



Rethinking Space, Scale, and Power in the Gulf

The last decade has seen enormous changes take place throughout the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar). These changes include rapid transformations of Gulf urban landscapes, heightened political conflicts within and beyond the region, and the GCC's deep involvement in the political economy of neighbouring Arab states. Given these dynamics, this lecture examines the ways in which concepts and debates of critical geographers - in particular Lefebvre's notion of 'the production of space', Harvey's idea of 'the spatial fix', the notion of 'scale', and recent critiques of 'methodological nationalism' - might help us productively think through political and economic change in the Gulf. Following a discussion over how these spatial concepts might contribute new insights into conventional political economy analyses, we will apply them to examine themes such as migrant labour, urban development, the notion of a 'rentier state', and the Gulf's connection to class/state formation elsewhere in the region.

Readings:

Hanieh, Adam (2018), *Money, Markets, and Monarchies: The Gulf Cooperation Council and the Political Economy of the Contemporary Middle East* (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge). Chapter 1.

Nina Glick Schiller & Prof Ayse Çağlar (2009) Towards a Comparative Theory of Locality in Migration Studies: Migrant Incorporation and City Scale, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 35:2, 177-202.