



**Gulf Research Centre Cambridge**

Knowledge for All

## **The 2010 Gulf Research Meeting**

**July 7 – 10, 2010**

**University of Cambridge**

### **Workshop 2**

## ***Formal and Informal Mechanisms of Political Participation***

### **Workshop Director**

**Anoush Ehteshami**

Professor  
Durham University

### **Abstract**

This workshop will attempt to ensure that the broadest possible conceptual and geographic spread of material relating to both formal and informal political participation in the Gulf States is covered. Analytical case studies will be drawn from a wide mix of researchers, and from a very diverse range of disciplinary expertise.

### **Workshop Description and Rationale**

The goal of the workshop is to stimulate a broad mix of papers, that will lead to wide-ranging debates and discussions during the workshop sessions. This will create a rich tapestry of insights woven from the formal and informal mechanisms of political participation in the Gulf. Extensive deliberations, will explore in depth such issues as political culture, identity, regime types, institutions, roles of political ideology, legal frameworks, gender mainstreaming, elite creativity, roles of external forces and factors, place of authoritarian learning when it comes to limiting political participation, and the consequences of absence of political parties. One of the goals of the workshop is to provide the participants with the necessary analytical building blocks for further comparative and historical research in this field of inquiry. An additional goal is to bring together as many research papers on this topic as possible in an effort to ensure that the world at large can also benefit from this research and the ideas that will be discussed during this workshop.

## **Workshop Director Profile**

**Prof. Anoush Ehteshami** is Professor of International Relations and Head of School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University, UK. He is also a Fellow of the World Economic Forum. He was Vice-President of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) from 2000 to 2003. His many book-length publications include: *Globalization and Geopolitics in the Middle East: Old Games, New Rules* (New York: Routledge, 2007), *Iran and the Rise of its Neoconservatives* (with Mahjoob Zweiri) (London: I.B. Tauris, 2007), *The Middle East's Relations with Asia and Russia* (co-editor) (London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2004), *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States* (coeditor) (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2002) and *Iran's Security Policy in the Post-Revolutionary Era* (co-author) (Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2001). His current research revolves around five overarching themes: The Asian balance of power in the post-Cold War era; the 'Asianization' of the international system; foreign and security policies of Middle East states since the end of the Cold War; the impact of globalization on the Middle East; good governance, democratization efforts in the Middle East.