

the exchange



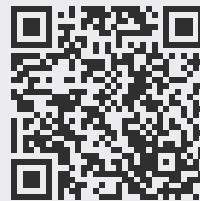
2020

The Yemen Exchange

An Intensive Online Course on Yemen

May 11 - 15

Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies
The Exchange Foundation



www.sanaacenter.org



The Fifth Yemen Exchange

Is an abbreviated 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 five-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 a rare first-hand knowledge about the country from a wide range of perspectives.

Participants will have the chance to virtually engage with speakers both

during the sessions and connect with speakers they wish to engage individually after the Exchange.

The sessions themselves – totaling more than 25 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, 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, the potential impacts of the coronavirus as well as a variety of other topics.

Accepted applicants will be provided with the full list of speakers as well as details on how to securely access the course prior its start.

Request an application form via:
exchange@sanaacenter.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

May 4th, 2020

Applicants will be processed on a rolling basis



EXCHANGE AGENDA



Day One

Monday, May 11

14:00 - 14:30 Sana'a
07:00 - 07:30 EST

Introduction & course rules



FAREA AL-MUSLIMI

Chairman of the Sana'a Center and associate fellow at Chatham House.

14:45 - 16:45 Sana'a
07:45 - 09:45 EST

Who is fighting whom, where, and why?

This session will be a deep dive into political alliances, divisions and conflicts within Yemen. Analysts will elaborate on current frontlines, 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.



MAGED AL-MADHAJI

Co-founder and executive director of the Sana'a Center and regular commentator on Yemen for Arabic media.



ABDULGHANI AL-IRYANI

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.



JAMILA ALI RAJAA

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



17:00 - 19:00 Sana'a
10:00 - 12:00 EST

The war visualized

In this session visual data specialists will explain Yemen's conflict(s) with 30 maps, notably illustrating frontlines and networks of political elites in Yemen.



GHAIDAA AL-RASHIDY

Researcher and visual data specialist at the Sana'a Center.



ANDREA CARBONI

Research analyst at ACLED and PhD candidate in geography at the University of Sussex, focusing on political elites in the MENA region.



WALEED ALHARIRI

Director of the US office for the Sana'a Center and fellow at the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute.

Facilitator

Day Two

Tuesday, May 12

14:00 - 16:00 Sana'a
07:00 - 09:00 EST

Economic developments

This session will examine current and post-war challenges facing Yemen's economy. It will focus on the impacts of war, the coronavirus pandemic and aid cuts on Yemen's economic and humanitarian situation. Speakers will also explore the role of the war economy in preserving the status quo.



AMAL NASSER

Economist at the Sana'a Center.



ANTHONY BISWELL

Economic analyst at the Sana'a Center.



RAFAT AL-AKHALI

Former Yemeni Minister of Youth and Sports and co-founding Partner at DeepRoot Consulting.



OSAMAH AL-RAWHANI

Deputy executive director at the Sana'a Center.

Facilitator



16:15 - 17:30 Sana'a
09:15 - 10:30 EST

Impacts of the war on gender

This session will explore how women, girls, men and boys have experienced the conflict differently, and how conflict is reshaping gender norms in Yemen.



YASMEEN AL-ERYANI

Non-resident fellow at the Sana'a Center, focusing on educational issues, and a PhD candidate in social anthropology at Tampere University in Finland.



HANNAH PATCHETT

Editor at the Sana'a Center and co-author of the Center's report on the gendered impact of the war.



SHAMS SHAMSAN

Researcher at the Sana'a Center and co-author of the Center's report on the gendered impact of the war.



NADIM HOURY

Executive director of the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI).

Facilitator



17:45 - 19:00 Sana'a
10:45 - 12:00 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 ISIS, and their role in post-war Yemen as well as foreign counterterrorism operations inside Yemen.



GREGORY JOHNSON

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



MOHAMMED AL-BASHA

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



PETER SALISBURY

Senior Yemen analyst at Crisis Group, associate fellow at Chatham House and a former journalist.



HOLLY TOPHAM

Is a researcher and editor at the Sana'a Center.

Facilitator

Day Three

Wednesday, May 13

14:00 - 15:15 Sana'a

07:00 - 08:15 EST

The future of the Yemeni state



KHALED BAHAH

Former Prime Minister and former Vice President of Yemen.

Keynote Speaker



FAREA AL-MUSLIMI

Chairman of the Sana'a Center and associate fellow at Chatham House.

Facilitator

15:30 - 17:00 Sana'a

08:30 - 10:00 EST

Local and tribal politics in Mahra



AHMED NAGI

Non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center.



VICTORIA SAUER

Paris-based researcher at the Sana'a Center.

Facilitator



17:15 - 19:00 Sana'a
10:15 - 12:00 EST

The regional fight for Yemen

This panel will analyze the role of key regional actors with a stake in the geopolitical fight for Yemen and examine the policies and interests of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and Qatar.



ELANA DELOZIER

Research fellow at the Washington Institute, focusing on Yemen, Gulf politics and nuclear proliferation



MUSTAPHA NOMAN

Former Yemeni diplomat and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.



THOMAS JUNEAU

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.



SAMA'A AL-HAMDANI

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 Four

Thursday, May 14

14:00 - 15:30 Sana'a

07:00 - 08:30 EST

The Houthis 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.



MONIKA BOLLIGER

Is the co-founder of the Sana'a Center Geneva Association and formerly worked as a Middle East correspondent for a Swiss newspaper.

Facilitator

15:45 - 17:15 Sana'a
08:45 - 10:15 EST

The Houthi movement perspective



HOUTHI REPRESENTATIVE

17:30 - 19:15 Sana'a
10:30 - 12:15 EST

The STC perspective



AIDEROUS AL-ZUBAIDI

President of the Southern Transitional Council (STC).



JAMILA RAJAA

Facilitator

Day Five

Friday, May 15

14:00 - 15:00 Sana'a
07:00 - 08:00 EST

Update on Hudaydah Frontline



GENERAL TAREQ SALEH

Commander of the National Resistance Forces on the Western coast.



MAGED AL-MADHAJI

Facilitator

15:15 - 16:15 Sana'a
08:15 - 09:15 EST

The Shabwa battle and the fight over the south

This session will examine the current situation in Shabwa, one of Yemen's most underreported but strategically significant governorates in Yemen's conflict(s). It will focus on local dynamics, natural resources and the role of the governor of Shabwa. The speaker will also explore why the STC lost its battle with the government in 2019.



AMMAR AL-AULAQI

Government analyst and Yemen's Deputy Minister of Environment and Water Resources.



NADWA AL-DAWSRI

Conflict analyst and non-resident Scholar at Middle East Institute.

Facilitator



16:30 - 19:00 Sana'a
9:30 - 12:00 EST

Filling in the gaps and wrapping up - Q&A

In this session, Sana'a Center's experts will provide a debrief on the previous sessions. Participants will also be given space to ask any further questions that might have remained unaddressed.



SANA'A CENTER FOR STRATEGIC
STUDIES



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 a very sensitive topic. Simultaneous translation to English will also be provided when needed.
- Prior to the beginning of the course, accepted participants will receive a course syllabus as well as maps, visuals, and other informative materials. Those interested will also be connected with the experts and speakers to follow up with them for their own work and research.
- 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.

• PARTICIPATION FEES •

1500\$

for governments
and for-profit
companies

1000\$

for NGOs and
non-profit
organizations

500\$

for freelance
journalists,
unaffiliated
researchers and
academics



REQUEST AN APPLICATION FORM VIA
EXCHANGE@SANAACENTER.ORG

