



The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies will convene a conference of graduate students from the Arab region currently undertaking doctoral studies within the social sciences and humanities in Western universities. Recent PhD graduates who received their doctorates in 2016 or 2017 are also invited to participate. The meeting, which will be held in Doha, Qatar during March of 2018, will offer the participants an open platform to present research work based on their doctoral research. This will allow early career researchers to enhance and develop their work through constructive engagement with both established academics and their fellow graduate students. Hosting the conference in an Arab country will enable participating scholars to become familiar with the Arab research agenda within their own disciplines. Participants, whose research would normally have been authored in the languages of their host countries, will also have the chance to publish their work in Arabic. This will help disseminate their research to Arab audiences, impacting Arab academic discourse and Arab societies more broadly. For participating doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers who opt to remain in their host countries, the conference is also an opportunity to build lasting collegial, professional networks with their counterparts in the Middle East and North Africa.

Our upcoming conference will continue the ACRPS' tradition, dating back to its founding in 2011, of advancing the research culture and academic standards within the social sciences and humanities in Arabic. This takes on added significance in light of the marginalization of the social sciences and humanities within the Arab region over the preceding three decades. The meeting shall also further the Center's commitment to interdisciplinary approaches to history, philosophy, sociology, political science and international relations. In furtherance of its aims, the Center has held over 70 academic conferences and symposia devoted to many of the pressing issues facing Arab scholars, with the proceedings of these conferences published in book format and forming an important part of the Center's publishing activities.

Overall, the Center has released over 200 scholarly titles covering a wide range of topics, and thereby advanced Arabic academic publishing. The ACRPS additionally publishes five peer reviewed journals covering the fields of history; sociology and other social sciences; critical theory and philosophy; political science and international relations; and forecasting and future studies. The Center has worked to embrace aspiring Arab scholars through the Arab Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities. Intended to incentivize academic research across a range of disciplines, the Arab Prize has so far been awarded to 50 scholars who represent the diversity of the Arab academy. Through these activities, the ACRPS has contributed to the creation of an Arab research agenda, forming a collaborative, symbiotic community of scholars who are committed to academic integrity and openness.

The upcoming conference will uphold this commitment by providing an academic environment that allows for the free exchange of ideas between Arab doctoral students based in the West and established researchers based at universities in the Middle East and North Africa. The conference objectives thus include:



1. Provide a platform that brings together Arab doctoral students based in western institutions with their counterparts in the Arab region. First, this will foster the creation of joint research projects as well as personal-professional networks that tie early career researchers to the Arab academy. Additionally, the meeting will facilitate a network of Arab researchers based abroad.
2. Provide a space where Arab doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers based in the West can interact and engage with their counterparts in the Middle East and North Africa. With participants coming from a wide range of professional backgrounds, this will further the ideals of interdisciplinary cooperation.
3. Give participants the opportunity to benefit from constructive engagement with both established academics and their fellow graduate students, allowing them to enhance and develop their own research.
4. Serve to better acquaint Arab doctoral students and recently graduated postdoctoral students based in the West with the research agendas of the social sciences and humanities in the Arab region, allowing them to contribute to and shape that agenda.
5. Afford doctoral students the opportunity to disseminate their work through Arabic language channels. The Arab Center will publish Arabic language versions of the research presented at the conference either in book format or in one of the peer reviewed journals that it publishes, pursuant to the ACRPS' academic standards.
6. Introduce Arab PhD candidates and recent PhD graduates to Arab academic institutions, and the needs and orientation of the Arab academic employment market. This has the added benefit of enhancing their employability in Arab academic institutions.

## Conference Topics

Participants from across the social sciences and humanities are encouraged to apply (see details below on eligibility). The conference will be held alongside workshops, corresponding to the topic or discipline. While applications are open from any of the disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, we would particularly encourage prospective participants from the following fields to apply:

- Political Science and International Relations
- History
- Anthropology
- Sociology
- Philosophy
- Political Economy
- Development Studies
- Media Studies and Cultural Studies
- Law and International Law
- Interdisciplinary specialisms and approaches which combine the above fields within the social sciences and humanities



## Conference Structure

Participants will be grouped into panels according to research topic. Each participant on a given panel will have the opportunity to present their work. In detail:

- The conference organizing committee will divide participating scholars into panels based on the subject of their proposed work.
- Each panel will be chaired by one or more academics noted for their extensive experience in the relevant field.
- Each panelist will be allowed between 20 and 30 minutes to present his or her research work.
- Each panelist will be followed by a designated discussant given between 10 to 15 minutes to provide commentary on the written version of the paper offering any suggestions for its improvement, followed by an open discussion with both panel participants and the audience.
- The ACRPS will coordinate the review, editing, translation (where necessary) and publication of Arabic versions of the participants' papers through one of the Center's publication channels.

## Application Guidelines

Prospective applicants must meet the following conditions before being accepted onto the conference:

- Be a currently registered graduate student at a Western university (based in Europe, North America or Oceania) with a familial connection to a member-state of the Arab League.
- Be a recent (2016 or 2017) PhD graduate from a Western university (based in Europe, North America or Oceania) with a familial connection to a member-state of the Arab League. In this case, the applicant should send an email to [arabdoct.conf@dohainstitute.edu.qa](mailto:arabdoct.conf@dohainstitute.edu.qa) attaching their research proposal and CV.
- Non-participating attendees must register by e-mail: [arabdoct.conf@dohainstitute.edu.qa](mailto:arabdoct.conf@dohainstitute.edu.qa) They should complete a one-page letter describing the applicant's research objectives in attending the conference.
- All applications must be submitted by e-mail no later than October 25, 2017. Please ensure that the following is included:
  1. The application form, which can be [downloaded here](#) (this is a Microsoft Word file).
  2. The research proposal (in Arabic or English), 500 words, including the main research topic, methodology, and data / fieldwork on which it is based. Once the proposal is approved, successful participants must prepare their research papers in accordance with the writing and publication standards of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies.



3. An updated CV, highlighting academic achievements and participation in community service.
  4. A writing sample (such as a previous research paper or published articles).
  5. Academic references: the [attached form](#) should be completed by two academic referees who should send the completed application directly to the Center by email to:  
[arabdoct.conf@dohainstitute.edu.qa](mailto:arabdoct.conf@dohainstitute.edu.qa).
- The conference committee will review the applications and the research proposals on a competitive basis.
  - Successful applicants will be notified by the November 8, 2017, and participation will be contingent upon the submission of final research papers before the given deadline.

### Fees

- Registration is free for PhD students.
- The Center will also cover room and board in Doha for all participants throughout the duration of the conference.
- Grants assisting in the cost of travel between a participant's country of residence and Qatar will be awarded on a competitive basis, at a later date.

Applicants whose proposals are accepted for participation in the conference are welcome to apply for travel grants.

### Notes

**Conference dates:** from March 24-26, 2018

**Venue:** Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha, Qatar

**Conference languages:** Arabic and English

**For further enquiries by email:** [arabdoct.conf@dohainstitute.edu.qa](mailto:arabdoct.conf@dohainstitute.edu.qa)