



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

GULF RESEARCH MEETING

16th Gulf Research Meeting

21 - 23 July 2026 – University of Cambridge

Workshop No. 12

Humanitarian Diplomacy and Mediation in the Gulf: Pathways to Regional Stability

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Naglaa Elhag
Search for Common Ground, Jordan

Dr. Mohammad Alsousi
Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, Qatar

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: Into the Void: Gulf Humanitarian Statecraft and Mediation in a Fracturing Multilateral Order

Authors: Rikard Jalkebro, Victoria Stewart-Jolley

Discussants: Emma Johnston, Cassia Thackray, Allanah Kjellgren

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 2: Humanitarian Diplomacy and Mediation in Yemen: The GCC's Vision for Humanity

Author: Assia Benalloum

Discussant: Victoria Stewart-Jolley

10:30 - 10:45 – Coffee and tea break

10:45 - 11:30 – Paper 3: Pathways to Peace: Integrating Humanitarian Mine Action into Stabilisation, Mediation, and Humanitarian Diplomacy Approaches in Yemen

Authors: Florence Branchu, Emma Johnston, Allanah Kjellgren, Cassia Thackray

Discussant: Rikard Jalkebro

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 4: Omani Mediation Efforts in The Yemeni Crisis: Reconciliation and humanitarian support

Author: Adil Moussaoui

Discussant: Mohammed Alsousi

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 5: Mechanisms of the UN Women Liaison Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States in Supporting Humanitarian Diplomacy and Achieving Regional Peace

Author: Noura Alkarbi

Discussant: Naglaa Elhag

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

15:00 - 15:45 – Paper 6: Non-Traditional Mediation and Gendered Humanitarian Diplomacy in Qatar

Author: Priyanshu Tyagi

Discussant: Adil Moussaoui

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 7: Between Aid Prioritization and De-Politicization: Qatar Humanitarian Diplomacy in Syria

Author: Aya Abdelsalam

Discussant: Laurent Lambert

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 8: Women, Humanitarian Diplomacy, and Mediation: A Gulf Perspective

Author: Alhala Elkuwari

Discussant: Sanaa BenSlimane

10:30 - 11:15 – Paper 9: A Paradigmatic Shift in Doha's Diplomacy? From Mediator for Visibility and Security to the 2025 Securitization of the Mediation

Authors: Laurent Lambert, Sana BenSlimane

Discussant: Naglaa Elhag

11:15 - 11:30 – Coffee and tea break

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 10: Humanitarian Diplomacy as Mediation Infrastructure: Convening, Trust, and Practice in Afghanistan

Author: Mohammed Alsousi

Discussant: Alhala Elkuwari

12:15 – 13:00 – Paper 11: The King's Gulf Mediation Dataset: Mapping Gulf States' Mediation Strategies and Tools

Authors: David Roberts, Ghufrane Daymi

Discussant: Huzayfe Altiok

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

14:15-15:00 – Paper 12: Beyond Mediation: Kuwait and Indigenous Formulation in the Gulf Crisis

Author: Huzeyfe Altiok

Discussant: David Roberts

15:00 – 15:30 – Publication discussion and questionnaire

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 Farewell Dinner at King's College

Not in Attendance:

Paper 13: The Neutrality Paradox in Small-State Mediation: Qatar's Balancing Act Between Hosting Hamas, Mediating, and Humanitarian Engagement in the Israeli War on Gaza (2023-2025)

Author: Mohammad Seyam

Paper 14: Walking on Borrowed Limbs: Gender, Care and Gulf-Funded Rehabilitation in Aden, Yemen

Author: Bassma Mohammed

Paper 15: Gulf States as Humanitarian Peace Actors: Divergence beyond Liberal Institutionalism

Author: Rahana Sherin KV

Paper 16: Knowledge, Power, and Mediation: Gulf Universities and the Making of a Humanitarian Epistemic Field

Author: Sanaa Ashour

Paper 17: Humanitarian Diplomacy of the Gulf States in Africa...Motives and Implications

Author: Zinab Roweha