

# The Yemen Exchange

An Intensive Online  
Course on Yemen



Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies  
and The Exchange Foundation

THE EXCHANGE  
FOUNDATION  
POLITICS DIRECTLY



The Eighth Yemen Exchange is an intensive online version of the Yemen Exchange organized by the Sana'a Center and The Exchange Foundation. The course is designed to provide unique access to information, perspectives, updates and analysis on Yemen for both those seeking to develop a working background on the country as well as those already thoroughly versed in its dynamics. During the ten-day program conducted online, participants from around the world will listen to Yemeni analysts, academics, politicians, bureaucrats, business leaders and international experts to gain insight and rare first-hand knowledge about the country from a wide range of perspectives. Participants will have the chance to both virtually engage with speakers during the sessions and connect with speakers individually after the Exchange.

The sessions themselves – totaling more than 30 hours – will dive into several specific areas, including but not limited to: Yemen's multifaceted conflicts, socio-political dynamics, internal divisions and alliances among parties to the conflict, developments in the southern governorates and the Red Sea, military and political developments on the ground, the status of various armed groups, gender issues, the Yemeni diaspora, the regional battle for Yemen, the humanitarian response, the state of the economy, the UN-led peace process and a variety of other topics.

*Accepted applicants will be provided with a reading list, an agenda and details on how to access the course prior its start.*

The Yemen Exchange

## Participation Fees

**1500** \$

For governments & for-profit companies

**1000** \$

For NGOs, non-profit, & UN organizations

**500** \$

For freelance journalists, unaffiliated researchers & academics

**Free**

The Yemen Exchange offers five scholarships ([Exchange Details below](#))

[Apply Here](#)

For questions about the Exchange:  
[exchange@sanaacenter.org](mailto:exchange@sanaacenter.org)

**February 28 - March 11, 2022**

Application deadline:  
February 6, 2022

Applications will be processed  
on a rolling basis

# The Yemen Exchange Agenda




Optional Day:

# Sunday, February 27

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
18:00 - 21:00 Sana'a 10:00 - 13:00 EST Yemen for Beginners	Sana'a Center researchers






Day One:

# Monday, February 28

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
16:00 - 17:45 Sana'a 08:00 - 09:45 EST  Welcome, introduction and course rules	The Exchange team	
18:00 - 19:30 Sana'a 10:00 - 11:30 EST  Who is fighting whom, where, and why?  Via maps and other visuals, this session will be a deep dive into political alliances, divisions and conflicts within Yemen. Analysts will elaborate on current front-lines, armed groups and local and regional actors as well as other stakeholders and unexplored roots of the war. The panel will be further refined based on the input and needs of accepted participants.		<b>Maged Al-Madhaji</b>  Co-founder and executive director of the Sana'a Center and regular commentator on Yemen for Arabic media.
		<b>Abdulghani Al-Iryani</b>  Senior researcher at the Sana'a Center. Prior to joining the Sana'a Center, Al-Iryani was a political and development advisor for many INGOs and international organizations in Yemen, including the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, UNDP and the World Bank.
		<b>Ghaidaa Al-Rashidy</b>  Researcher and Visual Data Specialist at the Sana'a Center



Day Two:

# Tuesday, March 1

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
16:00 - 17:00 Sana'a 08:00 - 09:00 EST  The Houthis from an academic perspective		<u>Maysaa Shujaa al-Deen</u> Senior researcher at the Sana'a Center, where her research focuses on religious sectarianism and political transformation and Yemen's geopolitical role in the region.
		<u>Emanuel Schaeublin</u> Anthropologist working for the Mediation Support Team at the Center for Security Studies (ETH Zurich) and member of the Sana'a Center Geneva Association. Facilitator
17:15 - 18:15 Sana'a 09:15 - 10:15 EST  The Salafis from an academic perspective		<u>Laurent Bonnefoy</u> Research fellow at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and author of Salafism in Yemen: Transnationalism and Religious Identity, London: Hurst, 2011.
		<u>Amjad Khoshafa</u> A journalist and researcher focusing on Salafist groups in Yemen.
		<u>Abubakr al-Shamahi</u> researcher and deputy chief editor at the Sana'a Center. Facilitator

Day Two:



# Tuesday, March 1

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
18:30 - 19:30 Sana'a 10:30 - 11:30 EST <b>AQAP &amp; the Islamic State in Yemen</b> Using maps and other visuals, this session will cover the status and activities of non-state armed groups currently active in Yemen's civil war, including Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIS, and their role in post-war Yemen as well as foreign counterterrorism operations inside Yemen.		<b>Elisabeth Kendall</b> Senior Research Fellow in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Pembroke College, Oxford University, and member of the Sana'a Center's Advisory Board
		<b>Yemeni Researcher</b> A Yemeni journalist and researcher specializing in Al-Qaeda in Yemen
		<b>Yasmeen al-Eryani</b> Director of Research at the Sana'a Center and a Ph.D. candidate in Social Anthropology at Tampere University. Facilitator









Day Three:

## Wednesday, March 2

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
16:00 - 17:00 Sana'a 08:00 - 09:00 EST <b>Status and reserves of the Yemeni rial</b>	 <b>Mansour Rageh</b> Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen.
	 <b>Osamah al-Rawhani</b> Deputy Executive Director of the Sana'a Center and expert in the field of peace and conflict resolution. Facilitator
17:15 - 18:15 Sana'a 09:15 - 10:15 EST <b>The state of the economy</b> This session will examine current and post-war challenges facing Yemen's economy, analyze how this war is in many ways an economic one, and introduce possible economic frameworks for post-war Yemen.	<b>The Sana'a Center economists</b>






Day Four:

## Thursday, March 3

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
16:00 - 16:45 Sana'a 08:00 - 08:45 EST Yemen's Power Sector.		<b>Rafat al-Akhal</b> Fellow at Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government and former minister of youth and sports in Yemen.
		<b>Magnus Fitz</b> Researcher and project officer at the Sana'a Center. Facilitator
17:00 - 18:00 Sana'a 09:00 - 10:00 EST Yemen's petroleum company		<b>Ammar al-Aulaqi</b> Executive General Manager of Yemen Petroleum Company.
		<b>Holly Topham</b> program manager at the Sana'a Center. Facilitator
18:15 - 19:15 Sana'a 10:15 - 11:15 EST Yemen's natural resources		<b>Ismail al-Janad</b> Former Chairman of the Public Authority for Geological Survey and Mineral Wealth.
		<b>Feryal al-Naseem</b> Sana'a Center program manager. Facilitator




Day Five:

# Friday, March 4

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
16:00 - 17:00 Sana'a 08:00 - 09:00 EST Yemeni diaspora perspectives		<b>Zaid Nagi</b> Community organizer and vice president of the Yemeni American Merchants Association.
		<b>Baligh al-Mekhlafi</b> Yemeni diplomat to Cairo.
		<b>Solenn al-Majali</b> Non-resident fellow at the Sana'a Center, focusing on the Yemeni diaspora. Facilitator
17:15 - 18:15 Sana'a 09:15 - 10:15 EST Humanitarian aid in Yemen		<b>Sarah Vuylsteke</b> Researcher and former Access Coordinator for the World Food Programme. She recently authored the Sana'a Center report series "When Aid Goes Awry."
		<b>Tbd.</b>
		<b>Nawal al-Maghafi</b> BBC correspondent and award-winning filmmaker. Facilitator



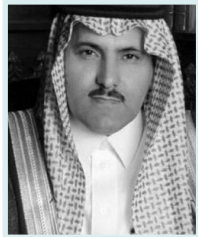

Day Five:

# Friday, March 4

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
18:15 - 19:00 Sana'a		<u>Helen Lackner</u>
10:15 - 11:00 EST		Research associate at SOAS University of London and visiting fellow at the European Council for Foreign Relations.
Water and qat		
		<u>Musaed Aklan</u>
		Civil engineer and scientific researcher on water and the environment.
		<u>Hadil al-Mowafak</u>
		Research Fellow at the Yemen Policy Center.
		Facilitator




Day Six:

# Monday, March 7

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
16:00 - 17:00 Sana'a 08:00 - 09:00 EST UAE policy in Yemen		<b><u>Ebtesam al-Ketbi</u></b> President and founder of the Emirates Policy Center.
		<b><u>Thuraya Dammaj</u></b> Journalist, prominent activist and founder and editor-in-chief of the Future Media Foundation. Facilitator
17:00 - 18:00 Sana'a 09:00 - 10:00 EST Saudi policy in Yemen		<b><u>Mohamed al-Jaber</u></b> Saudi Ambassador to Yemen.
		<b><u>Jamila Ali Rajaa</u></b> Chair of the Sana'a Center advisory board. She is a former Yemeni diplomat and has worked as an ambassador, senior analyst, lecturer and policy consultant for the UN and European foreign agencies. Facilitator




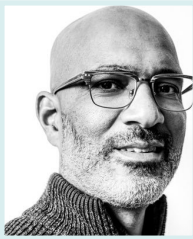

Day Six:

# Monday, March 7

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
18:15 - 19:30 Sana'a 10:15 - 11:30 EST  The regional fight for Yemen		<b>Mustapha Noman</b> Former Yemeni diplomat who served as an ambassador in several countries and as Deputy Foreign Minister.
		<b>Thomas Juneau</b> Non-resident fellow at the Sana'a Center and assistant professor at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa, focusing on Iran and Yemen.
		<b>Sama'a al-Hamdani</b> Non-resident fellow at the Middle East Institute and analyst for several Arab and Western media outlets and think tanks, focusing on political dynamics in Yemen.  Facilitator





Day Seven:

## Tuesday, March 8

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
16:00 - 17:15 Sana'a 08:00 - 09:15 EST The UN-led peace process	<p><u>Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen (OSESFY)</u></p>  <p><u>Waleed al-Hariri</u> Director of the Sana'a Center's US office and fellow-in-residence at Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute. Facilitator</p>
17:30 - 18:45 Sana'a 09:30 - 10:45 EST Yemen and the EU	 <p><u>EU Ambassador to Yemen</u></p>  <p><u>Jean-Marie Safa</u> French Ambassador to Yemen.</p>  <p><u>Peter Derrek Hof</u> Dutch Ambassador to Yemen.</p>  <p><u>Shams Shamsan</u> Project manager at the Sana'a Center. Facilitator</p>

Day Eight:

# Wednesday, March 9

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
16:00 - 17:00 Sana'a 08:00 - 09:00 EST Developments in Shabwa	Sana'a Center researchers	
17:15 - 18:15 Sana'a 09:15 - 10:15 EST Update on Aden		<b>Hussam Radman</b> Sana'a Center researcher and office director in Aden, where he focuses on southern politics and armed groups.
		<b>Ghaidaa al-Rashidy</b> Researcher and Visual Data Specialist at the Sana'a Center Facilitator
18:15 - 19:15 Sana'a 10:15 - 11:15 EST Local and tribal politics in Mahra and Socotra		<b>Ahmed Nagi</b> Non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center.
		<b>Casey Coombs</b> Researcher at the Sana'a Center and independent journalist. He was based in Yemen between 2012 and 2015. Facilitator







Day Nine:

# Thursday, March 10

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
16:00 - 19:15 Sana'a	Tbd.
08:00 - 11:15 EST	
Political representatives day	
	Tbd.
	Facilitator




Day Ten:

# Friday, March 11

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
16:00 - 17:00 Sana'a 08:00 - 09:00 EST  The role of tribal women in mediating conflict		<b>Rim Mugahed</b> Sana'a Center researcher and project manager, focusing on tribes and political parties.
		<b>Ahmed al-Arami</b> Researcher at the Sana'a Center and executive director of the Arabia Felix Center for Studies.
		<b>Mohammed al-Kathiri</b> President of the Yemeni Peace and Building Foundation.
		<b>Bilqees al-Lahabi</b> Researcher at the Sana'a Center, focusing on political and social developments in Yemen. Al-Lahbi has more than 15 years' experience in research, civil society, development and project management.

Day Ten:

# Friday, March 11

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator	
17:15 - 18:15 Sana'a 09:15 - 10:15 EST The current state of Yemen's tribes		<u>Sheikh Hussein al-Awadhi</u> Tribal sheikh and former governor of al-Jawf.
		<u>Nabil Al-Basha</u> Tribal sheikh and member of Parliament.
		<u>Nadwa al-Dawsari</u> conflict analyst and non-resident scholar at the Middle East Institute, focusing on Yemen's tribes. Facilitator
16:00 - 19:15 Sana'a 08:00 - 11:15 EST Evaluation and Q&A day	<u>Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies</u>	

# The Yemen Exchange Details

All costs related to The Yemen Exchange are funded by participant fees, except for scholarships provided by both organizations (see below). There is no supplementary government or private sector support, a fact that allows us to assure participants of a relatively neutral platform for the exchange of information, open dialogue and understanding.

All sessions are held under the Chatham House Rule, with some sessions consisting of only one speaker in order to assure as open and unfiltered a discussion as possible in the context of sensitive topics. Simultaneous translation to English and Arabic will be provided.

Prior to the beginning of the course, accepted participants will receive a course syllabus and the final agenda. Throughout the course, necessary agenda updates will be communicated with the participants on a daily basis. Those interested will also be connected with the experts and speakers to follow up with them for their own work and research, subject to the latter's approval.

Applying for a scholarship – The Yemen Exchange currently has five scholarships (covering the conference fee) available for researchers who will deepen the social, political and geographic diversity of the Exchange and who can demonstrate both a lack of institutional or self-funding ability and a deep interest in Yemen. For any questions related to scholarships or to request an application with more information, email [exchange@sanaacenter.org](mailto:exchange@sanaacenter.org).

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