

2013

## Immigration and National Security in the UAE: Between Realism & Constructivism

Mouawiya Al Awad

Kristian Alexander

Adam Luedtke

Follow this and additional works at: <https://zuscholars.zu.ac.ae/workingpapers>

---

### Recommended Citation

Al Awad, Mouawiya; Alexander, Kristian; and Luedtke, Adam, "Immigration and National Security in the UAE: Between Realism & Constructivism" (2013). *Working papers*. 37.  
<https://zuscholars.zu.ac.ae/workingpapers/37>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ZU Scholars. It has been accepted for inclusion in Working papers by an authorized administrator of ZU Scholars. For more information, please contact [lillian.li@zu.ac.ae](mailto:lillian.li@zu.ac.ae), [Yrjo.Lappalainen@zu.ac.ae](mailto:Yrjo.Lappalainen@zu.ac.ae).



جامعة زايد  
ZAYED UNIVERSITY

Working Paper No. ZU-WP 2013-002

**Immigration and  
National Security in the UAE:  
Between Realism & Constructivism**

Dr. Mouawiya Alawad  
Dr. Kristian Alexander  
Dr. Adam Luedtke

Views presented in this working paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent views of Zayed University

# **Immigration and National Security in the UAE: Between Realism & Constructivism**

Dr. Mouawiya Alawad, Director of the Institute for Social & Economic Research, Zayed University, [mouawiya.alawad@zu.ac.ae](mailto:mouawiya.alawad@zu.ac.ae)

Dr. Kristian Alexander, Assistant Professor of International Studies, College of Sustainability Sciences and Humanities, Zayed University, [kristian.alexander@zu.ac.ae](mailto:kristian.alexander@zu.ac.ae)

Dr. Adam Luedtke, Assistant Professor of Political Science, City University of New York, [aluedtke@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:aluedtke@qcc.cuny.edu)

**March 2013**

This research was supported by the UAE Federal Demographic Council

## Abstract

---

This research project empirically analyses the impact of immigration (and related issues like citizenship and demographics) on national security in the UAE. We identify a range of security threats hypothesized to arise from immigration, whether perceived or “real”, and test them in the current Emirati context. We base our analyses on 30 interviews of Emirati citizens with significant access to decision-making venues and/or reflective expertise on the issue, to gain a cross-section of current Emirati thinking on security threats stemming from immigration.

The guiding question in our research is: how do UAE citizens perceive immigration-related security threats, and what are the possible policy responses? Thus our main intentions are to document demographic sources of perceived security threats for Emiratis, to trace the international context of security threats, demography and migration, to analyze specific policy goals as responses to security-related consequences of demographic problems and to identify optimal policy responses for Emirati decision-makers.