

The Yemen Exchange: An Intensive Online Course on Yemen

April 19-30, 2021

*Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies
& The Exchange Foundation*

THE EXCHANGE
FOUNDATION
POLITCS DIRECTLY



The Seventh Yemen Exchange

is an intensive online version of the Yemen Exchange organized by the Sana'a Center and The Exchange Foundation since 2017.

The course is designed to provide unique access to information, perspectives, updates and analyses on Yemen for those seeking to develop a working background knowledge of the country as well as those already thoroughly versed in its dynamics.

The 10-day program will be conducted via Zoom Monday to Friday, starting at 16:00 Sana'a time/09:00 EST each day. Participants from around the world will attend sessions with Yemeni analysts, academics, politicians, bureaucrats, business leaders and international experts, gaining insight into the country from a wider range of perspectives.

Participants will have the chance both to virtually engage with speakers during the sessions and to connect with them individually after the Exchange.

The sessions – totaling more than 30 hours – will dive into several specific areas, including but not limited to:

Yemen's multifaceted conflicts; the country's socio-political dynamics; internal divisions and alliances among parties to the conflict; the possibility of southern secession; military and political developments on the ground; the status of various armed groups; the regional battle for Yemen; the humanitarian and economic crisis in the country; the UN-led peace process; and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Request an application form via:
exchange@sanaacenter.org

Application deadline

March 28, 2021

Applications will be processed
on a rolling basis

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

Free for the recipients
of five available
scholarships
([Exchange Details below](#))

The Yemen Exchange Agenda

Optional Orientation Day

Sunday, April 18

Time / Topic

Speaker / Facilitator

16:00 - 17:00 Sana'a
09:00 - 10:00 EST

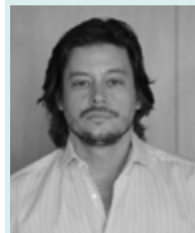
Welcome & introductions

In this first optional session, participants will be welcomed by the organizers and have a chance to introduce themselves.



Victoria Sauer

Program Manager of the Yemen Exchange



Nicholas Noe

Director of The Foundation for Global Political Exchange Inc.

17:15 - 18:30 Sana'a
10:15 - 11:30 EST

Yemen for beginners

This session is designed to provide basic frameworks for understanding the country's history as well as its current situation.

Sana'a Center experts

Monday, April 19

Time / Topic

Speaker / Facilitator

16:00 - 17:00 Sana'a

09:00 - 10:00 EST

Introduction and course rules



Farea Al-Muslimi

Co-founder and Chairman of the Sana'a Center; Associate Fellow at Chatham House



Osamah Al-Rawhani

Deputy Executive Director of the Sana'a Center

17:15 - 19:00 Sana'a

10:15 - 12:00 EST

The current fighting: who, where, and why?

Via maps and other visuals, this session will offer a deep dive into political alliances, divisions and conflicts in Yemen.

Analysts will elaborate on current frontlines; armed groups and local and regional actors, as well as other stakeholders; and the roots of the war.

The panel will be further refined based on the input and needs of accepted participants.



Maged Al-Madhaji

Co-founder and Executive Director of the Sana'a Center



Abdulghani Al-Iryani

Senior Researcher at the Sana'a Center



Ghaidaa Al-Rashidy

Researcher and Visual Data Specialist at the Sana'a Center

Tuesday, April 20

Time / Topic

Speaker / Facilitator

16:00 - 17:15 Sana'a

09:00 - 10:15 EST

The Houthi movement and Salafis from an academic perspective



Maysaa Shujaa Al-Deen

Non-Resident Fellow at the Sana'a Center, where her research focuses on religious sectarianism, political transformation and Yemen's geopolitical role in the region.



Laurent Bonnefoy

Research Fellow at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and author of *Salafism in Yemen: Transnationalism and Religious Identity*, (London: Hurst, 2011).



Luca Nevola

Middle East senior researcher at ACLED and postdoctoral research associate at the University of Sussex. Between 2009 and 2013, Nevola conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Yemen.



Emanuel Schaeublin

Anthropologist for the Mediation Support Team at the Center for Security Studies (ETH Zurich) and member of the Sanaa Center Geneva Association.

Facilitator

Tuesday, April 20

Time / Topic

17:30 - 18:45 Sana'a

10:30 - 11:45 EST

Armed groups

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 AQAP and IS, and their role in post-war Yemen, as well as foreign counterterrorism operations inside Yemen.

Speaker / Facilitator



Elisabeth Kendall

Senior Research Fellow in Arabic and Islamic studies at Pembroke College, Oxford University, with significant field work experience in Yemen.



Peter Salisbury

Senior Yemen analyst at International Crisis Group and a former journalist.



Mohammed Al-Basha

Communications and Client Engagement Manager and Yemen expert at the Navanti Group, and former spokesman for the Embassy of Yemen in Washington, D.C.



Sama'a Al-Hamdani

director of the Yemen Cultural Institute for Heritage & the Arts, former non-resident fellow at the Middle East Institute and Georgetown University.

Facilitator

Wednesday, April 21

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
<p>16:00 - 17:15 Sana'a 09:00 - 10:15 EST Status of the economy and the Yemeni rial</p>	<p>Sana'a Center economists</p>
<p>17:30 - 18:45 Sana'a 10:30 - 11:45 EST War and the private sector</p> <p>This session will examine current and post-war challenges facing Yemen's economy, analyze how this war is – essentially – an economic struggle, and introduce possible economic frameworks for post-war Yemen.</p>	 <p>Mazen Aman Advisor to HSA Yemen Managing Director. Member of Economic Reform Team and member of Development Champions Forum.</p>
	 <p>Najat Juman Head of the businesswomen sector at the Yemen Chamber of Commerce, professor of Finance at Sana'a University, and a member of the NDC.</p>
	 <p>Omar Al-Aqel Expert on Yemen's economy and development issues.</p>
	 <p>Rafat Al-Akhali Former Yemeni Minister of Youth and Sports and Co-founder of DeepRoot Consulting.</p> <p>Facilitator</p>

Thursday, April 22

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
16:00 - 17:15 Sana'a 09:00 - 10:15 EST The role of tribal women in mediating conflict	 <p>Najwa Adra Senior researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, focusing on tribes in Yemen.</p>
	 <p>Ahmed Al-Arami Non-Resident Fellow at the Sana'a Center, focusing on social, political and cultural developments in Yemen, as well as relations between Islamist groups and Yemeni tribes.</p>
	 <p>Rim Mugahed Sana'a Center Researcher and Project Manager, focusing on Yemeni tribes and political parties. Facilitator</p>
17:30 - 18:45 Sana'a 10:30 - 11:45 EST Yemen's water and natural resources	 <p>Ismail Al-Janad Former Chairman of Yemen's Public Authority for Geological Survey and Mineral Wealth.</p>
	 <p>Helen Lackner Research Associate at SOAS University of London and visiting fellow at the European Council for Foreign Relations.</p>
	 <p>Juliane Schillinger PhD candidate at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. Her research focuses on the impacts of armed conflict on local water management in the Middle East. Facilitator</p>

Time / Topic

Speaker / Facilitator

16:00 - 17:15 Sana'a
09:00 - 10:15 EST

The government perspective



Maeen Abduel Malek Saeed

Prime Minister of Yemen



Maged Al-Madhaji

Co-founder and Executive Director of the Sana'a Center

Facilitator

17:30 - 18:45 Sana'a
10:30 - 11:45 EST

Yemen at the UN Security Council



Gregory D. Johnsen

Non-Resident Fellow at the Sana'a Center, focusing on armed groups in Yemen; former member of the Panel of Experts of the UN Security Council on Yemen.



Benjamin Villanti

Policy Analyst at Security Council Report covering a variety of countries and issues, including Yemen.



Dr. Hamid Al-Awadhi

Former Yemeni deputy minister of foreign affairs.



Jamila Ali Rajaa

Chair of the Sana'a Center advisory board. She is a former Yemeni diplomat and a senior analyst, lecturer and policy consultant, including for the UN and several European foreign agencies.

Facilitator

Day Five

Friday, April 23

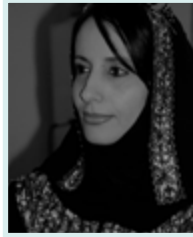
Time / Topic

Speaker / Facilitator

19:00 - 20:00 Sana'a

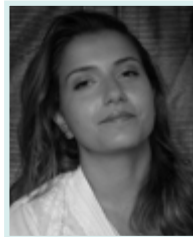
12:00 - 13:00 EST

Yemen's art world: past, present, and future



Dr. Amnah Al Nasiri

Philosophy and Aesthetics
Professor at Sana'a University
and a painter



Alia Ali

Yemeni-Bosnian-American
multi-media artist and activist








Mazen Al-Saqqaf

YouTube content creator and a social
media influencer.

Facilitator

Co-organized with The Yemen Cultural Institute For Heritage & The Arts


Monday, April 26

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
<p>15:00 - 16:00 Sana'a 08:00 - 09:00 EST</p> <p>Lessons from Somaliland for international peace-building in Yemen</p>	 <p>Sarah Phillips Non-Resident Fellow and Director of the Research Training and Academic Mentoring program at the Sana'a Center</p>
<p>16:15 - 17:30 Sana'a 09:15 - 10:30 EST</p> <p>The regional fight for Yemen</p> <p>This panel will analyze the role of key regional actors with a stake in the geopolitical fight for Yemen, examining the policies and interests of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and Qatar.</p>	 <p>Ryan Bailey Editor and Researcher at the Sana'a Center</p> <p>Facilitator</p>
	 <p>Thomas Juneau Non-Resident Fellow at the Sana'a Center; Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa, focusing on Iran and Yemen.</p>
	 <p>Mustapha Noman Former Yemeni diplomat and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen</p>
	 <p>Amat Al Alim Alsoswa Former Yemeni Minister for Human Rights; Ambassador to the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark, UN assistant secretary-general, UNDP assistant administrator and director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States.</p> <p>Facilitator</p>





Monday, April 26

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
17:45 - 19:00 Sana'a 10:45 - 12:00 EST Yemeni diaspora	 <p>Solenn Al-Majali Non-Resident Fellow at the Sana'a Center, focusing on the Yemeni diaspora.</p>
	 <p>Qabool Alabsi Director of Qarar Foundation for Media and Sustainable Development and a researcher focusing on the Yemeni diaspora in Egypt.</p>
	 <p>Nadim Houry Executive Director of the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI). Facilitator</p>

Tuesday, April 27

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
16:00 - 17:15 Sana'a 09:00 - 10:15 EST Zoom into the south: Shabwa, Aden and Hadramawt	 <p>Ammar Al-Aulaqi Yemeni government official and political analyst.</p>
	 <p>Hussam Radman Researcher and Director of the Sana'a Center Aden office. He focuses on southern politics and armed groups.</p>
	<p>TBD</p>
	 <p>Ghaidaa Al-Rashidy Researcher and Visual Data Specialist at the Sana'a Center</p>
	<p>Facilitator</p>
17:30 - 18:45 Sana'a 10:30 - 11:45 EST Local and tribal politics in Al-Mahra and Socotra	 <p>Ahmed Nagi Non-Resident Scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center</p>
	 <p>Casey Coombs Researcher at the Sana'a Center; he was based in Yemen between 2012 and 2015</p>
	<p>Facilitator</p>

Wednesday, April 28

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
16:00 - 17:15 Sana'a 09:00 - 10:15 EST Minorities and marginalized communities in Yemen	Yemeni researchers  Yasmeen al-Eryani Director of Research at the Sana'a Center and a PhD candidate in social anthropology Facilitator
17:30 - 18:45 Sana'a 10:30 - 11:45 EST The current state of Yemen's tribes	 Sheikh Hussein Al-Awadhi Tribal sheikh and former governor of Al-Jawf
	 Bilqees Al-Lahbi Researcher at the Sana'a Center, focusing on political and social developments in Yemen
	 Nadwa Al-Dawsri Conflict analyst and non-resident scholar at Middle East Institute, focusing on Yemen's tribes. Facilitator

Thursday, April 29

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
16:00 - 17:15 Sana'a 09:00 - 10:15 EST Yemen's civil society	 Ayoob Al-Qasmi Co-founder and Director of Improve Your Society Organization in Taiz
	 Shroq Alramadi Social and cultural entrepreneur; Founder of Takween Cultural Club and Researcher at Yemen Polling Center
	 Awfa Al-Nami Saferworld Yemen country representative
	 Aisha Jamal Program Manager at the Sana'a Center of the Yemen Peace Forum initiative Facilitator
	 Hans Grundberg EU Ambassador to Yemen.
17:30 - 18:45 Sana'a 10:30 - 11:45 EST Role of the International Community	 Michael Aron UK Ambassador to Yemen.
	 Shams Shamsan Researcher at the Sana'a Center and Graduate Student in Global Political Economy at Glasgow University. Facilitator

Friday, April 30

Time / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
16:00 - 17:00 Sana'a 09:00 - 10:00 EST Developments on the Red Sea frontline	 Hamed Ghaleb Office Director of General Tareq Saleh
	 Maged Al-Madhaji Co-founder and Executive Director of the Sana'a Center Facilitator
17:15 - 18:15 Sana'a 10:15 - 11:15 EST The UN peace process	 Martin Griffiths Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen.
	 Osamah Al-Rawhani Deputy Executive Director of the Sana'a Center Facilitator
18:15 - 19:00 Sana'a 11:15 - 12:00 EST Evaluation and Q&A	Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies

The Yemen Exchange Details

All costs related to the Yemen Exchange are funded by participant fees. There is no supplementary government or private-sector support, a fact that allows us to assure participants of a relatively neutral platform for the free exchange of information and open dialogue.

All sessions are held under the Chatham House Rule (and are therefore not recorded). Some sessions host only one speaker in order to assure as open and unfiltered a discussion as possible on very sensitive topics. Simultaneous translation to English will be provided in the case of non-English presentations.

Prior to the beginning of the course, accepted participants will receive a course reading list and final agenda. Throughout the ten days of the course, necessary agenda updates will be communicated with participants. Those interested will also be connected with the speakers, enabling them to follow up with these experts for their own work and research.

Applying for a scholarship: The Yemen Exchange currently has five scholarships (covering the participation fee) available for researchers who will deepen the social, political and geographic diversity of the Exchange and who can demonstrate both financial need and a deep interest in Yemen. For any questions related to scholarships or to request an application with more information, email: exchange@sanaacenter.org.

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