

**Heritage and National Identity Construction in the Gulf:
Between State-building and Grassroots Initiatives**

5–6 December 2019 | Research Centres Meeting Suites | Pankhurst House | LSE

This workshop forms a key component of the project 'Identit(ies) and Heritage in the UAE: Examining the Roles of Kinship, Family and the State', led by Dr Courtney Freer, Research Officer at the LSE Middle East Centre, in collaboration with Rima Sabban, Associate Professor of Sociology at Zayed University, Dubai. The workshop aims to contextualise the role of heritage initiatives, as well as broader processes of national identity-making across Gulf States.

5 December

09.00–09.30 Registration, Tea and Coffee

09.30–11.00 Panel 1 – Construction of National Identity: State Efforts
Chair: Courtney Freer, LSE Middle East Centre

Talking Points in Bahrain: Past Extractions of the Future
Suha Hasan, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Dubai Expo 2020 and Ancient Mercantile Heritage
Robert Mogielnicki, Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

Examining the Kuwait National Museum
Sundus Alrashid, Brunel University

The New Populist Nationalism in Saudi Arabia: Imagined Utopia by Royal Decree?
Madawi Al-Rasheed, LSE Middle East Centre

11.00–11.15 Coffee Break

11.15–12.30 Panel 2 – Construction of National Identity: Grassroots Efforts
Chair: Kristin Smith Diwan, Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

Souvenir Sovereignty in Qatar
Suzi Mirgani, Georgetown University Qatar

The Practice of Heritage in the Northern United Arab Emirates
Matthew Maclean, New York University

Finding Mariam: The Invisible Woman in National Heritage Mythology
Alanoud Alsharekh, Ibtakar Strategic Consultancy

12.30–13.30 Lunch

13.30–14.45 Panel 3 – Managing Gulf Museums
Chair: Alexandria Bounia, University College London Qatar

Cultural Attendance: Attracting the Crowds to Museums in Saudi Arabia
Maha al-Senan, Saudi Ministry of Culture

Museums and Cultural Policy Regimes in Qatar: Explicit, Implicit and Instrumental Policies
Serena Iervolino, King's College London

Managing UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Saudi Arabia
Abdulelah Al-Tokhais, King Saud University

14.45–15.15 Coffee Break

15.15–16.30 Panel 4 – Construction of National Identity: Religion and Heritage
Chair: Matthew Maclean, New York University

Sectarianism and Heritage in Bahrain
Thomas Brandt Fibiger, Aarhus University

State Religious Authorities and Discourses
Courtney Freer, LSE Middle East Centre

Religion in the New Saudi Nationalism: Rethinking Ad Diriyah
Kristin Smith Diwan, Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

6 December

09.00–09.30 Tea and Coffee

09.30–10.45 Panel 5 – Military, Heritage and National Identity
Chair: Alanoud Alsharekh, Ibtakar Strategic Consultancy

Military Effectiveness in the Arab World: From Essentialised Orientalism to Politicised Ornamentalism
David Roberts, King's College London

The Impact of Conscription on Gulf Families
Rima Sabban, Zayed University

Military, Heritage and Nationalism in the Gulf
Eleonora Ardemagni, Italian Institute for International Political Studies

10.45–11.00 Coffee Break

11.00–12.15 Panel 6 – Heritage Outside Museums
Chair: Yasmine Kherfi, LSE Middle East Centre

Urban Planning and Legacy Making in Kuwait
Alexandra Gomes, LSE Cities

Historical Archaeology as Heritage: Case Studies in Urban and Rural Archaeology in Bahrain and Qatar
Robert Carter, University College London Qatar

Oman's Built Heritage: a Management Perspective
Mohamed Ali Al-Belushi, Sultan Qaboos University

12.15 Closing Remarks