



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

2023 Gulf Research Meeting

11th-13th July 2023
University of Cambridge

Workshop No. 6

Recent Labour and Migration Reforms and Policies in the Gulf: Impact on Economies and Societies

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Prof Nasra M. Shah

Professor of Migration and Development at the Lahore School of Economics, Scientific Director Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Programme

Dr Françoise De Bel-Air

Senior Fellow Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Programme

Wednesday, 12 July 2023

09:00-09:15 **Introductions**

09:15-09:30 **Paper One**

Françoise De Bel-Air & Nasra Shah: "Recent Labour and Migration Reforms and Policies in the Gulf: Impact on Economies and Societies"

09:30-10:30 **Paper Two**

Onn Winckler: "Numbers Increasing, Dependency Decreasing: The GCC Changing Labor Immigration Emphasis Following the Arab Spring"

Paper Three

Yusra Al-Shanqiti & Froilan Malit: "In Search of Global Skilled Human Capital? Analyzing the GCC States' Multilevel Domestic Legal and Social Strategies for Attracting and Retaining Skilled Migrants in the Technology Sector"

Discussant: **Nader Kabbani**

10.30-10:45 Coffee break (flexible)

10:45-11:45 **Paper Four**
Nejla Ben Mimoune & Nader Kabbani: “Post-Pandemic Skills Needs in the Gulf. A Comparative Analysis of Oman and Kuwait”

Paper Five

Wasseem Mina: “GCC Labor Markets and Female Youth Inclusion and Employment”

Discussant: **Rashid Amjad**

11:45-12:45 **Paper Six**
Noor Alabbas: “Power of Business interest and the reforms of the Flexible Work Permit Scheme in Bahrain (2017-2022)”

Paper Seven

Nawafal Shehabi: “Navigating Khaleeji Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Development Visions, Innovation, and Precarity in the Neoliberal Gulf”

Discussant: **Justin Alexander**

12:45-14:30 Lunch break (lunch is served at 13.00, please make sure to be there on time as it will roughly be a 15/20 minutes walk to King’s College)

14:30-15:30 **Paper Eight**
Daryn Howland: “Reproducing the GCC: Interrogating Reforms to the Domestic Work Sector in the UAE”

Paper Nine

Habib Khondker: “The New Domestic Workers Law in the UAE: Context and the Consequences”

Discussant: **Gennaro Errichiello**

15:30-16:30 **Paper Ten**
Christina Lowe: “Extending Social Protection to Migrant Workers in the Region of the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf (GCC): An Analysis of Enablers and Barriers”

Discussant: **Françoise De Bel Air**

Paper Eleven

Vani Saraswathi & Rima Kalush: “Reforms without Rights: The GCC states and their blinkered view of labour reforms”

Discussant: **Mira Al Hussein**

16.30-16:45 Coffee break

END OF WORKSHOP – EVENING FREE

Thursday, 13 July 2023

09:30-10:30 **Paper Twelve**
Sophia Kagan & Ryszard Cholewinski: “Regulation of platform and ‘freelance’ work for migrant workers in the Gulf Council Cooperation countries – a new challenge or an old problem?”

Paper Thirteen
Kristian Alexander & Froilan Malit: “Transnational Migrant Precarity in the Asia-Gulf Corridor: Informal Labor and Financial Markets and High-Risk Coping Strategies of Low-Income Filipino Migrants in the United Arab Emirates”

Discussant: **Vani Sarawsathi**

10.30-10.45 Coffee break (flexible)

10:45-11:45 **Paper Fourteen**
Gennaro Errichiello: “New visa schemes and everyday integration. Challenges and practices among Pakistanis in Dubai”

Paper Fifteen
Bilesha Weeraratne: “Migrant Worker Policies and the Spillover Effects on Educational Outcomes and Employment Aspirations of National Children in the GCC”

Discussant: **Nasra Shah**

11:45-12:45 **Paper Sixteen**
Andrew Leber: “Saudization in a “Saudi First” Kingdom”

Paper Seventeen
Dalia Abdelnabi: “Migrant Labour and Citizens in GCC States: Kuwait’s System of Migration Governance and Labour Force Nationalisation”

Discussant: **Sophia Kagan / Ryszard Cholewinski**

12:45-14:30 Lunch break (lunch is served at 13.00, please make sure to be there on time as it will roughly be a 15/20 minutes walk to King’s College)

14:30-15:30 **Paper Eighteen**
Justin Alexander: “Enablers or Obstacles? The Roles of Migrant Workers in Gulf Economic Visions”

Paper Nineteen
Mira al Hussein: “Naturalising Talent: Labour, Migration and Citizenship in the UAE”

Discussant: **Onn Winckler**

15:30-16:00 **Conclusions**

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

END OF WORKSHOP

DINNER 19:00 AT KING'S COLLEGE