

Workshop No. 11

Highly Skilled Migrants and the GCC countries: Drivers, Perceptions, Policies, and New Dynamics

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Françoise De Bel-Air

Senior Fellow

Gulf Labour Markets, Migration and Population programme (GLMM), Gulf Research
Center
France

Anju Mary Paul

Professor of Social Research and Public Policy
New York University Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates

***Note:** Each paper presentation will take no more than 15 minutes, followed by discussant comments lasting 5 minutes. The remainder of the time in each panel will be reserved for audience questions and a general discussion of the shared themes across the papers in the panel.*

First Workshop Day - Wednesday, 23 July 2025

08:30 - 08:45 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:45 - 09:30 – Introduction of Workshop and Participants

09:30 – 11:00 – Panel 1: High-Skilled Migration Policies in the Gulf

Paper 1

Author: Sanaa Ashour

Title: Comparative Perspectives on Reforms to Long-term Residency and Citizenship Policies in GCC States

Discussants: Michael Ewers and/or Salma Thani, Simone Marsilio, Zainab Qureshi

Paper 2

Author: Anushka Bose

Title: Nationality, Racialized: Imperial Legacies and High-Skilled Migration Policy Reform in the GCC

Discussant: Gennaro Errichiello

Q&A and General Discussion

11:00 - 11.15 – Coffee break

11:15 - 13:15 – Panel 2: “New” High-Skilled Migrants in the Gulf

Paper 3

Author: Aameena AlMeer

Title: Step-Migration Trajectories of Female Pakistani Migrants in Qatar

Discussant: Musaab Alkhtib

Paper 4

Author: Sebastian Rajan and Sneha S. Najeeb

Title: Evolving Migration Patterns: The Rise of Highly Skilled Migrants in the India-GCC Corridor

Discussant: Nasra Shah

Paper 5

Author: Hee Eun Kwon

Title: Transnational Ties and Temporary Lives: Korean MNCs and Skilled Migration to the Gulf

Discussant: Anushka Bose

Q&A and General Discussion

13:30 - 15:00 – Lunch break

15:15 - 16:45 – Panel 3: Gulf Labour Market Dynamics for High-Skilled Migrants

Paper 6

Author: Shroug Alotaibi

Title: Navigating the Workforce of Vision 2030: Highly Skilled Migrants in Saudi Arabia

Discussant: Yuree Noh and Simone Marsilio

Paper 7

Author: Musaab Alkhtib

Title: Experiences of Highly Skilled Residents born in Qatar on the Permanent Residency Law

Discussant: Sharique Umar

Q&A and General Discussion

16:45 - 17:00 – Coffee break

17:00 - 17:15 Recap of Day One

17:15 – End of First Workshop Day

Evening Free

Second Workshop Day - Thursday, 24 July 2025

08:15 – 08:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:30 - 10:30 – Panel 4: Skilled Mobility out of the Gulf

Paper 8

Authors: Anurag Devkota and Froilan Malit Jr

Title: Stepwise Labor Migration in the Gulf-Europe Corridor: Rethinking Skilled Migrants' Routes and Nepali States' Capital Access and Shifting Migration Management

Discussant: Sebastian Rajan

Paper 9

Authors: Areej Jamal, Nasra Shah and Richa Shivakoti

Title: Factors Influencing Future Mobility: A Case Study of South Asian Migrants in Saudi Arabia

Discussant: Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui

Paper 10

Authors: Froilan Malit Jr. and Mouawiya Alawad

Title: The Invisible Hand of the Emirati State: (In)formal State Policies, Stepwise Migration and Filipino Nurses in the Gulf

Discussant: Sanaa Ashour

Q&A and General Discussion

10.30 - 10.45 – Coffee break

10:45 - 12:45 – Panel 5: The Skilled Second-Generation in the Gulf

Paper 11

Author: Sharique Umar

Title: The Gulf as a Circulatory Node: Reforms and the Reimagined Mobility of Second-Generation Residents

Discussant: Mohammad Al-Mailam

Paper 12

Author: Gennaro Errichiello

Title: Second Generation Highly Skilled Pakistanis in Dubai: Everyday Integration and Future Trajectories

Discussant: Ameena AlMeer

Paper 13

Authors: Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui and Manal Nadeem

Title: Migrants as Stakeholders: Class, Politics, and Mobility in and through the UAE's Emerging Knowledge Economy

Discussants: Anurag Devkota and Froilan Malit Jr.

Q&A and General Discussion

12:45 - 14:15 – Lunch break

14:15 – 16:15 – Panel 6: Gulf Natives' Attitudes towards High-Skilled Migrants

Paper 14

Author: Mohammad Al-Mailam

Title: Who Comes and Who Goes? Explaining Citizens' Migration Preferences in the Gulf

Discussant: Shroug Alotaibi

Paper 15

Authors: Michael Ewers, Bethany Shockley, Salma Thani, Simone Marsilio, and Zainab Qureshi

Title: Nationals, Neighbors, and New Visas: Views on Skilled Migration and Belonging in the UAE

Discussant: Hee Eun Kwon

Paper 16

Authors: Yuree Noh, Bethany Shockley and Simone Marsilio

Title: Fostering Acceptance of Skilled Migrants in the GCC: Insights from the UAE

Discussant: Richa Shivakoti

Q&A and General Discussion

16:15 - 16:30 – Coffee break

16:30 - 1700 – Recap, Next Steps and Submission of Online Evaluation Forms

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 Farewell Dinner at King's College