



GLMM Webinar No. 3

Wednesday 17 January 2024

1pm - 2:30pm CET

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Title

Gulf-born, second and third generation foreign residents: a resource for Gulf states' development process.

Subtopics

Identity, Duration of Stay, Second Generation, Education, Migration policy, Labour policy, Future of migration.

Speakers

- Nasra M. Shah, Scientific Director of GLMM, Professor of Migration and Development, Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan
- Neha Vora, Professor of Anthropology, American University of Sharjah, UAE
- Gennaro Errichiello, SOAS University of London, UK
- Musaab Alkhatib, Research Associate at the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute, Qatar University, Qatar
- Areej Jamal, University College London, Social Research Institute, UK
- Nadeen Dakkak, Lecturer in World and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Exeter, UK

Moderator

- Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research, Gulf Research Center

Registration

Registration form: https://grc-net.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iKV1FkYAT8KH7EQWum5Nrw

Questions

1. What is the socio-demographic and educational profile of Gulf-born, second and third generation foreign residents?
2. What are their specific skills and competences?
3. How could existing policies be adapted, in order to better channel the potential of these residents to Gulf states' socio-economic development process?

Abstract

Gulf-born, second and third generation offsprings of migrants remain foreign citizens in Gulf states and are not able to gain the right for citizenship or permanent settlement. Yet, field studies conducted on these populations emphasize their sense of belonging to the country they were born and raised in. Many of them also pursue higher education in the region, while their transnational upbringing grants them specific competences (languages spoken, cultural adaptability and familiarity with Gulf countries' social norms, etc.). However, the characteristics of these populations are little known. The webinar will contribute to bridging this gap. It will evaluate the socio-demographic and educational profile of second and third generation foreign residents, analyse policies applied to them in the six GCC countries, discuss the role they could play in GCC states' labour and economic reforms, and reflect on possible ways to secure the future of these populations in the region.

Description

Migration to the six GCC countries is mostly linked to employment, and foreigners' sojourn is not meant to exceed the duration of their labour contract, i.e., be permanent or even long-term. Labelled temporary guests (*wafidîn*); "residents" (*muqimûn*), or "non-nationals", migrants are submitted to the legal framework of the sponsorship (*kafala*). Because it could imply long-term settlement, only a fraction of them has a right to bring their family members to stay with them on family residence permits (family reunion). However, it appears that long-term migrants do exist. Some stayed in Gulf states for several decades and even established themselves for generations. According to data only available for Kuwait, 20 percent of the foreign residents recorded during census 2021 were born in the country. Kuwait-born foreign residents made up 21 percent of all (Kuwaiti and foreign citizens) the "youth" (population aged 15-24 years), which is indicative of the scale of the phenomenon.

Second and third generation offsprings of migrants remain foreign citizens in Gulf states and are not able to gain the right for citizenship or permanent settlement. Yet, as documented in all field studies conducted on these populations, their sense of belonging to the country they were born and raised in, is stronger than the bonds they have in their countries of citizenship. Many Gulf-born foreign citizens also pursue higher education in the region, while their transnational upbringing grants them specific competences (languages spoken, cultural adaptability and familiarity with Gulf countries' social norms, etc.).

Beyond such glimpses offered on these populations by several small-scale studies, a global knowledge about Gulf-born, second and third generation foreign residents, their numbers, their socio-demographic, educational and other characteristics, is missing. Moreover, as all Gulf states are now engaged in very ambitious, post-oil economic reform and aim to develop knowledge-based economies, the potential input of Gulf-born and Gulf-educated foreign youth to this process should be accurately measured. Additionally, how could this potential be better attracted and channeled to enhance Gulf states' ambitious development processes?

The webinar will seek to share participants' knowledge about second and third generation foreign residents, reflect about untapped sources of information on this populations, and analyse policies applied to them in the six GCC countries. It will evaluate their socio-demographic and educational profile, discuss the potential role they could play in GCC states' labour and economic reforms, and reflect on possible ways to secure the future of these populations in the region.

Organisation

The webinar is organized by the Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) programme: <https://gulfmigration.grc.net>.

For the previous GLMM webinar: <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/events/>.

GLMM uses the GRC webinar platform: <https://webinars.grc.net>.

GLMM Mission

An international independent, non-partisan, non-profit programme hosted and supported by the Gulf Research Center. The programme provides data, analyses, and recommendations contributing to the improvement of understanding and management of Gulf labour migration, population, and labour markets, engaging with, and respecting the viewpoints of all stakeholders.

GLMM Activities

Gathering, analysing and elaborating data and documents; Researching and analysing key issues; Publishing various types of papers and books; Organizing panels, workshops, and webinars; Disseminating research results to agencies that are working on labour migration and population issues and rights.

GLMM Publications

GLMM publishes factsheets, policy briefs, explanatory notes, research papers, special issues of journals, and edited volumes - <https://gulfmigration.grc.net/publications/>.

GLMM Data

GLMM has developed a database that relies, first and foremost, on the national data and documents of the GCC countries. It aims at collecting, to the extent possible, data and documents relevant for the understanding of labour markets, migration, and populations in these countries. It assesses the quality of the data and makes them available to users in a user-friendly format. It contains more than 1,000 tables published over the past ten plus years:

<https://gulfmigration.grc.net/glmm-database/demographic-and-economic-module/>.

Audience

GCC data producers; GCC policy makers; Experts from regional and international organisations; Researchers from academia and think tanks; Staff of advocacy organisations; and Journalists. Every participant will be able to ask questions by voice and via chat. Access is managed by the organisers.

Languages

Arabic and English

Recording

Webinars are recorded to assure accurate reporting. The recording will not be distributed.

Summary

A short summary of the webinar will be made in English without attributing statements to anyone.