

Andy Spiess

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Research Interests:

- Human Security & National Security (GCC Member States)
- Environmental Sustainability (MDG 7)
- Climate Change and Human Adaptation
- Conflict and Environmental Degradation (Migration/IDP)
- Comparative Politics & State-Society Relations
- Institutional and Legislative Framework Analysis
- Development Policy in Southwest Asia (GCC) and Africa

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Data

Date of Birth: 08/07/1966; Citizenship: German

University Education

1990 – 1993

Hamburg University for Economics and Political Science, Hamburg, Germany

Main course of study: Economics

Degree (in original language): Diplom-Volkswirt (equivalent to M.Sc. in Economics)

Title of thesis: "*Basic problems of rural economy and food self-sufficiency in Sub-Saharan Africa*"

Special Qualifications

1993 – 1995

Hamburg University for Economics and Political Science, Hamburg, Germany

Center for International Relations / Project in Social and Economic Research [Sozialökonomischer Studiengang] "*Agriculture, Environment and Development in the LDCs*"

Degree (in original language): Diplom Sozial-Ökonom (Soz.-Ök.) (equivalent to M.Sc. Social Economics)

Title of thesis: "*Development, causes and implementations to reduce soil degradation – the regional case study of Nigeria*"

Postgraduate (Doctorate Degree - Dr. rer. pol.)

1997 - 2006

[the written part was finalized in 2006]

Title of dissertation (original in German): *Desertifikation in der Sahelzone Nordnigerias - Eine Analyse der Entwicklung, Ursachen und Ansätze zur Verminderung der Desertifikation in den ariden Gebieten Nordnigerias unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der institutionellen und legislativen Rahmenbedingungen*

"Desertification in the Sahelian zone of Northern Nigeria - An analysis of the development, causal drivers and mitigation of desertification in the arid regions of Northern Nigeria in special consideration of the existing institutional and legislative framework"

Significant Projects during the Course

- *"The development of the Nigerian land use systems and their implications on selected sectors of the rural economy"* (April 1994)
- *"The development of the Nigerian livestock sector with special consideration of the political interventions and environmental implications"* (November 1994)

Collaboration in Nigerian Projects

- *"Qualitative Assessment of Adansonia digitata L. (Baobab) in Zamfara Reserve"*
Supervisor: Dr. M. A. Shinkafi, Department of Forestry & Wildlife (Faculty of Agriculture), Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria (1997)
- *"Small ruminants, grazing and stocking density among peasant farmers in arid areas of Borno and Yobe states: An environmentally sustainable approach"*
Supervisor: Dr. H. D. Kwari, Department of Veterinary Anatomy (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine), University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Nigeria (1998)
- *"An Empirical Analysis of the Social Economy of the Kanuri Farming System"*
Supervisor: Dr. Mohammad Abdullahi, Department of Geography, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria (2002)

Professional Experience (Consultancy Activity)

2000 /2001 (November – March / 5 month)

Hospitanz GTZ

Projet Microréalisation (PMR) – Appui à l'autopromotion des organisations paysannes du Mayo Kebbi/ Chad

Job Specification: Introduction to methods and instruments in GTZ project management (Participation, PCM, PFK, ZOPP, PPÜ, etc.) In addition to fieldwork participation, reviewing of project documents, especially those concerned with Participatory Impact Monitoring (PIM) and the participatory approach as an integral part of the company's Quality Management System. Final objective was the development and implementation of an integrated databank M&E system for the project.

2001 (April – May / 2 month)

GFA terra systems

Short-term mission - Projet Microréalisation (PMR), Chad

Job Specification: Replenishment of the socio-economical database as well as the preparation of a final report showing possibilities and limitations in regards to the utilization of digital technology in this project environment.

2001/2002 (10 month)

Federal Government of Nigeria - ISP (Integrated Systems Project) - Project Management (Phase 1)

Project Description: The ISP is an initiative of the Nigerian Federal Government to replace all obsolete administrative systems in higher education with modern software. The ultimate goal of this project, which is by way of trial implemented at the Ahmadu Bello University and Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic is to provide more efficient operations, improved customer service and better ability to adapt to growth and changes in support of the three core missions of these institutions - instruction, research, and public service. The initiative is estimated to last approximately three years and is divided into three phases.

Job Specification: Planning, coordination and evaluation of all project activities, especially project management; administration and planning of financial issues; consultancy and negotiations with relevant partner organizations, outlining of technical content, supervision and implementation of workshops for project personnel and other relevant target groups; preparation of reports and technical manuals; programming of a website for the polytechnic.

November / December 2002

GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) - EoPSD (Employment-oriented Private Sector Development)
Abuja / Nigeria, Technical Expert

Program Description: The main objective of the program is that SMME in chosen regions can take advantage of improved framework conditions and business environment to increase their development potential and income generating capacity. The level of professional and economic competence has been raised through further training and education, particularly for women. In cooperation with all the relevant stakeholders within chosen federal states as well as with the various lobby and interest promotion institutions focus will be on the improvement of economic conditions to facilitate the development of SMME entrepreneurship in these regions. In addition it is intended to contribute to improvement in the framework conditions and the enabling environment by cooperating and interacting with institutions at the federal level.

Job Specification: Realization of a feasibility study for the program, which among others must include the following elements: Conceptual design, integration with VAMPIRES (Virtual Applications for Managing Program Implementation Resources and Evaluation System), staffing and consulting work loads, budget items, target groups, achievement tracking, hardware and software requirements, reporting procedures, forms, etc.. Recommendation of procedures for improving the efficiency in the delivery of services by the program for its specific target groups. Introduction of the concept at the stakeholder workshop in Eschborn, Germany.

Current Activities

Since 2005

**Founder President and (Acting) General Secretary of the
Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Network for Drylands Research and Development (NDRD)**

Program Description: This regional scholarly association should serve as an attempt to re-establish the urgently needed post 9/11 cross-cultural dialogue and contribute to the advancement of environmental research as well as long term sustainable development in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates). The concept is based on a multidisciplinary approach, since especially sustainable development is a political, ethical, social issue as much as it is a technical concern. In this respect a special emphasis needs to be put on the 'soft' sciences - concerning norms, cultural values, political processes, and institutions. The evolution of a multifaceted and interdisciplinary assessment of environmental issues within the wider development context in this semi-arid and arid region (often referred to as drylands) will therefore present the information and understanding needed to enhance development pathways that provide alternatives to economically costly and socially detrimental degradation. Finally, the core objective is to establish a science-policy interface to increase response capacity and mitigate environmental change in the GCC.

Since 2006

Organization and Chair of the International Symposium on Drylands Ecology and Human Security (ISDEHS)

The first conference entitled "*Regional Perspectives, Policy Responses and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region - Challenges and Opportunities*" was held December, 4-7, 2006, in Dubai (UAE). It was the first of a series of symposia intended to create an ongoing dialogue between researchers and policy makers from the Arab world with the global scientific community as well as to reposition the ongoing environmental debate within the context of human security. In accordance with NDRD principle objectives this event will also focus on finding the interface between research and the reality of development practice. Therefore we especially emphasize that research should be applicable in view of those social groups within whose domain the impacts of the implementation measures are intended to take place. In this respect, we are currently organizing a session entitled "*Tourism Development in the GCC States: Reconciling Economic Growth, Conservation and Sustainable Development*" with a special emphasis on the preservation of natural as well as cultural heritage as part of the human security discourse at the Exeter Gulf Studies Conference 2012.

Since 2007

Ongoing Research in Pursuit of a Cumulative Habilitation

My research in pursuit of a cumulative habilitation concentrates on the future implications of a shifting security paradigm in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates). This multidisciplinary approach is based on the hypothesis that traditional Gulf security formulations will be insufficient to cope with those intense, extensive, prolonged, and comprehensive threats to which lives and freedom are vulnerable in this region. Hence it suggests moving away from the obsolete tendency to think of security only in military terms and recognizes that the wellbeing of GCC nationals themselves is also threatened by environmental degradation, climate change, demographic imbalances, systematic oppression, inequity, unemployment, food & energy insecurity, public health concerns, and poverty. It concludes that real progress in human development will only be possible in these economies, if these sources of insecurity are addressed in a holistic manner and that the future will be framed by the need to find a novel sustainable equilibrium between traditional security and human security approaches. Finally by acknowledging that the latter concept must be dynamic, the analysis views human security as a precondition for the achievement as well as the safeguarding of national security.

The assessment has been structured into three components:

(1) The first consists of a number of publications primarily concerned with the climate-security nexus in the Gulf. This interdisciplinary approach is based on the assumption that declining ecosystem services will act as a driver of social destabilization and threat to human security in the political environment of these rentier economies. Influenced by Amartya Sen's concept of "capabilities", one major concern was with the local "ability of adaptation" and how will it be sustained in investments or institutions. Could governance mechanisms be improved to enable these monarchies to deal with these long-term challenges? Especially how could the question of legitimacy, accountability, viability, fairness and transparency in these processes be approached in this authoritarian political environment?

(2) The second part of the research is concerned with economic structures and the deeper systemic problems which undermine long-term solutions. While the severe threat of environmental degradation and climate change is by and large still mostly ignored, the so called 'demographic imbalance' is currently regarded as the most proliferating concern. Above all escalating population growth rates, social change, foreign labor, unemployment and underemployment are considered major threats to long-term stability and security in the GCC member states. One of the greatest internal challenges, the Arab Gulf economies face today is the "youth bulge", which affects primarily, but not exclusively, the demographics of these countries. This transition, pushing an ever increasing number of graduates into the local economies, reflects itself in the inability of the Gulf authorities to secure jobs for the new graduates out of the government sector. The issue has proven almost impervious to substantial improvement, while intended policies to "nationalize" various sectors of the workforce should be considered, at best, incomplete successes and at worst absolute failures. As a result, the dependence and existence of large numbers of foreign nationals in most of the GCC states is not only a serious stress factor for the already volatile ecosystems with limited access to natural and strategic resources such as water and food, but in itself present a traditional security risk reinforced by alienation, resentment and occasionally even xenophobia. Rising wealth disparities, inflation and declining individual living standards will certainly enhance the simmering discontent and will eventually release a potential challenge to the question of legitimacy. The widening gap in the demographic composition in some of the Gulf countries shows that governments are either unable or unwilling to confront profound social challenges and place their people at the center of development. In pessimistic scenarios, rulers will miscalculate the tradeoffs, will fail to prepare their exploding populations in accordance with the capability approach to participate productively in the global economy and will become even more repressive to maintain their power. (Please note that while this was written years ago, the latest uprisings in Bahrain and Oman certainly underscore this statement) The major outcome is a forthcoming monograph entitled "*Marginalizing the Self: Social Cohesion, Human Agency and Development in the United Arab Emirates*", which represents a case study of how such a demographic imbalance serves as a political tool to repress an entire society into a minority.

(3) The third part deconstructs the underlying power dynamics of tourism promotion, which is often considered an integral element of their economic diversification strategies. Nevertheless tourism as a catalyst for economic development can be a controversial device and its unsustainable rapid development has had detrimental environmental, sociocultural and security impacts, particularly because this industry is dependent on and a major user of natural resources and habitually collides with the values, skills, and aspirations of GCC nationals. It should hence conceivably best be seen as a 'threat multiplier' that intensifies existing problems and vulnerabilities in the region. The second monograph will analyze tourism development in Saudi Arabia from a human security perspective and thus present another practical case study in development policy.

Publications

Articles

- Spiess, A., Mohammad, M.: *Sustainable Rural Development as a Function of Physical Environment in the Republic of Niger*, in: ECPER Journal for Political and Economic Studies, Vol. 3, No. 22, 1997, p.113 – 129.
- Spiess, A.: *Agroforestry for Sustainable Agricultural Production and Environmental Enhancement - An Overview*, in: Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (eds.): *Agroforestry for Sustainable Agricultural Production and Environmental Improvement*, March 1995, p. 228 - 244. [Proceedings of the Training Workshop on Agroforestry and Land Management, organized by Federal Agricultural Coordinating Unit (FACU) and in collaboration with Afforestation Programme Coordinating Unit (APCU), National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS), Kano, March 20-25, 1998]
- Spiess, A.: *The Role of Environmental Degradation in Population Displacement and Conflict in the Drylands of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) with Special Reference to Northern Nigeria*, in: *Revista Sociedade & Natureza - Special Issue - "Caminhos de Geografia"*, May 2005.
- Spiess, A., Al-Darwish, Faeed H.: *The Role of Overgrazing as an Anthropogenic Cause of Desertification in the GCC Countries: a Comparative Study of the Situation in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, 2005* [Proceedings of the International Conference on Human Impacts on Soil Quality Attributes In Arid and Semi – Arid Regions, Isfahan University of Technology, Iran]
- Spiess, A.: *Developing adaptive capacity for responding to environmental change in the Arab Gulf States: Uncertainties to linking ecosystem conservation, sustainable development and society in authoritarian rentier economies*, in: *Global and Planetary Change* 64 (2008) pp. 244–252.
- Spiess, A.: *"Prioritizing Climate Change Adaptation Needs for Food Security: Constraints to New Initiatives for the Arabian Peninsula"*. Conference Policy Paper presented at *"Climate Adaptation in the Middle East and North Africa: Challenges and Opportunities"*, May 3-4, 2010, Harvard Kennedy School of Governance, USA (Available Online)
- Spiess, A.: *Demographic Transitions and Imbalances in the GCC: Security Risks, Constraints and Policy Challenges*. Conference Policy Paper presented at the 2010 Exeter Gulf Studies Conference: The 21st-Century Gulf: The Challenge of Identity, 30 June – 3 July 2010. Available Online and updated publication forthcoming in *Security Dialogue* (PRIO))
- Spiess, A.: *Environmental Degradation, Climate Uncertainties and Human Vulnerabilities - Realm of Possible Actions toward a Shifting Security Paradigm in the Arab Gulf Monarchies*, in: Scheffran, J., Brzoska, M., Brauch, H.G., Link, P. M., Schilling, J.: *Climate Change, Human Security and Violent Conflict - Challenges to Societal Stability. Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace*. Berlin: Springer, 2012, p. 387 – p. 408.
- Spiess, A.: *Food Security in the GCC*, in: Ramady, Mohamed A. (ed.): *The GCC Economies: Stepping Up To Future Challenges*, Springer, 2012 (forthcoming April)
<http://www.springer.com/economics/policy/book/978-1-4614-1610-4>
- Spiess, A.: *Tourism Development and Heritage Preservation in the Gulf Economies* (currently under review with *World Development* – Elsevier).
- Spiess, A.: *Urban Vulnerability and Good Governance: The Challenge of Climate Change Mitigation through Urban Planning and Development in Saudi Arabia* (currently under review with *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change* – Springer)
- Spiess, A.: *Environmental Threats and Vulnerability in the Gulf: Adapting the Regional Security Discourse to Climate Uncertainties?* (currently under review with *Security Dialogue* – PRIO)

Monographs for Cumulative Habilitation

- Spiess, A.: *"Tourism Development and Human Security in Saudi Arabia: Policy Challenges and Opportunities"* (working title – Routledge- forthcoming 2014)
- Spiess, A.: *"Marginalizing the Self: Social Cohesion, Human Agency and Development in the United Arab Emirates"* (IB Tauris - forthcoming 2014)

- Spiess, A.: *Food Security in the GCC - Competing Ideologies of Sovereignty, Dependency and Sustainability* (working title - Springer – forthcoming 2015)

Edited Volumes

- Spiess, A., Al-Mubarak, F., Weber, A., (eds): *Sustainable Tourism Development in the Gulf: Reconciling Economic Growth, Conservation and Sustainable Development*, New York: Springer, 2013
<http://www.springer.com/economics/international+economics/book/978-1-4614-7452-4>
- Spiess, A., Weber, A. (eds.): "Youth Unemployment, Tertiary Education and Labor Market Needs in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States: Bridging the Gap" (Routledge - forthcoming 2014)

Papers Presented at International Conferences

- "The Role of Overgrazing as an Anthropogenic Cause of Desertification in the GCC Countries: a Comparative Study of the Situation in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia", presented at the International Conference on Human Impacts on Soil Quality Attributes In Arid and Semi – Arid Regions, Isfahan University of Technology, Sept. 12-16, 2005, Isfahan, Iran
- "The Interplay between Local Socioeconomic and Biophysical Processes Affecting Desertification in Nigeria with Rent Dissipation as well as Irresponsible Foreign Aid Policy" (poster) presented at The Future of Drylands: International Scientific Conference on Desertification and Drylands Research, 19-21 June 2006, Tunis, Tunisia
- "Ecology, Culture, and Natures' Distressed Equilibrium - Desertification in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States of the Arabian Peninsula" presented at the 18th World Congress of Soil Science, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, July 9-15, 2006
- "Civil Society and Democratic Values in the GCC: A Synthesis of Political Culture, Socioeconomic Development and International Policy with the Challenge of Promoting Democracy" presented at the NFU Conference 2006 on "Ethics, Human Rights and Development", Oslo, Norway, September 13-15, 2006
- "Traditional Knowledge, Policy Implications and Global Modernity in Marginal Drylands - An Analysis of Pastoralist Systems in Chad and Ethiopia", presented at the "Tropentag 2006 - International Research on Food Security, Natural Resource Management and Rural Development: Prosperity and Poverty in a Globalized World – Challenges for Agricultural Research", in Bonn, Germany, October 11 - 13, 2006
- "Water Policies in the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): Perspectives on Effectiveness and Political Responses in Light of the Human Dimensions Discourse from Kuwait and Bahrain"; presented at Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change - Resource Policies: Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Equity", Berlin, Germany, November 17-18, 2006
- "Climate Change and Human Security in the GCC: Implications for Vulnerability, Adaptation and Sustainable Development of the Affected Populace to Hydrological Changes in Saudi Arabia", presented at International Symposium on Drylands Ecology and Human Security (ISDEHS 2006) - "Regional Perspectives, Policy Responses and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region - Challenges and Opportunities", December, 4-7, 2006, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- "Ecosystem Management and the State of Biodiversity of the Arabian Peninsula - Synthesis and Constraints of Long-term Protection by Using an Integrated Model of Political and Ecological Processes in Yemen and Saudi Arabia", presented at the Third Saudi Science Conference: New Horizons in Science and their Applications, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March, 10-13, 2007
- "Environmental Ethics, Development and Ecosystem Services Management in the GCC - Perspectives on Long-term Biodiversity Protection by Using an Integrated Approach of Political and Ecological Processes in Saudi Arabia and the UAE", presented at the International Conference on Desertification Control in the Arid Region, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait, May 12-14, 2007
- "Developing Adaptive Capacity for Responding to Desertification and Climate Change in the GCC: Uncertainties and Constraints to Linking Ecosystem Conservation, Sustainable Development and Society in Authoritarian Rentier Economies", presented at the "Climate Change and Desertification - Monitoring,

Modeling and Forecasting - Wengen Workshop on Global Change Research - Edition 2007", Wengen, Switzerland, September 10-13, 2007

- *"The Responsibility to Protect – The Emerging Challenge of Iraq and Afghanistan"*, Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU) Annual Conference: Making Institutions Work for the Poor?, Bergen, Norway, November 5-7, 2007
- *"Future Implications of the Climate-Security Nexus: Declining Ecosystem Services as a Driver of Social Destabilization and Threat to Human Security in Selected Arab Gulf States"* presented at the Ninth International Conference on Development of Drylands – Sustainable Development in Drylands: Meeting the Challenge of Global Climate Change, 7-10 November 2008, Alexandria, Egypt
- *"Rangeland Degradation in Saudi Arabia – Is there any successful approach towards solving this problem?"*, (co-authored by Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Barth, University of Heidelberg), presented at the 3rd International Conference on Water Resources and Arid Environments 2008 and the First Arab Water Forum, from 16 to 19 November 2008 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- *"Developing Adaptive Capacity for Responding to Climate Change in Saudi Arabia: Uncertainties and Constraints to Linking Water Policies, Sustainable Development and Human Security "* (co-authored by Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Barth, University of Heidelberg), presented at the 3rd International Conference on Water Resources and Arid Environments 2008 and the First Arab Water Forum, from 16 to 19 November 2008 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- *"Objectives of NDRD and Possibilities of Research Collaboration in the Gulf (MENA) Region" (Original Title in German: "Zielstellungen des NDRD und Möglichkeiten für eine Kooperation in den Golf- und MENA-Staaten")* presented at the Hydronet MV conference: Cross-border collaboration in the field of water technology between Germany and countries from the Middle East and North Africa, Stiftung Alfried Krupp Kolleg Greifswald, University of Greifswald, 12- 13 May 2009
- *"A Multi-disciplinary Approach to Vulnerability Assessment and Water Governance in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States"* presented at "New Thinking on Water Governance" Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 1- 3 July, 2009
- *"Environmental Degradation, Climate Uncertainties and Human Vulnerabilities: Realm of Possible Actions toward a Shifting Security Paradigm in the Arab Gulf Monarchies"* presented at the Climate Change, Social Stress and Violent Conflict State of the Art and Research Needs", KlimaCampus at Hamburg University, November 19-20, 2009, Hamburg, Germany
- *"Earth System Governance Challenges: Local Conceptualization of Water Governance and Realm of Possible Actions in Saudi Arabia"* presented at 'Earth System Governance: People, Places, and the Planet' 2009 Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Amsterdam, 2- 4 December 2009
- *"Water Security and Climate Change in the GCC"* presented at "Climate Adaptation in the Middle East and North Africa: Challenges and Opportunities", May 3-4, 2010, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA
- *"Developing an Agenda for a Paradigm Shift in Security Studies in the Gulf"* presented at the 2010 Exeter Gulf Studies Conference: The 21st Century Gulf – The Challenge of Identity, 30 June-3 July 2010, Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies, Exeter University, UK
- *"Demographic Transitions and Imbalances in the GCC: Security Risks, Constraints and Policy Challenges"* (co-authored with Prof. Dr. Baqer S. Al-Najjar, University of Bahrain, Department of Social Studies, Faculty of Arts, Manama, Bahrain) presented at the Gulf Research Meeting 2010, Cambridge University, July 7 - 10, 2010, UK
- *"Higher Education and Labor Market Needs in Saudi Arabia: Bridging the Gap"*, presented at the Gulf Research Meeting 2011, Cambridge University, July 7 - 10, 2011, UK
- *"Neglected Opportunities in Public Diplomacy in a Changing World: Perception, Positioning and Promotion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia"* (co-authored with Prof. Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, Near East Center for Strategic Studies), presented at the National Defense University, Washington DC, USA and at the First Scientific Conference of Faculty of Economics and Administration, King Abdulaziz University, 7-9 May, 2012, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

- *'Sustainability, Voluntary Agreements, Regulatory Policies and International Trade: Hurdles or Opportunities for Saudi Arabia?'*, presented at the First Scientific Conference of Faculty of Economics and Administration, King Abdulaziz University, 7-9 May, 2012, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- *"Employment Opportunities and Nationalization Policies in the Tourism Sector of the Gulf Economies"*, to be presented at the Gulf Research Meeting 2012, Cambridge University, July 11 - 14, 2011, UK
- *"Hidden Treasures: The Potential of Geotourism in Saudi Arabia"*, presented at the 2012 Exeter Gulf Studies Conference - An interdisciplinary conference on the Gulf region (Arabia, Iran, Iraq), past and present, University of Exeter, 16-20 July 2012, UK
- *"Tourism Development in the GCC: A Special Focus on MICE"*, Keynote Lecture at the MICE Arabia Congress, 27th - 28th of February, 2013, Doha, Qatar
- *"The Political Challenge of Food Security in Saudi Arabia - Competing Ideologies of Sovereignty, Dependency and Sustainability"*, presented at the Chatham House Roundtable 'Global Food Insecurity and Implications for Saudi Arabia', April 29, 2013, Chatham House, London, UK.

Conferences without Presentations

- *DesertNet Scientific Conference and Plenary Meeting*
Gustav-Stresemann-Institut, 2-4 December 2004, Bonn, Germany
- *Eschborn Dialogue 2006 [Eschborner Fachtage 2006], Eschborn, Germany*
Knowledge Powers Development Sharing experience, shaping the future Workshops: "First-hand knowledge — mobilizing local knowledge for global development" and "If we knew what we know — science, cooperation and knowledge networks for practice"
- *The Great Transformation - Climate Change as Cultural Change, 8 - 10 June 2009, Essen, Germany*
organized by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities in Essen (KWI), Stiftung Mercator in cooperation with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy
- *RED SEA V - Navigated Spaces, Connected Places The fifth international conference on the peoples of the Red Sea region, 16 - 19 September 2010, University of Exeter, UK,*
The MARES Project, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (IAIS)
- *The Economic Transformation of the Gulf 2011 - Kuwait Program on Development, Governance and Globalization in the Gulf States, Biennial Conference, 29-30 March 2011, Kuwait, organized by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and the London School of Economics*
- *"Natural Hazards and Disaster Risks in the Middle East Region" (symposium is a part of the ICSU project "Extreme Natural Events and Societal Implications") at the conference "GeoInformation for Disaster Management", 3-8 May 2011, Antalya, Turkey.*
- *18th International DAVO Congress (DAVO-Kongress zur gegenwartsbezogenen Forschung im Vorderen Orient) Freie Universität Berlin, 6-8 October 2011, Berlin, Germany*
- *„Roads to Saudi Arabia - Heritage Management as challenge for the society: Research, protection, presentation", 12-13, March 2012, Berlin, Germany*
- *"Actions for Climate-Induced Migration", University of Hamburg, 16 - 18 July 2013, Hamburg, Germany*

Government Policy Advice

- *Recommendation and Action Plan on Desertification Control for the Government of Kuwait*
- *Recommendation for the National Action Plan on Desertification for the Government of Nigeria*
- *Recommendations on Biodiversity and Climate Change for the Government of Kuwait*
- *Policy Advice in respect to GCC power dynamics (especially Saudi Arabia) for the US government*

Voluntary Academic Service – Reviewer in International Journals

- *Reviewer: Tourism and Hospitality: Planning & Development Journal (Taylor & Francis Group)*
- *Reviewer: Land Degradation & Development (John Wiley & Sons)*
- *Reviewer: Water Resources Management (Springer)*

Voluntary Academic Service

- *Board Member - Commission on Land Degradation / International Union of Soil Sciences*
- *Organization and Session Convenor of "Islam, Democracy and Development: Challenges for the Arab World" for the Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU) Annual Conference on "Ethics, Human Rights and Development", 13-15 September 2006 in Oslo, Norway*
- *Webdesign & Editor of the Wengen Global Change Research Blog*
- *Co Chair of Session: Enhancing livelihood of desert communities, socioeconomic studies and cross-cutting issues at the Ninth International Conference on Development of Drylands – Sustainable Development in Drylands: Meeting the Challenge of Global Climate Change, 7-10 November 2008, Alexandria, Egypt*
- *Rapporteur for the session on "Environment and Climate" at the 3rd International Conference on Water Resources and Arid Environments 2008 and the First Arab Water Forum, from 16 to 19 November 2008 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*
- *Organization and Chair of the Working Group Middle East for the Research Group Climate Change and Security; KlimaCampus, Hamburg University, Center for Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (ZMAW)*
- *External Reviewer of the proposal for establishing a Department of Political Science & International Relations in the College of Arts & Social Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman*
- *Workshop Director: "Gulf Youth Employment: Private and Public sector initiatives and the realities" 3rd Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge University, July 11 - 14, 2012, UK*
- *Session Convenor & Organizer: Tourism Development in the GCC States: Reconciling Economic Growth, Conservation and Sustainable Development, at the 2012 Exeter Gulf Studies Conference - An interdisciplinary conference on the Gulf region (Arabia, Iran, Iraq), past and present, Center for Gulf Studies, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, 17–20 July 2012, UK*
- *Organization and Chair of the 'Sustainable Tourism Development in the GCC' initiative*
- *Panel Chair of the opening session "Trend Spotting 2013: The inseparable link between events and the tourism industry" and organizer and Chair of "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Spotlight: MICE Development in a G20 member state" at the MICE Arabia Congress, February 27th-28th 2013, Doha, Qatar*
- *Organization of the First International Symposium on Saudi Arabia's Heritage, forthcoming at the University of York, UK, 2013 (in preparation)*
- *Workshop Director: Employment, Tourism, and the State Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Doha, December, 2013*

Memberships / Professional Affiliations

- APSG – Arabian Plant Specialists Group
- ATSAF - Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tropische und Subtropische Agrarforschung
- BRISMES - British Society for Middle Eastern Studies
- British Foundation for the Study of Arabia
- COMLAND - Commission on Land Degradation & Desertification
- CRC - Desert Knowledge (Australia)
- DESERTNET – German Competence Network to Combat Desertification
- EADI –European Association of Development Research
- IDDC - International Dryland Development Commission
- ISSS - International Soil Science Society
- NES - Nigerian Environmental Society
- NFU - Norwegian Association for Development Research

- RS - Resilience Alliance (Stockholm Resilience Center)
- SID - Society for International Development
- Saudi – British Society
- WASWC - World Association of Soil and Water Conservation

Language Skills

- German / English: fluent
- Spanish: good
- French: basic knowledge
- Arabic: basic knowledge

IT Skills

Advanced IT (Hard- and Software) skills: MS Office, Database Development, Web Publishing & Development, Scripting Languages, Design, Video & Image Editing

Extracurricular Activities

Special Interests

- Photography, Geography and Geology
- Sports: Skiing (Approved Skiing Instructor from the ÖSV; Austria), Mountaineering / Hiking; Diving (PADI) / Inline Skating

Volunteer Work

- Mountain Rescue (Austria) / American Red Cross Lifeguard
- Poverty Alleviation Scheme (Niger / Nigeria)
- Teaching of Computer Skills (Chad / Niger / Nigeria)

References

Prof. Dr. jur. Norman Paech
Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Politik
Von-Melle-Park 9
D-21146 Hamburg

Prof. Dr. Mohan C. Saxena
Assistant Director General, ICARDA
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Further references can be provided upon request