



Middle East
Centre

LSE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2021 | 22



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WELCOME

From our location in central London, within walking distance of Whitehall and the high offices of the British state – marked out by old buildings, monuments and titles – it is difficult not to be reminded that this is the setting in which, over a hundred years ago, the label ‘Middle East’ entered the English lexicon. British generals and diplomats used it first as a term of statecraft serving the interests of Empire, denoting a geopolitical space oriented to the defence of India (including Aden). The Middle East Department at the Colonial Office was set up by Winston Churchill in February 1921, a month before the landmark Cairo Conference set in play British-sponsored regimes in Iraq and Transjordan, and reaffirmed support for a Jewish National Home in Palestine. Needless to say, the far-reaching ramifications of these decisions are still felt a century later; and making sense of the Middle East today makes high demands of those of us in Anglophone universities – for ethical integrity and analytical rigour, but also empathy and humility. For that challenge, the LSE Middle East Centre (MEC) is sustained by the School’s founding purpose: to apply social science to understand the causes of things and for the betterment of society.

This Annual Report covers activity by the Centre between 1 August 2021 and 31 July 2022. As the central hub for the wide range of social scientific research on the Middle East and North Africa carried out at LSE, the Centre relies on external funding for supporting its scholarly work. Following the ending of the Conflict Research Programme, we were delighted to open a new phase of conflict-related research as a consortium member of PeaceRep (Peace & Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform), led by the University of Edinburgh Law School and

funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). MEC research within this programme focuses on peace-building, conflict and democratisation in Iraq and the regional roles of Turkey and the GCC states. Other Centre research and outreach was funded by the Emirates Foundation, the Aman Trust, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, the Leverhulme Trust, the Henry Luce Foundation, Ethar Relief, the Council for British Research in the Levant, and the British Institute for the Study of Iraq. Further detail follows in the report, but I would like to acknowledge here our sincere thanks to our funders.

Disseminating knowledge, and fostering open debate about the region, is pivotal to our events and communications strategy. Across 2021–22, the Centre hosted 28 public online/hybrid events, including in May 2022 our first in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic, on Gramsci in the Middle East and North Africa. The report gives data on the growing impact of our multiple social media platforms, including a 77% increase in views of the MEC blog and a 198% increase in podcast listens. The Instant Coffee podcast, our accessible vehicle for MENA-related content, reached new audiences with its second series on regional cuisine. In 2021–22 the Arabic Content Project in the Centre took great strides forward. December 2021 saw the launch of a new Arabic-language MEC website. Alongside translation of English-language content (publications, blogs, events), this has fostered original Arabic contributions and boosted social media engagement in Arabic. To widen this work, the Centre was awarded School funding (LSE Eden Centre) for paid student internships and assistants.

Engagement with students continues to be a priority for the Centre: In 2021–22 we again ran our School-wide master’s dissertation prize competition. Congratulations to the well-deserved joint winners, Yasmina Burgan (MSc Strategic Communication, Department of Media and Communications) and Maya Fawzi (MSc Conflict Studies, Department of Government).

Finally, university scholarship is typically judged by the quality and reach of peer-reviewed publications. This state of affairs gives me the opportunity to highlight several major books published recently by Centre colleagues,

- *The Formation of Modern Kurdish Society in Iran: Modernity, Modernization and Social Change 1921-1979* (IB Tauris, 2021) by Dr Marouf Cabi
- *Nation and Class in the History of the Kurdish Movement* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) by Dr Nicola Degli-Esposti
- *The Kurdish Women’s Freedom Movement: Gender, Body Politics and Militant Femininities* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) by Dr Isabel Käser
- *Turkish Politics and ‘The People’: Mass Mobilisation and Populism* (Edinburgh University Press, 2022) by Dr Spyros Sofos
- *Creating Consent in an Illiberal Order: Policing Disputes in Jordan* (Cambridge University Press, 2022) by Dr Jessica Watkins

All volumes are being well-received, indeed lauded, within and beyond academic circles. Nothing beats a good book.

Michael Mason
Centre Director

ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE

The Middle East Centre builds on LSE's long engagement with the Middle East and provides a central hub for the wide range of research on the region carried out around the School. LSE is one of the world's leading social science institutions and comprises departments covering all branches of the social sciences. The Centre taps into this expertise to promote both public understanding and innovative interdisciplinary research on the region, with foci on history, political economy, society and international relations.

OBJECTIVES

- Promoting independent and critical research on the Middle East and North Africa;
- Fostering open and critical debate about the politics, societies and economies of the region;
- Disseminating knowledge about the Middle East through the Centre's events, digital resources and publications and through LSE's community and media activities;
- Providing a rich research environment for scholars and students;
- Establishing and cultivating ties with colleagues in the Middle East and international institutions.

FUNDERS

In 2021–22, the Centre's work was generously supported by:

- Emirates Foundation
- Aman Trust
- Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences
- UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- The Leverhulme Trust
- The Henry Luce Foundation
- Ethar Relief
- Council for British Research in the Levant
- British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI)
- LSE Eden Centre
- LSE Research and Impact Support Fund
- LSE Research Infrastructure and Investment Fund (RIIF)



CENTRE STAFF

Aida Abbashar

Research Assistant

Taif Alkhudary

Research Officer

Dr Jinan Al-Habbal

Research Officer

Nadine Almanasfi

Events Coordinator

Dr Nesrin Alrefaai

Arabic Tutor and Content Editor

Afrah Al Matwari

Research Assistant

Abrar Alshammari

Research Assistant

Seren Caglar

Research Assistant

Iván Cano-Gomez

Research Assistant

Professor Toby Dodge

Kuwait Professor

Kanwal Tareq Hameed

Research Assistant

Dr Steffen Hertog

Associate Professor

Mariam Ghorbannejad

Kuwait Programme Publications
Editor

Yasmine Kherfi

Assistant Editor

Kendall Livingston

Projects Coordinator

Robert Lowe

Deputy Director

Diala Makki

Research Assistant

Dr Michael Mason

Director

Jack McGinn

Communications Coordinator

Dallas O'Dell

Research Assistant

Sarah Oufan

Research Assistant

Rocio Méndez Pineda

Research Assistant

Ian Sinclair

Kuwait Programme
Administrator

Poppy Soetens-Hall

Kuwait Programme Coordinator

Dr Spyros Sofos

Research Officer

Branwen Spector

Research Assistant

Kimia Talebi

Research Assistant

Dr Polly Withers

Research Officer

Sepehr Zhand

Research Assistant

VISITING FELLOWS

Dr Hanaa Almoaibed

Professor Madawi Al Rasheed

Dr Ian Black

Dr Marouf Cabi

Dr Nicola Degli-Esposti

Dr Brecht De Smet

Dr Courtney Freer

Professor Jeroen Gunning

Dr Athanasia Kalaitzi

Dr Zeynep Kaya

Dr Raphaël Lefèvre

Professor Dina Matar

Dr Toby Matthiesen

Dr Souad Mohamed

Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar

Dr Ipek Gencel Sezgin

Greg Shapland

Ahmed Tabaqchali

Dr Ghoncheh Tazmini

Dr Jessica Watkins

Dr Veli Yadirgi





Research Officer Dr. Spyros A. Sofos' new book, *Turkish Politics and 'The People': Mass Mobilisation and Populism*

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Middle East Centre conducts and facilitates original research on the politics, societies and economies of the Middle East and North Africa. Research is conducted by Centre staff and by academics based in LSE departments and the region.

The Lived Experience of Being Muslim among British Youth of Middle Eastern Origin

Seeks to enable researchers and policymakers to better understand specific British Muslim communities, the cultural processes and politics unfolding within them, and formulate responses to challenges posed by their relative marginalisation.

Supported by LSE Research and Impact Support Fund (RISF) & LSE Research Infrastructure and Investment Fund (RIIF)

Principal Investigator

Dr Spyros Sofos, LSE Middle East Centre

Queer(y)ing Palestine's Future

Explores processes of gender and sexuality whose privileging of hetero-colonising authority shaped and continue to define both the Zionist conquest of Palestine and the Palestinian struggle for liberation, and thus future imaginings of 'free Palestine.'

Supported by the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL)

Principal Investigator

Dr Walaa Alqaisiya, LSE Gender

Understanding Barriers and Enablers to Women's Leadership in Sudan

Analyses the development of female leadership by looking at the major barriers women face in rising to senior positions, as well as proven useful practices in the development of Sudanese female leaders.

Supported by Ethar Relief

Principal Investigator

Dr Souad Mohamed, LSE Middle East Centre

Managing Religious Diversity in the Middle East: The *Muhasasa Ta'ifia* in Iraq, 2003–2018

Examines the efforts of Iraq's post-2003 ruling elite to build a democratic system to manage religious and ethnic diversity, investigating the creation and evolution of the *Muhasasa Ta'ifia* system through interviews with senior Iraqi officials, public opinion polls, election data and detailed sociological

research. It also examines the system's influence on Iraq's politics, society, government incoherence and the high levels of violence since regime change.

Supported by the Henry Luce Foundation

Principal Investigator

Professor Toby Dodge, LSE Middle East Centre

Whose Revolution? Re-assessing the Impact of the 1979 Iranian Revolution on Sunni Islamism

Looks at the Iranian Revolution's impact on the evolution of Sunni Islamism in the Arab world, using four case studies deemed representative of its regional, organisational and ideational diversity: Tunisia's Ennahda movement, Morocco's Muslim Brotherhood-aligned PJD, Lebanon's 'Sunni Khomeinist' Tawheed militia and Palestine's 'Islam-Marxists', Islamic Jihad.

Supported by the Henry Luce Foundation

Principal Investigators

Dr Toby Matthiesen & Dr Raphaël Lefèvre, LSE Middle East Centre

PEACEREP

THE PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION EVIDENCE PLATFORM



PeaceRep is a seven-year research consortium led by the University of Edinburgh Law School. The LSE Middle East Centre is a consortium member, and our research focuses on peacebuilding, conflict and democratisation in Iraq and the regional roles of Turkey and the GCC states. PeaceRep is funded by UK Aid from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UK.

Fragmentation of Peacemaking and Peacebuilding: Non-Western Dynamics of Peace and Transition Management

As part of the Global Transitions Series, the Middle East Centre has produced three papers on Emergent Powers in MENA, authored by Courtney Freer and Spyros A. Sofos. This series is a research output from PeaceRep

– the Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform, funded by the UK Aid from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

Principal Investigators

Courtney Freer & Spyros A. Sofos, LSE Middle East Centre

Role of Opposition Parties in Democratisation: The Case of Post-2019 Iraq

This report examines the role that two of the most prominent movement parties to have emerged out of the October protests – Al Bayt Al Watani and Imtidad – can play in consolidating democracy in Iraq. To this end, it draws on the work of Vicky Randall and Lars Svåsand on party institutionalisation in Global South contexts to assess both parties' degree of institutionalisation, and to make recommendations on this basis. The paper's findings are based on semi-structured interviews carried out with members of both parties between September 2021 and August 2022.

Principal Investigator

Taif Alkhudary, LSE Middle East Centre







LSE Middle East Centre

LSE Middle East Centre

LSE Middle East Centre

LSE Middle East Centre

Understanding
through

Chair: Polly Withers
Speakers: Akile Ahn

Makan launch their curated online course, 'Understanding Palestine: An Online Journey through Contemporary Palestinian Realities'

LSE
Tamara Ben-Halim

ACADEMIC COLLABORATION WITH ARAB UNIVERSITIES PROGRAMME

Supported by the Emirates Foundation, the Academic Collaboration Programme strengthens the Centre's role as the principal hub for Middle East Studies within the School as well as a key partner to institutions in the region. The Centre has so far run 42 projects, working with 22 different partners in Arab states. Funded by the Emirates Foundation, the programme supports collaboration and knowledge exchange between LSE and Arab universities through research and academic capacity building.



ONGOING PROJECTS

Lebanon Unsettled

This project will establish, through student workshops and collaborative research, a publicly accessible archive of the recent urban protests in Lebanon. It will place the 2019 uprisings in their larger historical and geographical context.

Principal Investigators

Dr Deen Shariff Sharp, LSE
Geography & Environment
Dr May Farhat, Holy Spirit
University of Kaslik

Roads as Tools for (Dis)connecting Cities and Neighbourhoods: a socio-spatial study of Abu Dhabi

This project looks at existing and alternative design approaches that could help with the possible integration of new mobility services in Abu Dhabi, and aims to engage with international and local initiatives to understand local perspectives and draft recommendations for policymakers and relevant institutions.

Principal Investigators

Alexandra Gomes, LSE Cities
Dr Apostolos Kyriazis, Abu Dhabi
University

Export Composition and Economic Growth in the UAE

This project investigates whether a further increase in the degree of export diversification will foster further economic growth in the UAE.

Principal Investigators

Dr Athanasia Kalaitzi, LSE
Middle East Centre
Dr Samer Kherfi, American
University of Sharjah

Incentivising Acceptability of Climate Change Mitigation Measures in the GCC

This project aims to estimate the willingness to pay for emissions reduction policies, as well as the

associated willingness to adopt low-carbon lifestyles in GCC countries. It investigates how effective different behavioural mechanisms are in enhancing the acceptability of climate change policies and the willingness to adopt and pay for low carbon lifestyles.

Principal Investigators

Professor Susana Mourato, LSE
Geography & Environment
Dr Davide Contu, Canadian
University Dubai
Dr Ganga Shreedhar, LSE
Psychological & Behavioural
Science

Neoliberal Visions: Exploring Gendered Adverts and Identities in the Palestinian West Bank

This project studies the production and consumption of gendered advertisements in Ramallah, as a way of exploring how neoliberal culture constructs gendered subjectivity.

Principal Investigators

Dr Polly Withers, LSE Middle
East Centre
Dr Rema Hammami, Birzeit
University

Can Social Protection Empower Women? Patriarchy, Economic Agency and Redistribution Policies in Egypt

This project explores the impacts of Egypt's poverty alleviation programmes and cash transfers on gendered identities, as well as on the relationships that shape citizenship for women and families.

Principal Investigators

Dr Naila Kabeer, LSE Gender
Dr Hania Mohamed Sholkamy,
American University in Cairo

Global Identity in an Uncertain World: A Study of Social Attitudes at an International UAE University

This project considers how social psychological processes are developing in the next generation of young leaders worldwide, and what kinds of environments might foster a liberal, globalist outlook, just as it shows signs of being in retreat. It focuses on high achievers from several countries studying at New York University Abu Dhabi.

Principal Investigators

Dr Jennifer Sheehy-Skeffington,
LSE Psychological & Behavioural
Science
Dr Christian Haerper, UAE
University
Dr PJ Henry, NYU Abu Dhabi

Mapping Memories of Resistance: The Untold Story of the Occupation of the Golan Heights

This project documents and narrates the untold political, socio-economic and cultural story of the occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights, pertaining to the lived experience of the Syrians who remained. It will develop a teaching curriculum for Birzeit University students, as well as an interactive digital database and documentation portal on the history of Arab resistance to the occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights.

Principal Investigators

Dr Michael Mason, LSE Middle
East Centre
Dr Munir Fakher Eldin, Birzeit
University

Explaining the Middle Eastern Health Inequality Paradox

This project attempts to understand and explain the existence of this 'Middle Eastern Health Inequality Paradox'. In particular, it aims to identify any gaps that might exist across countries and investigate whether/ how such gaps depend on a number of determinants including but not restricted to; social norms, socio-economic factors, lifestyle and environmental characteristics, as well as food prices.

Principal Investigators

Dr Joan Costa-i-Font, LSE
European Institute
Dr Aristeidis Samitas, Zayed
University

Palestinian Attitude Change in Response to Conflict in the Palestinian Territories

This project looks at the impact of exposure to violence on individual expectations about the future and the inclination to cooperate with others. It combines quantitative survey evidence and state-of-the-art experimental games with Palestinians to study how early

life experiences of conflict shape expectations and attitudes towards cooperation across age cohorts and over time.

Principal Investigators

Dr Ben Groom, LSE Geography & Environment
Dr Guy Burton, MBRSG, Dubai
Dr Elisa Cavatorta, King's
College London



PROJECTS COMMENCING IN 2021–22

Urbanity in the Time of Pandemic: A Study of Infrastructures of Care in Palestine during the Covid- 19 Crisis

This project seeks to explore how systems and practices of crisis and care unfold in urban life and engages with how notions of emergency and citizenship are shaped by the everyday networks of mutual aid within the brutality of the permanent crisis in Palestine in general, and during the Covid-19 pandemic in particular.

Principal Investigators

Dr Haneen Naamneh, LSE
Middle East Centre
Dr Suzi Hall, LSE Sociology
Dr Abaher El-Sakka, Birzeit
University

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq Post-ISIS: Youth, Art and Gender

In recent years, a new generation of young Kurdish artists have emerged that through their work portray issues around gender and sex-based violence (GSBV), religious conservatism and

corruption. This project maps out and portrays the main actors behind these emerging dynamics in the KRI and asks how social and political change is imagined and enacted amidst ongoing political and military conflicts in the region.

Principal Investigators

Dr Isabel Käser, LSE Middle East
Centre
Dr Bayar M. Sevdeen, University of
Kurdistan-Hewlêr
Houzan Mahmoud, Culture Project

Consociationalism and Civil Resistance in Lebanon

This project examines the reactions of the Lebanese regime towards protest movements and the resilience of the country's political system. It focuses on activists' strategies and narratives as well as the tactics deployed to thwart these mass protests and threaten collective action.

Principal Investigators

Dr Jinan Al-Habbal, LSE Middle
East Centre
Dr Carmen Geha, American
University of Beirut

Researching the Quality of Employment in the Middle East

This project seeks to identify potential informational gaps in the UAE, Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia and to develop a multidimensional index of the quality of employment to examine how the quality of employment has developed in the MENA region in recent years and to illustrate how policymakers can target resources and policies to the most vulnerable workers.

Principal Investigators

Professor Kirsten Sehnbruch,
LSE International Inequalities
Institute
Dr Samer Atallah, American
University of Cairo
Dr M. Azhar Hussain, University
of Sharjah

Arab News Futures

Through interviews and focus groups with students and journalists in London and Dubai, this project seeks to examine how Arab journalists conceive of their audience, how they reach out to young people and how Arab students engage with news media.

Principal Investigators

Dr Omar Al-Ghazzi, LSE Media &
Communications
Dr Abeer Al-Najjar, American
University of Sharjah



Beirut during the October 2019 protests. © Ali Hani

KUWAIT PROGRAMME

Established in 2007, the Kuwait Programme is a world-leading hub for research and expertise on Kuwait. The Programme is funded by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and directed by Toby Dodge, Kuwait Professor. Kuwait Programme Research Grants support LSE colleagues to conduct policy-relevant research on contemporary Kuwait. LSE-Kuwait Academic Collaboration projects enable Kuwait and LSE academics to run collaborative research.



Evaluating Digital Skills and Tangible Outcomes (DiSTO) in Kuwait

This project consists of the translation, adaptation, validation and implementation of the global DiSTO methodology within a Kuwaiti context. The DiSTO methodology utilises an inclusive approach to measure people's digital media use and their outcomes across four domains: Economic, Cultural, Social and Personal.

Principal Investigators

Professor Ellen Helsper, LSE
Media & Communications
Dr Fahed Al-Sumait, Gulf
University for Science and
Technology

Towards an Equitable Transport System in Kuwait

The project aims to investigate the issues of transport equity in Kuwait from a social justice perspective through both quantitative and qualitative aspects. Building on LSE Cities' research project 'Resource Urbanisms', the study will conduct a comprehensive GIS analysis of Kuwait's built environment to highlight the cross sectional inequalities in access to the transport system in Kuwait's metropolitan area.

Principal Investigator

Dr Muhammad Adeel, University
of Leeds

Beyond Oil: Trade Diversification and Economic Growth in Kuwait

This project is intended to inform policy discussions around how to foster sustained economic growth as the export demand for oil peaks and begins to decline by examining the causal relationships between disaggregated exports, disaggregated imports and economic growth in Kuwait over the period 1980–2018.

Principal Investigators

Dr Athanasia Kalaitzi, LSE
Middle East Centre
Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Kuwait
Institute for Scientific Research

Sustaining Kuwait in Unsustainable Times

This project is dedicated to illuminating the global linkages and local specificities around the socio-economic and ecological challenge that Kuwait faces in relation to climate change. It will emphasise the specific urban challenges for Kuwaitis in relation to climate change and efforts—or lack thereof—toward sustainable urbanisation.

Principal Investigator

Dr Deen Shariff Sharp, LSE
Geography & Environment

Asian Capital and the Rise of Smart Urbanism in Kuwait

This project looks at South Korean state investment in a new city project in Kuwait and asks: how do different institutional and political configurations affect the outcomes of urbanism export and import? How does a variety of governance dynamics shape exchange value extraction and its processes through new city construction?

Finally, to what extent do foreign developers' participation in destination country's urban and housing development reflect their own visions of urbanism, accumulated through their participation in urban and housing development in their countries of origin?

Principal Investigator

Professor Hyun Shin, LSE Saw
Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre

Kuwait National Election Study

The Kuwaiti National Election Study (KNES) will collect data on the voter behaviour, socio-economic features, and political attitudes of citizens of Kuwait. The project will contribute to the advancement of evidence-based policymaking in Kuwait, with a face-to-face survey of 1,500 individuals implemented immediately after elections are held for the Sixteenth Session of the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

Principal Investigator

Dr Courtney Freer, LSE Middle
East Centre

Governance of Spatial Change: Shaping urban policies and investments in Kuwait

In Kuwait, past decisions have led to a city characterised by low-density urban sprawl, heavy reliance on private cars, spatial segregation and limited use of public space. To analyse the governance framework underpinning these decisions, the project looks into the relevant laws and institutions, public finance mechanisms, and norms, traditions, aspirations and informal relationships shaping urban governance in Kuwait.

Principal Investigators

Dr Nuno F. da Cruz, LSE Cities
Dr Dhari Alrasheed, Kuwait
University

Public Preferences towards Policies to Address the Water-Energy-Nature Nexus in Kuwait

This project aims to provide a robust assessment of attitudes, beliefs (including faith), and willingness to pay related to



water conservation in Kuwait by employing a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods, including real time measurement of water consumption. It also aims - within this framework - to test the effectiveness of different behavioural interventions to encourage water conservation in the region, and to investigate the heterogeneity of preferences between different population groups.

Principal Investigators

Professor Susana Mourato, LSE
Geography & Environment
Dr Ganga Shreedhar, LSE
Psychological & Behavioural
Science

Surveying Kuwaiti Worldviews to Promote Science Culture in Kuwait

This project investigates the relationship between generalised worldviews and perspectives on a culture of science in Kuwait. The overarching aim is to identify worldviews that are receptive and conducive to a science culture and to promote a culture of science by designing communication strategies that both resonate with receptive worldviews and that appeal to the individual's own generalised mental framework.

Principal Investigators

Professor Martin W. Bauer, LSE
Psychological & Behavioural
Science
Dr Mohammad Sartawi, Kuwait
University

Breaking the Internal Combustion Engine Reign: A Mixed-Methods Study of Attitudes Towards Electric Vehicles in Kuwait

The research project addresses a broad gap in electric vehicles (EV) research in settings like Kuwait, namely a lack of attitudinal and customer preference research into perceptions of EVs. Research into the technical and infrastructural dimensions of EV-adoption in GCC countries is well underway, including research funded by KFAS and KISR in Kuwait. Much less well understood, however, are social attitudes towards EVs and EV-use in Kuwait, and how best to market EVs there once those attitudes are better understood.

Principal Investigators

Dr Alasdair Jones, LSE
Methodology
Dr Andri Ottesen, Australian
College of Kuwait

Learning from the Past to Build a Better Future: Supporting Urban Flood Resilience in Kuwait Through a Forensic Analysis of the 2018 Flash Floods

The main objective of this project is to analyse the current and future flood resilience of urban areas in Kuwait including the expected increase in flood hazards as a result of climate change. Based on a forensic analysis of the 2018 flash flood in Kuwait, we focus on two specific aspects: 1) challenges and opportunities of flood risk governance and decision-making, and 2) the role of urban development and planning trends, in increasing or decreasing urban flood resilience in Kuwaiti cities.

Principal Investigator

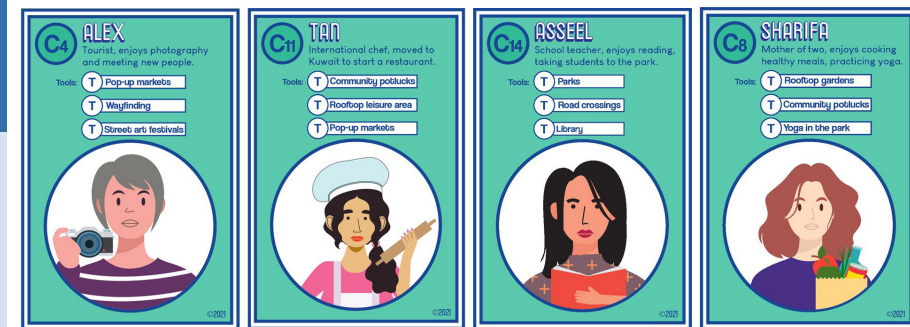
Dr Swenja Surminski, LSE
Gantham Institute

Ecologies of Belonging and Exclusion: An Intersectional Analysis of Urban Citizenship in Kuwait City

The project maps aspects of contemporary urban citizenship in Kuwait City from an intersectional perspective and explores how political and economic actors produce or mitigate power and inequalities that, in turn, give shape to Kuwait City.

Principal Investigator

Dr Nazanin Shahrokni, LSE
Gender



'Kuwaitscapes' card game exploring urban issues, a 'Public Space in Kuwait' project output

Public Space in Kuwait: From User Behaviour to Policy-making

Building upon the 'Resource Urbanisms' project, this exploration is the result of early investigations on the relationship between the built environment and the use of public space. With the World Health Organization appealing for an increase in physical activity of individuals, this project will explore the impact neighbourhood layout and urban design elements have on outdoor activities and individual behaviour.

Principal Investigators

Alexandra Gomes, LSE Cities
Dr Asseel Al-Ragam, Kuwait University

Empowering Democratic Citizenship through Education

Using focus groups, surveys, media content analysis and critical discourse analysis, the project explores the tensions and challenges of 21st century citizenship identity and practice formation in Kuwait, attempting to understand how schools as sites of citizenship formation reflect, resist or assimilate different and sometimes competing conceptions of citizenship across Kuwaiti society.

Principal Investigators

Dr Sam Mejias, LSE Media & Communications
Dr Rania Al-Nakib, Gulf University for Science and Technology

youth and the
democratization of the
ديوانية diwaniya

Moderated by
Dr. Sam Mejias
Dr. Rania Al Nakib
Rana Khazbak
Abdullah Al Khonaini

PUBLICATIONS

The Centre's research is published as part of our flagship, peer-reviewed Paper Series, which disseminates substantive, original research in an accessible and policy-relevant format. Many of our papers are now translated into Arabic, with all executive summaries rendered in both English and Arabic.

The Kurdish Protest Movement and the Islamic Republic of Iran: The Securitisation of Kurdish Nationalism

[Allan Hassaniyan, April 2022](#)

Peacebuilding in Turbulent Times: Turkey in MENA and Africa

[Spyros A. Sofos, March 2022](#)

Qatar and the UAE in Peacemaking and Peacebuilding

[Courtney Freer, March 2022](#)

MENA Regional Organisations in Peacemaking and Peacebuilding: The League of Arab States, Gulf Cooperation Council and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

[Courtney Freer, March 2022](#)

The Occupied Jawlan: An Online Open Curriculum

[Michael Mason, Muna Dajani, Munir Fakher Eldin & Omar Tesdell, December 2021](#)

Challenging Narratives of 'Fate and Divine Will': Access to Justice for Gender-Based Violence in Iraq

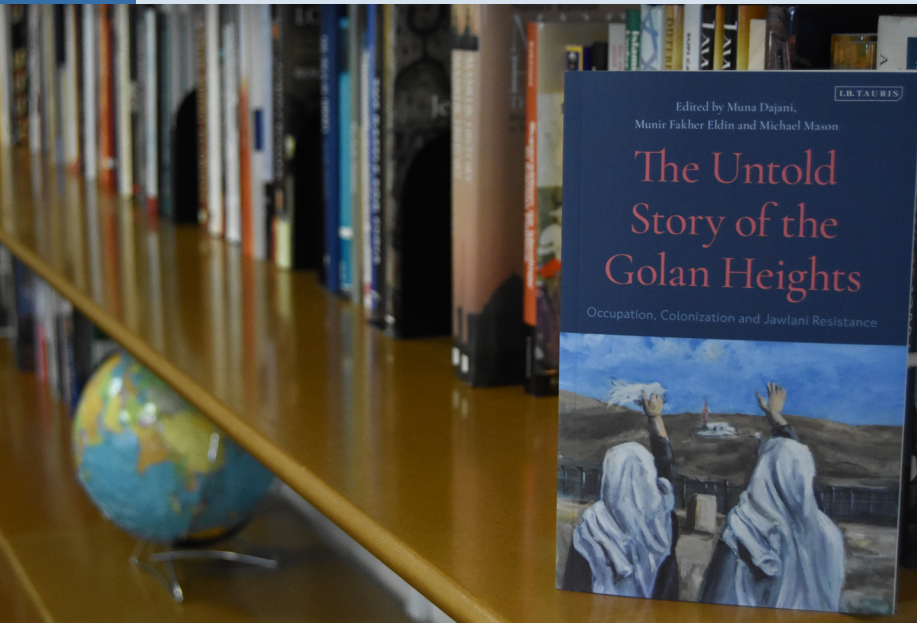
[Taif Alkhudary, Marwa Abdul Ridah, Anfal Abed & Amal Kabashi, December 2021](#)

Towards an Equitable Transport System in Kuwait: Understanding the Social and Cultural Context of Transport Accessibility

[Muhammad Adeel and Reem Alfahad, December 2021](#)

The Quiet Emergency: Experiences and Understandings of Climate Change in Kuwait

[Deen Shariff Sharp, Abrar Alshammari and Kanwal Hameed, October 2021](#)



THE QUIET EMERGENCY

Disinformation in Iraqi Media

Aida Al-Kaisy, October 2021

Undemocratic Parties in a
'Democratic' System: The
Formation and Operation of
Political Parties in Post-2003
Iraq

Omar al-Jaffal, October 2021

'Basra is Burning': The Protests
in Basra Governorate, 2018–20

**Omar al-Jaffal & Safaa Khalaf,
October 2021**

The Social Logics of Protest
Violence in Iraq: Explaining
Divergent Dynamics in the
Southeast

**Benedict Robin-D'Cruz, August
2021**

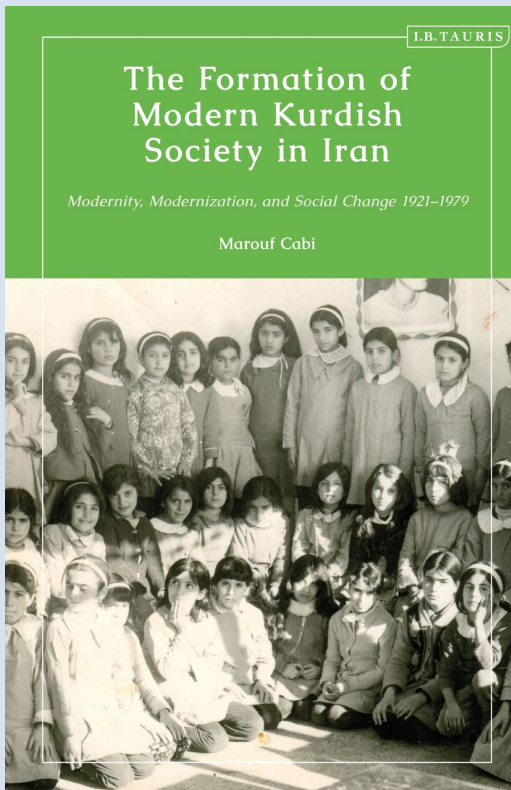
EXPERIENCES AND UNDERSTANDINGS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN KUWAIT

**DEEN SHARIFF SHARP, ABRAR
ALSHAMMARI AND KANWAL HAMEED**

KURDISH STUDIES SERIES

Convened by Zeynep Kaya and Robert Lowe, this series encourages dissemination and discussion of new research on Kurdish politics and society and provides a network for scholars, students and practitioners. Public events are held throughout the year and a new publications series has been launched with IB Tauris. Publication highlights in 2021–22 included Marouf Cabi's *The Formation of Modern Kurdish Society in Iran* and *Kurds and Yezidis in the Middle East* edited by Günes Murat Tezcür.

IB TAURIS PUBLICATIONS SERIES



The Kurds in a Changing Middle East: History, Politics and Representation

Edited by Faleh A. Jabar & Renad Mansour, 2019

The Kurds of Northern Syria: Governance, Diversity and Conflicts

Harriet Allsopp & Wladimir Van Wilgenberg, 2019

Kurdish Nationalism on Stage: Performance, Politics and Resistance in Iraq

Mari Rostami, 2019

Kurds and the Politics of Turkey: Agency, Territory and Religion

Deniz Çifçi, 2019

The Political Representation of Kurds in Turkey: New Actors and Modes of Participation in a Changing Society

Cengiz Gunes, 2020

A Modern History of the Kurds, fourth edition

David McDowall, 2021

Kurds and Yezidis in the Middle East: Shifting Identities, Borders and the Experience of Minority Communities

Edited by Günes Murat Tezcür, 2021

The Formation of Modern Kurdish Society in Iran:

Modernity, Modernization and Social Change 1921–1979

Marouf Cabi, 2021 (paperback forthcoming 2023)

INSTANT COFFEE PODCAST

Set up by Nadine Almanasfi and Ribale Sleiman Haidar in 2020, *Instant Coffee* is a podcast featuring 20-minute conversations with activists, artists, journalists and more from the Middle East and North Africa. There have been two seasons, the first being a general overview of exciting media, activist and cultural production in the region, the second season focused on food and drink, delving deeper into the politics, history and culture of ingredients and dishes loved by the region.



An A-Z of Food Names with Salma Serry
Season 2 Episode 9



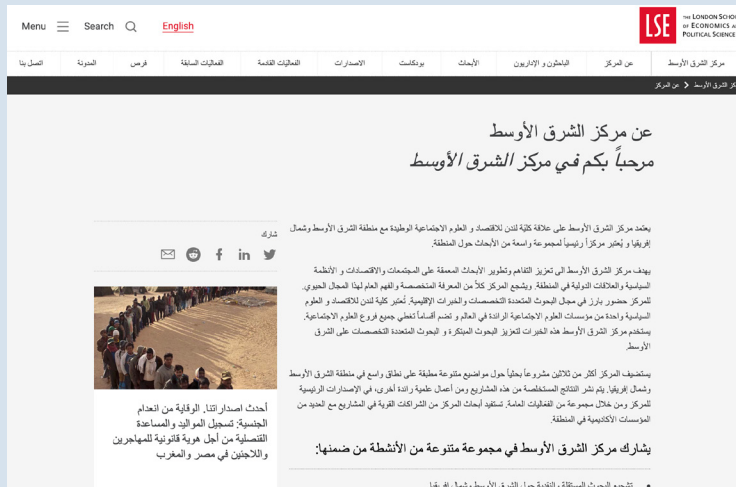
A Brief History of Wine with Farrah Berrou
Season 2 Episode 10



Feminist Art Workshop in Erbil, April 2022, as part of the project 'The Kurdistan Region of Iraq Post-ISIS: Youth, Art and Gender'

ARABIC CONTENT PROJECT

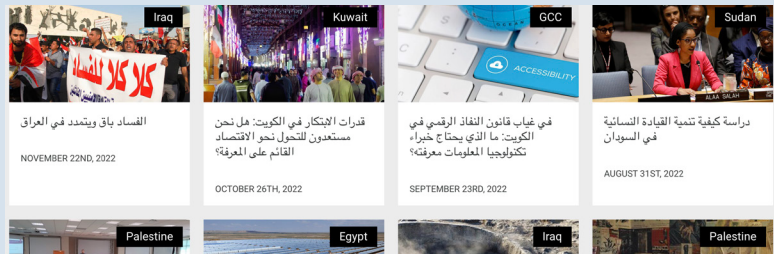
This year, led by Nesrin Alrefaai, our Arabic Content Project – seeking to translate our publications, blogs and website into Arabic – took great strides forward. Social media engagement in Arabic has increased on Twitter and funding from the Eden Centre allowed us to offer two paid undergraduate internship opportunities for Arabic assistants. LSE Careers funding allowed us to hire a postgraduate student, Hind Taha, as Arabic Methodology Project Assistant.



The new Arabic-language MEC website, with built-in language switch capabilities for all browsers, launched in December 2021.



A recent Arabic publication, Muhammad Adeel and Reem Alfahad's 'Towards an Equitable Transport System in Kuwait'.



Arabic-language blog posts have received over 9,000 hits from 191 countries.

BLOG

The MEC Blog delivers accessible analysis of the Middle East and North Africa to a wide readership, drawing primarily on the community of academics and researchers at LSE, but also including outside contributors. In the past year we have published 74 pieces, attracting over 240,000 views. Below are some highlights.



Consociationalism and Civil Resistance in Lebanon
Jinan S. Al-Habbal & Carmen Geha, Dec 2021



Covid, Care and the City in Palestine
Haneen Naamneh, Suzi Hall & Abaher El-Sakka, Jan 2022



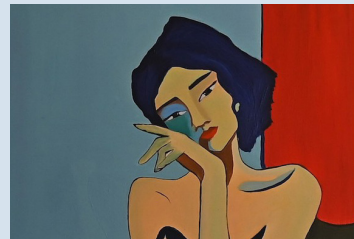
(Re)thinking Streets in Low Urban Densities
Alexandra Gomes, Apostolos Kyriazis, Clémence Montagne & Peter Schwinger, Jan 2022



The Queer Feminist Roots of Palestine's May Uprising
Walaa Alqaisiya, Feb 2022



Quiet Encroachments of Public Space in the Egyptian Revolution
Eman Javaid, Jun 2022



Pockets of Feminism, Art and Activism in Iraqi Kurdistan
Isabel Käser & Houzan Mahmoud, Jul 2022



'Gramsci in the Middle East and North Africa' Conference', hosted by the Centre in May 2022

EVENTS

In the academic year 2021–22, the MEC hosted 28 public online events with 1740 attendees. Four events were simultaneously interpreted into Arabic. The Centre also organised workshops and research seminars bringing together academics, practitioners and experts.

September 2021

Iraq on the Eve of Elections: A New Era or Return to the Status Quo?

Conference

October 2021

Navigating Collapse: Where Next for Lebanon?

Ghida Frangieh, Legal Agenda;
Ibrahim Halawi, Royal Holloway,
University of London; Abir
Saksouk, Public Works Studio

The Middle East Crisis Factory: Tyranny, Resilience and Resistance

Iyad El-Baghdadi & Ahmed
Gatnash, Kawaakibi Foundation

In-Between Identities and Culture: Ms Marvel and the Representation of Muslim Women

Manmit Bhambra & Jennifer
Jackson-Preece, LSE; Dima Issa,
University of Balamand

Turkey's Mission Impossible: War and Peace with the Kurds

Cengiz Çandar, Journalist

November 2021

The Quiet Emergency: Experiences and Understandings of Climate Change in Kuwait

Samia Alduaij, Senior
Environmental Specialist; Abrar
Alshammari, Independent
Researcher; Kanwal Tareq
Hameed, University of Exeter;
Deen Sharp, LSE

Building Sustainable Peace in Iraq

Ruba Ali Al-Hassani, Lancaster
University; Ibrahim Al-Marashi,
California State University, San
Marcos; Shamiran Mako, Boston
University

Queering the Middle East

Sabiha Allouche, University
of Exeter; Mert Koçak,
Central European University;
Ladan Rahbari, University
of Amsterdam; Fadi Saleh,
University of Göttingen

Algeria-GCC Relations: Geopolitics, Energy, Security

Arslan Chikhaoui, Nord Sud
Venture; Fatiha Dazi-Héni,
IRSEM; Sebastian Sons,
CARPO-Bonn

December 2021

Seen But Not Heard: Youth Citizenship Identities and Participation in Kuwait

Rania Al-Nakib, Gulf University
of Science & Technology; Sam
Mejias, LSE; Abdullah al-
Khonaini, Independent
Researcher; Rana Khazbak,
University of Nottingham

Sudan Coup: Analysis from the Ground

Muzan Alneel, Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy; Nafisa Eltahir, Reuters; Magdi el-Gizouli, Rift Valley Institute

January 2022

The Kurdish Womens Freedom Movement: Gender, Body Politics and Militant Femininities

Isabel Käser, LSE Middle East Centre

February 2022

Access to Justice for Gender-Based Violence in Iraq

Taif Alkhudary, LSE Middle East Centre; Marwa Abdul Ridah, Lawyer; Anfal Abed, Public Aid Organisation, Iraq; Amal Kabashi, Iraqi Women Network

60 Years of Higher Education in Algeria: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities

Mounir Khaled Berrah, Ecole Nationale Polytechnique, Algiers; Hayat Messekher, École Nationale Supérieure de Bouzareah, Algiers; Mohamed Miliani, University of Oran; Khaoula Taleb-Ibrahimi, University of Algiers II

March 2022

Second-Generation Liberation Wars: Rethinking Colonialism in Iraqi Kurdistan and Southern Sudan

Yaniv Voller, University of Kent

The Making of the Carceral State in Modern Iran

Golnar Nikpour, Dartmouth University

Future-Proofing Kuwait: Urban Policymaking in the 21st Century

Nuno F. da Cruz, LSE Cities; Dhari Alrasheed, Kuwait University; Hyun Bang Shin, LSE South East Asia Centre; Do Young Oh, Lingnan University

Transitional Justice in Process: Plans and Politics in Tunisia

Mariam Salehi, Freie Universität Berlin; Charles Tripp, British Academy

The Formation of Modern Kurdish Society in Iran

Marouf Cabi, Historian

War Torn: The Unmaking of Syria

Leila Vignal, École normale supérieure, Paris; Deen Sharp, LSE

April 2022

Transitioning from Tankers to Tablets? Assessing Inequalities in Kuwait's Digital Readiness

Fahed Al-Sumait, Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST); Ellen Helsper, LSE; Cristina Navarro, GUST; Nouf Al-Saif, GUST

Engaging Arabic News Audiences

Omar Al-Ghazzi, LSE Media and Communications; Najlaa Aboumerhi, Alaraby TV; Ibrahim Hamidi, Asharq al-Awsat; Mai Noman, BBC Arabic; Isam Uraiqat, Alhudood

Emergent Powers in MENA: Qatar, Turkey and Beyond

Courtney Freer & Spyros Sofos, LSE Middle East Centre



May 2022

Gramsci in the Middle East and North Africa Conference

Qatar Stars (film screening + workshop)

Danielle Beverly, Director of 'Qatar Stars' & Jawaher AlMoawda, Producer of 'Qatar Stars'

The Future in Arab Media and Cultures Symposium

Turkey's Domestic and International Politics Over the Past Two Decades

Evren Balta, Özyeğin University; Lisel Hintz, Johns Hopkins University; Spyros A. Sofos, LSE Middle East Centre

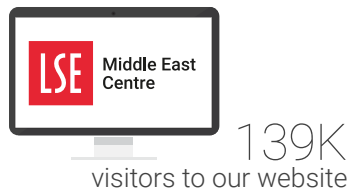
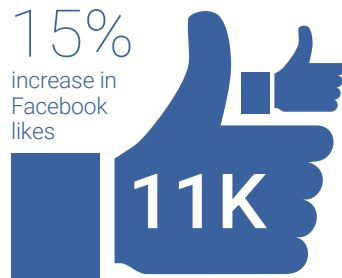
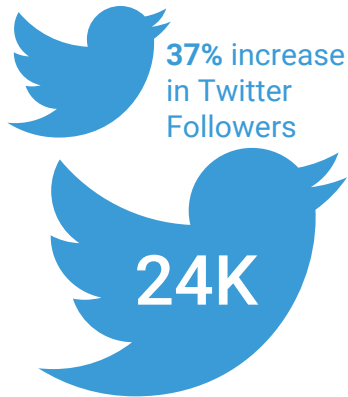
June 2022

Creating Consent in an Illiberal Order: Policing Disputes in Jordan

Jessica Watkins, LSE Middle East Centre; Yazan Doughan, Department of Anthropology, LSE



OUR COMMUNICATIONS IN NUMBERS





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Centre

Middle East Centre

London School of Economics
Houghton Street
London, WC2A 2AE



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Cover Image

View of Chefchaouen and the Rif mountains,
Morocco.

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