

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

2025 NASPAA REGIONAL
CONFERENCE RIYADH

KAPSARC
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia







TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	WELCOME TO THE 2025 NASPAA REGIONAL CONFERENCE
4	ABOUT
4	PROGRAM COMMITTEE
5	THE KAPSARC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
6	MONDAY MAY 26
8	TUESDAY MAY 27
14	WEDNESDAY MAY 28

WELCOME TO THE 2025 NASPAA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

We are thrilled to welcome you to this gathering, which is proudly hosted by NASPAA member KAPSARC School of Public Policy. This event is a unique platform to introduce public administration and policy programs from the MENA region, Asia, and Africa to the NASPAA network.

Together, we are strengthening our commitment to fostering sustainable public and nonprofit management. We look forward to engaging discussions, collaborative learning, and impactful connections throughout the conference.

ABOUT

Shaping a Global Future for Public Affairs explores the evolving role of public affairs academic programs in preparing leaders in public policy, public administration, and nonprofit sectors to tackle complex, interconnected global challenges. It highlights the need for innovative curricula, cross-cultural learning, and the integration of global perspectives into public policy education and, subsequently, the practice of public policy and administration.

This conference will provide a forum for discussions on best practices for shaping curricula that address emerging issues such as climate change, social justice, technology, and governance. Participants will also explore the role of education in bridging the gaps between local and global public affairs, ensuring that future leaders are equipped with the skills to navigate an increasingly complex and dynamic world.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Hind Aloffaysan

Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman
University

Mohamad Alkadry

NASPAA president
University of Connecticut
School of Public Policy

Mohammed Alshagawi

KAPSARC
School of Public Policy

Shahjahan Bhuiyan

The American University in Cairo

Brian Efird

KAPSARC

Naim Kapucu

University of Central Florida

Kim Moloney

Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Nashwa Mohamed

King Saud University

Rosemary O'Leary

University of Kansas (Emeritus)

Ja-Eun Shin

KDI School of Public Policy
and Management

Adam Sieminski

KAPSARC

Chrysostomos Tabakis

KAPSARC
School of Public Policy



THE HOST

THE KAPSARC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Launched in 2024, the KAPSARC School of Public Policy (KSPP) is Saudi Arabia's pioneering academic institution on public policy. KSPP's aims to be a world-class education and research institution for the next generation of public policy leaders and professionals, within the Saudi Arabia and globally.

KSPP empowers policy professionals to positively inform socio-economic choices, find solutions to the most pressing public policy challenges and create a bridge between academia, industry, and government. KSPP is the first NASPAA member in Saudi Arabia.

More information about KSPP is available at: <https://www.kspp.edu.sa/>

The KAPSARC School of Public Policy is proud to bring the NASPAA Regional Conference to Saudi Arabia for the first time. We look forward to bridging the gap between academia, industry, and government in this important conference while finding solutions to the most pressing public policy challenges.

Dr. Ghadah Alarifi
Dean, KAPSARC School of Public Policy



MONDAY

MAY 26, 2025

8:00 AM–9:00 AM

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

ROOM: APEX HALL

9:00 AM–12:30 PM

ACCREDITATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

NASPAA is pleased to offer an Accreditation and Strategic Planning Workshop as part of the 2025 NASPAA Regional Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This workshop will be led by NASPAA Chief Accreditation Officer Fabiola Bachinelo and the Chair of the NASPAA Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA), Angela Eikenberry. Learning objectives for this workshop include:

- An understanding of the value of NASPAA accreditation and how the process works.
- The strategic management philosophy at the core of the NASPAA accreditation process.
- The major themes in the NASPAA accreditation standards and how to approach some of the standards.
- Strategies for managing the accreditation process successfully.

The workshop will also finish with a dialogue session with NASPAA member representatives: Sian Mooney from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington & Indianapolis; Ayhab Saab from The School of Economics, Administration and Public Policy at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies; and Carissa Slotterback from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, who will share their experiences with strategic program development and management, how this approach has impacted their programs, and the value of pursuing NASPAA accreditation.

Angela Eikenberry*

University of Connecticut
School of Public Policy

Fabiola Bachinelo*

NASPAA Chief Accreditation Officer

12:30 PM–1:00 PM

LEGO IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS EDUCATION

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

This session explores the innovative integration of Lego Serious Play (LSP) and the Public Policy Lean Canvas (PPLC) in public policy education, implemented in a Master's program at a leading institution in Doha, Qatar.

Evren Tok*

Hamad Bin Khalifa University

12:30 PM–1:30 PM

LUNCH**ROOM: APEX MPH**

1:30 PM–5:00 PM

**PUBLISHING IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
AND PUBLIC POLICY JOURNALS WORKSHOP****ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM****PART 1: HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?**

In this in-person session, four editors and associate editors of seven journals focused on the disciplines of public policy and public administration will explain how the journal review process works. This includes what the journals are looking for in a submission, how to prepare your manuscript for submission, what happens once a submission is received by a journal, how the review process operates, and what to do if you receive a reject, a revise and resubmit, and/or an accept. The editors and/or associate editors of seven (7) journals will be at this panel. This includes *Public Administration Review* (Khalidoun, Kim), *Journal of Public Affairs Education* (Sarah), *Public Administration and Development* (Ian), *The Review of Public Personnel Administration* (Meghna), *The Australian Journal of Public Administration* (Kim), *Administrative Theory & Praxis* (Kim), and the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Administration* (James, Kim).

**PART 2: WRITING FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS, PUBLIC MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
OR PUBLIC POLICY JOURNALS.**

In this online session, three additional editors of journals will talk specifically about what public administration and public policy scholarly articles look like and how they differ from technical articles. Suggestions for writing high quality theory, policy, and public administration articles will be offered. This includes *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance* (Jessica, Kirk) and *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Administration* (James).

Special thank you to Rosemary O'Leary for her support in organizing this workshop.

Khalidoun Abouassi

American University
School of Public Affairs

Ian C. Elliott

University of Glasgow

Sarah Young

Kennesaw State University

Jessica Sowa

University of Delaware

Meghna Sabharwal

The University of Texas at Dallas

James Perry

Paul H. O'Neill School of Public
and Environmental Affairs

Kirk Emerson

Retired

Kim Moloney

Hamad Bin Khalifa University

TUESDAY

MAY 27, 2025

8:00 AM–9:00 AM

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

ROOM: APEX HALL

OPENING REMARKS:

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

FAHAD ALAJLAN, PRESIDENT OF KAPSARC

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

Join KAPSARC and NASPAA Leadership during their opening remarks kicking off the 2025 NASPAA Regional Conference!



Fahad Alajlan
KAPSARC

[View bio](#)



Ghadah Alarifi
KAPSARC
School of Public Policy

[View bio](#)



Chrysostomos Tabakis
KAPSARC
School of Public Policy

[View bio](#)



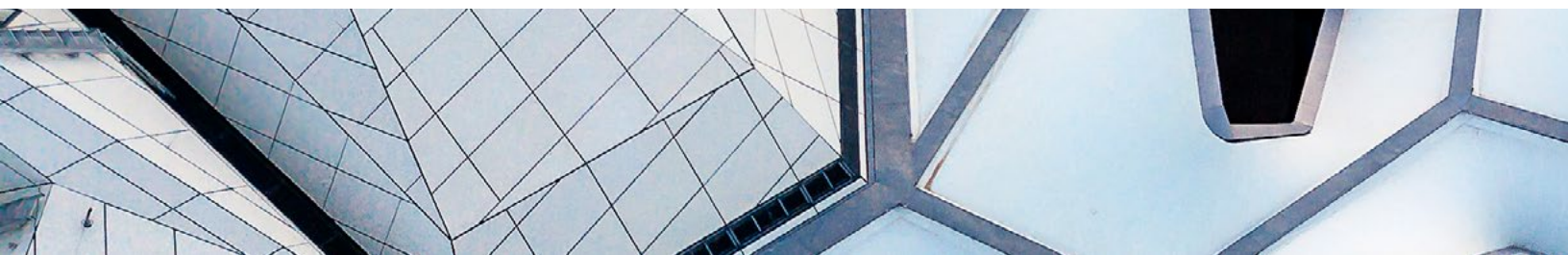
Mohamad Alkadry
NASPAA president
University of Connecticut
School of Public Policy

[View bio](#)



Martha Bohrt
NASPAA

[View bio](#)



10:00 AM–11:00 AM

OPENING PLENARY-KEYNOTE

THE ROLE OF POLICY SCHOOLS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN ADVANCING PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT I

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

In this panel, Deans and representatives of Schools of Public Policy and Research Institutes will discuss the added value of public policy schools and policy centers to their respective nations and regions. Mohamad Alkadry moderates this session.



Mohamad Alkadry*
NASPAA president
University of Connecticut
School of Public Policy

Mohamad G. Alkadry is the President of NASPAA for 2025 and a Professor at the University of Connecticut's School of Public Policy, where he was School Director from 2017 to 2024. He holds a Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University and specializes in social equity, sustainable procurement, and gender equity. Dr. Alkadry has published extensively, co-authored three books, and conducted over 50 studies on inequities in communities of color. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and conducts biannual studies for the National Institute of Public Procurement.



Ghadah Alarifi
KAPSARC School of Public Policy

Dr. Ghadah Alarifi is the dean of KAPSARC school of public policy, leading a team tasked to create an institution that provides accredited graduate degrees and executive education in public policy - addressing current needs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia related to energy and sustainability policy analysis and development. Prior to this, she held leadership roles at PNU, including Dean of the College of Business Administration and establishing the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center. Recognized for her contributions to human capital development, Dr. Alarifi holds a PhD in Management from University of London and actively researches entrepreneurship and sustainability.



Carissa Schively Slotterback
University of Pittsburgh
School of Public & International Affairs

Raja Almarzoqi is a former IMF advisor and faculty member at the Institute of Diplomatic Studies, with 16 years of teaching experience at institutions like MIT, King Saud University, and Thunderbird Global Business School. He served as president of the Gulf Monetary Council and has consulted for organizations such as the World Bank, ARAMCO, and SAGIA. Specializing in policy modeling, international finance, and banking, he has presented at major international conferences and published in Middle Eastern journals. Almarzoqi holds a Ph.D. in economics and finance from Oklahoma State University.



Joon-Kyung Kim
KDI School of Public Policy and Management

Kim Joon-Kyung is the President of the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and a former Senior Vice-President and Professor at KDI School. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, San Diego, and has held senior policy-making roles in government, including in the President's Office of Economic Affairs. His research covers a wide range of issues, including Korea's financial supervision, corporate governance, and rural development, and he has contributed to significant studies like The East Asian Miracle. Kim's work also focuses on tax administration reform and financial inclusion, and he founded KDI's Development Research and Learning Network.



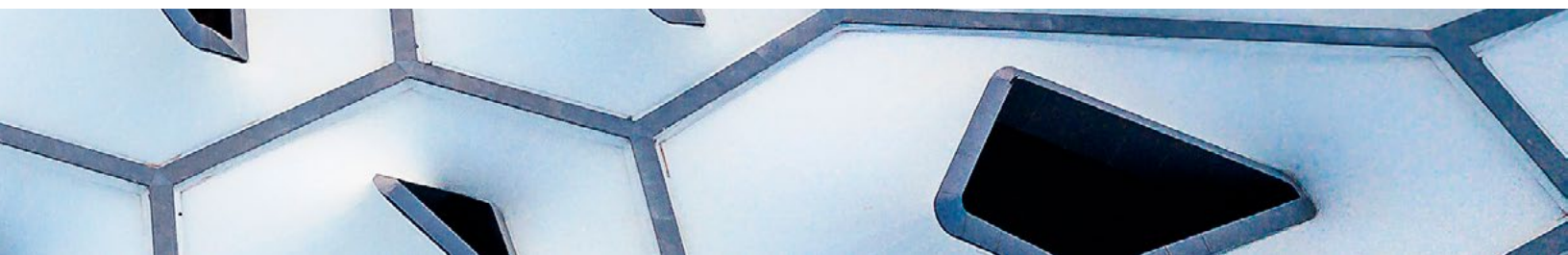
Leslie Pal
Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Leslie A. Pal is the Founding Dean of the College of Public Policy at Hamad Bin Khalifa University. He has authored or edited over thirty books, including Informing Action: Higher Education Countering Violent Extremism (2021) and Beyond Policy Analysis (6th ed., 2020), a best-selling textbook. Pal has published over ninety articles on public policy, administration, and international public management reform, and has served as Executive Editor of the Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis. He has consulted for organizations like the Open Society Foundations, the World Bank, and OECD, and is involved with several academic and policy boards.



Noha El-Mikawy
AUC School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

Noha El-MikawyDr. Noha El-Mikawy is a Professor of Practice in the Public Policy and Administration Department and Dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the American University in Cairo (AUC). She holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Politics from UCLA and has had a distinguished 30-year career blending academia, policy advising, and strategic leadership. El-Mikawy previously served as the regional director of the Ford Foundation for the Middle East and North Africa, where she fostered international university partnerships and supported regional think tanks. She has published two books and numerous articles on governance and institutional reform in Egypt and the Arab region. El-Mikawy also serves on several prestigious boards, including SIPRI and the Arab Reform Initiative.



11:00 AM–11:15 PM

BREAK**ROOM: APEX HALL**

11:15 AM–12:30 PM

A HIGHER EDUCATION THAT BELONGS TO FUTURE GENERATIONS: INNOVATING THE WAY HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ARE MANAGED**ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 1**

The management of higher education institutions worldwide is entrenched in bureaucratic structures that hinder innovation, agility, and responsiveness to the rapidly evolving needs of students, faculty, and the global workforce. This panel will explore the challenges and opportunities of moving away from these traditional models toward more flexible, innovation-driven management systems. Ehssan Dakhilallah Aljohani chairs this session.

Ehssan Dakhilallah Aljohani*

Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University

Abdulwahed S. Alghanem

Dare Innovation Company

Saja Aldera

King Saud University

EMPOWERING NURSES AS GLOBAL CHANGE AGENTS: ADVANCING PRACTICE THROUGH INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY INTEGRATION**ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 2**

This panel explores how Implementation Lead (IL) Nurses serve as global change agents by leveraging innovative, competency-based professional development and policy integration to drive evidence-based practice transformation. Drawing on insights from the EQUIP initiative and case studies from the Taif Health Cluster, the session demonstrates how structured training bridges research, policy, and clinical practice to enhance patient care outcomes. Attendees will gain practical strategies to replicate this model across diverse healthcare settings. Modi Owied Al Moteri chairs this session.

Modi Owied Al Moteri*

Taif University

Jamil Aljuaid

Taif Health Cluster

Hayat Alqurashi

Taif Health Cluster, Children's Hospital

Afnan Sahrah

KAASH, Taif

11:15 AM–12:30 PM
(continued)

**ENERGY POLICY IN THE ERA OF SUSTAINABILITY:
BALANCING GROWTH, FISCAL CHALLENGES,
AND CLIMATE COMMITMENTS IN OIL-BASED
ECONOMIES**

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

As oil-dependent economies confront global shift toward sustainability, the strategic role of public policy in steering energy transitions has become critical. This panel will analyze how governments can craft and implement policies that reconcile energy security with economic sustainability while mitigating fiscal constraints. It will assess the financial complexities of reducing fossil fuel reliance and explore innovative policy mechanisms that facilitate a transition toward a greener economy without compromising national economic stability. Said Alshaikh chairs this session.

Said Alshaikh*
University of Business and Technology

Saša Žiković
University of Rijeka, Croatia

Md Gazi Salah Uddin
Linköping University, Sweden

Hoda Mansour
University of Business and Technology

12:30 PM–1:30 PM

**LUNCH & LEARNING ABOUT NASPAA MEMBER
SERVICES INFORMATION SESSION**

ROOM: APEX MPH

Fabiola Bachinelo
Chief Accreditation Officer, NASPAA

Martha Bohrt
NASPAA

1:30 PM–2:45 PM

**CHALLENGES IN HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
IN TRANSITIONING TO GREEN ECONOMY:
PERSPECTIVES FROM POLICY AND INDUSTRY**

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

This panel examines workforce development and human resources management in transitioning to a green economy in Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and the United States. Topics include mapping legacy and green jobs in Pennsylvania for worker transition strategies, the evolution of Türkiye's workforce development policies for green industries, challenges in Saudi Arabia's workforce development for emerging green energy sectors aligned with global best practices, and aligning human resource policies with sustainability goals. Michele Tantardini chairs this session.

Michele Tantardini*
Pennsylvania State University,
Institute of Public Administration

Faisal Alzahrani
Pennsylvania State University,
Institute of Public Administration,

Fahad Alrawaf
Pennsylvania State University,
Institute of Public Administration

1:30 PM–2:45 PM
(continued)

POLICY AND WORKFORCE: UAE PUBLIC SECTOR

ROOM: APEX BUSINESS CENTER

This panel presents four distinct yet interconnected studies that illuminate critical aspects of governance and public policy in the United Arab Emirates. The papers collectively explore the dynamics of human capital within the public and private sectors, examining public service motivation, human resource management practices, work-life balance, and diversity. Yousif Al Ghalayini will present on behalf of Abdulfattah Yaghi. Sawsan Abutabenjeh chairs this session.

Sawsan Abutabenjeh*
United Arab Emirates
University

Mohammed Aljanahi
UAEU

Yousif Al Ghalayini
Mohammed Bin Rashid
School of Government

RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 1

This session features multiple paper presentations under a shared theme. This session explores resilience across policy, labor, and public health in diverse contexts. Emre Hatipoglu's "Path-Dependent Resilience?" examines how Saudi Arabia's industrial expertise supports green job transitions. Husam Zaman's "Beyond Politics" addresses how over-politicization hampers development policy and calls for evidence-based approaches. Gi Khan Ten's "Weathering the Heat" draws lessons from South Korea on climate resilience and newborn health. Emre Hatipoglu chairs this session.

Emre Hatipoglu*
KAPSARC School of Public
Policy

Gi Khan Ten
Xi'an-Jiaotong Liverpool
University

Husam Zaman
ADAA

Cian Mulligan
KAPSARC

TRANSFORMING TEACHING AND LEARNING PUBLIC POLICY IN THE NEW ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 2

There is now a real threat that students can effortlessly pass their higher education degree without reading or writing a single academic paper. On the other hand, AI is the future and our education must reflect these necessary skills. This will be an interactive panel covering three areas: the current challenges of AI in higher education public policy pedagogy; current short to mid-term strategies to mitigate the risks; and a long-term transformational vision of teaching public policy. Hira Amin chairs this session.

Hira Amin*
Hamad Bin Khalifa
University,
College of Public Policy

Logan Cochrane
Hamad Bin Khalifa
University,
College of Public Policy

Ahmed Badran
Department of International
Affairs, Qatar University

Khalaf Alabri
Sultan Qaboos University

2:45 PM–3:00 PM

BREAK
ROOM: APEX HALL

PLENARY—KEYNOTE

3:00 PM–4:00 PM

**SAUDI UNIVERSITIES: PAST, PRESENT
AND STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

In this keynote plenary will provide information on the present state of Saudi Universities and the Strategic Vision for the future. The presentation will focus on where the universities are heading and what opportunities exist for collaboration with foreign universities, national industry, and domestic institutions. Martha Bohrt moderates this session.



Martha Bohrt*
NASPAA

Martha is responsible for the leadership and strategic direction of NASPAA. She works closely with the Executive Council to set and implement the long-term strategy of the association, while building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, including peer organizations, the broader public service education community, and governmental agencies. In collaboration with the COO, Martha is responsible for financial oversight, operations & management, and compliance & risk management for NASPAA.



**His Excellency Professor Bassam
bin Abdullah Al-Bassam**
Secretary General of the Council
of University Affairs in the Kingdom
of Saudi Arabia

Secretary General of the Council of University Affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A professor of governance and public finance, he has extensive experience in administrative, legislative, and advisory roles in the public and private sectors. He is a member of many councils and boards locally and internationally.



4:00 PM–5:15 PM

ACADEMIC MOBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: WORKING TOGETHER AND EXCHANGING IDEAS IN OUR EVOLVING GLOBAL CONTEXT

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

Increasing polarization and shifting educational and geopolitical landscapes require that schools remain open and nimble in order to foster global connection and collaboration. This panel brings together educational leaders from different schools and countries to explore strategies for increasing academic collaborations and global connections. Attendees will gain actionable insights to strengthen ties with across academic institutions for faculty and students. Carissa Schively Slotterback chairs this session.

Carissa Schively Slotterback*

University of Pittsburgh
School of Public & International Affairs

Angela Eikenberry

University of Connecticut
School of Public Policy

Claudia Avellaneda

O'Neill School of Public
and Environmental Affairs,
Indiana University

Sian Mooney

O'Neill School of Public
and Environmental Affairs,
Indiana University

Ghadah Alarifi

KAPSARC School of Public Policy

Ian C. Elliott

Senior Lecturer in Public Administration
University of Glasgow

SEEKING EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS CURRICULUM FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 1

The panel examines public affairs education for civil servants in Pakistan, focusing on recruitment, curriculum reform, and in-service training. It analyzes civil service reform proposals, the effectiveness of training at the Civil Services Academy, and the cultural dynamics affecting senior officers' decision-making. The panel critiques outdated academic curricula, emphasizing the need to align public administration education with global trends and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Abiha Zahra chairs this session.

Abiha Zahra*

Information Technology University

Aisha Azhar

University of Management
and Technology

Mohsin Bashir

Lahore University of Management
Sciences

WEDNESDAY

MAY 28, 2025

8:00 AM–8:30 AM

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

ROOM: APEX HALL

PLENARY

8:30 AM–9:30 AM

HOW TO PREPARE (FUTURE) PUBLIC LEADERS TO USE AI WISELY

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

Rapid developments in AI increasingly reshape public affairs as well as public affairs education. The question for policy makers isn't just how fast and how widely to deploy AI, it is also about how wisely this is being done. This is particularly crucial when looking at using AI in strategic decision-making contexts that are highly uncertain, ambiguous, complex, and high-stakes. Judging the wisdom (or lack thereof) in using AI in situations of high uncertainty may be one of the hardest and least understood public policy questions of the near future. Schools of public policy will have to develop well-considered approaches to deal with this. David Hoffman chairs this session.



David Hoffman*
Duke University

David Hoffman is the Steed Family Professor of the Practice of Public Policy and Professor of the Practice at the Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University. He is also an Associate of the Duke Initiative for Science & Society and an Affiliate Faculty Member at the Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy. David holds a J.D. from Duke University (1993) and an A.B. from Hamilton College (1991).



Martin Wilhelm
Geopolis Energy Partners

Martin Wilhelm is the founder and managing partner of Geopolis Energy Partners, advising clients on innovation and risk management in global energy markets. He has worked with energy utilities, banks, and policymakers across North America and Europe, focusing on strategy, risk management, and energy trading. Wilhelm developed energy trading software systems for utilities in Germany and Luxembourg and has advised on energy deregulation and renewable energy integration in Europe. He holds an M.S. in economics from Cologne University and an international management degree from HEC Paris.



Tarik Yousef
Middle East Council on Global Affairs

Tarik M. Yousef is a senior fellow and director of the Middle East Council on Global Affairs. He previously directed the Brookings Doha Center and has been a nonresident senior fellow at Brookings Washington, DC. With extensive experience at Georgetown University, the Harvard Kennedy School, and the World Bank, his research focuses on public policy and economic development in the Middle East. Yousef has authored over 75 articles and co-edited books on topics like public sector reform and China-Middle East relations, including *The Belt and Road Initiative* (2019) and *Public Sector Reform in MENA* (2020).



Latifa Al-Abdulkarim
The Saudi Shura Council

Dr. Latifa Al-Abdulkarim is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at King Saud University and a visiting researcher at the University of Liverpool. She has served as an Artificial Intelligence Advisor to the Saudi Government, contributing to G20 AI policy and international organizations like the OECD and ITU. Latifa holds a Ph.D. in AI and Law from the University of Liverpool (2017) and developed "ANGELIC," a methodology for predicting U.S. Supreme Court case opinions. She is a member of UNESCO's AI ethics group and the IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous Systems. A recognized expert in AI in the legal domain, she was named one of Forbes' top women defining the 21st-century AI movement and was selected as one of the 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics for 2020.



Raja Almarzoqi
Ministry of Economy and Planning

Raja Almarzoqi is a former IMF advisor and faculty member at the Institute of Diplomatic Studies, with 16 years of teaching experience at institutions like MIT, King Saud University, and Thunderbird Global Business School. He served as president of the Gulf Monetary Council and has consulted for organizations such as the World Bank, ARAMCO, and SAGIA. Specializing in policy modeling, international finance, and banking, he has presented at major international conferences and published in Middle Eastern journals. Almarzoqi holds a Ph.D. in economics and finance from Oklahoma State University.

9:30 AM–9:45 AM

BREAK**ROOM: APEX HALL**

9:45 AM–11:00 AM

**INDIGENIZING PUBLIC AFFAIRS CURRICULUM
IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA****ROOM: APEX BUSINESS CENTER**

Panelists will discuss approaches to integrating indigenous knowledge, local governance models, and region-specific policy issues into curricula while maintaining academic rigor and global engagement. The discussion will also highlight efforts to develop homegrown case studies, contextualized research methodologies, and culturally relevant pedagogies that better serve the needs of MENA's public sector. By fostering dialogue among scholars, educators, and policymakers, this panel aims to chart a path toward a regionally grounded curriculum. Hamid Ali chairs this session.

Hamid Ali*

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Kim Moloney

Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Shahjahan Bhuiyan

The American University in Cairo

**INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGIES FOR GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP AND CROSS-CULTURAL
COMPETENCY****ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 2**

This session explores the evolving landscape of public administration and leadership education in the Arab region. Tania Haddad presents "Discussing Public Administration in Higher Education in the Arab World," examining the status and challenges of public administration programs across Arab universities. Evren Tok follows with "Leveraging Case Studies in Qatar to Teach Leadership in Public Policy," offering insights into the use of localized, real-world examples to enhance public policy education and leadership development. Together, the presentations highlight regionally grounded approaches to advancing pedagogy and practice in public affairs. Suzanne AlQurashi chairs this session.

Suzanne AlQurashi*

Council of Universities' Affairs

Evren Tok

Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Tania HaddadDirector of the Global Engagement
Initiative

9:45 AM–11:00 AM
(continued)

NEW APPROACHES IN MODERN TIMES: THE CHINA ARAB NETWORK OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION (CANSPAA)

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

This panel will introduce the conference audience to CANSPAA and discuss its future and ambitions. What collaborations and associations are possible? How can public policy and administration programs prepare students for careers that will require knowledge and understanding of the systems, cultures and policy pursuits of these important nations? Mark Robbins chairs this session.

Mark Robbins*
Fudan University

Ayhab Saad
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Noha El-Mikawy
AUC School of Global Affairs
and Public Policy

Haoqi Qian
Fudan University

Shujun Jiang
United Arab Emirates University

THE ELECTRICITY MARKET REGULATORY POLICY IN TIMES OF ENERGY TRANSITION

ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 1

Dubbing the famous quote: "War is too important to be left to the generals", the electricity market regulatory policy in times of energy transition is a crucial issue that involves many stakeholders of the economy. A panel of both insiders and outsiders of the electricity system will discuss the relevant aspects of the evolution of the electricity markets policy design in our societies, touching upon the topics of efficiency, technology, profitability, equity. Carlo Andrea Bollino chairs this session.

Carlo Andrea Bollino*
Luiss University, Rome, Italy

Fabio Pressi
MOBILITA'

Adnan Shihabeldin
Oxford Institute of Energy Studies

Patrizia Marin
Marco Polo Experience

Amro Elshurafa
KAPSARC

11:00 AM–11:15 AM

BREAK
ROOM: APEX HALL

PLENARY—KEYNOTE

11:15 AM–11:45 AM

**REIMAGINING HIGHER EDUCATION: ALIGNING
WITH SAUDI ARABIA’S HUMAN CAPABILITY
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

This keynote address explores the vital relationship between Saudi Arabia’s Human Capability Development Program (HCDP) and the transformation of the Kingdom’s higher education system. The session will examine the role of universities in equipping graduates with future-ready skills and critical competencies for the evolving labor market. Attendees will gain insight into how higher education is being reimagined as a cornerstone of national development under Vision 2030.



Ghadah Alarifi*
KAPSARC School of Public Policy

Dr. Ghadah Alarifi is the dean of KAPSARC school of public policy, leading a team tasked to create an institution that provides accredited graduate degrees and executive education in public policy - addressing current needs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia related to energy and sustainability policy analysis and development. Prior to this, she held leadership roles at PNU, including Dean of the College of Business Administration and establishing the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center. Recognized for her contributions to human capital development, Dr. Alarifi holds a PHD in Management from University of London and actively researches entrepreneurship and sustainability.



Bodour Al Rayes
Human Capability Development Program

Dr. Bodour Al Rayes is the Vice President of the Human Capability Development Program (HCDP), part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. She holds a Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence from Royal Holloway, University of London, and has held various roles at King Saud University, including Co-Director of the Entrepreneurship Institute and Assistant Professor of AI. Dr. Al Rayes specializes in AI, multi-agent systems, automated negotiation, and FinTech, with a focus on decision-making in trading and economics. She has received numerous awards, including for her AI agent CONAN and her FinTech project, Saudi Money Investigator, which won first place at the Mohammed Ibrahim AlSubeaei Award for Entrepreneurs.

11:45 AM–12:00 PM

BREAK
ROOM: APEX HALL

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

CROSS-CULTURAL COMPETENCY AT MULTIPLE CAREER STAGES

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

We present strategies to engage students and later career professionals in education and training opportunities that develop important cross-cultural competencies related to public service and public affairs. We focus on the rationale, design, and real-world implementation of four very different programs designed to engage participants at a range of career stages. These include study abroad programs, global capstone experiences, international internships, internationalization of thesis and PhD committee dissertations, and executive education. Sian Mooney chairs this session.

Sian Mooney*

O'Neill School of Public
and Environmental Affairs, Indiana
University

Iara Alves

National School of Public Administration
- ENAP Brazil

Claudia Avellaneda

O'Neill School of Public
and Environmental Affairs,
Indiana University

Betânia Lemos

National School of Public Administration
- ENAP Brazil

DIGITAL INVESTMENT PLATFORMS FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 1

This session explores how digital transformation intersects with equity, governance, and economic development. Topics include barriers to e-participation, digital inequity in urban planning, and the rise of Saudi women in tech under Vision 2030. Lamia Elaagib presents Digital Investment Platforms for Economic Transformation, examining how AI, blockchain, and digital tools are enhancing foreign direct investment through initiatives like Invest Saudi 2030. Areiba Arif contributes Global Health Mobility: Governance, Policy Gaps, and Institutional Responses, analyzing how medical tourism and cross-border care expose gaps in global health policy and regulation. Drawing on global case studies, panelists consider how inclusive, tech-driven strategies can expand access, efficiency, and representation. Lamia Elaagib chairs this session..

Lamia Elaagib*

One of US foundation

Sara Bedri

UNHCR

Areiba Arif

OP Jindal Global University

12:00 PM–1:00 PM
(continued)

NAVIGATING NATURAL BOUNDARIES: ADVANCING CASE STUDY-BASED TEACHING IN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC POLICY

ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 2

Environmental public policies are inherently complex, involving multifaceted issues, diverse policy options, cross-sectoral stakeholders, and multidisciplinary issues. Natural boundaries such as water basins, coastal areas, and distinct ecosystems dictate the context and scope of policymaking. This roundtable explores the scholarly and pedagogical challenges of incorporating case-study-based teaching in public policy curricula, particularly within the realms of sustainability, energy policy, and sustainable development. Mohammad Al-Saidi chairs this session.

Mohammad Al-Saidi*
Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Laurent Lambert
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Esmat Zaidan
Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Fateh Belaïd
KAPSARC

RETHINKING PUBLIC SERVICE EDUCATION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PHILANTHROPY, AND REGIONAL RELEVANCE

ROOM: APEX BUSINESS CENTER

This session examines innovative approaches to education that prepare future leaders in the nonprofit and public sectors. Rebecca Riccio presents “Experiential Philanthropy Education: A Win for Students, Educators, Universities, and Donors”, highlighting how student-led grantmaking enhances learning and strengthens the Saudi nonprofit ecosystem. Dana Aldraye follows with “Non-Profit Leaders to Public Sector Leaders: From National Policy to Transnational Issues”, exploring how nonprofit experience equips leaders to address complex global challenges with empathy and insight. Anis Ben Brik concludes with “Teaching Monitoring and Evaluation in the MENA Region: A Comparative Analysis of Educational Programs”, advocating for regionally grounded M&E curricula that support cultural relevance, experiential learning, and professional mobility. Brian Efird chairs this session.

Brian Efird*
KAPSARC

Dana Aldraye
Misk Foundation

Moosa Abdo Ali Elayah Al-Afri
Doha institute for graduate studies

Anis Ben Brik
College of Public Policy, Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Rebecca Riccio
Social Impact Lab Northeastern University

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

LUNCH**ROOM: APEX MPH**

2:00 PM–3:00 PM

PLENARY**THE ROLE OF POLICY SCHOOLS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN ADVANCING PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT II****ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM**

In this panel, Deans and representatives of Schools of Public Policy and Research Institutes will discuss the added value of public policy schools and policy centers to their respective nations and regions. Chrysostomos Tabakis moderates this session.



Chrysostomos Tabakis*
KAPSARC School of Public Policy

Chrysostomos Tabakis is a Professor of Economics and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the KAPSARC School of Public Policy (KSPP). His research mainly focuses on international trade policy. His work has been published in leading international journals, such as the Journal of International Economics, the Journal of Comparative Economics, the Canadian Journal of Economics, and Economic Inquiry. Chrysostomos holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University.

Before joining KSPP, Chrysostomos was a Professor at the KDI School of Public Policy and Management and the Leader of its Conflict and Development Lab, an Assistant Professor at the Nova School of Business and Economics, and a visiting faculty member at the Athens University of Economics and Business and the University of Cyprus. In addition, he has been an International Faculty Fellow at the MIT Sloan School of Management and a Short-Term Consultant for the World Bank.



Ayhab Saad
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Ayhab Saad is the Dean of the School of Economics, Administration, and Public Policy at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and an Associate Professor of Economics. His research focuses on applied microeconomics, international trade, labor economics, and political economy, with a particular interest in global and regional challenges. Dr. Saad's work examines firm heterogeneity, wage inequality, and the impacts of economic sanctions. He has published in prominent journals like Labour Economics and Journal of International Trade and Economic Development. He holds a joint Ph.D. in Political Science and Economics from the University of Michigan.



Yara Mourad
American University of Beirut,
The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy
and International Affairs

Yara Mourad is the Assistant Director at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB). She also serves as the Program Manager for the Refugee Research and Policy Program at IFI, overseeing research initiatives and collaborations on refugee issues in Lebanon and the Arab region. Previously, Yara was a project manager at AUB's Department of Health Management and Policy, where she coordinated health systems strengthening projects. She holds a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics and a Master of Public Health in Health Management and Policy, both from AUB.



Angela Eikenberry
University of Connecticut
School of Public Policy

Dr. Angela M. Eikenberry is Professor and Director in the School of Public Policy (SPP) at the University of Connecticut. Her research focuses on the social, economic and political roles of philanthropy, voluntary associations, and nonprofit organizations in democratic governance. Empirical and theoretical areas of research include giving circles and collaborative giving, marketization of nonprofit organizations and philanthropy, social enterprise, democracy and social equity/justice areas related to nonprofits/philanthropy, and critical social theories.



Sian Mooney
O'Neill School of Public
and Environmental Affairs,
Indiana University, USA

Dr. Sian Mooney is the Dean of the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University and a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Her research focuses on environmental policy, climate change, and sustainable development, with expertise in greenhouse gas mitigation, nature-based climate solutions, and water resource management. Dr. Mooney has received funding from agencies like the USDA, EPA, and NSF and has served in leadership roles on various national committees, including the EPA-Clean Air Act Advisory Committee. She holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Oregon State University.



3:00 PM–3:15 PM

BREAK**ROOM: APEX HALL**

3:15 PM–4:30 PM

**DIGITAL INCLUSION AND CIVIC INNOVATION:
BRIDGING GAPS IN PARTICIPATION, EQUITY,
AND REPRESENTATION****ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 1**

This session explores how digital technologies intersect with civic engagement, urban planning, and gender inclusion. Shehab Alnasser presents “E-Participation: A Road for Openness – A Dual Perspective on Citizens’ Adoption Intentions”, examining the cognitive and behavioral drivers behind citizens’ resistance and willingness to engage with online governance platforms in Saudi Arabia. Shadin Nimery follows with “Can Kevin Lynch Framework Help Bridge the Digital Divide?”, using a Dallas-based case study to explore how urban design principles can be leveraged to create inclusive digital access in marginalized communities. Finally, Beata Polok presents “Saudi Women in Tech – Pioneers of Vision 2030 Digital Transformation”, highlighting the growing role of Saudi women in the ICT sector and the policy initiatives that have enabled their digital empowerment. Ja-Eun Shin chairs this session.

Ja-Eun Shin*KDI School of Public Policy
and Management**Shadin Nimery**University of Texas
at Arlington**Shehab Alnasser**

King Saud Univeristy

Beata Polok

Dar Al Hekma University



3:15 PM–4:30 PM
(continued)

ISSUES IN ENERGY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ROOM: APEX AUDITORIUM

This session explores the role of governance, responsiveness, and inclusivity in driving sustainable transformation. Laura Schuhn presents “Our Voice Matters! An Inventory of the State of Responsiveness of the Saudi Government in the Realm of Sustainability”, examining stakeholder influence under Vision 2030. Talal Al-Masaabi and Rafael Leal-Arcas follow with “Global Clean Energy Status and Challenges: Policies, Frameworks, and Initiatives for the Green Transition”, analyzing global renewable energy trends and the impact of political systems on energy deployment. Laila Elmoshneb adds a critical perspective with “Bridging the Gender-Climate Nexus: Towards Inclusive Governance”, highlighting how gender-responsive policies and collaborative governance can create more equitable and effective climate action. Leila N. Dagher chairs this session.

Leila N. Dagher*
Lebanese American University

Anna Laura Petrucci
Mimaria Architecture Consultant

Talal Al-Masaabi
KAPSARC School of Public Policy

Laura Schuhn
Friedrich-Alexander University
Erlangen-Nuremberg

Rafael Leal-Arcas
KAPSARC School of Public Policy

Laila Elmoshneb
Independant Consultant

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION: AI, ANALYTICS, AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN LEARNING SYSTEMS

ROOM: APEX SEMINAR ROOM 2

This session explores the evolving landscape of education through the lenses of digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and data-driven policy. Safa Cherkaoui presents “Reinventing Education: Challenges and Opportunities of Integrating Digital Transformation”, examining how curricula and teacher training must evolve to meet digital era demands. Amal Alothman follows with “International Cooperation in Education and Human Development: A Descriptive Analysis of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Saudi Arabia”, analyzing faculty perceptions of AI’s impact on critical thinking and educational equity. Ahmed Al Khateeb concludes with “Learning Analytics in Evidence-Based Policy Making in Educational Environments”, proposing a framework to harness learning analytics for more responsive and personalized educational planning in line with Vision 2030. Aziza Zemrani chairs this session.

Aziza Zemrani*
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Ahmed Al Khateeb
King Faisal University

Amel Alothman
Najran University

Leila El Asri
Abdelmalek Essaadi University

Safa Cherkaoui
Faculty of Educational Sciences



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