

Dr. Mohammed Turki A Al-Sudairi

Work Email(s): malsudairi@kfcris.com sudairi@hku.hk

Education

- The University of Hong Kong (September 2015 – August 2019) Doctoral Degree in Comparative Politics (Supervisor: Dr. Yan Xiaojun). Dissertation title: *Fighting the Many Smokeless Wars: A Comparative Study of the Origins, Conceptualizations and Practices of Cultural Security in China and Saudi Arabia*.
- Visiting Scholar at Peking University's Institute for International and Strategic Studies (April – August 2018).
- Peking University-London School of Economics (September 2013 – June 2015) Double Degree Program in International Relations and International History (*Distinction*). Dissertation titles: *Saudi Influences on the development of Chinese Salafism* (PKU), *Days of the Cadillac: The Transnational Life of the Saudi Communist Movement* (LSE).
- Tsinghua University (September 2011 – July 2013) Chinese Language Program.
- The University of Hong Kong (September 2009 – May 2010) Undergraduate Exchange.
- Georgetown University School of Foreign Service (September 2007 – May 2011) Bachelor of Science in International Politics (*Summa cum Laude*, 3.94/4 GPA). Honors in American Studies.

Professional Experience

- *Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences* (September 2019 – ongoing) [Hong Kong, China] Researcher and Post-Doctoral Fellow with the Asian Religious Mobility cluster. Research mainly focuses on religious transnational movements and their interactions within the context of China's Belt and Road Initiative. HKIHSS page: <https://www.hkihss.hku.hk/en/people/mohammed-turki-al-sudairi/>
- *King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies* (October 2015 – ongoing) [Riyadh, Saudi Arabia] Non-Resident Researcher and Head of the Asian Studies Unit. Research focuses mostly on China's engagement with the Middle East, leftist transnational ties, as well as Sinophone Islam. Oversees research projects and have helped organize East Asia-relevant workshops and lectures with a focus on facilitating the development of ties between KFCRIS and East Asian academic institutions and thinktanks. Asia Studies Unit page: <http://kfcris.com/en/view/22>
- *The Gulf Research Center* (March 2012 – December 2015) [Jeddah, Saudi Arabia] Non-Resident Research Affiliate on Asian issues. Published three separate studies with the GRC dealing with Gulf-China relations: "Sino-Saudi Relations: An Economic History", "South Korea-GCC Economic Relations: An Overview" and "China in the Eye of the Saudi Media." Produced a number of reports on GCC-ASEAN relations.

List of Publications

• Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- “Traditions of Anti-Wahhabism in China: An Account of the Yihewani Hard-liners of the Northwest”, *Journal of Islamic Studies* (accepted).
- “Guarding Against the Threat of a Foreign Education: A Comparative Study of Chinese and Saudi Cultural Security Discourses and Practices towards Overseas Students”, *Journal of Contemporary China* (accepted, co-authored with Dr. Yan Xiaojun).

- “Arab encounters with Maoist China: Transnational journeys, diasporic lives and intellectual discourses”, *Third World Quarterly*, November 2020 (<https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2020.1837616>).
- “A Near-Normalisation? Sino-Saudi Diplomatic Flirtations between 1955 and 1957”, *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies*, November 2020 (<https://doi.org/10.1080/25765949.2020.1847854>).
- “Marx’s Arabian Apostles: The Rise and Fall of the Saudi Communist Movement”, *The Middle East Journal* 73 (3), Autumn 2019: 438-457. (<https://doi.org/10.3751/73.3.15>).
- “China as the New Religious Frontier for the Da’wah: Analyzing the Emergence of a China-oriented Missionary Impulse in Saudi Arabia”, *Journal of Arabian Studies* 7(2), September 2018: 225-246.
- “Adhering to the Ways of Our Western Brothers: Tracing Saudi Influences on the Development of Chinese Salafism”, *Sociology of Islam* 4 (1-2), 2016: 27-58.

- **Monographs, Research Articles and Book Chapters**

- “The People’s Republic in the Red Sea: A Holistic Analysis of China’s Discursive and Material Footprint in the Region”, *Dirasat* (52) *KFCRIS*, January 2020: 1-46.
- “An Overview of Sino-Gulf Relations: A ‘New Era’ of Growth and a Future Era of Stagnation?” in *ChinaMED Report: China’s New Role in the Wider Mediterranean Region*, 2019: 50-57.
- “Syria’s ‘China Dream’: Between the Narratives and Realities”, *Commentary KFCRIS*, September 2019 (co-authored with Andrea Ghiselli).
- “Why is Beijing Lying Low in the GCC Crisis?”, *Middle East Institute Singapore*, November 2018.
- “The Communist Party of China’s United Front Work in the Gulf: The ‘Ethnic Minority Overseas Chinese’ of Saudi Arabia as a Case Study”, *Dirasat* (34) *KFCRIS*, March 2018: 1-39.
- “Hajjis, Refugees, Salafi Preachers, and a Myriad of Others: An Examination of Islamic Connectivities in the Sino-Saudi Relationship” in Reardon-Anderson, James (ed). *The Red Star and the Crescent: China and the Middle East*, Oxford University Press/Hurst, 2017.
- “Changing State-Religious Relations in Xi Jinping’s China and its Consequences for Sino-Saudi Relations” *Dirasat* (19) *KFCRIS*, January 2017: 1-39.
- “Messianic Zionism, Settler-Colonialism, and the Lost Jews of Kaifeng” in Latyner, Anson & Paper, Jordan (eds). *The Chinese Jews of Kaifeng: A Thousand Years of Persistence*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2017.
- “Sino-Gulf Relations” in *GRC Yearbook 2015-2016*, September 2016.
- “The Future of a Critical US Relationship in the Gulf: US-Saudi Relations and the Rise of the Saudi ‘Garrison State’” in Hook, Steven & Nibloc, Tim (eds). *The United States and the Gulf*, Gerlach Press, 2015.
- “Saudi Arabia and the US Alliance: No Place for an Asian Alternative?” in Niblock, Tim & Yang, Guang (eds). *Security Dynamics of East Asia in the Gulf*, Gerlach Press, 2014.
- “Israel-Sino Relations through the prism of Advocacy Groups”, Durham University Al-Sabah Monograph Series (8), November 2013: 1-47.
- “China’s Economic Impact on Egypt” in Lenze, Nele & Schriwer, Charlotte (eds). *Converging Regions: Global Perspectives on Asia and the Middle East*, Dorset Press, 2014 (co-authored with Ben Simpfendorfer).
- “Saudi-Singapore Relations”, *Gulf Research Center*, 28 November 2013.
- “China in the Eyes of the Saudi Media”, *GRC Gulf Papers*, February 2013.
- “Sino-Saudi Relations: An Economic History”, *GRC Gulf Papers*, August 2012.
- “South Korea-GCC Economic Relations: An Overview”, *GRC Gulf Papers*, November 2012.

- **Short Articles and Editorials**

- “Transnational Shi’ism in Southern China and the Party-state’s ‘Hawza’ Diplomacy”, *Middle East Institute*, November 2019.
- “American ‘China watchers’ are debating US policy: The Gulf should watch closely”, *Alarabiyya*, September 2019.

- “Parallels between Feminist Movements in Saudi Arabia and China”, *Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington*, October 2019 (co-authored with Eman Alhussein).
- “The Curious Case of China’s ‘Kuwaiti Concession’”, *Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington*, October 2018.
- “China’s Stance on East Jerusalem,” *Middle East Report Online*, January 28, 2016.
- “Hadi al-`Alawi, Scion of the Two Civilizations”, *MERIP*, May 2014.
- “The Growing Phenomenon of Israeli Advocacy in Chinese Academia”, *Jadaliyya*, September 2014.
- “Bringing Our Lost Brethren Back Home: Messianic Zionism, Settler-Colonialism, and the Lost Jews of Kaifeng”, *Jadaliyya*, July 2015.
- “An Israeli Lobby in China?”, *The Diplomat*, April 2015.
- “Among Old Friends: A History of the Palestinian Community in China”, *Middle East Institute*, March 2015.
- “Chinese Salafism and the Saudi Connection”, *The Diplomat*, October 2014.

Presentations

- “Chinese Muslim Research Non-Official Workshop”, National Chengchi University [Taipei], 2 July 2019, presentation.
- “The ‘Secondary’ Enemy: Maoist China in the Saudi Domestic-Foreign Nexus”, Cold War Islamisms (International Workshop), Freie Universität Berlin [Berlin, Germany], 15 March 2019, panel presentation.
- “The ‘Religious Westphalian’ Turn in Eurasia: The Consequences for Sino-Gulf Trans-Islamic Networks”, The Middle East Institute, the National University of Singapore [Singapore], 12 February 2019, panel presentation.
- “Is There an Islamic Response to Globalization?”, The Asia Global Institute, The University of Hong Kong [Hong Kong, China], 10 December 2018, roundtable.
- “The Belt and Road Initiative in the Long-term Plan of Building China’s Moderately Prosperous Society”, Peking University [Beijing, China], 6 December 2018, roundtable.
- “Unifying Hearts and Minds: China’s United Front Work Activity in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates”, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies Summer Institute for Educators at Georgetown University [Washington D.C.], 10 August 2018, lecture.
- “Geopolitics, nuclear issues and the Middle East”, International Institute for Strategic Studies [Beijing, China], 6 June 2018, roundtable.
- “Identification and Incommensurability: Translating between Chinese, Persian, and Arabic, 17th-20th Centuries”, Association for Asian Studies [Washington D.C.], 23 March 2018, panel presentation.
- “Gulf Rising: GCC-East Asia Relations”, The Arab Gulf States Institute [Washington D.C.], 28 February 2018, roundtable.
- “One Chinese Dream or Many Dreams?” (Arabic), KFCRIS China-GCC Workshop [Riyadh, Saudi Arabia], 14 January 2018, presentation.
- “The Discourse on Religion in the Cultural Security Literatures in China and Saudi Arabia: The Common Origins of an ‘Updated’ Discourse”, The Chinese University of Hong Kong’s “The Fourteenth Annual Graduate Seminar on China” Conference [Hong Kong, China], 4-7 January 2018, presentation.
- “Early Maoist Soft Power: The Case of the Arab Diaspora in China”, KFCRIS Chinese Soft Power Workshop [Riyadh, Saudi Arabia], 29 November 2017, presentation.
- “The Mikado as an Oriental Khalifah: A cursory Look at Arab Writings on Japan and Chinese Muslims at the Turn of the Century”, Joint Tokyo University-KFCRIS Workshop [Tokyo, Japan], 6 September 2017, presentation.
- “Going Beyond the Tifa: Analyzing the Limitations Facing a Sino-Saudi Strategic Relationship”, KFCRIS China-GCC Workshop [Riyadh, Saudi Arabia], 5 April 2017, presentation.

- “Sino-Muslims in Foreign Christian and Islamic Missionary Imaginaries”, SOAS University “Ethnographies of Islam in China” Conference [London, United Kingdom], 27-29 March 2017, joint presentation with Dr. James Frankel.
- “Saudi as a Chinese Cultural Security Threat? An Analysis of a Festering Problem”, Third Tianshan Forum (State Council) [Urumqi, China], 10-13 July 2017, presentation.
- “The One Belt One Road Initiative: An Overview of Its Domestic and International Drivers”, Islamic Association of Hong Kong, Belt Road Initiative Islamic Conference Wanchai Mosque [Hong Kong, China], 5 July 2017, presentation.
- “Commentary on Gulf Issues”, Shanghai Institute for International Studies [Shanghai, China], 22-23 May 2017, roundtable participation.
- “Going Beyond the Tifa: Analyzing the Limitations Facing a Sino-Saudi Strategic Relationship”, National Chengchi University [Taipei], 11 May 2017, presentation.
- “Defending our sons and daughters abroad: Chinese and Saudi overseas students in thought security discourse and state practice”, The University of Hong Kong workshop “Thought and Cultural Security Practices in China and Saudi Arabia Workshop” [Hong Kong, China], 5 May 2017, joint presentation with Dr. Yan Xiaojun.
- “Sectarianism among Sino-Muslims: The Salafiyya of the Northwest as a Case Example”, Centre for the Study of Islamic Culture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong [Hong Kong, China], November 2016, presentation.
- “Showcasing Sectarianism and Converting the Heathen in Mecca: An Exploration of the Hajj as a Contested Space”, Asia Research Institute and Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore Conference “China-Arabia Encounters and Engagements” [Singapore], 15-16 Dec 2016, presentation.
- “A New Idolatrous Tyrant Raises its Head in the East: Contextualizing ISIS Discourses on China”, Symposium by the Sociology Department of The University of Hong Kong [Hong Kong, China], September 2016, presentation.
- “The Middle East at the Strategic Crossroads: Joint Efforts to Deal with the Challenges”, Shanghai Institute for International Studies [Shanghai, China], July 2016, presentation.
- “Sino-Saudi Strategic Relations: in need of a new narrative?”, Arab Institute Forum Conference “China and the Arabs” [Doha, Qatar], May 2016, presentation.
- “The New Frontier of the Da’wah: The Rise of a China-oriented Missionary Impulse in Saudi Arabia”, Centre for the Study of Islamic Culture, Research Institute for the Humanities, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Conference “Chinese Muslim (Hui) in Diaspora: Culture, Gender, Identity, and Religious Traditions” [Hong Kong, China], 2 December 2015, presentation.
- “The Emergence of a New Salafi Network between China and Saudi Arabia”, Association for Asian Studies [Chicago, US], 26 March 2015, panel presentation.

Professional Skills

- **Computer Skills:** Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and PowerPoint.
- **Language Skills:** Fluent Arabic and English. Working Chinese language level.

References

- **Dr. Yan Xiaojun**, Associate Professor at the University of Hong Kong.
Email: xyan@hku.hk
- **Dr. Saud Al-Sarhan**, Secretary-General of King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies.
Email: salsarhan@kfcris.com