



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

Iranian Studies Unit Annual Conference 2025

**Iran and the Changing Strategic
Landscape of the Middle East**

17-18 September 2025

Concept Note

The Iranian Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies will hold its fifth annual conference from 17 - 18 September 2025. The topic of this year's conference is "Iran and the Changing Strategic Landscape of the Middle East."

The current geopolitical map of the region is unfolding against the backdrop of a Middle East plagued by various conflicts resulting from Israel's genocidal 2023 war on Gaza. The war triggered a chain of conflicts across the region, with Iran positioned at the centre of these events. As a result of the growing Israeli threat, Tehran's foreign and security policies have had to adapt to shifting regional dynamics. Iran's network of non-state alliances has been heavily impacted by Israeli actions in Palestine and beyond. Iran's current geo-political posture emerges in a context where the former Bashar al-Assad-led Syria has been ousted, and Hezbollah – a key ally of Tehran and a central player in the "Axis of Resistance" – has lost its most influential leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

The aim of the conference is to examine various aspects of Iranian foreign and security policies in relation to its immediate environment and the rest of the Middle East. Iran's evolving regional position in light of Israel's war on Gaza, Iranian relations with regional non-state actors, the changing position of the "Axis of Resistance," Iran's relations with the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the impact of regional developments on Iran's domestic politics, are among the main themes that will be discussed in this year's conference of the Iranian Studies Unit.

The Iranian Studies Unit invites academics and researchers to participate by submitting a research paper on related themes of the conference.

Participation Guidelines

- The Conference Organizing Committee will receive abstracts of the proposed research papers (maximum 400 words). Each abstract must be received by no later than 15 March 2025. To submit research proposals, please fill out the online form ([Arabic link](#)).
- The Organizing Committee will inform researchers of whether their proposals have been accepted or not soon after the deadline of abstract submissions.
- Following the approval of abstract by the conference organizing committee, prospective participants should send the final draft of their papers (6,000-10,000 words, including footnotes and references) no later than 1 June 2025. All the submitted research papers will be subject to peer-review.
- The Organizing Committee's approval of a proposal does not guarantee approval of the completed research paper's presentation at the conference. The Organizing Committee will inform each researcher of its decision and may ask researcher to act on suggestions for improving the quality of the research, or any other amendments.



- The conference will cover the costs of transportation and accommodation of researchers whose papers have been accepted for presentation. However, it will not grant compensation for the research paper presented, and all research shall be deemed the intellectual property of the conference.
- Papers may be submitted in Arabic or English.