“Diversified But Marginal: The GCC Private Sector as an Economic and Political Force”

Presented by:

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Gulf private sectors contribute the majority of national capital formation and employment and have diversified into a wide range of manufacturing and service sectors. National development strategies rely on private business as a primary driver of growth and development. At the same time, however, business contributes little to economic policy-making and is isolated in national politics, regularly failing to be represented in elected institutions. This talk will explain this passive and isolated role of business by looking at how—despite all diversification—it remains structurally dependent on state fiscal policy and subsidies, and how its interests are at odds with those of GCC citizens at large.

Dr. Steffen Hertog is a senior lecturer in comparative politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He was previously Kuwait Professor at the Chaire Moyen Orient at Sciences Po, Paris. His research interests include Gulf politics, Middle East political economy, political violence, and radicalization, and he has published in numerous prestigious journals. His book Princes, Brokers and Bureaucrats: Oil and State in Saudi Arabia was published by Cornell University Press in 2010.

DATE:
Tuesday 25th September 2012

TIME:
6:00 pm

VENUE:
Auditorium
Liberal Arts Building

This talk will be conducted in English

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