Identity and the Political Economy of the Gulf Cooperation Council

This lecture will begin by examining the main features of the political economy of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as it has developed over the last few decades, placing these features in dialogue with scholarly debates around Rentierism and class/state formation. The lecture will then ask how these processes are connected to various social, ethnic, and religious identities in the Gulf, including a critical examination of the concept of 'sect'. These discussions will be situated historically in the Gulf's experience with British colonialism, and will also examine their implications for the contemporary period (in particular, the specific role of Islamic identity in the Gulf's projection of power at the global scale).

Reading list
