



Middle East
Centre

LSE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2022 | 23



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	WELCOME
4	ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE
6	PEACEREP IRAQ
9	ACADEMIC COLLABORATION PROGRAMME
12	KUWAIT PROGRAMME
16	PUBLICATIONS
19	BLOG
20	EVENTS
23	OUR COMMUNICATIONS IN NUMBERS

WELCOME

Such is the wide range of activity associated with the LSE Middle East Centre, leading many to see us as a think-tank, or media centre, or advocate for the region, it is necessary sometimes to restate that we are, above all, a research centre: production of, and support for, high-quality academic research is the essential underpinning for all Centre activities. Original research feeds into policy-related research as well as the diverse set of knowledge exchange and impact activities delivered by the Centre. Most of the Centre-directed research on the region is applied, guided by LSE's ethos to know the causes of things for the betterment of society. As noted by a past LSE Director, Professor Craig Calhoun, 'We work in the Middle East because it is an important part of the world and because we believe our work is generally a positive force for social change and intellectual advancement'. In line with the LSE Ethics Code, intellectual freedom is a cardinal principle informing research and events facilitated by the Centre including upholding the freedom of academics to research and convey research findings that challenge mainstream thinking.

The contents of this Annual Report, which cover the Centre's activities between August 2022 and July 2023, provide highlights of the excellent work carried out. These include the final research projects within our flagship collaboration programmes – the Academic Collaboration with Arab Universities Programme (ACAUP) and

the Kuwait Programme. Both commission research through competitive applications open to all LSE academic and research staff, working in partnership with academics in the UAE, Kuwait and across the wider Arab world. Between 2011–2023, ACAUP funded 42 collaborative projects with 23 different Arab universities and institutions across 12 different countries. In its most recent cycle (2017–2023), the Kuwait Programme funded 10 collaboration projects with five Kuwaiti research institutions.

In the past year important research on peacebuilding and governance in Iraq was conducted under the UK Government-funded PeaceRep programme. The Centre is also internationally renowned for its Kurdish Studies Series of publications, events and podcasts. In April 2023, we successfully hosted our first Kurdish Studies Conference, marking the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Kurdish Studies Series at the Centre.

The Middle East Centre embraces an open science culture that extends far beyond the academic outputs (as important as these are). This includes a wide range of Centre activities, including blogs, podcasts (both podcasts of events and the dedicated podcast series, Instant Coffee), outputs on our own YouTube channel, and participation in cultural spaces. There is widespread public engagement of Centre and affiliated staff and with

academic institutions and other actors, such as media organisations, civil society groups, governments and the private sector. In 2022–23 our Arabic content programme increased the availability in Arabic of Centre outputs.

While the Centre is not a teaching unit, we are always looking at opportunities for increasing student engagement. Centre events remain the principal means of interaction with current LSE students, though this year we again ran our annual prize competitions for the best LSE Master's dissertation on a MENA topic and UK universities' master's dissertation on Algeria. In September 2022 we were also delighted to welcome Nour Albrzawi, the first LSE Master's student from the Middle East to receive our Mohammed Al Fahim scholarship, following a generous donation from the chair of our advisory board.

I never take for granted the privilege of working with a truly dedicated group of colleagues, both within the Middle East Centre and across the LSE. The collaborative nature of Centre work means that our scholar and practitioner networks extend across the Middle East and North Africa. We appreciate the opportunities provided by these communities of learning, and the great generosity of spirit shown by our regional collaborators.

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 2022–23, 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

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Nour Albzwari

Mohammed Al Fahim Scholar
and Research Assistant

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Research Officer

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Research Officer

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Events Coordinator

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Mercedes Masters

Kuwait Programme Coordinator

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Office and Events Assistant

Eiman Shahin

Research Assistant

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 Amnon Aran

Professor Fulya Atacan

Dr Ian Black

Dr Marouf Cabi

Dr Nicola Degli-Esposti

Dr Maria Luisa Fantappie

Dr Courtney Freer

Professor Jeroen Gunning

Dr Zoe Hurley

Dr Athanasia Kalaitzi

Dr Zeynep Kaya

Professor Dina Matar

Dr Arash Reisinezhad

Professor Hugh Roberts

Dr Anne Kirstine Rønn

Dr Ali Saeidi

Greg Shapland

Dr Spyros Sofos

Ahmed Tabaqchali

Dr Veli Yadirgi



PEACEREP IRAQ

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 works closely with experts and mid-career researchers, largely based in Iraq, to conduct world-class research on the intricacies of peacebuilding, conflict and democratisation within Iraq. PeaceRep is funded by UK Aid from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UK.

OUTPUTS

Protectors of the State? The Popular Mobilisation Forces during the 2022 Post- Election Crisis

Paper Series 65, March 2023

This paper examined the PMF's role during the 2022 post-election crisis, with an aim to shed light

on its level of institutionalisation six years after its foundation. The paper focuses on armed clashes that took place inside Baghdad's fortified Green Zone on 29–30 August 2022 between the PMF and rival forces led by Shi'a cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Author

Simona Foltyn, Journalist

Changing the System from Within? The Role of Opposition Parties in Consolidating Democracy in Iraq Post-2019

Paper Series 64, March 2023

This paper examined the role that two of the most prominent opposition parties to have emerged out of the October 2019 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 to assess both parties' degree of institutionalisation.

Author

Taif Alkhudary, LSE Middle East Centre



The Mechanisms of Corruption in Iraq

Blog, March 2023

This article previewed a forthcoming report that will investigate the mechanisms by which the political elite in Iraq conduct corruption, mostly of the extractive type, and allows them to maintain a decentralised grip on power.

Author

Sajad Jiyad, The Century Foundation

Hope Denied: Iraq's Young People Reflect on 20 Years Since the Invasion

Event, March 2023

To mark the 20-year anniversary since the invasion of Iraq, LSE Middle East Centre brought together young activists to reflect on what being part of 'generation freedom' meant for them in practice. The event was predominantly in Arabic, with English-Arabic simultaneous interpretation.

Participants

Dr Faris Nadhmi, Salahaddin University; Haider Kareem Saeed, IQ Peace Centre; Marwa Abdel Ridah, Civic Activist & Lawyer; Noor Al Huda Saad Abdullah, Researcher and Political Activist

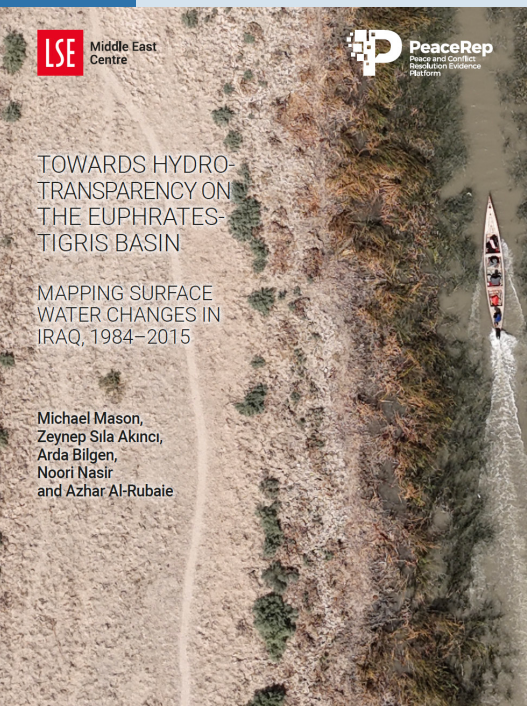
The Disruptive Power of Open-Source Water Data: The Case of the Euphrates-Tigris Basin

Blog, January 2023

There is still no consensus on the annual average flow of the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers issuing downstream from the Turkish border, which creates challenges for policy related to water governance. In this blog post, based on a PeaceRep project looking at the implications of changing surface water patterns in the Euphrates-Tigris Basin for water governance in Iraq, the author takes a fresh approach to overcome the barriers concerning data availability, consistency, quality, and use when studying the basin.

Author

Arda Bilgen, LSE Middle East Centre



TOWARDS HYDRO-
TRANSPARENCY ON
THE EUPHRATES-
TIGRIS BASIN

MAPPING SURFACE
WATER CHANGES IN
IRAQ, 1984–2015

Michael Mason,
Zeynep Sila Akinci,
Arda Bilgen,
Noori Nasir,
and Azhar Al-Rubaie

Student Careers Panel

Speakers: Marwa Baabbad, Arda Bilgen & Jack Sprosc

Chaired by Michael Mason

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#LSEMiddleEast



ACADEMIC COLLABORATION WITH ARAB UNIVERSITIES PROGRAMME

Supported by the Emirates Foundation, the Academic Collaboration Programme strengthened 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. During the Programme's 10 years, the Centre ran 42 projects, working with 22 different partners in Arab states. Funded by the Emirates Foundation, the programme supported collaboration and knowledge exchange between LSE and Arab universities through research and academic capacity building.



FINAL 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

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 Haerpfer, UAE
University
Dr PJ Henry, NYU Abu Dhabi

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

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

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

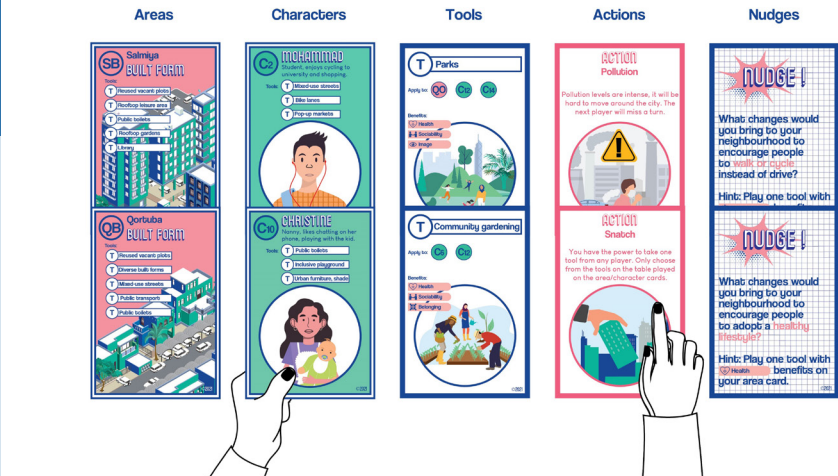
Dr Swenja Surminski, LSE
Gantham Institute

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

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.

Turkey as a Mediator

[Spyros A. Sofos, July 2023](#)

Navigating the Horn: Turkey's Forays in East Africa

[Spyros A. Sofos, July 2023](#)

Transnational Dynamics in the MENA Region: Exploring Policy Responses

[Spyros A. Sofos, June 2023](#)

Conflict Mediation and the News Media

[Jenifer Vaughan, May 2023](#)

Protectors of the State? The Popular Mobilisation Forces During the 2022 Post-election Crisis

[Simona Foltyn, April 2023](#)

Changing the System from Within? The Role of Opposition Parties in Consolidating Democracy in Iraq Post-2019

[Taif Alkhudary, March 2023](#)

Locating the Housing Crisis in Kuwaiti State, Land and Society

[Do Young Oh and Hyun Bang Shin, March 2023](#)

Export Diversification and Economic Growth in Kuwait: Evidence from Time Series and Field Survey Analyses

[Athanasia Stylianou Kalaitzi, Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Sulayman Al-Qudsi & Trevor William Chamberlain, January 2023](#)

Does Export Composition Matter for Economic Growth in the UAE?

[Athanasia Stylianou Kalaitzi, Samer Kherfi, Sahel Alrousan & Marina-Selini Katsaiti, November 2022](#)

Noncommunicable Diseases and Risk of Hospitalisation in Kuwait

[Abdullah Alibrahim, November 2022](#)



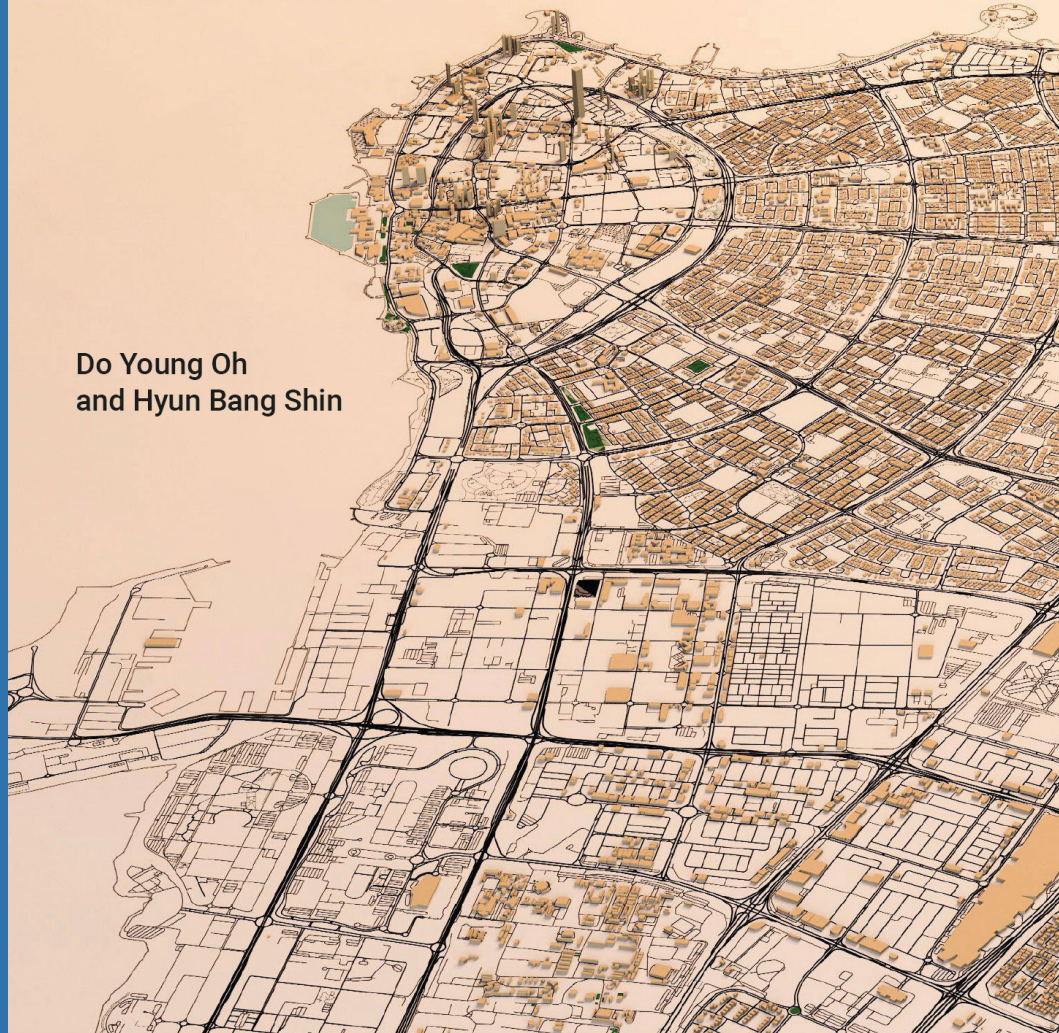


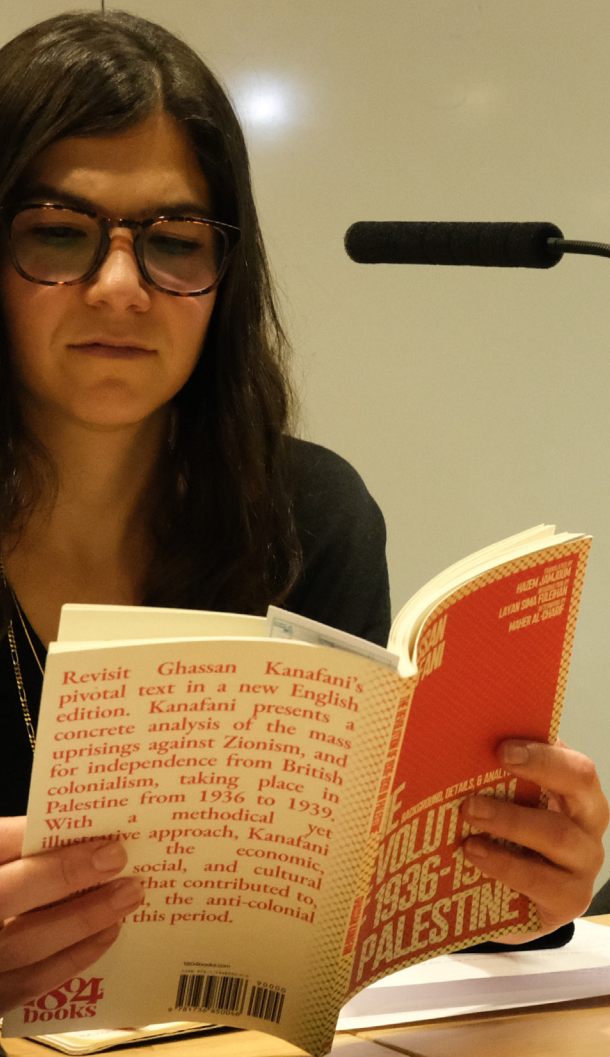
Middle East
Centre



LOCATING THE HOUSING CRISIS IN KUWAITI STATE, LAND AND SOCIETY

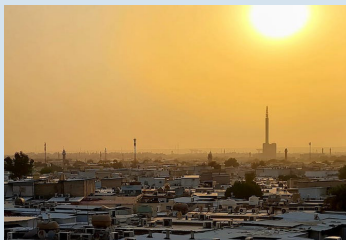
Do Young Oh
and Hyun Bang Shin





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 89 pieces, attracting over 194,000 views. Below are some highlights.



Urban Kuwait: Revisioning and Rewriting the City from Below
[Spyros A. Sofos and Nazanin Shahrokni, Sep 2022](#)



Iranian Kurdistan: Can the Expansion of Civil Society Drive Democratisation?
[Marouf Cabi, Nov 2022](#)



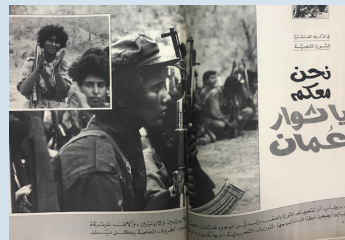
Pursuing Social Justice beyond the Islamic Façade in Iran
[Yunus Abakay, Dec 2022](#)



The Disruptive Power of Open-Source Water Data: The Case of the Euphrates-Tigris Basin
[Arda Bilgen, Jan 2023](#)



The End of the Old Social Contract in the Gulf – and What Could Replace It
[Steffen Hertog, Mar 2023](#)



Revolutionary Values Survive Military Defeat
[Alice Wilson, May 2023](#)

EVENTS

In the academic year 2022–23, the MEC hosted 27 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 2022

Understanding Palestine: An Online Journey Through Contemporary Palestinian Realities

Akile Ahmet, LSE Eden Centre;
Tamara Ben-Halim & Aimee
Shalan, Makan

October 2022

Student Careers Panel

Reza Afshar, Independent
Diplomat; Hind Hassan, VICE
News; Ahmed Tabaqchali, Asia
Frontier Capital Iraq Fund; Polly
Withers, LSE Middle East Centre

***States of Subsistence: The Politics of Bread in Contemporary Jordan* (Book Launch)**

José Ciro Martínez, University
of York

***The Islamic Movement in Israel* (Book Launch)**

Tilde Rosmer, Zayed University

***Understanding Insurgency: Popular Support for the PKK in Turkey* (Book Launch)**

Francis O'Connor, Wageningen
University

November 2022

Rethinking Revolution from Ethiopia to Iran (Webinar)

Arash Davari, University of
Minnesota; Elleni Centime
Zelege, Columbia University

***Our River... Our Sky* (Film Screening with Q&A)**

Maysoon Pachachi, Director &
Irada Al-Jubori, Writer

***The Untold Story of the Golan Heights: Occupation, Colonization and Jawlani Resistance* (Book Launch)**

Muna Dajani & Michael Mason,
LSE Middle East Centre; Munir
Fakher Eldin & Omar Tesdell,
Birzeit University

Sports and Society in the Maghreb (Webinar)

Mahfoud Amara, Qatar
University; Maher Mezahi,
Independent Journalist; Aziza
Nait Sibaha, France24

February 2023

Tunisia's Economic Development: Why Better than Most of the Middle East but Not East Asia (Webinar)

Mustapha K. Nabli, Economist;
Jeffrey B. Nugent, University
of Southern California; Leila
Baghdadi, University of Tunis;
Mohamed Ali Marouani,
Université Paris1-Panthéon-
Sorbonne; Hassan Hakimian,
Hamad Bin Khalifa University

March 2023

The Politics of the Turkey/Syria Earthquake: Responses and Aftermath

Karabekir Akkoyunlu, SOAS; Hişyar Özsoy, Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP); Rim Turkmani, LSE IDEAS; Amberin Zaman, Al-Monitor

Turkish Politics and 'The People': Mass Mobilisation and Populism (Book Launch)

Bahar Baser, Durham University; Dimitar Bechev, University of Oxford; Spyros A. Sofos, LSE Middle East Centre

The Politics of Representation: Feminist Media Studies in the Middle East (Webinar)

Dalia Said Mostafa, Amal Al-Malki & Marc Owen Jones, Hamad Bin Khalifa University; Polly Withers, LSE Middle East Centre

A Vocabulary in Upheaval: Keywords in Contemporary Syrian Political Culture

Emma Aubin-Boltanski, EHESS; Eylaf Bader Eddin, EUME; Razan Ghazzawi, EUME; Omar Al-Ghazzi, LSE

Abu Dhabi (Dis)connected: An Evening of Art and Research

Alexandra Gomes, LSE Cities; Apostolos Kyriazis, Abu Dhabi University; Clémence Montagne, Care Design Lab; Peter Schwinger

Hope Denied: Iraq's Young People Reflect on 20 Years Since the Invasion

Faris Nadhmi, Salahaddin University; Haider Kareem, IQ Peace Centre; Marwa Abdel Ridah, Civic Activist and Lawyer; Noor Al Huda Saad Abdullah, Researcher and Political Activist

Collecting Traces for Future Struggles: Archiving in Times of Revolts

Leyla Dakhli, French Center for National Research; Sara Salem & Mai Taha, LSE

April 2023

Ruptured Domesticity Exhibition Opening & Reception: In Conversation with Sana Murrani

Sana Murrani, University of Plymouth; Ammar Azzouz, University of Oxford; Dena Qaddumi, LSE

Kurdish Studies Conference, 24-25 April 2023

Conference marked the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Kurdish Studies Series at the Middle East Centre

The History and Development of Kurdish Studies with Professor Martin van Bruinessen (Lecture & Reception)

Martin van Bruinessen, Utrecht University; Zeynep Kaya, LSE Middle East Centre



May 2023

Israel's Covert Diplomacy in the Middle East

Elie Podeh, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Age of Counter-Revolution: States and Revolutions in the Middle East

Jamie Allinson, University of Edinburgh; Ala'a Shehabi, UCL; Charles Tripp, SOAS

Ruptured Domesticity: Mapping Spaces of Refuge in Iraq 3 April–12 May 2023

Sana Murrani maps a visual archive exploring the ingenious everyday spatial practices of 15 Iraqis from the north to the south of the country between 2003 and 2020

Protectors of the State? The Popular Mobilisation Forces During the 2022 Post-Election Crisis

Simona Foltyn, Journalist and Filmmaker

June 2023

Ecologies of Fragile Landscapes: Water, Waste and Toxicity in the Middle East

Workshop addressing the contemporary proliferation of 'fragile landscapes' in the Middle East and beyond, including the Eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea Region, and the Caucasus

Changing Lives in the Middle East: Cinematic Responses

Amira Louadah & Suzannah Mirghani, Filmmakers

Charity in Saudi Arabia: Civil Society under Authoritarianism

Nora Derbal, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Hanaa Almoaibed, LSE Middle East Centre; Steffen Hertog, LSE



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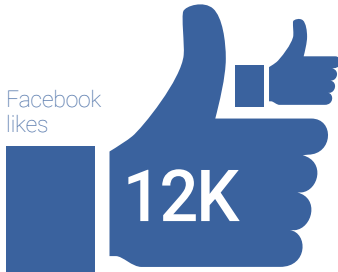


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View of Khartoum.