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Summary

Dr. Karen Young is a political economist, with a focus on economic development, energy and foreign policy in the Middle East. She has done extensive fieldwork in Ecuador, Bulgaria, and the Gulf Cooperation Council states. Her first book, *The Political Economy of Energy, Finance and Security in the United Arab Emirates: Between the Majilis and the Market*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014. Her second book, *The Economic Statecraft of the Gulf States*, was published in December 2022 with IB Tauris/Bloomsbury. Her analysis has been published by Bloomberg Opinion, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Financial Times*, *Foreign Policy*, *Al Monitor*, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the Conservative Middle East Council, *Journal of Arabian Studies*, Oxford Analytica, *Middle East Policy*, *Gulf Affairs*, *Current History*, the *Washington Post*, *Lawfare*, *the National* and *Gulf News*, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs* and *Security Dialogue*, among other popular and academic outlets. She has appeared frequently as a commentator/analyst on the BBC, CBS, Al Jazeera International and CNBC Arabia, and her comments have aired on NPR and CBC as well as in print in the *New York Times*, the *Financial Times*, Bloomberg, AFP, the *Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, and regional newspapers in the Middle East. She has served as a lead author and consultant to the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP on projects examining political economy and economic statecraft in the Middle East and North Africa region, with specific inquiries into women's labor markets, the war economy in Yemen and aid policy. She is a contractor to the US Department of State, where she regularly leads a course on the Arabian Peninsula at the Foreign Service Institute. She has briefed numerous private equity firms, investor audiences, USG entities, including members of Congress and the intelligence community on foreign policy and economic relations of the Middle East.

In her current role, she is a Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University in the Center on Global Energy Policy. Previously, she was Founding Director of the Program on Economics and Energy at the Middle East Institute and a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. She was Senior Resident Scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington from 2015-August 2018. She has been a Professorial Lecturer at George Washington University and an adjunct professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, where she led a seminar on Emerging Markets of the Middle East. She was affiliated as a visiting scholar with the London School of Economics and Political Science, Middle East Centre between 2013-2017 and served as a full-time research fellow there from 2014-2015. She was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the American University of Sharjah from 2009-14. Since 2001, she has worked in universities as an administrator or faculty member, as well as a principal investigator and manager of major grant and international collaboration projects.

Experience

August 2022-present

Columbia University, Center on Global Energy Policy, New York, NY

Senior Research Scholar

<https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/dr-karen-e-young>

May 2021-August 2022

Middle East Institute, Washington, DC

Senior Fellow, Founding Director of the Program on Economics and Energy

<https://www.mei.edu/programs/economics-and-energy-program>

September 2018-May 2021

American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC

Resident Scholar, Foreign and Defense Policy

Research director of two major interactive data tracking projects:

Gulf Economic Policy Tracker: <https://www.aei.org/multimedia/gulf-economic-policy-tracker/>

Gulf Financial Aid and Direct Investment Tracker: <https://www.aei.org/multimedia/fadi-tracker/>

July 2015-August 2018

Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, Washington, DC

Senior Resident Scholar

September 2017-January 2020

George Washington University, Washington DC

Professorial Lecturer of Political Science

January 2018-January 2020

Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC

Adjunct Professor in Middle East Studies concentration

January 2016-present

US Department of State, Foreign Service Institute, Arlington, VA

Guest lecturer and Course Director (sub-contractor), Arabian Peninsula Area Studies

June 2013-August 2017

London School of Economics and Political Science, Middle East Center, London, UK

Visiting Fellow, Research Fellow (2014-2015)

August 2009- January 2014

American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE

Assistant Professor of Political Science

January-December 2012

UAE Colloquium on Law and Public Policy, Sharjah, UAE

Co-Director and Principal Investigator

August 2006-August 2007
New York University, New York, NY
Associate Director of Academic Affairs, College of Arts and Science

August 2005-August 2006
The City University of New York, The Graduate Center, New York, NY
Research Associate, Ralph Bunche Institute

September 2004-June 2005
Queens College, Queens, NY
Adjunct Instructor, Department of Political Science

January 2001-September 2003
New York University, New York, NY
Assistant Director, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics

Education

The City University of New York, Graduate Center
Ph.D. in Political Science, 2003-2008. Degree awarded January 2009
Concentration: International Relations and Comparative Political Economy
Dissertation: "Enforcing Liberalism: Political Advisory Networks and New Economic Institutions, Case Studies of Bulgaria and Ecuador"
Committee: Susan L. Woodward (chair), Thomas G. Weiss, John Bowman

Columbia University, New York, NY
M.A. in Political Science, International Relations, awarded May 2000

Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar, Quito, Ecuador
M.A. in International Economic Relations, awarded May 1999
Fulbright Scholar to Ecuador 1997-1999, extended fellowship

Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
B.A. in Anthropology, awarded June 1997

Publications

(for a full list of publications, see: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/karen-young-8408581b/>)

Books

The Economic Statecraft of the Gulf Arab States: Deploying Aid, Investment and Development Across MENAP. IB Tauris/Bloomsbury, 2022.

Between the Majilis and the Market: The Political Economy of the United Arab Emirates: Finance, Energy and Security. Palgrave, 2014.

Edited Volumes, Book Chapters

Co-editor, with Nikolay Kozhanov and Jalal Qanas, *The GCC Hydrocarbon Economies and COVID: Old Trends, New Realities*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-19-5462-7>

"The Covid Response in the GCC: Making a Durable Economic Policy Agenda," in *The GCC Hydrocarbon Economies and COVID: Old Trends, New Realities*, Karen Young, Nikolay Kozhanov and Jalal Qanas, eds., Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-19-5462-7_5

"UAE Economic Statecraft in the Horn of Africa," chapter in edited volume by Robert Mason and Simon Mabon, *The Gulf States in the Horn of Africa: Interests, Influences and Instability*. Manchester University Press, 2022.

<https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526162168/>

"Economic Diversification in the United Arab Emirates" chapter in edited volume, eds. Martin Beck and Thomas Richter, *Oil and the Political Economy of the Middle East*, Manchester University Press, 2021. "[Oil and the Political Economy of the Middle East](#)," published July 2021.

"China-Gulf Economic Relations," chapter in *Routledge Handbook of China-Middle East Relations*, edited by Yahia Zoubir, Routledge, 2023.

"Women in the Gulf Workforce," chapter in volume by editors Tarik Yousef and Adel Ghafar, *The GCC in Transition*, published by The Brookings Institution Press, forthcoming 2023. (Forthcoming, final edits submitted and going to press.)

"Saudi State Capitalism," in *The Saudi Economy*, ed. John Sfakianakis, Oxford University Press, 2023. (Forthcoming, final edits submitted and going to press.)

Recent Academic Publications, Research Reports:

"Energy: Europe Looks South," ISPI MED Dialogues, December 2022.
<https://www.ispionline.it/en/pubblicazione/energy-europe-looks-south-36827>

"How Saudi Arabia Sees the World," *Foreign Affairs*, November 2022.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/saudi-arabia/how-saudi-arabia-sees-world>

"How Biden Administration Can Rebuild Ties with Gulf States," *Foreign Policy*, with Bilal Saab, April 4, 2022. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/04/04/how-biden-can-rebuild-u-s-ties-with-the-gulf-states/>

"Economic Diversification in Saudi Arabia in the Wake of Covid-19," *Report MED2020: Navigating the Pandemic*, Italian Institute for International Political Studies, with Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. December 2020.
<https://med.ispionline.it/publication/report-med2020-navigating-the-pandemic/>

"Fiscal Sustainability and Social Cohesion in the Face of Demographic Change," Saudi Arabia T20, as part of the G20 Meetings 2020, co-authors Chu Jul Kim, Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, Sara Lechtenberg-Kasten, Yong Jun Baek, Cian Mulligan. October 2020.
https://t20saudiarabia.org.sa/en/briefs/Pages/Policy-Brief.aspx?pb=TF9_PB

"Gulf Financial Aid and Direct Financial Intervention," AEI Report, August 2020.
<https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/gulf-financial-aid-and-direct-investment-tracking-the-implications-of-state-capitalism-aid-and-investment-flows/>

"Sovereign Risk: Sovereign Wealth Funds and State Society Relations," *British Journal of Middle East Studies*, Spring 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13530194.2020.1714866>

The Gulf's Eastward Turn: Gulf-China Economic Ties. American Enterprise Institute, February 2019. <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/the-gulfs-eastward-turn-the-logic-of-gulf-china-economic-ties/>

The Political Economy of the UAE: Finance, Energy and Security: Between the Majilis and the Market. London: Palgrave Macmillan, July 2014.

"GCC Renewable Energy Finance in a Time of Austerity," in *Renewable Energy Policy in the Gulf*. London: Routledge, 2018.

“Reform (R)evolution” in *After the EU Global Strategy: Building Resilience*, European Union Institute for Security Studies, Paris, May 2017.

"The Difficult Promise of Economic Reform in the Gulf," Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, September 2018.
<https://www.bakerinstitute.org/media/files/files/a9b497ad/cme-pub-carnegie-young-092618.pdf>

“A New Politics of GCC Economic Statecraft: The Case of UAE Aid and Financial Intervention in Egypt,” *Journal of Arabian Studies*, Vol. 7, Issue 1, 2017.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/21534764.2017.1316051>

Select Op-Eds and Blogs (2017-2023)

Dr. Young wrote more than 80 blog posts for AGSIW Market Watch, from June 2015 to August 2018 <https://agsiw.org/associates/karen-e-young/>. She has written over 100 articles in the last five years for numerous outlets. She writes regularly for Bloomberg Opinion and Al Monitor, see recent articles here:
<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/authors/ATxGhn5Pmlg/karen-e-young>
and <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/authors/karen-young.html>

"Saudi and Iran Are Creating a New Equilibrium: What it Means for Oil Markets," *Barron's*, March 13, 2023. <https://www.barrons.com/articles/saudi-arabia-iran-oil-markets-opec-dbb26c3c>

"Oil Politics Enter a New Phase as US-Saudi Relations Descend," *Barron's*, October 18, 2022. <https://www.barrons.com/articles/oil-politics-us-saudi-relationship-biden-opec-51666113759>

"Russian Nuclear Energy in the Middle East Heats Up," *Al Monitor Pro*, October 11, 2022. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pro/memos/russian-nuclear-energy-middle-east-heats>

"GCC Capital Investment Linked to Global Market Volatility," *Al Monitor Pro*, September 15, 2022. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pro/memos/gcc-capital-investment-linked-global-market-volatility>

"OPEC+ Faces Critical Decision on Next Move," *Al Monitor Pro*, August 5, 2022. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pro/memos/opec-faces-critical-decision-next-moves>

"Biden Focus in Saudi Should be on Long-Term," *Arabian Gulf Business Insight*, July 8, 2022. <https://www.agbi.com/opinion/bidens-focus-in-saudi-should-be-on-the-long-term/>

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"The Coming US and Middle East Energy Collision," Middle East Institute, July 2021. <https://www.mei.edu/publications/coming-us-and-middle-east-energy-collision>

"Covid Accelerates Evolution of Gulf Economies," *Al Monitor*, March 15, 2021. <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/03/surviving-covid-saudi-gulf-states-economic-response.html>

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"Is Israel-Gulf Business Ready to Take-off" *Al Monitor*, September 17, 2020. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/09/israel-normalization-bahrain-uae-gulf-business.html>

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"Gulf Investment Woes, Covid Converge in Egypt," *Al Monitor*, August 7, 2020. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/08/gulf-investment-covid19-woes-egypt-saudi-china-qatar.html>

"Long Road to Post-Covid Economic Recovery in the Middle East," *Al Monitor*, July 15, 2020. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/07/post-coronavirus-covid19-economy-recover-mideast-oil.html>

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"Have Taxes Killed GCC Integration?" *Al Monitor*, May 15, 2020. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/05/tax-hikes-kill-gulf-gcc-economic-integration-saudi-arabia.html>

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"Iran's Coronavirus Has No Politics and Can't be Contained," *Al Monitor*, March 5, 2020. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/03/gulf-uae-saudi-arabia-coronavirus-covid19-iran-shared-risk.html>

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"Sell-Off in Oman Reveals Privatization with Regional Characteristics," *Al Monitor*, December 24, 2020. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/12/sell-off-oman-privatization-mideast.html>

"Where are the Other IPOs in the Middle East?" *Al Monitor*, November 13, 2019. <https://www.aei.org/articles/where-are-the-other-ipos-in-the-mideast/>

"Going it Alone: Saudi Arabia's Economic Realities after Oil Attacks," *Al Monitor*, October 11, 2019. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/10/saudi-arabia-economic-realities-attacks-oil-khuraib.html>

"Saudi Oil Facility Attack Challenges American Credibility," *Al Monitor*, September 16, 2019. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/09/saudi-arabia-oil-attack-iran-credibility.html>

"Mapping Economic Diversification Across the GCC," AEI report, September 2019. <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/mapping-economic-diversification-across-the-gulf-cooperation-council/>

"Saudi Arabia Selling the Aramco IPO, Yet Again," *Al Monitor*, August 21, 2019. <https://www.aei.org/op-eds/saudi-arabia-selling-the-aramco-ipo-yet-again/>

"UAE Diversification Lags, Despite Oil Sector Growth," *Al Monitor*, August 6, 2019. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/08/uae-abu-dhabi-goals-diversification-foreign-policy.html>

"Finance Access that Works," Oxford University Arabian Peninsula Studies Group, OxGAPS report, Finance in the GCC. July 31, 2019. <https://www.oxgaps.org/gulf-affairs/publications/finance-in-the-gcc-policy-developments>

"People Problems Between the Gulf and Horn of Africa," AEI Ideas. June 24, 2019. <https://www.aei.org/economics/us-labor-market/people-problems-between-the-gulf-and-the-horn-of-africa/>

"US Foreign Policy Faces Blindspots on China, Middle East," *Al Monitor*, June 11, 2019. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/06/us-policy-blind-spots-china-middle-east.html>

"Saudi Arabia's New Freedom Gas," *Al Monitor*, May 29, 2019. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/05/saudi-arabia-aramco-sempra-lng-export-gas-energy.html>

"Beyond 2030: Economic Growth in MENA," American Enterprise Institute, May 24, 2019. <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/beyond-2030-economic-growth-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/>

"Saudi Arabia's Housing Goals Need Empowered Women," *Bloomberg*, May 24, 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-05-24/saudi-arabia-s-ambitious-housing-goals-needs-empowered-women?sref=euelgVQS>

"Sudan's Economic Windfall from the Gulf," American Enterprise Institute. April 23, 2019. <https://www.aei.org/economics/international-economics/sudans-windfall-from-the-gulf-and-the-perils-of-new-development-finance/>

"Is Debt the Answer to Middle East Troubles?" *al Monitor*, April 9, 2019. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/04/imf-world-bank-spring-meetings-debt-middle-east.html>

"Pulling up the Ladder: State Capitalism Risks the Next Careem," American Enterprise Institute. <https://www.aei.org/economics/international-economics/pulling-up-the-ladder-state-capitalism-risks-the-next-careem/>

"Can Saudi Arabia Afford a Stimulus?" *Al Monitor*, March 6, 2019. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/03/saudi-arabia-stimulus-investment-economic-growth.html>

"Arab States Should be Wary of Indexes Bearing Easy Money," *Bloomberg*, January 22, 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-01-22/arab-states-should-beware-of-indices-bearing-easy-money?sref=euelgVQS>

"Lebanon's Crisis Complicated by Gulf Rivalry," *Financial Times*, January 31, 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/aab53442-23ca-11e9-b329-c7e6ceb5ffdf>

"Master Developers: New Sino-Arab Gulf Visions of Economic Development," *Lawfare*, December 21, 2018. <https://www.lawfareblog.com/master-developers-new-sino-arab-gulf-visions-economic-development>

"After Khashoggi, Saudi Arabia's Economic Future is Uncertain," *The Washington Post*, October 23, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/10/23/after-khashoggi-saudi-arabias-economic-future-is-uncertain/?utm_term=.79f5901381f7

"Egypt Feels the Pain from Saudi Reforms," *Bloomberg*, September 18, 2018, <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2018-09-18/saudi-reforms-could-cause-a-crisis-for-egypt>

"Saudi Arabia's Problem is Capital Flight," *Bloomberg*, August 17, 2018. <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2018-08-17/saudi-arabia-s-problem-not-the-canada-fight-but-capital-flight>

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