



مركز الملك فيصل للبحوث والدراسات الإسلامية
King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies

Annual Review 2020

Revitalizing the Tradition for Inspiring the Future



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Revitalizing the Tradition for Inspiring the Future



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Introduction



“I see the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after 50 years from now, being a wellspring of radiance for humanity.” – King Faisal bin Abdulaziz (1975)

Since its foundation in 1983, the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS) has been serving as a leading academic, intellectual, and cultural hub in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as the Arab and Muslim world. The KFCRIS produces original research in humanities and social sciences and provides a platform for local, regional, and global researchers and research organizations to engage in intellectual discussions and cultural dialogues.

Through its publication arm, Al-Faisal Cultural House, the KFCRIS also publishes books and periodicals that deal with themes and topics important to the Kingdom, Arab and Muslim societies, and the world. Moreover, it stores historical and modern knowledge through its library and preserves the memories of the late King Faisal and his family through its Faisal Family Archives. Furthermore, its museum promotes the value of Islamic manuscripts and art collections.

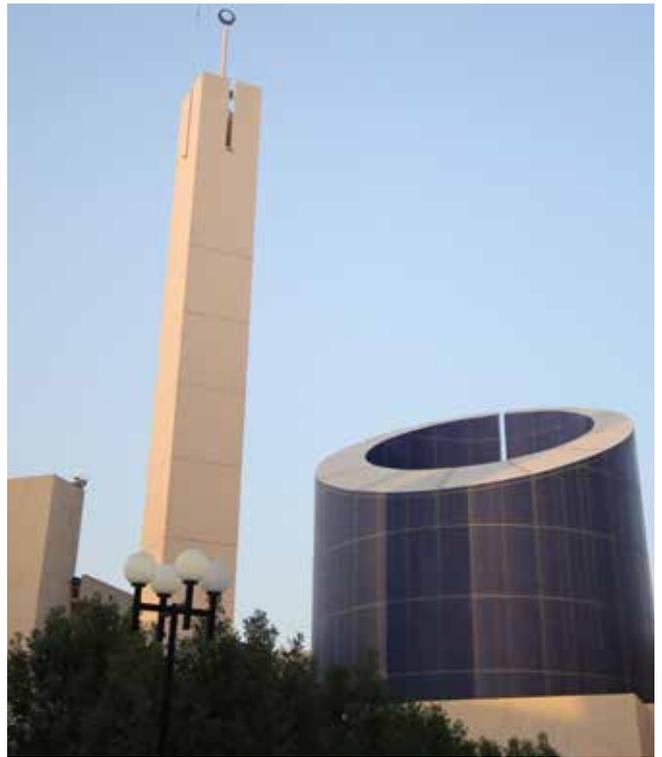


Vision

To be a wellspring of academic, intellectual, and cultural knowledge for humanity.

Five-Year Strategic Goals, 2016–20

- To raise awareness, and increase knowledge, of the heritage of the late King Faisal to preserve the memory of him and document his contributions to the service for humanity
- To stimulate and support dialogues, and strengthen the bonds of knowledge cooperation to achieve the Center's academic objectives
- To focus on the production of academic research in human sciences
- To preserve and study Islamic heritage
- To elevate the level of technical infrastructure, electronic applications, and online presence to facilitate the realization of the Center's objectives



Looking back over 2020

His Royal Highness Prince Turki AlFaisal Al Saud

The Chairman of the Board of Directors



By all accounts, 2020 was a unique year that affected humankind due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Kingdom saw its share of casualties which left serious after-effects on the economy and all aspects of life. Much of our social, cultural, educational, commercial and financial activities moved online.

One of the most important “migrations” was the G20 Summit, where global leaders gathered through virtual means to discuss socio-economic plans. The Riyadh Summit, which was the first such event hosted in the Middle East, dealt with both the consequences of the pandemic and appropriate solutions to restart stagnant economies.

The King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS) played a key role in the preparations for the G20 Summit, along with the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC), as the two institutions were entrusted with the convening of the Think20 (T20) Engagement Group—the think-tank forum that prepares policy recommendations to Summiteers. Despite serious logistical challenges, the KFCRIS team members upheld their scholarly reputations and strengthened our status as one of the region’s most respected research institutions. Importantly, the G20 gave the Kingdom the opportunity to expound the progress

that has been achieved through the economic and social initiatives being implemented as part of Saudi Vision 2030, to which the KFCRIS is proud to have made some modest contributions. Equally importantly, the KFCRIS strengthened collaborative relationships with dozens of research bodies around the world.

In addition to high-profile events, the primary focus of the KFCRIS remains the production of original academic research. Our commitment to research excellence is steadfast and the KFCRIS researchers generated scores of publications on a variety of topics, including language, culture, and social and political concerns. These are available in both Arabic and English so that students and researchers around the world may benefit from them. The KFCRIS also hosted a full program of seminars, public lectures, and panel discussions with the participation of leading thinkers from around the world, as well as hosting regular exhibitions of Islamic arts. Despite various challenges throughout 2020, the KFCRIS held many cooperative activities with leading global research centers, universities, and think-tanks, all of which will continue. Doing so accomplishes intrinsic goals, namely to enrich Saudi cultural and intellectual life and keep us dedicated to fulfilling our Arab and Muslim responsibilities.

The KFCRIS stands as a beacon of understanding and learning in a part of the world that is changing fast and for the better. Our role is to promote independent, high-quality research that has a genuine impact on public policy, which occurs because of a first-rate team of scholars, researchers, and curators, along with superlative support staff, whose contributions are vital. If the KFCRIS fulfils its mission, it is largely because of their dedication and eagerness to add value, for which we are deeply grateful.

Exceptional Year and Resolution for Excellence

Dr. Saud Al-Sarhan

Secretary-General



It was the final year of its Five-Year Strategic Goals 2016–20. In 2020, the Center also hosted the T20, one of the Engagement Groups of the G20 Saudi Arabia, with the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)—which was a great success, with the two-day T20 Summit being attended by 2,805 participants online.

In 2020, the Center also made significant progress in its research activities. Two new research units, the Cultural Studies Unit and the Socioeconomics Unit, were created. The African Studies Unit launched a new edited monthly report, *Africa Followups*. The Asian Studies Unit edited a special issue of the *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies* on Saudi Arabia–China relations. Throughout the year, the Center hosted and co-hosted 37 research events, and published a number of research papers, including eight *Dirasat* (KFCRIS Papers), one *Qira'at* (KFCRIS Humanities Papers), 14 Special Reports, 20 Commentaries, two Policy Briefs, and eight special weekly reports on the regional and international impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Center's publishing arm, the Al-Faisal Cultural House, published seven books in total in 2020, and continued issuing the *Journal of Linguistic Studies* and the *Al-Faisal Magazine*. Moreover, it began

to publish the bi-lingual *International Journal of Humanitarian Studies* for the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, whose first two issues were published in 2020. The Faisal Family Archives continued to collect resources in relation to King Faisal and his family, and provided materials to external entities, including King Faisal's interview on his 50-year vision, which was aired by Saudi Arabian Airline (SAUDIA) on the occasion of the Saudi National Day. In 2020, the Center also substantially improved its infrastructure and raised its quality. In particular, its library completed a transfer of its database to the open-source Koha integrated library system; its museum also set up a new laboratory for conserving the Center's manuscripts and collections.

The Center's administrative departments have also done excellent jobs in supporting its intellectual and cultural activities. Following the outbreak of the pandemic, its Administration and Finance Department, Public Relations Department, and Project Department worked hard to shift the Center's activities to online platforms, enabling the Center to function seamlessly despite the lockdown between March and May and the new coronavirus-related workplace regulations. Since its post-lockdown reopening, the Center has been following the guidelines

supplied by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development strictly, and practicing vital precautionary and health monitoring measures to contain the spread of the virus.

I send my deepest gratitude to all members of the Center and also encourage them to continue working hard to achieve the Center's vision of becoming a global wellspring of knowledge.

Timeline: The World, Saudi Arabia, and the KFCRIS in 2020

| Month | World | Saudi Arabia | KFCRIS |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 was identified in Wuhan, China Oman's Sultan Qaboos passed away, succeeded by Sultan Haitham WHO declared the COVID-19 public health emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Saudi Dakar Rally | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T2o Inception Meeting KFCRIS-ICSR Conference on Non-State Actor Governance at King's College London |
| February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The withdrawal of the UK from the EU (Brexit) The US-Taliban peace accord | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issuance of tourist visas was suspended due to COVID-19 after the number of issued visas reached almost half a million | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KFCRIS-Kuwait University "Asia through Gulf Eyes" Workshop in Kuwait City |
| March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries began entering their first COVID-19 lockdown Tokyo Olympics 2020 was postponed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Qatif COVID-19 lockdown Houthi missiles were intercepted over Riyadh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KFCRIS was temporarily closed due to COVID-19 and remote work began |
| April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTI oil price fell below zero | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramadan | |
| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The George Floyd incident leading to the Black Lives Matter protests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three-phase easing of the lockdown began | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion with EDA on Gulf-Asia relations |
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 deaths exceeded half million globally | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lockdown ended | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion with NCUSAR on sports diplomacy KFCRIS re-opened |
| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China implemented the Hong Kong national security law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hajj without incoming pilgrims | |
| August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explosion in Beirut UAE-Israel normalization | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion with AGSIW on Saudi social transformation Panel discussion with NCUSAR on racism |
| September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bahrain-Israel normalization Armenia-Azerbaijan War broke out COVID-19 deaths exceeded 1 million globally Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah passed away, succeeded by Sheikh Nawaf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International flights partly resumed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion with Chatham House on US-China relations |
| October | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Umrah resumed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion with ISPI on tourism |
| November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> US Presidential Election: Trump v. Biden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saudi Arabia hosted the virtual G20 Summit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion with DERASAT on tolerance T2o Summit Panel discussion with Atlantic Council on education Panel discussion with IASA on archeology |
| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 deaths exceeded 1.5 million globally | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The arrival of the first batch of the COVID-19 vaccine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion with Al-Farabi University on Abu Nasr Al-Farabi Panel discussion with MEI-NUS on security |

The Outbreak of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic: The Precautionary Measures Taken by the KFCRIS

The year 2020 is remembered for the outbreak of the global pandemic with a new type of coronavirus, COVID-19, which took the lives of over 1.5 million by the end of the year. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Qatif on March 2. Understanding the danger of the new virus to its citizens and residents, the Kingdom's leadership acted swiftly, announcing the precautionary measures required for containing the spread of the virus. The KFCRIS implemented several precautionary measures accordingly. All events were postponed and in-person training courses for employees were canceled. In addition, the method of checking in and out by the Center's employees with their fingerprint was stopped and only the access card was used. These procedures followed the guidelines for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 in the workplace provided by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD). Moreover, based on the principle "prevention is better than cure," the KFCRIS also produced a manual that included the Ministry of Health's instructions to raise awareness about safety and precautionary measures, and regularly sent awareness messages to employees. Furthermore, the administrative committee was formed to monitor infected employees, apply isolation measures, trace their contacting record, and follow up on their health status.

The KFCRIS was one of the first organizations in the Kingdom to announce the suspension of employees' attendance at the workplace before the official lockdown. The Center's IT staff deployed programs to enable the employees to carry out their work remotely and trained them on using



these programs; it also prepared applications that enabled them to conduct necessary meetings online. Even with social distancing and the applied restrictions, the KFCRIS continued to convene research events, hosting them remotely and streaming on social media: 30 virtual events took place between April and December. By the time the MHRSD announced the lifting of the suspension of workplace attendance and the temporary reduction in the number of workers attending, the KFCRIS swiftly followed and implemented percentage-based attendance instructions advised by the Ministry. All building facilities were sanitized, sanitary tools such as masks, sanitizers, and disposable gloves

were prepared, and the employees' commitment to the precautionary measures was monitored. Furthermore, as the KFCRIS was concerned with the impact of the pandemic on a variety of aspects such as the economy, politics, security, culture, and education, it issued eight weekly reports about the national, regional, and global repercussions of COVID-19 (p. 28), and also held several panel discussions on this topic (pp. 35–36).



The T20 (Think 20)

The T20 (Think 20)



Co-Hosted by the KFCRIS and the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)



The T20 (Think20) is one of the Engagement Groups of the G20, and is a network of research institutes and think-tanks from the G20 countries that serves as an “ideas bank” for the G20. It assembles Policy Briefs from global experts and provides evidence-based policy recommendations to the G20 leaderships through the T20 Communiqué. As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 in 2020, the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS) and the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) were appointed by royal decree to co-host the Saudi T20. The KFCRIS’s involvement in the T20 began with sending a delegation to the Japanese T20 Summit in May 2019. Following the appointment in September 2019, the KFCRIS and the KAPSARC worked on the preparation for the Saudi T20 Summit, which took place on October 31 and November 1, 2020, by building a highly professional team to co-lead the initiative and appointing co-chairs of each Task Force.

Five Main Themes and Objectives of the Saudi T2o

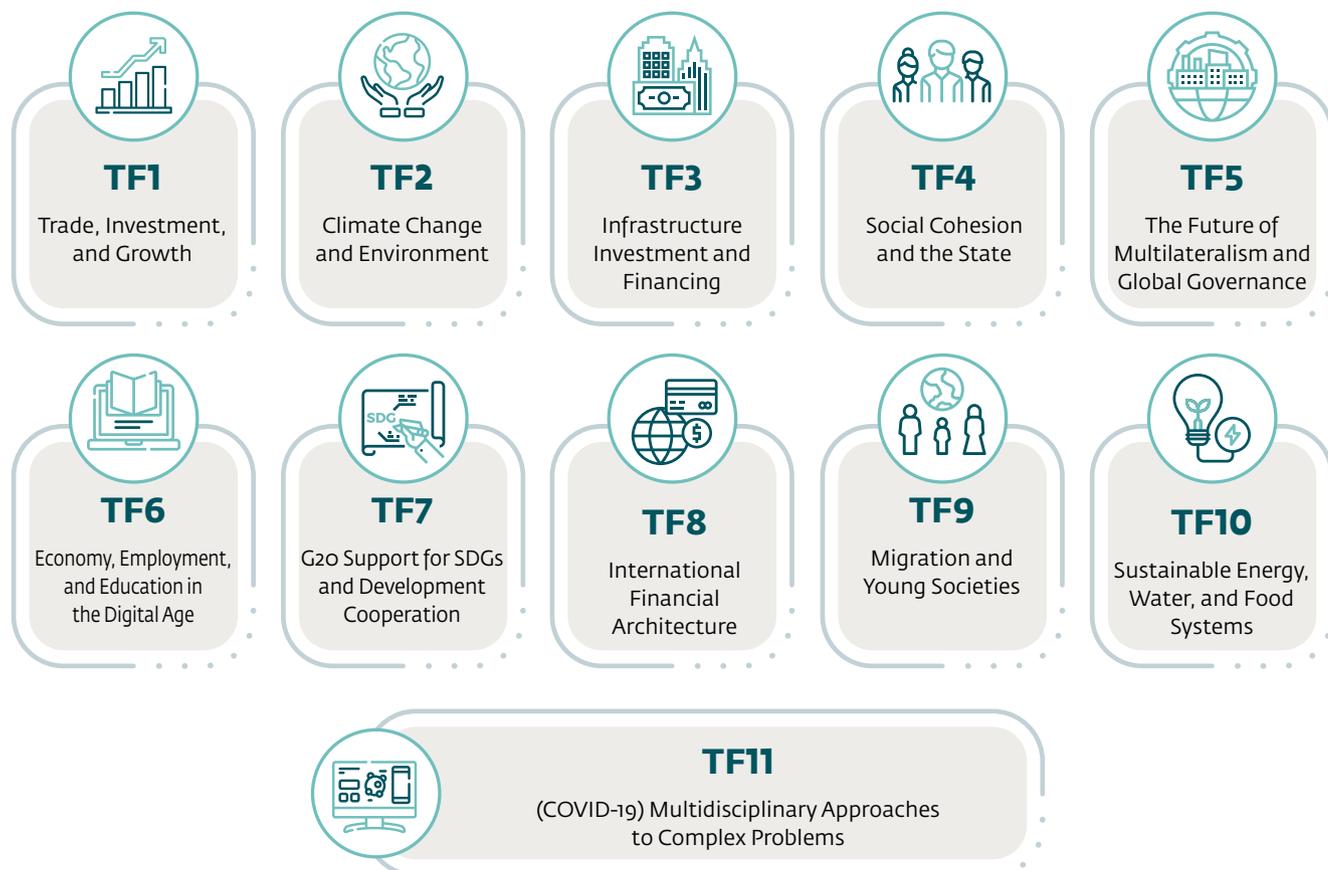
The Saudi T2o had the following five main themes:

| No. | Theme | Objective |
|-----|--|--|
| 1 | Climate and Environment | Creating circular carbon economies to support climate action |
| 2 | Women and Youth | Empowering women and preparing youth for a more inclusive society |
| 3 | Multilateralism, Economic Development, and Finance | Providing prosperity through international cooperation, economic development, and financial sustainability |
| 4 | Sustainable Resources | Securing, sustaining, and enhancing the global supply and availability of energy food and water |
| 5 | Technology and Digitalization | Leveraging technology and digitalization to address global issues |

Eleven Task Forces of the Saudi T2o

The Saudi T2o initially established 10 Task Forces. In response to the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the T2o created the additional 11th Task Force to develop policy recommendations for effectively facilitating a transition to a post-pandemic reconstruction.

Among these 11 Task Forces, the KFCRIS oversaw the work of five Task Forces, which produced 49 Policy Briefs in total, out of 146. These Policy Briefs went through a rigorous three-stage external review process following a thorough internal review before moving to the final editorial process.



The Five Task Forces Supervised by King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies

TF4

Social Cohesion and the State

Lead Co-chair: **Dr. Suzan Alqurashi**

Coordinator: **Hanin Alsudais**
(Research Fellow, KFCRIS)

The issues this Task Force focused on included: reducing inequality and promoting citizen welfare beyond material prosperity; bridging the cross-generational divide; wealth measurements beyond GDP; improving the governance, legitimacy, accountability, and trust in state institutions; fostering social cohesion through innovative policies and programs; providing support for civil society; women's empowerment.

TF5

The Future of Multilateralism and Global Governance

Lead Co-chair: **Dr. Abdulaziz Sager**

Coordinator: **Bruno Schmidt-Feuerheerd**
(Associate Fellow, KFCRIS)

This Task Force focused on the following issues: the future of multilateralism; reforming existing international organizations to take on new global problems; the future of politics/democracy under rising populism and the impact of economic downturns; regional engagement for more effective and efficient global governance; proposing innovative and interactive strategies and programs for global governance.

TF6

Economy, Employment, and Education in the Digital Age

Lead Co-chair: **Dr. Heidi Alaskary**
(Senior Associate Fellow, KFCRIS)

Coordinator: **Kameal Alahmad**
(Junior Research Fellow, KFCRIS)

The themes of this Task Force included: training and education in and for the digital age; the impacts of AI and on the labor market; entrepreneurship in the digital age; the changing labor market and challenges for the young; addressing the digital gender gap; reforming education; the role of early learning; addressing challenges raised by the platform economy, cyber security risks, threats, and data privacy; global governance framework for data flows and artificial intelligence.

TF8

International Financial Architecture

Lead Co-chair: **Nabil Almubarak**

Coordinator: **Amal Alrasheed**
(Junior Research Fellow, KFCRIS)

This Task Force focused on the following issues: managing risks and crises in capital flows and international institutions; encouraging inclusive financial sector development in developing and emerging economies; governing and regulating cryptocurrency and fintech and their impacts on the international monetary system; global financial governance; the cooperation between multinational and regional authorities; global financial monitoring of money laundering; terror financing and the efficiency of financial institutions.

TF9

Migration and Young Societies

Lead Co-chair: **HH Dr. Maha bint Mishari Al-Saud**

Coordinator: **Mohammed Alrmizan**
(Research Fellow, KFCRIS)

This Task Force discussed the following issues: creating innovative policies and programs to encourage cross-generational engagement; providing skills and opportunities for youth; youth unemployment; demographic changes; economic growth and the reform of social systems; labor market integration and social inclusion for migrants; providing access and education opportunities for migrant and refugee children; encouraging and supporting high-skilled migration; and improving evidence-based research on the social, political and economic impacts of migrants.

Key Events of the Saudi T2o

Inception Meeting

The Inception Meeting, which took place in Riyadh on January 19 and 20, 2020, was attended by over 550 people from 64 countries. With those who participated virtually, the total number of participants surpassed 1,200, and the number of participating think-tanks was over 150.



Webinars and the Virtual Conference

While the global situation affected by the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to many of the in-person events, the T2o team managed to move the discussions to online platforms smoothly, hosting many Task Force members-only workshops as well as open online webinars for the larger T2o audience. Moreover, throughout the months of May and June, the Task Forces held members-only workshops to discuss the effects of COVID-19 on the overall policy world. This was followed by a three-day conference held virtually on June 15–17, which was entitled "Policy Recommendations for a Post-COVID-19 World." The list of speakers included high-level officials, such as HRH Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy, and Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

Summit Season

Due to the suspension of travel and mass gatherings, the T2o continued to hold its discussions in virtual settings. To compensate for the lack of the "in-person" dimension, the T2o created the six-week-long Summit Season, which took place from September 17 through November 1. During the Summit Season, each Task Force held a webinar co-hosted by an international institute as a way to build bridges with various research institutes across the world. Each webinar offered thematic discussions, with Task Force members presenting their insights on them and inviting a keynote speaker as well as an artist's presentation. Prior to each webinar, the Policy Briefs of each Task Force were released on the T2o website for the wider audience to read, enabling them to join the webinar conversations, which were open to the public.

The T2o Summit

The T2o Summit took place virtually as a two-day event on October 31 and November 1, 2020. It gathered world-leading thinkers, researchers, and policy-makers, and provided them with an interactive platform to discuss evidence-based policy recommendations and matters of global importance. A highlight of the event was the formal handover of the T2o Communiqué to Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, who represented the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud at the ceremony. The keynote speech was delivered by HRH Prince Turki AlFaisal, the Chairman of the Board of the KFCRIS. In total, 2,805 users were connected to the T2o online platform during the two-day Summit.

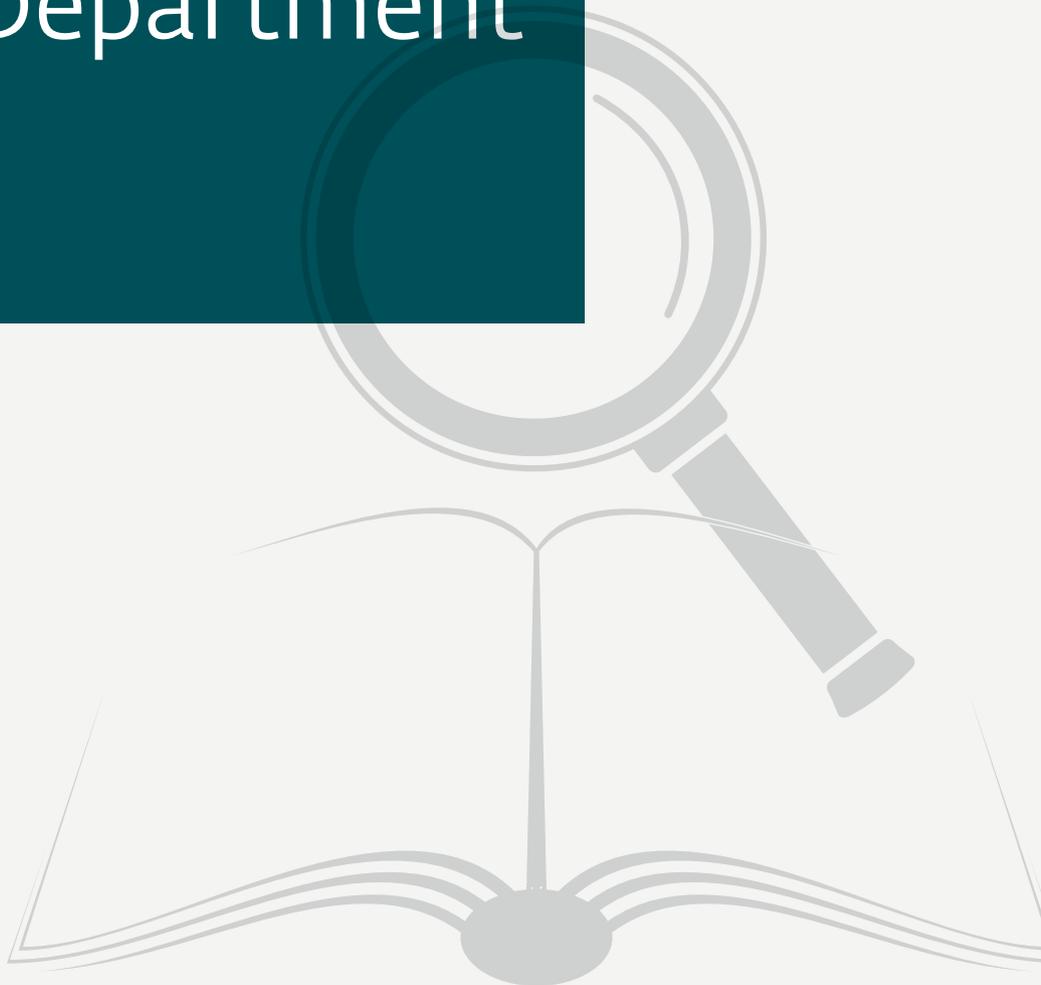


The KFCRIS T2o Team Members:

- **HRH Prince Turki AlFaisal**
Chairman of Board of Directors, Member of the T2o Advisory Board
- **Dr. Saud Al-Sarhan**
Secretary-General of KFCRIS, Member of the T2o Steering Committee
- **Turki Al-Shuwaier**
Deputy Secretary-General of KFCRIS, T2o Deputy Sherpa
- **Ibrahim Al-Degaither**
Director of Project Department of KFCRIS, Director of Events Management at T2o
- **Saad Al-Hoqail**
Member of Finance Department of KFCRIS, Member of Sponsorships Management at T2o
- **David Kenner**
Associate Fellow at KFCRIS, T2o Policy and Research
- **Faris Al-Sulayman**
Research Fellow at KFCRIS, T2o Policy and Research
- **Mark C. Thompson**
Head of Socioeconomics Unit at KFCRIS, Reviewing Committee
- **Joseph Kéchichian**
Senior Research Fellow at KFCRIS, Reviewing Committee
- **Sara Almohamadi**
Associate Fellow at KFCRIS, T2o Task Force Officer
- **Hanin Alsudais**
Research Fellow at KFCRIS, Task Force 4 Coordinator
- **Bruno Schmidt-Feuerheerd**
Associate Fellow at KFCRIS, Task Force 5 Coordinator
- **Kameal Al-Ahmad**
Junior Research Fellow at KFCRIS, Task Force 6 Coordinator
- **Amal Alrasheed**
Junior Research Fellow at KFCRIS, Task Force 8 Coordinator
- **Mohammed Alrmizan**
Research Fellow at KFCRIS, Task Force 9 Coordinator

Special Thanks: Only through the cooperation with our partners from the KAPSARC and their support, we were able to make this achievement and success. We look forward to opportunities for further cooperation with them.

Research Department



Research Units

The KFCRIS conducts in-house research and attracts contributions from external researchers. At the end of 2020, it was host to four research units: Cultural Studies, Socioeconomics, African Studies, and Asian Studies. The Cultural Studies Unit is a new unit established in 2020, while the Socioeconomics Unit was converted from the Political Economy Unit in the same year. The Security Studies Unit, which had existed since 2018, ended its duties in March 2020.

Cultural Studies Unit

The Cultural Studies Unit advances research that focuses on culture and cultural policies and the way they interact with broader social and political contexts. It adopts a broad definition of culture that includes identity, discourses, and cultural practices as well as creative cultural production. It aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of cultural change at the local, regional, and global levels, and to raise the quality of public debates concerning cultural policies. The Unit is currently focusing on its work for the Ministry of Culture's "Report on the State of Culture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" project.



Socioeconomics Unit

The Socioeconomics Unit highlights the development of contemporary socioeconomic issues, concepts, and theories. In addition, it aims to study the significance of socioeconomic issues on specific societies and/or constituencies, with emphasis on Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states and the wider Arab and Muslim worlds. The Unit encourages interdisciplinary approaches, encompassing socioeconomic, sociopolitical, and sociocultural topics and issues in order to provide a broader picture as well as a nuanced analysis of the questions arising from the intersection between economies and societies.



African Studies Unit

The African Studies Unit specializes in affairs in the African continent. The Unit examines political, strategic, cultural, economic, and social issues by bringing together multiple specializations and analyzing domestic dynamics and intra-regional relations. In 2020, the Unit launched *Africa Followups*, an edited monthly report that, through multidisciplinary approaches and perspectives, discusses political, economic, and security issues in the African continent, issues of interest to those in and from the continent, and their regional and international implications.



Asian Studies Unit

The Asian Studies Unit is dedicated to the study of Asia and Asian societies. As one of the regionally-specialized units, it aims to promote greater understanding of Asia within the Gulf and the wider Arab world. It also seeks to enhance the quality of academic, journalistic, and policy-making coverage and discussions surrounding Asia and its complex relationships with Saudi Arabia and the broader Middle East (alternatively identified as West Asia). It is also intended to build connections with other Asia-focused research institutions and think-tanks around the world.



In addition to the above research units, the KFCRIS hosts the Policy Initiative, which conducts independent policy-oriented research. In 2020, the Policy Initiative focused on two themes in particular: (i) education-to-employment transition; and (ii) tourism and local development. It delivered its papers and policy recommendations to multiple government entities, including the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, the Human Resources Development Fund, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

In 2020, many KFCRIS researchers also worked on the T20 with the KAPSARC.

Researchers

Dr. Mark C. Thompson Head of the Socioeconomics Unit, T2o Team

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Ramifications of Coronavirus Disruption to Saudi Education: Student Concerns, *Commentary*.
- Sustainability in Saudi Arabia: The Question of Food, *Commentary* (co-authored with Hanaa Almoaibed).
- Co-edited with Dr Saud Al-Sarhan, *KFCRIS Report on the Regional and International Impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19)*.

External Publications in 2020:

- Inherent Contradictions in the Saudi Rentier State: Distributive Capacity, Youth Employment Preferences, and Attitudes to Education, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.
- The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Socioeconomic Future of Young Saudis, *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies*.
- Being Young, Male and Saudi: Identity and Politics in a Globalized Kingdom, Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW).
- Saudi Vision 2030: The Importance of Being in Riyadh, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI).
- Where Do Saudi Arabia's Youth Stand amid COVID-19?, Castlereagh Associates.
- Saudi Arabia's Vision for SMEs, Castlereagh Associates.

Dr. Hanaa Almoaibed Research Fellow at the Socioeconomics Unit

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Elevating the Status of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Saudi Arabia: The Need for Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement and Student Motivation, *Special Report*.
- Education and Job Opportunities: How Do Schooling Practices Affect Young Saudis' Transition to University and Employment?, *Commentary*.
- Sustainability in Saudi Arabia: The Question of Food, *Commentary* (co-authored with Mark C. Thompson).

Dr. Mohamed Al-Sbitli Head of the African Studies Unit

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Tunisia: The Mechichi Government and a Map of the New Political Balances, *Special Report*.
- Tunisia: From the Ennahda Government to the Government of Elias Al-Afakhfakh: A Lack of Trust between the Political Parties, *Mutabaat* (KFCRIS Followups).
- Mali: Military Coup and Its Repercussions: Preliminary Observations, *Commentary*.
- Economic and Security Repercussions: The Corona Pandemic in Africa, *Policy Brief* (co-authored with Mubarak Mohammed Ahmed).
- The Renaissance Dam Crisis and the Regional Transformations in the Horn of Africa, *Africa Followups 2*.
- Edited *Africa Followups*.

External Publications in 2020:

- Agreed Leadership: Will the Mali Crisis be Settled after the Appointment of the Transitional Head?, Future Center for Advanced Research and Studies.

Amal Alrasheed Junior Research Fellow at the African Studies Unit, T20 Team

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- The African Food Security and the Future of Food Trade between the Gulf States and East Africa in Light of the Repercussions of the Corona Pandemic, *Africa Followups* 4.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sudairi Head of the Asian Studies Unit

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- The People's Republic in the Red Sea: A Holistic Analysis of China's Discursive and Material Footprint in the Region, *Dirasat* (KFCRIS Paper).
- "Chinese" Developmental Zones in the Gulf: The Case of Kuwait's North Economic Zone (Silk City), *Special Report* (co-authored with Alanoud AlSabah).
- A Near-Normalisation? Sino-Saudi Diplomatic Flirtations between 1955 and 1957, *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies* (co-authored with Tingyi Wang)—in the special issue on Sino-Saudi relations published through KFCRIS's collaboration with the journal (see p. 28).

External Publications in 2020:

- Arab Encounters with Maoist China: Transnational Journeys, Diasporic Lives and Intellectual Discourses, *Third World Quarterly*.

Dr. Othman Ali Almazyad Research Fellow at the Asian Studies Unit

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Challenges of Non-Profit Organizations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: How to Benefit from the Global Experience, *Dirasat* (KFCRIS Paper) (co-authored with Alaa Aldowaish).

External Publications in 2020:

- 「サウジアラビアのファミリービジネスに於ける従来の事業継承成立に影響する要因」 [Factors Affecting the Succession of Family Business in Saudi Arabia until Today] 『事業承継』 [Business Succession] Vol. 9.

Faris Al-Sulayman Research Fellow at the Asian Studies Unit, T20 Team

External Publications in 2020:

- 'Reform Dissonance' in the Modern Rentier State: How Are Divergent Economic Agendas Affecting State-Business Relations in Saudi Arabia?, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.

Dr. Joseph A. Kéchichian

Senior Research Fellow at the Chairman's Office, T2o Team

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Can Turkey and Iran Lead the Muslim World?, *Commentary*.
- Target Saudi Arabia: An Examination of Damaging Narratives, *Special Report*.
- Can Lebanon Be Saved? Only if Citizens Reinvent Their Society and Avoid a New Civil War, *Commentary*.

External Publications in 2020:

- The Gulf Cooperation Council, in Howard M. Hensel (ed.), *Air Power in the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific: Understanding Regional Security Dynamics* (London: Routledge).
- Saudi Arabia and the 1744 Alliance Between the Al Saud and the Al Sheikh: A Legitimizing and Enduring Union, in Mehran Kamrava (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Persian Gulf Politics* (London: Routledge).
- The Evolving Security Landscape Around the Arabian Peninsula: A Saudi Perspective, Istituto Affari Internazionali (co-authored with Abdullah K. Al Saud); reproduced as Chapter 6 in Silvia Colombo and Andrea Dessì (eds), *Fostering a New Security Architecture in the Middle East* (Brussels and Rome: Foundation for European Progressive Studies Avenue des Arts and Istituto Affari Internazionali).
- Partition Is the Only Solution to Lebanon's Woes, *Foreign Policy*.
- Review Essay of The Dictatorship Syndrome by Alaa Al-Aswany (2019), *Contemporary Review of the Middle East*.
- Where is Lebanon's Václav Havel to Usher in a Peaceful Partition?, Middle East Institute New Delhi.
- Authoritarianism and Necropolitics In Lebanon: How Corrupt Elites Destroyed Their Treasured Democracy, Middle East Institute New Delhi (co- authored with Francisco Salvador Barroso Cortés).

Dr. Fahad Alsharif

Senior Research Fellow

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- The G2020 Protocol on Forced Migration: A New Approach to Solve the Burden-Sharing Problem of Forced Migration and Ensure Lives in Safety and Dignity, Saudi T2o Policy Brief (co-authored with Manuel Schubert).
- Migration and the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Gulf: A Study of Foreign Expatriate Worker Communities' Coping Attitudes, Practices, and Future Prospects in Dubai and Jeddah, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (co-authored with Malit Froilan).

Mohammed Alrmizan

Research Fellow, T2o Team

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Armenia and Saudi Arabia: Potential Diplomacy in Complex International Relations, *Special Report*.

External Publications in 2020:

- Arab Diasporic Media in Turkey: A Story of (Trans)national Narratives in the Middle East, *Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies*.
- Book Review of *Turkey, Kemalism and the Soviet Union: Problems of Modernization, Ideology and Interpretation* by Vahram Ter-Matevosyan (2019), *Turkish Studies*.

Sarah Alotaibi

Research Fellow

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Energy Sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: The Future of Renewable Energy after the Crisis, *Special Report*.

Hanin Alsudais

Research Fellow, T2O Team

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Infectious Idealism in Khomeini's Ideology, *Commentary*.

External Publications in 2020:

- Preaching through Tweeting: The Changing Perception of Clerics in Saudi Arabia's Public Sphere, LSE Blogs.

Kameal Al-Ahmad

Junior Research Fellow, T2O Team

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Maritime Security of the Gulf: A Living Dilemma, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

Dr. Makio Yamada

Senior Research Fellow at the Policy Initiative

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Can We Re-boost the Saudization of the Private Sector Workforce?: A Practical Approach, *Dirasat*.
- Skills Certifications: A Tool for Training and Job Matching in a Knowledge-Based Economy—and for Alleviating the Skills Mismatch Problem in Saudi Arabia by 2025, *Commentary*.
- Enriching Culinary Tourism: Potential of Area-Based Competition (ABC) for Local Food Product Development, *Commentary* (co-authored with Maha Fallatah).
- The Return of Women: A Post-Rentier Rediscovery of the Arabian Heritage of Female Workforce Participation, *Commentary* (co-authored with Karolen Eid and Maha Fallatah).

External Publications in 2020:

- Introduction: Revisiting Rentierism—with a Short Note by Giacomo Luciani, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* (co-authored with Steffen Hertog).
- Can a Rentier State Evolve to a Production State?: An "Institutional Upgrading" Approach, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.

Maha Fallatah

Research Fellow at the Policy Initiative

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Road Rest Areas: Hidden Opportunities for Domestic Tourism and Local Economies in Saudi Arabia, *Commentary*.
- Establishing Knowledge-Based Tourism: Certifying Tourism Workforces' Knowledge of Local Region for Enhancing Competitiveness and Easing Training, *Commentary*.
- Enriching Culinary Tourism: Potential of Area-Based Competition (ABC) for Local Food Product Development, *Commentary* (co-authored with Makio Yamada).
- The Return of Women: A Post-Rentier Rediscovery of the Arabian Heritage of Female Workforce Participation, *Commentary* (co-authored with Karolen Eid and Makio Yamada).

The following fellows of the Cultural Studies Unit worked on the project "Report on the State of Culture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," which is published by the Ministry of Culture through cooperation with the KFCRIS. In June 2020, the first report for the year 2019 was published. The Unit is currently working on the second report covering the year 2020.

Ahmed Alowfi, Head of the Cultural Studies Unit

Marwa Ehsan Fakhri, Hatem Mubarak, Lojain AlYamani, Randalah Rawas (Research Fellows)

Hamza Kashgari, Arwa Aldawood, Sara Bahliwah, Shahad Alahmari (Junior Research Fellows)

Associate Fellows

Joshua Yaphe Scholar-in-Residence, National Council on US-Arab Relations

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- The Energy Transition in the Middle East: The Outlook for 2040, *Special Report*.
- Kadhimi at 100 Days: Chances for Success in Baghdad, *Special Report* (co-authored with Jaafar Altaie).
- The KFCRIS published the Arabic versions of the above papers; the English versions were published by the National Council on US-Arab Relations (NCUSAR).

Dr. WAN Lei Professor, Xinyang Agriculture and Forestry University, Asian Studies Unit

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Hardships from the Arabian Gulf to China: The Challenges that Faced Foreign Merchants Between the Seventh and Thirteenth Centuries, *Dirasat*.

Dr. WANG Tingyi Assistant Professor, Tsinghua University, Asian Studies Unit

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- A Near-Normalisation? Sino-Saudi Diplomatic Flirtations between 1955 and 1957, *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies* (co-authored with Mohammed Al-Sudairi)—in the special issue on Sino-Saudi relations published through the KFCRIS's collaboration with the journal (see p. 28).

Dr. HUNG Tak Wai Postdoctoral Fellow, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Asian Studies Unit

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- The Birth of Religious Tolerance for Foreign Religions in Late Imperial China: A Brief Review from the Perspective of the Relationship between Religion and the State, *Dirasat*.

Umer Karim Doctoral Researcher, University of Birmingham, Asian Studies Unit

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Pakistan and Saudi Arabia: Anatomy of a Unique Relationship—from Interpersonal to Institutional Engagement, *Dirasat*.
- Sino-Indian Tensions in Ladakh and Impact on Pakistan, *Commentary*.

Latifa Abdullah Al Saud Doctoral Researcher, Harvard University, Asian Studies Unit

KFCRIS Publications in 2020:

- Deployments of Japan's Self-Defence Forces in the Middle East: Reaction and Reassurance, *Commentary*.

Sara Almohamadi JD Candidate, Columbia Law School, T20 Team

David Kenner Fellow, Institute of Current World Affairs, T20 Team

Bruno Schmidt-F Feuerheerd Doctoral Researcher, University of Cambridge, T20 Team

Dr. Heidi Alaskari CEO, Saudi Special Olympics Federation, T20 Lead Co-Chair

Visiting Fellows

Hasan Al-Sulami Doctoral Researcher, Georgetown University - **Saudi**

Research Topic: Hijazi Poems in the 11th Century

Andrew Leber Doctoral Researcher, Harvard University - **American**

Research Topic: Policy Motivations behind King Abdullah's Priorities for Expanded Access to Study-abroad Scholarships, "Balanced Development," and Nationalization of the Saudi Workforce.

Dr. Nora Derbal American University of Cairo - **German**

Research Topic: Charity in Saudi Arabia

Dr. Agnes Havril Corvinus University of Budapest - **Hungarian**

Dr. Aki Iida Corvinus University of Budapest - **Japanese**

Research Topic: A Comparative Analysis on the Empowerment of Women in Japan and in Saudi Arabia

Dr. Charlotte Lysa University of Oslo - **Norwegian**

Research Topic: Women, Football and Social Change in Saudi Arabia



Research Papers



Dirasat (KFCRIS Papers)

Dirasat is a research paper longer than 5,000 words.

In 2020, eight *Dirasat* were published.

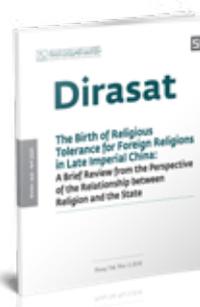
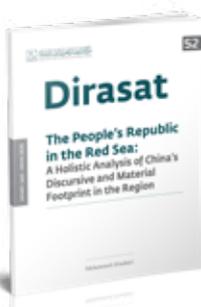
| Issue No. | Title |
|-----------|--|
| 59 | "Challenges of Non-Profit Organizations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: How to Benefit from the Global Experience" by Alaa Aldowaish and Othman Almazyad |
| 58 | "Economic Visions and the Making of an Islamabad-Beijing-Riyadh Triangle: Assessing Saudi Arabia's Role in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" by Eram Ashraf |
| 57 | "Hardships from the Arabian Gulf to China: The Challenges that Faced Foreign Merchants Between the Seventh and Thirteenth Centuries" by WAN Lei |
| 56 | "Pakistan and Saudi Arabia: Anatomy of a Unique Relationship - from Interpersonal to Institutional Engagement" by Umer Karim |
| 55 | "The Birth of Religious Tolerance for Foreign Religions in Late Imperial China: A Brief Review from the Perspective of the Relationship between Religion and the State" by HUNG Tak Wai |
| 54 | "Problematic Issues of Managing the Crude Oil File between the Federal Government and the Government of Iraqi Kurdistan: Study under the 2005 Constitution" by Saddam Faisal Kokez Almohammedi |
| 53 | "Can We Re-boost the Saudization of the Private Sector Workforce? A Practical Approach" by Makio Yamada |
| 52 | "The People's Republic in the Red Sea: A Holistic Analysis of China's Discursive and Material Footprint in the Region" by Mohammed Al-Sudairi |

Qira'at (KFCRIS Humanities Papers)

Qira'at is a research paper longer than 5,000 words and focusing on humanities subjects.

The series was dormant in 2019, but was reactivated in late 2020.

| Issue No. | Title |
|-----------|---|
| 12 | "The Dihliz of the Learned: Bayt Naşif as a Node in Reformist Muslim Circles (Mid 19th–Mid 20th Centuries)" by Ulrike Freitag |



Special Reports

Special Report is an analysis longer than 2,000 words.

In 2020, 14 Special Reports were published.

| Month | Title |
|-----------|--|
| December | "The Energy Transition in the Middle East: The Outlook for 2040" by Joshua Yaphe |
| December | "Armenia and Saudi Arabia: Potential Diplomacy in Complex International Relations" by Mohammed Alrmizan |
| December | "The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Energy Sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: The Future of Renewable Energy after the Crisis" by Sarah Alotaibi |
| November | "The Post-Pandemic Era in the Gulf: Rethinking Migration and Spatial Policies" by Clemens Chay |
| November | "Tunisia: The Mechichi Government and a Map of the New Political Balances" by Mohamed Al-Sbitli |
| September | "Kadhimi at 100 Days: Chances for Success in Baghdad" by Joshua Yaphe and Jaafar Altaie |
| September | "Vision 2030: Religious Education Reform in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" by Najah Al-Otaibi |
| September | "Target Saudi Arabia: An Examination of Damaging Narratives" by Joseph A. Kéchichian |
| June | "Elevating the Status of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Saudi Arabia: The Need for Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement and Student Motivation" by Hanaa Almoaibed |
| May | "Saudi Arabia's Response to the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic" by Freddie Neve |
| May | "'Chinese' Developmental Zones in the Gulf: The Case of Kuwait's North Economic Zone (Silk City)" by Alanoud Alsabah and Mohammed Alsudairi |
| April | "Red Sea Peace Initiatives: Saudi Arabia's Role in the Eritrea-Ethiopia Rapprochement" by Banafsheh Keynoush |
| February | "Engaging the Houthis in Yemen: A Repeat of China's Afghanistan Mediation Strategy?" by Barbara Kelemen |
| January | "Iran's Cyberattacks Capabilities" Anonymous |



Commentaries and Policy Briefs

Commentary/Policy Brief is an analysis between 1,500 and 2,000 words.

In 2020, 20 Commentaries and two Policy Briefs were published.

| Month | Title |
|-----------|---|
| December | "Can Turkey and Iran Lead the Muslim World?" by Joseph A. Kéchichian |
| November | "Sustainability in Saudi Arabia: The Question of Food" by Mark C. Thompson and Hanaa Almoaibed |
| November | "An Iranian Jurisprudential Campaign: To Silence Grand Ayatollah al-Haydari" by Rasheed Al-Khayoun |
| October | "Establishing Knowledge-Based Tourism: Certifying Tourism Workforces' Knowledge of Local Region for Enhancing Competitiveness and Easing Training" by Maha Fallatah |
| September | "Skills Certifications: A Tool for Training and Job Matching in a Knowledge-Based Economy—and for Alleviating the Skills Mismatch Problem in Saudi Arabia by 2025" by Makio Yamada |
| September | "Mali: Military Coup and Its Repercussions: Preliminary Observations" by Mohamed Al-Sbitli |
| August | "Iran's Explosions and Fires: Between Strategic Patience and Deterrence Strategy" by Hasan Razi |
| August | "Ramifications of Coronavirus Disruption to Saudi Education: Student Concerns" by Mark C. Thompson |
| July | "Assassination of Al-Hashemy: Background and Ramifications" by Rasheed Al-Khayoun |
| July | "The China-Iran Agreement Is Not a Game-Changer" by Jacopo Scita |
| July | "The Situation of Religious Minorities in Iran: What the West Should Know about the Iranian Regime" by Lord David Alton and Wael Aleji |
| July | "Sino-Indian Tensions in Ladakh and Impact on Pakistan" by Umer Karim |
| June | "Can Lebanon Be Saved? Only If Citizens Reinvent Their Society and Avoid a New Civil War" by Joseph A. Kéchichian |
| June | "The Return of Women: A Post-Rentier Rediscovery of the Arabian Heritage of Female Workforce Participation" by Karolen Eid, Maha Fallatah, and Makio Yamada |
| June | "Road Rest Areas: Hidden Opportunities for Domestic Tourism and Local Economies in Saudi Arabia" by Maha Fallatah |

| Month | Title |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| May (Policy Brief) | “Economic and Security Repercussions: The Corona Pandemic in Africa” by Mohamed Al-Sbitli and Mubarak Mohammed Ahmed |
| April | “Shariatmadari and Baqir al-Sadr.. The Killing Is One” by Rasheed Al-Khayoun |
| April | “Deployments of Japan’s Self-Defence Forces in the Middle East: Reaction and Reassurance” by Latifa Abdullah Al Saud |
| February | “Enriching Culinary Tourism: Potential of Area-Based Competition (ABC) for Local Food Product Development” by Maha Fallatah and Makio Yamada |
| January | “Infectious Idealism in Khomeini’s Ideology” by Hanin Alsudais |
| January | “Education and Job Opportunities: How Do Schooling Practices Affect Young Saudis’ Transition to University and Employment?” by Hanaa Almoaibed |
| January (Policy Brief) | “Lebanon At A Cross Road” Anonymous |





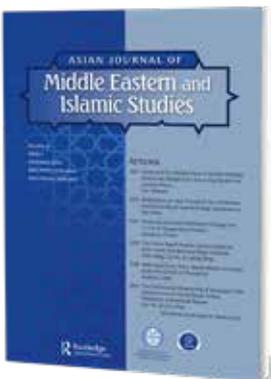
Africa Followups

Africa Followups is a monthly report edited by Dr Mohamed Al-Sbitli, which was launched in April 2020. Through multidisciplinary approaches and perspectives, it discusses political, economic, and security issues in the African continent and issues of interest to those in and from the continent, in addition to the regional and international implications of these issues.



KFCRIS Report on the Regional and International Impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Between April and June 2020, eight issues of weekly report on the coronavirus (COVID-19) were published. Edited by Dr Saud Al-Sarhan and Dr Mark C. Thompson, this weekly report collected opinions from a diverse range of individuals, including policy makers, academics, and thinkers, in the Kingdom and around the world about the impact of the pandemic in STEEP (social, technological, economic, environmental, and political) fields.



KFCRIS's Collaboration with the Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

In 2020, the KFCRIS's Asian Studies Unit collaborated with the Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies on the publication of a journal special issue (Volume 14, Issue 4) commemorating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Sino-Saudi diplomatic relationship.

The special issue contains the following seven articles:

- "China-Saudi Arabia Relations through the '1 + 2+3' Cooperation Pattern" by Jonathan Fulton
- "Scenarios for the Development of China Studies in Saudi Arabia in Correspondence with Contemporary Saudi Values" by Li Shijun
- "Seek Fact from Texts: Saudi Media on China amid the COVID-19 Pandemic" by Andrew Leber
- "The Continuous Weakening of Ideology in the Construction of China-Saudi Arabia Relations: A Historical Review" by Wu Rui and Zhao Jun
- "A Near-Normalisation? Sino-Saudi Diplomatic Flirtations between 1955 and 1957" by Mohammed Alsudairi and Wang Tingyi
- "The China-Saudi Arabia (Jizan) Industrial Park under the Belt and Road Initiative" by Yang Zishi, Du Le and Ding Liping
- "Reflections on New Trends in the Oil Market and China-Saudi Arabia Energy Cooperation" by Chen Mo

Books and Periodicals



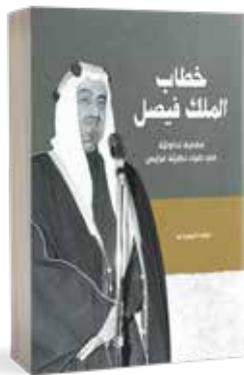
Books and Periodicals

The Al-Faisal Cultural House (Dar al-Faisal al-Thaqāfiya), the publishing arm of the KFCRIS, published the following books and periodicals issues in 2020:

Faisal Family (Āl Faisal) Series

King Faisal's Speech: The Pragmatic Approach in Light of the Gricean Theory

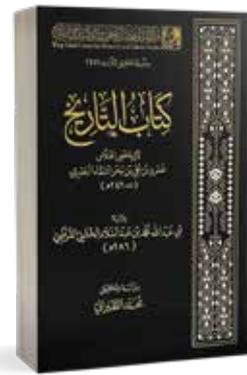
by Nouf Alowaidi



Heritage Studies (Tahqiq al-Turath) Series

The Book of History by Abū Hafṣ al-Fallās, 'Amr bin 'Alī bin Bahr al-Saqqā' al-Baṣrī (d. 249 A.H.)

edited by Muhammad Al-Tabarani



Books on History of Arabian Peninsula

The Image of Women in the Travels of Westerners to Central Arabia: From the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century to the Mid-Twentieth Century

by Dalal Mukhlid Al-Harbi

Colored Rock Paintings: In the Caves of Western Saudi Arabia

by Fawzia Al-Hadithi

General Books

Muhammad Rashad Abd al-Muttalib: Knowledge and Work

by Yusuf Al-Sinnari



Translated Books

The Muslim Brotherhood and the West: A History of Enmity and Engagement

by Martyn Frampton
(Harvard University Press, 2018)

The Naqab Bedouins: A Century of Politics and Resistance

by Mansour Nasasra
(Columbia University Press, 2017)



Journal of Linguistic Studies

The Journal of Linguistic Studies is a quarterly peer-reviewed journal on studies of the Arabic language. The journal was launched in 1999. In 2020, 24 papers were published in total.



Vol. 23,
No. 1



Vol. 22,
No. 4



Vol. 22,
No. 3



Vol. 22,
No. 2

International Journal of Humanitarian Studies

In 2020, the Al-Faisal Cultural House began to publish the International Journal of Humanitarian Studies for the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center. The Journal is peer-reviewed, bi-lingual, and bi-annual.



Issue 2



Issue 1

Al-Faisal Magazine

The Al-Faisal Magazine is published every two months.

The magazine was launched in 1977 and came under the KFCRIS in 1988 as the KFCRIS began hosting the Al-Faisal Cultural House in that year.

529–530



G20: Riyadh toward New Thinking for People's Wellbeing

527–528



Sustainable Development in the Absence of Culture?

525–526



When the World Gets Hotter, the Chaos Prevails

523–524



Coronavirus: Reconstituting the World

521–522



Arab Thought: Accountability, Separation and Unresolved Problems

519–520



Arab Theater: Beauty of Gap between Play and Ideology

Al-Faisal Cultural House

The Al-Faisal Cultural House (*Dar al-Faisal al-Thaqafiya*) was established in March 1977. It became the publishing arm of the KFCRIS in 1988. In 2020, it published seven books. It also worked on four books which will be published in early 2021. In addition to the publication of books and periodicals, the Al-Faisal Cultural House is responsible for all of the Center's design, printing, editing, and translation works.



Director: **Dr. Habbas Raja'a Alharbi**



Research
Events

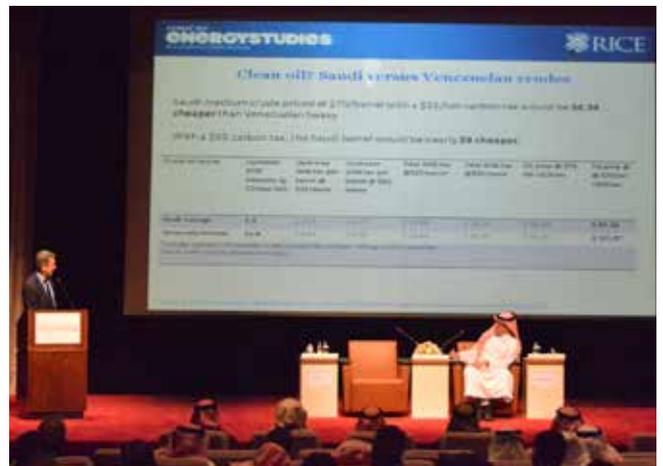
Research Events

In 2020, the KFCRIS hosted 37 research events in total (excluding the T20 ones): seven were in-person while 30 were online. Although the transition to the virtual platforms was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these online events attracted large audiences through streaming, contributing to the raising of the profile of the KFCRIS both nationally and internationally.



In-Person Events

| Language | Type | Date | Location | Title (Co-organizer) |
|----------|------------------|---------------|------------------------|--|
| English | Panel Discussion | 6 January | AlFaisal Institute | Strategic Changes in the Middle East and Saudi-American Relations |
| English | Public lecture | 22 January | King Faisal Foundation | Energy and Geopolitics in the Gulf |
| English | Conference | 27-28 January | King's College London | Non-State Actor Governance (with International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation) |
| English | Panel Discussion | 9 February | AlFaisal Institute | Dose the Kurdish Nation Have Any Friends Other Than Mountains? |
| Arabic | Workshop | 16 February | Kuwait University | Asia through Gulf Eyes (with Kuwait University) |
| Arabic | Public Lecture | 17 February | AlFaisal Institute | The Status of Manuscripts in Mauritania |
| English | Panel Discussion | 18 February | AlFaisal Institute | Saudi-American Relations in a Time of Regional Change |





Online Events

| Language | Type | Date | Title |
|----------|------------------|--------------|--|
| Arabic | Panel Discussion | 26 April | Reading the First Issue of Africa Followups |
| English | Public Lecture | 6 May | Being Young, Male and Saudi: Identity and Politics in Globalized Kingdom |
| English | Panel Discussion | 13 May | Covid-19 Pandemic Repercussions on Gulf-Asian Relations (with Emirates Diplomacy Academy) |
| English | Panel Discussion | 19 May | Sports Diplomacy in the Middle East (with National Council on US-Arab Relations) |
| English | Panel Discussion | 22 June | Education and Distance Learning in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf During Covid-19 Pandemic |
| Arabic | Public Lecture | 28 June | The Emergence of Arabic Calligraphy and Its Connection to the Transcription of the Holy Qur'an |
| Arabic | Public Lecture | 5 July | The Transformation of Arabic Calligraphy from the Tool for Transcription to the Integrated Art Representing the Civilization of the Ummah |
| English | Panel Discussion | 6 July | China and the World: A Conversation with Richard McGregor |
| English | Panel Discussion | 13 July | Enhancing Technical and Vocational Training in Saudi Arabia |
| Arabic | Panel Discussion | 10 August | African Peace and Security in Times of Covid-19 Pandemic |
| English | Workshop | 11 August | Key Elements of Saudi Social Transformation Post-Coronavirus (with Arab Gulf State Institute in Washington) |
| English | Public Lecture | 17 August | Of Sand or Soil: Genealogy and Tribal Belonging in Saudi Arabia |
| Arabic | Panel Discussion | 19 August | China's Role in Africa and its Global South Diplomacy: A Conversation with Lina Ben Abdullah |
| English | Panel Discussion | 25 August | Racism and Prejudice in America and the Arab World (with National Council on US-Arab Relations) |
| Arabic | Panel Discussion | 3 September | Libyan Crisis Prospects in the Light of Foreign Interventions |
| English | Workshop | 8 September | Sino-US Technology Developments and Implications for GCC Security (with Chatham House) |
| Arabic | Panel Discussion | 22 September | Political Developments in Mali Between the Popular Movement and Foreign Interference |
| English | Panel Discussion | 28 September | Technology and Chinese-American Relations: A Conversation with Sean Ding |
| Arabic | Panel Discussion | 8 October | African Economies in Coping with COVID-19 |

| Language | Type | Date | Title |
|----------|------------------|-------------|--|
| English | Panel Discussion | 14 October | Tourism in Europe and the Gulf under, and after, the COVID-19 Pandemic (with ISPI) |
| Arabic | Panel Discussion | 21 October | The Future of Tolerance and Peace in the Arab Region (with Derasat) |
| English | Panel Discussion | 27 October | Sustainability in the Gulf Post-Coronavirus: Shifting Patterns of Consumption in the Fashion, Food and Transportation Sectors |
| English | Panel Discussion | 28 October | The Evolution of China's Conception of National Security: A Conversation with Matthew Johnson |
| English | Panel Discussion | 12 November | Discussion with Najah Al-Otaibi: Religious Education Reform in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (with Atlantic Council) |
| English | Panel Discussion | 23 November | American Politics after 2020 Elections |
| English | Panel Discussion | 30 November | Recent Archaeological Discoveries in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (with International Association for the Study of Arabia) |
| English | Panel Discussion | 7 December | Pakistan's Changing Foreign Policy: Challenges and Approaches |
| Arabic | Panel Discussion | 8 December | The Contribution of Abu Nasr Al-Farabi to the Development of Human Civilization (with Al-Farabi Kazakh National University) |
| English | Panel Discussion | 15 December | The Changing Security Architecture in the Middle East: A Role for China? (with Middle East Institute-National University of Singapore) |
| Arabic | Panel Discussion | 28 December | Discussing the Consequences of the Elections in African Countries in 2020 |



Library



Library

Director: **Dr. Mosbah Bouznif**

The KFCRIS Library provides a variety of services to researchers, ranging from surveying information and obtaining sources and references to providing official statements (i.e., investigating and notifying whether certain topics have previously been studied) and depositing university theses and issuing the certificate for that deposit. The following table summarizes the services the library provided to researchers in 2020:

| Type of Service | Number |
|---|--------|
| Answering inquiries via the website, email, and telephone | 12,702 |
| Answering inquiries in person | 352 |
| Providing official statements to researchers | 2,100 |
| Receiving university thesis registration applications | 456 |
| Issuing university thesis deposit certificates | 258 |



In 2020, the library also began to use the Koha system, which is an open-source ILS (integrated library system). Its database was transferred to the cloud server of DigitalOcean through Kwarim company.

| Database | Transferred Items |
|---|-------------------|
| Arabic books database | 145,610 |
| Foreign books database | 42,497 |
| Arabic journal articles database | 483,114 |
| Foreign journal articles database | 23,484 |
| Arabic university theses database | 154,993 |
| Foreign university theses database | 1,693 |
| Manuscripts contents database | 36,682 |
| Printed Qur'ans database | 671 |
| Audiovisual materials database | 9,813 |
| Conference and seminar research papers database | 59,227 |
| Arabic periodicals database (volumes) | 2,550 |
| Foreign periodicals database (volumes) | 3,043 |
| King Faisal photograph archives database | 6,646 |
| Manuscripts database | 165,543 |
| Original documents database | 17,850 |
| Total | 1,158,343 |





Faisal Family
Archives

Faisal Family Archives

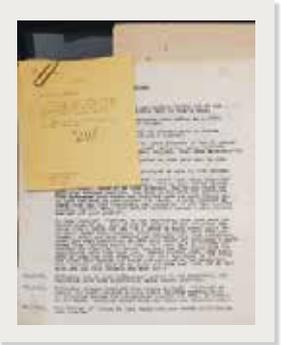
In 2020, the Faisal Family Archives (Darat Al Faisal) received more than 140 documents in multiple languages. All of them were restored and sterilized before being indexed. The archives also received and scanned almost 2,000 photographs of King Faisal and his sons, especially Prince Abdulrahman, Prince Bandar, and Prince Turki. The total number of photographs now owned by the archives is 20,719. Moreover, 63 audiovisual materials related to King Faisal were transcribed and indexed. Furthermore, the archives cataloged magazines—all



King Faisal in his youth, Viceroy of Hijaz



Prince Abdulrahman's high school certificate



One of Youssef Yassin's documents, the special adviser to King Abdulaziz

local, Arab, and foreign—containing news about and photographs of King Faisal and his family. The number of catalogued magazines exceeded 1,400.

The Archives also provided materials to entities such as the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (Darah), the Taif University, and MBC. In addition, it provided a video of King Faisal's interview with CBS to Rush Films, in which the King shared his vision about the Kingdom for the following half century. The video was included in SAUDIA's movie for the Saudi National Day. Moreover, it provided individual researchers with their requested materials.



King Faisal's sons:

Standing from right: Prince Turki, Prince Bandar, Prince Abdulrahman, Prince Saad
Sitting from right: Prince Saud, Prince Mohammed, Prince Abdullah, Prince Khalid



King Faisal's interview with CBS in 1975

Museum



Museum

Director: **Rasha Al-Fawaz**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the KFCRIS Museum had to reschedule its new exhibition "FAISAL: A Life at the Heart of the 20th Century," which had been planned to take place in Paris in 2020. Nevertheless, it gave the museum time to focus on the improvement of its infrastructure, including the setting up of the new laboratory for manuscripts and collections conservation.



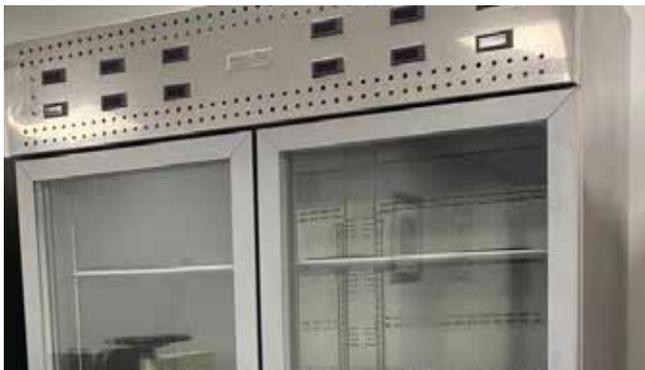
Major Achievements in 2020

Conservation

The new integral laboratory began to help the museum maintain its unique and special artifacts by offering various modern tools and equipment that enable conservation experts to achieve their highest possible quality work.

In 2020:

- 13 manuscripts, 14 pages of various manuscripts from the Wahj Gallery, and six external documents were restored
- Reports that assess the condition of 49 manuscripts were prepared



Sterilization

Sterilization is the first stage of preserving artifacts by killing insects and fungi on manuscript papers and leather covers. These insects and fungi can cause significant damage to manuscript papers and transfer this damage to intact adjacent papers.

In 2020:

- 106 manuscripts, 12 museum pieces, 17 books, 131 documents, five photographs, and two booklets were sterilized

Archiving

Archiving is conducted based on the numbering system for museum collections and the description cards system in line with the international guidelines and standards of the International Council of Museums.

In 2020:

- 150 audio materials were archived
- 583 Islamic art collections were registered into the archival system



Binding

Binding is one of the technical procedures for preserving manuscripts after treatment and conservation. The museum binds manuscripts and re-binds books with natural leather and gold engravings.

In 2020:

- 85 Islamic manuscripts were bound



Managing the Storage

The museum has been working on transferring its storage facilities to store all museum pieces in one place and ensure appropriate environmental conditions as well as easy access.

In 2020:

- The collections facility was repaired and renovated
- The King Faisal Memorial Collection was relocated
- 260 cases were made to preserve artifacts from the Islamic Art Collection in their best status
- 100 cases were made to preserve the audiotapes from the Saudi Memory Unit



Inventorying

Inventorying is the museum's regular process to maintain its pieces.

In 2020:

- Various museum collections were inventoried: (1) Arab–Islamic Art Collection; (2) King Faisal Memorial Collection; (3) Coins and Currencies Collection; (4) Queen Effat Coins Collection; (5) Fine Art Collections etc.
- The KFCRIS History Collection was prepared through listing available materials
- The item descriptions for the Islamic Art Collection were revised

Collections Owned by the Museum

| Collection Category | Total |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Arab–Islamic Art Collection | 583 |
| King Faisal Memorial Collection | 625 |
| Coins and Currencies Collection | 3,061 |
| Fine Arts Collection | 600 |
| Saudi Memory Collection | 966 |



Administrative Support



The Administration and Finance Department

Headed by **Saleh Al-Shamrani**

The Administration and Finance Department supports the Center's activities in a wide range of fields such as administration, finance, human resources, information and technology, safety, security, maintenance, infrastructure, and reception. In 2020, the Department played an indispensable role in enabling the Center to adapt to the work under the pandemic. It prepared the Center's precautionary measures and set up programs and applications for colleagues to conduct remote work and training.



26

The number of newly-hired employees and newly-contracted collaborators in 2020

The Project and Development Department

Headed by: **Ibrahim Al-Deghaither**

The Project and Development Department follows up the implementation of the Center's projects. In 2020, the Department developed a new model of monitoring the progress of projects. This model worked effectively under the pandemic as tasks required to be completed by the Center's departments to adapt to the new situations were set and monitored. In addition, the Department prepared an activities development model for all departments that contains the following elements:



The long-term goals of the department



Internal and external beneficiaries of the department's activities



Weaknesses, strengths, and improvable aspects



Opportunities and enabling factors as well as obstacles and challenges



Potential adverse effects and preemptive measures to avoid them

Currently, the Department is working on a new model for quality assurance.

122

The number of times the Department followed up the Center's projects

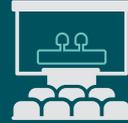


The Public Relations Department

Headed by **Abdullah Al-Khowaiter**

The Public Relations Department assists the implementation of the Center's events, communicates with visitors to the Center and parties of common interest between the visitors and the Center, and offers logistic services to the Center's guests, including organizing the guests' visas, transportation, and accommodation, as well as helping their travel inside the Kingdom and providing gifts.

In 2020, the Department played a critical role as the Center's events moved to online platforms.



37

The number of events held in 2020 (excluding T2o events).
Thirty were held online.

The Number of Followers of the KFCRIS on Social Media



30,000 +

Twitter @KFCRIS - @KFCRIS_en



20,000 +

LinkedIn مركز الملك فيصل للبحوث والدراسات الإسلامية



20,000 +

Facebook مركز الملك فيصل للبحوث والدراسات الإسلامية



7,000 +

Youtube KFCRIS



3,500 +

Instagram kfcris_sa





King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies
PO Box 51049 – Riyadh – 11543 – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telephone: +966 11 455 5504 - Fax: +966 11 465 9993
www.kfcris.com/en

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