

Workshop No. 9

**Conflict Resolution Initiatives in the Gulf and Beyond: Strategies
of Engagement and Prospects of Success**

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Prof. Tim Niblock
University of Exeter
United Kingdom

Amb. Talmiz Ahmad
Symbiosis International University
India

Prof. Degang Sun
Fudan University
China

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

09:00-09:15 Introduction

09:15-09:45 Paper One
Maryam al Waheibi (A'Sharqiyah University, Oman), Ahlam Aldheferi (Full-Time Researcher, Kuwait): "The role of the Gulf Cooperation Council in managing border disputes between the Gulf states: reality and aspirations"

Discussant: Gafar Karar Ahmed Karar (Shanghai International Studies University, China)

9:45-10:15 Paper Two
Lubna Madani (Université Clermont-Auvergne, France):
"Reassessing Peace: The Role of the Abraham Accords in Gulf Stability Amidst Israel-Gaza Conflict"

Discussant: Khalid Al-Khulaifi (The Australian National University, Australia)

10:15-10:45 **Paper Three**
Henry Leverett (Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Austria), Viktor Kiss (Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Austria); Elizabeth Apple Ohio State University, US): “Evaluating Strategic Security Initiatives for the Future of Regional Gulf and MENA Stability”

Discussant: Hessa Alnuaimi (University of St Andrews, UK)

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-11:30 **Paper Four**
Shady Mansour (Future for Advanced Research and Studies, UAE), Yara Ahmed (Future for Advanced Research and Studies, UAE) [recorded] : “Saudi Strategic hedging between regional security initiatives and the prospects of peace with Iran”

Discussant: Pinar Akpınar (Qatar University, Doha, Qatar)

11:30-12:00 **Paper Five**
Priya Ranjan Kumar (Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, India), Mahnaz Zahirinejad (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland): “Conflict Resolution and Peace establishment in Saudi Arabia and Iran: Options and Obstacles”

Discussant: **Yuan Zhang (University of Exeter, UK)**

12:00-12:30 **Paper Six**
Lujain Alotaibi (George Mason University, US), Naif AlKhathran (Columbia University, US): “Expanding and Sustaining the Non-aggression Pact in the Saudi-Iranian Relations”

Discussant: Tingyi Wang (Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, UAE)

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)

14:30-15:00	Paper Seven Hessa Alnuaimi (University of St Andrews, UK): “The Creation of the Saudi Yemen Border”
	Discussant: Prof. Tim Niblock (Tsinghua University, China)
15:00-15:30	Paper Eight K.M. Seethi (Mahatma Gandhi University, India) [Recorded]: “Faith-Based Non-State Actors in West Asia-Gulf Conflicts: Challenges to Regional Conflict Resolution”
	Discussant: Beverley Milton-Edwards (Senior Policy Advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Middle East Council for Global Affairs, Qatar)
15:30-16:00	Paper Nine Ozlem Tur (Middle East Technical University, Türkiye): “Türkiye’s Mediation and Third Party roles in the MENA – A Comparison of the Iranian Nuclear Deal, Qatar Crisis and the War on Gaza”
	Discussant: Erzsébet N. Rózsa (National University of Public Service, Hungary)
16:00-16:15	Coffee break
16:15-16:45	Paper Ten Degang Sun (Fudan University, China), Si Liu (Georgetown University, Qatar): “China’s Hedging Strategy in the Gulf Conflicts”
	Discussant: Christelle Comair (Royal University for Women, Bahrain)
16:45-17:15	Paper Eleven Yuan Zhang (University of Exeter, UK): “Decisive Yet Limited: China’s Role in the Saudi-Iranian Rapprochement”
	Discussant: Talmiz Ahmad (Symbiosis International University, India)
17:15-17:45	Paper Twelve

Gleb Doroshenko (HSE University, Russia): “Russia's view on security in the Gulf and its possible role in the new regional structure”

Discussant: Degang Sun (Fudan University, China)

17:45-18:15

Paper Thirteen

**Shivali Lawale (Symbiosis International University, India),
Talmiz Ahmad (Symbiosis International University, India):**
“Can China and Russia as “Civilisation States” emerge as security providers in West Asia?”

Discussant: Maryam al Waheibi (A'Sharqiyah University, Oman)

END OF FIRST DAY

Thursday, 11 July 2024

09:00-09:15

Workshop Summary for Day 1

09:15-09:45

Paper Fourteen

Erzsébet N. Rózsa (National University of Public Service, Hungary), Virág Novák-Varró(National University of Public Service, Hungary): “Mediation as a tool of conflict resolution - the other way: Qatar”

Discussant: Lubna Madani (Université Clermont-Auvergne, France)

09:45-10:15

Paper Fifteen

Beverly Milton-Edwards (Senior Policy Advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Middle East Council for Global Affairs, Qatar):
“Small States Big Conflicts: Strategic Analysis of Qatar's Conflict Resolution Initiatives”

Discussant: Guangda Wang (Shanghai International Studies University, China)

10:15-10:45

Paper Sixteen

Tingyi Wang (Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, UAE): “An Indispensable Mediator: Qatar’s Diplomacy and the Middle East Conflicts”

Discussant: Shady Mansour (Future for Advanced Research and Studies, UAE)

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-11:30 **Paper Seventeen**
Khalid Al-Khulaifi (The Australian National University, Australia), Abdulla Al-Etaibi (The Australian National University, Australia): “Qatar’s Mediation Initiatives and Their Impact on Global Affairs”

Discussant: Priya Ranjan Kumar (Central University of Gujarat, India)

11:30-12:00 **Paper Eighteen**
Pinar Akpinar (Qatar University, Doha, Qatar): “Mediation as a Balancing Act: Qatar’s Mediator Role Amidst US-Iran Tensions”

Discussant: Lujain Alotaibi (George Mason University, US)

12:00-12:30 **Paper Nineteen**
Christelle Comair (Royal University for Women, Bahrain): “From regional to global diplomacy: A comparative perspective on conflict mediation evolution in the GCC”

Discussant: Aleksii Ylönen (United States International University Africa, Kenya)

12:45-14:30 Lunch break at workshop venues

14:30-15:00 **Paper Twenty**
Gafar Karar Ahmed Karar (Shanghai International Studies University, China), Guangda Wang (Shanghai International Studies University, China): “Sudan’s Ongoing Armed Conflict: Current Situation and Security Implications of the War on China, South Sudan, Regional, and Global Security”

Discussant: K.M. Seethi (Mahatma Gandhi University, India)

15:00-15:30 **Paper Twenty-One**

Aleksi Ylönen (United States International University Africa, Kenya): “Endemic War in Sudan: Frames of Understanding, Conflict Resolution and Failed Peace”

Discussant: Ozlem Tur (Middle East Technical University, Türkiye)

15:30-15:50 **Publication Plans, Questionnaire, Conclusion**
All participants and authors

END OF SECOND DAY

DINNER JULY 11TH 19:00 (BST) AT KING'S COLLEGE