



# Gulf Studies Newsletter

The 8th Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference of the Gulf Studies in collaboration with the Doha International Family Institute

“The Family in the Gulf: Continuity and Change”



Prof. Ibrahim Al- Kaabi

Dr. Khalid Al-Naama

The Gulf Studies Center (GSC), at the College of Arts and Sciences at Qatar University, in collaboration with the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), hosted its eighth annual conference on November 19th-20th, 2023, in Doha. This year's annual conference was devoted to a specific theme on “The Family in the Gulf: Continuity and Change.” The two-day international interdisciplinary conference brought together several international and local scholars and experts focusing on the social and cultural transformations taking place in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, in particular focusing on the rapid change in the institution of family. Throughout the conference, the participants were involved in broad discussions, exploring the factors, directions, and magnitudes of change in the Gulf families from an interdisciplinary

perspective. In total, eight panels were crafted to delve into pivotal themes related to family concept, such as gender, youth, aging, technology, arts, sports, migration, and family policies of the GCC states.



“

A profound but silent transformation is taking place in the institution of family in the Gulf region, influencing its structure and function in all possible ways.

”

The outcome of the event will be an edited book combining the participants contributions that is scheduled to be published in 2025.



## “Understanding Electoral Politics and State-Society Relations in the Gulf, Middle East and North Africa”



The Gulf Studies Center at the College of Arts and Sciences successfully convened a collaborative workshop on November 26, 2023, in partnership with SEPAD and OPEMAM. The event, titled "Understanding Electoral Politics and the State-Society Relations in the Gulf, Middle East, and North Africa," marked the second round of this insightful initiative.

Held in person at Qatar University, the workshop brought together a dynamic assembly of 17 experts, each contributing valuable insights through 10 research papers. The diverse range of topics covered included electoral politics, party systems, sectarianism, political participation, elections, electoral law, the intersection of elections and international relations, and ethnic divisions.

As the discussions unfolded, participants engaged in enriching dialogues, fostering a deeper understanding of the intricate

dynamics shaping the political landscape of the region.

The exchange of ideas and perspectives among the experts not only contributed to the academic discourse but also strengthened the collaborative spirit driving research in the field.

The success of this workshop underscores the importance of fostering academic partnerships and collaborative efforts in unraveling the complexities of electoral politics and state-society relations in our diverse and dynamic region.

The organizers of the joint workshop, Dr. Luciano Zaccara, Prof. Simon Mabon, Prof. Rafael Bustos and Dr. Edward Wastnidge, agreed on the success of the event and the high quality of the papers presented, and they committed to continue with the following steps of the project, that include the publication of the selected papers in a special issue at a reputed peer reviewed journal.



## Joint Workshops

### How Did the Gaza War Affect Academic and Media Freedom?



In collaboration with Ibn Khaldoon Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, the Gulf Studies Center organized a joint workshop titled “How Did the Gaza War Affect Western Academic and Media Freedom?” The workshop that took place on December 9, 2023 and hosted speakers from different academic backgrounds.

### The Gulf and Europe in Multipolar World



The workshop, titled 'The Gulf and Europe in a Multipolar World,' was organized collaboratively by the Gulf Studies Center and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Regional Program Gulf States on December 12, 2023. The event featured the presence of German Member of Parliament, Thomas Röwekamp. His address delved into the intricate links and cooperation between Germany and Europe, particularly in the realms of defense and security, with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. His remarks were introduced by Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Director of the GSC and Dr. Canan Atilgan, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at KAS, and moderated by Philipp Burkhardt from KAS.

His remarks were commented by a group of Qatar based scholars, Prof. Gerd Nonneman, Prof. Saban Kardas, Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov and Dr. Luciano Zaccara, followed by an open debate with GSC faculty and students. The debate also addressed other aspects of EU-GCC relations as well as the general EU approach to the current regional events, such as the ongoing war in Gaza.



## Talk

### Interests of GCC Hydrocarbon Procedures in the New Realities of the 4th Energy Transition



The Gulf Studies Center hosted a lecture by Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov titled "Interests of GCC Hydrocarbon Producers in the New Realities of the 4th Energy Transition" on December 13, 2023. During his lecture Dr. Nikolay discussed how the international perception of the 4th energy transition priorities changed under the influence of oil and gas market shocks caused by the war in Ukraine. He assessed new challenges that were created by these changes for GCC oil and gas producers and examined the potential effectiveness of responses offered by the oil and gas industries of the Arab Gulf states to the above mentioned threats.

### Leadership Workshop at Liverpool John Moores University Oryx Universal College



Liverpool John Moores University, Oryx Universal College invited Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Director of the Gulf Studies Center, to hold a talk about Academic Leadership in the Era of Uncertainties on October 11, 2023 delivered to the university's academic and administrative community. In his lecture, Prof. Mahjoob discussed the types of institutional challenges as well as ways to overcome those challenges.



# The Gulf Studies Center Coffee with Scholar Series

In its ongoing commitment to research excellence, the Gulf studies Center continues to create engaging opportunities for its community and students. The Gulf Studies Center Coffee with Scholar Series is an initiative where our center invites various experts in diverse areas of Gulf Studies to spark a lively conversation in a casual setting allowing for a vibrant exchange of ideas.

This semester, the center successful invited the following guests to share their thoughts, insights and perspectives on different topics:

Dr. Khalid Al-Jufairi - Co-founder and Chairman of the American Center for Strategic and International Affairs (ACSIA)

Mr. Mirdef Alqashouti- Diplomat, Scholar and PhD candidate at Durham University

Dr. Abderahman Salaheldin- retired Ambassador and member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mithat Rende- former Turkish Ambassador to the OECD and former Chairman of the OECD Executive Committee



## The Centrality of Middle Class: Sociopolitical Resilience & Economic Stability



Dr. Khalid Al-Jufairi

Dr. Khalid Al-Jufairi is the Co-founder and Chairman of the American Center for Strategic and International Affairs (ACSIA), a 501c3 think-do tank based in New York City. Dr. Al-Jufairi is an Adjunct Professor at Qatar University's Department of International Affairs, teaching specialized courses on US foreign policy, international politics and culture. He is a visiting lecturer at Georgetown University's Emergency & Disaster Management program.

As a leading thinker and expert in the field, Dr. Al-Jufairi has recently published his book, *The Centrality of Middle Class: Sociopolitical Resilience & Economic Stability* (2022), with Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press. His work appeals to scholars across the social sciences with interest in political stability, ideological states and development narratives.

“

The rise of the middle class as a thriving social grouping in its societal socioeconomic structure is owed to participatory values and in-country civic policies, and not in a political vacuum.

”

## Mediation in Foreign Policy of Smaller Gulf States: The Case of Qatar



Mr. Mirdef Alqashouti

“

Understanding small states' foreign policy is a highly important issue not only for scholars, but also for everyone dealing with geopolitics

”

Mirdef Alqashouti is a career diplomat since 2008. He has worked in several capitals holding bilateral and multilateral cooperation tasks, and has been a team member of Afghanistan peace process. As an academic, he specialized in GCC-Iran relations. Mirdef Alqashouti participated in many global and regional conferences. He has a BA in Political Sciences from Tehran University, an MA in International Relations from Khazar University, an EMBA from HEC-Paris. A PhD candidate at Durham University, Mirdef Alqashouti speaks English and Farsi fluently. His publications include 'Iran's role in Gulf Politics,' (2021). *Orient*, Issue 3 (with Ehteshami, Anoushiravan, Houghton, Benjamin); 'Qatar Mediation: From Soft Diplomacy to Foreign Policy.' in: Zweiri, M., Al Qawasmi, F. (eds) *Contemporary Qatar. Gulf Studies*, vol 4. 2021. Springer, Singapore.



# Perspectives on the Gulf Within the Broader MENA



On November 28, 2023, the Gulf Studies Center organized a talk as part of its “Coffee with Scholars” series hosting Dr. Abderahman Salaheldin and Mr. Mithat Rende. The title of the talk was “Perspectives on the Gulf Within the Broader MENA” where our guests and students had a lively discussion covering a

wide range of topics of the Gulf and the wider MENA region. On the topic of the current war on Gaza, Dr. Salaheldin commented “A comprehensive peace proposal is essential to address the longstanding issues in the region, offering a practical path forward for both Israelis and Palestinians. Combining an international force and diplomatic initiatives can pave the way for a secure and stable future for Gaza and the broader region, with additional solutions such as expanding the Gaza Strip and establishing connections with the West Bank.” Mr. Rende explained that “the State of Qatar has played a significant role in mediation in the Middle East and beyond. A case in point is the recent truce brokered between Israel and Hamas in cooperation with Egypt and the United States.” Moreover, Mr. Rende added “Security and lasting peace cannot be achieved by use of force. Political will, dialogue and negotiations in good faith is essential to achieving a just, durable and comprehensive settlement.”

Dr. Abderahman Salaheldin, a retired Ambassador and a member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, brings over four decades of diplomatic experience. He lectures regularly at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry’s diplomatic institute on Arab, Turkish and American affairs, actively engages in academic seminars globally, contributes opinion articles and participates in panels evaluating dissertations on US-Arab relations and Turkish foreign affairs. Mithat Rende, former Turkish Ambassador to the OECD and former Chairman of the OECD Executive Committee, boasts a rich diplomatic background. Formerly the Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he undertook pivotal roles such as Turkey's Chief Climate Change Negotiator and Chairman of the Trade and Transit Group of the Energy Charter. Ambassador Rende also served as Turkey's Ambassador to Doha-Qatar between 2007-2009 and held various positions in Turkey's missions to NATO, the OSCE, and Embassies in Damascus, Rome, Sofia, and London.

# Mark your Calendars

Do not miss out on our upcoming events! Save the dates and stay tuned for more details. More events will be announced in due course. Your attendance and participation would be greatly appreciated.



Joint Conference with Bourse and Bazar Foundation “Integrated Future Initiatives”



Second Workshop: Issues on Higher Education in the Middle East



Challenges of the 4th Energy Transition and the Interests of the GCC Economies in the Shadow of the Conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza: Current Responses and Future Strategies



Iran and Russia in the Context of the War against Ukraine: A New Stage in the Relationship and its Consequences for the Gulf Region.



Women Empowerment in GCC States' Diplomacy



# Featuring Alumni

As we journey forward, it's essential to recognize and celebrate the achievements of those who have graduated from our program and paved the way for excellence. These individuals have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also continued to embody the values and spirit of our institution. Through their stories, insights, and accomplishments, we hope to inspire our current students and connect our alumni community. In this edition, we turn the spotlight onto one of our esteemed graduate alumni, Ms. Rafia Al Talei, who was one of the first Gulf Studies Program PhD graduates.

Ms. Rafia is Editor-in-Chief for Sada in Carnegie's Middle East Program. Her work focuses on public freedoms, women's issues, and political development in the Gulf. She holds a doctorate in Gulf Studies from Qatar University, a master's degree in Arabic Language and Literature from Sultan Qaboos University, and a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Media from Sultan Qaboos University. She holds several research fellowships at Stanford and Syracuse Universities in the US, and at the National Endowment for Democracy. She completed the program in Public Discourse: Leadership, Narrative, and Action from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 2022.

She has more than thirty years of journalistic experience. She is a former candidate for the Omani Shura Council, and currently speaks on topics related to press freedom and women's empowerment in the Gulf. She was also one of the speakers at the first Arabic language TED Summit held in Doha in March 2023. Her research papers have been widely published and she has contributed chapters in peer-reviewed books, the most recent of which was published in March 2023 in the The Palgrave Handbook of Gender, Media, and Communication in the Middle East and North Africa.



وحدة دراسات الخليج والجزيرة العربية  
Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit

**Rafiah Al Talei**  
Editor-in-Chief for Sada in Carnegie's Middle East Program

**Gulf Women's Disappointment  
in Public Spaces**  
Dithering Policy or Discouraging Culture

Tuesday, 2 January 2024  
18:00 Doha time, 15:00 GMT  
Simultaneous translation between Arabic and English will be available throughout

The lecture will be held in person in Auditorium 2 on  
the first floor of the Cultural Building  
The event will also be livestreamed on ACRPS social media

Attached is a brief biography of the lecturer and a summary of the lecture

The Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit at the Doha Institute is hosting the Gulf studies Program graduate Ms. Rafia to deliver a lecture titled "Gulf Women's Disappointment in Public Spaces" on January 2, 2023.

# Welcome to the Gulf Studies Family

The Gulf Studies Center extends a warm welcome to its newest faculty members. Their expertise and passion will undoubtedly enrich the community, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of knowledge production as well as bring to the department fresh insights fostering an environment of learning, innovation and collaboration.

Prof. Sanaa Ashour is currently a Professor at the Gulf Studies Program. Previously, she served as the director of the Sociology program at the College of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Al Ain University in the United Arab Emirates. She also served as a visiting professor at TU Dresden, DZHW, and FiBS in Germany. She has a PhD in Development Studies from the Faculty of Arts at the University of Bonn, Germany, and a master's degree in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



Prof. Sanaa Ashour

Dr. Pinar Akpinar is currently an Assistant Professor at the Gulf Studies Program. She earned her PhD from Keele University's School of Politics, International Relations, and Philosophy (SPIRE) with her dissertation titled 'An emerging mediator on the periphery: Turkey's mediations in the Syrian-Israeli talks and in Somalia.' Her academic interests encompass a wide range of topics, including foreign policy, conflict resolution, international mediation and diplomacy, peacebuilding, and humanitarianism, with a primary focus on the Middle East, Turkey, and the Gulf region.



Dr. Pinar Akpinar

Dr Amna Abdulla Sadiq holds a DPhil in Asian and Middle Eastern studies from the University of Oxford. Amna is specialized in Gulf history and political economy, with a particular concentration on regionalism and the Indian Ocean. During her time in Oxford, Amna became familiar with the networks of the Indian Ocean trade, in which she conducted research on the history of the Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Her research includes investigating local archives (Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia), transcribing and translating local records and drawing network maps. Amna is fluent in Arabic and English.



Dr. Amna Sadiq



# Publications

The Gulf Studies Center is committed to maintaining an active and productive research agenda, which is a key focus of our work. Our faculty members and students actively contribute to publications. In addition to publishing in esteemed journals and media outlets, the Gulf Studies Center provides a platform for its community and other experts in the field to share their research outcomes through internal publication series. Gulf Insights, Policy Briefs, Working Papers, and Monographs offer wide-ranging avenues for publishing Gulf-focused research papers and commentaries.

During this semester, the Gulf Studies Center has released several internal publications, as listed below. These research papers and articles are authored by experts specializing in various fields of Gulf Studies and are meticulously supervised by our research coordinators. The internal publications are made available on the Gulf Studies website and shared through the center's social media accounts. Additionally, our faculty members and students also publish in other academic platforms and media outlets.

## Gulf Insights

Author(s)	Title
Luciano Zaccara & Ismail Zahirovic	<a href="#"><u>Kuwait Legislative Elections 2023</u></a>
Luciano Zaccara	<a href="#"><u>Qatar Central Municipal Council elections 22 June 2023</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>The Gulf Regional Implication of the Gaza War</u></a>
Sinem Cengiz	<a href="#"><u>New Saudi generation reestablishes Al-Balad to keep the past alive</u></a>
Amna Sadiq	<a href="#"><u>The 44th GCC Summit in Qatar: A Brief Review</u></a>
Iryna Rishniak	<a href="#"><u>Gulf Food Security in the Times of Conflict: How Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Impacts Grain Imports by The GCC Member States</u></a>
Sebastian Sons	<a href="#"><u>Saudi Arabia's Sport Investment Strategy: A Driver for Diversification, Empowerment, and Identity Construction</u></a>

## Policy Briefs

Author(s)	Title
Sinem Cengiz and Nesibe Hicret Battaloğlu	<u>Diplomatic Delight: Turkiye's Future with the Gulf and Analyzing GCC Responses to Erdoğan's Victory</u>
Nesibe Hicret Battaloğlu and Bülent Aras	<u>Central Asia-GCC Relations: Exemplary Cooperation within Global South</u>
Sahar El Sayed	<u>Dynamics of Gender Roles in Saudi Arabia</u>
Sharique Umar	<u>Navigating Area Studies in the Arab Gulf: Challenges and Prospects</u>
Saban Kardas, Sinem Cengiz and Nesibe Hicret Battaloğlu	<u>GCC's Disaster Diplomacy toward Morocco and Libya</u>

## Journal Articles

Author(s)	Title	Journal
Sharique Umar, Md Mizanur Rahman, & Safiya Almarri,	Healthcare Provisions for Migrant Workers in Qatar. Health & Social Care in the Community	Wiley & Hindawi
Sharique Umar & Md Mizanur Rahman	International Student Migration to the GCC States: A Comparative Study	Migration and Development
Kazuto Matsuda & Nikolay Kozhanov	Not Just hydrocarbons: Japan's multifaceted foreign policy approaches towards the GCC states	International Politics
Sinem Cengiz	Voting behavior of Turks in the GCC states within the context of Turkish-Gulf relations	Oasis
Saban Kardas & Bulent Aras	What Drove Syria Back into the Arab Fold?	Middle East Policy

## Book Chapters

Author(s)	Chapter Title	Book
Reem Ali Al Derham	Political Power and Material Identity: Saudi Women in Real and Virtual Societies	Social Change in the Gulf Region: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, Springer-Md Mizanur Rahman & Amr Al-Azm (Eds)
Sharique Umar & Salem Ghurab	The 2017 Gulf Crisis and Changes in Qatar's Economic Landscape	Social Change in the Gulf Region: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, Springer-Md Mizanur Rahman & Amr Al-Azm (Eds)
Lakshmi Menon	Tujjar in the Gulf: Changes in Political Influence	Social Change in the Gulf Region: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, Springer-Md Mizanur Rahman & Amr Al-Azm (Eds)
Kazuto Matsuda	Intra-East Asian Competition in the Gulf and the Indo-Pacific: The Case of Japan and China	Dossier chapter Asia in the GCC: A New Strategic Partner? A. Abdel Ghafar & A. Baabood (Eds.) Middle East Council on Global Affairs and Waseda University



# Books

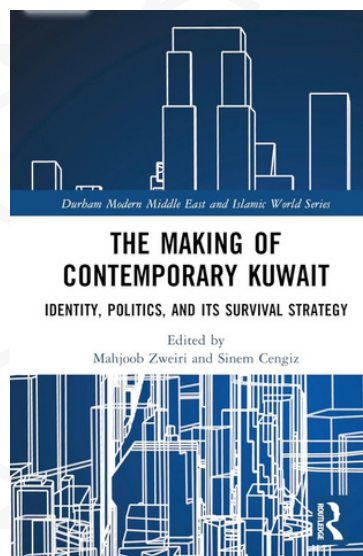
## Faculty Books



**Arab- Iranian Relations Since the Arab Uprisings**

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri

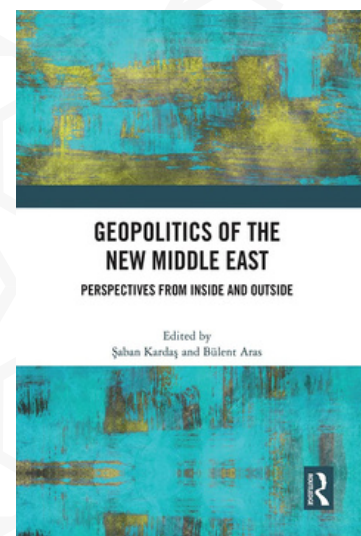
Routledge



**The Making of Contemporary Kuwait**

Mahjoob Zweiri and Sinem Cengiz

Routledge



**Geopolitics of the New Middle East Perspectives from Inside and Outside**

Şaban Kardas and Bulent Aras

Routledge

## Student Books



**المنظمات الدولية: التاريخ، السياسة، القانون، الإدارة**

Prof. Mohammed Al Misfer and Dina Aburumman

QU Press



**Pathways for Regional Environmental Cooperation in the Gulf**

Mehran Haghirian and Aisha Al- Sarihi

Bourse and Bazaar Foundation

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



**Muyasar Suleiman- PhD**

**MODERNIZATION AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION BY FEMALE FACULTY: THE CASE OF QATAR UNIVERSITY**



**Reem Al Derham - PhD**

**QATAR DIGITAL PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN SOMALIA: FRAMING QATAR'S FOREIGN AID IN FACEBOOK AND TWITTER**



**Buthaina Al Khelaifi- PhD**

**MODERNIZATION AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION BY FEMALE FACULTY: THE CASE OF QATAR UNIVERSITY**



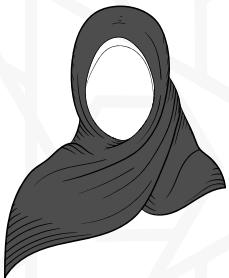
**Ghassan Abu Hussien- PhD**

**THE IMPACT OF NEWSROOMS' DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION ON MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS AND AUDIENCES: CASE STUDY: AL JAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK (2006-2020)**



**Mustafa Altintas- MA**

**THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN QATAR**



**Hissa Al Sulaiti- MA**

**QATAR'S MEDIATION STRATEGY: AFGHANISTAN AS A CASE STUDY**



**Al Dana Al Mesleh- MA**

**US, IRAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF STIMULUS RESPONSE THEORY: 2009 - 2020**

# Appreciation

As we reflect on the achievements of the Gulf Studies Program, it is with immense gratitude that we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated external examiners, committee chairs, and college representatives who served on the committees of our students' candidacy exams, comprehensive exams and oral defenses for the Fall 2023 semester. Their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions have played a pivotal role in the success of the program.

**Prof. Rhonda Zaharna**

**Professor, School of Communication, American University,  
Washington, D.C.**

**Prof. Gerd Nonneman**

**Professor of International Relations & Gulf Studies at Georgetown  
University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar**

**Prof. Rory Miller**

**Professor of International Politics, Director of Small States  
Research Program, Director of Energy Studies Certificate,  
Georgetown University, Qatar**

**Prof. Mehran Kamrava**

**Professor of Government at Georgetown University, Qatar**

**Prof. Mohammed El- Nawawy**

**Founding Director of the Board of Doctoral Studies, Doha Institute  
for Graduate Studies**

**Prof. Jairo Lugo-Ocando**

**Professor and Dean of the College of Communication, University  
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**Prof. Hassan Al Barari**

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**Prof. Youcef Bouandel**

**Professor of International Affairs, Department of International  
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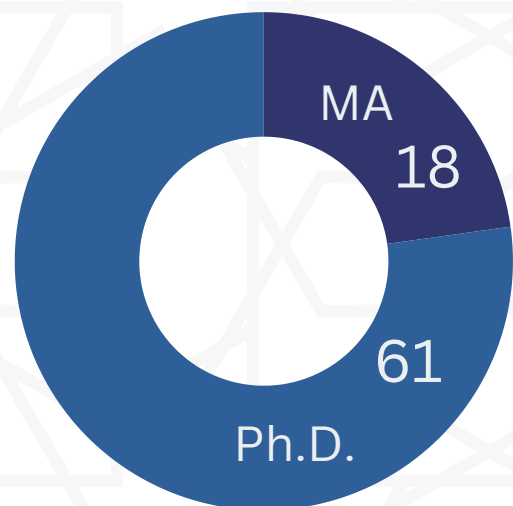
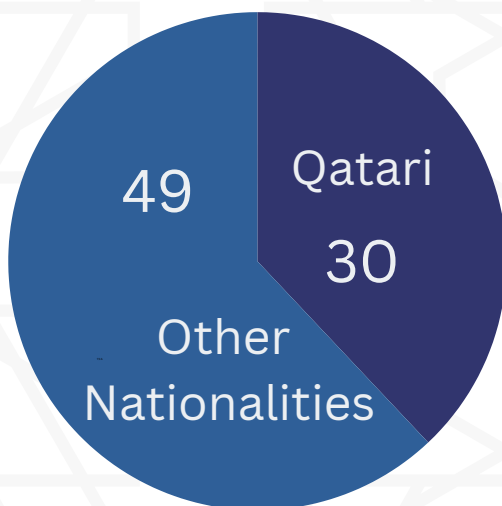
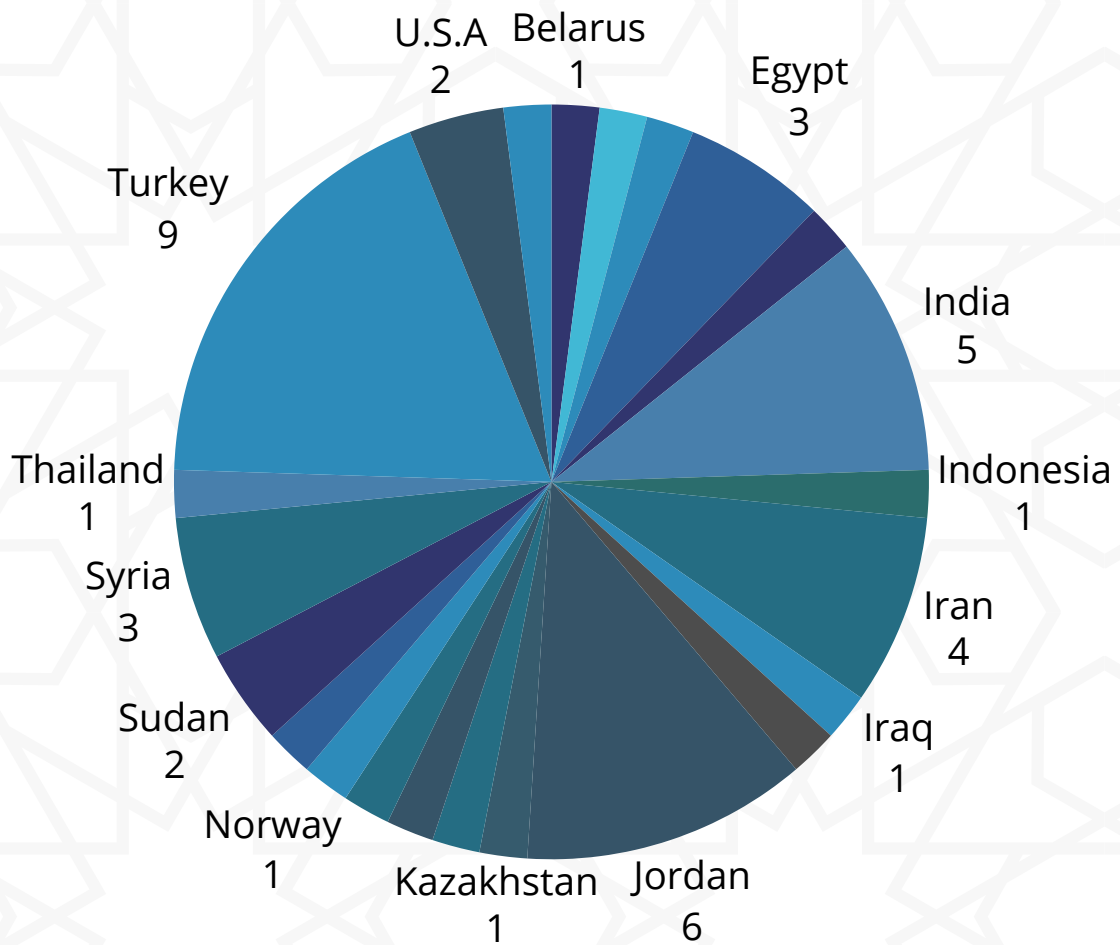
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<b>Dr. Ahmed Badran</b>	<b>Associate Professor of Public Policy, Department of International Affairs, Qatar University</b>
<b>Dr. Jalal Qanas</b>	<b>Assistant Professor of Economics, Department of Finance and Economics, Qatar University</b>

# CURRENT STATISTICS

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# Gulf Studies Team

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri, Director of Gulf Studies Center and Professor of Contemporary Middle East History

Prof. Şaban Kardaş Gulf Studies Program Coordinator and Research Professor of Social Sciences

Prof. Sana Ashour, Professor of Gulf Studies

Dr. Amr Al- Azm, Associate Professor in Social Sciences/ Anthropology

Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov, Research Associate Professor in Energy and Economy

Dr. Luciano Zaccara, Research Associate Professor in Gulf Politics

Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Research Associate Professor in Social Sciences/ Sociology

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Dr. Amna Sadiq, Assistant Professor of Gulf Studies and Political Economy

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Ms. Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu , Researcher

Ms. Sinem Cengiz, Researcher

Ms. Noora Abdulaziz, Senior Engagement and Communication Specialist

Ms. Thouria Mahmoud, Senior Editor

Ms. Nourhan Bulble, Administrative Coordinator

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## Editor- in - Chief

Ms. Thouria Mahmoud- Senior Editor, Gulf Studies Center

## Editorial Board

Prof. Mahjoob Zweiri- Gulf Studies Center Director

Ms. Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu , Researcher

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