CIRS AT A GLANCE
JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVES

- 8 Research Initiatives
- 9 Working Group Meetings
- 95 Affiliated Scholars

PUBLICATIONS

- 5 Books
- 3 Occasional Papers
- 3 Journal Special Issues
- 4 Arabic Summary Reports
- 11 Online Briefs
- 1 Policy Brief
- 1 CURA Paper

FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

- 2 Faculty Lectures
- 1 Faculty Research Initiative
- 2 GU-Q Fellow
- 1 QU Fellow

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 231 CIRS Lecture Attendees
- 4 CIRS Dialogues
- 2 Focused Discussions
- 9 CIRS Scholars’ Conference Presentations
- 1 International Book Exhibit

CIRS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT (CURA)

- 14 Total CURA Fellows
- 2 Administrative Fellows
- 3 Publications Fellows
- 6 Research Fellows
- 3 Faculty Research Fellows
- 3 CURA Student Seminars
- 3 CURA Workshops
- 1 CURA Research Presentation
About Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q)

Established in 1789, Georgetown University is one of the world’s leading academic and research institutions, offering a unique educational experience that prepares the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a difference in the world. Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), founded in 2005, empowers students and shapes the human capacity that the MENA region needs for the 21st century, providing a holistic educational experience built upon the highest academic standards. GU-Q’s Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) stresses multidisciplinary studies in a global context. It is the same globally respected program and curriculum offered at the Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service in Washington D.C. The BSFS degree is offered in one of four majors: International Economics, International Politics, Culture and Politics, and International History. Students can also pursue a certificate in one of three concentrations: Arab and Regional Studies, American Studies, or Media and Politics.

GU-Q provides an excellent space that serves as the foundation for learning, research, and community engagement. The university hosts state-of-the-art auditoriums, immersive classroom instruction facilities, a dedicated staff and internationally renowned scholars and teaching faculty, as well as the region’s leading library for international affairs.

To learn more about GU-Q’s exciting events and programs, or to benefit from its wide array of research, please visit qatar.georgetown.edu.

About the Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS)

Established in 2005, the Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) at Georgetown University in Qatar is a premier research institute devoted to the academic study of regional and international issues through dialogue and exchange of ideas, research and scholarship, and engagement with national and international scholars, opinion-makers, practitioners, and activists.

About Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey from a carbon economy to a knowledge economy. It does this by unlocking human potential for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by HH the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, former Emir of Qatar, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikh Moza bint Nasser. QF carries out its mission via three strategic pillars: education, science and research, and community development. For more information, please visit www.qf.org.qa.

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Director’s Farewell Note

Dear friends and colleagues,

After thirteen years, the 2019–2020 academic year marks the end of my tenure as CIRS director. Having over the years relied heavily, often shamelessly, on the personal and professional goodwill of scholars and academics like you, I would be remiss to leave without a proper goodbye and an acknowledgement of my immense debt to you and to countless others who have made CIRS’s success over the years possible.

When I was interviewing for the position back in 2006, I asked the hiring dean, James Reardon-Anderson, to tell me about CIRS and what the center had done up until that point. After a moment of pause, the reply came: “Well, the center has a shingle with its name on it.” On being offered the position and assuming my duties, I realized that statement had not been an exaggeration. The challenges ahead seemed daunting but also exciting. There was much—nearly all of it from scratch—that needed to be done.

Since 2007, when my tenure began, many of you have been directly involved in making CIRS the success story that it is today. Whether through our post-doctoral and senior scholar residency programs, or one of our many research initiatives, our speakers programs, our research grants, or one of our publications, in one form or another, hundreds of you have contributed to CIRS’s success. The publications record that CIRS has amassed over these years, and the involvement of many of you as authors, editors, contributors, reviewers, or as colleagues shaping our thinking on particular topics, tells the whole story. Within just thirteen years, CIRS has published 41 books, 27 Summary Reports in Arabic and 25 in English, 24 Occasional Papers, and 9 special issues of journals.

By far the biggest thanks and all of the credit for this success goes to the amazing team of professionals that CIRS is blessed with. Both individually and collectively, their efforts and hard work, and more importantly their collegiality and friendship, made my job immeasurably easier. I cannot recall a single day when I didn’t look forward to going to the office. I simply could not have hoped for a better team to work with.

As I now direct my attention to teaching and to more of my own research, I am looking forward to following CIRS’s success in the years to come as it conquers new heights and goes from one strength to another. With your continued help and support and with its incredible team, CIRS will continue to play a leading role in the study of the Persian Gulf region, the Middle East, and beyond. And I am excited to continue benefiting from the center’s many contributions.

Sincerely,

Mehran Kamrava, Ph.D.
Professor and Director of CIRS
The Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) focuses on research and scholarship, publications, faculty engagement, community outreach, and student enrichment. Guided by the principles of academic excellence, forward vision, and community engagement, the CIRS mission revolves around five principal goals:

• To provide a forum for scholarship and research on international and regional affairs;
• To encourage in-depth examination and exchange of ideas;
• To foster thoughtful dialogue among students, scholars, and practitioners of international affairs;
• To facilitate the free flow of ideas and knowledge through publishing the products of its research, sponsoring public lectures, and holding working groups designed to explore the complexities of the twenty-first century;
• To engage in outreach activities with a wide range of local, regional, and international partners.

“...a forum for scholarship & research on international and regional affairs...”
CIRS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2019–2020

The Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) sponsors major studies of regional and international significance by regularly identifying emerging socioeconomic and political trends, and developing research initiatives towards further focused scholarship. Our goal is to explore questions related to the Gulf region, the broader Middle East, and Asia through supporting original and theoretically informed research. This Annual Report outlines CIRS activities and achievements in five key areas:

1. Research and Scholarship
2. Faculty Engagement
3. Publications
4. Community Outreach
5. CIRS Undergraduate Research Advancement (CURA)

1. Research and Scholarship

Working Groups & Roundtables

Every year, CIRS organizes a number of working group meetings and research roundtables that convene in Doha or Washington, DC, to examine a variety of issues pertinent to the Gulf region, the Middle East, and Asia. The primary purpose of these projects is to fill existing research gaps in the literature and to contribute toward furthering knowledge on prevailing issues related to the security, economic stability, and politics of these regions.

CIRS research initiatives involve prominent scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from the Middle East, the Gulf region, Asia, and beyond. The invited participants contribute to CIRS by conducting original investigations and by submitting the results of their research for publication. CIRS adds to the existing body of knowledge through supporting and funding a wide variety of original and empirical research endeavors. By holding regular working group meetings throughout the year, CIRS creates a scholarly forum where grant recipients share their findings with other international academics, policymakers, and practitioners.

Please see the Appendix for a full list of participants at each working group meeting.
Russia and the Middle East Working Group II
August 25–26, 2019

CIRS held the second two-day working group related to its research initiative on “Russia and the Middle East.” Experts discussed topics related to their areas of interest and received feedback and comments on their papers. The discussion commenced with an exploration of Russia’s Middle East policy, its domestic concerns, and its view of the post-cold war global order. The discussion shifted to an examination of Russia’s state-Islam relationship and the impact of the rising Muslim population on Russian foreign policy, particularly towards the Middle East. This led to an analysis of old and new migration patterns that exist between Russia and the Middle East.

The comparison of the differences and similarities between Moscow’s Middle East policies during both the Cold War and Putin eras was also the focus of discussion. The participants further examined Russia’s relationship with Iran and questioned whether Iran was a strategic partner or a bargaining chip for Russia. In addition to these issues, the scholars discussed Russia’s involvement in the Yemeni civil war and the Syrian conflict and shed light on the varying Russian stances and participation in these conflicts. Russian-GCC relations and the various drivers and factors that affect these relationships, particularly after the Arab uprisings beginning in 2011, were also discussed at length. The working group meeting concluded with an exploration of increasing Russian involvement in the Maghreb and its success at establishing a strategic presence in the region.

This research initiative adopted a multidisciplinary approach, examining a broad range of political, economic, social, and geographic dynamics visible in the region. The scholars submitted their original research papers to CIRS for publication as an edited volume.

Political Economy of the Contemporary Middle East Working Group II
September 29, 2019

CIRS held a second working group meeting under research initiative on “Political Economy of the Contemporary Middle East.” The convened scholars presented and received feedback on their papers. The submissions examined a wide array of issues, including: economic integration in the Levant and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); the Iranian economy under sanctions; fiscal decentralization in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and anti-extractivist social movements and re-envisioning the political economies of North Africa.

The working group meeting began the discussions with a broad picture of the political-economic (dis)integration of the GCC since its inception in 1981. The scholars suggested that the GCC’s ineffective institutional structure and the lack of political will among its member states to implement and reinforce coordinated policies are the main factors that have led to a lack of meaningful integration. The discussion shifted to the topic of alter-globalization in the Middle East and North Africa and the rise of new grassroots rural movements in the region.

The scholars then discussed fiscal decentralization in Iran and argued that the evolution of the local government in Iran can be explained by the theory of local electoral authoritarianism. The details of Iranian industrial resilience under sanctions was another focus of the working group, highlighting that the sanctions imposed on Iran have been effective in cutting back Iran’s energy exports. The discussion concluded with a study of regionalism through an investigation of the relationship between hard infrastructure and economic integration in the Levant.
This inaugural working group brought together regional and international scholars and practitioners to discuss some of the understudied areas related to football in the region and to identify original research questions in their respective areas of focus. Over the course of two days, a number of topics were discussed from multidisciplinary approaches, examining a broad range of political, social, and cultural dimensions of the sport.

The working group began by examining Qatar’s strategies to build a high-performance football environment. The participants compared the football environment of various countries and stressed that building a successful football environment in Qatar needed an understanding of the local social context. Building on that, the scholars spoke about Qatar’s hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup and how there is little work that offers an internal perspective on the World Cup and its implications for Qatari society, economy, and culture.

Other topics discussed throughout the working group were: off-field management of football in the Middle East; the question of national identity and football players in the Qatari national team; the importance of creating a strong legacy for the World Cup as an inherent component of Qatar’s bidding pitch; the beIN network and its monopoly over broadcasting rights in the Middle East; Palestinian refugees facing discrimination in Lebanese football teams; Middle Eastern states’ instrumental use of football as a tool for regime legitimization; football in Algeria and its sociopolitical role in the weekly Friday popular protests; football’s role in the development and inclusion of refugees; gender issues and female football players in Turkey; and politics and football clubs in Iran.

CIRS held the first working group under its research initiative examining “Tunisia in the Aftermath of the Arab Uprisings.” This was a Faculty Research Project under the intellectual leadership of Professor Mohamed Zayani. CIRS invited a group of scholars to discuss various topics and identify gaps in the existing scholarship.

The presentations took different approaches, ranging from theoretical deliberations to practical implications to historical narratives. Some of the topics discussed included political Islam, civil society in Tunisia, economic challenges, social justice, youth involvement, identity politics, security challenges, media dynamics, power politics, and authoritarianism in the Middle East. Via a multi-disciplinary approach, the meeting offered an in-depth exploration of the post-revolutionary Tunisian state.

The initial discussion focused on the persisting conditions of authoritarianism in the Middle East and how these affect the political transition in Tunisia. The discussion then shifted to power politics in Tunisia, and the scholars looked at methods to transform the deep political power frameworks that currently exist. The discussion on Tunisia’s reinvigorated civil society expressed the importance of establishing the value of analyzing the formal associational sphere where groups and organizations would register through state-established parameters. The scholars concluded with a discussion on Tunisia’s economic challenges. They stated that per capita income in the country had tripled since the revolution and that major leaps had been similarly made in the education sector.
Over two days, the convened scholars presented and received feedback on their papers. These studies examined a wide array of issues, including: the regional implications of the GCC crisis; impact of the crisis on Qatar’s supply chain; public narratives of nationalism and identity in Qatar after the blockade; Turkey’s role in the crisis, ontological security and the GCC crisis; and post-blockade relations between state and society in Qatar.

The working group began with a discussion on the rupture of relations between the Gulf states, which highlighted the inherent weakness of the GCC as a meaningful institution through which member states can mediate regional disputes. The focus then shifted to the impact of the GCC crisis on the supply chain in Qatar and how the blockade impacted Qatar’s ability to import goods. The scholars then examined the impact of the ongoing regional crisis on nationalism and national identity in Qatar and argued that the rupture in regional relations has reduced the salience of a Khaleeji identity amongst Qataris, while simultaneously increasing expressions of nationalism and national identity. The discussion moved on to the theme of security and the UAE’s foreign policy goals and regional behavior based on a theoretical lens of ontological security. Further, the scholars brought up the question of whether the blockade altered relations within society, and between society and state, or if it reflected some of the changes that were prevalent even before the blockade.

Finally, the working group was brought to a close with a discussion on Turkey’s geopolitical positioning and its diplomatic and military role in the Gulf region in light of the 2017 blockade against Qatar.

This meeting was held to generate an initial conversation on how big data can be meaningfully applied to deepen our understanding of social and political phenomena in the Middle East. With the growing availability of data and the enhanced capacity of data scientists to use computational tools for analysis, social scientists around the world are increasingly turning to big data to address some of the pressing questions in their fields of research. How far these innovative developments in research are being demonstrated in the Middle East and how social science research questions can be explored through these new data sources and analytical tools was the primary purpose of this roundtable.

Over the course of two days, participating scholars and experts engaged in a dialogue that explored several important areas, including: big data and healthcare; social media and user-generated content; analyzing data produced in the Arabic language; social science research; food security; big data and museums, opportunities in the defense sector; female employment; and religious discourse on social media.

The roundtable discussions indicated that it is important for Middle East social scientists to bridge the disciplinary divide and develop partnerships with data scientists. In order to make the best use of the variety of new data available and apply them to critical social sciences research questions in the region, there is a need to actively develop interdisciplinary collaborations. Working with data scientists who have the requisite expertise in data analytics will help social scientists make sense of and extract meaning from data from multiple sources.
Economic Migration to the United States Roundtable
February 15–16, 2020

The goal of this Research Roundtable was to deepen our understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to skilled immigration flows to the United States. OECD countries and the US have developed their migration policies and systems to attract skilled and highly skilled migrants. With the last major immigration legislation enacted thirty years ago, it is a worthwhile endeavor to analyze the current policy environment and lived experiences of skilled migrants in the US.

The first topic discussed was the economic, political, and social aspects of transnationalism, as practiced by immigrants in their home and host countries. The participants then argued that immigration and migration policies will need to adapt to the labor ecology of the future, given the trends pointing towards AI in the sectors that are heavily reliant on skilled labor.

Continuing on the theme of immigration policy reform, the scholars addressed the paradoxes in the US government administrations' reforms. Work towards matching labor flow with employers' needs was also a topic under discussion, as well as the concept of national security in the US as it relates to migration. The scholars then moved on to analyzing migration patterns of international students and whether they would stay in the US once their education was complete.

On the second day, the participants looked at economic migration of specific ethnic groups to the US, including Latin American, Asian, and South-Asian migrants. As the non-Hispanic White population in the US continues to lose its numerical majority, the scholars suggested that the power dynamics between races and migrants/non-migrants could perhaps shift.

Football in the Middle East Working Group II
April 6 and April 13, 2020

In observance of local regulations for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, CIRS held two separate online working group meetings over Zoom to conclude the discussions associated with this project.

The aim of this research is to provide academic insight on the political, economic, and social dynamics of football within the region. The project builds on the center’s previous research on “Sports, Society, and the State in the Middle East.” CIRS is ideally placed to commence this timely effort as Qatar prepares to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022. In the build-up, Qatar has undertaken enormous economic and infrastructural developments, becoming a hub for sports, and investing in the expansion of its football capacity. In addition, in 2019, Qatar became the Asian football champion by winning the AFC Football Cup.

In response to the growing inequalities within Middle Eastern societies, excellence in football can be seen as a tool for social mobility, regardless of class, ethnicity, nationality, and religion. Many working-class boys and men, especially, view entry into professional football as a means of improving their social standing, material advancement, and as a gateway to prestige and fame.

This research initiative adopts a multidisciplinary approach, examining a broad range of political, social, and cultural dimensions of the sport. It explores a wide range of topics, including the relationship between football and international relations, and issues related to gender, tourism, social mobility, media broadcasting rights, the 2022 World Cup, and sports infrastructure.
The CIRS COVID-19 Project
Research Initiative

Governments across the Middle East region responded to the COVID-19 global pandemic swiftly by instituting a variety of measures to contain the spread of the disease. In addition to expanding their health systems’ capacity for detecting and treating the virus, Middle Eastern states instituted containment measures such as, restrictions on international travel, domestic limitations on movement, sterilization and hygiene campaigns, closures of schools, and transitioning much of their non-essential workforce to remote working.

The aim of this project is to provide a focused understanding of how a subset of Middle Eastern countries, Iraq and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) monarchies, are being affected by and responding to the ongoing global crisis. Our primary goal is to provide updated information on how events are unfolding in these seven states. CIRS has so far collected aggregated data on each of these countries’ health systems so as to build a profile of their health capacity. In addition, we have collated the various policy measures states are undertaking to limit the spread of COVID-19 and are providing a means of viewing these from a comparative perspective. Through a special project webpage, we aim to provide updated information regularly.

In addition, through a series of short analytical articles, panel discussions, and podcasts by our network of international and regional scholars and experts, we also provide insight into broader social, cultural, and economic dimensions of the region’s COVID response. We hope to present a timely and thought-provoking discussion on a variety of topics, such as: preventative health measures and chronic health conditions in light of COVID-19; the challenges for Gulf migrants during COVID; religious ceremonies and practices according to Islamic ethics; the impact on family life, marriage, birth, and death; and national development plans, social contracts, and subsidy reforms in the Gulf.
CIRS conducted a series of online interviews and panel discussions centered on the pandemic, as well as analyses of the challenges faced by states in the region.

**COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH IN GULF SOCIETIES**

**Dr. Suhaila Ghuloum**

Dr. Suhaila Ghuloum (left), Senior Consultant Psychiatrist and Associate Professor at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, addressed effects of the pandemic on mental health in the Gulf. She highlighted measures taken to provide the public with the necessary mental health services. The talk was moderated by Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS Operations Manager.

**SCIENCE, BIOETHICS, AND THE PANDEMIC**

**Professor Daniel R. Lucey and Professor Ayman Shabana**

Daniel R. Lucey (left), Senior Scholar, O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law & Adjunct Professor of Medicine-Infectious Diseases, Georgetown University Medical Center; Ayman Shabana (right), Associate Research Professor at G-UQ. The panel was moderated by Mehran Kamrava, CIRS Director.

**PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND LIFESTYLE HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19**

**Dr. Ravinder Mamtani**

Dr. Ravinder Mamtani (left), Professor of Healthcare Policy and Research, Vice Dean for Student Affairs, Population Health, and Lifestyle Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, addressed the pandemic from the perspective of preventive medicine. The interview was moderated by Mehran Kamrava, CIRS Director.

**CURRENT HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN THE GULF**

**Dr. Sohaila Cheema**

Dr. Sohaila Cheema (left), Director of the Institute for Population Health (IPH) and Assistant Professor of Healthcare Policy and Research at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, spoke about caring for vulnerable populations, such as low-wage workers and the elderly, considering that the majority of non-COVID healthcare is provided online. The talk was moderated by Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS Operations Manager.
**The COVID-19 Project**
**Measures and Policies**

In April 2020, CIRS launched a webpage dedicated to visualizing data and statistics on COVID-19 cases and other measures in the GCC states and Iraq. This is an important tool for analysis and understanding of how the pandemic is being experienced by countries in the region. The webpage includes graphs and tables illustrating Containment Measures, Health System Information, Recovery and Mortality Rates, COVID-19 Regional Statistics for Cases, Size of Fiscal Stimulus Packages By Country (Based on IMF Data), and Percentage to GDP of Fiscal Stimuli (Based on IMF Data).


**Impact of COVID-19 on Sports in the GCC**
**Professor Simon Chadwick**

Professor Simon Chadwick (left), Director of Eurasian Sport, Professor of the Eurasian Sport Industry, and Director of the Centre for the Eurasian Sport Industry at Emlyon Business School, spoke about the effects of the pandemic on sports strategies in the GCC. The talk was moderated by Suzi Mirgani, Assistant Director for Publications at CIRS.

**Media Consumption and the Pandemic**
**Professor Banu Akdenizli and Professor Joe F. Khalil**

Banu Akdenizli (left), Associate Professor of Communication at Northwestern University in Qatar; Joe F. Khalil (right), Associate Professor of Global Media and Communication at Northwestern University in Qatar. The panel was moderated by Suzi Mirgani, Assistant Director for Publications at CIRS.

Data extracted on June 8, 2020.
What the United States must Learn From Taiwan
Max Oldtmann
Taiwan’s COVID-19 prevention success demonstrates that the high death rates suffered in places as diverse as China, the US, and Iran were entirely avoidable. Moreover, the Taiwan model proves that suppressing the virus does not require the repression of human rights.

COVID-19 in the Gulf and the Education 2030 Agenda: Learning from Crisis
Caitlin Sparks
In this article, Sparks argued that, even before the virus decimated economies and brought social life to a standstill, the global community was not on track to achieve inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all as part of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda.

Overcoming Isolation: Migrants, Connectivity, and COVID-19 in Qatar
Irene Promodh and Zahra Babar
Caught in the midst of the Covid-19 emergency and living under lockdowns and curfews, migrants across the Gulf have seen their work routines disrupted and also their personal lives.

Logistics and Supply Chain Management Amid COVID-19: Qatar as a Strategic Hub
Frank Himpel
Himpel argues in this article that the COVID-19 pandemic threatens all countries alike. In a globalized world, cause-effect structures trigger immediate reverberations on national economies that in turn bring global output levels into line.

Air Pollution and COVID-19 in the GCC and the Middle East
Katharine Duderstadt
Duderstadt argued that the pandemic throws into sharp relief why air pollution remains an important environmental and public health issue in the region, particularly in cities with significant concentrations of industrial, transport, and construction activities.

How GCC Countries Can Address Looming Fiscal Challenges
Nader Kabbani
After managing immediate economic fallouts, Kabbani argues, GCC countries are turning their attention to another challenge: managing the long-term fiscal consequences of the fall in the prices of oil and natural gas.

GCC Museums Display their Digital Selves during the Coronavirus Pandemic
Suzi Mirgani
Mirgani argues that 2020 is the first time International Museum Day took place wholly online, out of necessity rather than by design. GCC museums and galleries had to think of ways to stay relevant in this period of existential crisis and to offer some semblance of their former selves.
2. FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

CIRS provides a number of engagement opportunities for the faculty at Georgetown University and Qatar University, including annual fellowships, workshops designed for in-depth discussion of a forthcoming publication, grants awarded for original research, a lecture series, and other outreach opportunities.

CIRS FACULTY FELLOWS

CIRS provides annual year-long fellowship positions awarded to faculty members from the Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) and Qatar University (QU).

CIRS GU-Q FELLOWS

Uday Chandra is an Assistant Professor of Government at GU-Q. He received a PhD in political science from Yale University in 2013. Chandra is interested in state-society relations, power and resistance, political violence, agrarian change, and the philosophy of the social sciences. His work has been published in the *Law & Society Review, Critical Sociology, Social Movement Studies, New Political Science, The Journal of Contemporary Asia, Contemporary South Asia, and The Indian Economic & Social History Review*. His first book, *Resistance as Negotiation: Making States and Tribes in Modern India*, is forthcoming with Stanford University Press.

Huda Al-Kubaisi is Assistant Professor of Education Finance at Qatar University’s College of Education. Her Doctorate degree is from University College London (UCL) where she investigated the decentralization policy implementation, practices, and challenges in Qatar’s Education for a New Era (EFNE) reform. During her fellowship at CIRS, Al-Kubaisi worked on investigating the situations and issues relevant to financing higher education in Arab world region, based on existing relevant literature and scholarly work, which would contribute to the understanding of the higher education financing in Arab countries: the way they perceive and implant this concept; the basic justifications and driving forces behind such an undertaking; and the main challenges and constrains in attempting to propose solutions that may be helpful in solving the issues faced.

Karine Walther is an Associate Professor of History at Georgetown University in Qatar. She holds a PhD in history from Columbia University, a Maitrise and Licence in sociology from the University of Paris VIII and a BA from the American Studies Honors Program at the University of Texas, Austin. She is currently working on her second book, *Spreading the Faith: American Missionaries, ARAMCO and the Birth of the US-Saudi Special Relationship, 1889-1955*, forthcoming with University of North Carolina Press in 2020. Her first book, *Sacred Interests: The United States and the Islamic World, 1821–1921* was published by UNC Press in 2015.

As a CIRS GU-Q Fellow, Walther worked on completing her second book, which traces the impact of American medical missionaries working in the Arabian Gulf on broader American relations with Saudi Arabia in the first half of the twentieth century. As her book demonstrates, although American missionaries managed to convert only a handful of Muslims, their expansive network of contacts throughout the Gulf reached the highest level of political power, including Ibn Saud himself, who received regular medical treatment from the missionaries, beginning in 1914. Walther’s book analyzes how the educational and medical programs initiated by these missionaries would later be coopted by ARAMCO as it sought to advance its own corporate interests in Saudi Arabia.

CIRS QU FELLOWS

Huda Al-Kubaisi is Assistant Professor of Education Finance at Qatar University’s College of Education. Her Doctorate degree is from University College London (UCL) where she investigated the decentralization policy implementation, practices, and challenges in Qatar’s Education for a New Era (EFNE) reform. During her fellowship at CIRS, Al-Kubaisi worked on investigating the situations and issues relevant to financing higher education in Arab world region, based on existing relevant literature and scholarly work, which would contribute to the understanding of the higher education financing in Arab countries: the way they perceive and implant this concept; the basic justifications and driving forces behind such an undertaking; and the main challenges and constrains in attempting to propose solutions that may be helpful in solving the issues faced.
3. Publications

CIRS publishes research and related materials in a variety of formats, including books, special issues of journals, Occasional Papers, and English and Arabic language Summary Reports. Through its publications, CIRS provides a forum for in-depth examination of ideas and issues of contemporary academic and political significance to the Gulf region, the Middle East, Asia, and beyond.

Books

- Sport, Politics, and Society in the Middle East
  Edited by Danyel Reiche and Tamir Sorek
  (Oxford University Press/Hurst, 2019)

  The contributors to this edited volume discuss the intersection of political and cultural processes related to sport in the region. Eleven chapters trace the historical institutionalization of sport and the role it has played in negotiating “Western” culture. Throughout the volume, sport is found to be a contested terrain where struggles are being fought over the inclusion of women, over competing definitions of national identity, over preserving social memory, and over press freedom.

- A Concise History of Revolution
  Mehran Kamrava
  (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

  Presenting a novel framework for the study of revolutions, this exploration of French, Russian, Chinese, and other revolutions, provides a theoretically grounded and empirically comprehensive demonstration of how revolutions mean more than mere state collapse and rebuilding. Through the examination of multiple case studies, and use of historical examples to explore revolutions, Kamrava reveals the depth of human emotion and motivations that are so prevalent and consequential in revolutions.

- Tunisia in the Aftermath of the Arab Uprisings
  Working Group I: November 10, 2019
  Working Group II: June 22 and 29, 2020

  In the 2019-2020 academic year, CIRS held two working group under its Faculty Research Initiative examining “Tunisia in the Aftermath of the Arab Uprisings.” This project came under the intellectual leadership of GU-Q Professor Mohamed Zayani. CIRS invited a group of scholars to discuss various topics related to Tunisia’s transition and to identify gaps in the existing scholarship on Tunisia after the uprisings.

CIRS Faculty Lectures

- Spreading the Faith: American Missionaries, ARAMCO, and the Birth of the US-Saudi Special Relationship, 1889-1955
  Karine Walther
  CIRS Dialogue: September 18, 2019

- Fascism 2.0: Lessons from Democracy in India
  Uday Chandra
  Focused Discussion: February 25, 2020
The “Resource Curse” in the Persian Gulf
(Routledge, 2019)
Edited by Mehran Kamrava

This volume explores how, across the Arabian Peninsula, oil wealth began accruing to the state at a particular juncture in the state-building process, when traditional, largely informal, patterns of shaikhly rule were relatively well established, but the formal institutional apparatuses of the state were not yet fully formed. The chapters demonstrate that oil wealth had a direct impact on subsequent developments in these two complementary areas.

Unfulfilled Aspirations: Middle Power Politics in the Middle East
(Oxford University Press/Hurst, 2020)
Edited by Adham Saouli

The studies in this volume address a major gap by interrogating the conceptual, theoretical, and empirical underpinnings of the concept of middle power at a regional level. The book offers the conceptual and theoretical tools to examine Middle Powerhood in the Middle East, as well as insightful empirical analyses of both traditional Middle Powers in the region (Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Algeria) and new, aspiring ones (Qatar, the UAE).

Routledge Handbook of Persian Gulf Politics
(Routledge, 2020)
Edited by Mehran Kamrava

This comprehensive volume begins its examination of Ottoman rule in the Arabian Peninsula, exploring other dimensions of the region’s history up until and after independence. The book demonstrates how the Persian Gulf’s complex politics is a product of interwoven dynamics rooted in historical developments and memories, profound social, cultural, and economic changes, and inter-state and international relations among both regional actors and between them and the rest of the world.

Journal Special Issues

The Muslim World 110, no. 1 (2020)
Special CIRS Issue on “Nation-Building in Central Asia”
Edited by Mehran Kamrava

As separate political entities, the Central Asian republics were created during the 1924–1925 “national delimitation” efforts of the new USSR. But it was only with the onset of formal independence in 1991 that processes of nation-building in the former Soviet Union started in earnest, including in Central Asia. This special issue outlines the key challenges the new national elites faced as they implemented new models of economic development and political organization.

Middle East Journal 73, no. 4 (Winter 2019)
Special CIRS Issue on “Citizenship”
Edited by Zahra Babar

Even though citizenship is a central feature of the modern nation-state, neither scholars nor policymakers agree on what citizenship means in all places, at all times, and for all people. But, pared down to its most basic construct, citizenship is recognized as being that which establishes the fundamental rules of membership, participation, and belonging for the people who inhabit a particular territory. This special issue examines some of the fundamental aspects of citizenship in the Middle East context.

Sociology of Islam 8, no. 2 (2020)
“Science and Scientific Production in the Middle East”
Edited by Ayman Shabana

Discussions concerning scientific production in the Middle East often trigger a comparison between a glorious past and a gloomy present. The past witnessed a thriving scientific culture within Islamic civilization, but science has recently become entangled in a series of debates, ranging from the normative dimensions of modern science to the larger social and political circumstances shaping current realities. The collection of papers in this special issue examine some of these crucial issues.
Improving Single Male Laborers’ Health in Qatar (2019)
CIRS and WISH

This policy brief benefited from the input of several stakeholders, many of which attended two workshops held at Georgetown University Qatar’s Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) and Qatar Foundation’s World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH). This policy brief zeros in on one category of migrant workers in Qatar, namely single male migrants, and their access, or lack thereof, to healthcare. Female migrants, many of whom form a sizeable portion of the informal labor force in the country, face challenges that are unique to those faced by their male counterparts. Since male migrant workers vastly outnumber females, we use the study of their healthcare access as our starting point. Our hope is that future studies explore issues related to female workers’ access to healthcare.

To Shoot or to Defect? Military Responses to the Arab Uprisings (No. 22, 2019)
Nael Shama, Independent Scholar

This paper looks into the nature and dynamics of armies’ responses to popular uprisings. It argues that the outcome of the regime-threatening Arab revolts in 2011 can be assessed by how a military responded to popular protests. In light of the rich literature available on the historical experience of the “Arab Spring,” this paper shows that an army’s response to end popular uprisings in authoritarian regimes is determined by several key factors. This study provides an in-depth examination of these issues.

Norm and Dissidence: Egyptian Shi’a between Security Approaches and Geopolitical Stakes (No. 23, 2019)
Stéphane Valter, Lyon 2 University

This paper discusses Egyptian Shi’ism by providing historical context as well as a focus on actual or current issues. The study includes a historical overview of local Shi’ism; Shi’i institutions and personalities; the situation following Egypt’s 2011 revolution; President Sisi’s authoritarian takeover; and, finally, an exploration of the current geopolitical stakes, focusing mainly on the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran over religious hegemony.

Beyond the Binary Understanding of Masculinities: Displaced Syrian Refugee Men Living with Disability and Chronic Illness in Jordan (No. 24, 2020)
Aitemad Muhanna-Matar, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

This paper analyzes the dynamics of renegotiating masculinities among Syrian men with disabilities who are displaced in Jordan. It examines the personal narratives of Syrian men who have experienced disability and chronic illness after the Syrian war. This paper demonstrates how their narratives challenge the binary understanding of masculinities in the literature and by international humanitarian aid organizations.
مثّلت القبيلة تقليدياً أقدم مؤسسة اجتماعية في منطقة الخليج الكبرى (دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي والمملكة العربية السعودية واليمن والعراق وإيران)، ولم تنل الأسرة الاعتراف بوصفها الوحدة المجتمعية الأساسية فحسب، بل وكامل أساسي أيضاً للتنمية الاجتماعية والاقتصادية والثقافية المستدامة. وتتحدّد العلاقات الاجتماعية في هذه البلاد من خلال الأعراف والقيم الثقافية المستمدة من الثقافة، والتي تقوم عليها التفاعلات الاجتماعية مع أفراد الأسرة وغيرهم من أفراد المجتمع. ولعلّ التطور السريع الذي شهدته دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي وما زالت تشهده منذ اكتشاف الموارد البترولية، أحدث تغييرات كبيرة في الهياكل الاجتماعية والاقتصادية، والثقافية التي تقوم عليها هذه المجتمعات الخليجية.

درسنا في مشروعنا هذا، وبشكل موسّع، التطور التاريخي للتنوع وال混淆 في الشرق الأوسط، ومدى تأثير هذا التطور على الديناميات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والسياسية في المنطقة. وتتناول هذه الدراسة بعض الأفكار المهمة التي تظهرها الأدوات المرجعية، وتقيس الأثر الذي تحدثه دور الدولة في تعزيز أو تحدّي التنوع الاجتماعي في الشرق الأوسط. وتكتسب هذه البحثية أهمية خاصة في تحليل دور الدولة في دعم التنوع الاجتماعي، والدور الذي يمكنه أن يلعبه في تحقيق التوافق الاجتماعي في المنطقة. وتتطلب هذه البحثية فهمًا عمقاً للمرجعيات التي تحدد دور الدولة في تعزيز أو تحدّي التنوع الاجتماعي في الشرق الأوسط.
4. Community Outreach

CIRS welcomes members of the community in Qatar to attend various on-campus and virtual lectures and events throughout the academic year. This diverse audience includes students, faculty, staff, members of the diplomatic community, and the general public. Complete articles detailing the content of each lecture can be found on the CIRS website.

Dialogue Series

The CIRS Dialogue Series is designed to present interested community members with a forum for thoughtful dialogue with scholars about their latest academic endeavors and research agendas. Over the course of the academic year, CIRS invites leading scholars to discuss their latest work and research interests with members of the community.

Sport, Politics, and Society in the Middle East
Danyel Reiche
October 28, 2019

CIRS held a book launch for Sport, Politics, and Society in the Middle East (Oxford University Press/Hurst, 2019). The edited volume examines the central role that sports played in the contemporary socioeconomic, cultural, and political milieus of the region. Danyel Reiche, Associate Professor for Comparative Politics at the American University of Beirut, presented an overview of the CIRS research project and the published book, which he coedited with Tamir Sorek, Professor of Sociology at the University of Florida. The project considered the factors behind the establishment of sport in the Middle East, the common patterns and dynamics throughout the region, the different roles of sport, and the role sport plays in societal change.

The Global Majlis: My Experience with International Organizations
H.E. Dr. Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari
November 27, 2019

H.E. Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, State Minister of Qatar with rank of Deputy Prime-Minister and Georgetown University in Qatar Ambassador in Residence, shared his experience working in international institutions, which “started with UNESCO, and ended with UNESCO.” During his tenure as Ambassador to the United Nations from 1984 to 1990, Al-Kawari represented Qatar as official delegate to the UN. While holding the position of ambassador, he simultaneously earned degrees from several institutions, including Saint-Joseph University in Beirut, La Sorbonne, and Stony Brook University. Al-Kawari highlighted the challenges he faced by “choosing the difficult way of knowledge and education.” Al-Kawari then discussed the benefits and challenges of working in multilateral organizations, as opposed to a bilateral ones.

Spreading the Faith: American Missionaries, ARAMCO, and the Birth of the US-Saudi Special Relationship, 1889-1955
Karine Walther
September 18, 2019

Karine Walther is Associate Professor of History at GU-Q and a 2019–2020 CIRS GU-Q Faculty Fellow. During her lecture, she outlined the historical and ideological ties linking American religious, commercial, and political interests in the Middle East, beginning in 1889, when medical missionaries under the Reformed Church of America (RCA) arrived in the Arabian Peninsula as the “Arabian Mission.” By the end of World War I, the Mission had become the most important source of western medicine in the Arabian Gulf. Using the Mission’s foundational documents, Walther demonstrated how the missionaries’ religious beliefs overlapped with secular understandings of the world at the time.
Mohammed Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Dean of the College of Law at Qatar University and the 2013-2014 CIRS Qatar University Fellow, presented his research concerning legal actions following the blockade against Qatar that began on June 5, 2017. On that date, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Egypt severed diplomatic relations and cut off direct communications with Qatar. Al-Khulaifi outlined the ways in which the four countries have taken coercive measures against Qatar that are in contravention of their obligations under international treaties to which they are parties.

**Focused Discussions**

Through its Focused Discussion series, CIRS provides an intimate intellectual forum for academics, diplomats, and opinion leaders to engage with Georgetown University in Qatar’s faculty and students, and members of the community in Qatar, on a particular topic of interest. These lectures cover topics pertaining to regional and international developments, with a special focus on current affairs.

**Polarized and Demobilized: Legacies of Authoritarianism in Palestine**

*Dana El Kurd*

January 13, 2020

Dana El Kurd, Assistant Professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, spoke about the effects of authoritarian strategies on polarization and collective action in Palestinian society. The talk was based on her recently published book, *Polarized and Demobilized: Legacies of Authoritarianism in Palestine*, which examines the impact of international involvement on political development and state-society relations in the Palestinian territories, particularly in the deterioration of democratic processes.

**Fascism 2.0: Lessons from Democracy in India**

*Uday Chandra*

February 25, 2020

Uday Chandra, Assistant Professor of Government at GU-Q and a 2019-2020 CIRS GU-Q Faculty Fellow, discussed his book, *Fascism 2.0*, which traces how and why India’s heterogeneous, multi-ethnic, multi-religious society has been recast under modern democratic conditions as a homogeneous, mono-cultural, mono-religious polity. Since the 1980s, the rights of religious minorities have been eroded with the rise of Hindu nationalism, a movement among the growing middle classes that sees Indian society in majoritarian terms as essentially Hindu.

**CIRS Conference Exhibition**

As part of its international outreach efforts, CIRS took part in the 2019 annual Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference. For over a decade, CIRS has participated in the MESA book bazaar, where the center exhibits its books and distributes its research-related papers and reports to interested scholars. Members of CIRS were on hand to network with scholars and to discuss ongoing and upcoming research initiatives.
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (APSA) ANNUAL MEETING
Washington, DC, USA, August 28–September 1, 2019: Mehran Kamrava and Zahra Babar attended the "Populism and Privilege" themed meeting, and networked with scholars regarding upcoming CIRS research.

INTERVIEW WITH ARD GERMAN PUBLIC RADIO
Germany, September 17, 2019: Mehran Kamrava was interviewed on the topic of the ongoing GCC crisis.

INTERVIEW WITH AL JAZEERA
Doha, Qatar: September 25, 2019: Mehran Kamrava was interviewed on the topic of the Iran nuclear deal and other countries' involvement in the agreement.

INTERVIEW WITH MONOCLE RADIO
United Kingdom, September 28, 2019: Mehran Kamrava addressed the consequences of the Gulf's position as a center of renewable energy on the region's politics in an interview titled "The Gulf after Oil."

INTERVIEW WITH AL JAZEERA
Doha, Qatar, October 2, 2019: Mehran Kamrava was interviewed as part of the web show "Start Here."

INVITATION TO LECTURE AT KONKUK UNIVERSITY
Seoul, Korea, November 2, 2019: Mehran Kamrava and Zahra Babar were invited to visit the university's research facilities. Kamrava delivered a lecture on the politics of the Middle East.

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES ASSOCIATION (MESA) ANNUAL MEETING

LSE WORKSHOP ON HERITAGE AND NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE GULF
London, UK, December 5–7, 2019: Suzi Mirgani was invited to deliver a paper on "Souvenir Sovereignty in Qatar" at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) Middle East Center.

6TH GULF STUDIES FORUM AT DOHA INSTITUTE
Doha, Qatar, December 7, 2019: Mehran Kamrava took part in a panel discussion titled "US-Iranian Tensions and the Repercussions on Gulf Security."

DOHA FORUM AT DOHA INSTITUTE

OMAN NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE

INTERVIEW WITH QATAR FOUNDATION COMMUNICATIONS
Doha, Qatar, February 2, 2020: Mehran Kamrava was interviewed by the Communications Department of Qatar Foundation on politics and education in the Middle East.

SUZI MIRGANI FILM SCREENS AT MOSAIC ROOMS ART GALLERY IN LONDON
London, UK, February 10, 2020: Suzi Mirgani's short film "Hind's Dream" was exhibited as part of a Habibi Collective curated screening of films directed by Sudanese women.

LECTURE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (AUB)

BROOKINGS WEBINAR: COVID-19 AND MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE GULF
Doha, Qatar, April 29, 2020: Zahra Babar took part in the panel discussion and presented on how the pandemic might change the way labor issues are addressed in the region.

SUZI MIRGANI FILM SCREENS AT DAS WEISSE HAUS ART GALLERY IN VIENNA
Vienna, Austria, June 18–August 20, 2020: Suzi Mirgani’s short film "Caravan" screened as part of the "Travel Apparatus" audiovisual exhibition.
5. CIRS Undergraduate Research Advancement (CURA)

Launched in 2018, the CIRS Undergraduate Research Advancement (CURA) program supports the research needs of Georgetown University in Qatar’s undergraduate students. CURA provides students with opportunities to develop their research skills, to present their research findings at public talks, and to publish the results of their research. A number of different activities take place under the CURA umbrella, including a Fellowship Program; Research Workshops; Discussion Seminars; a Peer Mentorship Program; Research Presentations; and a Paper Series.

CURA Open House
January 14, 2020

CIRS hosted its first open house event for GU-Q students to learn more about CIRS and the CIRS Undergraduate Research Advancement (CURA) program. CURA aims to facilitate research opportunities for GU-Q undergraduate students by providing focused mentorship and a chance to publish and present their original research.

During the event, Professor Mehran Kamrava, Director of CIRS, highlighted that CIRS launched the CURA program to advance undergraduate research. He remarked that, “the aim of the program is to enhance the research skills of our students, and we do this by offering a number of opportunities for CIRS student Fellows and for the entire student body at Georgetown University in Qatar.” One aim of the CURA program is to enhance the undergraduate research experience by helping students develop a range of research skills as well as providing an opportunity to publish their research findings.

CURA Workshop Series

Every semester, CIRS conducts a targeted research skills development workshop to help GU-Q students gain a better understanding of the academic research process. Workshops are carried out by CIRS staff, GU-Q experts and faculty, and external trainers from other institutions in Qatar.

The Art of Hearing and Seeing Data
CURA Workshop with Uday Chandra
October 10, 2019

Led by Uday Chandra, Assistant Professor of Government at GU-Q, the workshop provided the student participants with a breakdown of the practical fundamentals of qualitative research and data observation. Ranging from freshmen to seniors, the participants actively engaged with the material and discussions led by Professor Chandra, enabling them to build upon each other’s ideas.

Through a simple ethnography-inspired observation exercise, the students were asked to contextualize the role of “hearing and seeing” data at the most rudimentary level within the overarching theme of conducting qualitative research.

Chandra delved into the basics of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, emphasizing that each method has its own advantages and shortcomings, and can be used to answer specific research questions. The workshop allowed students to recognize the difficulty of demonstrating causation or accurately reflecting social reality. This enabled participants to contextualize the role of research methods within the wider framework of data observation. The workshop addressed credible research design and the need for a focused research question. The workshop allowed students to clarify areas of ambiguity within qualitative and quantitative research methods.
**Evaluating Credibility: Sources for Academic Research**

CURA Workshop with Jim Reardon-Anderson and Paschalia Terzi  
January 23, 2020

The workshop was focused on scholarly resource analysis and determining the authenticity of sources for research projects. GU-Q Professor Reardon-Anderson led the workshop and outlined some of his preferred techniques for determining the authenticity and validity of sources. The workshop was an interactive learning experience in which students gained research strategy skills by forming teams and engaging in case studies.

Professor Reardon-Anderson shared his research experience and scholarly insight with the students attending the workshop. He underlined how the right sources build on internal validity and reliability and help strengthen the quality of the research project.

GU-Q Librarian Paschalia Terzi conducted an interactive exercise during the second part of the session to show students how to practically apply the workshop’s themes. Students engaged with scholarly material and used a template to determine the credibility of sources. This was facilitated by accessing journals available on research databases and analyzing how social media can be used as part of research.

This hands-on activity solidified the workshop experience; by immediately applying what they learned, students were able to practice new skills and receive feedback on their work. Overall, this workshop aimed at improving the research process of Georgetown University in Qatar’s undergraduate students.

**CURA Spotlight on Undergraduate Publishing**

With Suzi Mirgani, Jackie Starbird, and Chaïmaa Benkermi  
April 23, 2020

The workshop was centered on supporting undergraduate student research, with a focus on the path towards academic publishing. Overall, the workshop aimed at offering interested students useful resources and information to promote more undergraduate publications at GU-Q.

Suzi Mirgani led the workshop by sharing professional advice on how to conduct research towards publication, and actively engaged participants to share their ideas, questions, and concerns. Mirgani shared her experience, both as an author and as an editor, regarding the peer-review process, which she acknowledged to be an exhausting, but worthy process that becomes easier with practice.

Jackie Starbird expanded the discussion and included examples of publishing sites, offering platforms, such as the CURA Paper Series, to gain valuable experience in the review and publishing processes. She also gave examples of undergraduate research journals and explained the selection criteria for submissions and requirements for publishing such as word count, formatting, and recommendation letters.

Chaïmaa Benkermi, CURA Publications Fellow at CIRS and Annual Undergraduate Research Conference (AURC) President, followed with an introduction to AURC as a way to voice, present, and publish original research for undergraduate students. This year’s conference theme was “The Road to Peace: Challenges and Opportunities for Peacebuilding.” She explained the process of application and review but also encouraged students to be part of the AURC team.

The workshop concluded with tips on writing and publishing, including using resources offered by CIRS and GU-Q, such as attending the CURA workshops and mentorship program, and setting goals like presenting a paper at a conference.
CURA Fellows engaged in an active discussion of research papers that were submitted to the CIRS research initiative on “Political Economy of the Contemporary Middle East.” The papers were critiqued, and the collective feedback was gathered and shared with the research working group. Irene Ann Promodh opened the CURA seminar by presenting Esfandyar Batmanghelidj’s paper titled “The Ins and Outs of Iranian Industrial Resiliency under Sanctions.” The paper explores Iran’s economic situation and ability to sustain its industrial input under sanctions by analyzing the trade patterns between Iran, China, and Europe through graphical and statistical data.

Shaza Afifi then presented Ashraf Mishrif’s paper titled “GCC’s Unsettled Policy for Economic Integration.” Mishrif examines factors explaining the retreat of economic integration in the GCC through the analysis of global and regional challenges. The paper evaluates the strength and capacity of the GCC as a union and explores how the setbacks of the European Union and NAFTA affected regional economic integration globally.

Following the presentation of each paper, the CURA fellows engaged in discussion on the structure and organization of the papers, the employed theoretical and conceptual frameworks, and the clarity of the arguments. After the discussion, two CURA fellows served as ambassadors to the official CIRS working group meeting and shared the comments and critiques brought up at the CURA seminar.

CURA Fellows lead an active discussion of research papers that were submitted to a current CIRS research initiative. The papers are shared in advance with the students who meet to critique the work. Selected CURA fellows attend a CIRS research working group meeting to share fellows’ feedback with the paper authors.

This seminar was an opportunity for CURA Fellows to discuss research submitted to CIRS’s initiative on “Football in the Middle East.” Observing local regulations for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, the seminar was hosted online via Zoom. Two papers were critiqued, and feedback from the CURA Fellows was gathered to later share with the official working group.

Khushboo Shah (class of 2022) opened the seminar by presenting Danyel Reiche’s paper “Playing in the triple periphery: Exclusionary policies towards Palestinian football in Lebanon.” The paper explores the development of policy toward Palestinian football players in Lebanon through a chronological survey of policies and interviews with scholars and players.

Chaïmaa Benkermi (class of 2021) led the second half of the seminar by presenting Thomas Ross Griffin’s “Who Kisses the Badge? The Player’s Perspective in the Performance of National Identity in the Qatar National Team.” Griffin uses literary and social media analysis to understand the performance of nationalism of players in the Qatari National Football team.

Following the presentations, CURA fellows engaged in an in-depth discussion about the structure, theoretical framework, sources, and clarity and strength of each paper. While analyzing the papers’ significance to the current scholarship of Football in the Middle East, CURA fellows use the research and analytical skills they learn through various CURA activities to contribute to their assessments.

Following the seminar, Salma Hassabou (class of 2022) and Shaza Afifi (class of 2022) served as ambassadors to present the comments to the papers’ authors during the official CIRS working group held on a virtual platform in early April.
CURA Paper Seminar: Adithi Sanjay
April 9, 2020

CIRS held its inaugural CURA Paper Series Seminar with a presentation by Adithi Sanjay, a GU-Q junior majoring in International Politics, and the winner of the Spring 2020 CURA Paper Series Competition. CURA launched the competition under its paper series initiative, which allows selected research papers to be published after editorial review, feedback, and revisions. Sanjay’s paper, titled “The Creation and Mobilization of Anti-China Sentiment by Interest Groups in Indian Society (2012–2018),” was chosen as the winner of the competition from a pool of submitted papers.

The CURA Paper Series provides students with the opportunity to have their submissions professionally peer reviewed and to work with CIRS staff to elevate their writing to academic publishing standards. Sanjay’s research provides analysis of the contemporary mobilization of anti-China protests in India. Using a global news monitoring and aggregation database, she compiled a unique dataset cataloging anti-China protests on the state and regional levels in India. This paper adds to the literature by engaging with the specific issues driving anti-China protests in India between 2012 and 2018.

The CURA Paper Series is designed to showcase the original research of GU-Q undergraduate students. Students whose papers are accepted have the opportunity to gain professional experience in the review, editing, and publishing processes. CIRS editorial staff mentor student authors to improve their writing skills, with the goal of bringing high-quality research to publication.

Sonic Connections and Diasporic Belonging: Malayalam Radio in Qatar
Irene Promodh
April 14, 2020

Irene Promodh, a GU-Q junior majoring in International Politics and a CURA Research Fellow, presented her research on FM Radio and the Malayali Diaspora in Qatar. The research project as part of the Certificate in Media and Politics (CMAP) program, which is offered jointly by GU-Q and Northwestern University in Qatar.

Promodh used a mixed-methods approach, conducting semi-structured interviews with radio producers and listeners and media content analyses of the broadcast content. “Malayalis” or speakers of the Malayalam language (the official language of Kerala, a state in South India) form the demographic focus of her research along the axes of gender, class, occupation, and family status.

Promodh argued that her research deconstructs the symbolism of diasporic vernacular radio in the lives of Malayalis living in Qatar. She concluded that Malayalis in Qatar experience a “home away from the Kerala homeland via diasporic vernacular radio.” The radio, which may be perceived as an ordinary infotainment medium, accentuates the blurred nature of “work-leisure” boundaries and its profound role in the lives of the Malayali diaspora in Qatar.

Through her empirical observations and findings, Promodh steers towards a refreshing narrative of migrant life in the Gulf beyond parochialisms of migrants as purely “labor.”
CURA Fellowships

Research Fellows

Tasked with research roles and responsibilities at CIRS, Research Fellows are involved in a number of CIRS research projects. They become familiar with rigorous research methods, and assist with collecting, translating, and analyzing a variety of primary and secondary sources on social, economic, and political indicators.

Faculty Research Fellows

CIRS supports GU-Q faculty with their ongoing research by pairing them with student research assistants who become trained in rigorous research methods, and assist with collecting and analyzing data for a particular project.

Publications Fellows

Publications Fellows help with formatting, typesetting, and designing CIRS publications, as well as managing CIRS’s multimedia channels. Through training and practical application, these students acquire skills related to publishing, design, and website and social media management. The aim is for students to gain insights into the world of academic publishing.

Administrative Fellows

The duties of Administrative Fellows include staffing reception, greeting visitors, and maintaining the professional appearance of the CIRS space. They perform clerical duties and assist in the organization and execution of CIRS events. The competencies gained include public relations, organizational skills, time management, and events coordination.
**Appendix**

**Analytics: Academic Outreach**

### Number of Participants in CIRS Initiatives (2019-2020): 95 Scholars

- **Qatar**: 4.12%
- **Asia**: 20.62%
- **Europe**: 12.37%
- **MENA**: 20.62%
- **North America**: 2.06%
- **Oceania**: 40.21%

### Downloads of CIRS Publications

**Digital Georgetown Institutional Repository (2019-2020)**

- Total Downloads: 24,341
  - **18723** OA Papers
  - **15476** Summaries
  - **10495** Research Reports
  - **3485** Briefs

**Academia.edu**

- **Total Views**: 8.7k
- **Total Downloads**: 3.1k
- **Unique Visitors**: 8k
- **Cities**: 273

**CIRS Publications on Social Science Research Network (SSRN)**

**As of June 2020**

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<th>Publication</th>
<th>No. of Downloads</th>
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| 1. Title: Iraqi Refugees: Seeking Stability in Syria and Jordan (2009)  
Author: Patricia Weiss Fagen  
Publication Type: Occasional Paper | 349 | 1,893 |
| 2. Title: A Theory of "Late Rentierism" in the Arab States of the Gulf (2011)  
Author: Matthew Gray  
Publication Type: Occasional Paper | 311 | 1,121 |
| 3. Title: Workforce Nationalization in the Gulf Cooperation Council States (2012)  
Author: Kasim Randeree  
Publication Type: Occasional Paper | 225 | 1,066 |
| 4. Title: Transitional Justice in the Middle East and North Africa (2017)  
Author: Multiple Authors  
Publication Type: Summary Report | 178 | 1,031 |
| 5. Title: Fixing the Kingdom: Political Evolution and Socio-Economic Challenges in Bahrain (2010)  
Author: Steven Wright  
Publication Type: Occasional Paper | 177 | 613 |
Author: Renee Richer  
Publication Type: Occasional Paper | 166 | 475 |
| 7. Title: Web-Based Learning in Qatar and the GCC States (2010)  
Author: Alan S. Weber  
Publication Type: Occasional Paper | 160 | 766 |
| 8. Title: The GCC States and the Shifting Balance of Global Power (2010)  
Author: Kristian Coates Ulrichsen  
Publication Type: Occasional Paper | 140 | 507 |
| 9. Title: Fragile Politics: Weak States in the Greater Middle East (2014)  
Author: Multiple Authors  
Publication Type: Summary Report | 127 | 711 |
Author: James Onley  
Publication Type: Occasional Paper | 101 | 452 |
### Academic Citations of CIRS Publications

Source: Google Scholar

### Top 15 Most Cited CIRS Publications (as of June 2020)

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<th>Publication</th>
<th>Type of Publication</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. The Modern Middle East (2013)</td>
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<td>282</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author: Mehran Kamrava</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Qatar: Small State, Big Politics (2013)</td>
<td>Book</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>6. Mediation and Qatari Foreign Policy (2011)</td>
<td>Journal Article</td>
<td>129</td>
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<td>Author: Andrew Gardner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author: Mohamed Zayani</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author: James Onley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Google Scholar

### Analytics: Communication & Outreach (2019-2020)

**CIRS Website**

- Users: 21,968
- New Users: 20,575
- Sessions: 30,172

**Pageviews:**
- Total: 71,579
- Pages / Session: 2.37
- Avg. Session Duration: 00:02:06

**User Demographics**

- 34.95% of total users

**Age**

- 18-24: 39%
- 25-34: 30%
- 35-44: 22%
- 45-54: 5%
- 55-64: 2%
- 65+: 0%

**Gender**

- Male: 48.7%
- Female: 51.3%

Source: Google Scholar

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Page 47 of 47
CIRS YouTube Channel

- Number of views: 34.1k
- Total number of subscribers: 1,421
- Gender distribution: Men: 69%, Women: 31%

CIRS Twitter Account (July 2019-June 2020)

- Followers: 2.4k
- Profile visits: 3k
- Tweet impressions: 249k

Top Twitter Post

CIRS @GUQatar Director @MehranKamrava: it would be difficult for Oman’s new Sultan to replicate the same patterns of personalist rule as Sultan Qaboos practiced.” Read more at @AJEnglish bit.ly/OmanSultanAJ

Top 10 Viewed CIRS Lectures (as of June 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Lecture</th>
<th>No. of Views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The World is Flat 3.0</td>
<td>Thomas Friedman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. State of Denial: Western Journalism and the Middle East</td>
<td>Robert Fisk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Obama/Bush Foreign Policies: Why Can’t America Change?</td>
<td>Seymour Hersh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Islam and the Preservation of the Natural Environment</td>
<td>Seyyed Hossein Nasr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Women in Qatar: Quotas, Qualifications, and Qatarization</td>
<td>Sheikha Aisha Al-Thani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The Core of our Religious Traditions</td>
<td>Karen Armstrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The U.S.-Saudi Arabia Relationship</td>
<td>Michael C. Hudson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Did Democracy Lose this Round? And Why?</td>
<td>Azmi Bishara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy</td>
<td>John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**CIRS Facebook Page (July 2019-June 2020)**

- **4.8k Page Followers**
- **17.8k Total Reach**

**Top Followers by Country**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Followers</th>
<th>% of Total Followers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>22.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top Facebook Post**

Center for International and Regional Studies
February 9
CIRS Georgetown University in Qatar Associate Dean Zahra Batar’s new research on #Gender and #Mobility: #Qatar’s Highly Skilled Female #Immigrants, co-authored with Nabil Al-Marzuki, Michael Coons, and Miriam Shawkat.
Read more at http://bitly/BatarGenderMobility2020

1,448 People Reached
48 Reactions, Comments & Shares

- 39 Likes
- 3 Loves
- 4 Comments
- 2 Shares

- 67 Photo Views
- 11 Link Clicks
- 72 Other Clicks

**CIRS Instagram Page (As of June 2020)**

**Top Instagram Posts**

- CIRS Georgetown University in Qatar (March 2020)
- CIRS Georgetown University in Qatar (February 2020)

**Age of CIRS Instagram Page Followers**

- 30-44 years: 34%
- 25-34 years: 28%
- 35-44 years: 18%
- 45-54 years: 10%
- 55-64 years: 6%
- 65+ years: 5%
CIRS STAFF

Mehran Kamrava
Director
- Directs all CIRS activities
- Authors and edits manuscripts
- Lectures on Middle East politics

Zahra Babar
Associate Director for Research
- Initiates, develops, and oversees CIRS research initiatives
- Oversees fellows program
- Oversees grant cycles

Suzy Mirmian
Assistant Director for Publications
- Manages CIRS publications
- Manages website and social media
- Collaborates on research initiatives

Jackie Starbird
Publications and Projects Assistant
- Writes, edits, and designs publications
- Manages publicity
- Assists with research initiatives

Maram Al-Qershi
Administrative Coordinator
- Coordinates logistics for fellows, lecturers, and working groups
- Handles Director’s schedule
- Manages CURA student fellows

Misba Bhatti
Research Analyst
- Conducts background research for CIRS research initiatives
- Contributes to CIRS publications
- Develops CIRS online research profiles

Elizabeth Wanucha
Operations Manager
- Manages grant cycles
- Organizes working group meetings
- Assists with planning CIRS research initiatives

Adrieann Perez
Office Assistant
- Welcomes guests to CIRS
- Performs clerical duties
- Assists with organizing CIRS lectures and events
CIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad, Professor and Former President, Qatar University
Ahmad Dallal, Dean, Georgetown University in Qatar
Rochelle Davis, Director, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University
Rami Khouri, Former Director, The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut
Sir Timothy Lankester, Chairman of the Council, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London
Ellen Lust, Associate Professor of Political Science and Founding Director, The Program on Governance and Local Development, Yale University
Suad Joseph, Distinguished Research Professor of Anthropology and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, University of California, Davis
Alistair G. Routledge, President and General Manager, ExxonMobil Qatar

CIRS STEERING COMMITTEE

SONIA ALONSO SAENZ DE OGER
Georgetown University in Qatar

ANATOL LIEVEN
Georgetown University in Qatar

RORY MILLER
Georgetown University in Qatar

PHOEBE MUSANDU
Georgetown University in Qatar

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP PARTICIPANTS

WORKING GROUPS & RESEARCH ROUNDTABLES

RUSSIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Working Group II
August 25–26, 2019

Participants and Discussants:

Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Leonid Issaev, National Research University in Moscow, Russia
Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Andrei Korobkov, Middle Tennessee State University, US
Nickolay Kozhanov, Qatar University
Sergey Markedonov, MGIMO Institute for International Studies, Russia
Joshua Mitchell, Georgetown University in Qatar
Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Samuel Ramani, University of Oxford, UK
Jackie Starbird, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Ghoncheh Tazmini, London Middle East Institute at SOAS, UK
Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Yahia H. Zoubir, KEDGE Business School, France

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST
Working Group II
September 29, 2019

Participants and Discussants:

Adel Abdel Ghafar, Brookings Doha Center, Qatar
Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Esfandyar Batmanghelidj, Bourse & Bazaar, Iran
Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Angela Joya, University of Oregon, US
Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Ashraf Mishrif, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
Abdul Rehmaan QaYYum, Georgetown University in Qatar
Khushboo Shah, Georgetown University in Qatar
Jackie Starbird, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
Kian Tajbakhsh, Columbia University, US
Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
FOOTBALL IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Working Group I
October 27–28, 2019

Participants and Discussants:
- Abdullah Al-Arian, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Ziad A. Akl, Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Cairo
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Simon Chadwick, Centre for the Eurasian Sport Industry, France
- Valter Di Salvo, Qatar Football Association and ASPIRE Academy
- Alireza Farsi, Shahid Beheshti University, Iran
- Thomas Ross Griffin, Qatar University
- Wadih Ishac, Qatar University
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Craig LaMay, Northwestern University in Qatar
- John McManus, British Institute, Turkey
- Maher Mezahi, Independent, Algeria
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Yagmur Nuhrat, Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey
- Danyel Reiche, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Ramón Spaaij, Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia
- Mohamed Evren Tok, Hamad bin Khalifa University in Doha, Qatar
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar

TUNISIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ARAB UPRISINGS
Working Group I
November 10, 2019

Participants and Discussants:
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Alexandra Blackman, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Amel Benkhem, European Council on Foreign Relations
- Mongi Boughzala, University of Tunis El-Manar
- Edwige Fortier, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London
- Zoulhira Gabisi, Daekin University, Australia
- Ruth Hanau Santini, Università Orientale, Italy
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Enrique Klaus, Galatasaray University, Turkey
- Fabio Merone, University of Ghent, Belgium
- Alyssa Miller, University of Pennsylvania
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Marina Ottaway, Woodrow Wilson Center
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Irene Weipert-Fenner, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)
- Mohamed Zayani, Georgetown University in Qatar

THE GCC CRISIS: QATAR AND ITS NEIGHBORS
Working Group II
December 1–2, 2019

Participants and Discussants:
- Mariam Ibrahim Al-Hammadi, Qatar University
- Bilent Aras, Sabancı University, Turkey
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Justin Gengler, Qatar University
- Salma Hassabou, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Frank Himpel, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Willy Kempel, Ambassador of Austria to Qatar
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Jocelyn Saga Mitchell, Northwestern University in Qatar
- Gerd Nonneman, Georgetown University in Qatar
- David B. Roberts, King’s College London, UK
- Khushboo Shah, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, Rice University, US
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar

BIG DATA IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Roundtable
January 19–20, 2020

Participants and Discussants:
- Shaza Afifi, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Güneş Aşık, TOBB Economics and Technology University, Turkey
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Mongoljin Batsaikhan, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Chaima Benkerimi, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Charbel Chedrawi, Saint Joseph University, Lebanon
- Salma Hassabou, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Mowafa Housh, Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar
- Zahir Irbani, University of Bradford, UK
- Mark Owen Jones, Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Walid Magdy, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Eid Mohamed, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar
- Emad Mohamed, University of Wolverhampton, UK
- Phoebe Mussandu, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Georgios Papaioannou, University College London (UCL), Qatar
- Khushboo Shah, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Lisa Singh, Georgetown University
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Ingmar Weber, Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI)
- Wajdi Zaghrouni, Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar
ECONOMIC MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES
Roundtable
February 15–16, 2020

Participants and Discussants:
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Payal Banerjee, Smith College
- Katharine M. Donato, Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) – Georgetown University
- Michael Ewers, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Elizabeth Ferris, Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) – Georgetown University
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- B. Lindsay Powell, Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) – Georgetown University
- Sangay Mishra, Drew University
- Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Terry Wotherspoon, University of Saskatchewan
- René Zenteno, The University of Texas at San Antonio
- Min Zhou, University of California, Los Angeles

FOOTBALL IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Working Group II
April 6 and 13, 2020

Participants and Discussants:
- Shaza Afifi, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Abdullah Al-Arian, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Ibrahim Al-Houdaiby, Columbia University
- Simon Chadwick, Salford University, UK
- Thomas Griffin, Qatar University
- Salma Hassabou, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- John McManus, British Institute, Turkey
- Maher Mezahi, Independent Football Journalist, Algeria
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Yagmur Nuhrat, Istanbul Bilgi University
- Ramon Spaaij, Victoria University
- Jackie Starbird, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Danyel Reiche, American University of Beirut
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar

TUNISIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ARAB UPRISINGS
Working Group II
June 2020

Participants and Discussants:
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Jackie Starbird, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar

CIRS RESEARCH AFFILIATES
CIRS GU-QATAR FACULTY FELLOW 2019-2020
- Karine Wälther, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Uday Chandra, Georgetown University in Qatar

CIRS QATAR UNIVERSITY FACULTY FELLOW 2019-2020
- Huda Al-Kubaisi, Qatar University

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- Danyel Reiche and Tamir Sorek, eds., Sport, Politics, and Society in the Middle East (Oxford University Press/Hurst, 2019).

JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUES

- Ayman Shabana, guest ed., ”Science and Scientific Production in the Middle East,” CIRS Special Issue of Sociology of Islam 8, no. 2 (2020).
**Occasional Papers**

- Nael Shama, "To Shoot or to Defect? Military Responses to the Arab Uprisings," *CIRS Occasional Paper no. 22* (Doha, Qatar: Center for International and Regional Studies, 2019).
- Stéphane Valter, "Norm and Dissidence: Egyptian Shi’ a between Security Approaches and Geopolitical Stakes," *CIRS Occasional Paper no. 23* (Doha, Qatar: Center for International and Regional Studies, 2019).

**Arabic Summary Reports**

- "الأسرة في شبه الجزيرة العربية" (مواقع التعددية: سياسة المجتمع في الشرق الأوسط)، تقرير مركز الدراسات الدولي والإقليمية العربي الموجز رقم 23 (الدوحة، قطر: مركز الدراسات الدولي والإقليمية، 2019).
- "مواقع التعددية: سياسة المجتمع في الشرق الأوسط" (مواقع التعددية: سياسة المجتمع في الشرق الأوسط)، تقرير مركز الدراسات الدولي والإقليمية العربي الموجز رقم 25 (الدوحة، قطر: مركز الدراسات الدولي والإقليمية، 2019).

**Policy Brief**


**CURA Paper**


**Publications by CIRS Scholars**


**Community Outreach Calendar of Events**

**AUGUST 2019**

- RUSSIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST
  Working Group II: August 25–26, 2019

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

  Karine Walther, *Georgetown University in Qatar* CIRS Dialogue Series: September 18, 2019

- POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST
  Working Group II: September 29, 2019

**OCTOBER 2019**

- THE ART OF HEARING AND SEEING DATA
  CURA Workshop with Uday Chandra, *Georgetown University in Qatar* October 10, 2019

**Football in the Middle East**
- Working Group I: October 27–28, 2019

**Sport, Politics, and Society in the Middle East**
- Danael Reiche, *American University of Beirut*
- CIRS Dialogue Series: October 28, 2019

**November 2019**
- *Tunisia in the Aftermath of the Arab Uprisings*
  - CIRS Faculty Research Initiative
  - Working Group I: November 10, 2019

- *The Global Majlis: “My Experience with International Organizations”*
  - H.E. Dr. Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, *Ministry of Qatar*
  - CIRS Dialogue Series: November 27, 2019

**December 2019**
- *The GCC Crisis: Qatar and Its Neighbors*
  - Working Group II: December 1–2, 2019

**January 2020**
- *Polarized & Demobilized: Legacies of Authoritarianism in Palestine*
  - Dana El Kurd, *Doha Institute for Graduate Studies*
  - CIRS Focused Discussion: January 13, 2020

- *CURA Open House*
  - January 14, 2020

- *Big Data in the Middle East*
  - Roundtable: January 19–20, 2020

- *Evaluating Credibility: Sources for Academic Research*
  - CURA Workshop with Professor Jim Reardon-Anderson, *Georgetown University in Qatar*, and Paschalia Terzi, *GU-Q Librarian, Instructional Services*
  - January 23, 2020

- *Qatari Cases before International Dispute Settlement Fora*
  - Mohammed Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, *Dean of the College of Law at Qatar University*
  - CIRS Dialogue Series: January 27, 2020

**February 2020**
- *Economic Migration to the United States*
  - Roundtable: February 15–16, 2020

- *Fascism 2.0: Lessons from Democracy in India*
  - Uday Chandra, *Georgetown University in Qatar*
  - CIRS Focused Discussion: February 25, 2020

**March 2020**
- *Football in the Middle East*
  - CURA Seminar: March 19, 2020

**April 2020**
  - Adithi Sanjay, *Georgetown University in Qatar*
  - CURA Paper Seminar: April 9, 2020

- *Sonic Connections and Diasporic Belonging: Malayalam Radio in Qatar*
  - Irene Promodh, *Georgetown University in Qatar*
  - CURA Research Presentation: April 14, 2020

- *Football in the Middle East*
  - Working Group II: April 6 and 13, 2020

- *CURA Spotlight on Undergraduate Publishing*
  - CURA Workshop with Suzi Mirgani, Jackie Starbird, and Chaïmaa Benkermi
  - April 23, 2020

**June 2020**
- *Tunisia in the Aftermath of the Arab Uprisings*
  - CIRS Faculty Research Initiative
  - Working Group II: June 22–29, 2020

**CIRS Undergraduate Research Advancement (CURA) Calendar of Events**

**CURA Fellows 2019-2020**
- Hussam AitelQadi, Research Fellow for Professor Karine Walther
- Wesley Chan, Research Fellow for Professor Uday Chandra
- Anji Effat, Research Fellow for Professor Karine Walther

**Research Fellows**
- Yasmine Fade
- Janan Iranbomy
- Ngoc Nguyen
- Irene Ann Promodh
- Abdul Rehmaan Qayyum
- Bilal Tahir

**Administrative Fellows**
- Salma Hassabou
- Khushboo Shah
CURA WORKSHOPS

The Art of Hearing and Seeing Data
CURA Workshop with Uday Chandra, Georgetown University in Qatar
October 10, 2019

Evaluating Credibility: Sources for Academic Research
CURA Workshop with Professor Jim Reardon-Anderson, Georgetown University in Qatar, and Paschalia Terzi, GU-Q Librarian, Instructional Services
January 23, 2020

CURA Spotlight on Undergraduate Publishing
CURA Workshop with Suzi Mirgani, Jackie Starbird, Center for International and Regional Studies, and Chaïmaa Benkermi, Georgetown University in Qatar
April 23, 2020

CURA SEMINARS

Political Economy of the Contemporary Middle East
CURA Seminar
September 26, 2019

Participants and Discussants:
- Shaza Afifi, CURA Publications Fellow
- Younis Al-Agha, CURA Publications Fellow
- Chaïmaa Benkermi, CURA Publications Fellow
- Yasmine Fade, CURA Research Fellow
- Salma Hassabou, CURA Administrative Fellow
- Irene Ann Promodh, CURA Research Fellow
- Abdul Rehmaan Qayyum, CURA Research Fellow
- Khushboo Shah, CURA Administrative Fellow
- Janan Iranbomy, CURA Research Fellow
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar

Football in the Middle East
CURA Seminar
March 19, 2020

Participants and Discussants:
- Shaza Afifi, CURA Publications Fellow
- Chaïmaa Benkermi, CURA Publications Fellow
- Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Salma Hassabou, CURA Administrative Fellow
- Janan Iranbomy, CURA Research Fellow
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar

CURA Paper Series Seminar

Adithi Sanjay, Georgetown University in Qatar
April 9, 2020

Participants and Discussants:
- Shaza Afifi, CURA Publications Fellow
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Chaïmaa Benkermi, CURA Publications Fellow
- Misba Bhatti, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Salma Hassabou, CURA Administrative Fellow
- Janan Iranbomy, CURA Research Fellow
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar
- Ngoc Nguyen, CURA Research Fellow
- Irene Ann Promodh, CURA Research Fellow
- Adithi Sanjay, Georgetown University in Qatar
- Khushboo Shah, CURA Administrative Fellow
- Bilal Tahir, CURA Research Fellow
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University in Qatar

CURA Research Presentation

Sonic Connections and Diasporic Belonging: Malayalam Radio in Qatar
Irene Promodh, Georgetown University in Qatar
April 14, 2020

CONNECT WITH CIRS
- CIRS Website: cirs.georgetown.edu
- To be placed in the mailing list, please contact cirsrresearch@georgetown.edu
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/CIRSGUQ
- Twitter: @CIRSGUQ
- Instagram: @CIRSGUQ
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/CIRSSFSQ
Center for International and Regional Studies
Georgetown University in Qatar
Education City, Qatar Foundation
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Doha, State of Qatar

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