



CALL FOR PAPERS: SECOND ANNUAL IMES CONFERENCE, 7 OCTOBER 2021

Conflict, Climate, and Civil Society: Tracing (In)Stability, Challenges and Change from Iran to the Gulf

The convenors, Sofia Patel and Ahou Koutchesfahani and senior academic patron, Professor Jonathan Hill invite proposals for the October 7, 2021 Symposium - under the theme "*Conflict, Climate, and Civil Society: Tracing (In)Stability, Challenges and Change from Iran to the Gulf*".

We invite especially **early career researchers and PhD students** to submit proposals for presentations to identify and discuss the cross-cutting themes amongst the different realities of the Persian Gulf countries as well as to provide insights into the current challenges, dominating narratives and emerging opportunities. We are interested in proposals that can speak to one of the three panels:

1. Environmental and Economic (In)Stability: can the Gulf go green?
2. Civil Society and Human Rights: 10 years on from the protests, what has changed?
3. Lasting conflicts and regional threats: what are the prospects and challenges for a collaborative approach to security?

We look forward to proposals on a broad range of international and transnational politics, history and security topics. Our focus is not only on traditional state-to-state relations but also the flow of people, ideas and identities across states and between non-state actors. Given the financial security provided by the oil wealth of these nations, a particular focus this year will be on the need for economic diversification in relation to growing climate insecurity. Furthermore, we welcome any scholars focusing on the importance of gender, culture, religion, identity and race as we are interested in discussions around the advancement of women's rights and opportunities and sectarian tensions. Interdisciplinary approaches with a strong historical focus are also welcome.

The conference is open to King's College London and non-KCL speakers and attendees alike. Presentations are expected to last between 10 – 15 minutes and are followed by Q&A and feedback from the senior academic chair. We will offer an opportunity to contribute to a special-edition publication by Strife to those interested in submitting their full paper.

Those interested in presenting are invited to send a **provisional title, an abstract no longer than 300 words, and a short biographical note** to imeskcl@gmail.com by **21 May 2021**. Any queries are also welcome, to the same address.

More information on the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies at KCL can be found here:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/imes>.

Further information about the MENA Research Group, including details of our programme of recent events, is available on our Twitter feed (@MenaKcl)