

COURTNEY FREER

EDUCATION

University of Oxford

Oxford, England

D.Phil. completed November 2015

Department: Politics
Supervisor: Professor Philip Robins, Reader in Middle East Politics, Fellow of St. Antony's College
Examiners: Dr. Steffen Hertog, Associate Professor in Comparative Politics, London School of Economics
Dr. Michael Willis, HM King Mohammed VI Fellow in Moroccan and Mediterranean Studies, University of Oxford
Dissertation: *Rentier Islamism: Muslim Brotherhood Affiliates in Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.*

The George Washington University, The Elliott School of International Affairs

Washington, DC

M.A. *magna cum laude* 2010

Concentration: Middle East Studies
Specialization: International Security Studies
GPA: 3.76
Honors: High Achievement Fellowship
Banville Fellowship (language study grant to the "most highly qualified entering students")

Thesis, supervised by Ambassador Edward Gnehm: *The Struggle for Reform in Jordan: Elites, Non-Elites, and Fashion Café*, with Robert Kubinec and Dillon Tatum.

Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

A.B. *magna cum laude* 2008

Concentration: Near Eastern Studies
Certificate (Minor): Spanish Language and Culture
Departmental GPA: 3.74
Senior Thesis, supervised by Professor Bernard Haykel: *War in the Name of Policy?: The Advent of a New Muslim Politics.*
Junior Papers, supervised by Professor Michael Barry:

- o *The Disintegration of Umayyad Caliphal Legitimacy Under Abd-al-Rahmān III.*
- o *Pakistani Promotion of Islamism in Afghanistan and the Inevitability of Taliban Resurgence.*

Language Study

Institut Français du Proche-Orient (Summer 2013) **Beirut, Lebanon**

Intensive language course in Modern Standard Arabic.

Received grant for this study from St. Antony's College Carr and Stahl Fund.

International Language Institute (Summer 2007)

Cairo, Egypt

Coursework in Early Intermediate Egyptian Colloquial Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic.

Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Summer 2006)

Seville, Spain

Coursework in Advanced Spanish, History of Spanish Cinema, and Introduction to Spanish Culture.

EXPERIENCE

Emory University

Atlanta, GA

Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow at Emory College, August 2021-present

- Provide undergraduate courses in the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies.

Middle East Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science

London, England

Visiting Fellow, August 2021-present

Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, August 2020-August 2021

Research Fellow, January 2018-August 2020

Research Officer, July 2015-January 2018

Duties included:

- Expand research portfolio through publications and conference presentations.
- Facilitate development of the Kuwait Programme's research agenda and foster collaboration with Kuwaiti partners through regular visits to Kuwait.
- Organize academic events, workshops, and seminars with experts on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on behalf of the Kuwait Programme, LSE Middle East Centre, including, in March 2017, a joint workshop with LSE's Centre for Women, Peace and Security on gender inequities in the Middle East, and a workshop on Tribe and State in the Middle East in June 2018.
- Directed and performed research, alongside Dr. Steffen Hertog, for a nine-month research project on GCC Foreign Policy and Social Policy with funding from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2016.
- Won a two-year Middle East Centre Academic Collaboration with Arab Universities grant with Dr. Rima Sabban of Zayed University for a project entitled *Identity and Heritage in the UAE: Examining the Roles of Kinship, Family and the State* (2017-2019), for which two academic workshops were organized at LSE.
- Won a one-year Research Grant from the LSE Kuwait Programme to conduct Kuwait National Election Study (2019-2020, now extended to 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic).
- Won a three-year grant from Independent Research Fund Denmark on "Bringing in the Other Islamists – Comparing Arab Shia and Sunni Islamism(s) in a Sectarianized Middle East" with Dr. Morten Valbjorn (Associate Professor of Political Science, Aarhus University), Professor Jeroen Gunning (Professor of Middle Eastern Politics and Conflict Studies, King's College London), Dr. Toby Matthiesen (Visiting Fellow, LSE), Dr. Fanar Haddad (Visiting Fellow, LSE), and Dr. Raphael Lefevre (Tutor in Middle East Politics, University of Oxford) (2019-2021).
- Affiliated with LSE Religion and Global Society research unit, as of 2020.
- Member of Research Staff Committee, member of Kuwait Programme Internal Management Committee, member of Middle East Centre Internal Management Committee.

Worcester College, University of Oxford

Oxford, England

Tutor, April 2015-June 2015

- Administered tutorials for visiting students in the course Politics in the Middle East, which was provided by Dr. Philip Robins.

Brookings Doha Center (BDC)

Oxford, England

Independent Research Consultant, October 2012-June 2015

- Researched and copy-edited for BDC Deputy Director Dr. Ibrahim Sharqieh on extended projects, including his book *Rebuilding a Region in Turmoil: How National Reconciliation Shapes Post-Revolution Transitions in Yemen, Libya, and Tunisia* (Yale University Press, 2016).

Brookings Doha Center (BDC)

Doha, Qatar

Senior Research Assistant, May 2012-August 2012; *Research Assistant*, June 2010-May 2012

- Researched extensively in English and Arabic for studies by Fellows Salman Shaikh, Dr. Ibrahim Sharqieh, and Dr. Shadi Hamid as well as for a number of Visiting Fellows.
- Edited output from Fellows and drafted BDC documents, including co-authored research with Fellows.
- Oversaw publication process by liaising with Fellows and Communications Department.
- Assisted in the formulation and management of high-profile speaker events and conferences, including the U.S.-Islamic World Forum, often acting as rapporteur.
- Provided analysis of on-going political events, in particular in my areas of specialization of the GCC and Jordan.
- Produced daily reports on news around the Middle East to track developments throughout 2011-2012.

United States-Saudi Arabian Business Council

Vienna, VA

Research Intern, May 2009-June 2010

- Wrote articles for news publications and client reports on various economic sectors in Saudi Arabia.
- Researched the Saudi Arabian economy and relevant Saudi and American businesses to inform investment and partnership decisions.

The George Washington University

Washington, DC

Research Assistant to Professor Shira Robinson, Spring-Summer 2009

- Researched UN documents from 1948-1967 to determine whether members of the international community at that time drew parallels between South African apartheid and Israel's treatment of Palestine.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Rentier Islamism: The Influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gulf Monarchies*. Oxford University Press, 2018.
- With Alanoud Alsharekh. *Tribalism and Political Power in the Gulf: State-Building and National Identity in Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE*. IB Tauris, forthcoming, Autumn 2021.
- *The Political Landscape of Kuwait: Parliament, Rentierism, and Society*. Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

Journal Articles

Accepted

- "Defining the 'Tribal Advantage' in Kuwaiti Politics," with Andrew Leber. *Middle East Law and Governance* (accepted December 2020, forthcoming).

Published

- "Narratives of Nationalism in Culture and Heritage Production of the Arabian Peninsula: Bringing the State Back In," with Yasmine Kherfi, *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 56, no. 6 (2020): 988-1004.
- "State Religious Authorities in Rentier Economics and the Management of Independent Islamism," *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 47, no. 1 (2020): 42-61.
- "Clients or Challengers?: Tribal Constituents in Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE," *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, May 2019, DOI: 10.1080/13530194.2019.1605881.
- "The Symbiosis of Sectarianism, Authoritarianism, and Rentierism in the Saudi State," *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, vol. 19, no. 1 (2019): 88-108.
- "Exclusion-Moderation in the Gulf Context: Tracing the Development of Pragmatic Islamism in Kuwait," *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 54, no. 1 (2018): 1-21.
- "Rentier Islamism in the Absence of Elections: The Political Role of Muslim Brotherhood Affiliates in Qatar and the UAE," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, vol. 49, no. 3 (2017): 479-500.

Under Review

- "Domestic Political Pressures and the Formulation of Kuwaiti Foreign Policy," *International Affairs*, submitted February 2021.

Book Chapters

- "EU-GCC Parliamentary Relations: Multilateral Challenges, Bilateral Gains." *The European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council: Towards a New Path*, eds. Adel Abdel Ghaffar and Silvia Colombo. Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.
- "Political Islam in the Arabian Peninsula." *Routledge Handbook of Persian Gulf Politics*, ed. Mehran Kamrava. Routledge, 2020.
- "Jordan." *The Middle East and North Africa 2020*, Routledge, 2020.
- "Political Islam in Post-Arab Spring Kuwait: The Rise of Political Coalitions in an Age of Pragmatism." *Transformation of Political Islam in a Changing World Order*, ed. Mohammad Affan. Al-Sharq Forum, 2019.
- "Kuwait's Islamist proto-parties and the Arab uprisings: between opposition, pragmatism and the pursuit of cross-ideological cooperation," with Luciano Zaccara and Hendrik Kraetzschmar. *Islamists and Politics of the Arab Uprisings: Governance, Pluralisation and Contention*, eds. Hendrik Kraetzschmar and Paola Rivetti. Edinburgh University Press, 2018.
- "Kuwait." *Rethinking Political Islam*, eds. Shadi Hamid and William McCants. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Book Reviews

- "Book Review: *Away from chaos: the Middle East and the challenge to the West* by Gilles Kepel." *Middle Eastern Studies* (published online November 2020).

- "Book Review: *Muslim preaching in the Middle East and beyond: historical and contemporary case studies*, edited by Simon Stjernholm and Elizabeth Ozdalga." *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 57, no. 1 (2021): 173-177.
- "Book Review: *The Caliphate of Man: Popular Sovereignty in Modern Islamic Thought* by Andrew F. March and *Violent Radical Movements in the Arab World: The Ideology and Politics of Non-State Actors* edited by Peter Sluglett and Victor Kattan." *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 56, no.4 (2020): 683-685.
- "Book Review – *The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria* by Dara Conduit." LSE Middle East Centre Blog, 6 March 2020.
- "Book Review: Islamism, Radicalism, and Popular Sovereignty." *Middle Eastern Studies*, 10 April 2020.
- "Book Review: *Practicing Islam in Egypt: Print Media and Islamic Revival* by Aaron Rock-Singer." *Middle Eastern Studies*, 3 September 2019.
- "Money, Markets, and Monarchies: The Gulf Cooperation Council and the Political Economy of the Contemporary Middle East by Adam Hanich." *Omran*, vol. 7, no. 28 (Spring 2019).
- "Bedouins into Bourgeois: Remaking Citizens for Globalization by Calvert Jones." *Omran*, vol. 7, no. 28 (Spring 2019).
- "Book Review – Changing Saudi Arabia: Art, Culture, and Society in the Kingdom' by Sean Foley." LSE Middle East Centre Blog, April 2019.
- "Book Review – 'AngloArabia: Why Gulf Wealth Matters to Britain' by David Wearing." LSE Middle East Centre Blog, 20 November 2018.
- "Book Review: *Jihad & Co.: Black Markets and Islamist Power*." *Middle Eastern Studies*, 17 May 2018.
- "Book Review: Examining Religious Aspects of South Asian Migration to the Gulf." *Middle Eastern Studies*, 21 March 2018.
- "Book Review: Al-Qaeda 2.0." *Middle Eastern Studies*, 13 February 2018.
- "Book Review – Alison Pargeter's 'Return to the Shadows.'" LSE Middle East Centre Blog, 12 December 2016.
- "Book Review: *Socio-Political Order and Security in the Arab World*." *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 54, no. 3, 2018.
- "Book Reviews: Examining the Role of State Economic Policies on Social and Political Life." *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 52, no. 6, June 2017.

Research Centre and Thinktank Pieces

- "Kuwait's Political Gridlock is Taking a Toll." *World Politics Review*, 30 April 2021.
- With Andrew Leber. "The 'tribal advantage' in Kuwaiti politics and the future of the opposition." Order from Chaos, Brookings Institution, 19 April 2021.
- "In Kuwait's Elections, a Desire for Change Confronts Institutional Inertia." *World Politics Review*, 14 December 2020.
- "How Politics at Home Shapes Kuwait's Foreign Policy." Lawfare, 15 November 2020.
- "The post-Sabah era in Kuwait." Order from Chaos, Brookings Institution, 30 September 2020.
- "Most Likely to Succeed? Potential Scenarios for Kuwaiti Succession." Castlereagh Associates, 31 March 2020.
- "Up for Debate: GCC Crisis." Middle East Institute, 29 May 2019.
- "Decrypting Sectarian Myths in Bahrain and Kuwait." Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), 16 May 2019.
- "Religious Authorities in Wahhabi States." Issue Brief, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, 6 May 2019.
- "Challenges to Sunni Islamism in Bahrain Since 2011." Carnegie Middle East Center, 6 March 2019.
- "Mapping Religious Authority in Wahhabi States: An Examination of Qatar and Saudi Arabia." Center for the Middle East, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, March 2019.
- "Regional Implications of a US Muslim Brotherhood Ban." Al-Sharq Forum, 5 September 2018.
- Interview on *Rentier Islamism: The Influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in Gulf Monarchies*. Jadaliyya, 7 August 2018.
- "Kuwait's Post-Arab Spring Islamist Landscape: The End of Ideology?" Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, August 2018.
- "The Future of Political Islam in the Middle East and North Africa under Changing Regional Order." Jadaliyya, 16 August 2018.
- "GCC and Russia Beyond Syria." Gulf International Forum, 21 February 2018.
- "After Big Election Win, What's Next for Kuwait's Opposition?" *Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy*, Harvard Kennedy School, 8 December 2016.
- "The Changing Islamist Landscape of the Gulf Arab States." Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW), 21 November 2016.
- "Pessimism of the Kuwaiti Opposition in the Face of Upcoming Elections." Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW), 7 October 2016.

- "From Co-optation to Crackdown: Gulf States' Reactions to the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood during the Arab Spring." Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS), May 2016.
- "The Muslim Brotherhood's Post Arab Spring Legacy in the Smaller Gulf States." *Gulf Affairs*, Spring 2016.
- "Kuwait's Oil Workers' Strike: Domestic and Market Reactions." Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW), 21 April 2016.
- "Rentier Islamism: The Role of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gulf." LSE Middle East Centre Paper Series, November 2015.
- "The Rise of Pragmatic Islamism in Kuwait's Post-Arab Spring Opposition Movement." The Brookings Institution, Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, Rethinking Political Islam Series, August 2015.
- With Shadi Hamid, "How Stable is Jordan?: King Abdullah's Half-Hearted Reforms and the Challenge of the Arab Spring." Brookings Doha Center Policy Briefing, November 2011.

Media Pieces and Blog Posts

- "Kuwait's Political Gridlock is Taking a Toll," *World Politics Review*, 30 April 2021.
- "Saudi-Emirati tensions reveal an uncertain future for OPEC." *The New Arab*, 14 July 2021
- "The GCC at 40: Where it will – and likely won't – find unity." *The New Arab*, 27 May 2021.
- "Can Saudi Arabia's fanciful climate plan actually work?" *The New Arab*, 19 April 2021.
- "Evolving notions of citizenship in the UAE and the Gulf." *The New Arab*, 5 February 2021.
- "A Saudi-Israeli rapprochement?" *The New Arab*, 3 December 2020.
- "Understanding the Saudi, Emirati 'excommunication' of the Muslim Brotherhood." *The New Arab*, 24 November 2020.
- "G20: World leaders will attend, but Riyadh shouldn't rejoice." *The New Arab*, 20 November 2020.
- "Will Kuwait's new emir continue to play Gulf mediator?" *The New Arab*, 7 October 2020.
- "Concerns over transparency shroud Saudi Arabia's nuclear ambitions." *The New Arab*, 28 September 2020.
- "Saudi Arabia's Khashoggi verdict makes a mockery of justice." *The New Arab*, 13 September 2020.
- "Under Anti-Corruption Guise, Saudi Crown Prince Targets Royal Rivals." *The New Arab*, 7 September 2020.
- "Will Saudi Follow Suit and Normalise Relations with Israel?" *The New Arab*, 25 August 2020.
- "UK Imposes Sanctions, then Praises Ties with Saudi Arabia." *The New Arab*, 10 July 2020.
- "The Gulf Crisis's 'Internationalisation' Makes it Harder to Resolve." *The New Arab*, 5 June 2020.
- "Stalled Newcastle Bid Exposes Limits of Saudi Money." *The New Arab*, 28 May 2020.
- "What Will Be Left of Saudi Vision 2030, Post-Coronavirus?" *The New Arab*, 15 May 2020.
- "Can Gulf Countries Survive without their Foreign Workers Post-Pandemic?" *The New Arab*, 11 May 2020.
- "How MbS Enraged a Tribe and Created a Martyr." *The New Arab*, 23 April 2020.
- "Saudi Arabia's Record-Shattering Executions are Mass Murder." *The New Arab*, 21 April 2020.
- "Saudi Oil Price War Relents, but Uncertain Future Awaits." *The New Arab*, 15 April 2020.
- "Saudi-Russia Oil Price Deal a Test of US Leverage." *The New Arab*, 6 April 2020.
- "Coronavirus Gives GCC Markets a Glimpse of Post-Oil Reality." *The New Arab*, 24 March 2020.
- "MbS Has a Problem his Royal Purge Can't Solve." *The New Arab*, 12 March 2020.
- "Heritage and National Identity Construction in the Gulf: Between State-building and Grassroots Initiatives." LSE Middle East Centre Blog, 21 February 2020.
- "Does Government Funding Help Control the Religious Sphere? The Case of the Gulf Cooperation Council." LSE Religion and Global Society blog, 12 February 2020.
- "Gulf Leaders Can't Ignore Public Opposition to Trump's Deal." *The New Arab*, 5 February 2020.
- "Don't Expect White House Reproach over Bezos Phone Hack." *The New Arab*, 30 January 2020.
- "Foreign Assets? Saudi Arabia Introduces Golden Visas for Expats." *The New Arab*, 11 December 2019.
- "Saudi Arabia is Open for Business, not Political Activism." *The New Arab*, 29 November 2019.
- "Aramco IPO: Unanswered Questions Could Undermine MbS' Vision." *The New Arab*, 13 November 2019.
- "Davos in the Desert: Business As Usual." *The New Arab*, 29 October 2019.
- "How Saudi Aramco is Powering the Global Climate Crisis," *The New Arab*, 14 October 2019.
- "A Year after Khashoggi: Clarity but no Accountability." *The New Arab*, 30 September 2019.
- "Aramco Attacks Expose Saudi Vulnerability and Shaky GCC Security." *The New Arab*, 18 September 2019.
- "What the Newly Released CIA Khashoggi Documents Tell Us." *The New Arab*, 28 August 2019.
- "With Trump, Riyadh No Longer Needs to Outsource Lobbying." *The New Arab*, 7 August 2019.
- "Gulf Uncertainty Reigns amid Iran-US Showdown." Al Jazeera, 16 May 2019.
- "Trump's Muslim Brotherhood Ban: 'A Declaration of War on Non-Violent Islamists.'" *Middle East Eye*, 6 May 2019.

- “Trump and Congress Face Off over Saudi Ties.” *The New Arab*, 11 December 2018.
- “Khashoggi’s Disappearance: A New Twist in Bitter GCC Battle.” *The New Arab*, 8 October 2018.
- “What’s behind the Stalled Saudi Aramco IPO?” *The New Arab*, 27 August 2018.
- “What’s So Scary about the Muslim Brotherhood.” *Middle East Eye*, 1 August 2018.
- “Tribe and State in the Middle East.” LSE Middle East Centre Blog, 11 July 2018.
- With Salman Shaikh, “First step to solve the GCC crisis? Realise sovereignty and security aren't mutually exclusive.” *Middle East Eye*, 16 August 2017.
- “Who’s Actually in Qatar?” Gulf State Analytics, 10 August 2017.
- With Giorgio Cafiero, “Is the Bahraini Muslim Brotherhood’s ‘Special Status’ Over?” *The New Arab*, 7 August 2017.
- “The Muslim Brotherhood and the GCC: It’s Complicated.” *Middle East Eye*, 3 July 2017.
- “Hyper-Rentierism? Vision 2030 and the Social Contract in 2017.” Gulf State Analytics, 14 June 2017.
- “Same Same but Different: The GCC Continues to Clash over Islamists.” LSE Middle East Centre blog, 6 June 2017.
- “Concerts, Cinemas and Comics in the Kingdom: Revising the Social Contract after Saudi Vision 2030.” LSE Middle East Centre Blog, 26 May 2017.
- “Is the UAE’s fear of the Muslim Brotherhood driving its Yemen strategy?” LSE Middle East Centre Blog, 28 June 2016.
- “What Will Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 Mean for its People?” *The Conversation*, 3 May 2016.
- “The Muslim Brotherhood in the Emirates: Anatomy of a Crackdown.” *Middle East Eye*, 17 December 2015.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- Discussant, “The Future of the Arab World: 10 years after the Arab Spring.” TRT Forum, 2 December 2020 (via Zoom).
- “Kuwait Goes to the Polls – Transitioning to a ‘New’ Kuwait.” Presented to the World Bank, 23 November 2020 (via Zoom).
- Panelist at “Changing Regional and International Landscapes of the Gulf.” Hamad bin Khalifa University’s Middle East Webinars, 26 October 2020 (via Zoom).
- “Assessing the Power of Ideology in Kuwaiti Policymaking.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, October 2020 (via Zoom).
- Brief on the Gulf Cooperation Council for course entitled “Regional Organizations and their Impact on Global Security.” NATO Defence College, Rome (via Zoom), 22 September 2020.
- Chatham House Roundtable: Risk Perception and Appetite in UAE Foreign and National Security Policy, 16 July 2020 (via Zoom).
- Brief on the Gulf Cooperation Council for course entitled “Regional Organizations and their Impact on Global Security.” NATO Defence College, Rome (via Zoom), 10 March 2020.
- “Persistence of Umma or Vestiges of Empire? Exploring Pathways of Ibadi Transnationalism from Oman.” Indian Ocean Conference, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, 17 February 2020.
- “Rentier Islamism: Explaining the Role of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gulf.” Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore, 28 November 2019.
- “The Rentier State and Religious Sphere: Examining the Limits of Co-optation.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2019.
- “Mapping Religious Authorities in Wahhabi States.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 31 August 2019.
- “Re-drawing the Political Borders of the Gulf Cooperation Council: Foreign and Domestic Politics.” Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Meeting, Helsinki, Finland, 16 August 2019.
- “‘Political Islam’ Movements in the Post-Arab Uprisings Period.” Issam Fares Institute, Beirut, Lebanon, 4 July 2019.
- “Nationalism, Tribalism, and Heritage.” British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Meeting, University of Leeds, Leeds, 24 June 2019.
- Panelist at “A Gulf Divided: The Anatomy of a Crisis.” Chatham House, 6 May 2019.
- Panelist at “Islamist Movements and Politics of Religion.” POMEPS 10th Annual Conference, The George Washington University, Washington, DC, 24 May 2019.
- “What a Terrorist Designation for the Muslim Brotherhood Might Mean for Gulf Arab Countries.” Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, 22 May 2019.

- "Turkey and the Transatlantic Alliance: Navigating Challenges and Opportunities in the Middle East." European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), London, 25 April 2019.
- Panelist at "Religious Authority in the Middle East: Implications for U.S. Policy." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, DC, 19 March 2019.
- "Jurists and Educators in 1970s Kuwait." Cold War Islamisms Workshop, Freie Universitat Berlin, 15-16 March 2019.
- "Rentier Islamism: The Influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gulf Monarchies." Politics and International Relations Contemporary Middle East Series, The University of Edinburgh, 8 March 2019.
- "GCC Economies in Transition in the Gulf." Brookings Doha and Hollings Center Roundtable, Muscat, Oman, 2-3 March 2019.
- "Political Islam in the Gulf." Al Sharq Youth Forum, 20 February 2019, London.
- "State Religious Authorities in Rentier Economies and the Management of Independent Islamism." Princeton University Institute for Transregional Study for the Contemporary Middle East, 25-26 January 2019.
- "Political Islam in the Gulf States." Brookings Doha Center, Doha, Qatar, 3 December 2018.
- "Social Transformations in the Gulf Countries and the Problem of Identity and Values: Examining the Role of Tribes in the 21st Century." Gulf Studies Forum, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha, Qatar, 1 December 2018.
- "Transnational Muslim Brotherhood Networks in the Gulf." Middle East Studies Association Annual (MESA) Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, November 2018.
- Panelist at "Qatar's Foreign Policy: Balancing New Alliances in a Contested Region." Chatham House, 22 October 2018.
- "Hyper-Rentierism? Consultants, Visions, and the Social Contract in 2017." World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) Meeting, Seville, July 2018.
- "The Interaction between Tribalism, Rentierism, and Elections" and "Examining the Rise of State-Sponsored Charity in Saudi Arabia and the UAE." British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Meeting, King's College London, June 2018.
- The Muslim Brotherhood and the Gulf Roundtable, 11 May 2018 at Chatham House, London.
- "The Place for Islamist Ideology in Post-Arab Spring Kuwait." Workshop on Pluralism and Inclusion in Kuwait, hosted by AlSalam Center for Strategic and Developmental Studies and Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, Kuwait University, 6 May 2018.
- "Is the Gulf Collapsing amid the Qatar-GCC Blockade?" Understanding MENA Conference, Kingston University, 18 April 2018.
- "GCC-Russia Relations: Looking beyond Syria and towards Investment." RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy and LSE Middle East Centre-RAND Workshop on Russian Strategy in the Middle East, London, 28 March 2018.
- Panelist at "Crisis in the Gulf: Implications for (Geo)politics, Terrorism and Human Security in the Middle East and Beyond." The International Interest and Oxford Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Forum (OxGAPS), Brussels, 8 March 2018.
- "The Muslim Brotherhood in the Gulf." Roundtable on Transformations of Political Islam, Al-Sharq Forum, Istanbul, 11 February 2018.
- "The Gulf Crisis." Middle East Centre Friday Seminar Series, St. Antony's College Middle East Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, 19 January 2018.
- "From Co-operation to Crackdown: The Muslim Brotherhood and the Gulf." Center for International and Comparative Law, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, 27 November 2017.
- "Clients or Challengers?: Tribal Constituents in Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE." Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 18-21 November 2017.
- "An Economic Glance of the GCC States." Gulf Conference, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, Paris, 20 October 2017.
- "Saudi Arabia: Succession, Prospects for Reform, and Ambitions Abroad." presented at Department for International Development (DFID), 15 August 2017.
- "Electoral Tribalism in Kuwait: An Instrument of the State or a Civil Society Movement?" Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge, U.K., 1-4 August 2017.
- "Instrumentalising Sectarianism and Preserving Authoritarianism in the Saudi State." British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Conference, Edinburgh, 6 July 2017.
- "The Muslim Brotherhood and Qatar." Oxford Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Forum (OxGAPS) GCC Crisis Summit, London, 29 June 2017.

- “Saudi Vision 2030 and Saudi Arabia’s Evolving Social Contract.” LSE Kuwait Programme Breakfast, 17 May 2017.
- “Saudi Arabia in a Process of Transformation.” Brussels Press Club, 3 May 2017.
- “The Influence of Islamist Rhetoric on Women’s Rights.” Middle East Centre-Centre for Women, Peace and Security Collaboration Workshop on Legal Inequities for Women in the Middle East, 23 March 2017.
- “Islamism across Borders: Exploring the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Connection.” Gulf Studies Symposium, American University of Kuwait, 18 March 2017.
- “Vision 2030, Politics and Society.” SOAS, 19 January 2017.
- “Islamists in the Gulf: Opposition or Allies?” King’s College London, 29 November 2016.
- “Tribalism and Hydrocarbon Wealth: Examining Dynamics of the Rentier Bargain in Kuwait.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, 19 November 2016.
- “Kinship Dynamics, Monarchical Rule and National Identity in the Gulf States.” Workshop on Migration Dynamics: The Flow of People and Ideas into the Gulf, LSE, 24 October 2016.
- “Instrumentalising Sectarianism and Preserving Authoritarianism in the Saudi State.” Department of Political Science, Aarhus University, Denmark, 16-17 August 2016.
- “A Widening Gulf? Assessing GCC-U.S. Relations in a Post-Arab Spring Middle East.” British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Conference, Lampeter, Wales, 13-15 July 2016.
- “All in the Family? Nationalism, State and the Monarchies in the GCC.” Nation and State in the Middle East, LSE Middle East Centre in Collaboration with CMES, Lund University and MENACS, Sussex University, 8 June 2016.
- “Social Policy and Social Welfare Decision-Making in the GCC States.” UNICEF MENA Regional Management Team, 16 May 2016, Dead Sea, Jordan.
- “From Co-optation to Crackdown: Gulf States’ Reactions to the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood during the Arab Spring.” Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Workshop, 3-4 May 2016, Oxford.
- Evidence to Political Islam Inquiry, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Commons, London, 10 May 2016.
- “The Future of Democracy in the United Arab Emirates.” International Campaign for Freedom in the United Arab Emirates Seminar hosted by MP Graham Morris, House of Commons, 22 March 2016.
- “Social Policy Decision-making in the Gulf.” Key Dimensions of GCC States’ Foreign, Development and Social Policies Workshop, LSE Middle East Centre, 4 March 2016.
- “GCC Security Amid Regional Crises.” Oxford Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Forum, Oxford, 26 January 2016.
- “Assessing the Economic and Political Stances of Muslim Brotherhood Affiliates in the GCC.” The Social Contract in the GCC Workshop, Chatham House, 11-12 January 2016.
- “Rentier Islamism: Towards a Model of Muslim Brotherhood Participation in Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.” American Political Science Association (APSA) Middle East North Africa Workshop, Kuwait City, 13-17 December 2015.
- “Rentier Islamism: The Role of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gulf.” LSE Middle East Centre, 11 November 2015
- “Qabila in the 21st Century: Tribes as Civil Society in the Arabian Gulf.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, November 2015.
- “Ikhwan Ascendant?: Assessing the Influence of Domestic Islamist Sentiment on Qatari Foreign Policy.” LSE Middle East Centre workshop Mapping GCC Foreign Policy: Resources, Recipients and Regional Effects, London, 7 October 2015.
- “Contested Visions of Liberation: Kuwait as a Microcosm for Competing Islamisms.” British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Conference, LSE, 24-26 June 2015.
- “The Rise of Pragmatic Islamism in Kuwait’s Post-Arab Spring Opposition Movement.” Brookings Institution Workshop on Rethinking Political Islam, Washington, DC, 19-20 June 2015.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND COMMITMENTS

- Brookings Institution Foreign Policy Program – Nonresident Fellow
- Gulf International Forum – Nonresident Senior Fellow
- *Middle Eastern Studies* – Member of editorial board
- Middle East Studies Association – Full member

LANGUAGES

- Arabic: intermediate comprehension, reading.
- Spanish: intermediate comprehension, reading.