



مركز الخليج للأبحاث
Gulf Research Center



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GRC - Overview



GRC was founded in July 2000 by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, a Saudi businessman. Dr. Sager's vision was to fill an important void and to conduct scholarly, high quality research on all aspects of the wider strategic Gulf region including the GCC countries as well as Iran, Iraq and Yemen. **GRC** operates on an independent, non-profit basis.

Its belief is that everyone has the right to access knowledge, so it has made all its research available to the general public through publications, workshops, seminars, and conferences. As a non-profit organization, **GRC** injects all income back into new programs and activities.



GRC - The First Twenty Years (2000-2020)



The idea of establishing an independent Gulf Studies research center within the Gulf region itself was conceived by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager and motivated by his desire to make solid, research-based knowledge about the strategic Gulf region easily available to all. This is the ultimate origin of the **Gulf Research Center (GRC)** and its maxim – “Knowledge for All”.

The initial **GRC** offices were established in Dubai in June 2000. Expansion took place quickly and not only in Dubai - as **GRC** offices were also established in Jeddah, Geneva and Cambridge. The Geneva office was established as a Swiss Foundation – the **Gulf Research Center Foundation** – in order to facilitate outreach and cooperation with Europe and globally. The Cambridge office was established at the University of Cambridge as a UK Charity – the **Gulf Research Center Cambridge** – in order to facilitate integration with the global academic community, primarily through the Gulf Research Meetings, which **GRC** Cambridge organizes annually.



In the past twenty years, the **Gulf Research Center** has grown from a creative idea to become a globally recognized research center that has contributed much to the understanding of the Gulf region - never losing sight of its ultimate mission of promoting peace, security, prosperity and sustainability not only in the Gulf region itself, but also globally. The **Gulf Research Center** extends a sincere thank you to everyone who has contributed to its success during the past twenty years!



GRC - Vision - Mission - Values



Vision

To be the leading think tank on Gulf affairs worldwide.

Mission

To provide an Arab Gulf perspective on regional and global developments in order to promote regional peace and stability and positively influence the policy processes of local, regional and external actors.

Values

GRC believes that the peace, security, prosperity and sustainability of the Gulf region is the right of its people, together with the right of everyone to have access to knowledge.



GRC - Objectives



To realize its vision, the GRC focuses on the following objectives:

- Promote communication and cooperation among GCC citizens to facilitate reforms in the region and secure a better future.
- Publish and distribute relevant and useful information and data on the GCC states within and outside the region so as to enhance knowledge and understanding.
- Provide education and training solutions through implementing a 'Knowledge Program' which targets higher management circles.
- Prepare studies and offer expert consultations to governmental and non-governmental organizations in fields linked with the Center's primary areas of focus.



GRC - Competencies & Key Facts



The success of GRC is based on a wide range of strengths...

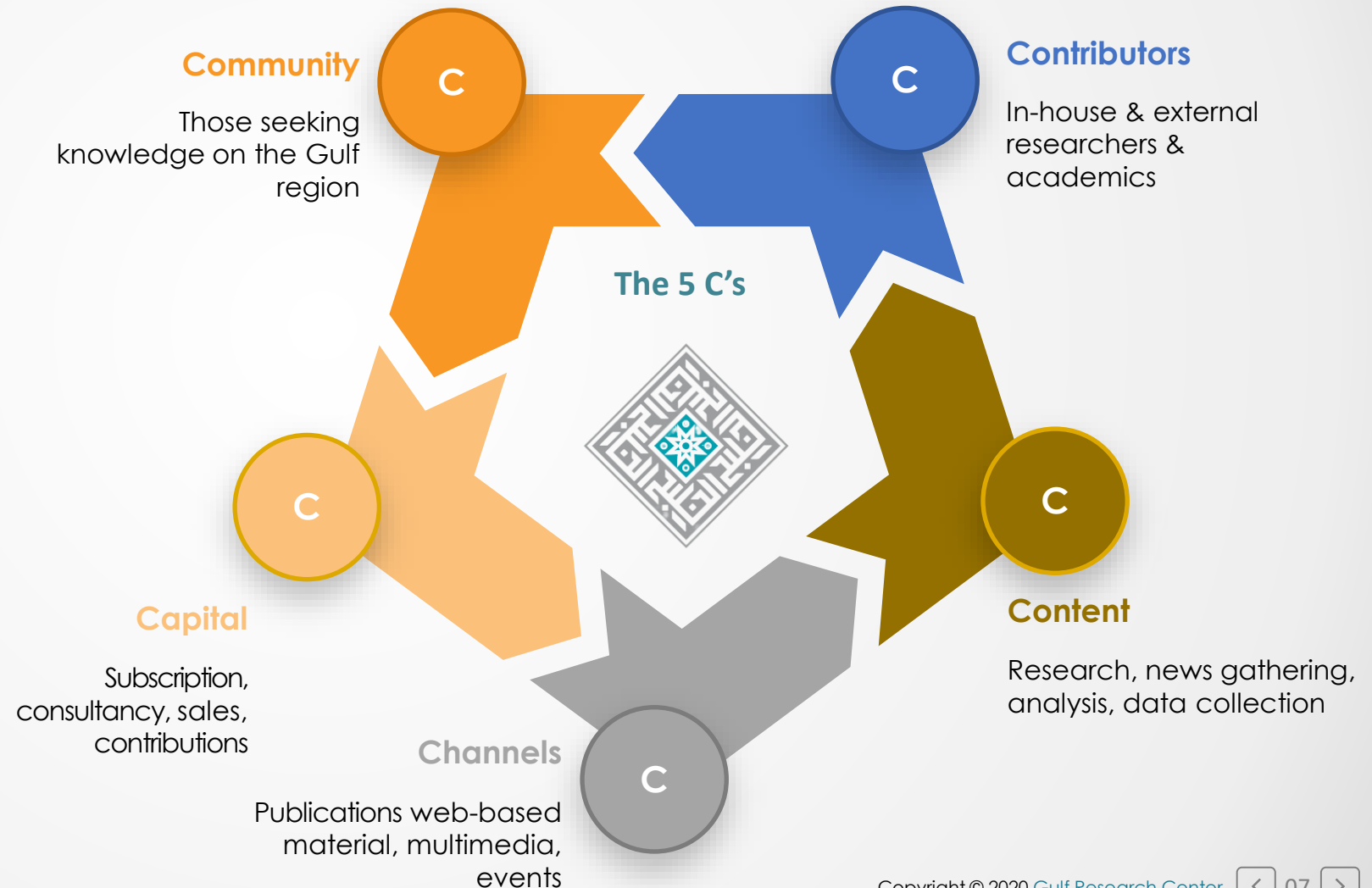
- A unique and unparalleled perspective from the Gulf region
- Proven track record with extensive experience
- Global recognition
- Successful project completion
- Worldwide network
- Solid government consulting
- In-depth GCC knowledge and resources
- Results-driven and results-oriented
- Strong institutional think tank culture



GRC - Concept



Contributors from within the **GRC** and its network of experts create the content, which is then disseminated through a variety of channels, and made available to those interested in the study and development of the region. In many cases, members of the community contribute to **GRC's** research activities, thus completing this creative cycle.



GRC - A Solid Local Foundation & a Global Network



GRC - Staff

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
Chairman and
Founder



Dr. Mustafa Alani
Senior Advisor, Director
Security and Defense
Research Program



Dr. Ahmed Sager
GRCF Founding Member



Dr. John Sfakianakis
Program Director, Economic
Research, Chief Economist



Eng. Javaid Iqbal
GRCF Founding Member



Dr. Oskar Ziemelis
Director of Cooperation



Imco Brouwer
Executive Director
Gulf Labor Markets &
Migration Program - GRC
Foundation



Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf
Director - Gulf Environmental
Security & Sustainability
Research Program



Prof. Giacomo Luciani
Senior Consultant
GRC Foundation



Dr. Christian Koch
GRC Foundation



Prof. Hasanain Tawfiq
Senior Advisor



Samir Kandil
Assistant General
Manager



GRC - Staff

Sanya Kapasi
Administration Manager



Aileen Byrne
Senior Researcher



Layla Ali
Researcher



Al-Anoud Khalifa
Researcher



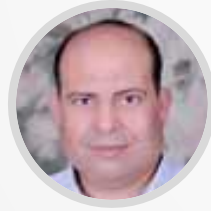
Ahmad Salah Ahmad
Administration Manager



Vasim Ahmed Shaikh
Accounting Manager



Jamal Hammam
Publishing Manager
Araa Magazine Editor-in-Chief



Mohammed Gomaa
Finance Manager



Salih Kourdi
Chairman's Office
Manager



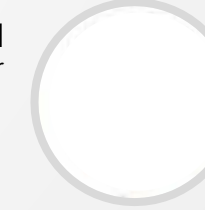
Khedir Saleh
Administration



Eng. Ahmed Sh. Aldaraji
Project Manager



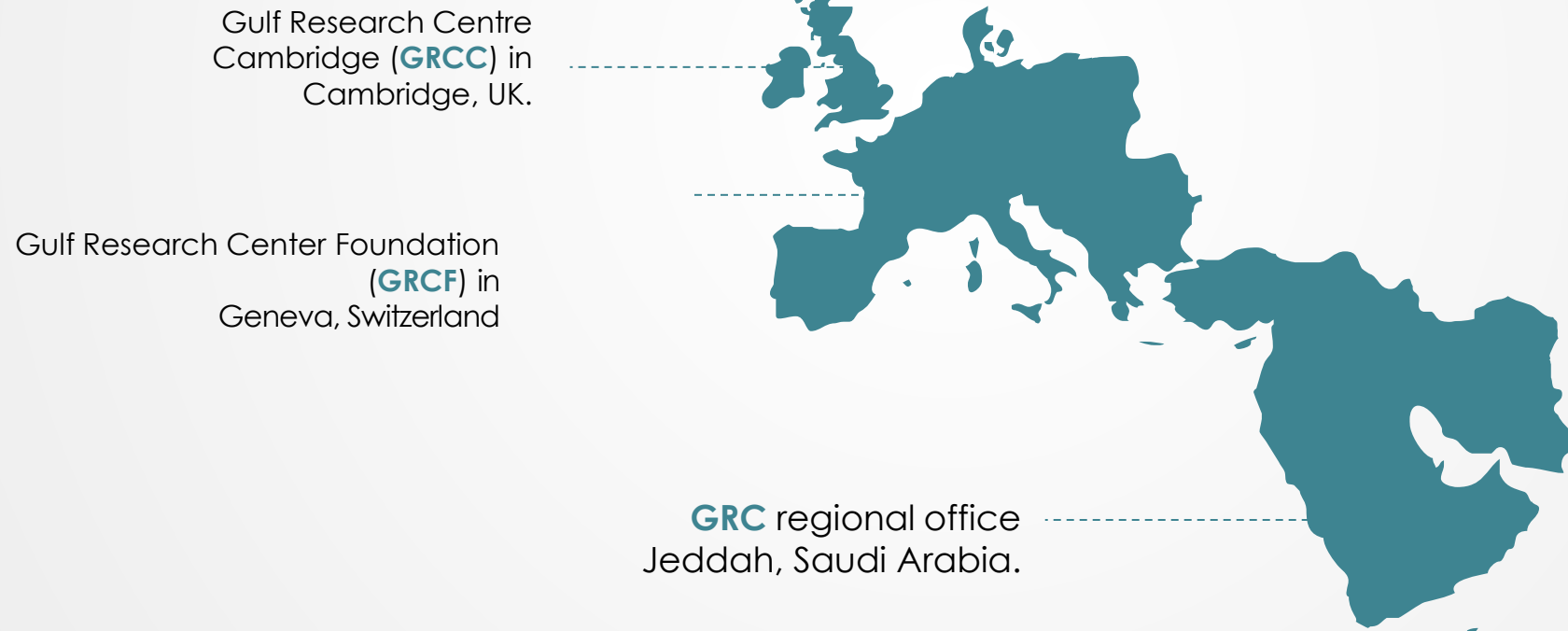
Fatemah S BaSunbul
Senior Web Developer



GRC - Offices



GRC has grown from its original Dubai, UAE location to become a global organization with a well-established worldwide network of offices and partners in both the Gulf region and Europe.



GRCF and GRCC



GRC Foundation (GRCF)

- **GRC** Foundation was established in Geneva, Switzerland (2007) under the laws of the Canton of Geneva and Swiss foundation law
- **GRCF** is a non-profit institution
- **GRCF** conducts research, training and educational programs
- **GRC** Foundation is governed by an internationally renowned foundation council with strong academic credentials

[For more details please click here](#) 

GRC Cambridge (GRCC)

- **GRC** Cambridge, which was founded in 2009, operates as a non-profit organization and is a registered UK Charity
- The prime directive of **GRCC** is to advance education and research on political, economic, social, and security issues and other matters relating to member countries of the GCC
- **GRC** Cambridge organizes the annual Gulf Research Meeting

[For more details please click here](#) 



GRC - Foundation - Council Members



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
Chairman and
Founder



Dr. Mustafa Alani
Senior Advisor,
Director
Security and Defense
Research Program



Dr. Ahmed Sager
GRCF Founding
Member



Eng. Javaid Iqbal
GRCF Founding
Member



Dr. Oskar Ziemelis
Director of
Cooperation



GRC Cambridge - Board of Trustees



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
Chairman and
Founder



Amb. Stuart Laing
Former Master - Corpus
Christi College
University of Cambridge



Dr. Abdullah Baabood
Visiting Research Professor,
Middle East Institute,
National University
of Singapore



Prof. Giacomo Luciani
Senior Consultant
GRC Foundation



Dr. Geoffrey Edwards
Senior Fellow
Pembroke College
University of Cambridge



Dr. Christian Koch
GRC Foundation



Dr. Ahmed Sager
GRCF Founding Member



Prof. Yasir Suleiman
Professor
Modern Arabic Studies
University of Cambridge



GRC - Activities



GRC - Research & Analysis



Research and Analysis Overview

The Gulf Research Center's mission is to further information and knowledge relating to the Gulf by providing a comprehensive, independent and credible platform for advanced research on GCC politics, economics, defense, security and social issues, and their implications and relevance. The scope of the research programs is defined in coordination with the **GRC** Academic Board and is continuously updated to ensure that the research is in accordance with current issues of concern.

The **GRC** undertakes research on all elements impacting policy-making in the Gulf, including: political systems and development, foreign relations of the Gulf, defense and security issues, the economy, as well as environmental issues and the role of energy and its regional and worldwide dimensions. In each of its research programs, it is the objective of the **GRC** and its extensive community of researchers and contributors to shed light on unexplored issues and relationships that are and will be of increased importance both for the Gulf region and the rest of the world.

1

Foreign Relations

2

Economics & Energy

3

Labor Markets & Migration

4

**Environmental Security
& Sustainability**

5

Politics & Society

6

Security & Defense



GRC - Research & Analysis



- **Gulf Foreign Relations Research Program**

A main focus of the **GRC** research program on Gulf Foreign Relations is the interaction of the Gulf states with the rest of the world both regionally in the wider Middle East and globally. Within this research area, GCC foreign relations with a number of countries and regions are analyzed in order to be able to adequately and comprehensively understand the dynamics that are driving the foreign policies of the Gulf States, the issues and developments that are determining the direction of those relations, and how the individual and bilateral ties are impacting the broader regional environment. This research area comprises a number of sub programs which include: Gulf Relations with the European Union, Gulf Relations with Asia, Gulf Relations with Africa and Gulf-US relations.

- **Gulf Economics and Energy Research Program**

The Gulf Economics and Energy research program focuses on the economies of the GCC member countries and the three neighboring countries, Iraq, Iran and Yemen. Special attention is given to the still paramount oil and gas sector and the extension of its value chain into petrochemicals, refining and energy intensive industries such as aluminum. Other diversification attempts in trade, services and tourism are also analyzed, with a special emphasis on renewable and nuclear energy. Other areas of interest regulatory and business environments, capital markets and trade relations (e.g. WTO, FTAs).

- **Labor Markets & Migration**

The GLMM programme, established in March 2013, is an international independent, nonpartisan, non-profit joint programme of the Gulf Research Center and the Migration Policy Centre (MPC – Florence). The GLMM programme provides data, analyses, and recommendations contributing to the improvement of understanding and management of Gulf labor markets and migration, engaging with and respecting the viewpoints of all stakeholders. The GLMMP has released a number of analytical papers and books on Gulf migration and labor market issues. In addition, the program has its own website which features an ever expanding set of data and documents relating to the GCC's labor markets: <http://gulfmigration.eu>.

Being a joint programme between a university and a think tank, its activities are geared towards both researchers and students in addition to policymakers, civil society and media.



GRC - Research & Analysis



■ Environmental Security & Sustainability

The **GRC** Environment Security & Sustainability research program looks at environmental issues in the Gulf region, and seeks to document relevant and related information about specific concerns related to the Gulf, in order to deepen the awareness and understanding of the following key environmental issues:

- Trends in the state of environment and natural resources in the Gulf and their natural, social and economic drivers
- Major environment and sustainability initiatives
- Environmental threats such as water, desertification as well as climate change and C&D debris

■ Politics & Society

The Gulf Politics and Society research program focuses on the following topics:

- **Political systems:** constitutions, legislatures, judiciaries, executive systems, political and social movements, and civil society and human rights
- **Social issues:** education, gender studies, youth, media, history, civil society, academia and research, environmental issues from a social perspective
- **Culture and demographics**

■ Security & Defense

The Gulf Security and Defense research program focuses on the latest security developments in the Gulf states, including the six GCC member states, Iran, Iraq and Yemen, in addition to the neighboring region of South Asia and especially Pakistan and Afghanistan. It deals with hard and soft security issues with a special focus on counter-terrorism, nuclear development and Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Gulf, regime stability, maritime security, narcotics and human trafficking.

[For more details please click here](#) 




GRC - Research Projects



In parallel with its research programs, **GRC** organizes and participates in a diverse range of research projects which address a broad spectrum of issues, including:

- Tafahum – A Roadmap Towards a Security Arrangement in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula
- INCONET-GCC2: Science, Technology and Innovation International Cooperation Network between the European Union and the Arab Gulf Countries
- Gulf Migration: Data, Analyses and Recommendations for Innovative Policies – A Pilot Project
- Promoting Deeper EU-GCC Relations
- GRCE is part of the INFOCORE Project: the Role of Media in Violent Conflicts
- EU-GCC Clean Energy Network
- GCC-India Joint Study Group
- Violent Non-State Actors in Contemporary World Politics
- EU-GCC Al-Jisr Project on Public Diplomacy and Outreach devoted to the European Union and EU-GCC Relations
- Cluster-based Industrial and Economic Growth for Sustainable Development
- Gulf-Asia Relations.
- The Political Role of Tribes: An Analysis of Tribalism, Islamism and Gender in Iraq, Yemen and Jordan. A Case Study
- SECURE - Security of Energy Considering its Uncertainty, Risk and Economic Implications
- Russian and CIS Relations with the Gulf Region: Current Trends in Political and Economic Dynamics
- Maritime Security in the Gulf: A Gulf Research Centre Project Proposal
- Global Trade Alert

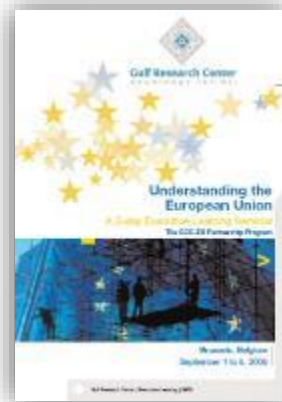
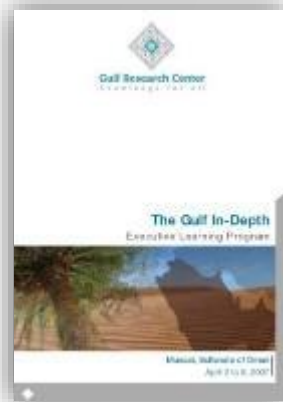
[For more details please click here](#) 



GRC - Executive Learning



A central aim of the activities of the Gulf Research Center is the conduct of a variety of executive learning programs. These programs are designed to provide leadership development opportunities in all aspects of public policy. It is the view of **GRC** that programs in governmental processes and critical policy issues are critical to understand today's environment and prepare emerging and established leaders to more effectively engage with individuals and institutions throughout the rest of the world.



[For more details please click here](#)

GRC programs are directly tied to the Center's commitment to research and its involvement with public policy. Participants have the opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with leading scholars and senior public policy officials in the respective field. In that context, **GRC** Executive Learning Programs create a learning environment that is unparalleled in both its scope and value as far as Gulf issues are concerned.




GRC - Consultancy



The **GRC** provides expertise on the wider Gulf region (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Iraq and Yemen) and Gulf relations with countries worldwide, with expertise in the following topics:

- Foreign Relations
- Economics & Energy
- Labor Markets & Migration
- Environmental Security & Sustainability
- Politics & Society
- Security & Defense
- GCC Integration & Unity

Our clients include public, private sector, and educational institutions.

[For more details please click here](#) 

GRC provide services such as:

- 1 Country reports/profiles
- 2 Market research/corporate reports
- 3 Security assessments
- 4 Executive briefings and other education programs (either in-person or virtual)
- 5 Gulf business etiquette & cultural competency trainings & workshops (either in-person or virtual)
- 6 Conference organization
- 7 English/Arabic translation of publications on relevant topics




GRC - Events



Events are a key aspect of the work that **GRC** carries out because they stimulate collaboration and link GRC into a worldwide network of leading individuals and research initiatives. Events also play a key role for **GRC** in the Gulf region because they promote widespread research efforts among different institutions from within the Gulf and neighboring regions to heighten awareness of important Gulf-specific issues.

GRC has organized more than **480** Events, with more than **10,000** participants till date. These include a wide range of events related to its research work and of importance to the Gulf Region. These include:

- Annual Gulf Research Meetings at the University of Cambridge
- Annual conferences and forums
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Lectures
- Research project meetings

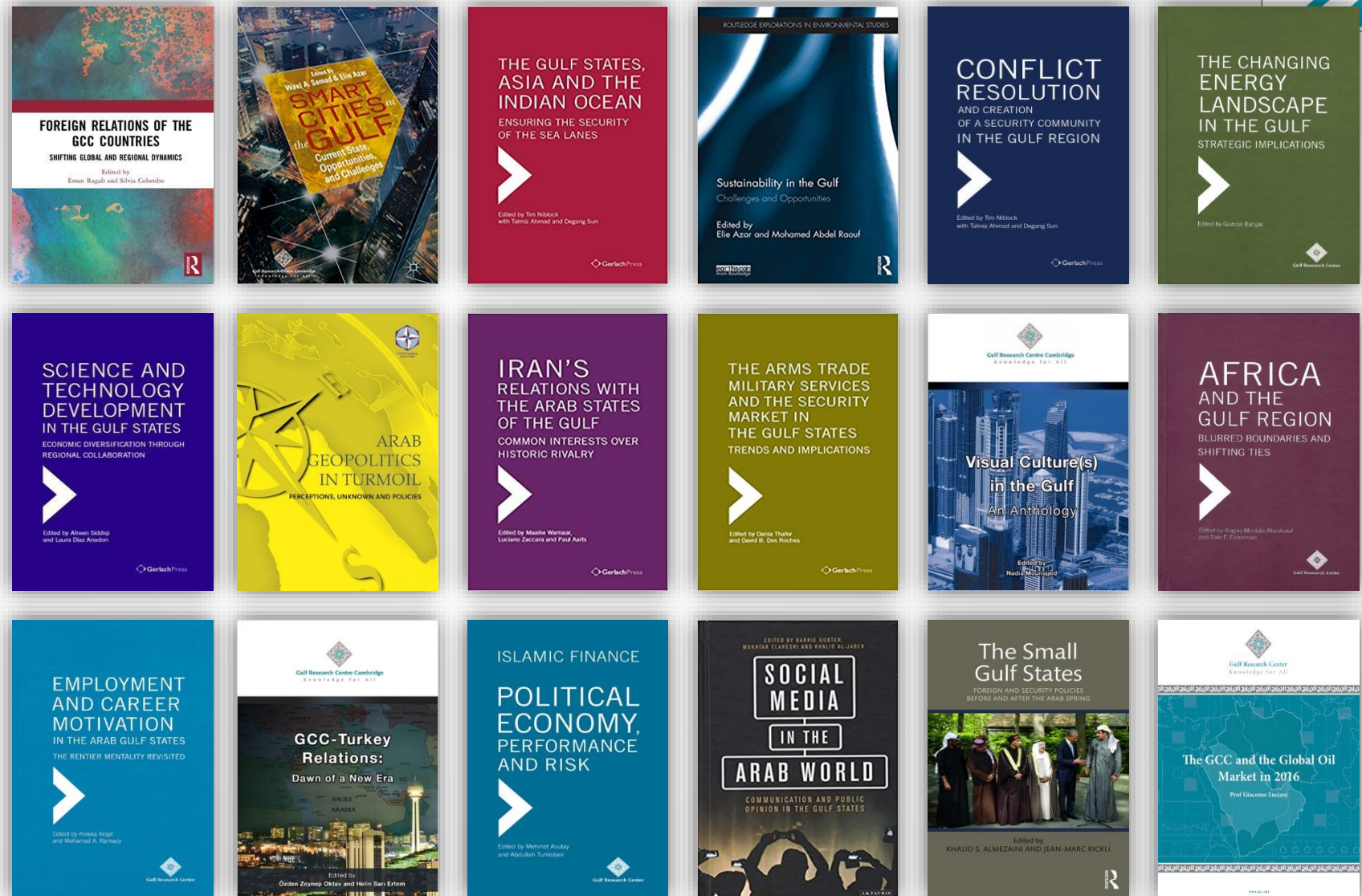
[For more details please click here](#) 



GRC - Publications

Publications play an important role in fulfilling the mission of the **Gulf Research Center**, which is to provide an Arab Gulf perspective on regional and global developments in order to promote regional peace and stability and positively influence policy processes. **GRC** publishes a variety of publications in both Arabic and English that stem primarily from the research and analysis work **GRC** carries out or that is carried out by external partners in preparation for **GRC** events. Some important external works are also translated by **GRC** and published in Arabic. **GRC** publications can be generally classified into the following categories – a few representative publications are shown here:

[For more details please click here](#)



GRC - Accreditations



The Gulf Research Center Foundation has been granted special consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. The status allows GRCF to attend all UN conferences ; request the Secretary-General to place items of special interest in the provisional agenda of the council; designate representatives to the UN Headquarters in NY and the UN offices in Geneva and Vienna; and submit written statements and oral presentations to the work of the council.



Based on the recommendation of the Division of Environmental Policy Development and Law, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi has accredited GRC to the Governing Council of UNEP, thereby granting it the status of an international non-governmental organization. This recognition allows the GRC to designate its representatives to sit as observers at meetings pertaining to environmental issues hosted by the UNEP Governing Council and its subsidiary organs



The World Bank Group's Global Environment Facility (GEF) Program is one of the institution's largest and longest standing trust-funded programs. The GEF helps developing countries fund projects and programs that protect the global environment. Since it helped to establish GEF in 1991, the World Bank has integrated global environmental benefits across its programs through more than 790 investment projects and programs in 120 countries spanning every region of the world. GRC gained GEF accreditation in September 2006 and so has the right to attend the NGO consultations held prior to each GEF council meeting and the GEF assembly in Washington, DC. GRC was elected as the Regional Focal Point of the GEF-NGO Network for the West Asia Region in 2010 and re-elected for a four year term commencing in 2012.



GRC has worked together with the World Economic Forum on various occasions as knowledge partner and has supported a number of its initiatives with special relevance to the Gulf region. The GRC has collaborated on the Middle East @Risk Report, has contributed to the Global Agenda Council meetings and is a member of WEF's Think Tank Leader Forum.



GRC - In the Media



GRC is a regular contributor to international media with appearances on television, including BBC, CNN, Al-Arabiya, DW news, and NHK Japanese TV. **GRC** also writes for and is cited in news publications such as the Washington Post, the New York Times, Reuters, the Associated Press, the Guardian, the Financial Times, Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, Al-Hayat, El Pais, and Agence France Press. With its international media outreach, **GRC** is able to significantly influence public opinion and ensure that a regional perspective enters the national debates.



The New York Times



GRC - Global Cooperation



Collaboration with think-tanks and research organizations is a vital part of the Gulf Research Center's mandate. The cooperation agreements that the center has signed with a number of institutions worldwide aim to support each other in the areas of research, policy facilitation and implementation of long-term conditions for peace, security and sustainable development.

In partnering institutions of interest, we hope to work in pursuit of creating greater national, regional and international awareness on issues pertaining to security and stability in the Gulf region and beyond.

The areas of cooperation encompass joint research; dissemination of findings; convening conferences; facilitating exchange of scholars; translation, re-publication and distribution of selected publications; as well as sharing of relevant databases.

[For more details please click here](#)





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