



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

وحدة دراسات الخليج والجزيرة العربية
Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit

VISION



Social sciences and humanities research into the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula is yet to match the region's vital importance and its role in politics, diplomacy, economy, energy, media, culture, sports, among others.

This gap can be attributed to regional perceptions of scientific research and its value and utility. Moreover, new generation of specialized researchers in social sciences and humanities has emerged relatively late in the Gulf's nascent states. And internationally, traditional Orientalism, including the work of colonial institutions, which contributed important, though often reductionist and generalized, material regarding societies of the region, has been in decline for a long time.

Although a limited number of specialized research centers on the Gulf exist, their scope rarely extends beyond the current "status quo" of politics and often remains limited to very narrow specializations in the social sciences and humanities, providing recommendations for decision-making institutions. This can detract from the primary goal of social sciences and humanities research, which is to present an in-depth understanding of the region's dynamics and societies' evolution based on contemporary research.

As the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula remain largely unexplored in social sciences and humanities, there is a pressing need to establish a specialized research program dedicated to studying this region.

The primary objective of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS) is to address this gap. It seeks to provide objective knowledge about the societies of the region from within, based on their research needs and without resorting to political biases, stereotypes, or other reductionist tendencies. It also aims to promote the role of methodical scientific research in contributing to the region's development.

The Unit focuses on theoretical and applied social sciences and humanities within its geographic scope and related areas with interactions or connections to the region. The Unit's goals include re-examining, analysing, and critiquing existing studies on the region to create a roadmap for research needs, building a network of scholars with matching interests, and collaborating with similar institutions, such as the Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University.



Activities (Duties, Tasks, Responsibilities, Pursuits)

- **Research Studies:** Conducted by Unit and ACRPS researchers or in collaboration with external experts, adhering to the scientific standards of the ACRPS. Outputs may include books, articles in ACRPS journals, and online publications on the ACRPS website.
- **Research Projects:** Based on identified research needs, executed by the Unit and the ACRPS team or external researchers, and published as books.
- **Conferences, Symposiums, and Workshops:** Organized periodically or otherwise to address relevant topics, with proceedings published as books.
- **Annual Forum:** The Unit is responsible for the "Gulf Studies Forum", held since 2014.
- **Policy Analyses and Situation Assessments:** Producing reports and analyses on current political developments in the region.
- **Translation Projects:** Translating key foreign works about the region into Arabic, published with the "Tarjuman" book series or for ACRPS journals, to disseminate knowledge further.
- **Bibliographic Guides:** Compiling bibliographies of books, articles, and theses about the region, categorized by topic.
- **PhD Dissertations:** Nominating significant dissertations about the region by Arab candidates to be published as part of the "PhD Dissertation" series at the ACRPS.
- **Oral History Collection:** Documenting and preserving oral histories of influential figures from the region, to be archived at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies library.
- **Reviving Intellectual Texts:** Republishing important early texts on the region under the "Tay al-Dhakira" series.
- **Academic Collaboration:** Hosting or supporting visiting scholars through ACRPS programs, as visiting researchers or through research grants.
- **Student Recruitment:** Attracting the Doha Institute students from the Gulf to engage with the Unit's research projects, under its Student Recruitment Program.
- **Enriching the Literature:** The Unit aims to enrich the Gulf Studies literature at the Doha Institute Library with new and important resources, including the region's historical documents.



- Fostering Community Engagement: Building networks of specialized researchers who can engage with the Unit's research outputs.
- Utilizing Social Media Platforms: Introducing the Unit's outputs to the public to increase outreach.

The Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit operates with a limited body of executive staff and is supported by the broader ACRPS resources. An advisory council of distinguished academics provides strategic oversight and meets biannually to discuss policies, strategies, orientations, and research projects. It is also supervised by the ACRPS Management and Board of Directors.