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

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

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## Abstract

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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.