



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge

Knowledge for All

GULF RESEARCH MEETING

16th Gulf Research Meeting

21-23 July 2026 – University of Cambridge

Workshop No. 10

Mobilizing Diasporas and Gulf Private Investors for the Reconstruction of Syria and Lebanon

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Giacomo Luciani & Samir Makdisi

Please note: each paper discussion will last a maximum of 45 minutes:

10 minutes for paper presentation

5 minutes for the discussant's comments

30 minutes for open discussion

These time limits will be strictly enforced for ensuring a productive discussion.

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: GCC-MENA Integration in an Era of Geoeconomic Fragmentation: Production Linkages and Capital Flows – presented by Ishac Diwan

Discussant: **Giacomo Luciani**

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 2: GCC-MENA Integration in an Era of Geoeconomic Fragmentation: The Trade Layer – presented by Lina Kallel

Discussant: **Samir Makdisi**

10:30 - 10:45 – Coffee and tea break

10:45 - 11:30 – Paper 3: Trust Before Capital: Mobilising Syrian Diaspora and Gulf Private Investment Without Rebuilding Crony Capitalism – presented by Samir Altaqi

Discussant: **Giacomo Luciani**

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 4: Lebanon's Gap Law: A Promise Without a Plan - *A Framework Reform in Search of a Quantified Plan* – presented by Bassem Snaije

Discussant: **Samir Makdisi**

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 5: Private Gulf Capital and Diaspora Liquidity in the Post-War Reconstruction of Syria and Lebanon: A Comparative Political-Economy of Sanctions, Banking Collapse, and Capital Readiness – presented by Meriem Bouzedif

Discussant: **Bassem Snaije**

13:15 - 14:45 – Lunch break (lunch served at King's College)

15:00 - 15:45 – Paper 6: From Fragility to Inclusive Recovery: Political Settlements, Investment, and Levant Growth Corridors in Syria and Lebanon – presented by Ibrahim Badawi

Discussant: **Ishac Diwan**

15:45 - 16:30 – Paper 7: Reconstruction or Reconstitution? What is Feasible and Optimal for Syria and Lebanon – presented by Atif Kubursi

Discussant: **Samir Makdisi**

16:30 – 17:15 – Paper 8: Towards a Transformative Role of Diaspora and Refugees through Social and Solidarity Economy in Post-Assad Syria – presented by Rabie Nasser

Discussant: **Ibrahim Badawi**

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 9: From Fragmented Support to Strategic Engagement: Leveraging the Lebanese Diaspora Contribution and GCC Finance For government reform, reconstruction and Sustainable development of Lebanon – presented by Sergio Jalil

Discussant: **Tina Zintl**

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 10: Lebanon's Electricity Crisis: The Political Economy of Collapse and the Path to Reform – presented by Rony Karam

Discussant: **Giacomo Luciani**

10:30 - 11:15 – Paper 11: Mobilising Digital and Diaspora Capabilities for Lebanon's Economic Revival: A Scalable AI Incubation Model – presented by Dana Achi

Discussant: **Samir Altaqi**

11:15 - 11:30 – Coffee and tea break

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 12: Reconstruction funded by Syria's diaspora in Germany and the Gulf: Foreign direct investment and job creation – presented by Tina Zintl

Discussant: **Nawras al Husein**

12:15 – 13:00 – Paper 13: Beyond Remittances: Diaspora Market Engagement, Institutional Reform, and Inclusive Recovery in Post-Assad Syria – presented by Nawras al Husein

Discussant: **Tina Zintl**

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

14:15 - 15:00 – Paper 14: Implementing the NJCIE Standards in Inclusive Education in Syria: The Role of Global Partnerships – presented by Lama al Hallak

Discussant: **Rabie Nasser**

15:00 - 15:45 – Paper 15: A Research-Led Prioritization Framework to Align Gulf Investment and Diaspora Engagement with Syria's Recovery Needs– presented by Mamoun Fahham

Discussant: **Samir Altaqi**

15:45 - 16:15 - Publication plans and questionnaire

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 Farewell Dinner at King's College