

MUHANAD SELOOM (PhD)

Doha, Qatar | muhanad@mac.com

1. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of International Politics of Security and Technology, 2019–

Present *Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar*

- **Research:** International politics of intelligence, security governance, and emerging technologies (AI and cyber power)
- **Teaching:** Courses in International Security, Intelligence and State Power, the Geopolitics of technology, and Armed Non-State Actors.

Researcher, Strategic Studies Unit | 2019–Present *Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS), Doha*

Honorary Research Fellow | 2019–Present *Strategy and Security Institute, University of Exeter, UK*

2. RESEARCH PROFILE

My research sits at the intersection of international politics and security, organised around three core pillars:

1. **Intelligence and Security Institutions:** Historical and institutional analysis of intelligence and security apparatuses.
2. **Discursive Security and Political Authority:** Securitisation and designation practices through which states define legitimacy and permissible action.
3. **Technology, Security, and State Power:** Governance of AI, cyber power, and digital sovereignty, with a focus on how small and medium states adopt digital offset strategies.

3. PUBLICATIONS

Authored Books

- Seloom, M. (2025). *Labelling Ethno-Political Groups as Terrorists: The Case of the PKK in Türkiye*. London: Routledge.
- Seloom, M. (Under review). *The History and Politics of Iraqi Intelligence, 1915–2025*. Cambridge University Press.

Edited Books

- Seloom, M. & Ashour, O. (Eds.). (Under Review). *Militias to Armies: Combat Adaptations and Military Transformations of Armed Non-State Actors*. Edinburgh University Press.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- **Seloom, M.** (2025). “[Veiled intentions: Hamas's strategic deception and intelligence success on 7 October 2023.](#)” *Intelligence and National Security*, 1–28.
- **Seloom, M.** (2026). “[Securitising AI: routine exceptionality and digital governance in the Gulf.](#)” *AI Ethics*. 6, 35.
- **Seloom, M.** (2026). “[The Intelligence crisis in Iraq: political fragmentation and the challenge of reform.](#)” *Intelligence and National Security*, 1–29.
- **Seloom, M.** (2024). “[Qatar's Security Strategy in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.](#)” *Journal of Security and Strategic Studies*, 4(1).
- **Seloom, M.** (2021). “[Policing the Coronavirus: Comparative Approaches.](#)” *Journal of Security and Strategic Studies*, 3.
- **Seloom, M.** (2019). “[The Practical Implications of Terrorist-Listing on Transitional Justice in Iraq.](#)” *Wolverhampton Law Journal*, 2(1).

Book Chapters

- **Seloom, M.** (2024). “[The Impact of Globalisation on Conflicts in the Middle East.](#)” In I. Fraihat (Ed.), *Analysis and Settlement of Conflicts in the Arab World*. Doha: ACRPS.
- **Seloom, M.** (Under Review). “Gender, Warfare, and Ideology: Analysing the Recruitment of Women in the YPJ.” In *Militias to Armies* (Edinburgh University Press).
- **Seloom, M.** (2024). “From Rivals to Allies: Iran's Evolving Role in Iraq's Geopolitics.” In S. Akbarzadeh & H. Azizi (Eds.), *Iran in the Middle East*. Middle East Council on Global Affairs.

Selected Policy Papers & Reviews

- “[Will Israel's algorithmic counterinsurgency proliferate to the West?](#)” *War on the Rocks*, 2025.
- “[From Rivals to Allies: Iran's Evolving Role in Iraq's Geopolitics,](#)” in S. Akbarzadeh and H. Azizi (eds.), *Iran in the Middle East: Building Bridges or Expanding Influence*, *Middle East Council on Global Affairs*, 2024

- *Review of Anthony King, “[AI, Automation, and War: The Rise of a Military-Tech Complex.](#)” *Hikama*. vol. 6, no. 11 (2025). pp. 249-256.*
- *“[National Security During the Covid-19 Pandemic.](#)” *Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies*, 2023.*
- *Review of Omar Shour, “[How ISIS Fights: Military Tactics in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Egypt](#)” *TRT World Research Centre*, 2021*
- *“[An Unhappy Return: What the Iraqi Islamic Party Gave Up Gaining Power.](#)” *Carnegie Middle East Center*, 2018.*
- *“[The Kurdish Political Realities in the Middle East.](#)” *Al Jazeera Centre for Studies*, 2018.*

4. WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Monograph:** *Software over Steel: Digital Offset Strategies of Small States.* (In preparation).
 - *Investigates how non-great powers leverage AI and cyber capabilities to achieve strategic parity.*
- **Book Chapter** (Submitted), “Soft Power, Hard Problems: U.S. Intelligence Education in a Multipolar Gulf”, in Steven Wright and Rory Miller (Eds.), *The United States and the Gulf in an Era of Global Power Shifts*. Springer
- **Article (in preparation):** “The Iraqi Atomic Program, 1979–2003: Intelligence Assessments and Strategic Misjudgement.” Co-authored with Dr. Stephen Coulson (University of Oxford).
- **Article (in preparation):** “North Korea-Middle East Proliferation Networks: Intelligence, Sanctions Evasion, and Transregional Arms Transfers.” Co-authored with Nick Miller (University of Edinburgh).

5. GRANTS & FUNDING

Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation Council (QRDI) | 2024 [revise & re-submit]

- **Project:** *Arab Intelligence Agencies: Historical Evolution, Challenges, and Impact.*
- **Role:** Lead PI (with PI Dr. Dina Rezk, Univ. of Reading).
- **Budget:** \$737,609.

King’s College London | 2016

- **Project:** *Middle East State and Non-State Actors: Iran, Iraq, and Syria.*

- **Role:** Co-Principal Investigator.
- **Grant:** £20,000.

6. EDUCATION

PhD in Ethno-Political Studies | 2018 *University of Exeter, UK*

- Dissertation: *The Label Terrorist: The PKK in Türkiye.*

MA in Comparative Criminology (Distinction) | 2009 *Bangor University, UK*

BA in Translation & Political Science (Distinction) | 2002 *University of Al-Mustansiriyah, Baghdad*

7. LANGUAGES

Arabic (Native) | **English** (Native-Equivalent) | **Kurdish** (Fluent)

8. INVITED TALKS & KEYNOTES (SELECTED)

- **Speaker**, Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), Doha, Dec 2025.
- **Speaker**, Oxford Intelligence Group Conference, University of Oxford, Nov 2025.
- **Keynote**, Prague Center for Middle East Relations (PCMR), Oct 2025.
- **Speaker**, International Congress on Intelligence Studies, Türkiye, Oct 2025.
- **Speaker**, “Iran’s Nuclear Program,” Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Sep 2025.
- **Speaker**, “Conceptualising Intelligence in the Global South,” Universität Erfurt, Germany, 2025.
- **Speaker**, “Intelligence Studies Summit,” National Intelligence University, Washington D.C., 2025.
- **Upcoming**: Speaker, “Sarajevo Security Conference,” Sept. 2026.

9. TEACHING & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (2019–Present) – Assistant Professor

Postgraduate Teaching:

- Intelligence Studies
- Strategic Theories and Warfare
- Armed Non-State Actors
- Criminology and Local Security
- Military History of the Gulf

Curriculum Development:

Core member of the design committee for the Executive Master in Security and Strategic Studies (launching September 2026).

Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military Academy (Spring 2023) – Adjunct Professor**Undergraduate Teaching:**

- Intelligence and Strategic Studies

Police Academy, Qatar (2025–Present) – Adjunct Professor**Postgraduate Teaching:**

- Studies in Criminal Sciences

University of Exeter (2016–2018) – Associate Lecturer**Undergraduate Teaching:**

- The History and Political Development of Iraq
- Armed Islamist Movements: Jihadism and Beyond

EXECUTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**U.S. Department of State (2025–Present) - Lecturer**

- Designed and delivered applied courses for U.S. diplomats (multiple ranks), focusing on Iraqi politics, security institutions, and intelligence dynamics.

Qatar National Cyber Security Agency (2025) – Executive Training Instructor

- Designed and taught short courses on cyber diplomacy, AI ethics, and international law for mid- and senior-level professionals.

Ministry of Interior, Qatar (2019–2025) – Executive Training Instructor**Institute of Policewomen**

- International Law, Human Rights, and Local Security
- Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Governance in Qatar
- Intelligence-Led Policing: Applications in Qatar

INVITED GRADUATE SEMINARS (Selected)

- Intelligence Analysis, Georgetown University in Qatar (2025)

- The Evolving Nature of War and Small States' Responses, Georgetown University in Qatar (2024)
- Strategic Intelligence, Joaan Bin Jassim Academy for Defence Studies (2023)
- Intelligence-Led Policing, Qatar Police Academy (2023)
- International Relations of the Middle East, American University of Dohuk (2022)
- Conflict and Peace in the Middle East, Tishk International University (Erbil) (2023)

10. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Boards

- **Guest Editor:** *Hikama* (Special Issue: Defence, Security, and Intelligence), 2025.
- **Guest Editor:** *Siyasat Arabiya* (Special Issue: Critical Security Studies), forthcoming 2026.
- **Board Member:** *Journal of Strategic Studies and Political Research*, Tlemcen University.

External Examining

- **PhD Examiner:**
 - University of Westminster (2022).
 - Joaan Bin Jassim Academy for Defence Studies (2023)
- **Master's theses: Supervised and examined over 80 MA dissertations.**

Government Service

- **Security Advisor:** UK Ministry of Defence; Embassy of Canada, Amman.
- **Security Advisor:** U.S. Department of State; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

11. MEDIA & COMMENTARY (Selected)

Frequent contributor to international broadcast media on Middle East security, intelligence, and conflict.

- **Rotana, Khalejia TV:** *In the Frame – Intelligence in International Politics* (2026)
- **Al-Araby Plus:** *After Publication* (2026)
- **Al Jazeera English:** *Inside Story* (2025); News Analysis (2025).
- **France 24:** *In the Orbit of the Forbidden* (2025).
- **Al-Sharq Podcast:** *Long-form analysis on Iraqi Militias* (2025).

- **Albasheer Show:** *Exceptional Episode with Muhanad Seloom and Harith Hasan* (2024)
- **Abwab Podcast:** *Intelligence Studies in the Global South* (2024)
- **Al-Araby TV:** *Documentaries on Iraqi Military History* (2023).

12. INVITED TALKS, KEYNOTES, AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

Invited / Forthcoming

- Speaker, Sarajevo Security Conference, Sarajevo, 21–23 September 2026.

Delivered

- **Speaker**, Closed Virtual Roundtable on Iran Protests and Regional Implications, with Carnegie Middle East Center scholars, January 15, 2026.
- **Keynote Speaker**, Closed Roundtable on Middle East Relations, Prague Center for Middle East Relations (PCMR), CEVRO University, Prague, 29 October–1 November 2025.
- **Speaker**, Oxford Intelligence Group Conference, University of Oxford, 6–7 November 2025.
- **Speaker**, International Congress on Intelligence Studies, National Intelligence Academy, Türkiye, October 2025.
- **Speaker**, *Iran's Nuclear Program: Strategic Setbacks, Domestic Pressures, and Future Trajectories*, Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Doha, 3 September 2025.
- **Speaker**, *Conceptualising Intelligence in the Global South*, Centre for Political Practices and Orders, Universität Erfurt, Germany, 2025.
- **Speaker**, Intelligence Studies Summit, National Intelligence University, Washington, D.C., 2025.
- **Speaker**, Gulf Studies Symposium, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., 2025.
- **Keynote Speaker**, Middle East Peace and Security Conference, American University of Dohuk, Iraq, 2024.
- **Speaker**, *Intelligence Studies: Realities and Challenges of Military Academic Education*, 8th International Symposium of Military Academies, Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military College, Qatar, 2024.
- **Speaker**, *Strategic and Tactical Analysis of the 14 September 2019 Attacks on Saudi Oil Infrastructure*, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha, 2019.