

January 2023 Newsletter

Publications

Publishing a New Study in the International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research

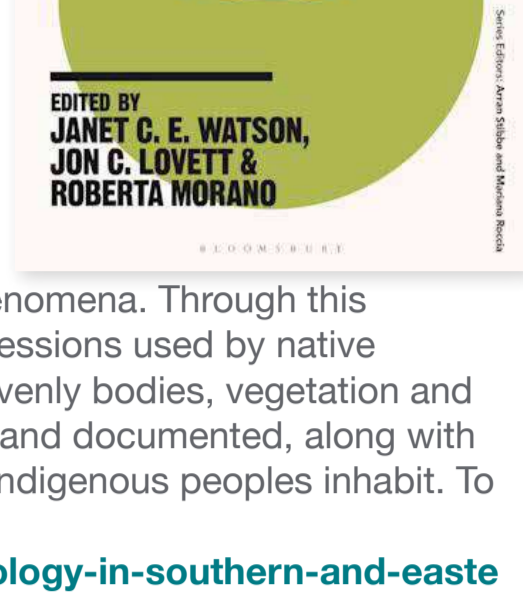
A recent publication titled "Design and field procedures for the clinical reappraisal of the Composite International Diagnostic Interview version 3.3 in Qatar's national mental health study" by Iman Amro - Research Assistant in the Research Department and others, was published in the International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research. This article presenting the methodological components used for the clinical reappraisal study conducted in collaboration with Hamad Medical Cooperation- Mental Health Department and Harvard Medical School, as part of the World Mental Health Project in Qatar-WMHQ. WMHQ is the first and biggest population based national mental health study conducted in Qatar. The study conclude that the methods used proved to be efficient and effective for achieving the stud target. For future research studies, cultural adaptation of the instrument within the cultural context is highly recommended. To access the published article, please click on the following link:



<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/mpr.1958>

A New Article Focusing on Traditional Knowledge and Vocabulary Around Weather and Astronomy in Qatar

This article was written by SESRI's Director, Professor Kaltham Al-Ghanim and published in a book titled "Language and Ecology in Southern and Eastern Arabia" by Bloomsbury Academic. The study focuses on traditional knowledge, characterizing it as important local data since it relates to information and concepts developed over time. This long-established relationship with the surrounding environment is distinguishable in the diversity of this knowledge, revealing the strong bond between humans and nature that is the product of that heritage of knowledge and lexicon. This heritage of knowledge and values is threatened today with extinction, along with the associated terms and expressions that embody such local knowledge related to the climatic, spatial and temporal conditions and a variety of environmental phenomena. Through this research project, a number of linguistic terms and expressions used by native Qataris that are related to winds, seasons, storms, heavenly bodies, vegetation and topographical features have been gathered, classified, and documented, along with other terms related to the nature and environment the indigenous peoples inhabit. To read more, visit:



<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/language-and-ecology-in-southern-and-eastern-arabia-9781350184473/>

Published Article Entitled "Resilience and Sustainability in the Gulf Migration Regimes: Kafāla in the Era of COVID-19"

Dr. Abdoulaye Diop published a study focusing on the resilience and sustainability in the Gulf migration regimes: Kafāla in the era of COVID-19. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has strongly reaffirmed the critical importance of labor migration to the global economy, even as it has raised questions about the temporary migration programs responsible for much of this migration. In the Arab Gulf states – home to some of the world's highest proportions of migrants – the pandemic has highlighted critical structural weaknesses in the region's kafala migration regimes. Drawing on two nationally representative surveys of Qatar's citizens and migrants conducted between October 2020 and June 2021, we argue that the Gulf's temporary migration regimes have shown resilience during the pandemic regarding flexibility, networks, and policies. However, Gulf states have gained this resilience at the expense of migrant workers, which threatens the sustainability of the kafāla in its current form. Nevertheless, we also identify key reforms undertaken in Qatar, which continued during the pandemic, and we find general acceptance of these reforms by citizens and business owners.

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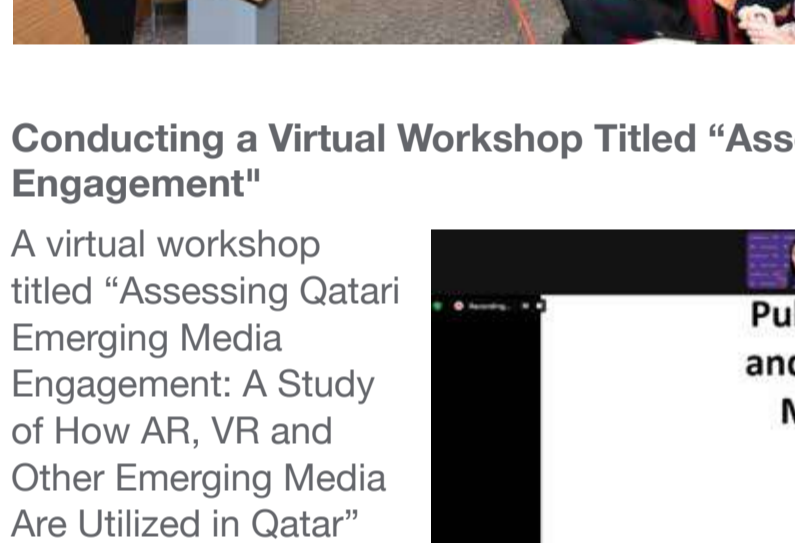
Conducting Regional Conference for the Arab Region and West Asia Global Sustainable Development Report 2023



The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI), at Qatar University hosted the "UN Regional conference for the Arab Region United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)" in collaboration with the UN Sustainable Development Division on 24-25 January 2023.



The aim of this conference was to provide insights for the UN Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 to strengthen the science-policy interface and to provide evidence-based guidance on global sustainable development issues and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. The conference focused on three of six entry points of GSDR 2023 such as 1) strengthening human wellbeing and capabilities 2) achieving energy decarbonization with universal access to energy 3) securing the global environmental commons. The conference was attended by more than 100 participants, including dignitaries from Qatar University, Qatar Government, UN officials, independent group of scientists, researchers and policy stakeholders from the Arab region among others. Professor Hassan Al-Derham, President of Qatar University inaugurated the conference, HE Dr. Saleh bin Mohammad Al Nabit, President of Planning and Statistics Authority delivered special address, and Professor Kaltham Ali Al-Ghanim spoke on the aims, objectives and scope of the conference.



Rutgers University and Qatar University to discuss the key findings resulted from an NPRP grant project with the same title.

Dr. Noora Lari, Manager of the Policy Department at SESRI, and Catalina Petcu, Research Assistant at SESRI, were invited to participate in the workshop, organized by Northwestern University on 19 January 2023, via Zoom Meeting, and to present the SESRI policy brief titled "Public Awareness, Perceptions, and Engagement with Emerging Mobile Media Technologies: Understanding Social Impacts in Qatar." Catalina Petcu presented the survey findings and policy recommendations on public awareness, perceptions, and engagement with emerging mobile media technologies. The presentation included innovative policy recommendations to help governmental and non-governmental institutions formulate adequate and efficient strategies to address emerging media-related social risks and allow continued advancement with these technologies. To view the SESRI policy brief, kindly visit the SESRI publication page at: <https://sesri.qu.edu.qa/research/sesri/publications>

Presenting a Workshop for CAS Faculty Members

The Arts Sector in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) at Qatar University held a workshop for CAS faculty members on the available resources for scientific research on Thursday, 26 January 2023. SESRI was invited to present and research data analyst Mashael Al-Dosari from the Survey Operations Support Department gave a short presentation on the available data for the use of faculty members for scientific research purposes and focused on the data available at the institute. The data available through the website can also be accessed via the following link: <http://sesri.qu.edu.qa/research/sesri>.

Workshop on Research Methodology for Teachers at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education

Dr. Elmogiera Elawad and Mr. Mohamed Agjed participated QU in presenting two lectures within the course of research methodology for teachers at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, this participation comes within the course implemented by the Young Scientists Center at Qatar University (QUYSC), the lectures included a practical aspect of data collection methods through focus groups and interviews.



SESRI Conducted an NPRP Survey Entitled "Assessing Qatari Emerging Media Engagement"

Policy Department (PI- Dr. Noora): SESRI conducted an NPRP survey entitled "Assessing Qatari Emerging Media Engagement" which is a study of how AR, VR, and other Emerging Media are being utilized in Qatar. Well trained field workers interviewed a representative sample of Qatari and white-collar expatriates in Qatar over the phone. Emerging media, which include virtual-reality, augmented reality, and other technologies, are playing an increasing role in the Arab region. Citizens and residents in Qatar are increasingly using their mobile devices to access and engagement with emerging media sources on the Internet. The outcome of this survey will help the researchers at SESRI to learn more about mobile media use, internet access, and engagement with emerging media.

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ Survey

Perceptions and Attitudes of Qatari Citizens and Residents (Post-games). This telephone survey is being conducted following the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 games to gain insight on Qataris and residents attitudes and perceptions following the mega-sports event. The project's research team is led by Lead Principle Investigator (LPI) Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim, Co-PI's are Prof. Abdoulaye Diop, Dr. Noora Lari, Dr. Kien Le Trung and Dr. Sana Abusin.



New Research Findings

Preliminary Results from Qatar Youth Survey Project

SESRI recently conducted the Qatar Youth Survey (First Wave) lead by Dr. Noora Lari manager of Policy Department at SESRI, to better understand the challenges and opportunities experienced by Qatar youth as they transition from school to the labor market and build families. The project was funded by the Qatar National Research Fund through the National Priorities Research Program. The research team is currently preparing reports and policy briefs to present the findings for decision makers to plan youth strategies.

Summary of Key Findings:

- 1. Labor Market and Kawader National E-recruitment:** Kawader is the national E-recruitment platform in Qatar, operated by the Civil Services and Governmental job searches. The survey asked participants about their satisfaction with the platform. Based on the results, 59% of males and 41% of females reported being satisfied, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure (1) Satisfaction with Kawader National E-recruitment Usage



- 2. Youth Involvement in Volunteering and Civic Activities:** Respondents were asked why they did not participate in volunteering or civic activities. Most agreed that "lack of time due to work and family commitments" was the major obstacle (60%), as shown in Figure 2. Interestingly, most respondents did not consider "lack of financial rewards" as a barrier.

Figure (2) Reasons for Youth non-involvement in Volunteer and Civic Activities

