



## **DRIVE THROUGH CITIES: CARS, LABOR, AND EXAGGERATED AUTOMOBILITIES IN ABU DHABI**

**ABDELLATIF QAMHAIEH, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Architecture

**ORCID ID:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2678-9073>

In cities within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the personal automobile has been the main mode of transportation throughout the region's modern history. It has also been the one with the most impact on the form of these cities and the lives of their residents. In the city of Abu Dhabi, the obsession with cars and the dominance of automobiles is well established and absolute despite efforts and investments in public transport. Due to the peculiarities in the demographics in Abu Dhabi, the hot weather, and this total car dominance, some interesting facets of Automobility have emerged, which are unique to the context as a result of these different influences at play. This paper examines these displays of automobility closely and concludes with recommendations to offset some of its negative aspects within the city and the region.

Dr. Qamhaieh's current research interests include rapid urbanization, mobility, urban analytics, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He is particularly interested in GCC cities, and in how rapid urbanization in the gulf impacts both cities and societies. He is also very interested in how people (and goods) move around the city, and how innovations in technology are changing how we plan cities and interact with the built environment. Some of his other research interests include sustainability, crime prevention planning, and housing policy.