The 2007 Gulf Conference

An interdisciplinary conference on the Gulf region, including links with the Indian Ocean and Asia

4–7 July 2007
The 2007

Gulf Conference, 4-7 July

An interdisciplinary conference on the Gulf region, including links with the Indian Ocean and Asia (Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, UK)

**PROGRAMME**

**Conference webpage:** [www.ex.ac.uk/iais](http://www.ex.ac.uk/iais)  **Convener:** Dr James Onley (J.Onley@exeter.ac.uk)

**WEDNESDAY, 4 JULY**

3:00–6:00  COLLECTION OF ROOM KEYS & REGISTRATION (Holland Hall, Stratham Campus)

1:00–5:00  VISIT THE GULF COLLECTION IN THE ARAB WORLD DOCUMENTATION UNIT (Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies)

7:00  PRE-DINNER DRINKS (Reed Hall bar, ground floor)

8:00  DINNER (Reed Hall, Woodbridge Suite, ground floor), dress: casual

9:30  AFTER DINNER DRINKS (Reed Hall bar, ground floor)

**THURSDAY, 5 JULY**

7:30–9:00  BREAKFAST (Holland Hall, dining room, ground floor)

9:15  WELCOME & INTRODUCTION (Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies)

9:30  **THE INDIAN OCEAN & THE GULF**  
CHAIR: Dr James Onley, Director of Gulf Studies, University of Exeter  
- Tipu Sultan, the British and the Gulf Region: Diplomacy, Trade and War in late 18th Century (Professor Kamal Pasha, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)  
- The Swahili-Speaking Omani: Reconciling East African Legacies and Modern Nation-State Constraints (Dr Marc Valeri, La Rochelle University, France)  
- Towards an Understanding of the Dynamics of Business Culture in the Gulf and Indian Ocean, c.1800–c.1960 (Fahad Bishara, Duke University, USA)

10:45  COFFEE & BISCUITS (IAIS) & OPENING OF THE IAIS’S NEW EXTENSION (out front)

11:15  **ASIA & THE GULF**  
CHAIR: Professor Tim Niblock, Chair of Gulf Studies, University of Exeter  
- Growth of Chinese Economic Penetration in the Gulf Region in the 21st Century (Professor Tim Niblock and Mei Zhang, University of Exeter)  
- Gulf-Asia Ties: Convert Opportunity into Strategy (Dr N. Janardhan, UAE-based analyst)

12:15  BUFFET LUNCH (IAIS, entrance foyer)

2:15  **IRAN & THE GULF**
CHAIR: Dr Reza Taghizadeh, BBC Persian Service

- Iran–Arab Relations: A Persian Perspective (Dr Mehrdad Khonsari, Centre for Arab and Iranian Studies, London)
- Kharg and the Iran–Iraq War: Can Resource Denial Campaigns be Effectively Waged? (Farzin Nadimi, University of Manchester)
- Iran’s Iran’s Nuclear Development Plan and the Outlook of Security in the Persian Gulf (Dr Reza Taghizadeh, BBC Persian Service)

3:30 TEA & BISCUITS (IAIS)

4:00 GULF CULTURE
CHAIR: Dr Abdullah Yateem, Ministry of Information, Bahrain

- International Chain Hotels in the Gulf: Their Impact on the Local Culture (Dr Sulayman Khalf, University of Bahrain)
- Khuzistani Arabic: A Forgotten Dialect (Dr Maryam Shabibi, University of Manchester)
- Education in the Gulf: the Question of Identity (Dr Afaf Bataineh, American University of Kuwait)

5:15 SHORT BREAK

5:30 MARRIAGE IN THE GULF
CHAIR: Professor Lubna Al-Kazi, University of Kuwait

- Marriage of Transnationals: Mixing Cultural and Economic Aspirations in the Gulf (Dr Sharon Nagy, De Paul University, Chicago)
- An Indigenous, Contemporary Adaptation of Polygyny in the Dhofar Region of Oman, Arabia (Dr Annemarie Profanter, Free University of Bolzano, Italy; and Stephanie Ryan Cate, Prince Mohammed University, Saudi Arabia)

6:30 END

7:00 PRE-DINNER DRINKS (Reed Hall bar, ground floor)

8:00 GALA DINNER (Reed Hall, Woodbridge Suite, ground floor), dress: semi-formal

9:30 AFTER DINNER DRINKS (Reed Hall bar, ground floor)

FRIDAY, 6 JULY

7:30–9:00 BREAKFAST (Holland Hall, dining room, ground floor)

9:30 WOMEN IN THE GULF
CHAIR: Professor Lubna Al-Kazi, University of Kuwait

- A Tale of Two Exceptions (Attiya Ahmad, Duke University, USA)
- Gender, State and Culture in Oman (Khalid Al-Azri, University of Melbourne, Australia)

10:30 COFFEE & BISCUITS (IAIS)

11:00 GULF SECURITY
CHAIR: Dr Nada Mourtada-Sabbah, American University of Sharjah

- Foreign Military Presence and Its Role in Gulf Security (Dr J. E. Peterson, Arizona)
- India and Gulf Security (Dr N. Janardhan, UAE-based analyst)
- The GCC’s Soft Security Agenda & the EU’s Role in Facilitating Confidence and Security Building in Persian Gulf: Problems and Prospects (Bezen Balamir Coskun, Loughborough University, UK)
• NATO in the Gulf: Who is doing Whom a Favour? (Dr Matteo Legrenzi, University of Ottawa, Canada)

12:30 BUFFET LUNCH (IAIS, entrance foyer)

1:45 DUBAI
CHAIR: Dr Hassan al-Naboodah, Zayed Center for Heritage & History, UAE
• The Full Extent of Arab Nationalism and British Opposition in Dubai, 1920–1966 (Dr Christopher Davidson, University of Durham)
• The Dubai Model: An Outline of Key Features Encompassed in the Development Process of Dubai (Dr Martin Hvidt, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, Denmark)
• Transnational Indian Business Elites and Forms of Belonging in Dubai (Neha Vora, University of California, Irvine)

3:00 SHORT BREAK

3:15 SAUDI ARABIA
CHAIR: Professor Tim Niblock, University of Exeter
• Islamic Resurgence in the Hijaz Region 1975–1980 (Dr Mazin Motabagani, King Saud University, Riyadh)

4:00 COFFEE & BISCUITS (IAIS)

4:30 GULF HISTORY
CHAIR: Dr Nelidia Fuccaro, SOAS, London
• The Construction of Jask–Muscat Submarine Cable 1901: Trade, Telegraph, and Political Rivalry (Dr Farajollah Ahmadi, University of Tehran)
• Protect and Divide: The Paradox of the Kuwaiti Sur, 1920–57 (Farah Al-Nakib, SOAS, London)
• New Historical Trends in the Gulf: The City and Its Territory (Professor Valeria Piacentini & Dr Elena Maestri, Sacred Heart University, Italy)

5:45 END

7:00 PRE-DINNER DRINKS (Holland Hall bar, 1st floor)

8:00 DINNER (Holland Hall, dining room, ground floor), dress: casual

9:30 AFTER DINNER DRINKS (Holland Hall bar, 1st floor)
**SUNDAY, 7 JULY**

7:30-9:00 BREAKFAST (Holland Hall)

9:15 **THE GULF ECONOMY**
CHAIR: Dr Kamil Mahdi, University of Exeter
- Arab GCC Investments in Lebanon: Charity, Politics or Economics? (Dr Nasser Kalawoun, London)
- Adjusting to Higher Oil Prices: Spending and Investment Patterns in Gulf Economies (Rachel Zemba, RGEmonitor.com, New York)

11:00 COFFEE & BISCUITS (IAIS)

11:30 **BRITAIN & THE GULF**
CHAIR: Dr James Onley, Director of Gulf Studies, University of Exeter
- Britain in Oman (Dr J. E. Peterson, Arizona)
- Retrenchment and Retreat: Britain’s Decision to Withdraw from the Gulf, 1968 (Shohei Sato, St Antony’s College, Oxford)
- British Policy and the End of Empire in Gulf (Dr Simon C. Smith, University of Hull)
- Britishness in the Gulf (Dr Katie Walsh, University of Sussex)

1:00 LUNCH (IAIS, entrance foyer)

2:15 **EXPATS IN THE GULF**
CHAIR: Dr N. Janardhan, UAE-based analyst
- From Kerala, South India, to the Gulf: An Entrepreneurial Route in the UAE (Dr Philippe Venier, University of Poitiers, France)
- Migrants and Monuments in Global Abu Dhabi (Dr Jane Bristol-Rhys, Zayed University, Dubai)
- Labor, the Asian Curse: A Critique of Dependence on Labor Export (Shannon McNulty, Texas A&M University at Qatar)
- Expats and Emiratisation: Plotting a Course for a Sustainable Future (Dr Kasim Randeree, British University in Dubai)

3:45 TEA & BISCUITS (IAIS)

4:15 **QATAR**
CHAIR: Dr Gareth Stansfield, University of Exeter
- Political Change and Reform in Qatar: Deconstructing the Constitution (Dr Steven Wright, Qatar University)
- Debating Debates (Christopher Evans & Magdalena Rostron, Qatar Foundation)

5:10 END

5:15 CLOSING REMARKS