

The 2010 EXETER GULF STUDIES CONFERENCE
30 June - 3 July 2010



**THE 21st-CENTURY GULF:
THE CHALLENGE OF IDENTITY**

A cutting-edge interdisciplinary conference exploring the challenges of 'identity' – political, economic, socio-cultural, and international – as the GCC states, Iran, Iraq and Yemen undergo paradigm-shifting changes.

Keynote Speakers:

Prof. Clive Holes (University of Oxford)

Prof. Gary Sick (Columbia University / Gulf2000)

Dr Ali Al-Khouri (UAE Identity Authority)

Dr Neil Partrick (PartrickMideast & RUSI)

Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, KCMG (FCO)



Centre for Gulf Studies

Iraq is being reconstructed along unfamiliar lines – economically, politically, socially, and in international relations. **Iran** is experiencing political upheaval and questions over the very identity of the Islamic Republic, while simultaneously facing severe economic and international challenges.

The **GCC states** feature as many differences among them as similarities – some suffering troubling resource constraints, others thriving on large revenues, but all being faced with major questions of youth employment, the meaning of a competitive economy and diversification from the image and reality of ‘hydrocarbon economies’ and ‘rentier states’. All GCC states, as part of this conundrum, continue to rely on very large expatriate labour forces, in some cases dwarfing the local work force, or even the local population – raising issues of cultural authenticity, what it means to be a citizen, and what the respective roles of the state and the national citizenry are, could, or should be in the construction of a sustainable economy and social contract for the 21st century. At the very same time, aspects of traditional culture, including material culture, are disappearing fast – even as others are being re-invented, both at societal and governmental level, and as popular culture evolves rapidly in new fora.

Yemen, long a fascinating if resource-poor example of semi-democracy in the Arabian Peninsula, is being wracked by clashes in north and south, the latter potentially threatening the two-decades-old union, just as the central government is facing fast-declining hydrocarbon resources and a precipitous depletion of water resources. Local, regional, tribal, and recently also religious identification all compete and interact with state-level efforts at cohesion.

And all of this is happening in a global environment where economic wisdoms are being challenged and globalisation is having variegated and unpredictable effects at and across international, regional and domestic levels.

This conference brings together the best new scholarship on this complex and multi-dimensional scene – advancing scholarly and policy debates alike, in the best possible environment:

*Exeter’s long-established Gulf & Arabian Studies Programme at the **Centre for Gulf Studies**,
IAIS, University of Exeter (www.ex.ac.uk/iais)*

*in the UK’s ‘most beautiful’ university grounds (Michelin Green Guide)
in the medieval cathedral city of Exeter, set amidst the rolling Devon hills,
a stone’s throw from Dartmoor (<http://www.exeterandessentialdevon.com/>)*

Key research questions to be addressed at this conference include:

Comparative and Transnational Perspectives:

- What are the challenges to 'national identities' in the Gulf states?
- How do other identities relate to state-based identity and to each other? How does this interact with questions of citizenship?
- How are old and new trans-state actors and identities organising, defining and expressing themselves?
- How do factors from the local to the global, both material and ideational, interact to shape identities in the Gulf?
- How do gender identities and relations in the Gulf states intersect with (1) challenges in the political economy of these states? (2) questions of national and other (e.g. Islamist, feminist, local, tribal) identities? (3) constructions of alternative public spheres? (4) citizenship and civil society?
- How does the development of new media and new social movements in the Gulf intersect?
- Are the GCC states moving beyond rentierism?
- How are history and material culture used, transmitted and changed?
- How are 'old' and emerging identities reflected in and shaped by evolving features, dynamics and fora of popular culture?
- What conceptual approaches to 'identity' can or should be adopted in studying the Gulf?

The Domestic Level in Iran, Iraq & Yemen

- How are social, religious, ethnic and political identities in Iraq evolving? What effects may this have on the evolution of the Iraqi state?
- Is the nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran changing, and if so, how and why? Can it survive in its current form?
- Is there a separate Southern Yemeni identity (identities?) (re)emerging? How do Zaydism and other religious identities relate to each other and the state?

Regional Relations:

- Is there substance to the GCC as a group or an organisation – either in dealing with GCC-wide issues or as a foreign policy actor? Is there a GCC identity?
- Does Yemen belong with the GCC?
- How do Iran and various Arabian actors perceive each other and the region as a whole?
- What is (or are) Iraqi role conceptions in the region?

The Gulf in the International Environment:

- How do GCC states conceive of their international roles?
- What patterns of change can be discerned in GCC states' foreign relations, and what are the drivers of continuity and change?
- How do international actors perceive and relate to the Gulf states?
- How is the re-emerging Iraqi state being integrated into global politics?
- What are the prospects for Iranian engagement with the West?

The Gulf States and the Global Climate and Energy Debates

- How are the Gulf States positioning themselves on, and thinking about, the local, regional and global aspects of the climate change debate? What is the mix of defensive and proactive attitudes and strategies? To what extent do existing or emerging elements of identity enhance or hold back 'green' role conceptions?

Academic Convenor:

*Prof. Gerd Nonneman,
Director, Centre for Gulf Studies
Al-Qasimi Professor of Gulf Studies, IAIS*

(The Call for Papers is now closed)

Registration:

**Full details on the conference including booking form and accommodation details
may be found at:**

<http://exeter.ac.uk/iaais/all-events/conferences/gulf-conf/>

Or contact:

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Note: The Conference will also feature the Opening of the “**Journey of a Lifetime**” exhibition of photographs taken by HRH Princess Alice, the first member of the British Royal Family to travel to Saudi Arabia, in 1938 – a unique historical record. In the presence of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nawwaf, the Saudi Ambassador to the UK

Note: registered conference participants will have access to Exeter’s world-class **Arab World Documentation Unit** (AWDU), which contains the largest collection of primary documents on Arabia and the Gulf outside the region itself.
<http://library.exeter.ac.uk/awdu/>

Note: The Conference incorporates a 2-panel **Workshop on Shiism in the Gulf** (conv. Dr Sajjad Rizvi).

Those planning to attend the conference may be interested to know that the [Gulf Research Centre Foundation](http://grcevent.net/cambridge/) will be holding a **Gulf Research Meeting** (<http://grcevent.net/cambridge/>) in Cambridge, 7-10 July 2010. The two events have linked their activities on the basis of shared interests in the Gulf. The Cambridge meeting is timed to enable participants to travel on to Cambridge in time.

The 2010 Exeter Gulf Studies Conference

Centre for Gulf Studies, IAIS

University of Exeter

30 June-3 July 2010

THE 21ST-CENTURY GULF: THE CHALLENGE OF IDENTITY

PROGRAMME [Updated 28 June 2010]

30 June

14:00-16:45 Registration: IAIS Building, Stocker Road, Exeter EX4 4ND

17:00-18:00 First Session: Opening and Welcome
Prof. Gerd Nonneman (Director, GCS)

Keynote Address I:

Dr Neil Partrick (PartrickMideast & RUSI)

'National Identity in the GCC States'

18:00-19:00 Keynote Address II:
Prof. Clive Holes, University of Oxford
'Language and Identity in the Gulf'

19:15-19:45 welcome drinks: IAIS, 'The Street'

19:45 transport to dinner in town (The Thistle Hotel)
Welcome address by Prof. Tim Dunne
(Head, School of Humanities & Social Sciences)

1 July

8.30-9.30 Second Session:
Panel I (IAIS LT 1): Education, Language & Identity (Chair: James Onley)
- Nuha Al-Shurafa (King Abdul-Aziz University, Jeddah)
'Linguistic-Cultural dualism in Arab Gulf Identity'
- Mary Ann Tetreault (Trinity University, Texas)
'Transplant University Education in Kuwait'
Panel II (IAIS LT 2): Oman (Chair: Marc Valeri)
- Khalid Al-Azri (Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies)
'State, identity & Religion in Oman'
- Claire Beaudevin (Université Paul Cézanne d'Aix-Marseille)
'How Do Genetic Knowledge and Biotechnologies Interact with Social and Political Institutions? The Example of Inherited Blood Disorders in Oman'

- 9.45-11.45 Third Session (Plenary)** (IAIS Lecture Theatre 1&2)
Panel III: Identity & the UAE (I) (Chair: Jane Bristol-Rhys)
- Jane Bristol-Rhys (Zayed University)
‘Safe to worry about and safe to discuss: Identity issues in the UAE’
 - Nadine Scharfenort (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz)
‘Local Society in Transition? – Debating citizenship and national identity in the UAE’
 - Khalid Al-Mezaini (University of Exeter)
‘Identity and Political Survival: the construction of national identity in the UAE’
 - Xenia Gleissner (University of Exeter)
‘Local for Locals or Go Global: How media producers in the UAE navigate the public and micro spheres to express their Emirati identity’

- 12:00-13:00 Fourth Session**
- Panel IV (IAIS LT 1): Identity & the UAE (II) (Chair: Dionisius Agius)
- Hasan Naboodah (UAE University, Al-Ain)
‘The Significance of Heritage Preservation in the UAE Society’
 - Victoria Penziner (Florida State University)
‘Heritage Construction in the UAE: The Case of Pearling’
 - Dr Sulayman Khalaf (ADACH, Abu Dhabi): Discussant

- Panel V (IAIS LT 2): Changing Media in the GCC (Chair: tbc)
- Omair Anas (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
‘The GCC Media regime's Changing Profile’
 - Kjetil Selvik (University of Oslo)
‘The Changing Press Scene in Kuwait’

13.00-14.00 Lunch (IAIS)

- 14.00-15.30 Fifth Session**
- Panel VI (IAIS LT 1): Saudi Arabia (Chair: Gerd Nonneman)
- Stig Stenslie (Norwegian Defence Staff)
‘Power Behind the Veil: Princesses of the House of Sa‘ud’
 - Olivier Arvisais, Sami Aoun & Charlotte Karagueuzian
‘Youth identity in Rentier States: the Case of Saudi Arabia’
 - Makio Yamada (St Antony's College, Oxford)
‘The role of East Asia in emerging post-rentierism in Saudi Arabia’
- Panel VII (IAIS LT 2): Bahrain (Chair: Jane Kinninmont, EIU)
- Ahmed Al-Dailami (St Antony's College, Oxford)
‘Anti-Sectarianism and the Worker's movement in Bahrain 1953-1975’
 - Ivan Rosales (American University of Cairo)
‘Reinventing Pearling in Bahrain’

15.45-17.45 Sixth Session

Panel VIII (IAIS LT1): Beyond Rentierism? (Chair: Gerd Nonneman)

- Martin Hvidt (University of Southern Denmark, Odense)
‘The GCC States: are they moving beyond rentierism?’
- Laura El-Katiri (Oxford Institute for Energy Studies)
‘The Distribution of Oil Wealth: Policy Lessons from Kuwait’
- Rana Jawad (SSPSSR, University of Kent)
‘Beyond the Rentier State: Toward a new Ethic of Welfare in the Middle East’
- Kevan Harris (Johns Hopkins University)
‘The Ubiquity and Uselessness of the Rentier Concept in Iran’

Panel IX (IAIS LT2): Migration in the Gulf (I) (Chair: Gwenn Okruhlik)

- Gwenn Okruhlik (Trinity University)
‘In the Shadows of Citizenship: Foreign Labor in the Arab Gulf’
- John Chalcraft (LSE)
‘Migration and Popular Protest in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf in the 1950s and 1960s’
- Gennaro Errichiello
‘Migration patterns and policies of the Arab Gulf States: Socio-cultural dynamics’
- Noora Lori (Dubai School of Government)
‘Tracking Transient Flows: The Political Management of Expatriates and the Growth of the Surveillance and Security Apparatus in the UAE since the 1990s’

Discussant : H  l  ne Thiollet (University of Oxford)

18:00-19:15 Keynote Address III: Prof. Gary Sick (Columbia University & Gulf2000)

‘The United States as a Gulf Power: Past and Future, Politics and Identities’

19.15 transport to dinner (BBQ by the river Exe, at the ‘Double Locks’)

2 July

9.00-10.00 Seventh Session (Plenary)

Panel XI (IAIS LT 2): The GCC between interests and Identity (Chair: Tim Niblock)

- Rushda Siddiqui (Indian Council of World Affairs)
‘Changing Socio-Political Mores in a changing regional and global context’
- Ren   Rieger (CGS, University of Exeter)
‘The GCC from Marriage of Necessity to Marriage of Convenience’

10.15-11.45 Eighth Session

Panel XII (IAIS LT 1): Identity & the UAE (IV) (Chair: Jane Bristol-Rhys)

- Laila Dahan (American University of Sharjah)
'Global Migrations, global English & the transformation of identity in the UAE'
- Christopher Brown (Zayed University, Abu Dhabi)
'Pimp my ride: Car Culture and Identity in the UAE'
- Ala Al-Hamarnah (University of Mainz)
'Redefining and Reconstructing Emirati Identity in Globalized University Campuses'

Panel XIII (IAIS LT 2): Shiism in the Gulf (Chair: Sajjad Rizvi)

- Sajjad Rizvi (University of Exeter)
'Marja'iyah and Politics in Bahrain'
- Marc Valeri (University of Exeter)
'Shii Communities and Political Economy in Oman'
- Thomas Fibiger (University of Aarhus)
'Histories and Modernities in Bahrain – challenging ethno-sectarian cosmologies'

12.00- 13.15 Keynote Address IV: Dr Ali Al-Khouri (Director, Identity Authority, UAE)

'The Question of Identity in the Gulf'

13.15-14.15 Lunch

14.15-16.15 Ninth Session

Panel XIV (IAIS LT 1): Migration in the Gulf (II) (Chair: Patricio Abinales)

- Koji Horinuki (Kyoto University)
'The Dynamics of Human Flow, Control, and Problems in the UAE: The Relationship between Labour-Sending and Receiving Countries'
- Akiko Watanabe (Toyo University)
'The Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars as a Way of Protecting Prospective Overseas Filipino Workers'
- Naomi Hosoda (Kyoto University)
'Border Control and Filipino Expatriates Pursing "Dubai Dream"'
- Masako Ishii (Osaka University)
'How the Experiences of Domestic Workers in the Gulf States Change Their Identities—A Case of Muslim Women from the Philippines'

Panel XV (IAIS LT 2): Gender and identity in Arabia (Chair: Ruba Salih)

- Sean Foley (Middle Tennessee State University)
'If you want a future baby, why don't you get a past? Men, Women, and Twenty-First Century Gulf Society'
- Jane Kinninmont (Economist Intelligence Unit)
'Framing the Family Law: Gender and other identities in Bahrain'
- Alessandra Gonzalez (Baylor University, USA)
'"Aisha and the King": Practically Assessing the Value of Islamic Feminism in Yemen and Other Developing Contexts'

16.30-18.15 Tenth Session

Panel XVI (IAIS LT1): Climate Change & the Gulf (Chair: Gerd Nonneman)

- Glada Lahn (Chatham House)
‘From Highest Footprint to Green Leadership?’
- Mari Luomi (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)
‘Climate or Oil Politics? Explaining Arab states’ climate policies’
- Nicolas Depetris (Dubai School of Government)
‘Impact of climate change policy on fossil fuel investment and on the Gulf Economies’

Panel XVII (IAIS LT 2) Identities in Iraq (Chair: Gareth Stansfield)

- Hamied Al-Hashimi (National Centre for Social Research, Netherlands)
‘The Iraqi Identity: Fragmentation or exploring sub-identities’
- Sidqi Doski (University of Dohuk).
‘Diversity in Iraq – the case of the Kurds’
- Izzettin Sümer (Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University)
‘An Analysis of Ethnic and Religious Identity-Based Foreign Policy in the Gulf: the Case of Iran’s and Turkey’s Policies towards Iraq’

18.30-19.45 Official Opening of the Exhibition

“Journey of a Lifetime – Photographs taken by HRH Princess Alice in Saudi Arabia in 1938”,

on loan from the King Abdulaziz Public Library, previously shown only at St George’s Chapel (Windsor castle)

In the presence of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nawaf,
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UK

Welcome: **Prof. Neil Armstrong**, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Exeter

Opening remarks: **Dr Abdulkareem Al Zaid** (Director, King Abdulaziz Public Library Riyadh)

Keynote Address V: **Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles**, former British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

20:00 Dinner at ‘Abode’ restaurant, Royal Clarence Hotel (by Exeter Cathedral)

After-Dinner Speech: **Leslie McLoughlin (Centre for Gulf Studies, Exeter;** author of *Ibn Saud, Founder of a Kingdom*)
‘Eastern Arabian Frontiers ... and Exeter’

3 July

8.30-10.00

Eleventh Session

Panel XVIII (IAIS LT 1): Foreign Policy in the GCC (Chair: Gerd Nonneman)

- Beryl Anand (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
 'The GCC states' perceptions of Iran's nuclear programme'
- Steven Wright (Qatar University)
 'Strategic Pillars, Capacity Building and Change in Qatari Foreign Relations'
- David Roberts (Durham University)
 'Qatar's new role: US-Iran intermediary?'

Panel XIX (IAIS LT 2) Development & Identity in Iran (Chair: Luciano Zaccara)

- Nanette Norris (Royal Military College Saint-Jean)
 'Who is Iranian? The Relationship between Islam and Polity'
- Amin Moghadam (Gremmo Laboratory, Lyon 2 University)
 'New identity roles for new development programmes in the Gulf: the case of Qishm'
- Maryam Shabibi (Shahid Chamran University of Ahwaz, Iran)
 'Word Order Variation in Khuzestani Arabic'

10.15-11.45

Twelfth Session (Plenary)

Panel XX (IAIS LT 1): Yemen (I) (Chair: Ginny Hill)

- Fernando Carvajal (University of Exeter)
 'A Crisis in Leadership: the Politics of Transition in Yemen'
- Sarah Phillips (Center for International Security Studies, Sydney University)
 'The Forest for the Trees: al-Qa'ida and Stabilisation in Yemen'
- Nadwa Al-Dawsari (PartnersYemen, Sanaa)
 'Tribes and Identities in Yemen'

12.00-1.15

Thirteenth Session (Plenary)

Panel XXI: Yemen (II) (Chair: Gerd Nonneman)

- Mohammad Gulrez (Aligarh University, India)
 'Yemeni Unity and Identity Construction in Southern Yemen'
- Ginny Hill (Chatham House)
 'Yemen and its Neighbours'

1.15-1.30 Closing remarks

1.30-2.30 Lunch

2.30-onwards Participants disperse