About the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

Founded in 1789, Georgetown University is a student-centered international research university offering highly ranked undergraduate, graduate and professional programs preparing the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a positive impact in the world. The outstanding students, faculty, alumni and professionals of Georgetown are dedicated to real-world applications of research, scholarship, faith and service. For more information, please visit the website: www.georgetown.edu.

Founded in 1919, the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service (SFS) is a premier school of international affairs. At Georgetown's Washington, D.C. and Doha, Qatar campuses, SFS provides a rigorous education combining theory and practice while instilling the values of men and women in the service of others. At SFS-Qatar, students have the opportunity to major in Culture and Politics, International History, International Economics, and International Politics with the same curriculum as that available to students in Washington. For more information, please visit the official website: qatar.sfs.georgetown.edu.

About the Center for International and Regional Studies

Established in 2005, the Center for International and Regional Studies at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service 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, Emir of Qatar, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. QF carries out its mission via three strategic pillars: education, science and research, and community development. For more information, visit www.qf.org.qa.

This publication is made possible by the generous support of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.
جامعة جورجتاون
كلية الشؤون الدولية في قطر

الذكرى العاشرة للتأسيس
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The Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) focuses on research and scholarship, publications, faculty development, and public affairs programming. 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 conferences and seminars, and holding workshops 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...”
1. Research and Scholarship

CIRS organizes several working groups that convene in Doha and Washington, DC, to examine a variety of issues pertinent to the Gulf region and the Middle East. The primary purpose of these projects is to fill in existing research gaps and to contribute toward furthering knowledge on prevailing issues related to the security, economic stability, and politics of the Gulf and the wider Middle East. Each CIRS research initiative involves a working group made up of prominent scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from the Middle East, the Gulf region, and beyond. Invited participants contribute to the initiative by conducting original research, and submitting papers written on a specific topic related to the research.

Our goal is to contribute to the existing body of knowledge in the region through supporting and funding a wide variety of original and empirically-based research. Through regular working group meetings, CIRS creates a scholarly forum where our grant recipients share their research findings with other international academics, policymakers, and practitioners.

Please see Appendix 2 for a full list of participants at each working group meeting.
This multi-disciplinary research initiative examines unfolding experiences of transitional justice across the Middle East in the aftermath of the Arab uprisings. Transitional justice has received significant scholarly attention in many other parts of the world, focusing on authoritarian regimes moving toward democracy. While there has been limited academic exploration of transitional justice in relation to the Middle East, recent events in the region have reinvigorated interest in the topic.

Regional and international scholars and experts were invited to Doha for the second phase of the research initiative, where they submitted their chapter contributions and solicited feedback from their fellow working group members. The papers tackle a variety of themes and topics, ranging from theoretical underpinnings of transitional justice, to country-specific case studies examining the pursuit of transitional justice and its implications. At the conclusion of the research initiative, CIRS submitted the collected chapters for publication by a university press.

The implementation of transitional justice mechanisms in the Middle East is a relatively recent phenomenon and, as such, regional scholarly analysis and debates are in their nascent stages. A significant amount of literature on transitional justice has focused on other parts of the world such as Latin America and Eastern Europe. However, due to the complexities of transitions and variations between different national and political contexts, there are no universal transitional justice mechanisms or tools that can be unilaterally applied. One size does not fit all in transitional justice, but a comparative examination of global experiences allows us to gain a nuanced understanding of the questions that need to be asked in relation to transitional justice processes and goals.
CIRS held the first working group meeting for this initiative, inviting academics from various backgrounds to discuss their original research interests. The topics ranged from the effects of digital technology on the Arab uprisings to state measures undertaken to incorporate such technologies into everyday life. The Arab uprisings have invigorated the interest of scholars, journalists, and policymakers in the political role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the Middle East. Digital communication technologies have provided open networks and communication flows to a region rife with authoritarian control and generally depicted as information-averse.

The participants focused on how the sociopolitical landscape of the Arab world has changed in part due to ICTs. In Egypt and Iran, youth have taken to ICTs to express their discontent towards political regimes, economic conditions, and social injustices. The decentralized nature of the digital media model has led to mass social movements in several Arab states, helping to facilitate the fall of some regimes and the severe weakening of others. In the Gulf states, digital anonymity in places like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait has provided an outlet for youth to express themselves online without fear of reprisal. As a result, political experiences are no longer isolated to the offline world; they are incorporated in digital form and transverse physical, cultural, and national boundaries.

In this research initiative, CIRS explores access to the digital realm in the Middle East, how the Internet and digital ICTs are being utilized by various actors, the materiality and context in which they are being used, and how these instruments can be used for individual, local, national, and global social, economic, and political transformations.
Academics from various disciplines gathered in Doha to discuss evolving national and regional security dynamics, and to identify research gaps that need to be addressed. The group drew attention to different, prevailing definitions of security, including military, regime, and human security. Amongst other themes, the participants debated existing security arrangements in the Gulf and how regional relations may pose threats to individual Gulf states’ national interests.

The participants focused on the theory of securitization. Classical approaches to security concentrate on the measurable characteristics of a threat, such as balance of power and military capabilities. Securitization theory examines how certain issues are transformed into security concerns by the state or by political actors and other stakeholders. State security usually hinges upon military, regime, and resource stability. As a result, state surveillance mechanisms are effective safeguards in ensuring the legitimacy and stability of the regimes in power. In places such as Bahrain, there are sectarian angles that need to be accounted for. Other forms of threat perception identify political, human, and environmental concerns—all factors that can contribute to a population’s feelings of “relative deprivation.” More recently, in the Gulf, human insecurity has been exacerbated by the interventions of non-state actors such as ISIS.

This project scrutinizes the ways in which domestic security threats in the region are evolving, and how newer challenges related to human security are being reinforced by—and in some ways actually replacing—military threats emanating from regional and outside actors. Since there has been limited exploration of the deeper, structural issues that threaten the region, CIRS will contribute to the literature by publishing the chapters as an edited volume towards the conclusion of this research initiative.
In partnership with the youth-oriented social organization, Silatech, CIRS launched this research initiative with a two-day working group meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) at Georgetown University’s campus in Washington, DC, where participants and experts in the field gathered from various countries of the world and from a multitude of disciplinary backgrounds.

The participants discussed the need to define the particular factors that constitute “youth” as a subset of society. They argued that the category can differ dramatically depending on particular cultural contexts. In some cases, especially for those with low or no income and those who inhabit conflict zones, young people are often prematurely obliged to take on adult roles and responsibilities in terms of marriage, employment, or heading a household, thus curtailing the notion of “youth” as experienced by their cohorts in other parts of the world. Local national youth in the GCC states do not necessarily share the same economic hardships as the young economic South Asian migrants in the region, but they do share similar forms of political exclusion as experienced by their counterparts in other areas of the Arab world.

Other issues discussed include refugees and forced migration; GCC nationalization policies; and youth self-expression in public spaces as well as online. The participants encouraged investigation into broader theoretical questions involving the future of political Islam and democratization efforts. They offered policy recommendations that could be implemented across the Middle East and North Africa, and ways of promoting resilience rather than violence through a variety of avenues, including cultural and educational activities, as well as means of removing entry barriers to the market by encouraging grass-roots businesses.
This initiative includes academics representing the South Caucasus states of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia, as well as scholars from Iran and Turkey. The participants discussed a number of issues and identified existing gaps in the literature. Some of the topics discussed included the new geopolitical competition in the South Caucasus and the role of external actors, energy diplomacy, soft power politics, and a variety of societal and ethnic dynamics shaping the region.

The participants considered the changing geopolitical environment in the South Caucasus, the rise of competition between external powers, and the emergence of new actors. China exhibits an interest in expanding its role in the region with initiatives like the People’s Liberation Army’s agreement signed with the Armenian military. In Georgia, the Orthodox Church has been receiving Russian money, whereby this and other engagements with civil society demonstrate Russia’s interest in shaping domestic policies in its neighborhood. Pipeline politics have also encouraged political and financial connections between Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, and influences regional geopolitical competition.

While scholarship on the region has tended to view the North and South Caucasus as two distinct areas, the working group participants suggested that these regions share similar economic and political conditions. Additionally, cross-border and transnational connections, such as the Lezgian population in southern Dagestan and northern Azerbaijan, continue to draw the involvement of external actors like Russia.

CIRS launched this research initiative to provide further insight into the complex relationships and connections between the states of West Asia in geographic, political, and sociocultural terms.
Participants gathered to discuss their research findings and to obtain peer feedback on their chapter submissions to this CIRS research initiative. The topics discussed covered a wide range of healthcare issues, including the historical transformation of health services in the Gulf region and the status of mental health and substance abuse issues that have arisen as a result of changing lifestyle patterns.

The participants gave a historical overview of the healthcare systems of each GCC state, and detailed the phases of their evolution. Another topic of analysis was human resources in the health sector, where non-physician positions such as nursing or technical staff are often hired from abroad due to the lack of local medical institutions that train individuals in these professions. These conditions are changing, as both Qatar and Oman have recently opened nursing colleges to train the local and expatriate population based on the hiring needs of the local health sector.

The participants questioned whether the lack of local experts in the health sector can be attributed to structural limitations of demography and whether the establishment of medical schools can be considered an integral part of the state-building process.

The rapid modernization experienced by Gulf societies has created a myriad of mental and physical diseases as a result of unhealthy and affluent lifestyles. Examples of lifestyle diseases that have emerged in the region are cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and obesity. The purpose of this research initiative is to determine the economic, political, and social implications of such ailments as well as of healthcare management in the region. This project examines existing conditions of healthcare systems in the GCC, identifies challenges and pressures on regional countries and societies, and assesses the degree to which the policymaking apparatus is attempting to meet these challenges.
This initiative examines how structural and ideational forces of change are reflected in the everyday lives of Gulf families. Few studies have explored the challenges facing the Gulf family in the context of the global forces at play in the region. In order to contribute original research, CIRS awarded five grant proposals to scholars in order for them to conduct fieldwork on topics related to the Gulf family. The participants discussed gaps in the scholarship, including issue related to tribalism, mixed marriages, and the effects of religious education on family dynamics.

The Gulf family as unit of society has undergone many changes over the past sixty years. In understanding the historical importance of the Gulf family, one has to structure a narrative that includes the different tribes and ethnicities that have resided in the region. By challenging the idea that the Gulf family is contingent on consanguinity for its existence, modern discursive narratives can be further disseminated. This illustrates historical constructions around nationalism, modernization, and class.

The impact of modernization can be found in the religious, linguistic, and educational aspects of family life in Gulf states. In an effort to understand the societal forces affecting the institution of marriage, the discussants recognized the intensive structural transformations it has undergone over the years. Given the rising statistics of divorce, the legal systems’ negligence towards reforming child custody law has become increasingly problematic. Family law reforms have traditionally focused on the relationship between spouses, often neglecting the parent-child relationship that determines custody and guardianship. These are just some of the topics that will be examined during the course of this research initiative.

See page 18 for more on the awarded projects.
Participants were invited to Doha in order to discuss their papers and to obtain feedback from their fellow working group members. The initiative covers a variety of issues related to the digital in the Middle East, including how video game developments act as cultural artifacts and alternative spaces for contestation; the challenges associated with the introduction and implementation of intellectual property laws; and how many regional governments are increasingly engaging in e-governance and e-commerce platforms.

The discussants explored the overall economic impact of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the region, and whether the Internet can be translated into productivity outcomes, as well as how multi-modality in the digital sphere has led to changing behavior patterns in friendships and personal relationships. Further issues related to freedom of the Internet and online censorship were raised in relation to state power. States have benefited from the digital environment as a domain to exert their power. When thinking of civic engagement and digital media, both fields and spaces suffer from being agnostic towards structure. To get past this agnosticism, one must develop an observable appreciation for infrastructure but also cultivate an understanding of the underlying technocratic issues that exist in digital media. Further general observations were made as to how Middle Eastern governments and societies were moving towards online platforms.

Additional areas of research elaborated on ethnographies showcasing lived experiences of ordinary citizens during the Arab uprisings and protestors’ daily interactions with technology. As a result, the participants pushed for a more nuanced definition of mediation, arguing that its application to media environments in the Middle East needs further justification.
A working group of scholars from China, the Middle East, and the US met to discuss the main features, trends, and implications of the multi-faceted relationship between China and the Middle East. The foundations of China’s engagement with the Middle East have been primarily economic in nature, and based on the trade of energy commodities. The Middle East has assumed an important position in China’s global economic vision, which sees the Middle East as a key part of its contemporary “Silk Road” initiative, which is an effort to better connect China to the rest of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. This economic relationship is evolving steadily, and China is increasingly investing capital in the region.

A consequence of this economic relationship has been the growth of sociocultural connections between China and the Middle East, with some 200,000 Chinese living in Dubai alone. As part of an Islamic education, a large number of Chinese Muslims study Arabic in China, but also in Syria and Iran.

China’s engagement of the Middle East is undergoing many significant changes. One area in which this is reflected is the increasing Chinese trend towards multilateral engagement in the region. Despite these efforts, the participants highlighted the lack of an overarching Chinese “grand strategy” in the Middle East. They proposed the exploration of internal Chinese discussions about the country’s role in the Middle East, and to analyze the primary state mechanisms guiding Chinese-Arab relations. In order to ascertain a better understanding of China in the Middle East, the participants advocated for the examination of the key institutional actors within China, their respective roles, and their mutual interactions.
The topics that emerged during this second meeting covered a wide range of issues, including the politics of succession in Gulf monarchies, the rise of ISIS, business and politics, and the emerging energy landscape.

In the wake of the Arab uprisings, the Gulf regimes in power have been facing severe policy dilemmas. The three Gulf wars altered the positioning of the GCC states vis-à-vis Iran and Iraq, and accelerated their integration into the Western military and security umbrella. The emergence of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and the occupation of Iraq demonstrated how non-state violence was replacing inter-state conflict as the primary threat to regional security and stability. More recently, the threat posed by the Islamic State is confronting all the Gulf states. Saudi Arabia is particularly at risk from the ideological threat that ISIS presents. The scholars debated the strengths and limitations of a succession model in Gulf politics, and the United Arab Emirates’ behavior as a small state was also put into question. Due to the size and capacity of the Emirati army and air force, relative to other small states in the region, small state theory could not be applied to the UAE’s foreign policy decisions that encompass both soft and hard power.

The production of oil and shale gas in the US as a result of fracking and horizontal drilling has had strategic implications for the energy landscape in the GCC. The participants hypothesized whether the new US energy outlook corresponded to a reduction in its military and strategic engagement in the Middle East. The participants also questioned the nature of the new ruling bargains in the Gulf—if ruling families continue to believe that security requirements trump democratization processes, what would be the implications for Gulf societies in the future?
RE-EMERGING WEST ASIA, WORKING GROUP II
June 14-15, 2015

During this second meeting, the participants discussed the impact of history and empire on the structure of West Asia, which has been defined by the rule and collapse of three great imperial powers. While the post-Soviet countries of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia have remained mostly internally stable since the fall of the Soviet Union, a new regional hegemon has not emerged to replace the USSR. The modernization project has been difficult due to the need for an ideological and cultural hegemony that can be extended to large sections of the populations. The scholars suggested a need for a more nuanced definition of nationalism in relation to the modernization project in the South Caucasus.

Pipeline politics of the South Caucasus is an area where Turkey, Iran, and Russia have often competed. The significance of this region lies in its natural resources and in the multiple routes that connect the South Caucasus with the larger Caspian Sea reserves. Power leverage differs between the three countries: Iran has ample energy resources and is in a good geopolitical position, Turkey has no resources but has a unique location and soft power, and Russia has both energy reserves and hard power.

The participants discussed how, in the post-Soviet era, issues of ethnicity in Iran and Azerbaijan have influenced political and social relations. The scholars suggested that, in Azerbaijan, ethnicity has been used as a political lever in devising policy, but in Iran ethnic issues have taken a back seat in terms of foreign policy relations. Both Iran and Turkey have struggled with providing the ethnic Kurdish population with the legitimacy that it needs. Other topics covered during the meeting included a historical overview of the region’s geopolitics, civil society, pipeline politics, the power of non-state actors, and the rise of oligarchs and white-collar criminal networks in the South Caucasus.
2. Faculty Development

CIRS provides a number of development opportunities to the faculty of Georgetown University in Qatar, including a year-long annual fellowship position, research workshops designed for in-depth discussion of a faculty member's forthcoming publication, grants awarded for original research projects, and international travel and outreach opportunities.

CIRS Faculty Fellows

CIRS provides two annual year-long fellowship positions awarded to faculty members from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar and Qatar University.

☐ CIRS SFS-Q Faculty Fellow

Amira El-Zein

Amira El-Zein is Associate Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, and author of *Islam, Arabs, and the Intelligent World of the Jinn*. She is a published poet in Arabic, French, and English. During her fellowship, El-Zein worked on a project titled, “Contemporary Saudi Literature: The Grueling Adaption to Modernity.” The research argues that contemporary Saudi literature conveys the dilemma of Saudi society torn between fascination with everything Western and obligations to unbending traditions. The research interprets novels and poems that mirror the ordeals Saudi people experience when they challenge the rules of the establishment.

☐ CIRS Qatar University Fellow

Ahmad Alown

Ahmad Alown is a Qatari researcher who earned his Ph.D. in Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Heritage (*Fiqh* and *Usul Alfiqh*) from the International Islamic University in Malaysia. Among Alown's publications are “The Sharia Ruling on Currencies Commerce According to Margin System” in *The Jordan Journal of Islamic Studies*, and “Sharia Principles for the Electronic Commerce in the International Currencies.” During his fellowship, Alown worked on a research project titled, “Effect of Religious Education on the Development of Ethics in Contemporary Society: An Applied Study on Curricula of Religious Education Qatar.”
Faculty Research Workshops

The CIRS Faculty Research Workshop, in the form of a closed-door, one-day seminar, gathers together a small number of scholars and experts in the field to critique a book manuscript authored by a Georgetown University in Qatar faculty member.

Ian Almond Faculty Research Workshop
November 16, 2014

Ian Almond, Professor of World Literature at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, headed a CIRS Faculty Research Workshop to discuss his latest work examining the related ideas of melancholy, political conservatism, and native informancy. The book takes the figure of a twentieth century Indian thinker, Nirad C. Chaudhuri, and considers the author’s oeuvre under the changing optics of a number of different topics—all in an attempt to understand how an Indian intellectual such as Chaudhuri was able to defend passionately the legacy of the British Empire, and even slander the culture and mentality of his fellow Indians. Almond also extended this to present-day “native informants” such as Fareed Zakaria, Fouad Ajami, and Enrique Krause.

Under the rubric of four different approaches—Islam, the archive, melancholy, and Empire—Almond not only enters into the intricacies of Chaudhuri’s intellectual constitution, but also develop insights into the internalization and reproduction of ideology. Each chapter of the book articulates the Indian context of the investigation—what Chaudhuri’s peers in the Bengali and wider Indian tradition had to say about Muslims or sadness or libraries—but also brings in a strong comparative dimension. In one chapter, for example, the book considers the year 1947 in three different cities—Calcutta, Mexico City, and Istanbul—and examines three melancholy texts that were being written in those cities that year: Autobiography of an Unknown Indian, El Laberinto de la Soledad, and the Turkish novel, Huzur.
Jeremy Koons, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, headed a Faculty Workshop to discuss his book, *Unity Without Uniformity: A Synoptic Vision of the Normative and the Natural*, which was co-authored with Michael P. Wolf, Associate Professor at Washington and Jefferson College. The book draws on the pragmatist tradition of philosophers Wittgenstein and Sellars to defend an alternative conception of normative discourse. It also draws on other elements of the pragmatist tradition, stretching from philosophers Peirce to Brandom, to show how normative claims are constrained, and how this constraint, combined with the way in which normative claims are accountable to reason and argumentation, prevents any fall into relativism.

The book discusses how people’s lives ineliminably involve the normative. Scientists and laymen alike make epistemic and methodological judgments (judging a theory as rational, a method as biased, and so on). People make prudential judgments, but have to make the normative fit within their dominant, naturalist view of the world: in some sense, science offers a privileged account of what there is, and other disciplines cannot make claims incompatible with a scientific world-view. A longstanding challenge for philosophers has been to fit the normative within this naturalistic picture of the world. Dominant naturalist approaches to this challenge try to fit normativity into a scientific world-view by showing how normative claims describe some aspect of physical reality. The authors argue that this approach is fundamentally misguided, and fails to do justice to the prescriptive (“ought-to-be” or “ought-to-do”) element of normative discourse.

The book shows the various ways in which descriptive discourses—such as scientific and social-scientific discourses—and normative discourses mutually contribute to each other in fruitful ways. The result is a picture of normativity that is robust and truth-apt, sewn into a new take on the naturalist tradition.
Harry Verhoeven, Assistant Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, led a CIRS Faculty Research Workshop to discuss his forthcoming book, *Why Comrades Go To War: Post-Liberation Politics and the Outbreak of Africa’s Deadliest Conflict*. The book is co-authored with Philip Roessler, Assistant Professor in the Government department at the College of William and Mary. The manuscript emerged from field research in Congo, Rwanda, Angola, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Tanzania, South Africa, Belgium, Italy, the UK, and the US. It draws on interviews with the protagonists of the most lethal conflict since World War II.

The book discusses how, in October 1996, a motley crew of ageing Marxists and unemployed Tutsi youth coalesced to revolt against the regime of Mobutu Seso Seko, Zaire’s president since 1965. Backed by Rwandan and Ugandan firepower, the rebels marched over one thousand kilometers in seven months to crush the dictatorship. The revolutionaries and their foreign backers heralded the overthrow of Mobutu in May 1997 as an opportunity to restore stability and democracy in the heart of the continent. Across the world, the liberation of Zaire (renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo) was hailed as a second independence for Central Africa as a whole.

This book, drawing on hundreds of interviews with protagonists from DRC, Rwanda, Angola, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Eritrea as well as diplomats, politicians, and observers from Belgium, the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and France, offers a novel theoretical and empirical account of Africa’s Great War. Bridging the gap between comparative politics and international relations, the authors argue that one cannot explain the breakdown of the AFDL and the outbreak of the second Congo war without understanding the two-level game that arises in post-liberation states, in which elite bargaining within the new regime and the regional balance of power intersect and are mutually constitutive.
Members of CIRS and Georgetown University in Qatar faculty traveled to Singapore to engage in a series of bilateral research meetings with partner institutions, deliver public lectures, and collaborate on future research agendas with Singapore-based scholars, policymakers, and government officials.

Anatol Lieven, Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, was invited by the EU Centre to deliver a public lecture titled, “The Only Future for Ukraine Lies in Compromise—The Role of the European Union and Russia.” Lieven argued that the origins of the Ukrainian crisis lie in the 2013 moves made by the Russian government and the European Union (EU) to force Ukraine to make a clear choice between a Russian and a Western geopolitical and economic orientation. This was a difficult choice for Ukraine due to deep historical, cultural, ethnic, and economic factors. The greatest advantage of the Western side in the current struggle for Ukraine is the evident superiority of the West’s democratic market model of the state and the economy, as opposed to Russia’s corrupt semi-authoritarian state oligarchy. The needs of the battle with Russia and the Russian-backed separatists are forcing the Ukrainian government to rely heavily on corrupt oligarchs and ultranationalist militias whose goals and culture are antithetical to those of the European Union and may help make further progress of Ukraine towards the European Union impossible. Moreover, while many Ukrainians passionately want EU membership, that membership and its benefits are many years away.

The visiting CIRS and Georgetown faculty delegation was also hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, the Middle East Institute (MEI), the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), the East Asia Institute, and the National Population and Talent Division (NPTD).
CIRS Research Grant Recipients

CIRS awards research grants to scholars interested in the study of issues related to the Gulf region and the broader Middle East. Our goal is to contribute to the existing body of knowledge in the region through supporting original research on a wide variety of topics. Through regular CIRS-sponsored research meetings we create a scholarly forum where our grant recipients share their research findings with other academics, policymakers, and practitioners.

The Gulf Family Grant Cycle

In an effort to understand how structural and ideational forces of change have been reflected in the everyday lives of Gulf families, CIRS launched a grant-funded, multi-disciplinary research initiative to explore questions related to this topic. One of the grants was awarded to Rogaia Abusharaf and Amira Sonbol, faculty researchers at Georgetown University in Qatar.

Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Historicizing the Qatari Family as a Category of Analysis

Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf and Amira Sonbol, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

Qatar enjoys a diversified ethnographic makeup, a byproduct of its geographic location, its proximity to vital trade routes, and the influences of political, economic, and environmental processes beyond its border. It is more than a “Bedouin” or “maritime” society, but a complex mosaic of identities and family backgrounds. These identities are constantly re-negotiated by political and socioeconomic factors, with “boundaries” constantly dissolving and recreated. This project employs a historical ethnography of the Qatari family to unravel its hybridity since the early times of migration to the Peninsula and throughout the pre-oil period, and explores ignored categories such as gender. The family as any structure of sociability is susceptible to change as evidenced in the dramatic change in the concepts of Fareej (residence) and the debate on consanguinity. Although the nature of this change varies in magnitude, the boundaries of the family may still be explored through problematizing the concepts of pure blood and the public/private sphere binary. We collect archival material, personal narratives, examination of the extant literature to probe the underlying processes that led to the segmentation of the large families to illuminate the less salient element of social construction of the family through the lenses of migration, population dynamics and ethnicity as well as gender and marriage.
Families are shaped by a variety of factors, including the social, political, and economic context in which they exist and operate. Equally influential for family structures and family transformations is the legal framework that states establish to govern the family. With regard to family laws in Muslim countries, however, scholarship has largely focused on questions of marriage and divorce and has excluded legal policies directed at the parent-child relationship. Without an adequate understanding of the development of child law regimes and the trends affecting them, we are left with an insufficient analysis of the legal dynamics shaping the family in Muslim-majority countries. This project remedies this gap in the scholarship by examining the notion of “the best interests of the child” as a paramount principle permeating family law in the Arab Gulf in recent years.

The Gulf family is facing a key challenge as a result of higher marriage costs. The bride-price (mahr)—which is the sum of money a man has the obligation to offer to his future bride—is becoming a major concern for the youth, family, and state. The mahr’s dramatic boom is affecting the whole marriage equilibrium, increasing the age at first marriage and the celibacy rate. The consequences range from more frequent mixed marriages and non-conventional ones (misyâr), to psychological problems and conjugal conflicts. Contrary to modernization theory that presumes a breakdown of the mahr system in a context of modernization and urbanization, the mahr has paradoxically risen in Gulf societies. According to theory, educated people who acquired modern norms should be the first to abandon the mahr system, en raison of a greater independence in the spouse selection and fewer arranged marriages. But despite modern influences in the Gulf, the traditional practice of the mahr seems resilient. Using qualitative and quantitative approaches conducted in Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain, our study will contribute to answering fundamental questions regarding matrimonial decision-making and the evolution and main drivers of the bride-price. Semi-directive interviews, a survey, and data collected from marriage registers will all be gathered to fill the literature gap and produce material on the mahr, a micro-familial issue that has a wider impact on the macro level and constitutes a major economic, psychological, and demographic challenge for the development of Gulf nations.

There are growing evidence that mixed marriage is on the rise worldwide and Qatar is no exception to this reality. This research project constitutes the first attempt to study this phenomenon among Qatars thus filling a gap in academic literature and providing bases for policy debate. This research
raises questions concerned with the trends and characteristics of those involved in mixed marriage, the structural determinants of mixed marriages and their consequences for the individuals and their families and communities, as well as Qatari society as a whole. More specifically, this study looks at the role of the macro processes of globalization, international migration, and social differentiation in the rise of mixed marriage over the last thirty years as well as its impact on certain demographics including differential fertility patterns and celibacy. Furthermore, and at the micro level, it looks at variables related to individual motivations for mixed marriage and adjustment of mixed spouses. Furthermore, it addresses state policies and family, community, and society attitudes towards mixed marriage as well as issues of identity of children of mixed marriage and their degree of acceptance within the family, community, and society at large. To address these issues, this project adopts multiple research methods to collect quantitative and qualitative data including 30 face-to-face case studies and a questionnaire on a sample of 600 cases for comparison purposes. Quantitative data is analyzed using SPSS while qualitative data is analyzed using content and thematic analysis. The project details a dissemination plan through participation in seminars, conferences, and publications in peer review journals.

Tribalism and Gulf Family Affairs
Sebastian Maisel, Grand Valley State University

Tribal values have been a fundamental ingredient in the social structure of families in the GCC states. Prior to the discovery of oil, social life was organized around the tribe, and the (extended) family was the backbone of society. This was layered with the economic component of the urban-rural-nomadic divide. The rapid transformation of the GCC states led most families to enter the urban world. Lifestyles, occupations, and material things changed; however, traditional customs and practices remained. This study seeks to understand how much of this ancient notion of tribalism is left in current family practices. I argue that the majority of lower- and middle-class families in the region have retained traditional values of family building and interaction. However, recently, public life in the GCC states witnessed an increase in tribal activities through television programs, literature outlets, legal decisions, and political participation. The study aims to measure the impact of increased public tribalism on domestic family dynamics and representations. The study begins with an overview of past tribal customs from the pre-oil era, while the main body of the study analyzes contemporary expressions of tribalism within the private and public sphere, exploring local, regional, and transnational themes of interest. Revealing the official position of GCC states toward current tribal family practices will be the final component of the study. The research is based on anthropological fieldwork (residence, participant observation, oral histories) in the area and interviews with tribal family members and leaders as well as public officials. Another primary source and forum of tribal expression is the tribal online discussion board, which serves as an uncensored vehicle of tribal self-representation and whose contents are analyzed with regard to new tribal concepts of identities across political and hierarchical boundaries. Local newspaper and research archives will provide another layer of documenting private and official attitudes towards tribalism and family affairs.
3. Publications

CIRS publishes research and related materials in a variety of formats, including books, Occasional Papers, Annual Reports, Newsletters, 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, both in the Gulf region and beyond.

□ Books

■ BEYOND THE ARAB SPRING: THE EVOLVING RULING BARGAIN IN THE MIDDLE EAST (Oxford University Press, 2014)
Edited by Mehran Kamrava

The Arab Spring occurred within the context of the unravelling of the dominant “ruling bargains” that emerged across the Middle East in the 1950s. Across the Arab world, “authority” and “political legitimacy” are in flux. Where power will ultimately reside depends on the shape, voracity, and staying power of these emerging conceptions of authority. This book examines the evolution of ruling bargains, the political systems to which they gave rise, the steady unravelling of the old systems and the structural consequences thereof, and the uprisings that have engulfed much of the Middle East since December 2010.

■ FOOD SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST
(Oxford University Press, 2014)
Edited by Zahra Babar and Suzi Mirgani

This volume comprises original chapters that offer the most comprehensive study available to date on food security in the Middle East. The book proposes a theoretical framing of the phenomena of food security and food sovereignty and presents case studies from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Yemen, the Gulf states, and Iran. Major themes examined include the ascent and decline of food regimes; urban agriculture; overseas agricultural land purchases; national food self-sufficiency strategies, distribution networks, and food consumption patterns; and nutrition transitions and healthcare.
CIRS produces Summary Reports containing detailed background information on all ongoing research initiatives. The reports include synopses of original chapters written by the working group participants for inclusion in the final edited volume.

**Fragile Politics: Weak States in the Greater Middle East**

This Summary Report contains synopses of chapters published in the CIRS book on *Fragile Politics: Weak States in the Greater Middle East*. It contains critical analyses of definitions and terminologies regarding weak and fragile states, and scrutinizes the political implications of the prevailing discourse within the broader Middle East. Employing multidisciplinary perspectives, the research examines the causes and implications of conceptual notions of state fragility across the region in relation to politics and security, economics and natural resources, intra- and inter-state relations, migration and population movements, and the broader regional and global political economies.

**Arab Migrant Communities in the GCC**

This report contains chapter synopses making up the CIRS book on *Arab Migrant Communities in the GCC*. The contributions question assumptions about the Gulf and the Arab world’s exceptionalism insofar as the study of global migration is concerned. The same broader dynamics that undergird the causes, processes, and consequences of migration elsewhere in the world are at work in the Gulf region. Vast economic disparities, chronic political instability, linguistic and cultural affinities, and a jealous guarding of finite economic and citizenship benefits inform push and pull factors and integration possibilities in the Gulf region as they do elsewhere in the world. This research sheds light on this specific, and largely understudied, community of migrants in the region.
التغير الاجتماعي في إيران بعد حقبة الخميني

شكلت الثورة الإيرانية أحد أهم الأحداث التي شهدتها منطقة الشرق الأوسط خلال الخمسين سنة المنصرمة. فقد أفضت هذه الثورة إلى تحوّل جذري في أحد أكبر بلدان المنطقة وأكبرها نفوذاً، وأسفرت عن تداعيات عميقة في الدول المجاورة لإيران وفي كافة أنحاء العالم. وخلال العقود الثلاثة المنصرمة، طرأت تحولات اجتماعية واقتصادية وسياسية ملحوظة وجميلة في الدولة الإيرانية والمجتمع الإيران على السواء. وإذا كان الهدف التوصل إلى فهم شامل لإيران المعاصية، ينبغي البحث ملياً في هذه التغييرات. وفاضياً مع هذه التغييرات، يطلق مركز الدراسات الدولية والإقليمية مبادرة بحثية تجريبية جديدة ترمي إلى دراسة مختلف التغيرات والتطورات الجارية حالياً. وسوف تعتمد هذه الدراسة بعنوان “التغيرات الاجتماعية في إيران بعد حقبة الخميني” إلى البحث بصورة نقدية في المواضيع الأهم التي تبرز في دولة إيران المعاصية، مع التركيز على المجالات الاجتماعية والثقافية والاقتصادية والسياسية.

السياسة الطائفية في منطقة الخليج

إقترحت تيارات معينة من الدراسات أن الصراعات حول الهوية الطائفية تكتن يد كبير في جوهر السياسة شرق الأوسط. وفي حين يغلب بعض العلماء في التأكيد على التأثير المستمر للانقسامات الأيديولوجية الدائرة في المنطقة وانعدام الاستقرار الاجتماعي والسياسي، يقبل آخرون من أهميتها تماماً. و إن أحد أهداف هذا المشروع البحثي هو تحديد مدى تأثير الهوية الطائفية على التطورات السياسية الجارية داخل الخليج. ومن الجدير بالذكر أن الديناميات الطائفية قد تغيرت تغيراً هائلاً على مدى العقود الأخيرة في منطقة الخليج استجابة في الغالب إلى الاضطرابات السياسية داخل المنطقة. ونظرًا لأن النقر الأخير من “الربع العربي” ما زالت لم تسر ببطء، فإن طبيعة ووقعات التفاعلات بين السياسة والهويات الطائفية في الخليج قد أن تُشهد. ومع ذلك، فإن المبادرة البحثية من مركز الدراسات الدولية والإقليمية تسلط الضوء على بعض من أهم الديناميات والأبعاد التي بدأت تظهر في السياسة الطائفية في المنطقة.
CIRS Occasional Paper no. 15 argues that the GCC cities’ remarkable capacity to provide water to all their inhabitants, despite the regional aridity, should not be explained solely by apolitical factors such as the availability of desalination technologies and massive energy resources. Although acknowledging their importance, this research demonstrates that the historical evolutions and achievements of the water sectors in Abu Dhabi and Kuwait City over the twentieth century are first and foremost the product of local and regional politics, and of reformist leaders’ agency at various times. Major changes in water governance can also be seen as a tool for, and as a signifier of, broader state reforms and changing politics.

Over the past few decades, individual member-states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have engaged in an endeavor of unprecedented scale. Reliant on their abundant, but ultimately finite, hydrocarbon reserves, states such as Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have sought to diversify their economies, initiating transitions to more sustainable “knowledge-based” economies. Placing an emphasis on fostering higher education, entrepreneurship, research and design, information and communications technology, and similarly progressive sectors, the fundamental objective is to create indigenous, sustainable, and enduring economies.
□ NEWSLETTERS
CIRS publishes a newsletter every semester detailing many of the center’s recent and ongoing activities, publications series, research and scholarship initiatives, as well as lectures, events, and public affairs programming calendar.

Both the Fall 2014 and the Spring 2015 editions of the CIRS Newsletter are available in hard copy format, and can also be downloaded for free from the CIRS website.

□ ANNUAL REPORT
The 2013-2014 CIRS Annual Report contains information about all the activities, research initiatives, publications, lectures, and events that CIRS organized throughout the year. Highlights for the 2013-2014 academic year include a description of all CIRS grant awarded projects for the research initiative on “Arab Migrant Communities in the GCC;” the successful conclusion of several CIRS research initiatives; a robust public lecture series; and the publication of books and reports resulting from CIRS research initiatives.

□ DIGITAL MEDIA
CIRS Website: For more information on all CIRS activities, visit cirs.georgetown.edu.

E-Bulletins: CIRS delivers an electronic newsletter to a comprehensive regional and international research list-serve. To be added to the mailing list, please contact: cirsresearch@georgetown.edu.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CIRSSFSQ
Twitter: @CIRSSFSQ
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/CIRSSFSQ
4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING

MONTHLY DIALOGUE SERIES

The CIRS Monthly Dialogue Series is designed to present interested community members with a forum for thoughtful dialogue with scholars from Georgetown University, and elsewhere, about their latest academic endeavors and research agendas. Each month, a faculty member or guest expert is invited to discuss his or her work with the community.

ATTITUDES TO CYBERSAFETY AND ONLINE PRIVACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

DAMIAN RADCLIFFE

September 16, 2014

Damian Radcliffe, leader of the Rassed research program at Qatar’s Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ictQATAR), delivered a lecture on cybersafety and attitudes towards online privacy in the Middle East. Emphasizing the importance of the topic, he noted that, despite their varying characteristics, most countries around the world share similar concerns regarding issues of cyber safety, online privacy, and data security. This has become a global conversation, and one that is no less relevant to the Middle East and North Africa.

STUDYING PUBLIC OPINION IN QATAR

JUSTIN GENGLER

October 13, 2014

Justin Gengler is a Senior Researcher at the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) of Qatar University. SESRI conducts nationally-representative, scientific household surveys of the different social groups residing in Qatar, including the local national population, professional expatriates, and labor migrants. Gengler explained that in-depth, nation-wide study of public opinion in the Gulf region is still in its infancy, but he held a positive outlook for the future of survey research in the Gulf.
HEROES—HOW FEMALE LEADERS ARE CHANGING QATAR  
BUTHAINA AL ANSARI  
November 17, 2014  

Buthaina Al Ansari is founder and Chairperson of Qatariat T&D Holding and Senior Human Resources Director at Ooredoo. She focused on the status of female leadership in Qatar, and explained that it is largely males who are recognized for their endeavors and achievements, while women are rarely celebrated to the same degree. She shared her insights on what makes a successful businesswoman, with a particular focus on how Qatari women can achieve a more competitive position in the market.

IMPOSSIBLE CITIZENS: DUBAI’S INDIAN DIASPORA  
NEHA VORA  
December 1, 2014  

Neha Vora is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Lafayette College. The thrust of Vora’s research questioned the paradox of how the middle-class Indian communities of Dubai have a strong sense of belonging even though there are no certain paths to citizenship or permanent residence. Such a sense of belonging occurs through “unofficial” ideas of community that are not based on the technicalities of citizenship, but on strong senses of historical and cultural affiliation.

THE POLITICS OF NATIONAL NARRATIVES  
LAURIE A. BRAND  
March 23, 2015  

Laurie A. Brand, the Robert Grandford Wright Professor of International Relations and Middle East Studies at the University of Southern California, reflected on the main themes in her book, *Official Stories: Politics and National Narratives in Egypt and Algeria*. She explained that national narratives are mobilized by state authorities, and are often employed as a re legitimizing force during times of contested succession or political rupture.
Noor Al Malki Al Jehani, Executive Director of the Doha International Family Institute, gave an overview of the historical evolution of family policies in Qatar. Al Malki concluded by making recommendations for strengthening the family as a unit of society in Qatar, including an increase in government and private sector funding towards civil society organizations, easing the strict laws governing the establishment of such entities, and establishing degrees in family studies to be taught at educational institutions in order to build national expertise, among other practical policies.

Focused Discussions

Through its Focused Discussion series, the Center for International and Regional Studies provides an intimate intellectual forum for academics, diplomats, and opinion-leaders to engage with Georgetown University in Qatar faculty, students, and other community members on a particular topic of interest.

Global Security in a Post Western World

Ole Wæver is Professor of International Relations at the University of Copenhagen, and Director of the Center for Resolution of International Conflicts. He noted that when world events change so quickly and so radically, it is always important to understand the basics of international relations theories, no matter how old-fashioned an idea that may seem. Wæver explained the importance of comprehending the “big picture” in terms of how one country relates to another and under what kinds of power relations within the international system.
**Answering the Call: Popular Islamic Activism in Sadat’s Egypt**  
**Abdullah Al-Arian**  
January 13, 2015

CIRS hosted a book launch and reading by Abdullah Al-Arian, Assistant Professor of History at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar. *Answering the Call: Popular Islamic Activism in Sadat’s Egypt* examines the means by which the Muslim Brotherhood was reconstituted during Anwar al-Sadat’s presidency. Through analysis of structural, ideological, and social developments during this period a more accurate picture of the “Islamic resurgence” can be developed.

**Hind’s Dream: Film Screening**  
**Suzi Mirgani**  
January 15, 2015

Suzi Mirgani, Manager and Editor for CIRS Publications, screened her short film “Hind’s Dream,” and engaged in a discussion with the audience. Mirgani and members of the film’s cast and crew are all from Georgetown University in Qatar. “Hind’s Dream” was selected for the 2015 Cannes Film Festival short film corner, premiered at the 2014 Abu Dhabi Film Festival, and won an award for “artistic vision and poetic screenwriting” at the 2014 Ajyal Film Festival.

**Food Security in the Middle East**  
**Zahra Babar and Suzi Mirgani**  
January 19, 2015

Zahra Babar, Associate Director for Research at CIRS, and Suzi Mirgani, Manager and Editor for CIRS Publications, launched their co-edited CIRS book on *Food Security in the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2014). The volume is the result of a CIRS research initiative and grant cycle, and provides original case studies from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Yemen, the Gulf states, and Iran, with special attention to how these countries have been affected by the events of the Arab uprisings and rising food prices of 2007-2008.
Victimization or Empowerment? The Case of Saudi Literature
Amira El-Zein
March 10, 2015

Amira El-Zein is Associate Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar and the 2014-2015 CIRS SFS-Q Faculty Fellow. She argued that Saudi Arabia has experienced an increase in female-authored literary fiction, despite the odds. These writings are significant in their facility to carve a space, and indeed flourish, within highly restrictive cultural settings. Regardless of the fictive nature of the writing, these works can be considered contemporary cultural documents that question the rigid patriarchal system of knowledge upon which modern Saudi Arabia is founded.

The Future of Nile Cooperation
Bart Hilhorst
March 25, 2015

Bart Hilhorst is a water resources specialist and former Chief Technical Advisor for the FAO project on the Nile basin. The lecture centered on the complexities of water cooperation, with a focus on the Nile Basin. Since regional water management often results in polarized perspectives, he argued, it is important to achieve an alignment of views between the various stakeholders, and to establish a common ground from which negotiations can emerge. Hilhorst introduced the audience to these intricate issues by explaining that water resources management is not a technical issue, but a political one in its ability to dictate the distribution of resources.
CIRS Director Delivers Convocation Address at Northwestern University in Qatar
Doha, Qatar, August 24, 2014: The 2014 convocation address at Northwestern University in Qatar was given by Mehran Kamrava, Director of CIRS, in which he advised students to take inspiration from Qatar’s bold vision.

Qatar Foundation Annual Research Forum
Doha, Qatar, November 18-19, 2014: Georgetown University in Qatar sponsored a booth featuring the research activities of the Center for International and Regional Studies, the university’s flagship research organization. The theme of this year’s ARC conference was “Towards World-class Research and Innovation” and featured several sessions related to the four thematic pillars defined in Qatar’s National Research Strategy (QNRS): Energy and Environment, Computing and Information Technology, Health, and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities.

Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference
Washington, D.C., November 22-25, 2014: Members of CIRS traveled to the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, where Zahra Babar, Associate Director of Research at CIRS delivered a paper titled, “Arabs and Asians in Qatar: Who Does the Dirty Work?” CIRS staff held an exhibition booth, disseminated the publications, spoke to conference participants, and hosted a reception for scholars and researchers associated with CIRS projects and initiatives as well as Georgetown University in Qatar alumni.

Economic Integration: Towards A Borderless World
Doha Bank and Global Citizen Forum (GCF) conference, Doha, January 17, 2015: Mehran Kamrava, Director of CIRS, delivered a talk to top corporate and community leaders on the challenges and opportunities presented by global economic integration.

CIRS Research Delegation Visits Azerbaijan
Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan (SAM), March 4, 2015: A research delegation from CIRS was hosted by Gulshan Pashayeva, Deputy Director at the Center for
Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan (SAM), and a group of SAM experts. The parties discussed Azerbaijan’s foreign policy, Azerbaijan’s relations with Iran and GCC countries, energy policies of Azerbaijan, and cultural and economic ties between the countries, among other topics.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ISA) ANNUAL CONVENTION**
New Orleans, LA, February 18–21, 2015: Members of CIRS held an exhibition booth to distribute publications and to network with conference participants and scholars. Mehran Kamrava, CIRS Director, delivered a paper titled, “Recalibrating Persian Gulf Security: Domestic versus Regional Challenges,” and took part in a roundtable on “Transformations Of the Arab World After the Arab Spring.” Suzi Mirgani, Manager and Editor for CIRS Publications, also delivered a paper titled “Shop ‘til You Drop: A Mirroring of Global Terrorism and Global Capitalism.”

**iran’s nuclear talks**
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, June 2, 2015: Mehran Kamrava, Director of CIRS, gave a public lecture at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University on the topic of “Iran’s Nuclear Talks.” Kamrava argued that the Rouhani presidency has brought in significant changes to the Iranian political landscape, not the least of which include the on-going negotiations with the P5+1 over Iran’s nuclear program and a concerted effort to end Iran’s international and diplomatic isolation.

**contemporary migration research in the arab gulf and south(east) asia**
Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore, June 3, 2015: Zahra Babar, Associate Director for Research at CIRS, delivered a talk titled “The Gulf and Global Migration,” stating that there is very little work which studies Gulf migration through a comparative perspective, and Suzi Mirgani, Manager and Editor for CIRS Publications, outlined a project she worked on with a group of Georgetown University students, titled “Advancing Financial Education for Transnational Families.”

**gulf research center’s think tank security forum**

**high-tech wars, 14th annual foreign policy conference**
Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin, June 20–21, 2015: Mehran Kamrava, Director of CIRS examined the underlying reasons for the development of some of the recent major changes to Saudi foreign policy and what, if anything, the European Union can do to influence Saudi international behavior.

**Qatar and Saudi Arabia: Distant Neighbors and Reluctant Friends**
Catholic University of Milan, May 19, 2015, Milan: Mehran Kamrava, Director of CIRS, delivered a lecture on the geopolitics of the Gulf region, and the relationship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

**British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Conference**
London School of Economics and Political Science, June 24–26, 2015: Dionysis Markakis, Research Associate at CIRS, delivered a paper titled, “American Democracy Promotion in the Middle East: Liberation or Domination?” The paper considers US efforts to promote democracy in the Middle East.
APPENDIX 1

CIRS STAFF DIRECTORY

Mehran Kamrava
Director

- Directs all CIRS activities

Zahra Babar
Associate Director for Research

- Initiates, develops, and oversees CIRS research initiatives
- Oversees fellows program
- Oversees grant cycles

Haya Al Noaimi
Research Analyst

- Conducts background research for CIRS research initiatives
- Contributes to CIRS publications
- Develops CIRS online research profile

Ahmad Alown
CIRS Qatar University Fellow

- Takes part in research initiatives and contributes to the intellectual life of CIRS
- Collaborates with SFS-Q Faculty
- Gives public talks to the Qatar community
**Amira El-Zein**  
CIRS SFS-Q Faculty Fellow

- Takes part in research initiatives and contributes to the intellectual life of CIRS
- Collaborates with SFS-Q Faculty
- Gives public talks to the Qatar community

**Dionysis Markakis**  
Research Associate

- Undertakes research projects
- Contributes to CIRS publications
- Assists in the intellectual and logistic organization of research initiatives

**Maha Uraidi**  
CIRS and SFS-Q Events Manager

- Organizes academic and public events
- Primary contact for speakers and vendors
- Coordinates with Education City event managers

**Barb Gillis**  
Coordinator

- Handles logistics for fellows, lecturers, and working group participants
- Organizes Database Management System
- Manages student workers and interns

**Suzi Mirgani**  
Manager and Editor for CIRS Publications

- Writes, edits, and designs publications and publicity materials
- Manages the website and online presence
- Collaborates on CIRS research initiatives

**Elizabeth Wanucha**  
Project Manager

- Manages grant cycles
- Organizes working group meetings
- Assists with CIRS research initiatives
INTERNS

Tamim Alnuweiri  
Research Intern

Salman Ahad Khan  
Publications Intern

Badr Rahimah  
Publications Intern

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Omar Hashem

Umber Latafat

Farah Saleh

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Van Rudolf
CIRS Advisory Board

Osama Walid Abi-Mershed, Director, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University

Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad, President, Qatar University

Ahmad Dallal, Provost, American University of Beirut

Stanley N. Katz, Director, Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies, Princeton University

Rami Khouri, Director, The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut

Sir Tim Lankester, Chairman of the Council, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London University

Gerd Nonneman, Dean, School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Georgetown University

James Reardon-Anderson, Acting Dean, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

Alistair G. Routledge, President and General Manager, ExxonMobil Qatar

Gary Sick, Senior Research Scholar, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

John Waterbury, Global Professor, William Stewart Tod Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Emeritus, Princeton University
CIRS Program Committee

ROGAIA ABUSHARAF  
Georgetown University  
School of Foreign Service in Qatar

TALAL ABDULLA AL-EMADI  
Qatar University

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Georgetown University  
School of Foreign Service in Qatar

ROBERT WIRSING  
Georgetown University  
School of Foreign Service in Qatar

MOHAMED ZAYANI  
Georgetown University  
School of Foreign Service in Qatar
APPENDIX 2

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

WORKING GROUPS

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WORKING GROUP II

Working Group Meeting: August 13-14, 2014
Washington, DC

Participants and Discussants:

- Sahar Aziz, Texas A&M University
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Judy Barsalou, El-Hibri Foundation
- Mietek Boduszynski, Pomona College
- Terry C. Coonan, Center for the Advancement of Human Rights – Florida State University
- Thomas DeGeorges, American University of Sharjah
- Nerida Child Dimasi, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Elham Fakhro, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Barb Gillis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Doris H. Gray, Al Akhawayn University
- Bill Hess, George Washington University
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Christopher Lamont, University of Groningen
- Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Dwaa Osman, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Ibrahim Sharqieh, Brookings Doha Center; Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Chandra Lekha Sriram, Center on Human Rights in Conflict – University of East London
- Susan E. Waltz, University of Michigan
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Marieke Wierda, Grotius Center for International Legal Studies – Leiden University

THE DIGITAL MIDDLE EAST, WORKING GROUP I

Working Group Meeting: September 27-28, 2014

Participants and Discussants:

- Ilhem Allagui, Northwestern University in Qatar
- Haya Al Noaimi, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Jon Anderson, Catholic University of America
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Marion Desmurger, UNESCO Representation in the Arab States of the Gulf & Yemen
- Shahd Dauleh, Qatar’s Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICTQatar)
- Muzammil M. Hussain, University of Michigan
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Changing Security Dynamics of the Persian Gulf,
Working Group I
Working Group Meeting: October 25-26, 2014

Participants and Discussants:
- Gholam Khiaban, Goldsmiths University of London
- Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Damian Radcliffe, Qatar’s Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICTQatar)
- Vit Šisler, Charles University in Prague
- Annabelle Sreberny, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
- Mark Allen Peterson, Miami University in Ohio
- Daniel Varisco, Qatar University
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Shafiz Affendi Mohd Yusof, Universiti Utara Malaysia
- Luciano Zaccara, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Norhayati Zakaria, Universiti Utara Malaysia
- Mohamed Zayani, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

- Rogaia Abusharaf, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Haya Al Noaimi, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Alanoud Al Sharekh, Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development in Kuwait
- Khalid Almezaini, Qatar University
- Abdullah Baabood, Qatar University
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Gawdat Bahgat, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Study, National Defense University
- Patricia Duran, Independent Researcher
- Nader Entessar, University of South Alabama
- Justin J. Gengler, Qatar University
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Joseph A. Kéchichian, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies
- Anatol Lieven, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Toby Matthiesen, University of Cambridge
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Jean-Marc Rickli, Kings College London
- David Roberts, Kings College London
- Marc Valeri, Center for Gulf Studies, University of Exeter
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Ole Waever, Center for Resolution of International Conflicts, University of Copenhagen
- Luciano Zaccara, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Youth in the Middle East, Working Group I
Working Group Meeting: November 20-21, 2014
Washington, DC

Participants and Discussants:
- Osama Abi-Mershed, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- David Beck, Silatech
- Dawn Chatty, University of Oxford
- Raj Desai, Georgetown University
- Kristin Smith Diwan, American University School of International Service
- Paul Dyer, Silatech
- Sherine El Taraboulsi, University of Oxford
- Nader Kabbani, Silatech
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Samer Kherfi, University of Sharjah
- Adeel Malik, University of Oxford
- Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Jennifer Olmsted, Drew University
- Anders Olofsgard, Stockholm School of Economics
- Omar Razzaz, King Abdullah II Fund for Development of the Jordan Strategy Forum
- Natasha Ridge, Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation
- Michael Robbins, Princeton University
- Djavaad Salehi-Isfahani, Virginia Tech
- Edward Sayre, University of Southern Mississippi
- Emad Shahin, Georgetown University
- Hilary Silver, Brown University
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Tarik Yousef, Silatech

Re-emerging West Asia, Working Group I
Working Group Meeting: January 10-11, 2015

Participants and Discussants:
- Hamid Ahmadi, Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies
- Haya Al Noaimi, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Leila Alieva, University of Oxford
- Meliga Benli Altunışık, Middle East Technical University
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Bayram Balci, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Michael B. Bishku, Georgia Regents University
- Richard Giragosian, Regional Studies Center
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Elaheh Koolaei, University of Tehran
- Alexander Kupatadze, University of St Andrews
HEALTHCARE POLICY AND POLITICS IN THE GULF,
WORKING GROUP II
Working Group Meeting: February 8, 2015

Participants and Discussants:
- Samir Al Adawi, Sultan Qaboos University College of Medicine
- Haya Al Noaimi, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Mohamad Alameddine, American University of Beirut
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Suhaila Ghuloum, Hamad Medical Center
- Cother Hajat, Emirates Cardiac Society; UAE University
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Nabil Kronfol, Lebanese Healthcare Management Association; Center for Studies on Ageing
- Albert Lowenfels, New York Medical College
- Ravinder Mamtani, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar
- Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- David Rawaf, Imperial College London; St. George’s Hospital Medical School
- Salman Rawaf, Imperial College London
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

THE GULF FAMILY, WORKING GROUP I
Working Group Meeting: March 14-15, 2015

Participants and Discussants:
- Rogaia Abusharaf, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Nadwa Al Dawsari, Sheba Center for International Development
- Sanaa Al Harahsheh, Doha International Family Institute
- Haya Al Noaimi, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Barb Gillis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Sebastian Maisel, Grand Valley State University
- Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Mohamed Mohieddin, Doha International Family Institute
- Lena-Maria Möller, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law
- Sophia Pandya, California State University at Long Beach
- Jihan Safar, College de France, Sciences-Po
Laura Sjoberg, University of Florida
Amira Sonbol, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Ali Kemal Tekin, Sultan Qaboos University
Valbona Zenku, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

The Digital Middle East, Working Group II
Working Group Meeting: April 11-12, 2015

Participants and Discussants:
Ilhem Allagui, Northwestern University in Qatar
Haya Al Noaimi, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Jon Anderson, Catholic University of America
Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
John Downing, Northwestern University in Qatar
Muzammil M. Hussain, University of Michigan
Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Joe Khalil, Northwestern University in Qatar
Gholam Khiabany, Goldsmiths University of London
Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Vit Šisler, Charles University in Prague
Annabelle Sreberny, SOAS, University of London
Norhayati Zakaria, Universiti Utara Malaysia
Mohamed Zayani, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Valbona Zenku, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

China and the Middle East, Working Group I
Working Group Meeting: April 25-26, 2015
Washington, DC

Participants and Discussants:
Mohammed Al-Sudairi, Gulf Research Centre
Jon B. Alterman, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Jacqueline Armijo, Qatar University
Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Liao Baizhi, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations
Bing Bing Wu, Peking University
Manochehr Dorraj, Texas Christian University
John Garver, Georgia Institute of Technology
Barb Gillis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Pan Guang, Shanghai Center for International Studies
Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
James Reardon-Anderson, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service
Joseph Sassoon, Georgetown University
Changing Security Dynamics of the Persian Gulf, Working Group II
Working Group Meeting: May 13-14, 2015
Participants and Discussants:
- Haya Al Noaimi, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Khalid Almezaini, Qatar University
- Alanoud Alsharekh, Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Gawdat Bahgat, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Study – National Defense University
- Nader Entessar, University of South Alabama
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Joseph A. Kéchichian, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies; Kéchichian
- Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Toby Matthiesen, University of Cambridge
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Marc Valeri, Center for Gulf Studies – University of Exeter
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Nussaibah Younis, Project on Middle East Democracy

Re-Emerging West Asia, Working Group II
Working Group Meeting: June 14-15, 2015
Participants and Discussants:
- Hamid Ahmadi, Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies
- Haya Al Noaimi, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Meliha Benli Altunışık, Middle East Technical University
- Zahra Babar, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Richard Giragosian, Regional Studies Center
- Mehran Kamrava, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Elaheh Koolaei, University of Tehran
- Alexander Kupatadze, School of International Relations at St Andrews University
- Anatol Lieven, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Jeffrey Mankoff, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Dionysis Markakis, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Suzi Mirgani, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Mahmood Monshipouri, San Francisco State University
- Elizabeth Wanucha, CIRS – Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar
- Gareth Winrow, Independent Research Analyst and Consultant
CIRS Research Affiliates

CIRS SFS-Qatar Faculty Fellow 2014-2015:
■ Amira El-Zein, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

CIRS Qatar University Faculty Fellow 2014-2015:
■ Ahmad Alown, Qatar University

CIRS Interns 2014-2015:
■ Badr Rahimah, Publications Intern
■ Salman Ahad Khan, Publications Intern
■ Tamim Alnuweiri, Research Intern

Publications:

Occasional Papers:

Books:
■ Beyond the Arab Spring: The Evolving Ruling Bargain (Oxford University Press, 2014)
■ Food Security in the Middle East (Oxford University Press, 2014)

Summary Reports:
■ “Weak States in the Greater Middle East,” CIRS Summary Report no. 11.
■ “Arab Migrant Communities in the GCC,” CIRS Summary Report no. 12.

Arabic Publications:
■ “Social Change in Post-Khomeini Iran” CIRS Arabic Summary Report.
■ “Sectarian Politics in the Gulf” CIRS Arabic Summary Report.

Newsletters:
■ CIRS Newsletter no. 17, Fall 2014
■ CIRS Newsletter no. 18, Spring 2015

Electronic Media:
■ CIRS Website: cirs.georgetown.edu
■ E-Bulletins: contact cirresearch@georgetown.edu
■ Facebook: www.facebook.com/CIRSSFSQ
■ Twitter: @CIRSSFSQ
■ YouTube: www.youtube.com/CIRSSFSQ
Public Affairs Programming

August 2014

- Transitional Justice in the Middle East, Working Group II
  Working Group Meeting: August 13-14, 2014

September 2014

- Attitudes to Cybersafety and Online Privacy in the Middle East
  Damian Radcliffe, Leader of the Rassed research program at Qatar’s Ministry of Information and Communications Technology
  Monthly Dialogue: September 16, 2014

- The Digital Middle East, Working Group I
  Working Group: September 27-28, 2014

October 2014

- Studying Public Opinion in Qatar
  Justin Gengler, Research Program Manager, Social and Economic Survey Research Institute, Qatar University
  Monthly Dialogue: October 13, 2014

- Changing Security Dynamics of the Persian Gulf, Working Group I
  Working Group: October 25-26, 2014

- Global Security in a Post Western World
  Ole Wæver, Professor of International Relations at the University of Copenhagen
  Focused Discussion: October 27, 2014

November 2014

- Ian Almond Faculty Research Workshop on “Dissecting the Native Informant: A Case Study of Nirad C. Chaudhuri”
  Faculty Research Workshop: November 16, 2014

- Sheroes—How Female Leaders are Changing Qatar
  Buthaina Al Ansari, Founder and Chairperson of Qatariat T&D Holding Company
  Monthly Dialogue: November 17, 2014

- Youth in the Middle East, Working Group I
  Working Group: November 20-21, 2014
  Washington, DC
**December 2014**

- **Impossible Citizens: Dubai’s Indian Diaspora**
  Neha Vora, *Professor of Anthropology at Lafayette College*
  Monthly Dialogue: December 1, 2014

**January 2015**

- **Re-emerging West Asia, Working Group I**
  Working Group: January 10-11, 2015

- **Answering the Call: Book Launch**
  Abdullah Al-Arian, *Assistant Professor of History at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar*
  Focused Discussion: January 13, 2015

- **CIRS Presents Suzi Mirgani’s Film Screening of “Hind’s Dream”**
  Suzi Mirgani, *Manager and Editor for CIRS Publications*
  Focused Discussion: January 15, 2015

- **Food Security in the Middle East: Book Launch**
  Zahra Babar, *Associate Director for Research at CIRS*, and Suzi Mirgani, *Manager and Editor for CIRS Publications*
  Focused Discussion: January 19, 2015

**February 2015**

- **Healthcare Policy and Politics in the Gulf, Working Group I**
  Working Group: February 8, 2015

**March 2015**

- **Jeremy Koons Faculty Research Workshop on “Unity Without Uniformity: A Synoptic Vision of the Normative and the Natural”**
  Faculty Research Workshop: March 8, 2015

- **Victimization or Empowerment? The Case of Saudi Literature**
  Amira El-Zein, *Associate Professor at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar*
  Focused Discussion: March 10, 2015

- **The Gulf Family, Working Group I**

- **The Politics of National Narratives**
  Laurie A. Brand, *Robert Grandford Wright Professor of International Relations and Middle East Studies at the University of Southern California*
The Future of Nile Cooperation
Bart Hilhorst, Water Resources Specialist and Former Chief Technical Advisor for the FAO project
Focused Discussion: March 25, 2015

April 2015

The Digital Middle East, Working Group II
Working Group: April 11-12, 2015

China and the Middle East, Working Group I
Washington, DC

May 2015

Changing Security Dynamics of the Persian Gulf, Working Group II
Working Group: May 13-14, 2015

Strengthening the Family in Qatar: Challenges & Required Actions
Noor Al Malki Al Jehani, Executive Director of the Doha International Family Institute

June 2015

Harry Verhoeven Faculty Research Workshop on “Why Comrades Go To War: Post-Liberation Politics and the Outbreak of Africa’s Deadliest Conflict”
Faculty Research Workshop: June 8, 2015

Re-Emerging West Asia, Working Group II
Working Group: June 14-15, 2015
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