahrain's Uprising: Resistance Repression in the Gulf. (Zed Books, 2015).
Marwan Bishara	Is Al Jazeera's senior political analyst. He was previously a professor of International Relations at the American University of Paris and fellow at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. An author who writes extensively on global politics.
Marwan Kabalan	is a Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, where he is also the Head of the Policy Analysis Unit. An International Relations scholar, Kabalan sits on the Editorial Board of Siyasat Arabia, a bi-monthly journal published by the ACRPS and is also Chairs the Academic Committee of the Center's annual Gulf Studies Forum. His academic work is widely published.
Maryam Al-Khater	Post-Doctoral researcher at the Australian National University and specialized in the impact of new media on conflict and political transformations in the Gulf region. Previously Deputy Director-General of the Doha Centre for Media Freedom, a writer and media consultant, and member of the National Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations. Al-Khater was previously a member of the Management Council of the Al-Jazeera television network, on the Board of Al-Jazeera Children's channel, and on the Standing Elections Committee. She obtained her Master's degree in Media from the American University in Washington. Specialized in media and international relations, she writes a regular newspaper column in the Qatari daily al-Sharq entitled "ink pen", among others. In 1996, she won the 'best woman in Qatari journalism' award.
Mehran Kamrava	Professor and Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Qatar. He is the author of many articles and books, including, most recently, The Impossibility of Palestine: History, Geography, and the Road Ahead (2016); Qatar: Small State, Big Politics (2015); The Modern Middle East: A Political History since the First World War, 3rd ed. (2013); and Iran's Intellectual Revolution (2008). His edited books include Fragile Politics: Weak States in the Greater Middle East (2016); Beyond the Arab Spring: The Evolving Ruling Bargain in the Middle East (2015); The Political Economy of the Persian Gulf (2012); The Nuclear Question in the Middle East (2012); and The International Politics of the Persian Gulf (2011).
Mohamed Alrumaihi	Professor of Political Sociology at Kuwait University, and previously served as Editor-in-Chief of Kuwaiti periodicals and General Secretary for the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. An advisor to the Prime Minister's Office, he is also a member of several research institutions and intellectual journals and magazines. He has a number of published books on development in the Gulf and on Arab culture. He obtained his doctoral degree in Social Sciences from Durham University in 1973.

Participant	Biography
Mohamed Elamin Musa	Professor of Electronic Journalism at the Department of Mass Communication, College of Arts and Science, Qatar University, and taught at several universities and higher institutes in the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Morocco between 1995 and 2016. He has published eight books including Psychological Factor and Communication (1994); Nonverbal Communication (1996); Hassan II: Study in Genius (1999); Non-verbal Communication in the Holy Quran (2003); Introduction to Graphic Design (2011); Effective Communication: Foundations and Applications (2012); and The Art of Disguising (2012). He has also completed a range of academic studies published in academic journals on new media, effective communication, graphic design, multimedia, public relations and electronic journalism.
Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi	Dean of the College of Law in Qatar University (2014-Present). Al- Khulaifi published a lot of articles in law. Associate Professor of Commercial Law, College of Law – Qatar University. Qatari Lawyer at Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi Law Firm (2011 - Present). Legal Consultant at Qatar Financial Center Regulatory Authority (2012 - 2016).
Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani	is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar. He earned a BA in Economics and Business Administration from Qatar University in 2003 and joined the Family Affairs Council that year as an Economic Researcher. He was appointed Head of Economic Affairs at the Council, a position which he held from 2005 until 2009. Sheikh Mohammed also held a number of positions within Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Trade before being appointed in 2010 to the post of Secretary to the Personal Representative of His Highness the Emir at the Emiri Diwan, attaining the rank of Assistant Under-Secretary in 2011, and Under-Secretary the following year. In 2014, Sheikh Mohammed was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation before being made Minister of Foreign Affairs in January, 2016 and Deputy Prime Minister in November, 2017.
Murat Yesiltas	Director of Security Studies at the Center for Economic, Political and Social Studies in Turkey (SETA). He earned his PhD from the University of Marmara in 2012, where his thesis focused on Turkish geopolitics. He was also a Visiting Fellow in European Studies and International Politics at the University of Manchester from 2008 to 2009, and was a Visiting Researcher at Virginia Tech from 2010 to 2011.
Naser Al-Tamimi	Earned a PhD in International Relations from the University of Durham, UK, and is presently an independent scholar based in Britain. His research interests cover topics such as energy policies in the GCC and in Iran and the GCC's relations with East Asia, and particularly China. Al-Tamimi is the author of China-Saudi Arabia Relations 1990-2012 (Routledge, 2013).
Nawaf Al-Tamimi	Assistant Professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Al Tamimi holds a PhD from Britain. He has worked for 25 years in the fields of journalism and communications, which includes a number of leading media and international companies in Britain and the Arab world, the latest of which was the London-based newspaper The New Arab. In 2012, Al Tamimi published Public diplomacy and the formation of the national character - the state of Qatar. Last year, he published his second book, The Zionist Lobby and Public Opinion in Britain. During the current crisis in the Gulf, he published several articles and studies, and participated in a number of seminars on the background of the crisis and its aftermath.

Participant	Biography
Noureddine Miladi	Associate Professor and Head of Department of Mass Communication, College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University. He is Editor of JAMMR, an international refereed journal specialized in Arab and Middle Eastern media and society. He is also the co-author of Mapping the Al Jazeera Phenomenon 20 Years On in addition to numerous research papers and contribution to books. His research interests include: social media and social change, youth, identity and social media networks, media and democracy, media ethics, Al-Jazeera and the changes in the global media flow.
Ohood al Bulushi	Al Balushi is an Omani academic who also chairs the Department of Research and Studies at the Center for Omani Studies— Sultan Qaboos University. She earned a PhD in Applied Linguistics from the University of Warwick in the United States. Her research work is widely published.
Omair Anas	Research Fellow at the India Council of World Affairs, (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India). His research focuses on International Relation Theories, West Asian Conflicts, Cyber and public Sphere, Media and Globalization, Turkey, Egypt, Iran and Saudi Arabia. He finished his PhD in media from the Centre for West Asian Studies (CWAS), School of International Studies, JNU.
Salah Negm	The director of news at Al Jazeera English. He was formerly the General Manager of the Arabic Television Service at BBC Global News Limited between 2006 and 2014. He has also held the position of general manager at the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation in Dubai. As the chief editor of Al Jazeera, Mr. Negm set up the Arabic satellite channel news department and has also been director of news at the al-Arabiyyah satellite channel.
Sergey Strokan	A Moscow-based geopolitical analyst and observer with Russia's "Kommersant" Publishing House. He was also a host of "Red Line", a weekly analytical program broadcast by Sputnik International and an author of Troika Report, published by Russia Beyond the Headlines (RBTH) media company. Regular contributor to leading international electronic and print media, like Al Jazeera, BBC World, CNN and CCTB.
Shafeeq Al-Ghabra	Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University since 1987. He earned his PhD in Political Science, with a focus on comparative policies, from the University of Texas at Austin. Al Ghabra was the recipient of a Kuwait's highest academic award in the social sciences and humanities, granted by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science.
Sharifa Al-Yahyai	Lecturer and Researcher specialized in Women Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. Formerly Oman's Minister for Social Development (2004-2011), she received her PhD in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies from Leeds University, UK in 2001.
Suhaim Al Thani	Former Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He has published a number of studies in academic journals and holds an MA in Political Science specializing in International Relations from Royal Holloway College, London.

Participant	Biography
Timothy Niblock	Emeritus Professor of Middle East Politics at the University of Exeter, having previously served as Director of the University's Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies from 1999 to 2005. He also holds visiting professorships at a number of Chinese universities. Among his recent books are the edited works <i>Asia-Gulf Economic Relations in the 21st Century: the Local in Global Transformation</i> , (2013), and <i>Security Dynamics of East Asia in the Gulf Region</i> (2014).
Umer Karim	Currently pursuing his PhD in Political Science and International Studies at the Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham. His research interests focus on Saudi Arabian Foreign Policy and Saudi Politics, particularly the evolution and changes of Saudi Foreign Policy since the ascension of King Salman. Other topics also include Saudi-Iranian relations, the Syrian conflict, Turkey in the Middle East and Pakistan's engagement within the Middle East. In the past he has also worked on the Arab Spring and the principle of humanitarian intervention specially the concept of Responsibility to Protect. Social movements and the role of discourse within social movements has also been an area of research.
William R. Thompson	Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Rogers Chair of Political Science Emeritus at Indiana University and Editor in Chief of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Politics. He is a past president of the International Studies Association and served two non-consecutive terms as editor-in-chief of <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> . Recent co-authored books include <i>Ascending India and Its State Capacity: Resource Extraction, Legitimacy, and Violence Monopoly</i> (2016), <i>Escalation Dynamics in Limited Conflict</i> (2017), and <i>Racing to the Top: How Energy Fuels Systemic Leadership in World Politics</i> (2018). He is also the editor of <i>The Oxford Encyclopedia of Empirical International Relations Theory</i> , 4 vols. (2018).
Yacoub Al Kandari	Professor of Anthropology and Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Faculty of Social Science, Kuwait University. His previous posts include Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Kuwait University, and Director of the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies. Al Kandari received his MA and PhD from Ohio State University, USA
Yasser Abu Hilala	Director of Al-Jazeera news channel since July 2014, previously the director of the channel's Jordan office, which he joined in 2000. He has published articles in a number of Jordanian and Arab newspapers, and covered many pivotal events as a journalist. He has produced several documentaries, notably <i>Palestine Refugees in Jordan</i> , <i>Kurds between Federalism and Independence</i> , <i>The Road to Damascus</i> , <i>Abdullah Azzam: the First Arab Afghan</i> , <i>The Road to Baghdad</i> , <i>Kill Him Silently</i> . He is also active in civil society organizations. He is one of the founders of the Jordanian Society for Human Rights and <i>Bayt Al Anbat : the Arab Forum for Cultural Interaction</i> .
Yousuf Hamad Al Balushi	Economist with over 20 years of experience in the Omani Central Bank and the Ministry of National Economy as well as the Sultanate's Supreme Council for Planning. Al-Balushi was formerly an adviser focusing on the statistics on foreign direct investment for the World Bank. He earned his PhD at King's College London.
Zahid Shahab Ahmed	Assistant Professor at the Center for Peace Studies and International Stability at Pakistan's National University for Science and Technology in Islamabad. Ahmad earned a PhD in International and Political Studies from the New England University and Charles Strut University in Australia.



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