

## Modernization meets cultural imperialism? The development of a law school in the Gulf

A group of law academics of different nationalities was recently appointed to undertake a review of a School of Law in the Gulf region. The overall objective was to lay plans for a leading law school which serves not only the inward-looking needs of the country concerned but also responds to the outward looking pressures of modernity within that society. Our review had to confront some startling deficiencies at local, regional and global levels, including limited library and computing facilities, an absence of a strong research culture, a mainly expatriate faculty, differential gender treatment, and the absence of external linkages. Outlining the ideas which might provide advancement not only presented an interesting struggle for system priority within the team, but also raised potential conflicts with entrenched cultural and political interests. Our prescriptions could easily be presented as at best insensitive and at worst cultural imperialism.

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