

EDUCATION

- Oct 2013- Nov 2017

PhD in Comparative Politics of the Middle East, University of Leeds

Award: Pass (19th March 2018)

Thesis: *From Diwanniyyat to Youth Societies: Informal Political Spaces and Contentious Politics in Kuwait and Bahrain.*

My doctoral research focuses on the relatively under-theorised notion of "informal" civil society and departs from extant scholarship on democratisation that has often dominated civil society discourse. I focus instead on civil society and the impact both traditional and emerging civic spaces could have on sectarian relations in the Gulf region, with an eye on two case studies - Kuwait and Bahrain.

- Sept 2012- Sept 2013

MA (Taught) Religion & Political Life, University of Manchester

Dissertation: *The social implications of religious sectarianism and how this influences attitudes and political affiliations in the cases of Syria and Bahrain.*

- Sept 2009- Jul 2012

BA (Hons.) Study of Religions & Theology, University of Manchester

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Civil Society, Informal Spaces, Inter-Communal/Sectarian Relations, Identity Politics.

Intrigued by state-sponsored discourse on religion within the Gulf, my research seeks to examine how sectarian narratives are received at both the level of grass-roots activism and the state when instituting policies and measures that ultimately determine the trajectory of state-societal and inter-communal relations. I look to extend these observations beyond my chosen case studies.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- November 2020 – Ongoing

Country Profile Review Editor, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

- Sept 2018 – Ongoing

Director & Head Consultant, HH Expert Consultancy

- August 2018 – Ongoing

Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Political Economy, King's College London

- September 2019 – July 2020

Senior Teaching Fellow, *Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS.*

- Sept 2018 – May 2019

Teaching Fellow in Middle East Politics, *European and International Studies, King's College London*

- Sep 2014 - Aug 2018

Senior Postgraduate Tutor, *Languages, Cultures and Societies, University of Leeds*

EXPERT WITNESS CONSULTANCY AND DOCUMENT AUTHENTICATION

- I provide expert consultancy services (e.g. Country Reports, Document Authentication, Disputed Nationality, Dialect Analysis etc.) for UK, U.S and European law firms on themes pertaining to my expertise which include Inter-Communal/Sectarian relations in the Middle East, International and State- Societal Relations, extensive experience and on the ground fieldwork with NGO's and Civil Society in the Gulf, Islamist Movements, Militia Groups and Radicalisation, Conflict and Peacebuilding, Religious and Ethnic Minorities, Geopolitical Trends and Regional Security, Diaspora and Refugees, Human Rights issues and modes of governance in the Middle East.
- I also provide forensic document authentication services; I am an admitted member of the National Handwriting Association (NHA), the British Institute of Graphologists (BIG) and the Scientific Association of Forensic Examiners (SAFE). I have verified documents by experience and am currently obtaining qualification and training with Reed Hayes in the near future, as well as training with Foster + Freeman Forensic Webinars and the International Association of Scientists and Researchers (IASR).
- In my experience, I focus on handwriting, tampering, alterations and translation experience. I have vast experience reviewing official Arabic language documents.
- I have also been commissioned as a country profile review editor for the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime – a global monitoring NGO, focusing on devising and gauging their country profile reviews (as part of their Global Organized Crime Index) on issues pertaining to various criminal sectors in the Middle East and North Africa region.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Civic Space and Sectarianism in GCC States: Dynamics of ‘Informal’ Civil Society in Kuwait and Bahrain beyond State Institutions,” Fibiger, T and Hafidh, H in *Studies of Ethnicity and Nationalism* (SEN) Vol 19, Issue 1 (April 2019)
- “Transnational Securitization of Identity: Distinctions between Securitization and ‘Othering’ of Shias in Bahrain and Pakistan,” co-authored paper with Dr Maryyum Mehmood in *Global Discourse*, Vol 9, No 4, November 2019

WORK IN PROGRESS

- “Informal Civil Society and Sectarianism in Bahrain and Kuwait” – Book proposal accepted by Syracuse University Press after receiving keen interest from Series Editor Professor Fred Lawson.
- Field Research on "Criminal Components of Economic Migration in the GCC Countries: A Comparative Analysis of Bahrain, UAE and Saudi Arabia - Commissioned by Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (Global OC Index) commencing 2023.

CONFERENCES & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- SEPAD – Sectarianism, Proxies and De-Sectarianisation Workshop at Lancaster University sponsored by Carnegie Corporation – Tuesday 16th April 2019.
- BRISMES – British Society for Middle East Studies. Panel: Sectarianism and Regime Trajectories after the Arab Uprisings. Paper – Fibiger, T and Hafidh, H on Civic Space and Sectarianism in GCC States: Dynamics of “Informal” Civil Society in Kuwait and Bahrain beyond State Institutions. Thursday 6th July 2017, University of Edinburgh.
- Aarhus University (Denmark) - Workshop on Sectarianism and Regime Formation.
- AIMES (Arabic, Islamic and Middle East Studies) Public Lecture - Informal Civil Society and Sectarian Relations in Bahrain.
- MESS (Middle East Studies Society) Public Lecture - Saudi-Iran Relations: Looking Beyond Sectarian Narratives.
- SOAS University Public lecture - ISIS and Extremism within the Context of GCC States.
- Chatham House – Workshop on Future Trends in the Gulf.
- International media appearances and comments featured in several news outlets including Al-Jazeera, LBC Radio, Channel 4, Indus TV, RT & TRT World alongside others.

ACADEMIC COMMITMENTS

I have regularly delivered lectures and seminars as course convener at King's College London, SOAS (University of London), and the University of Leeds on a host of topics pertaining to Middle Eastern Studies and Comparative Politics from undergraduate to postgraduate level. I also supervise postgraduate (master's and PhD) dissertations.

6SSJM100 – Religion and Politics in the Middle East

7AAJM217 – Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding

7AAJM206 – Islamist Movements: Jihad, Revolution and Consensus

6SSPP315 – Political Economy of the Middle East

MODL 1100 - Politics, Culture and Society

ARAB 1160 - Intro to the Middle East: Politics, Culture & Religion

ARAB 2066 - Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

ARAB 2170/80 - Culture and Society in the Arab World

ARAB 2290/2310 - Modern Middle Eastern History

ARAB 3110 - Middle Eastern Politics: Regimes, Societies and Conflict

ARAB 5060M - Debating the Middle East: Islam, Politics and Culture

15PPOC026 – Comparative Politics of the Middle East

153400060 – Government and Politics of the Middle East

15PPOH008 – Political Society in the Middle East

FUNDING

- LCS Bursary - £2,500 yearly for up to three years (Languages, Cultures and Societies at the University of Leeds) bursary to conduct PhD thesis.

- Funding from LCS department to participate and work on SWAR (Sectarianism in the wake of Arab Revolts) workshop in Aarhus University, Denmark. Followed up by conference paper and peer-reviewed journal article.

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

- Proficient in using data analysis software: Microsoft (Word, Excel, Powerpoint etc.)
- Native: English & Arabic; Intermediate: French; Elementary: Farsi