

International Conference on

Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and the New Regional Landscape

June 21-22, 2016 at Bar-Ilan University and the University of Haifa

*In English, with simultaneous Hebrew translation
Webcast live*

Tuesday, June 21 (Bar-Ilan University, Nano-Technology Auditorium, Building 206)

- 9:15 am **Greetings**
Prof. Miriam Faust, Rector, Bar-Ilan University
Prof. Joshua Teitelbaum, BESA Center
- 9:30 am **Saudi Arabia: Internal Challenges**
Chair: Prof. Efraim Inbar, BESA Center
Prof. Gregory Gause, Texas A & M: *King Salman and the Future of the Kingdom*
Dr. Guido Steinberg, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik: *AQAP, IS, and Domestic Security in Saudi Arabia*
Prof. Joshua Teitelbaum, BESA Center: *The Shiites of Saudi Arabia: The Ultimate Other*
- 11:15 am **Inside the GCC: Alliances and Tensions**
Chair: Joshua Teitelbaum, BESA Center
Prof. Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, University of Washington: *Qatar Under Amir Tamim*
Ms. Anna Sunik, German Institute of Global and Area Studies: *Need for Cooperation, Fear of Hegemony: Agreement and Discord in the GCC*
Dr. Yoel Guzansky, Institute for National Security Studies: *Nuclear Proliferation in the Arabian Peninsula after the Iran Deal*
- 2:15 pm **The GCC and Actors Further Afield**
Chair: Prof. Hillel Frisch, BESA Center
Prof. P.R. Kumaraswamy, Jawaharlal Nehru University: *India and the GCC: The Geostrategic Shift*
Dr. Theodore Karasik, Gulf State Analytics: *Eastern Geo-Economics and the GCC's Future*
Dr. Alon Levkowitz, BESA Center: *China, Asia and the GCC: Balance of Business and Power*
Mr. Aymenn Jawad al-Tamimi, Middle East Forum: *The GCC & the Syrian Civil War*

Wednesday, June 22 (University of Haifa, Hecht Museum Auditorium, Main Building)

9:00 am

Greetings

Prof. Gustavo Mesch, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Haifa
Dr. Dan Schueftan, National Security Studies Center

9:15 am

Low Oil Prices and Political Economy: How Are the GCC States Coping?

Chair: **Prof. Norman Bailey**, University of Haifa

Prof. Michael Herb, Georgia State University: *The Political Economy of Low Oil Prices in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf*

Dr. René Rieger, University of Munich: *GCC Economies in the Face of Low Oil Prices*

Dr. Paul Rivlin, Moshe Dayan Center: *Gulf Economies – Between the Arab Spring and Low Oil Prices*

11:15 am

The GCC, US and Europe: Time for a New Arrangement?



Chair: **Prof. Eli Salzberger**, University of Haifa

Prof. Robert Lieber, Georgetown University: *Saudi Arabia and US Middle East Policy*

Dr. Efrat Aviv, BESA Center: *The Saudi-Turkish Alliance: Cooperation or Competition?*

Prof. Dr. Robert Kappel, German Institute of Global and Area Studies: *In Search of a German and EU Gulf Policy*

Respondent: **Clarisse Pasztory**, European External Action Service

This session is sponsored by the Haifa Center for German and European Studies

2:15 pm

The GCC in the Middle East: A Changing Regional Balance of Power

Chair: **Dr. Dan Schueftan**, National Security Studies Center: *Israel's Regional Strategic Partners*

Prof. Meir Litvak, Moshe Dayan Center: *Iran Against Saudi Arabia: Religious and Strategic Rivalry*

Maj. Gen. (res.) Yaakov Amidror, BESA Center: *Why Saudi Arabia Had to Change Its Regional Role*

Ambassador John Jenkins, International Institute for Strategic Studies: *The GCC and the Middle East*

4:15 pm

Summation

Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor, University of Haifa

The conference is open to the public and will be webcast live at

www.besacenter.org and <http://live.haifa.ac.il/hecht/>.