



Institute for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

IMEIS Conference 2025

**An Event in Honour of the Work and Career of
Professor Anoushiravan Ehteshami**

The Sir William Luce Fellowship Lecture 2025

The Mohamed Ali Foundation Fellowship Panel 2025

Al Qasimi Building, Elvet Hill Road

Wednesday 11 June 2025

08:45-09.15: Arrival and Coffee

09:15-09:30: Introductory Remarks:

Professor Clive Jones, Director of IMEIS, Rm 102

09:30-10:30: Plenary Lecture. Rm 102

His Excellency Mr Jasem Mohammed Al-Budaiwi

**Secretary-General of Cooperation Council for the
Arab States of the Gulf**

10:30-1045: Refreshment Break

10:45 – 12:00: Panel 1: Iran and Syria: Challenges, Opportunities and Threats
Rm 102 Al-Qasimi Building

Dr Neil Quilliam, Royal Institute for International Affairs, Chatham House.
Syria: Adjusting to a New Regional Order

Dr Marzia Kouhi-Esfahani, Durham University
Debunking Myths about Iran

His Excellency Dr Midref al-Qashouti, Qatari Ambassador to Afghanistan
The Evolution of Qatari-Iranian Relations after 2017: After the Blockade

Dr Hezam Forzan
The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Regional Dynamics Since Hamas's October 2023 Attack on Israel

12:00-13:00: The Annual Sir William Luce Fellowship Lecture 2025
Rm 102 Al Qasimi Building

'Anarchiving' Sudan Memories: The Present War and Troubled Past

Dr Mariosole Pepa, University of Padua, Italy

13:00-14:00: Conference Buffet Lunch Al Qasimi Building

**14:00-15:15. The Mohamed Ali Foundation Fellowship Panel
Rm 102 Al Qasimi Building**

Dr Will Hanley, Florida State University
Competing sovereignties and jurisdictions in litigation over Abbas Hilmi's sequestered royal estates, 1915-1924

Dr Mohamed Abdou, American University of Cairo
Between Two Empires: Anglo-Ottoman Rivalry and Networks of Capital, Labor, and Expertise in the Estates (Çiftliks) of Khedive 'Abbas Hilmi II in the Aegean, 1895-1914"

15:15-15:30: Refreshment Break

Two Parallel Panels:

**15:30 – 17:15 Kuwait, Gulf Security and Peace Building
Rm: 102 Al Qasimi Building**

Mr Andrew Critchlow, S&P Global Market Intelligence
Navigating the Energy Transition in the Gulf.

Mr Abdullah Al-Khonaini, Durham University
Behind the Budgetary Process: The Politics of Parliamentary Committees, Procedures and the formulation of the State budget in Kuwait.

Dr Abdulla Al-Sabah, Kuwait Ministry of Defence
Punching above its weight? Kuwait: A small state survival strategy in historic and comparative perspective.

Dr Juline Beaujouan-Marliere Edinburch University
Peace be Upon you: Local Islamic Peace Practices in Syria

**15:30 – 17:15 Panel 3. Asianisation and the Gulf.
Rm: 222 Al Qasimi Building**

Professor Steve Wright, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar.

Navigating Uncertainty: The Gulf States Strategic Hedging between United States Foreign Volatility and Asianisation in an Emergent Multipolar Order.

Dr Philip Gater-Smith, FCDO.

A Reassessment of Chinese and American influence in the Persian Gulf Region

Dr Ben Houghton, Lancaster University

China's Strategy in the Gulf: Navigating Conflicts and Rivalries

Dr Jia Liu, Durham University

China's West Asian Vision and its role prescription in Saudi Arabia and Iran (via Teams).

17:15- 17:30 **Closing Remarks:** Professor Clive Jones

19:00 **Dinner (Location tbc)**