



“Artificial Intelligence in the Arab Gulf States: Challenges and Opportunities”

**An upcoming publication by  
Qatar University Press**

Qatar University Press (QUP) seeks to keep pace with global developments in thought and reading to benefit the Gulf and Arab readers with the latest developments, especially in artificial intelligence (AI).

QUP focused on searching for new publications in this field until it touched on one of the most prominent ones that dealt with AI; a book titled “**Artificial Intelligence in the Arab Gulf Countries - Challenges and Opportunities,**” covering the challenges and future opportunities for the Arabian Gulf countries in particular. The work was originally an edited book published in English by the Gulf Research Center in Cambridge at the end of 2021. QUP has obtained exclusive rights for translating the book into Arabic, and it will be available to readers in a few months.

The book is based on a selection of research papers presented at the “Artificial Intelligence in the Gulf: Prospects and Challenges” workshop, held on 15-18 July 2019 at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom as part of the annual Gulf Research Forum. Participants, including academics, practitioners, and policymakers in AI-related disciplines from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries extensively discussed the research papers.

The book fills an important gap in the research published in this field, providing a comprehensive thought experiment that is the first of its kind on the challenges, opportunities, and impacts of AI in the GCC countries. In this regard, case studies were conducted to derive distinctive results and insights in various disciplines including engineering, policy building, governance, economics, social sciences, and data science. This book also includes the essence of a variety of ideas and lessons learned in AI, targeting professionals, academics, government officials, policymakers, decision-makers, business people, and non-governmental organizations.

The book consists of five main parts. Part I: **Introduction**; It includes two chapters, introducing the reader to the concept of AI in addition to reviewing previous works in the international and local contexts of the GCC countries, and identifying the gaps in the research works. Part II: **Data,**

**Governance, and Regulations**; includes three chapters that cover case studies on the enabling environment needed to leverage developments in the context of several cities in the GCC. Part III: **Existing Opportunities and Sectoral Applications**; includes three chapters that cover case studies of AI initiatives and applications in various sectors such as the financial sector, the economy sector, and the healthcare sector. Part IV: **Society, Utopia, and Dystopia**; includes four chapters that offer a unique social perspective on AI, as well as some insights drawn from studies on gender, religion, psychology, and happiness. Part V: **Conclusion**; provides an overview of the themes covered in the book’s chapters, and highlights the most important findings and recommendations for future research.

The work comprises sterile analyses of various aspects of AI at the national level in each of the Gulf countries. For example, Chapter 5 discusses ideas and perceptions about AI in the State of Qatar, trying to answer important questions, such as the necessity of subjecting AI to legal legislation, and the role of the government in developing legal legislation for AI in light of the increasing ethical, legal and security concerns about this technology.

For the UAE, Chapter 3 examines current procedures, barriers, and possible solutions for disclosing public sector information for academic research purposes in the country. It provides a framework for these solutions after they have been approved by government officials to facilitate data sharing in the country at the best level, which is considered one of the important prerequisites for research in data-based fields such as AI.

Moreover, Chapter 4 sheds light on the AI strategy in the Kingdom of Bahrain after analyzing the multiple stakeholders, and then discussing the strategy from different perspectives, including the availability of human capital, support from economic and financial institutions, as well as its alignment with national development plans, strategies, and priorities.

Thus, each chapter deals with a focused AI-related issue or question, in addition to discussing and centering on the challenges and opportunities it brings to the scene.