



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

Knowledge for All

GULF RESEARCH MEETING

16th Gulf Research Meeting

21 - 23 July 2026 – University of Cambridge

Workshop No. 5

Rational Agency and Uncertain Futures: AI's Role in the Gulf Region

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Dr. Pascal Stiefenhofer
Newcastle University

Dr. Ali Polat
Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST)

First Workshop Day - Wednesday, 22 July 2026

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

08:30 - 09:00 – Introduction of Workshop and Participants

09:00 - 09:45 – Paper 1: Governing Generative AI under Severe Uncertainty: Safeguarding Rational Agency in the GCC

Author: Karoui Aous

Discussant: Jing Qian

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 2: Beyond Subsidies: AI as a Decision-Support Tool for Autonomous EV Adoption under Uncertainty in the GCC's Green Transition

Author: Jing Qian

Discussant: Karoui Aous

10:30 - 10:45 – Coffee and tea break

10:45 - 11:30 – Paper 3: Licensing AI Components Under Deep Uncertainty: Contract Design as a Governance Tool for Rational Agency in the GCC

Author: Stefan Papastefanou

Discussant: Alperen Polat

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper: 4 MANAGING DECENTRALIZED AI AGENTS AND LEGAL UNCERTAINTY

Authors: Alperen Polat, Ali Polat

Discussant: Stefan Papastefanou

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 5: Comparative Analysis of the Use of AI-Based Emotional Recognition Technologies as Polygraphs in Criminal Investigations from the Perspective of Gulf Countries and the EU AI Act

Author: Huseyin Ates

Discussant: Ismail Yilmaz Kan

13:00 - 15:00 – Lunch break (lunch served at King's College)

15:00 - 15:45 – Paper 6: Between Efficiency and Identity: Ethical Governance Frameworks for AI-Driven Public Policy in the GCC

Author: Nayef Al-Nabet

Discussant: Usume Altuntas

15:45 - 16:30 – Paper 7: Should GCC Judges Use Recidivism AI? A Legal and Dignity-Centred Boundary for Algorithmic Influence

Authors: Usume Altuntas, Muhammed Karayagli, Huseyin Ates

Discussant: Nayef Al-Nabet

16:30 - 16:45 – Coffee and tea break

16:45-17:30 – Paper 8: Soft Law, Silent Algorithms: Measuring the AI Governance Gap in GCC Banks

Author: Ahmet Faruk Aysan, Atta Ul Mustafa

Discussant: Cafer Deniz

17:30-18:15 –Paper 9: The Future Readiness of the Young Generation for AI in the GCC

Authors: Cafer Deniz, Yunus Colak

Discussant: Ahmet Faruk Aysan

End of First Workshop Day

Evening Free

Second Workshop Day - Thursday, 23 July 2026

08:45 - 09:00 – Welcome coffee and tea

09:00 - 09:45 – Paper 10: Artificial Intelligence and Marine Insurance in the Gulf's Risky Waters

Author: Ismail Yilmaz Kan

Discussant: Huseyin Ates

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 11: Agency Preservation Under Uncertainty: Benchmarking AI Advisors in GCC Visa, Health, and Consumer Finance Decisions

Authors: Atta ul Mustafa, Ahmet Faruk Aysan

Discussant: Oğuzhan Çimen

10:30 - 11:15 – Paper 12: Managing Gulf Uncertainty with AI Artificial Intelligence

Authors: Oğuzhan Çimen, Mehmet Akif Deniz, Mustafa Cakir

Discussant: Atta ul Mustafa

11:15 - 11:30 – Coffee and tea break

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 13: Algorithmic Rationality, State Capitalism, and the Transformation of Decision-Making

Author: Yasin Ozturk

Discussant: Damla Sari

12:15 – 13:00 – Paper 14: When Convenience Replaces Choice: AI-Driven Marketing, Rational Agency, and the Ethics of AI-Washing in the Gulf Context

Authors: Damla Sari, Fatma Nur Aysan

Discussant: Yasin Ozturk

13:00 - 14:15 – Lunch break (lunch is served from 13:00 till 14:00 at the workshop venue)

14:15-15:00 –Paper 15: Beyond Technological Exhibitionism: Demographic Resilience and the Strategic Imperative of High-Skilled Migration in the GCC

Authors: Abdullah Selim Doğan, Halil Ibrahim Akpınar

Discussant: Yusuf Ugurluoglu

15:00 - 15:45 – Paper 16: Beyond Patents: Contribution-Based Innovation in an Age of AI-Accelerated Change

Author: Yusuf Ugurluoglu, Muhammed Salih Gul

Discussant: Abdullah Selim Doğan

15:45 - 16:00 – Coffee and tea

16:00 - 16:45 – Paper 17: To what extent do AI-enabled smart city applications contribute to informed and adaptive urban planning in Bahrain?

Author: Rawana AlDajani

Discussant: Fatma Genç Ünay

16:45 - 17:30 – Paper 18: AI-driven Fashion Governance in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries: Regional Agency and Design as a Softpower of Transformation

Author: Fatma Genç Ünay

Discussant: Rawana AlDajani

17:30 - 18:00 – Workshop debrief, next steps, publication plans, questionnaire

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 Farewell Dinner at King's College