



وحدة دراسات الخليج والجزيرة العربية
Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit



Hassan Bin Mohammed Center
for Historical Studies

Conference

The Eastern Coast of the Gulf and Its Inhabitants

Their Lives and Migrations
from a History and
Social Sciences Perspective

11-13 October 2025

[About the conference](#) | [Timetable](#) | [Participants](#) | [Abstracts](#) | [Chairs](#)



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About the conference

The geography and demographics of the Gulf's eastern coast is likely the most complex of all the topics involving with the Gulf region and its history. The complexity begins with the name of the geographical region, which has been referred to variously as the "Eastern Coast", the "Persian Coast", the "Iranian Coast", and the Shibkuh Coast. This complication extends to the matter of clearly delineating the region's physical borders. Not infrequently, the Arab-majority Ahwaz region in Iran (Khuzestan) has been merged with the eastern coast, such that the two regions are thought of as a single extension, and this despite the fact that Ahwaz is not connected to the Gulf, and may have an entirely different history from that of the Eastern Coast. This merger can be found in Arab literature, especially that published in Iraq during the Baath era. The complexity extends even as far as the major differences among sources concerning the history of the Arab presence in this geographical region. According to some early sources, the Arab presence on the Gulf's Eastern Coast dates back to before the time of Christ. However, most of those who have researched the history of Eastern Coast Arabs date the Arab presence there from the regular migrations to the area, which picked up steam in the second half of the sixteenth century CE from the inland and peripheries of the Arabian Peninsula. These migrations, and the number of migrants, continued to increase between the eighteenth century and the late nineteenth century. These migrations involved tribes, groups, and individuals who settled in previously uninhabited areas and built cities, villages, and seaports which played an important political, social, and commercial-economic role.

Another aspect of the complication surrounding the naming of this region and the history of the Arabs living there has to do with the term *al-huwala* which is associated with them, and which has been a subject of debate among researchers who have studied the area and its inhabitants. The origin of this name is subject to varying interpretations, which can sometimes help to identify certain features of the history of the Arabs of the Eastern Coast. However, such interpretations can also further complicate matters. There are those who link the name *al-huwala* to the Arabs' movement, or *taḥawwul*, from the Arabian Peninsula and its coasts to the eastern coast of the Gulf, which led to their being called *al-huwala* in reference to this process, with the guttural *ḥu'* being replaced over time with the softer *hu* sound. Still others trace the name back to the Hūl Desert located between Mosul and Raqqa, which is traversed by the Hūl River, and from which these Arabs migrated to southern Iraq, and from there to the Kingdom of Hormuz. And to these one might add numerous other interpretations and analyses that suggest different origins for the name.

The accessible historical sources and references confirm the existence of Arab sheikhdoms with a history of interaction on various levels with other political entities in the region. Indeed, most written and oral historical sources indicate that in terms of production patterns and economic activities, they were so similar as to be virtually identical with political entities on the western coast of the Gulf.

The capitals of the eastern coast have impacted events at the core of political life on the western coast, and vice-versa. Perhaps the most notable examples of this political link can be seen in the trans-sea sheikhdoms, such as the rule of the Qawasim over Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, and Lanjeh, the rule of Āl Ali over Umm Al Quwain on the western coast and Jarak on the eastern coast.

At the same time, the relationship between the Persian central authority and the Arab sheikhs on the eastern coast of the Gulf was a complex one. Some sources refer to periods of peace marked by what might be termed a contractual relationship, whereby the Arabs would pay taxes to the Persian authority in exchange for the right to collect fees from the coastal population on all their sources of income, and a commitment to protect the coast from maritime attacks. Other sources refer to numerous wars between the Arabs on the eastern coast and the central authority in Persia; there is also evidence that the central authority in Persia went through periods of weakness in which the regional khans (governors) would overcome the central authority in their respective regions. This lack of clarity concerning the political relationship and the economic and social interaction between these Arab sheikhdoms and the Persian regions makes it more difficult to understand the relationship between the Gulf's two coasts and Persia during that period.

The political presence of the Arab sheikhdoms on the eastern coast ended in different ways, while the sparse references at our disposal are inconsistent regarding the nature of this end. However, numerous sources speak of violent conflicts between these sheikhdoms and the ruling authority in Persia. One such conflict is illustrated by the execution of Sheikh Madhkur al-Nasuri al-Jabri in 1880 on the eastern coast after he rebelled against the authorities there and minted a currency which he forced the residents of areas under his control to deal in. Another example is the end of the Qawasim sheikhdom in Lanjeh in 1898, as it was attacked by Ahmad Khan, the ruler of Bushehr, at the behest of the Persian authorities, after which Ahmad Khan drove Sheikh Muhammad bin Khalifa al-Qasimi out. Another example is History books mention numerous incidents in which the sheikhs of the eastern coast were persecuted by the Persian authorities.

Despite the end of Arab political authority on the eastern coast of the Gulf, the social bond between the two shores is still present and impactful due to the migration of many families to the western coast for a variety of political and social reasons, particularly in the first half of the twentieth century. In other words, this migration has strengthened the aforementioned bond, which naturally existed before the end of the Arab sheikhdoms on the eastern coast of the Gulf due to the tribal and family extensions between the two coasts. However, given the scarcity of literature dealing with the history of the Arabs of the eastern coast generally, no studies or research has been done on the impact of reverse migration on the cities of the eastern or western coast. Notable exceptions include the efforts of Sheikh Sultan al-Qasimi, who has re-examined certain details relating to the Arabs of the eastern coast, and researcher Jalal al-Haroun, who may have done more critical writing than anyone else on the eastern coast Arabs in a quest to re-conceptualize the region's history.

To address this scarcity, the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies and the Hassan Bin Mohammed Center for Historical Studies are jointly-organizing this conference titled "The Eastern Coast of the Gulf and Its Inhabitants: Their Lives and Migrations from a History and Social Sciences Perspective".

Timetable

Day 1, Saturday 11 October 2025

9:00-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:15	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Abdulrahman Albaker</p> <p>Mohammad Hammam Fikri</p>
10:15-11:30	<p>The Modern Historical Formation of the Eastern Gulf Coast (1)</p> <p>Chair: Abdulrahman Alebrahim</p> <p>Lindsey Stephenson: The Unknown Coast: Shibkuh and Its Surroundings</p> <p>Hassan Mohamed Nour*: Archaeological Castles and Forts of the Eastern Coast of the Arabian Gulf</p>
11:30-11:45	Break
11:45-13:15	<p>The Modern Historical Formation of the Eastern Gulf Coast (2)</p> <p>Chair: Baqer Al Najjar</p> <p>Faozi Al-Goidi: The Battle of Nasur 1783: The Transformation of Naval Powers in the Arabian Gulf and Its Impact on the Historical Identity of the Eastern Coast's Inhabitants</p> <p>Ahmad Saeed El-Sayed Zeedan: The British Base in Basaidu (1823-1913) and Its Impact on the Local Population of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf</p> <p>Ahmad Kurdiea: The Unveiling Decree in Iran and Its Repercussions: Migration and Its Impact on Demographic Changes between the Eastern and Western Coasts of the Gulf</p>
13:15-14:15	Lunch Break

14:15-15:30	<p>Arab Iranian Citizens on the Eastern Gulf Coast: History, Identity, and Culture</p> <p>Chair: Harith Hassan</p> <p>Mushtaq al-Hilo: The National Identity of the Iranian State and the Position of Arab Iranians: The Inhabitants of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf as a Case Study</p> <p>Alam Saleh: Arab Iranians and Their Identities: A Focus on Inhabitants of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf</p>
15:30-15:45	Break
15:45-17:00	<p>Arab Families and Sheikhdoms on the Eastern Gulf Coast and Their Political Roles</p> <p>Chair: Mohammad Sabah</p> <p>Ashraf Hamed Abd El-Raouf: Commercial Influence and Political Impact of Arab Families on the Eastern Coast of the Gulf from the 7th to the 10th Century AH: The Al Tibi Family as a Model</p> <p>Mashael al-Shammari: The Al Haram Shaykhdom on Iran's Eastern Gulf Coast: Autonomy, Identity, and Migration (1860–1978)</p>
17:00-17:15	Break
17:15-18:15	<p>Keynote Lecture</p> <p>Chair: Fahad Bishara</p> <p>Willem Floor*: The Khaleeji Identity of the Huwala</p>

* Attending online.

Day 2, Sunday 12 October 2025

10:00-11:15	<p>Cultural, Literary, and Folk Heritage of the Eastern Gulf Coast (1)</p> <p>Chair: Ali Afifi Ali Ghazi</p> <p>Manami Goto*: Khaleejis and the Mask: Tracing Migration, Trade, and Cultural Transformation</p> <p>Said Abdullah Mubarak Al Farsi: The Popular and Maritime Heritage of the Eastern Coast: The City of Lengeh as a Model</p>
11:15-11:30	Break
11:30-12:45	<p>Cultural, Literary, and Folk Heritage of the Eastern Gulf Coast (2)</p> <p>Chair: Maisa Alkhawaja</p> <p>Rodabe Shah Hoseini: The Oral Heritage of the Eastern Coast: A Study of Oral Narratives about Historical Figures, Shamad al-Lawari, a Civic Sheikh of Bastak, as a Model</p> <p>Samir Ziani: The Literature of the Huwala and Its Role in Preserving Identity: A Thematic Study of Selected Poetic Models</p>
12:45-13:00	Break
13:00-14:15	<p>The Demographic Composition of the Eastern Gulf Coast</p> <p>Chair: Mousa bin Qasir</p> <p>Safa Sobh Sababheh*: Ethnic Diversity on the Eastern Coast of the Arabian Gulf: Historical Roots and Socio-Cultural Dynamics</p> <p>Tofiq al-Nassari: The Classification of the Population of Bushehr Province: A Study of Cultural and Sectarian Identity Diversity</p>
14:15-15:15	Lunch Break
15:15-16:30	<p>The Eastern Gulf Coast in the Iranian Imaginary</p> <p>Chair: Ali Alkandari</p> <p>Yaser Ghazvini Haeri: The Evolution of the Image of Mir Muhanna in the Iranian Imagination: From Historical Texts to Video Games</p> <p>Hasan Al-Saraf: The Image of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf in Iranian Cinema</p>

* Attending online.

Day 3, Monday 13 October 2025

10:00-11:30	<p>Mobility and Migration Networks between the Gulf Coasts</p> <p>Chair: Khalid bin Ghanim Al-Ali</p> <p>Youssef Al-Abdullah: Migration and Mobility between the Coasts of Qatar and the Eastern Coast of the Arabian Gulf during the First Half of the 19th Century</p> <p>Kassim Alsrailha: The Huwala and Cultural Citizenship in the Gulf: Dialectics of Integration, Inclusion, and Exclusion</p> <p>Muhammad Salman Shabbir: Trans-Gulf Migration Networks: Social and Economic Impacts of Arab Movement between the Eastern and Western Coasts</p>
11:30-11:45	Break
11:45-13:15	<p>The Eastern Gulf Coast in European Scholarship</p> <p>Chair: Said al-Hashimi</p> <p>Zahidah Mohammed Taha: Knowledge of the Eastern Coast of the Arabian Gulf as Presented by Western Political Circles: A Comparative Study of the British Colonels Samuel Miles and Arnold Wilson</p> <p>Irina Lebedeva: The Eastern Gulf Coast through the Lens of Russian Researchers</p> <p>Hossam Elsayed Zaki Shalabi: The Role of British Newspapers in Shaping the Mental Image of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf in the 19th Century</p>
13:15-13:30	<p>Concluding Remarks</p> <p>Haider Saeed</p>

Participants

Abstracts



Ahmad Kurdiea

Researcher in the contemporary history of Iran and the Middle East. He holds a PhD in Contemporary Iranian History and an MA in Gulf Studies from the University of Tehran. His research interests focus on ideology and its effects on Gulf societies, as well as on mediation and conflict resolution studies. He has participated in several conferences, most recently the Conference on Peace and Conflict Resolution, in Tehran. His most recent publication is "Iranian-Omani Relations and Their Impact on the GCC States, 1981-2015" (*Journal of Historical Studies*, University of Tehran, 2024).

The Unveiling Decree in Iran and Its Repercussions: Migration and Its Impact on Demographic Changes between the Eastern and Western Coasts of the Gulf

The *Kashf-e Hijab* (Unveiling) decree imposed by Reza Shah Pahlavi in Iran in 1936 sought to reshape social identity through state intervention in personal life, particularly targeting women's appearance and behaviour. This study analyses the policy as an example of forced modernity, highlighting the relationship between coercive cultural policies and population migration. It argues that the unveiling law had profound demographic consequences, especially for Arabs of the eastern Gulf coast, leading to waves of migration from the eastern to the western shores of the Gulf. Adopting a historical-sociological methodology, the research relies on British and Persian archival documents, alongside oral testimonies, to analyse migration patterns resulting from the law's enforcement. It situates these migrations within a broader political and social context marked by central state domination and the marginalization of peripheral communities. The study demonstrates that migration constituted an act of silent resistance by groups rejecting forced assimilation into the modern state project and how the settlement of new migrants reshaped the region's population, cultural, and economic landscape. The study calls for further research into the profound impact on regional population redistribution made by the cross-border demographic and political dimensions of the *Kashf-e Hijab* policy. This includes wider documentation of these migrations within Gulf and contemporary Iranian studies, comparative research on how cultural policies influence demographic shifts, and the integration of multilingual (Persian, Arabic, British) archives.



Ahmad Saeed El-Sayed Zeedan

Lecturer of Modern and Contemporary History and International Relations at the Faculty of Arts, Damanhour University. He earned his PhD in Modern and Contemporary History, specializing in International Relations, from Damanhour University in 2013, and his Masters in Modern and Contemporary History, also specializing in International Relations, from Alexandria University in 2008. He has participated in numerous international conferences and symposia in Oman, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and Egypt.

The British Base in Basaidu (1823-1913) and Its Impact on the Local Population of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf

In 1820, British forces occupied Qeshm Island, claiming verbal permission from the Imam of Muscat, and maintained control until 1822. In 1823, the first British naval base in the Gulf was established at Basaidu, located on the western tip of Qeshm Island facing the Iranian coast. The base included a coal station, a hospital, and other facilities. In 1913, although some facilities were retained in Basaidu, the main naval base was moved to Hengam Island. However, the base was fully evacuated and the British flag lowered in 1935. The presence of the British base on Qeshm Island had a direct impact on the local population and led to the dependence of local rulers on British protection. It also secured Britain's control over the strategic sea lanes leading to India. Moreover, Britain believed the local population had cooperated with them and might be endangered by the return of the base to Persian control. This study examines the British base in Basaidu and its impact on the Arab population of the Gulf, focusing on their political, military, economic, and social conditions. It draws on British documents concerning the Basaidu base in various contexts, which illustrate the position of the British government and its rights in Basaidu, the strategic importance of Basaidu, and the consequences of Britain's withdrawal from the base.



Alam Saleh

Senior Lecturer in Iranian Studies at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Australian National University. He also serves as Reviews Editor for the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. He earned his PhD, master's, and bachelor's degrees from the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and has previously taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in International Relations, Security Studies, and Middle East Politics at several UK universities, including Lancaster, Exeter, Durham, Leeds, and Bradford. In addition to his academic work, he has been actively engaged with policy practitioners and external professional bodies such as the UK Ministry of Defence, NATO, and the United Nations.

Arab Iranians and Their Identities: A Focus on Inhabitants of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf

The presence of Arab communities on the Iranian side of the Gulf has been a consistent feature of the region's history for centuries. However, in the context of the modern nation-state system, concerns about the attitudes and loyalties of ethnic minorities have become increasingly significant. This research delves into the multifaceted aspects of ethnic identity, nationalism, and societal security to examine the position of Arab minorities in Iran, specifically focusing on the communities situated along the Gulf's eastern coast. Drawing on fieldwork conducted in southern Iran in December 2023, the study investigates how identity is conceptualized and negotiated among Arab minorities. The research highlights the tension between their Arab heritage and Iranian national identity. The findings reveal the complexities of cultural dependence, regional connectivity, dual loyalties, and the cognitive processes that shape their collective identity. A central focus of the research is the development of the concept of identity maintenance. It poses the following questions: How does this community, amidst social and political pressures, succeed in preserving and reproducing the elements of its Arab identity? What obstacles and opportunities do these efforts present?



Ashraf Hamed Abd El-Raouf

Lecturer in Islamic Civilization at the Department of History and Civilization, Al-Azhar University. He earned his PhD with a dissertation titled "Waqf Inscriptions in the Indian Subcontinent and Their Civilizational Significance from the 7th to the 10th Century AH". He is a member of the Egyptian Society for Historical Studies and the Union of Arab Historians. He has published several research papers and contributed to the preparation of the book *Misconceptions and Responses Concerning Islamic Civilization* (Islamic Research Academy, Islamic Research Series, vol. 8/51).

Commercial Influence and Political Impact of Arab Families on the Eastern Coast of the Gulf from the 7th to the 10th Century AH: The Al Tibi Family as a Model

The Al Tibi family, also known as the Sawamil, emerged during the 7th and 8th centuries AH (13th-14th CE) as a prominent local power on Qays Island and the neighbouring ports. They successfully transformed from a commercial actor operating under the Sultanate of Hormuz into a relatively independent authority with significant political and commercial influence. Epigraphic evidence, particularly the inscription discovered in Prabhas Patan, India, in 662 AH/1264 CE, reveals the extent of their networks and their impact on the coasts of India and the Indian Ocean. This study traces the trajectory of the Al Tibi family by examining their commercial presence and political alliances, especially their relations with the Ilkhanid Mongols, and their use of regional balances to consolidate power. It also analyses the material evidence and inscriptions that shed light on their overlooked roles. The research utilizes written sources and discovered inscriptions, in addition to conducting a comparative analysis of the geographical and political contexts of the regions where the family was active. The chronological scope of the study is limited to the 7th and 8th centuries AH, while its geographical scope covers Qays Island, the eastern Gulf ports, and the Indian coasts connected to them through trade.



Faozi Al-Goidi

Researcher specializing in the modern and contemporary history of the Arabian Gulf and Yemen. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Middle East Council. He holds a master's in History from the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. His research interests focus on political and social transformations in the Arabian Gulf and Yemen. He most recently published a study titled "The Sea vs. the Desert: Rahmah ibn Jabir and the Dialectic of Piracy and Maritime Influence" (*Al-Muntaqa*, 2025), and contributed a chapter in *Red Sea Ports in the Ottoman Era* titled "From Jeddah to Mocha: Carsten Niebuhr and His Vision of the Social Space". He has participated in numerous academic conferences and has several studies and articles published in Arabic journals and online platforms.

The Battle of Nasur 1783: The Transformation of Naval Powers in the Arabian Gulf and Its Impact on the Historical Identity of the Eastern Coast's Inhabitants

The 18th century was a decisive period in the history of the Arabian Gulf, marked by numerous battles and conflicts. Among the most significant was the Battle of Nasur in 1783, in which the Arabs of the western coast defeated the Arabs of the eastern coast, ultimately gaining control of the island of Bahrain. This victory reshaped the balance of naval and commercial power in the Gulf basin and, along with other Gulf battles of the 18th century, marks a pivotal historical turning point. The study argues that the Battle of Nasur changed the historical identity of the Arabs of the eastern coast by redistributing power across the Gulf, influencing social and economic structures, and redefining the narratives through which this identity was constructed. The study draws on a wide range of primary sources, including Ottoman, Dutch, and British documents, alongside local sources. It also engages with the theoretical insights of Michel Foucault, Benedict Anderson, and Manuel Castells on identity, power, and the reproduction of collective narratives in post-transformation contexts to offer a critical reading of the different accounts of the battle while considering the political and social contexts that shaped these narratives.



Hasan Al-Saraf

Iraqi academic and translator. He holds a PhD in Political Systems and Public Policies from Al-Nahrain University in Baghdad, with a dissertation on the challenges of political and economic development in Iran. He is a member of the editorial board of the Intellectual Studies series published by the University of Kufa. He won first place in the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding in 2020 in the category of translation from Persian, for his translation of Ali Shariati's *The Desert* (Dar Al-Rafidain, 2017). He also translated Mohsen Kadivar's *The Punishment for Apostasy and Freedom of Belief According to the Standards of Jurisprudential Reasoning* (Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 2023).

The Image of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf in Iranian Cinema

This study explores the representation of the eastern coast of the Gulf and its Arab communities in the Iranian imagination as portrayed through Iranian cinema. It highlights key Iranian films produced in the eastern coastal environment, with protagonists drawn from the Arabs of the region. Many of these films rank among the most renowned in Iranian cinema and were directed by internationally acclaimed Iranian filmmakers such as Bahram Beyzai, Nasser Taghvai, Amir Naderi, Kiumars Pourahmad, and others. The study employs an analytical approach by deconstructing key cinematic scenes from films relevant to the topic, shedding light on how they shape the image of the eastern coast and its Arab inhabitants in Iranian cultural imagination and cinema, without engaging in artistic or cinematic evaluation.



Hassan Mohamed Nour

Emeritus Professor of Islamic Archeology at the Faculty of Archeology, Sohag University. He is a member of the Scientific Permanent Committee for the Promotion of Professors and Assistant Professors in Islamic Antiquities at the Supreme Council of Egyptian Universities. He served as a scientific advisor to the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage and on a research mission to the University of London in the UK. He has published extensively in the field of Islamic archaeology and has presented research at international conferences. He has also supervised academic theses both in Egypt and abroad. He received the King Abdul Aziz Shield from Imam Muhammad University in March 2015, the award of the General Union of Arab Archaeologists for Distinguished Research in November 2015, and the Asian Cultural Center Award for Scientific Excellence in the Arab world in January 2020.

Archaeological Castles and Forts of the Eastern Coast of the Arabian Gulf

Over a period spanning more than a millenium, dozens of Arab emirates and kingdoms were formed in Persia, most prominently the emirates of the Qawasim, the Maraziq, the Nasour, the Hammadi, the Julandi, the Dawasir, the Abdallah, the Madani, the Abbasids, the Al Ali, the Al Haram, the Al Kinda, the Bani Bishr, the Al Bulaydi, and others. These emirates established hundreds of military fortifications represented by castles, fortresses, and towers to protect and defend their kingdoms against the Persians, Europeans, and the Arabs themselves. Examples include the Marzouqi Castle in Magwa, the Nasour Castle in Siraf, the Bastak Castle in Hormuz, and the Shush Castle in Khuzestan. The study compares these castles with others in Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, and with European Castles on the coast of the Arabian Gulf, and the Iranian Castles near the eastern coast of the Arabian Gulf. Through archaeological evidence, it demonstrates the extent to which the Arabs of the Eastern coast of the Gulf were connected to their Arab Surroundings.



Hossam Elsayed Zaki Shalabi

Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Civilization at Al-Azhar University. He holds a PhD from the Faculty of Arts at Tanta University and a master's from the Faculty of Arts at Mansoura University. He has published many books and participated in numerous international conferences.

The Role of British Newspapers in Shaping the Mental Image of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf in the 19th Century

The eastern coast of the Gulf has long been home to Arab tribes, which established independent centres of governance until the 19th century, when the Persians, in cooperation with Britain, succeeded in seizing control of the eastern coast and expelling Arab forces. Britain's objective was to establish the dominance of a single power that could be directed to serve British interests in the region. Consequently, British newspapers adopted governmental perspectives to construct a mental image of the eastern coast that aligned with British policy, particularly regarding the forces controlling it. However, this did not prevent newspapers, especially scholarly journals such as *The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*, from unveiling the history of the region and the significant aspects of the Arab presence within it. Therefore, this study discusses British newspaper coverage of political, economic, and military events on the eastern coast of the Gulf by exploring the concept of the eastern coast as presented in journalistic narratives. It also analyses the political, economic, and social conditions in the ports and villages of the eastern coast, particularly those outside Lingah and Qeshm, the British campaign on Lingah and Luft in 1809-1810, the British-Persian collaboration to end Arab rule on the eastern coast, and the impact of British propaganda on shaping global journalistic trends and constructing a knowledge-based understanding of the eastern coast of the Gulf.



Irina Lebedeva

Associate Professor at the School of Asian Studies, Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, HSE University and Associate Professor at the Department of the Contemporary East, Institute for Oriental and Regional Studies, Russian State University for the Humanities. She holds a PhD in Historical Sciences.

The Eastern Gulf Coast through the Lens of Russian Researchers

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of Russian text sources on the history and culture of the Eastern Gulf Coast during the 19th and 20th centuries. Although Russia's presence in the region was limited, the documents of its diplomats, travelers, and orientalists offer unique insights. The analytical part of the study focuses on two key areas. The first is an examination of pre-1917 Bolshevik Revolution sources. Here, reports from the Border Commission led by Igor Chirikov and the accounts of Alexander Tumanskiy, among others, are treated as a significant dataset. These works reveal the political and ethnic landscape, historical terminology such as "Arabistan" and "Khuzestan", and the social life of the region. This analysis is critically compared with sources in other languages. The second area addresses Soviet academic studies. The works of scholars like Vasiliy Bartold, Vladimir Ivanov, and Nina Pigulevskaya are analysed through a Marxist lens, highlighting their contributions to understanding socio-economic processes and anti-colonial movements. Russian sources provide a distinct perspective on the political relations between the Arab sheikhdoms and Iran and enrich the debate on the region's borders and identity, offering critical tools for scrutinizing colonial narratives. These findings open new avenues for dialogue with Arab and Western historical studies and for re-reading the history of the Eastern Gulf Coast within a global context.



Lindsey Stephenson

Historian of the Gulf and Indian Ocean. She holds a PhD from Princeton University in Near Eastern Studies. She is interested in the social history and material culture of the 20th-century Gulf Arab countries. Her first book manuscript, *Belonging on Both Shores: Mobility, Migration and the Bordering of the Persian Gulf* is slated to be published by Stanford University Press in January 2026.

The Unknown Coast: Shibkuh and Its Surroundings

Most Iranians have never heard of "Shibkuh". In fact, many place names in Iran that are in everyday circulation in the Arab countries of the Gulf are completely unknown to most of Iran. There are a number of reasons for this ignorance. Even the region of Larestan that Shibkuh is located within is virtually unknown to the public and infrequently receive attention from historians. For those Iranian historians who do focus on the Gulf, the area is written about in a very traditional way of history writing. Persian language histories of the Gulf tend to be anchored at the major trading centres that have risen and fallen over the longue duree of history: the ancient port city of Siraf, the ancient island-turned-free trade zone and capitalist enclave of Kish, and the lesser-known modern port city of Bandar Lengeh. This paper begins to read between the lines of traditional history to explore the ways that Shibkuh and its Arab population have been understood and incorporated into the Gulf region in modern Iranian historiography. It takes a historiographic approach to piece together the state of knowledge surrounding this area.



Manami Goto

Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of International Resource Sciences, Akita University, and an Excellent Young Researcher of the Leading Initiative for Excellent Young Researchers (LEADER) Project. Her main areas of interest are dress, material culture, oral history, and the rituals of women in the Gulf. She is currently researching the dress politics of the Arab Gulf states, analysing how migrant Iranian women have utilized different types of dress to express their sense of belonging, integrate into society, and reject certain social norms imposed on them. Her recent publications include: "Expressing Identity through the Dressed Body: A Study of Iranian Migrants in Gulf Cooperation Council Countries" (Springer, 2023); "Representing the Emirati Nation through Burqu': Local Identity or Imagined Community?" (The University of Tokyo Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, 2021).

Khaleejis and the Mask: Tracing Migration, Trade, and Cultural Transformation

This paper examines how Arab migration and maritime trade between coastal communities on both sides of the Gulf have shaped the evolution of the female facemask – regionally known as the burqu' or baṭūla. It asks: How have trans-Gulf Arab networks historically influenced, and continued to transform, the material culture and socio-symbolic meanings of the facemask tradition in the Gulf region? The paper argues that the Khaleeji facemask is a dynamic artifact shaped by centuries of migration, coastal trade, and social transformation. Initially used as protection and modesty, the mask also conveyed social hierarchies, distinguishing free women from slaves, Arabs from non-Arabs, and signaling wealth or ethnic belonging. Over time, its design, function, and symbolism have evolved in response to shifting social norms, empire-building, and the emergence of postcolonial nationhood. Drawing on oral histories collected by the author in the Gulf Arab countries and southern Iran (2015-2024), visual analysis of regional mask styles, and archival data, this study traces four main types of facemasks and their respective cultural meanings. Methodologically, it combines ethnographic fieldwork with historical mapping of mask diffusion patterns to highlight how Khaleeji Arab women have preserved and reinvented the tradition amid broader transregional shifts. By challenging colonial and Western narratives that frame veiling solely as a symbol of oppression or as a reductive gendered religious practice, this study reinterprets the Gulf facemask as a marker of female agency, cultural continuity, and transregional connectivity – central to the lived experiences, identities, and collective memory of Khaleeji Arab women.

Mashael al-Shammari

PhD candidate in the Department of History at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. She holds a master's in History and a bachelor's in Literature. She is the author of the book *The Historical Development of Jurisprudential Reasoning on Women's Rulings in the Hanafi School: From Its Foundation to Ibn 'Abidin*. Her research interests focus on the intellectual history of the Arabian Gulf and Islamic thought.

The Al Haram Shaykhdom on Iran's Eastern Gulf Coast: Autonomy, Identity, and Migration (1860–1978)

This study examines the Al Haram shaykhdom in southern Iran within the broader struggle between the state centre and the periphery. It also situates the shaykhdom amid tensions between British colonial power and Iran's central government. Under Reza Shah, the Al Haram were not targeted because they were Arab. They were targeted because they had real political autonomy, economic resources, and external ties; all of which clashed with a centralized, Westernizing project of modernization. Rather than focusing on ethnic identity, the study looks at the political and economic context that linked the shaykhdom to Tehran, to British interests, to Arab communities across the Gulf, and to neighbouring tribes. It uses Stein Rokkan and Derek Urwin's centre–periphery framework to analyse these relationships. Drawing on British and Iranian archives, along with oral histories, the study shows that the Al Haram shaykhdom went through several phases from the early 20th century to the late 1970s. Under Reza Shah's coercive modernization, it shifted from autonomous rule to decentralized administration, without full integration. During this period, the shaykhs moved from being independent rulers to acting as intermediaries between the state and local society. After Reza Shah, the central government changed its approach from coercion to negotiation and cooptation, leading to full integration by the late 1970s. By then, the political role of the shaykhs had largely ended. The state became the main provider for society through "soft" tools of modernization such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.



Muhammad Salman Shabbir

Academic and researcher, currently serving as the Program Director at York St John University, London, and a recognized Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA). He holds prestigious certifications from Harvard Business School and Babson College. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications in ABS, ABDC, Scopus, and Web of Science journals. He has extensive experience in curriculum development, academic program leadership, and quality assurance. He has guided PhD and Masters students, and has presented his work at global forums such as the Academy of Management and the United Nations.

Trans-Gulf Migration Networks: Social and Economic Impacts of Arab Movement between the Eastern and Western Coasts

This study investigates the historical migratory patterns of Arab tribes along both shores of the Gulf, with particular emphasis on their socio-economic, political, and cultural implications. In challenging prevailing interpretations that characterize Gulf migration as sporadic or marginal, this research reframes it as a sociocultural circulatory system that sustained authority, kinship, and exchange across generations. Through a methodological approach that combines archival analysis, oral history collection, and Social Network Analysis, the study examines how tribes navigated shifting political contexts through dual settlements and port-based strategies. The results indicate that migration enabled these groups to sustain cross-coastal governance, reinforce kinship through intermarriage and dowry networks, and maintain economic interdependence via joint ventures, rotating credit, and shared trade in pearls, timber, and dates across cities. Oral narratives highlight the role of intergenerational memory, seafaring poetry, and hybrid dialects in maintaining identity as mobility-based and maritime, while network analysis demonstrates how ports such as Kong and Charak operated as switching points within interconnected flows rather than as peripheral outposts. The research makes a substantive contribution to Gulf historiography, postcolonial migration theory, and regional anthropology by demonstrating that mobility functioned as a mechanism for continuity, resilience, and adaptation. It calls for renewed emphasis in both academic research and heritage policy on the maritime and migratory foundations of Gulf identity and points to future research on the intersections of gender, legal regimes, language, and digital heritage in sustaining collective memory.



Mushtaq al-Hilo

Researcher and translator, holding a PhD, a master's, and a bachelor's in Islamic Jurisprudence from the Qom Seminary, as well as a master's and a bachelor's in Political Science from Al-Mofid University. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Islamic Studies at Harran University in Turkey. He has worked in teaching, writing, and translation at academic and research centres in Iran, Iraq, and Turkey. His research interests focus on Iranian society, culture, and politics, as well as religious and Shi'i studies. Among his works is "The Safavids and the Ottomans amid Sectarian Ideological Rivalries" (Al Mesbar Studies and Research Center, 2010).

The National Identity of the Iranian State and the Position of Arab Iranians: The Inhabitants of the Eastern Coast of the Gulf as a Case Study

Modern Iranian identity was not constructed all at once; rather, it crystallized through successive historical stages in which the dialectics of belonging, otherness, and interaction with diverse ethnic and cultural components were reflected. Within this process, the "Arab question" in Iran came to constitute a structural dimension in the very formation of Iranian identity, as attitudes toward Arabs became a central element in how Iranians defined their own self-image. This study approaches the Arab question from a synthetic perspective that combines quantitative data (Arab demographic presence, geographic distribution, political representation) with qualitative data (cultural discourse, the image of the Arab in literature and curricula, official policies). The study poses a fundamental question: How has the image of the Arab in Iran been historically, culturally, and politically constructed, and what are the implications of this for the position of Arabs in contemporary Iranian social and political structures? It argues that the Arab question in Iran is not merely a localized ethnic issue but rather a cornerstone in the construction of modern Iranian national identity, in which the Arab is evoked as the antithetical "Other" against whom Persian selfhood is defined. It further posits that educational, cultural, and media policies have played a decisive role in reproducing this image, in ways that transcend the objective social reality of Arabs in Iran.

Kassim Alsraiha

Scholar of Middle Eastern politics. He previously held a post-doctoral fellowship at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge, where he expanded his work on citizenship, democratization, and reformism in the Arab world, with particular emphasis on the Gulf States. His research also explores the political and social status of the Arab-Bedouin minority in the Naqab/Palestine. He is co-founder of AHD – The Association of Academic Arabs for the Development of Arab Society in the Naqab, through which he combines academic research with community engagement. He has published widely on religion and state, minorities, citizenship, and leadership.

The Huwala and Cultural Citizenship in the Gulf: Dialectics of Integration, Inclusion, and Exclusion

This study examines the question of cultural citizenship among the Huwala community in the Arab Gulf states, with a particular focus on the processes of integration and inclusion versus the structural experiences of exclusion faced by members of this community in the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait. It highlights how the Huwala confront the challenges of cultural citizenship in terms of social acceptance and cultural recognition, thereby exposing variations in identity and belonging policies across these states, especially under official discourses that tend to emphasize a unified national identity. The study asks what factors might explain the emergence of exclusion or the limited scope of cultural representation in certain contexts, and what kinds of national discourses and narratives frame the position of the Huwala in each state. It also analyses whether historical experiences and official policies in these countries contribute to fostering a balanced symbolic inclusion or to reproducing patterns of differentiation and distinction within the public sphere. The study discusses the strategies employed by the Huwala to negotiate their cultural identity through the Huwala dialect, folk arts, and symbolic adaptation to official discourse. It explores how they practice a form of quiet cultural resistance that redefines the boundaries of citizenship and asserts a demand for recognition as a living part of Gulf history.



Rodabe Shah Hoseini

Faculty member and a member of the Supreme Council of the Center for Teaching Persian Language to Non-Iranian Students at Payame Noor University. She holds a PhD in Persian Language and Literature. Her research interests focus on mythology, folklore, and comparative literature between Arabic and Persian. She has authored and edited several books, and has published multiple articles in peer-reviewed journals. She is also a member of the working group for compiling and reviewing course titles in Persian Language and Literature and Iranian Studies for Persian Language and Literature programs at international universities.

The Oral Heritage of the Eastern Coast: A Study of Oral Narratives about Historical Figures, Shamad al-Lawari, a Civic Sheikh of Bastak, as a Model

Sheikh Mohammed al-Lawari, known as Shamad al-Lawari, was a descendant of Sheikh Hassan al-Madani. His family was among the well-known clans on the eastern coast and among the Huwala Arabs. His somewhat outcast-like character and his dual behaviour toward both superiors and subordinates gave rise to conflicting views about him, with his name carrying connotations that stretch from hero to anti-hero. Shamad was not merely a historical figure; in the popular culture of the eastern coast, he is remembered as a brave hero. Many verses were composed about him in Persian, in the local Hachami dialect, and in Arabic, and a film was produced about his life and legacy. His story transcends the bounds of history and approaches the realm of legend. From this perspective, Shamad is judged not only by historical standards but also through a mythical lens. This study evaluates Shamad as a legendary figure, drawing on Ernst Cassirer's theory of the structure of mythical thought.



Said Abdullah Mubarak Al Farsi

PhD student in Historical Anthropology at the University of Sfax, Tunisia. He works at the Omani Ministry of Education. He holds a bachelor's in Geography from Sultan Qaboos University 1997 and a master's in Social Studies Curricula from Sultan Qaboos University. His PhD dissertation is titled "The Intangible Maritime Cultural Heritage in the Sultanate of Oman: The North and South Al Batinah Governorates as a Case Study". He is a member of the Geographical Society of the Gulf Cooperation Council States.

The Popular and Maritime Heritage of the Eastern Coast: The City of Lengeh as a Model

Lengeh is one of the districts on the eastern coast of the Arabian Gulf, administratively part of Hormozgan Province in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The lives of its people have long been closely tied to the sea, as reflected in the variety of maritime activities they practiced. Their sailing vessels reached the coasts of India and East Africa, as well as ports along the western Gulf. Their ships also participated in the pearl-diving seasons of the Arabian Gulf basin, producing renowned ship captains (*nawakhidha*), divers (*ghawasa*), and pearl merchants (*tawawish*). In addition, they engaged in fishing and in the craft of building wooden ships. These maritime activities were accompanied by a set of popular traditions that formed part of their daily lives and folk culture, shaped through their contact and interaction with neighbouring regions and peoples, particularly those on the opposite shore of the Gulf. This interaction and exchange created shared elements in their maritime heritage. This study uncovers components of Lengeh people's maritime folk heritage and highlights the similarities and shared aspects of maritime traditions between the inhabitants of the eastern coast of the Arabian Gulf, represented by Lengeh in Hormozgan Province in southern Iran, and those of the western coast, represented by the city of Sohar in North Al Batinah Governorate in the Sultanate of Oman.



Safa Sobh Sababheh

Assistant Professor of Economic Geography at AlHussain Bin Talal University, Jordan. She holds a PhD in Economic Geography from the University of Jordan. She previously worked at the University of Hail, Saudi Arabia (2008-2016). Her research interests focus on food security, water security, and energy security. She has authored several specialized publications and has participated in local, Arab, and international conferences.

Ethnic Diversity on the Eastern Coast of the Arabian Gulf: Historical Roots and Socio-Cultural Dynamics

The eastern coast of the Arabian Gulf boasts a rich ethnic diversity resulting from a long-standing interaction between geographical, historical, and economic factors. This diversity is considered a cultural and civilizational asset, yet it raises profound questions about its formation, its impact on local identities, social cohesion, and the relationships among the various groups. Despite the critical importance of understanding the ethnic composition in this context, previous studies have often focused on political and economic dimensions, neglecting ethnicity as a central analytical framework. This study investigates the factors that have shaped the ethnic composition of the eastern coast of the Arabian Gulf and how this diversity has influenced the region's social and cultural dynamics. The study is based on the hypothesis that the ethnic composition of the eastern Gulf coast is not merely the result of transient historical interactions, but rather the outcome of an integrated social and cultural structure influenced by several factors, including human migrations, economic activities, and the geographic location that positioned the region as a centre of cultural exchange. This complex composition has contributed to strengthening local identity and fostering unique patterns of coexistence, while simultaneously generating challenges related to integration and social harmony. The study adopts a multidisciplinary methodology that combines social history, cultural anthropology, and human geography, with a focus on both qualitative and quantitative analysis.



Samir Ziani

Lecturer at the University Centre of Maghnia, Algeria. He obtained his PhD in Modern and Contemporary Criticism in 2018. He is a member of several peer-reviewed scientific journals and research projects and has authored numerous books, papers, and studies published in local and international journals. He has also participated in local and international conferences and symposia, including the "Arabic Language and Keeping Pace with the Times" conference held in Medina, and the "Arabic Language and Interdisciplinary Studies" conference held in Riyadh in 2015.

The Literature of the Huwala and Its Role in Preserving Identity: A Thematic Study of Selected Poetic Models

This study uncovers the deep identification between Arab coastal writers on the eastern shores of the Gulf and their counterparts of the other shore, evident in their creative output. Through these works, the writers attempt to affirm their Arab Islamic identity, grounded in the Arabic language in which they write and the essential themes they explore; topics that consistently remain closely aligned with matters of faith and Islamic values. The nature of this subject requires a descriptive, analytical, and inductive approach that records the attachment of the Huwala Arabs to their identity while simultaneously observing the manifestations of this attachment. By examining selected examples of poetry, this study confirms the strong connection of the Arab coastal communities to their original identity and their ties with the inhabitants of their homelands on the opposite shore of the Arabian Gulf.



Tofiq al-Nassari

Researcher, poet, critic, and translator. He holds a PhD in Arabic Language and Literature from Bushehr University. His books include *The Eloquence Embedded in the Ahwazi Dialect*; *The Tongue of the Arabs on the Coast and Islands: A Dictionary of Ahwazi Maritime Terms*; *Indian Words in the Dialects of Ahwaz and the Arabs of the Coast*. He has also published a number of studies in academic journals.

The Classification of the Population of Bushehr Province: A Study of Cultural and Sectarian Identity Diversity

This study examines the cultural and sectarian diversity of Arab groups in Bushehr Province, in southern Iran today, and offers a modern classification based on linguistic, social, and cultural criteria, moving beyond the earlier scholarly focus on ruling families alone. The research highlights the plurality of Arab identities in the region through eight main groups: the Huwala Arabs, the "Hayat Dawudi" community, the Dashutis, the Tangestanis, the Tangessiris, the "displaced" Arabs, the Shattis, and the island Arabs. The study analyses both local and foreign historical sources, in addition to field interviews conducted with individuals from various Arab communities, providing deeper insight into the evolution of identity under the pressures of war, migration, and linguistic change. It fills a clear research gap in the literature by shedding light on the social interactions that shaped these identities and by analysing the challenges they face in preserving their distinctiveness within the contemporary context.



Willem Floor

Historian, writer, and Iranologist. He received his PhD from the University of Leiden in 1971. He took his undergraduate studies at the University of Utrecht, where he studied economics, non-Western sociology, and Islamic studies. He also studied Arabic and Persian. His most recent publications include: "Who is Khurshid Khanom? A Study in the Origin and Development of the Shir-o-Khurshid Motif" (co-authored) (MAGE 2024); "Qeshm. The History of a Persian Gulf Island" (co-authored) (MAGE 2024); and "The Safavid State. Government, Judiciary, Religious Institution, and the Army" (Mazda 2024).

The Khaleeji Identity of the Huwala

This study discusses the presence and vicissitudes of Arabic speaking groups; the Huwala, who lived in the coastal Shibkuh region of Iran; in particular, when and where the Huwala were coming from, where they settled, what their activities were, and what their interactions were with the locals. It also explores why they migrated and moved to Iran. The study argues that there were two main reasons why Arab groups moved to the Iranian littoral. One is shortage of resources, either land or pearling grounds. The other main reason is political, i.e., losers in a conflict often chose or were forced to move elsewhere as was the case of the Al Bu Samayt. The reason for the move to Iran probably was because it was safer (no threat by victorious rivals), Achoomi and/or Arabic was spoken on either side of the Gulf, and the lingering heritage of the Hormuz kingdom that had straddled both sides of the Gulf for more than 300 years may have facilitated such a move. Ironically, the Arab migrants had to face these two causes for migrations also on other side of the Gulf. In short, the migration pattern is one where large Arab groups moved en bloc from one side of the Gulf to the other. Moreover, they usually did not immediately obtain a permanent location where they could reside, but often moved from one place to the other until they found their permanent location. Finally, people moved driven by lack of resources or political peril, two conditions that they also had to face in their new home.



Yaser Ghazvini Haeri

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The Evolution of the Image of Mir Muhanna in the Iranian Imagination: From Historical Texts to Video Games

This study examines the evolution of the image of Mir Muhanna in the Iranian imagination, tracing his trajectory from historical texts to contemporary video games. It argues that the modern narrative surrounding Mir Muhanna has been employed within the binary of "self" and "other", particularly in the context of entrenched national identities, which has led to significant alterations of the earliest historical accounts. The central problem lies in understanding how the image of this figure transformed from a complex historical narrative into a mythologized icon used to reproduce identity. The study employs discourse analysis to trace this transformation, drawing on Persian historical sources from the Zand period, literary works, and contemporary narratives, including the earliest Iranian first-person shooter (FPS) video games. The findings indicate that the image of Mir Muhanna has undergone a functional reconfiguration serving divergent national and cultural purposes in both Iranian and Arab contexts.



Youssef Al-Abdullah

Professor of Modern History at Qatar University since 2001. He holds a PhD from Ain Shams University, Egypt and master's from McGill University, Canada. His research portfolio includes numerous publications in peer-reviewed local and international academic journals, as well as several projects funded by the Qatar National Research Fund. His most recent publication is *Modern and Contemporary History of Qatar: A Study of its Political, Economic and Social Development* (Dar Al-Sharq for Publishing and Distribution, 2024). His notable works include studies on Qatar's modern and contemporary history, Qatari-British relations, and the history of education in the Arabian Gulf.

Migration and Mobility between the Coasts of Qatar and the Eastern Coast of the Arabian Gulf during the First Half of the 19th Century

This study highlights the relationships between the coast of Qatar and the eastern coast of Persia (present-day Iran), shedding light on the political, economic, and social interactions that shaped the history of the Arabian Gulf, particularly with the presence of Arab tribes that settled along the eastern coast. It also reveals the impact of colonial powers in complicating these relations and examines how ties between the two regions evolved amid colonial rivalry and tribal conflicts. The study draws attention to issues related to the patterns of mutual migration and movement between Qatar and the eastern coast of the Gulf, whether temporary or permanent.



Zahidah Mohammed Taha

Professor of History in the Faculty of Primary Education at the University of Duhok. She received her PhD, master's, and bachelor's in History from the University of Mosul. Her research interests focus on Islamic history, civilization, philosophy of history, orientalism, among others. She has published a number of research articles and books, most recently: *Seven Studies in Islamic Political Thought* (Dar Al-Khaldunia, 2024); and "Orientalist Influences and Their Role in Shaping the Philosophical Thought of Muhammad Iqbal" (*Tabayyun*, 2017).

Knowledge of the Eastern Coast of the Arabian Gulf as Presented by Western Political Circles: A Comparative Study of the British Colonels Samuel Miles and Arnold Wilson

The relationship between knowledge and power forms a central pillar of British colonial policy, especially in managing its colonies and spheres of influence in the East. The writings of colonial officers Samuel Miles and Arnold Wilson exemplify this interplay, as both used their administrative positions to produce directed knowledge about the Gulf region. They addressed various aspects of the eastern coast of the Gulf as a strategic space marked by active Arab presence and maritime-political rivalry during the 18th and 19th centuries, and into the early 20th century. Their works reflect multiple representations of Arab identity, whether through tribal genealogies or in highlighting the military and political roles of Arab groups in facing internal challenges and foreign interventions, particularly concerning British navigation and maritime security. This study analyses these representations and reveals their epistemic and political dimensions within the discourse of imperial control.

Chairs

Abdulrahman Albaker

Faculty member at the College of Law at Qatar University. He holds a Master of History from the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He is a collaborating researcher in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He worked as a researcher in the Committee for Recording National History in Qatar. His research interest focuses on the legal and social history of the Arab Gulf states, in addition to collecting and classifying local oral memory.

Abdulrahman Alebrahim

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Ali Afifi Ali Ghazi

Researcher holding a PhD in Arts with a dissertation on "Travelers' Perspectives on the Values and Customs of Iraqi Tribes (1800-1958)", and a master's on "The Impact of the Egyptian-Ottoman Conflict in the Arabian Peninsula and the Levant on Iraq (1831-1841)". He has contributed to numerous seminars and conferences and has published extensively on history, heritage, literature, arts, and Arabic calligraphy in Arab and international journals and newspapers. His authored works include: "Daily Life in the Desert (The Desert of Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula)" (Arab Magazine Book Series, 2023); and "The Civilization of the Arabs before Islam" (Arab Magazine Book Series, 2022).

Ali Alkandari

Associate Professor of History at Kuwait University. He holds a PhD in Contemporary History from the University of Exeter (2014), a master's in Arab Studies from Georgetown University (2009), and a Bachelor of Arts from Kuwait University (2003). His recent publications include: "Civil Society Organizations and Kuwaiti Society During the Iraqi Invasion 1990-1991: Jahra Cooperative Society as a Model" (co-authored) (*Arab Journal for the Humanities*, 2025); "The Palestinian Position on the Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait 1990-1991" (co-authored) (*King Khalid Journal for Historical and Cultural Studies*, 2025); and "Syrian-Iraqi Relations and their Impact on Syria's position on the Crisis of the Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait 1990-1991" (co-authored) (*Annals of the Faculty of Arts Ain Shams University*, 2024).

Baqer Al Najjar

Advisory Board member for the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He holds a PhD in Sociology from Durham University, United Kingdom, a Postgraduate Diploma from Alexandria University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Kuwait University. He has worked as a visiting professor at Kuwait University, Qatar University, and at the University of Exeter's Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, and as a visiting researcher at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. He was a member of the Bahraini Shura Council (2000-2002) and has held several other positions. His published works include: *Contemporary Religious Movements in the Arabian Gulf* (2019); *The Inhibited Modernity in the Arabian Gulf* (2018); and *The Stubborn Democracy in the Arabian Gulf* (2008), among others.

Fahad Bishara

Associate Professor in the Department of History at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He specializes in the economic and legal history of the Indian Ocean and Islamic world. His book, *A Sea of Debt: Law and Economic Life in the Western Indian Ocean, 1780-1950* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) is a legal history of economic life in the Western Indian Ocean, told through the story of the Arab and Indian settlement and commercialization of East Africa during the nineteenth century. The book received the J. Willard Hurst Prize (awarded by the Law and Society Association), the Jerry Bentley prize (awarded by the World History Association), and the Peter Gonville Stein book award (awarded by the American Society for Legal History). His second book, *Monsoon Voyagers: An Indian Ocean History* (University of California Press, forthcoming) tells a connected history of the Gulf and Indian Ocean from the deck of a 20th century dhow, drawing on the archives of a number of merchant and dhow captain families from Kuwait.

Haider Saeed

Head of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He holds a PhD in Linguistics from Baghdad's Al Mustansiriya University. His research interests focus on Iraq, divided societies, and critical analysis of political discourse. He published in the Arab Center a book titled *Arab Shiites: Identity and Citizenship* (2019), as well as other publications: *The Politics of the Symbol and the End to National Culture of Iraq* (2009); *The Status of Social Sciences in Iraqi Universities* (2008). He wrote three chapters in the book published by the Arab Center titled *The Islamic State Organization, 'ISIS'* (2018), and supervised with a research team the completion of a study on "Islamic Civil Society in Iraq" (2010). He contributed to writing the "National Report on Human Development in Iraq" for the years 2009 and 2014.

Harith Hassan

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Khalid bin Ghanim Al-Ali

Qatari researcher and member of the Advisory Board of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He holds a master's in Modern History from the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He has been an elected member of the Shura Council of Qatar since 2021. He holds a master's and a bachelor's in Atmospheric Sciences from Saint Louis University and has professionally specialized in this field. He also held senior leadership positions related to this field in the Qatari Ministries of Transport, Municipality, and Agriculture (1986-2000). He has served as Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Reserves (2000-2008) and Director of the Personal Representative's Office of the Emir of the State of Qatar (2009-2018) and has held various responsibilities within the Qatari Ministry of Culture. Among his publications are "Qatari Camels"; "The Campaign of Faisal bin Turki on Qatar Between British Documents and Local Narratives"; "The Constitutional Experiment in Qatar"; "The Qatari National Identity"; and "The History of Qatar in Lorimer's Gazetteer". He has several other works in progress related to the political history of Qatar.

Maisa Alkhawaja

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Mohammad Hammam Fikri

General Supervisor at Hassan Bin Mohammed Center for Historical Studies, and Heritage and Rare Books Advisor at Qatar Foundation: Education, Research and Community Development, as well as Editor-in-Chief of *Rawaq al-Tarikh wa-l-Turath* journal. He is a member of the Egyptian Writers' Union, the International Council of Museums, the Arab Memory Project, the Network of Environmental Journalists, the International Council on Archives, and the Arab Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, in addition to being part of numerous specialized committees within Qatar. He has authored and edited books in the field of history and heritage, as well as many articles published in scholarly and cultural journals.

Mohammad Sabah

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Mousa bin Qasir

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2009 to 2024, he served as a lecturer in Political Science and International Relations at the same university. His research interests focus on security and strategic studies, conflict studies and peace research, Middle Eastern issues, as well as the history of international relations and geopolitics. His current research centres on the study of the Arabian Gulf region and its international relations since the 18th century, along with conflict dynamics in the Middle East and Africa. He has co-authored several books, including *Potential Changes in US Policy under Joe Biden* and *The Geopolitics of Conflicts in Asia*, in addition to other publications in the field of international relations.

Said al-Hashimi

PhD researcher in the Center for Arab Studies at the University of Houston. He holds a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom and a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from Kuwait University. He is a human rights and social justice activist whose research interests include anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism, and revolution and resistance in Oman and the Arabian Peninsula. His publications include: *Oman: The People and the State* (2024); *Oman: Man and Power, An Explanatory Introduction to the Contemporary Omani Political Scene* (2014); *The Omani Spring: Significance and Context* (2013). He has also published novels.