2020
The Yemen Exchange
An Intensive Online Course on Yemen
August 03 - 14

Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies
The Exchange Foundation

www.sanaacenter.org
The Sixth 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 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 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 UN-led peace process, 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:
JULY 17, 2020
Applicants will be processed on a rolling basis
EXCHANGE AGENDA
Opening Sessions *(Optional)*

Sunday, August 02

17:00 - 18:00 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:00 EST

**Welcome Round**

In this introductory session, participants will get the chance to introduce themselves.

**Yemen for Beginners**

This session is designed to introduce people totally new to Yemen to the country’s basics.

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**VICTORIA SAUER**

Program manager of The Yemen Exchange and non-resident researcher at the Sana’a Center.

**NICHOLAS NOE**

Director of The Foundation for Global Political Exchange, INC.

**SANA’A CENTER EXPERTS**
Day One
Monday, August 03

17:00 - 18:00 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:00 EST

Introduction and course rules

18:00 - 19:30 Sana’a
11:00 - 12:30 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.

FAREA AL-MUSLIMI
Chairman of the Sana’a Center and associate fellow at Chatham House.

OSAMAH AL-RAWHANI
Deputy executive director of the Sana’a Center.

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.
Day Two
Tuesday, August 04

17:00 - 18:00 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:00 EST

The war visualized

In this session visual data specialists will explain Yemen’s conflict(s), 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
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

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

Facilitator
Day Three
Wednesday, August 05

17:00 - 18:00 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:00 EST

Status and reserves of the Yemeni rial

JAMILA ALI RAJJAA
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.

The economic aspects of the war

RAFAT AL-AKHALI
Former Yemeni Minister of Youth and Sports and co-founding partner at DeepRoot Consulting.

JEEHAN N. ABDUL GHAFFAR
International development expert.

OMAR AL-AQEL
Expert on Yemen’s economy and development issues.

JAMILA ALI RAJJAA
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.

Facilitator

This session will examine current and post-war challenges facing Yemen’s economy, analyze how this war is - by heart and solution - an economic one, and introduce possible economic frameworks for post-war Yemen.
Day Four
Thursday, August 06

17:00 - 18:30 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:30 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
18:30 - 19:30 Sana’a
11:30 - 12:30 EST

Yemen’s civil society

FARAH FAHD AL-WAZIR
A civil society activist, focusing on community and women’s issues as well as development projects.

MEHDI MUHAMMAD BELGHITH
Chairman of Musaala for Human Rights and a human rights officer with OHCHR.

LÉONIE NORTHEDEGE
Acting Head of Middle East and North Africa Programmes at Saferworld.
Facilitator
Day Five
Friday, August 07

17:00 - 18:30 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:30 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.

NADWA AL-DAWSRI
Conflict analyst and non-resident scholar at Middle East Institute, focusing on Yemen’s tribes.

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.

PETER SALISBURY
Senior Yemen analyst at Crisis Group and a former journalist.

HOLLY TOPHAM
Researcher and program manager at the Sana’a Center.

Facilitator
18:45 - 19:45 Sana’a
11:45 - 12:45 EST

**Arms flows to Yemen**

WOLF-CHRISTIAN PAES
Arms Expert, UN Panel of Experts on Yemen.

20:00 - 21:00 Sana’a
13:00 - 14:00 EST

**Film discussion with Amr Gamal**

In this session, participants will get the chance to engage in discussions with Amr Gamal, director of *Ten Days Before The Wedding (2018)*. A link to the film will be circulated by Day 1 of the Exchange.

BENJAMIN VILLANTI
Policy analyst at Security Council Report, covering Yemen et al.
*Facilitator*

AMR GAMAL
Award-winning independent Yemeni film and theatre director, based in Aden.
Day Six

Monday, August 10

15:30 - 16:30 Sana’a
08:30 - 09:30 EST

Lessons for international peace-building in Yemen from Somaliland

SARAH PHILLIPS
Non-resident fellow at the Sana’a Center and associate professor in the Department of Government and International Relations at The University of Sydney.

RYAN BAILEY
Editor and researcher at the Sana’a Center.

Facilitator
17:00 - 18:30 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:30 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.

**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.

**MUSTAPHA NOMAN**
Former Yemeni diplomat and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**STEPHEN A. SECHE**
Executive vice president of The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington D.C., and former US Ambassador to Yemen.

**AMAT AL ALIM ALSOSWA**
has served as Yemen’s 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.

*Facilitator*
Day Seven
Tuesday, August 11

17:00 - 18:15 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:15 EST

Zoom into the south:
Shabwa, Aden and Hadramawt

AMMAR AL-AULAQI
Yemeni government analyst.

HUSSAM RADMAN
Sana’a Center researcher and office
director in Aden where he focuses on
southern politics and armed groups.

MOHAMMED AL-KATHIRI
Expert, trainer and advocacy specialist
on peacebuilding, with a focus on
Hadramawt, and president of the
Yemeni Peace and Building Foundation.

GHAIDAA AL-RASHIDY
Researcher and visual data specialist at
the Sana’a Center.

Facilitator
**Local and tribal politics in Al-Mahra and Socotra**

18:30 - 19:30 Sana’a
11:30 - 12:30 EST

AHMED NAGI
Non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center.

VICTORIA SAUER
Program manager of The Yemen Exchange and non-resident researcher at the Sana’a Center.

Facilitator
Day Eight

Wednesday, August 12

17:00 - 18:30 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:30 EST

The future of the Yemeni state

KHALED BAHAH
Former Prime Minister and former Vice President of Yemen.

OSAMAH AL-RAWHANI
Deputy executive director of the Sana’a Center.
Facilitator

19:00 - 20:30 Sana’a
12:00 - 13:30 EST

The Houthi movement perspective

HOUTHI REPRESENTATIVE

TBD
Facilitator
Day Nine
Thursday, August 13

17:00 - 18:00 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:00 EST

The Yemeni government perspective

MOHAMMED AL-HADHRAMI
Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs

FAREA AL-MUSLIMI
Chairman of the Sana’a Center
Facilitator

18:15 - 19:15 Sana’a
11:15 - 12:15 EST

The GPC perspective

ABU BAKR AL-QIRBI
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs (2001-2014).

LAURA KASINOF
Former New York Times correspondent in Yemen and writing mentor at the Sana’a Center.
Facilitator
Day Ten
Friday, August 14

17:00 - 18:00 Sana’a
10:00 - 11:00 EST

Developments in Hudaydah and frontlines on the Red Sea Coast

HAMED GHALEB
Office Director of Tareq Saleh.

MAGED AL-MADHAJI
Facilitator

18:30 - 19:30 Sana’a
11:30 - 12:30 EST

The Islah perspective

ABDULRAZZAQ AL-HIJRI
Head of the Al-Islah parliamentary bloc.

RIM MUGAHEDE
Sana’a Center researcher, focusing on women, transitional justice and various social issues.
Facilitator

19:30 - 20:30 Sana’a
12:30 - 13:30 EST

Evaluation and Q&A

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