

Gender, Connectivity, & Change in the Gulf Arab States

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Bringing gender to the forefront of both analysis and methodology, this conference explores new directions in the study of the GCC (Gulf Cooperative Council) countries. The last several years have witnessed yet another boom in the Gulf Arab States, this time in a profusion of social scientific work about the region. No longer limited to the geopolitics of oil, security assessments of the region's political stability, and demographic analyses of the citizenry and migrant populations, recent scholarship has explored how relations amongst and between Gulf citizens and foreign residents are connected to the changes reconfiguring the region. These changes include the development of hyper-modern urban spaces, the rapid establishment and proliferation of institutions of higher learning, the uneasy shift toward electoral forms of politics, the growth of cyber-communities, emerging social and religious movements, transnational migrations, and shifting state articulations with global and local economies. Missing in much of this work, however, is an appreciation of how both change and connectivity in the GCC are highly gendered, as is the state of academic research on the region. This conference proposes to bring together feminist scholarship with the particularities of gender dynamics in the Gulf Arab States, in order to remap the course of the rapidly growing field of Gulf studies.



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