



مركز البحرين للدراسات الاستراتيجية والدولية والطاقة
Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies



مجلس الوزراء للمرأة
Supreme Council for Women



منتدى دراسات السنوي السادس 6TH Annual Derasat Forum

دور المرأة في صنع السياسات ، ومراكز الفكر والبحوث
The Role of Women in Policy-Making, Think Tanks, and Research

Agenda & Speakers Profiles

14 - 15 June 2023



منتدى دراسات السنوي السادس
6th Annual Derasat Forum



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Concept Note

In many research and policy-related disciplines, the empowerment of women remains highly salient. This is especially true in the upper echelons of the fields where think tanks dominate, such as security, foreign policy, economics, and energy. Underrepresentation persists despite the high levels of female enrollment in higher educational programs that feed into the research and administrative positions in think tanks.

Affording women equal opportunities to be thought leaders is a fundamental right that is independent of any economic benefits that this may confer. Despite this, scholarly research has demonstrated the existence of significant returns associated with ensuring that women have equal access to top positions in the research community. The simplest cause is that women represent half of the labor pool, and marginalizing them is tantamount to artificially limiting the depth of talent from which to select leaders. Beyond this, leadership teams that are more diverse in composition tend to be more diverse in terms of ideas generated, which is critical for research institutions.

Accordingly, the 6th Annual Derasat Forum will examine the causes of the existing imbalances by directly engaging current think tank leaders and the next generation who will be looking to take over the reins in the coming decade. The Forum will also explore the impacts of female empowerment by the Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain while exploring effective methods of realizing more equitable outcomes for the sector. The sessions aim to look at the empowerment and trust in female researchers by weighing the significance of their research cases and the extent to which positive outcomes have been consequently realized and addressed.

Since female empowerment is a challenge that exists in many sectors beyond the research and policy world, the Forum will provide generic analysis that applies broadly. However, it will also focus on the issues that are specific to think tanks and thought leadership. This topic is especially important at present due to the increasing number of major crises the world is currently facing. The positive contribution that think tanks can make to policy is at an all-time high, and understanding how to maximize this contribution in a just and equitable manner is an issue that demands the attention of the entire research community.



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الورقة المفاهيمية

على الرغم من المستويات المرتفعة لانضمام النساء لبرامج التعليم العالي التي تؤهلهن لبلوغ مناصب بحثية وإدارية في مراكز الفكر، فإن تمثيل المرأة في كثير من التخصصات البحثية في هذه المراكز يواجه نقصاً ملحوظاً وخصوصاً في مجالات الأمن، والسياسة الخارجية، والاقتصاد، والطاقة.

ويعد العمل على تحقيق تكافؤ الفرص أمام النساء ليلبغن مناصب قيادية في مراكز الفكر تحدياً مهماً بمعزل عن أية عوائد اقتصادية، رغم أن الأبحاث العلمية أظهرت وجود فوائد مهمة مرتبطة بضمان حصول المرأة على فرصة تولي مناصب عليا في مجتمع البحث العلمي، أبسط أسباب ذلك هو تمثيل المرأة لنصف القوى العاملة، علاوة على أن فرق القيادة الأكثر تنوعاً في تركيبها هي الأكثر تنوعاً في طرح الأفكار، وهو أمرٌ في غاية الأهمية لمعاهد الأبحاث.

في ضوء ما تقدم، سيبحث منتدى دراسات السنوي السادس أسباب الاختلال الموجود في التوازنات بالإشراك المباشر لقادة مراكز الفكر الحاليين ومرشحي خلفتهم في العقد المقبل من الجيل القادم. سوف يسعى المنتدى أيضاً إلى استكشاف آثار التمكين النسائي من قبل المجلس الأعلى للمرأة في البحرين مع مناقشة الأساليب المؤثرة لتحقيق نتائج أكثر إنصافاً لهذا القطاع. كما تهدف الجلسات إلى النظر في تمكين الباحثات من خلال الموازنة بين أهمية حالات بحثهن ومدى تحقيق النتائج الإيجابية ومعالجتها.

ونظراً لكون نقص تمثيل المرأة تحدياً ماثلاً في قطاعات أخرى غير البحث العلمي ووضع السياسات، سيقدّم المنتدى تحليلاً عاماً ينطبق على نطاق واسع، إلا أنه سيركز أيضاً على مواضيع تتعلق بمراكز الفكر وقيادة الرأي. هذا الموضوع ذو أهمية خاصة في الوقت الراهن نظراً لزيادة عدد الأزمات الكبرى التي يواجهها العالم حالياً، لعظم إيجابية الإسهامات التي بمقدور مراكز الفكر تقديمها لعملية وضع السياسات الآن أكثر من أي وقت مضى، وبات لزاماً على مجتمع البحث العلمي بأكمله أن يولي الاهتمام اللائق بالفهم المطلوب لتحقيق أقصى المنافع من هذه الإسهامات بأسلوب عادل ومنصف.



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مجلس البحرين للمرأة
Bahraini Council for Women

Program Agenda

Day 1 | June 14th

Registration & Refreshments	9:00 -10:00
Welcome Remarks Keynote Speech	10:00-10:30
Session 1: Women Thought Leaders Past aspirations and present achievements <p>The panel will include input from female thought leaders in various fields of research. It will consist of a diverse range of women executives who have worked across the think tank and government industries. The panelists will provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing women in each sector across the region.</p>	10:30-12:00
Coffee Break	12:00-12:30
Session 2: National Initiatives in the Field of Women's Advancement and Governance of Gender Balance Applications <p>This discussion aims to shed light on the importance of national initiatives for women's advancement and achieving gender balance in governance. Additionally, it will cover policies that promote women's rights, strategies for increasing women's leadership and participation in decision-making, and initiatives for women's economic empowerment.</p>	12:30-13:30
Networking Luncheon	13:30-14:30



Day 2 | June 15th

Session 3: Eliminating misconceptions Shaping the Direction of Research and Policy at Macro Levels <p>The session discusses the future direction for research and policy in the GCC region, with a focus on emerging trends and areas of focus. It explores the influence of social dynamics on attitudes towards work and education. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in research and policy-making, highlighting the need for collaboration between countries, organizations, and institutions. The session also examines the role of experts, scholars, and researchers in shaping policy at the macro level, while considering mechanisms to ensure effective collaboration and mitigate conflicts of interest.</p>	10:30-11:00
Session 4: Women in Think Tanks Her Perception in Policymaking <p>The session will focus on the role of women in think tanks and their significant contributions to policymaking. It will highlight their experiences and insights, showcasing the valuable perspectives they bring to the table. Gender equality within think tanks will be discussed, acknowledging the progress made thus far and exploring the necessary steps to ensure equal representation and opportunities for women. The importance of women's perspectives in policymaking will be emphasized, with examples demonstrating how their participation has influenced policy outcomes. The session will also address the barriers that women face in the field and promote mentorship and collaboration as means to overcome these challenges and support women in their professional growth.</p>	11:00-12:15
Coffee Break	12:15-12:45
Session 5: Closing the Gap and the Way Forward <p>This session highlights the role of education in bridging gaps between communities and promoting peace, while analyzing the challenges and opportunities it presents. It also focuses on conflict resolution and peacebuilding as effective means to foster understanding and cooperation between conflicting parties. The discussion will emphasize the United Nations' role in promoting global peace, including the challenges it faces and potential pathways for addressing pressing global issues. Additionally, the impact of globalization on social and economic gaps worldwide will be explored, emphasizing the need for a more equitable and sustainable global system.</p>	12:45-13:30
Recommendations and closing	13:30-14:00
Networking Luncheon	02:00-15:00



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مركز الخليج للدراسات الاستراتيجية والدراسات الدولية
Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies



جدول الأعمال

اليوم الأول: 14 يونيو 2023م

9:00 - 10:00	التسجيل
10:00-10:30	الكلمة الترحيبية الكلمة الرئيسية
10:30-12:00	الجلسة الأولى: قادة الفكر النسائي ا تطوعات الماضي وإنجازات الحاضر مداخلات من قائدات للرأي في مختلف مجالات البحث العلمي، وتشمل قائمة المتحدثات مجموعة من النساء التنفيذيات ممن عملن في مراكز الفكر والمؤسسات الحكومية، ليساهمن في تأطير التحديات والفرص التي تواجه النساء في مختلف القطاعات في المنطقة.
12:00-12:30	استراحة الضيافة
12:30-13:30	الجلسة الثانية: المبادرات الوطنية في مجال النهوض بالمرأة وإدارة تطبيقات التوازن بين الجنسين تسليط الضوء على أهمية المبادرات الوطنية للنهوض بالمرأة وتحقيق التوازن بين الجنسين في العمل، ومناقشة سياسات تعزيز دور المرأة، واستراتيجيات وصولها لمراكز قيادية ومشاركتها في صنع القرار، بالإضافة لمبادرات التمكين الاقتصادي للمرأة لتحقيق نتائج أكثر إنصافاً للقطاع.
13:30-14:30	مأدبة الغداء



10:30-11:00	<p>الجلسة الثالثة: القضاء على المفاهيم غير الصائبة ا تشكيل توجهات البحث والسياسة على المستوى الكلي</p> <p>البحث في تأثير الديناميكيات الاجتماعية على التوجهات في العمل والتعليم، حيث تناقش الجلسة التوجه المستقبلي للبحوث والسياسات في دول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية على الموضوعات الناشئة والمجالات ذات الاهتمام. بالإضافة إلى عرض لأهمية التعاون الدولي في البحث وضع السياسات، مع التأكيد على التعاون بين الدول والمنظمات حيث سيتم مناقشة دور الخبراء والعلماء والباحثين في تشكيل السياسة على المستوى الكلي، إلى جانب آليات ضمان التعاون الفعال.</p>
11:00-12:15	<p>الجلسة الرابعة: المرأة في مراكز الفكر ا نظرتهم نحو صنع القرار</p> <p>تستعرض الجلسة دور المرأة في مراكز الفكر وإسهاماتها في صنع السياسات، وتبسيط الضوء على تجاربها ورؤاها، وستتم مناقشة تكافؤ الفرص بين الجنسين في مراكز الفكر، مع التركيز على التقدم المحرز والخطوات لضمان التمثيل المتكافئ والفرص للمرأة، كما سيتم طرح أهمية وجهات نظر المرأة في صنع السياسات، مع عرض لأهمية على كيفية تأثير مشاركتها على نتائج السياسات، ومعالجة العقبات وتعزيز الإرشاد والتعاون للنساء في هذا القطاع.</p>
12:15-12:45	<p>استراحة الضيافة</p>
12:45-13:30	<p>الجلسة الخامسة: رأب الفجوة والمضي قُدماً</p> <p>تُسلط هذه الجلسة الضوء على ثقافة سد الفجوات بين المجتمعات وتعزيز السلام، وتحليل التحديات والفرص التي يتم طرحها، كما تركز على حل النزاعات وبناء السلام كوسيلة لتعزيز التفاهم والتعاون بين الأطراف المختلفة. وستركز المناقشة على دور الأمم المتحدة في تعزيز السلام العالمي، والتحديات التي تواجهها، والمسارات المحتملة لمعالجة القضايا العالمية الملحة، بالإضافة إلى استكشاف تأثير العولمة على الفجوات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية في جميع أنحاء العالم، والتأكيد على الحاجة إلى نظام عالمي منصف ومستدام.</p>
13:30-14:00	<p>التوصيات وختام المنتدى</p>
02:00-15:00	<p>مأدبة الغداء</p>



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Welcome Remarks & Keynote Speech



HE Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

Chairman
Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat)

H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat). Shaikh Abdullah also holds the post of Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme Defense Council, in addition to serving as Undersecretary for Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, a post he has held since August 2015. Previously Shaikh Abdulla held the post of Director General for External Communications (2014) at the Information Affairs Authority, during which he played a pivotal role in drawing up and implementing a strategy for strengthening the country's national communications and public engagement. Shaikh Abdulla was awarded PhD in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Ecole des Hautes Études Internationales, France and earned a Master of Law (LLM) from Queen Mary College, University of London, UK, focusing on negotiation and mediation. He also holds a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from the Applied Science University, Jordan.



HE Hala Mohamed Jaber AL Ansari

Secretary-General
Supreme Council for Women

H.E. Hala Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari is the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women in the Kingdom of Bahrain (ministerial rank) and a member of the Supreme Council for Women in its Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Sessions. Mrs. Al Ansari held the position of Assistant Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women, in the rank of Undersecretary, between 2001 and 2010. She is also the Head of Media Affairs at the office of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeqa Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain since 2000. She is the chair of numerous notable committees such as, Chair of the Joint Committee between the (SCW) and the Legislative Authority to support mainstreaming Women's Needs in Development since 2010, and Chair of the Committee of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeqa Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award for Bahraini Women Empowerment also since 2010. She holds numerous national and international memberships such as member of the Board of Trustees of the Royal University Women Bahrain (2019-Current), and member of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (2017 – 2021). Her attained academic qualifications include a Women's Leadership Development Program (Diploma) from Oxford University- Said Business School (2020) and a Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University – United States of America (1994). She was awarded with Order of Merit for pioneers of national work in 2011 by His Majesty the King of Bahrain.



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Session 1: Women Thought Leaders | Past aspirations and present achievements

Moderator Dr. Omar Ahmad Al Ubaydli

Director of Research | Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat)



Dr. Fernanda Lonardoni

Head of UN-Habitat Country Programme
Regional Office for Arab States

Dr. Fernanda Lonardoni is Head of UN-Habitat Country Programme in the Kingdom of Bahrain and United Arab Emirates. She holds a PhD in Urban Sociology and International Development from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and a master's degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil. Since joining UN-Habitat in January 2014, she has served as a policy advisor, as special assistant at the Executive Office and, most recently, as the Coordinator of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat's leading initiative and premier global conference on cities. In the past 10 years, she has managed normative and operational projects at national and local levels, advising ministers, mayors and high-level decision makers in more than 10 countries. Prior to UN-Habitat she worked as a Programme Manager and Lead Researcher at the Cooperation and Development Centre at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and with the World Bank as an Urban and Housing expert.



Dr. Lynn Monzer

Associate Director of empowerME
Atlantic Council - United States

Lynn Monzer is a gender equality professional, consultant, instructor, and social entrepreneur who has worked with think tanks, nonprofits, and start-ups. Lynn focuses on improving the lives of women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region by increasing their labor force participation and fostering female-led entrepreneurship. She holds a PhD focused on female entrepreneurship in the MENA. Currently, Lynn is an Associate Director, WIn Fellowship at the Atlantic Council. She was previously a Lead Research Analyst at the Wilson Center's Middle East Program and worked to identify policy gaps that contribute to low female women's economic participation and entrepreneurship in MENA. She is also a Global Fellow at the Wilson Center. Previously, Lynn founded GenDev Consulting to help organizations foster opportunities for women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship in MENA and consulted and led workshops for organizations including Google Developer Groups; Rowad Foundation; the University of Maryland; the CREO Incubator; and Al-Sahm Women. Lynn is also the founder of Hokouki, a non-profit that simplifies access to laws and regulations affecting women and girls in MENA.



Hanin Alsudais

Associate Fellow
King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies - Saudi Arabia

Hanin Alsudais has been serving as Researcher in the Contemporary Political Thought unit at King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS) since 2019. She obtained her MSc in Middle East Politics from SOAS University of London in 2019. Prior to this, she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her topics of interest are nationalism and identity, as well as modern political thought.



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Alya Alawadhi

Researcher
Head of Consulting Section, TRENDS Research and Advisory

Alya Alawadhi is an aspiring economics scholar and arts researcher with an interest in documenting and understanding the Arabian Gulf's rich cultural legacy and fast-changing socioeconomic landscape. Alya, based in the UAE, has a B.A. in Economics and a B.A. in Art History from New York University Abu Dhabi. She is currently pursuing her passions as a full-time researcher at TRENDS Research & Advisory and as a freelance researcher and curator at Videocity.bs. In line with her divergent passions, Alya's career trekked various industries, where she interned at the renowned international law firm, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, and an up-and-coming cultural engagement start-up, The Knot. Her professional career also includes ADQ's newly launched digital bank, Wio. Through these experiences, Alya has gained a multi-faceted appreciation of how to be an effective communicator and a successful project manager.

Session 2: National Initiatives in the Field of Women's Advancement and Governance of Gender Balance Applications

Moderator Sarah Al Buraik Main News Anchor and Political Analyst



Dr. Tasnim Atatrah

WHO Representative and Head of Bahrain Office
World Health Organization

Dr Tasnim Atatrah is the WHO Representative and Head of Office in Bahrain since June 2021. She is a public health specialist, medical doctor and policy fellow¹ who joined WHO in 2010 and has worked in 12 countries across WHO's Eastern Mediterranean and European regions in various capacities. Over the course of her work, Dr Atatrah has led interventions to strengthen health systems and promote universal health coverage as the ultimate means to ensuring equitable access to health for all. She has also provided technical support to ministries in the development of national health policies, strategies, and plans in line with the targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Dr Atatrah has simultaneously focused on strengthening participatory governance and enhancing national and regional policy dialogues to promote health and wellbeing. She successfully managed a subregional platform in five countries in Central Asia to enhance regional cooperation and meet the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Dr Atatrah is a medical doctor with a Master's degree in Public Health and Epidemiology from the Al-Quds University. She also holds a diploma in Project Management from Bethlehem University (Palestine), and a High Diploma in Management of Humanitarian Health and Nutrition Programmes from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (United Kingdom). She completed a Policy Fellowship at Cambridge University (United Kingdom).



Josephine Moss

Senior Coordination Expert,
UN Women – Regional Office Arab States

Josephine Moss is based in the UN Women Regional Office of the Arab States and specializes in exploring how the coordinated work of the UN system on gender equality and women's empowerment can optimize the impact of multi-stakeholder collaboration for national development. Originally trained as a lawyer in her native Australia before starting her career with the United Nations in its peacekeeping mission in East Timor, Josephine has worked in diverse UN portfolios, including more than a decade focused on sustainable development, UN coordination and gender equality in the Gulf. Josephine leads on the establishment of UN Women Bahrain, the first UN Women programme office in the GCC region, in partnership with the Supreme Council for Women.



Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi

Director- Women's Research and Studies Center
University of Kuwait

Lubna Ahmed Al-Kazi graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, USA with a Ph.D. in Demography and Sociology. She is a Professor at Kuwait University in the Sociology Department. She is the founder and director of the Women's Research and Studies Center, which was established in September 2010 in coordination with the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait and Kuwait University. Women's Research and Studies Center has organized leadership training at the regional level and national level as well as numerous workshops to empower women in partnership with UN Women and UNDP. The center is presently in charge of implementing the gender component of the Kuwait National Development Plan and the vision 2035 of New Kuwait. It is also implementing the UN Goal SDG 5 on Gender Equality in partnership with the Supreme Council of Development and Planning, Kuwait and UN Women and UNDP. She has been in the Kuwaiti delegation for CEDAW and UPR sessions in Geneva numerous times. She is a member of the Permanent National Committee on Human Rights. She spoke about Kuwait's achievement on SDG5 at the 63rd CSW session at the United Nations, New York in 2019. She also spoke about Women's rights at the UPR in January ,2020 and also at the first Human Rights Dialogue at the European Union in February ,2020. She is presently the deputy head of the Committee "Women and Work Affairs" formed in 2021 by the Supreme Council for development and Planning to implement Women's Economic Empowerment. She is also on the Women's Empowerment committee under the Higher Council of Women's Affairs.

Session 3: Eliminating misconceptions | Shaping the Direction of Research and Policy at Macro Levels

Moderator Sarah Al Buraik Main News Anchor and Political Analyst



Dr. Hanaa Almoaibed

Research Fellow
King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies Socioeconomics Unit - Saudi Arabia

Hanaa Almoaibed is a PhD who works with governments, the non-profit and private sectors as a geopolitical and cultural consultant while continuing to produce academic research related to education, skills and labour markets in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East, viewing experiences through the intersectionality of gender, class, sustainability, and more.

She is an Associate Fellow at Chatham House and a Research Fellow at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh. She is also a Visiting Research Fellow at the London School of Economics Middle East Centre. Hanaa has board-level experience in the energy and education sectors and has worked in corporate social responsibility and ESG reporting. She is currently Vice President of Research at the Arab Institute for Women's Empowerment, the Vice Chairman of the International Advisory Board of the ZADK Culinary Academy, and the Education Pillar Chair at Johara Global, a network bridging experiences of women in the Middle East with Europe and North America.



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Session 4: Women in Think Tanks | Her Perception in Policymaking

Moderator Doris Martin Main News Anchor and Political Analyst



Rudayna al-Baalbaky

Arab and International Affairs Program Coordinator
Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI)
American University of Beirut

Rudayna coordinates the Arab and International Affairs program at IFI since 2015. She is currently leading research and management of the EU research project PAVE “Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism through Community Resilience in the Balkans and MENA” at the institute. Rudayna has published articles in Arabic in Annahar and al-Modon, in English in The Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic Council, aljazeera.net, and the UNDP Peace Building in Lebanon News Supplement. She has provided analysis for print and broadcast media, including BBC, Alhurra TV, TRT World, al-Jazeera, Sky News Arabia, al-Arabiya, and the Middle East Institute. She has a master's degree in political science, comparative politics with focus on the Arab region and a Bachelor of Arts in political science and public administration from Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth.



Amnah Ibraheem

Research Analyst
IISS–Middle East

Amnah Ibraheem is a Research Analyst at the IISS–Middle East office, specializing in the nuclear and energy policies of the Gulf states. Her expertise includes Gulf energy policy, nuclear security and non-proliferation dynamics in the region, and Gulf regional security. She also recently appointed as Head of the Manama Dialogue Young Leaders Programme. Amnah Ibraheem's dissertation research examines the role of civil society, domestic institutions, and political systems in the energy sector across the Arab Gulf states and the effects on nuclear energy development. She previously worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, and attended trainings at multiple US National labs including Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York and Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico. She is a member of Middle East Next Generation of Arms Control Specialists (MENACS), a programme of the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.



Nora Nezamuddin

Fellow
King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)

Nora Nezamuddin is a Research Fellow I focusing on pathways to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors such as transportation and transport economics. She has worked on renewables transition policy and costs and its effects on electricity markets. She holds a MSc in Maritime and Air Transport Management the University of Antwerp in Belgium and a B.S.B.A. in Business Administration and International Relations from The American University in Washington D.C.



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6th Annual Derasat Forum



مركز البحرين للدراسات الاستراتيجية والدولية
Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies



Session 5: Closing the Gap and the Way Forward

Moderator Sarah Al Buraik Main News Anchor and Political Analyst



Dr. David Fernandez Puyana

Permanent Observer | University for Peace to the United Nations Office - Geneva

Dr. David Fernández Puyana is a legal scholar representing the UN University for Peace. He has authored 44 peer-reviewed academic papers, 5 books and 25 articles. He has participated and organized nearly 100 UN events. With experience in NGOs, National Parliament, Permanent Missions, United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations. He was awarded by Universities and high reputed institutions. Dr. Fernández Puyana is also the coordinator at the UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva and advises the Foundation Peace without Borders. He is co-founder of the UNESCO Chair on Peace, Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue at the University Abat Oliba CEU and the International Association for Peace (APAIX). He is part of the Editorial Board of "Peace Human Rights Governance" of the Padova University (Italy). Dr. Fernández Puyana contributed to the signature of agreements with the Saudi Diplomatic Institute, Emirates Diplomatic Academy, Azerbaijan Diplomatic School and Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He was instrumental to sign a MoU with the Pontifical University of Vatican. He is Visiting Scholar of the Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute of Diplomatic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, and cooperates with King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue and the Commission on Human Rights of Saudi Arabia¹. Dr. Fernández Puyana obtained his Doctorate in Law with European Mention by the University of Pompeu Fabra (Spain). He also holds a LLM on Human Rights Law by the University of Essex (UK), MA on Human Rights Protection by the University of Alcalá de Henares (Spain) and MA on International Relations by the University of Pompeu Fabra. He is also graduated in Law, as well as Philosophy and Education Science by the University of Barcelona and Pompeu Fabra. In 2015-2017, he was the coordinator in UNESCO of a "Peace Research" in which thirty-two UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies analysed the multidimensional notion of peace in the context of the International Decade on the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022).



Merissa Khurma

Director of Middle east program | Wilson Center

Merissa Khurma is the program director of the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center. She was a non-resident fellow in the International Security program at New America. She has leadership experience working in a range of development projects in the Middle East that focused on economic development, the Syrian refugee crisis, education, youth, gender development, and governance. Additionally, Khurma served as director of the Office of Jordan's Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein (2010- 2013) and as press attaché and director of the Information Bureau at the Embassy of Jordan in Washington, D.C. (2003-2010). Khurma has a master of public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, a master of science in international security and foreign policy from Georgetown University, and a bachelor of art in political science from McGill University. She is also a leadership development practitioner with a focus on Adaptive Leadership, Public Narrative & Community Organizing. Merissa speaks Arabic and French



Dr. Omar Ahmad Al Ubaydli

Director of Research | Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat)

Omar Al-Ubaydli is the Director of Research at the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies. He is also an affiliated associate professor of economics at George Mason University and an affiliated senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center. He previously served as a member of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Joint Advisory Board of Economists and a Visiting Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago. In Bahrain, he has served as a member of the Higher Education Council Research Taskforce and the National Education Council Skills and Innovation Steering Committee. His primary research areas concern behavioral/ experimental economics, political economy, the economics of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the economics of science. He has numerous peer-reviewed publications in international journals, and his research has been covered in mainstream media outlets, in addition to regularly writing newspaper and magazine articles in various outlets.



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Moderators



Doris Martin

CEO of Dmartin Consultancy

Doris Martin is a Bahraini Social Entrepreneur. She is the CEO of DM Consultancy, specializing in Higher Education, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Training & Development, Angel Investor, Professional Coach and Business Management Consultancy. She was former Co-Editor for Bahrain Entrepreneur Magazine (www.bentrepreneur.biz), and an Author. She published two books: Covid-19 Impact Bahrain Initiatives and Building Global Citizens. She is a graduate of International Business & Economics from Northwestern College, USA, and a Post Graduate in College Counseling from UCLA, USA, and a Masters Degree holder of Education, from The Oxford Brookes University, UK. She carries various global experiences working for Ernst & Young (EY) in MENA region, specializing in the business solutions consultancy, business development, entrepreneurship program, research analyst and talent management. During Doris work in EY Bahrain, she initiated Women Leadership Forum in collaboration with Capital Club Bahrain. Furthermore, Doris worked in the private education sector in higher education institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain. She brings more than 28 years of significant professional experience in various capacities. She is an expert in competency-based education, employability strategy in curriculum design, soft skills training, strategy partnership, entrepreneurship innovation development, STEAM programs and is a member of the mentorship program for accelerators Flat6labs, RAWAD, Global Entrepreneurship Network and Women in Tech Bahrain. She contributed to supporting business partnerships globally, sharing bilingual essential training for SMEs, entrepreneurs, Start-ups, fostering relationships between academics, corporate institutions and local & international business communities specifically for women and youth. She is the founder of Bahrain Universities Model United Nations (2005-2018), a former co-founder of the Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organization currently Board Member and former Advisory consultant in Bahrain Businesswomen Society.



Sarah Al Buraik

Main News Anchor and Political Analyst

Award-Winning Journalist With more than 15 years of experience in Producing In-Depth TV shows, High-Impact programs, Interviewing High-Ranking Officials, and Covering Global Events for Saudi and Bahrain News Channels

Recommendations and closing



Rawana AlDajani

Research Assistant | Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat)

Research Assistant in Derasat's Department of Strategic Studies and International Relations, which – along with regional analytical and comparative research – form her areas of focus. She is particularly interested in Bahrain's socio-economic developments, and youth efforts that contribute to the overall development process. She conducts research that involves the Kingdom's strategic alliances and partnerships. Rawana holds a BSc in Political Science and International Relations from Bahcesehir University in Istanbul.



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دور المرأة في صنع السياسات ، ومراكز الفكر والبحوث
The Role of Women in Policy-Making, Think Tanks, and Research