



المركز العربي للأبحاث ودراسة السياسات
Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies

ACRPS Conference for Arab Graduate Students in Western Universities

Fourth Round

2 – 4 March 2024

[Timetable](#) | [Participants and Abstracts](#) | [Opening Session](#) | [Discussants](#)



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Timetable

Day 1: Saturday, 2 March 2024

8:30 – 9:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Registration</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arab Center Auditorium - Building (1)</p>	
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Opening Session</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Remarks Ayat Hamdan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening Lecture Azmi Bishara: The Palestine Question, Anti-Semitism and the New McCarthyism</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arab Center Auditorium - Building (1)</p>	
10:00 – 10:15	<p>Coffee Break</p>	
10:15 – 11:30	<p>Session 1</p>	
	<p>Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Ali Alsayegh: The Content of Ayatollah Sistani's Charisma: An Alternative Approach Discussant: Mehran Kamrava</p>
	<p>Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p>Laila Omar: Syrian Refugee Teenagers' Experiences with Time and Future Projections in Canada Discussant: Dina Taha</p>
	<p>Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p>Amira Farhani: The Return of Kahina in Arabic Novels of National Resistance and Popular Protest Discussant: Farah Aridi</p>
	<p>Gender and Citizenship Studies Academic Building - Room (4)</p>	<p>Amal Miri: Rethinking Gender Empowerment in a Non-Western Context: Participatory Research with Muslim Women in Civil Society Organizations in Flanders Discussant: Zarqa Parvez</p>
	<p>Health, Development, and Urban Studies Academic Building - Room (5)</p>	<p>Yazid Zahda: Neoliberalization in Palestine: The Emergence of Palestinian National Development Plans Discussant: Tariq Dana</p>
	<p>History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p>Mohammad Lari: The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Contractual Obligations under the Kuwaiti Civil Law of 1980 Discussant: Amin Dawwas</p>
	<p>Education, Media, Linguistics, and Translation Studies Academic Building - Room (7)</p>	<p>Ahmad Alzoubi: Moving the Brazilian Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem – President Jair Bolsonaro's Retreat and its Repercussions in the Brazilian Press Discussant: Ahmed Hussein</p>
11:30 – 11:45	<p>Coffee Break</p>	

Session 2		
11:45 – 13:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tamara Tamimi: Bottom-Up Transformative Justice: An Alternative to the Liberal Peace Paradigm in the Question of Palestine Discussant: Moataz El Fegiry</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sara Aljuaid*: Reimagining the Orient: Revisiting the Ontological Representations of the Middle East in Post 9/11 American Literature Discussant: Hiba Ghanem</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Gender and Citizenship Studies Academic Building - Room (4)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Muznah Madeeha: Generational Changes and Qatari Women's Economic Participation: A Postcolonial Feminist Approach Discussant: Zarqa Parvez</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Health, Development, and Urban Studies Academic Building - Room (5)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wassim Naboulsi: Rural-Urban Relations in Syria: The 2011 Uprising and Beyond Discussant: Zaher Omareen</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mahmoud Emam: Meroitic Funerary Amulets: A Multi-Approach Study for Uncovering Technology, Production Workshops, and Distribution in Ancient Sudan Discussant: Mohammed Maraqtan*</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Education, Media, Linguistics, and Translation Studies Academic Building - Room (7)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Imad Al-Khshali: The Role of the Embedding Programme in Disseminating Misinformation and Disinformation about the Iraq War Discussant: Mohamad Hamas Elmasry</p>
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch Break	

* Participating Via Zoom

Session 3		
14:15 – 13:30	<p>Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Rafaa Chehoudi: The United Nations and Democratization in the Middle East and North Africa Discussant: Aicha Elbasri</p>
	<p>Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p>Elsayed Abdelhamid: Pursuing Stability through Perpetual Im/mobility: Spatial and Temporal Entrapments in Counter-Revolutionary Egypt and Exile Discussant: Ismail Nashef</p>
	<p>Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p>Shadi Rohana: The Morisco Question in Cervantes' <i>Don Quixote</i> Discussant: Farah Aridi</p>
	<p>Gender and Citizenship Studies Academic Building - Room (4)</p>	<p>Imad Rasan: Exploring the Distinction between Exclusion and Marginalization, and Mediated Visibility in the Public Sphere: A Study of Women Activists in Egypt Discussant: Yasmeen Mekawy</p>
	<p>Health, Development, and Urban Studies Academic Building - Room (5)</p>	<p>Saleh Almogrbe: Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Lessons for Benghazi from Beirut Discussant: Ghassan Elkahlout</p>
	<p>History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p>Gokh Alshaif: Rumours in the Night: The Street Sweepers of Aden Discussant: Amal Ghazal</p>
	<p>Education, Media, Linguistics, and Translation Studies Academic Building - Room (7)</p>	<p>Mohammed Abuarqoub: Diffusion of Innovations in the Arab Newsrooms: Opportunities and Obstacles of Adopting Generative AI to Enhance Digital Storytelling Discussant: Fadi Zaraket</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	

Session 4	
<p>Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Hood Ahmed: Origins of Political Trust in the Arab World Discussant: Abdelkarim Amengay</p>
<p>Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p>Nerouz Satik: The Revolutionary Practices of Syrians during the Refugees' Voyages to Europe: The Dead and Alive Bodies Discussant: Ismail Nashef</p>
<p>Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p>Abdelbaqi Ghorab: Settler Nations and the Decolonial Impasse in JM Coetzee's <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i> Discussant: Stephen Sheehi</p>
<p>Health, Development, and Urban Studies Academic Building - Room (5)</p>	<p>Meryem Belkadi: Different Outcomes of Displacement: What Factors Shape the Trajectories of Displaced Households? Case Study of Tangier, Morocco Discussant: Ghassan El Kahlout</p>
<p>History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p>Salma Shash: Policing the Village: Violence, Bureaucracy and Political Economy in Nineteenth-Century Egypt Discussant: Hani Awad</p>
<p>Education, Media, Linguistics, and Translation Studies Academic Building - Room (7)</p>	<p>Ghadeer Awwad: Digital Repression in Palestine Discussant: Tamara Kharroub*</p>

15:45 – 17:00

* Participating Via Zoom

Day 2: Sunday, 3 March 2024

Session 5	
<p>Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Nasir Almasri: How Exclusion Shapes Moderation and Radicalization in the Middle East Discussant: Ammar Shamaileh</p>
<p>Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p>Bayan Arouri: (Un)Accessible Knowledge Production: Insights on Decolonizing Development and Refugee Studies Discussant: Dina Taha</p>
<p>Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p>Emna Bedhiafi: Images from the East: Circulation, Print Culture, and British Women Travellers' Explorations of Iraq and Persia Discussant: Amal Ghazal</p>
<p>Gender and Citizenship Studies Academic Building - Room (4)</p>	<p>Leena Adel: Women and the Arab Counterrevolution: Assessing the Socio-Cultural Barriers to Women's Political Mobilization in the Post-2011 Middle East and North Africa Discussant: Rabia Naguib</p>
<p>11:15 – 11:30</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>

Session 6		
11:30 – 12:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Zeidon Alkinani: Iraq's Intra-Sectarian Consociational Democracy: The Case of Post-2003 Iraq's Intra-Shia Political Rivalry Discussant: Haider Saeed</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p>Abdulla Majeed: The Speculative Labour of <i>Maseer</i>: Navigating the Bureaucratic Uncertainty of Empire in Exile Discussant: Harith Hassan</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Gender and Citizenship Studies Academic Building - Room (4)</p>	<p>Maro Youssef: Quiet Rebellion: Elite Mobilization during Tunisia's Democratic Transition (2011-2021) Discussant: Mounir Saidani*</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Health, Development, and Urban Studies Academic Building - Room (5)</p>	<p>Soheila El Ghaziri: Care Beyond Borders: Medical Trajectories and Therapeutic Itineraries in the Interwar Levant Discussant: Marwa Farag</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p>Mahmoud Masud: The Blurred Line between Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion: A Case Study of the Desecration of the Holy Qur'an Discussant: Moataz El Fegiry</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Education, Media, Linguistics, and Translation Studies Academic Building - Room (7)</p>	<p>Zakaria Fahmi: Cultural Representation in Arabic through Foreign Language Textbook: An Exploratory Mixed Study of Content and Languaculture Discussant: Ashraf Abdelhay</p>
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch Break	

* Participating Via Zoom

Session 7		
14:00 – 15:15	<p>Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Ismail El Mouttaki: Survival Strategies of Monarchical Regimes: The Case of Morocco Discussant: Abdelkarim Amengay</p>
	<p>Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p>Fadi Hasan: Between Loss and Building a New Home: Women Refugees in Germany Discussant: Suhad Daher-Nashif*</p>
	<p>Gender and Citizenship Studies Academic Building - Room (4)</p>	<p>Dalia Elsayed: Canadian Education Institutions and the Construction of Blackness; Black Women Navigating Educational Spaces Discussant: Dina Taha</p>
	<p>Health, Development, and Urban Studies Academic Building - Room (5)</p>	<p>Maureen Abi-Ghanem: Shelter: On Socio-Spatial Protection and Exclusion of Displaced Syrians in Beirut Discussant: Farah Aridi</p>
	<p>History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p>Tariq Alsabahi: Legitimacy of Gulf Monarchies in a Human Rights Context Discussant: Moataz El Fegiry</p>
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break	

* Participating Via Zoom

Session 8		
15:30 – 16:45	<p>Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Mubarak Al-Jeri: Exploring the Dynamics of Social Movements in Kuwait: Nature, Objectives, and Impact Discussant: Zarqa Parvez</p>
	<p>Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p>Moez Hayat: Hybrid Pathways to Security and Autonomy: A Comparison of the GCC and ASEAN Discussant: Imad Mansour</p>
	<p>Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p>Ahmad Abu Ahmad*: The Politics of Linguistic and (Inter) Cultural Contact Zones in Palestinian Literature and Film Discussant: Ismail Nashef</p>
	<p>Gender and Citizenship Studies Academic Building - Room (4)</p>	<p>Abdulla Al-Kalisy: Studying Iraq: Tishreen's New Lenses to Conceptualizing Citizenship Discussant: Harith Hasan</p>
	<p>Health, Development, and Urban Studies Academic Building - Room (5)</p>	<p>Cynthia Gharious*: Farming in the Trucial States: British Agricultural Projects at the Nexus between Development, Environmental Imaginaries, and Political Ambitions Discussant: Sahar Yousef</p>
	<p>History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p>Doaa Baumi: The Position of <i>Ahl al-Kitāb</i>, "the Religious Other", in the Qur'ān and the Early Islamic Literature Discussant: Zahia Jouirou</p>

* Participating Via Zoom

Day 3: Monday, 4 March 2024

Session 9		
10:00 – 11:15	<p>Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Daoud Ghouli: Silwan, Literature of Palestinian Existence Discussant: Issam Nassar</p>
	<p>Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p>Sara Bolghiran: Muslim Futures in Europe: Imagining the Unimaginable? An Exercise in Contemporary Muslim Utopian Thinking Discussant: Nabil Khattab</p>
	<p>Health, Development, and Urban Studies Academic Building - Room (5)</p>	<p>Khaoula Bengazi*: Continuities of International Neoliberal Extractivist Logics in Morocco's Shift Towards Renewable Energy Discussant: Laurent Lambert</p>
	<p>History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p>Asmaa Elgamel: Landing Security: Risk, Endogeneity, and the Archives of Colonialized Planning in Morocco Discussant: Abdallah Saaf*</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break	

* Participating Via Zoom

Session 10		
11:30 – 12:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Motasesm Abuzaid: Between the Square and the Quarter: The Urban Logic of Violence in the Syrian Revolution Discussant: Hamza Almustafa*</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p>Iman Ali: Armed in the Name of Peace: An Ethnographic Capture of Everyday Militant Peacekeeping in South Lebanon Discussant: Muhanad Seloom</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p>Abdelrahman Kamel*: The Art of Diplomacy: Museums as Architects of Qatar's Cultural Diplomacy Discussant: Al Anoud Al-Khalifa</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Health, Development, and Urban Studies Academic Building - Room (5)</p>	<p>Tala Maragha: Mental Health Experiences among Canadian Oral Healthcare Providers and Students: An Exploratory Study Discussant: Natalie Tayim</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p>Samir Belkif: Philosophy and Universal Hospitality Discussant: Rachid Boutayeb</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Education, Media, Linguistics, and Translation Studies Academic Building - Room (7)</p>	<p>Abderrahim Mamad: English as Foreign Language Students' Preferences and Reported Instructor Practices of the Teaching of Writing in Moroccan Public Universities Discussant: Alaa Elgibali</p>
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch Break	

* Participating Via Zoom

Session 11		
14:00 – 15:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Muhammad Amasha*: Moral Dilemmas and Conflicts of Interest: How do Intellectuals Take Political Stances in Politically Volatile Times? Discussant: Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nour Al Wattar: Unveiling the Suffering: Human Rights Violations Against Women in Refugee Camps Discussant: Ayah Randall</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nael Chami: Unpacking the Symbolism and Cultural Significance of Figure Representation in Early Islamic Art Discussant: Issam Nassar</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sara Hussein: Revolutionary Cairo and its Contours: Between Pan-Africanism and Afro-Asian Solidarity 1954-1970 Discussant: Ahmed Abushouk</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Education, Media, Linguistics, and Translation Studies Academic Building - Room (7)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Orubba Almansouri: Moving Forward: Re-envisioning Education for Multilingual Multicultural Immigrant Youth Discussant: Alaa Elgibali</p>
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break	

* Participating Via Zoom

Session 12		
15:30 – 16:45	<p>Politics and International Relations Academic Building - Room (1)</p>	<p>Badr Karkbi: Political Islam, Christian Democracy, and Secularism: Comparing Tunisia and Italy Discussant: Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab</p>
	<p>Security and Migration/ Refugee Studies Academic Building - Room (2)</p>	<p>Doaa Hammoudeh: Citizenship, Surveillance, and Control: Young Palestinians Navigating Transitions on the Margins of Jerusalem Discussant: Ayat Hamdan</p>
	<p>Literature and Cultural Studies Academic Building - Room (3)</p>	<p>Tamara Maatouk: Preaching Socialism: The Revolutionary Intellectual in Nasser's Egypt Discussant: Rania Elmalky</p>
	<p>Gender and Citizenship Studies Academic Building - Room (4)</p>	<p>Zeinab Farokhi: Gendered and Sexual Abjection of Muslim Masculinities by Hindu Nationalists on Social Media Discussant: Suhad Daher-Nashif*</p>
	<p>History, Philosophy, and Law Academic Building - Room (6)</p>	<p>Amal Awad: Al-Rāzī's Critique of Avicenna's Indivisibility Argument Discussant: Raja Bahloul</p>

* Participating Via Zoom

Participants

Abstracts



Abdelbaqi Ghorab

Holds a PhD in comparative literature and cultures from Lancaster University, UK. He has published a paper on historiographic metafiction and collective memory in JM Coetzee's *Foe* and Kamel Daoud's *Meursault, contre-enquête* with *Research in African Literatures*. Additionally, he co-authored a book chapter in *Breaking Down Joker: Violence, Loneliness, Tragedy*, published by Routledge. He specializes in Algerian and South African literary productions in French, Arabic and English, with a major interest in nationalism and national identity.

Settler Nations and the Decolonial Impasse in JM Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*

Using a decolonial approach to the acclaimed South African novelist JM Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*, this paper explores how the construction of collective identities that has been performed under extreme forms of coloniality continues to inform contemporary politics of settler nations. The analysis demonstrates that the process of decolonization can be distorted by the positionality of the assumed decolonizer. In settler nations, the settler cannot engage in a genuine process of decolonization due to the inherent imbalance of power that is tied to their identity. Furthermore, the strive for an all-encompassing collective identity entails a move to innocence that would invalidate the radical differences in historical experiences and social outcomes for the different collective identities that have been formed during the nation's colonial era. Consequently, in *Waiting for the Barbarians*, Coetzee, on the one hand, deconstructs the process of identification that governs the interaction between settlers and natives while attesting to the flawed images of totality that this social condition produces. On the other hand, aware of his positionality as a white South African author, Coetzee refrains from imagining a blueprint for the construction of a post-colonial nation where the colonial settlers and natives can co-exist together.



Abdelrahman Kamel

PhD Candidate specialized in cultural diplomacy at Queen's University, Canada. He currently works at the Qatar America Institute for Culture where he contributes to bridging the cultures of Qatar, the United States, and the larger Arab and Islamic world. He worked as a research assistant on multiple projects involving the Qatar National Museum, The Media Majlis, as well as the Royal Ontario Museum, where he received extensive training with collections and museum practices. He holds a master's degree in museum and Gallery Practice from the University College London, and an additional master's degree in art history from the University of Toronto. He received his bachelor's from Georgetown University Qatar, majoring in Culture and Politics.

The Art of Diplomacy: Museums as Architects of Qatar's Cultural Diplomacy

In the context of the intricate interplay between culture and diplomacy, this paper delves into the systematic evolution and deliberate deployment of Qatar's cultural diplomacy through its state-owned cultural institutions, particularly leading up to the country's diplomatic crisis of 2017-2021. Spanning the period from 1975 to 2023, this research emphasizes the cultural infrastructures, both within Qatar and on the global stage, orchestrated by pivotal Qatari state-owned bodies, notably the Qatar Museums Authority (QMA). The central inquiry revolves around understanding how Qatar has leveraged culture as an instrumental facet of its diplomatic endeavours to bolster its stance in international relations. By examining Qatar's strategic engagement with cultural diplomacy, especially in the wake of the 2017 diplomatic crisis and the subsequent surge in cultural project funding, this paper posits that Qatar's national cultural institutions have been indispensable in shaping its foreign policy trajectory.



Abderrahim Mamad

PhD Candidate at the Doctoral School of Education, University of Szeged, Hungary. He obtained an MA in Applied Linguistics from Moulay Ismail University, Meknes, and a TEFL bachelor's degree from ENS Rabat. With his experience of teaching English to Moroccan students, he also taught Arabic to international students at the ESSEC College of Business. Mamad served as a Fulbright FLTA at University of California Santa Barbara, a Peace Corps US Language and Cross-cultural Facilitator and earned a Language Proficiency Interview Tester certification. He was also an alumnus at the University of Caldas, Colombia, where he held a scholarship while learning Spanish. Mamad has Scopus-indexed publications in Heliyon and in the Journal of Language and Education.

English as Foreign Language Students' Preferences and Reported Instructor Practices of the Teaching of Writing in Moroccan Public Universities

In earlier studies, a significant number of university students exhibited deficiencies in various aspects of writing, including grammar, vocabulary, organization, and sentence construction. This highlights the inherent complexity of writing as a skill. Therefore, this study aimed to explore students' preferences and reported instructor practices in teaching writing. A questionnaire, validated through principal component analyses, was administered to 492 Moroccan EFL university students. Three research questions guided this study: What are the students' preferences for product-and process-based writing instruction? What are the students' reported instructor practices for teaching these approaches? Do students' preferences align with reported instructor practices in teaching these writing approaches? The findings indicate a preference among students for product-based practices to enhance accuracy in final drafts, while process-based writing is favoured for its focus on developing macro aspects of writing. Discrepancies emerge between students' preferences and reported instructor practices, with instructors more frequently teaching writing as a final product. Despite the perceived importance of both approaches, the students reported a gap between their preferences and reported practices. This study highlights the need to align instructional approaches with students' preferences for more effective writing pedagogy in Moroccan universities, contributing to addressing the challenges in EFL writing.



Abdulla Al-Kalisy

PhD Candidate and Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of St Andrews. His research interests include protest and revolution in Iraq and the MENA region, with a particular focus on the intersection of movements and conceptualizations of citizenship and the state. His MA research focused on the state through a discourse analysis of the memoirs of monarchy-era political leaders in Iraq. He is interested in understanding structural and discursive political concepts such as the state and citizenship in the ways they manifest through those that are considered the state or citizens.

Studying Iraq: Tishreen's New Lenses to Conceptualizing Citizenship

This article argues that much of the literature on Iraq has been built on state-centric, top-down, and divisive analyses. Movements like Tishreen are painted as demand-induced approaches to the political elite, with little horizontal interaction despite a continuous rejection of the state. If we consider Tishreen's dissociation from the state as a show of existence beyond the political elite's dominion, we could understand citizens' relationships with one another. Similarly to other horizontal movements, structural analyses struggle to interact fully with such movements' creations. Meanwhile, poststructural analyses, through their focus on the interaction between society and discourse have been typically used to highlight the manipulation of Iraqi society through the state's co-optation of discourse as a means of imposing itself, or have focused on normatively harmful ethnosectarian mantras. Both approaches place people within institutional brackets as a form of reductionism to their ability to make claims to the political world. Yet, the citizenry being formed in Tishreen actively rejects both the ethnosectarian mantra and structural authority. While highlighting this discrepancy, I pose a need to understand Iraqi citizenship as a concept no longer operating in a dualistic relationship with the state through the pathway paved by Tishreen.



Abdulla Majeed

PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. His work explores the intersections of everyday statecraft, citizenship, and imperialism. Based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork with Iraqi migrants in Jordan, his dissertation examines how the Iraqi exilic experience comes to be entangled with multiple statecrafts that (dis)order ordinary citizen-migrants' aspirations for and constructions of political imaginaries for the future that transcend, or coexist along, traditional forms of governance and ethical citizenship.

The Speculative Labour of *Maseer*: Navigating the Bureaucratic Uncertainty of Empire in Exile

How do exiled communities construct political subjectivities that transcend, or coexist along, traditional forms of governance in the aftermath of violence? Based on 18 months of ethnographic fieldwork in Jordan's Iraqi exilic milieu, this paper examines how ordinary Iraqi exiles awaiting resettlement in Jordan come to articulate the future by remapping a regionalized and historically specific logic of *maseer*, or destiny. Yet, despite their resettlement aspirations being articulated in this logic of *maseer*, these futures paradoxically require forms of speculative labour. In particular, I show how this *maseer* comes to be negotiated through speculative turns and practices that are implicitly or explicitly informed and shaped by the intimate encounter and disenchantment with past statecraft projects in Iraq, both revolutionary and authoritarian. It is precisely in these quotidian speculative calculations informing ordinary migrant life that I show how imperialism—particularly as a set of policies enacted and sustained together by multiple statecraft projects—comes to be seen through resettlement aspirations as a prolonged encounter and structure that shapes one's subjecthood in the present, and demands the cultivation of alternative ways of being to grapple with its hegemony.



Ahmad Abu Ahmad

Doctoral candidate in the Department of Comparative Literature at Brown University, and he holds a BA in English and an LLB in law from Tel Aviv University. His research examines the politics of linguistic and (inter)cultural contact zones and the poetics of death in Palestinian literature and film, and investigates the intersections of memory, speech acts, and space. He is invested in questions of sovereignty and violence in the project of settler-colonial state-building, in addition to his work across the modern and classical Arabic literary traditions more broadly.

The Politics of Linguistic and (Inter) Cultural Contact Zones in Palestinian Literature and Film

Creating a dialogue between Ghassān Kanafānī's *ʿĀ'id ilā Ḥayfā* [Return to Haifa] (1969), *Imīl Ḥabībī's Al-waqā'ī' al-gharība fī 'ikhtifā' Sa'id 'Abī al-Naḥs al-Mutashā'il* [The Secret Life of Saeed: The Pessoptimist] (1974), and Elia Suleiman's *Al-zaman al-bāqī* [The Time That Remains] (2009), this paper investigates questions of narration, (mis)translation, and linguistic infiltration and displacement vis-à-vis the politics of language and the realities of settler-colonialism in Palestine. I first examine the conditions of contact between Arabic and Hebrew against the advent of Zionism: the making of Arabic into a vehicle for suppressing Palestinian national affiliations, its subsequent destabilization and Hebraization/Israelization, the making of Hebrew into a requisite for the survival of Palestinians, and its use by Palestinians to subvert the dominant culture. I then delve into the potential of translating Arabic texts into Hebrew to mediate Palestinian narratives for the Hebrew reading public and, in contrast, the manipulation of texts in translation to neutralize and undermine such narratives and maintain adherence to the national ethos of Zionism/Israel. I finally investigate how the presence of Palestinians in indeterminate/intermediate linguistic spaces allows them to expose their colonial reality in Israel, contest authoritative narratives, and undermine the linguistic dominance of Hebrew as a national language.



Ahmad Alzoubi

Doctoral student at the Department of Media of the Methodist University of São Paulo, Brazil. A researcher and journalist with over ten years of experience as a writer, and editor, he joined the Middle East Monitor family in 2017 as a researcher in relations between Brazil and Palestine. He is also a producer and content editor for several documentaries about the Arab communities in Latin America and has interviewed presidents and other officials, including the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and his predecessor, Michel Temer. He has collaborated on articles with other authors and researchers, including "The Myth of the Solomon Temple and its Emulation in São Paulo, Brazil". A member of the Research Group for Humanitarian and Peace Journalism, in 2021, Alzoubi received the Ricardo Boechat Award for his work on Brazilian-Palestinian-Israeli relations.

Moving the Brazilian Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem – President Jair Bolsonaro's Retreat and its Repercussions in the Brazilian Press

Historically, many Latin American countries, including Brazil, have supported the Palestinian cause. For example, in 2010 most countries on the South American continent recognized the Palestinian state on the 1967 borders. More recently, during the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2022, the heads of state of Chile, Argentina, and Peru drew attention to the situation of the Palestinian people and the urgency of supporting the Palestinian cause in international forums. The then Brazilian government, however, did not corroborate their speeches, since President Jair Bolsonaro came to power by making concessions to some evangelical segments of the country. In 2019, during his first year of office, Bolsonaro threatened to move the Brazilian embassy in Israel, based in Tel Aviv, to Jerusalem. In this context, this study investigates how the Brazilian media covers the issue, especially Bolsonaro's rhetoric, which was inconsistent with the Brazilian diplomatic line. The theoretical framework of the study focuses on humanitarian journalism, peace and international relations, and the Middle East, especially Palestine. The methodology involves a literature review of the theoretical framework and content analysis on a quantitative basis and media coverage, specifically the Brazilian newspapers (Folha de S.Paulo and O Globo O Estado). Preliminary results showed that mere newspaper coverage, especially on the Brazilian president's discourse, confirmed that the decision was personal to Bolsonaro only and not governmental, meaning that the president was alone in making the decision, which made him retract later.



Ali Alsayegh

PhD Researcher and Postgraduate Teaching Associate at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter. His work centres around developing the theory of emotional entrepreneurship. This theory seeks to create a conceptual understanding of how political leaders create their charismatic authority, how that charisma acts as the emotional basis of their power to mobilize their followers, and highlight the interrelationship between leader's framing, followers' emotional reactions, and political mobilization.

The Content of Ayatollah Sistani's Charisma: An Alternative Approach

Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani is arguably the most powerful religious *marja'* (source of emulation) in Shia history. The charismatic leader is followed by a majority of Iraq's Shia population who, in the post-2003 period, consistently demonstrated a willingness to mobilize at his behest (e.g. 2004 Najaf Crisis march, voting in elections, and conducting jihad against ISIS). In such instances, Sistani's charismatic authority plays a crucial role in his capacity to mobilize his emulators. As such, urgent inquiry must be made into his charisma. However, not content with pre-existing authors' superficial descriptions of Sistani's charismatic characteristics, this paper aims to conceptualize the process and content of his charisma production, to the emulators, and how that authority translates to an emotional urge to answer the Ayatollah's calls to action. The analysis of the paper is guided by narratives from 40 semi-structured interviews in Najaf, Karbala and Kufa with his emulators, and other seminary and academic personalities, during October-November 2022. This study will demonstrate how Sistani's charisma and his mobilizing power can be attributed to an 'affective bond' between himself and his emulators, which is based on his emulators' perception of him as a symbol of legitimacy, hope, and authenticity.



Amal Awad

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, and a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge. Awad holds a doctorate from the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge specializing in Islamic Philosophy, with a special focus on the philosophy of mind in post-classical Arabic/Islamic philosophy. After completing two bachelor's degrees, she earned a master's degree in Islamic Philosophy and Theology at the University of Jordan and a second master's degree in philosophy from King's College London. Her publications include: "Al-Rāzī on the Theologians' Materialism" (Arabic Sciences and Philosophy, 2023).

Al-Rāzī's Critique of Avicenna's Indivisibility Argument

This paper investigates al-Rāzī's discussion and critique of Avicenna's indivisibility argument, which al-Rāzī considers to be the latter's most serious attempt to establish the immateriality of the soul and therefore gives it a special place when critiquing Avicenna's immaterialist account. Al-Rāzī holds that the indivisibility argument fails to establish that the soul is an immaterial substance. He argues that the metaphysical and epistemological grounds on which Avicenna bases his argument are open to contest. In this paper, I explicate two versions of the indivisibility argument: Avicenna's and al-Rāzī's. Then I analyse al-Rāzī's critique of the argument by identifying the fundamental principles on which it rests. I argue that al-Rāzī's critique of the indivisibility argument not only shows al-Rāzī's departure from Avicenna with respect to the nature and the agency of the soul, but also reveals deeper metaphysical and epistemological differences between them.



Amal Miri

Holds a PhD in Gender & Diversity from Ghent University. Currently, she coordinates the participatory ReIncluGen project on social and cultural empowerment and inclusion at the University of Antwerp. Additionally, she is chair of FMV, a Flemish socio-cultural umbrella organization supporting and strengthening migrant-led civil society organizations in Flanders. Miri previously worked as a community organizer and project researcher at ELLA, a non-profit organization promoting the empowerment of minoritized women in Brussels and Flanders. She has published in international peer-reviewed journals such as the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.

Rethinking Gender Empowerment in a Non-Western Context: Participatory Research with Muslim Women in Civil Society Organizations in Flanders

Studies show that gender empowerment is mainly studied from an economic and neo-liberal perspective, leading to secular and capitalist bias. This paper argues that immigrant and minoritized women's voices in the West need to be heard as European policy is often concerned with their empowerment without consulting them. Scholars emphasize the need to commit to issues of women's empowerment in all societies, including religion-based societies. This paper aims to respond to this need for what I call an 'epistemological deconstruction' of the gender empowerment paradigm. What are we talking about when we say gender empowerment? How can we assess gender empowerment? Do we know what empowerment means in different socio-political contexts? In order to respond to these research questions this paper will study the different understandings and lived experiences related to the gender empowerment of Muslim women with a migration background in Belgium using a "situated intersectional" perspective. In this regard, the paper will be based on qualitative research with Muslim women in the context of participatory research in civil society organizations (ReIncluGen project). Using in-depth interviews based on photo-voicing methods, focus group discussions, and participant observations I aim to amplify Muslim women's voices with regard to the meaning of gender empowerment, how a situated intersectional stance towards gender empowerment could bring about societal change, and how it could challenge hegemonic assumptions on migrant women, religion and emancipation.



Amira Farhani

Doctoral researcher at the Department of English and Digital Media at the University of Buckingham, UK. She is currently a visiting lecturer in Contemporary Literature and a Student Ambassador. Farhani holds a Master's in Anglophone Literature and Culture from Echahid Cheikh Larbi Tebessi University, Algeria. She recently organized an international conference titled "Memory and Resistance in 21st Century Women's Fiction". She is particularly interested in twenty-first century Arabic novels and cultural postcolonial studies.

The Return of Kahina in Arabic Novels of National Resistance and Popular Protest

Recent Arabic novels of resistance call for the reconsideration of the role of women characters and activists in novels written by both genders through unearthing feminist tropes like the Persian storyteller Scheherazade. Despite the perpetual reactivation of this trope in contemporary Arabic literature, other historical heroines remain overlooked. This paper retrieves the archetype of the Amazigh queen and warrior Kahina as a postcolonial uncanny trope of women's resistance. It activates the figure of Kahina as a national symbol of resistance in Assia Djebar's *Children of the New World* (2005) and Shukri Mabkhout's *The Italian* (2021) to revive collective memory and redeem the lost voice of a national heroine. The study argues that the figure of Kahina occupies a threshold of defiance and victimization by playing on the limits of power and defeat. In the novels, the national heroine adapts a self-destructive attitude driven by historical traumas, which prevents commitment to a national cause. The study also illuminates how this prototype destabilizes the patriarchal norm and challenges power asymmetries towards the revival of myths and folktales in current cultural debates of nation-building.



Asmaa Elgamal

Postdoctoral Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. She received her PhD in International Development and Planning from MIT. Prior to her doctoral studies, she was a development practitioner in Cairo, Egypt. Elgamal holds a BA in Political Science and Journalism from the American University in Cairo and an MSc in Population and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her current book project explores the interactions between colonial history, security politics, and knowledge production within land planning agencies in colonial Morocco, as well as their impact on the institutional infrastructure and contemporary practices of the post-independence state.

Landing Security: Risk, Endogeneity, and the Archives of Colonialized Planning in Morocco

This paper investigates the historical and contemporary relationships between security, development, and planning through the lens of collective land tenure in Morocco. Weaving a historical narrative that traces the legal and bureaucratic institutions of Moroccan land management to their colonial roots, I argue that development planning is a form of risk management in which a territorialized understanding of culture – including the relationships of subject populations to their land – is constructed as risk. Risk mitigation, in the form of what I call finding "tolerable levels of endogeneity" – or accepting a certain level of locality and tradition deemed necessary for effective control – then becomes the mechanism through which security logics are embedded in state practice. This translates into an obsession with binding development policy to presumably traditional legal, social, and political institutions, thus producing a manufactured path dependency as a proxy for cultural authenticity. I suggest, moreover, that the planning rationalities of the protectorate regime continue to guide the management of collective land in the contemporary Moroccan state, now bolstered by the legal and institutional legacies of the colonial regime.



Badr Karkbi

Assistant Professor of Political sciences at Moulay Ismail University in Morocco and Associate Researcher in Montesquieu Research Institute in Bordeaux, France. He holds a PhD in comparative politics from the University of Bordeaux. His thesis focuses on a socio-historical comparison between Tunisian political Islam and Italian Christian democracy. His intellectual interests include religion and politics, secularism in North Africa and political theory.

Political Islam, Christian Democracy, and Secularism: Comparing Tunisia and Italy

The primary focus of this article is to reconsider the interaction of religion and politics through political parties. Research on Islamist and European Christian Democrat parties remains mostly compartmentalized, leading to monolithic studies. To foster this comparative view, I have shifted the cursor to Italy, the seismography of European transformation, where Christian Democracy, despite its roots and long domination (1945-1990), has attracted few political scientists. Hence, an analysis of the trajectories of Tunisian Islamism and the Italian Christian Democratic Party fills this gap and reveals the limits of the new Islamist project. The topic is salient in light of the remarkable transformation of Tunisian political Islam following the Xth Congress of Ennahdha. Breaking with its radicalism, the party seeks to specialize in the political field by promoting a process of secularization that tends toward Muslim Democracy. Exploring this turning point in the context of Christian Democrats puts secularization at the core of comparative politics in two parts of the Mediterranean.



Bayan Arouri

Doctoral researcher in Peace and Conflict Research affiliated with Tampere University and Tampere Peace Institute (TAPRI), Finland. She holds a master's degree in human rights and human development from the University of Jordan. Her research interests include refugee and forced displacement studies, gender in the so-called Middle East, ethnography, epistemic injustice, de/postcolonial feminism, and critical development.

(Un)Accessible Knowledge Production: Insights on Decolonizing Development and Refugee Studies

In Jordan, Syrian refugee camps are inaccessible restricted areas tied to having official permission. As the humanitarian-development sector or as (Lewis et al., 2019) called them "research brokers" facilitates most academics' access to the camps, questions of power, ethics, and exclusion should be raised. This paper looks at the spaces where the development praxis and academic knowledge production are intertwined (Shivakoti & Milner, 2022). It explores which academic positionalities among the so-called Global South-North are induced to produce knowledge and to publish. How could this development-academic (un) partnership affect the decolonization process on development and refugee studies? By drawing on multi-sited ethnographic methodologies, post-colonial feminist theories, and analysing different pathways to the camps that researchers, including me, experienced, this paper seeks to problematize the regulation and ownership of access to camps as knowledge space. Much has been said about decolonization, though relatively little has been done when it comes to the entanglements of produced knowledge and unequal access, whereas decolonizing knowledge is linked to liberating knowledge production in the first place (Agier, 2012; Musmar, 2020). The paper also discusses the danger that such selective access granting bears by unmasking the epistemological foundations that underpin development policies and projects.



Cynthia Gharios

PhD Candidate in geography at the University of Münster in Germany, where her research addresses the intersection between the environment and agriculture technology in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). She was previously involved in research projects on agricultural war damage in Yemen, and on agricultural investments in Morocco. Gharios holds an MSc in landscape architecture (specialization in cultural geography) from Wageningen University, the Netherlands, a BSc in landscape design and ecological management, and a diploma in agricultural engineering from the American University of Beirut. Her previous research explored the transformations of agrarian landscapes in South Lebanon, focusing on the relationship between secure and long-term access to land for farming, and the social, physical, and environmental implications such transformations entail.

Farming in the Trucial States: British Agricultural Projects at the Nexus between Development, Environmental Imaginaries, and Political Ambitions

In the Trucial States, the British authorities, since the 1950s, sponsored a range of developmental projects. At the Agricultural Trial Centre and School at Digdaga in Ras al Khaimah, British experts were introduced the latest irrigation methods as well as new varieties of vegetable crops, fruiting trees, and animal species. The use of modern agricultural machinery and the adoption of what they described as "proper agricultural methods" were argued as essential for improving the local agrifood context. Through them, new socio-technical environmental imaginaries were formed, grounded in positive visions of social progress. Relying on British archival documents, I study the environmental imaginaries and agricultural practices built by the British. I ask how and why structural forces led by the British authorities drove changes in the agrarian landscape of the Trucial States. Framed in a political ecology approach, I argue that British interventions were only one facet of their regional and global geopolitical strategies, closely linked to the growing oil-dependent British economy, the unfolding of the Cold War, and the increasing circulation of knowledge and experts within the British empire. Based on these ambitions, the British built discourses of water availability and environmental decay that needed British tools and machineries.



Dalia Elsayed

PhD Candidate in the Department of Education at Concordia University. Elsayed's research focuses on race, identity, intersectionality, and feminist epistemology. Her scholarship seeks to understand blackness in a global perspective, focusing particularly on the experiences of Black graduate students in Canadian institutions. In doing so, she is interested in understanding the different narratives and frameworks that contribute to the construction and articulation of Black identity/identities globally.

Canadian Education Institutions and the Construction of Blackness; Black Women Navigating Educational Spaces

This paper examines the racial climate on university campuses in the period following the Black Lives Matter global movement in 2020. More specifically, it explores the new emergent wave of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) practices across university campuses in Canada and how these new practices are perceived by Black women in two graduate institutions in Montreal. Employing a Black feminist lens, this paper centres Black women's narratives and lived experiences; specifically, in what relates to their identity construction in academic environments. The paper interrogates universities' perception of Blackness, the extent of their commitment to acknowledge and address anti-Black discrimination, and the role EDI rhetoric in shaping the identity of Black graduate students. This is part of a larger project that explores the experience of Black women in graduate education in Montreal.



Daoud Ghoul

PhD Candidate in Human Geography at Newcastle University. He received his BA in Political Science, and MA in Jerusalem Studies from Al Quds University. He has experience working in different fields, including research and administrative jobs with local Palestinian and international organizations. He worked as a tour guide for more than 10 years.

Silwan, Literature of Palestinian Existence

Israeli settler colonialism aims to eliminate the Palestinian existence by applying several methods, which not only include genocide but also could include using soft power such as changing names, history, "Touristification" of cities, and other strategies to displace and force transfer of the Palestinian people. This effort is usually described as a process of "Judaization" and "Israelization". In Jerusalem, the archaeological site called "City of David" became the most important and famous tourist site in the city. The site and the expanded excavation all around are part of the process of unmaking the Silwan neighbourhood and turning the city into an open-air museum. This article looks at the existing literature on the history of Silwan, focusing on the uninterrupted and continued existence of the Palestinians in the village/neighbourhood to challenge the dominant narrative of the "City of David". I argue that the existing literature is missing the critical analysis of the deep relationship between the people and the history of Silwan, which I will highlight and analyse in this article.



Doaa Baumi

PhD Graduate with a doctorate in Islamic Studies from the University of Birmingham, an MA from the University of Chicago, and a BA from al-Azhar University in Cairo. She has taught multiple courses to undergraduates in both the US and the UK. Her doctoral thesis delves into Muslims' engagement with the Biblical narratives during Islam's formative and medieval eras, a work set to be published as a book by De Gruyter. Her scholarly contribution includes co-authoring a chapter titled "On Teaching Islam Across Cultures" (University of Indiana Press, 2019), demonstrating her dedication to bridging cultural divides through education.

The Position of *Ahl al-Kitāb*, "the Religious Other", in the Qur'ān and the Early Islamic Literature

This paper explores Qur'anic terminology for "the religious other", focusing on a pivotal term, *ahl al-Kitāb* (the People of the scripture). This term appears frequently in the Qur'an and mainly refers to the religious communities that received divine revelation before Islam, predominantly Jews and Christians. Unlike other terms that have ethnic connotations, *ahl al-Kitāb* is centred around the scripture. The paper looks into the representation of *ahl al-Kitāb* in the Qur'an and early Islamic writings, navigating the pivotal role played by the scripture, *al-Kitāb*, in fostering the exchange of religious knowledge between Muslims and other faith communities. Additionally, it raises questions about the extent of *ahl al-Kitāb's* familiarity with their own scriptures. The paper also investigates the accessibility of *ahl al-Kitāb's* scripture to early Muslims, addressing whether it was available in its original language or translated into Arabic. The overarching argument of this paper is that the Qur'an doesn't diminish the significance of "the religious other" but rather values the experiences of earlier religious communities and their prophets as lessons for future generations. Early Muslims were encouraged to engage with the religious experiences of *ahl al-Kitāb*, as there were lessons to be learned from their stories and histories.



Doaa Hammoudeh

Holds a PhD in Social Policy from St Antony's College, Oxford University. Prior to beginning her doctoral work, she was a researcher at Birzeit University, in the occupied Palestinian territory, and has since continued to be involved in various capacities as a researcher in the region over the past several years. Her doctoral thesis explored young Palestinians' experiences and practices of citizenship in a context of displacement, focusing specifically on Jerusalem areas physically dislocated by the Separation Wall.

Citizenship, Surveillance, and Control: Young Palestinians Navigating Transitions on the Margins of Jerusalem

This paper investigates the intersections between citizenship, surveillance, and control, focusing on the experiences of young Jerusalemite Palestinians displaced by the Separation wall. It begins with a theoretical discussion of citizenship, surveillance, and control to situate the study, before exploring young Palestinians' articulations on how these phenomena shape and influence three categories of life transitions that together serve as the foci of this paper. These include education, employment, and the formation of intimate relationships. The paper goes on to discuss citizenship as a discipline with a particular focus on exploring notions around being a "good citizen" (subject) in the context of military occupation, through the politics of "tিকাat" created to subvert what occupation authorities consider bad behaviour. These "tিকাat", an Arabized plural term of the English word "tick," stated by some participants in reference to negative official marks on their records with the occupation authorities, are understood by participants as jeopardizing work opportunities and other benefits that impinge on their future and therefore feed into deeper modes of control. Specifically, I attempt to show how "citizenship" or legal status within this context, has both defined and confined young people's life opportunities, and the ways in which they engage, navigate, mock, resist, and submit to their circumstances on a daily basis. Echoing other scholars, I contend that these seeming contradictions of both engagement with and submission to the state, extrapolated from young Palestinians' lived experiences, must be situated within a broader citizenship discourse through its mechanisms of control.



Elsayed Abdelhamid

PhD Candidate in Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester. His doctoral dissertation is an ethnography of the pursuits of stability among post-2013 Egyptians exiles in Istanbul and Amsterdam. He has worked as a senior researcher at The Aleppo Project, as part of CEU's Shattuck Center on Conflict, Negotiation, and Recovery. He holds an MA in Anthropology from Central European University (CEU). His research interests include politics of exile, state configurations, legacies of political violence and the Arab revolutions.

Pursuing Stability through Perpetual Im/mobility: Spatial and Temporal Entrapments in Counter-Revolutionary Egypt and Exile

This paper demonstrates how experiences of political confinement and their enduring consequences shape former prisoners' post-release trajectories and their socialities in exile. It addresses the carceral traversing loops political prisoners in Egypt find themselves caught in after incarceration. The fluid omnipresence of (potential) confinement in the everyday life of political prisoners and the public life in Egypt at large is what pushed former political prisoners to leave Egypt into exile, searching for safety and security. I argue that sites that are not conventionally perceived as part of prison institutions, such as being in exile, urban neighborhoods, the street, etc. imply and index hybrid incarceration logics which mark former prisoners differently (Weegels, A. M. Jefferson, and Martin 2020; Cunha, 2020). The chapter concludes that the paradox of im/mobility incarnates the search for safety and security, as pursuits of stability. Rather than perceived as fixed states of being, stability and settlement are potentially realized through perpetual forced im/mobility.



Emna Bedhiafi

Doctoral Student at Sorbonne Nouvelle. She also leads other minor research projects on the cultures and politics of the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean region. She obtained her bachelor's degree at the Ecole Normale of Tunis and received her master's degree in anglophone literature at the University of Manouba in 2019. Bedhiafi's research includes women's visual and written travel narratives about the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

Images from the East: Circulation, Print Culture, and British Women Travellers' Explorations of Iraq and Persia

This study explores the potential of British women travellers' narratives to renegotiate established forms of knowledge about the Middle East. It adopts an interdisciplinary approach to analysing travel narratives on the region authored by British women in the early twentieth century, investing in both textual and visual expressions produced by Freya Stark and Vita Sackville West across popular print. The analysis draws on the interplay of image and text and the interpolations of photography, graphic illustrations, and map sketching into texts that circulated in different publications of the modern era such as *The Listener*, using three theories. Material theory provides a critical framework for the storytelling of objects and material culture between image and text. Transmedial theory facilitates an investigation of the ways the production of these travel narratives spreads across various media and, by extension, extends the storytelling to specific readerships. Postcolonial theory relates the findings of this analysis to the long-established discursive practices about the East and, therefore, allows reflection on the discursive paradigms from a gendered viewpoint and the effects of feminine storytelling in the textual and visual reconstruction of the Middle East across media. The study argues that modern production and circulation potentially contributed to the emergence of new modes of feminine storytelling, which helped change the aesthetic values of travel storytelling and renegotiated knowledge about the Middle East. The results imply that the involvement of women's travel narratives in new approaches to travel storytelling evolved and contributed to expanding the discursive framework of media representations.



Fadi Hasan

PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Osnabrück. He obtained his master's degree in International Migration and Intercultural Relations with distinction and was awarded the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD) Prize, for students who make exceptional academic achievements and noteworthy contributions to social and intercultural involvement throughout their academic journey. His PhD research explores the interplay between structures and agency in shaping the experiences of Syrian families living in Germany. He examines how marital, gender, and transnational relations are affected by migration and how families, especially couples, cope with the challenges.

Between Loss and Building a New Home: Women Refugees in Germany

Refugees' experiences during exile often implicate a sense of bereavement and disempowerment along with notions of being uprooted from their homeland and feeling out of place. However, this is not the whole story. While any forced migration to a new environment entails feelings of loneliness, isolation, and disconnection from material and emotional attachments, many newcomers build new relationships, gradually establish links to new places and thus construct a new home that is meaningful to them. This paper explores the concept, significance and meaning(s) of "home" for (MENA) women with refugee backgrounds who are residing in Germany by conducting in-depth interviews with them. One common finding among all the women interviewed in this study is that home is not merely a physical-geographical place for them; rather, it is a dynamic process profoundly influenced by the surrounding social conditions, intertwined with their ongoing interactions. Returning to a sense of normalcy is always at the forefront of their efforts. They restore a sense of normalcy to develop the feelings of being at home and familiarity which stands in contrast to disempowerment and framed discourses that people with asylum backgrounds are only victims or passive recipients of aid. Though they do miss the comfort of their own people, language, known land, "home", yet they put in a lot of effort to create a home where their loved ones are or where they are.



Ghadeer Awwad

PhD Candidate at the School of Information (SI) at the University of Michigan. Previously, she worked as a lecturer and project manager at Birzeit University. She taught various courses in the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, as well as in the Faculty of Business and Economics. In 2013, she received a Fulbright Scholarship, enabling her to pursue a master's degree in public policy at Trinity College in Connecticut, United States. Additionally, she holds a master's degree in democracy and human rights and a bachelor's degree in English language and literature from Birzeit University. Her research focuses on technology, Science, Technology, and Society (STS), and social justice in complex contexts, with a particular emphasis on digital oppression in Palestine.

Digital Repression in Palestine

Existing research on digital repression in Palestine mainly focuses on Israeli efforts to restrict Palestinian online discourse and limit its global outreach. This paper suggests that aside from external restrictions, Palestinians also face digital limitations imposed by their own authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, adding another layer of struggle. Using qualitative methods including semi-structured interviews and purposive sampling, this study engaged 19 participants who are political activists to uncover experiences of confronting local authorities online. The participants in the study reported a range of difficulties, including being closely watched by government entities, experiencing harassment, enduring torture, and facing imprisonment. The research finds that both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas employ online tactics similar to those used by Israel, such as trolling and cyberattacks. Additionally, they engage in distinct physical approaches to quell opposition expressed via social media. Despite these daunting circumstances, the activists demonstrate remarkable perseverance. The research also advises activists to be mindful of the possible consequences of their initiatives straying from public interests.



Gokh Alshaif

PhD Candidate in History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Prior to her doctoral studies, Alshaif received a bachelor's degrees in political science and religious studies and a master's degree in global and international studies. As a master's student, her work focused on Yemeni women, Yemen's personal status laws, human rights, education, and development. Her area of study is the history of modern Yemen (19th century to the present). With a focus on race and racialization in the Arabian Peninsula, her research explores the social history of Yemen's marginalized racial minorities. She is interested in questions of activism and resistance in these communities.

Rumours in the Night: The Street Sweepers of Aden

Every year on the lunar month of Safar, a rumour circulates on the streets of Aden: the city's street sweepers were kidnapping young "Arab" boys with the intention of killing and eating them. Violent late-night raids against this community often accompanied these rumours as the "Arab" and Somali men of Aden sought revenge. On the morning of 4 April 1906, the marginalized street sweeper community had finally had enough. This paper unpacks the "riot" of 1906 that followed to consider how this marginalized community of labourers has long been racialized as "black" and "outsiders." It asks how these racializing processes "blacken" and mark as perpetual native outsiders a community that has continuously lived in Yemen since the sixth century and who claim Yemeni Indigeneity? What does this community teach us about how categories of gender, race, labour, and caste overlapped and operated in the twentieth century Middle East? To understand this, the project develops an "Oceanic Yemen" framework that redraws boundaries of belonging to include and overlap with East Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.



Hood Ahmed

PhD Candidate in Political Science at the University of Michigan, specialized in comparative politics. He previously studied at the American University in Cairo and at the London School of Economics and was a research associate at the European University Institute. His research focuses on political behaviour and public opinion in the Middle East.

Origins of Political Trust in the Arab World

This paper explores the origins of political trust in the Arab world and why it varies significantly across political institutions in the region. The paper draws on survey data from the Arab Barometer to test two competing hypotheses. Firstly, institutional theories attribute political trust to how citizens pragmatically evaluate whether institutions effectively deliver the desired public goods such as economic growth and security provision. Secondly, cultural theories focus on the role of normative beliefs such as religion and ideology and view political trust as an extension of interpersonal trust. The paper examines these micro-level indicators while controlling for overall institutional contexts and traces how the roots of political trust in the region have changed since the Arab Uprisings.



Imad Al-Khshali

PhD researcher in Journalism, Information and Communications at Manchester Metropolitan University. He holds a master's degree in politics from King's College London. Al-Khshali's PhD is based on his own professional practice as a field journalist, who covered conflicts in the Middle East and other parts of the world, while working for major news broadcasters such as *Al Jazeera English* and the *BBC*. His academic research focuses on conflict reporting, misinformation and disinformation, bias, media framing, and propaganda. In politics, his academic interest is focused on conflict resolution in divided societies, power-sharing governing systems, and post-conflict reconstruction.

The Role of the Embedding Programme in Disseminating Misinformation and Disinformation about the Iraq War

The embedding programme, introduced by the Pentagon prior to the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, allowed media crews to report from the frontline while being attached to military units. Initially praised for granting unprecedented access and protection to journalists, the programme later faced criticism for providing a one-sided view of the conflict. This study investigates the role of the embedding programme in disseminating misinformation (false information that is spread unintentionally), and disinformation (false information that is spread by intent, for the purpose of deception to achieve a certain goal). The research strategy is qualitative, employing semi-structured interviews with journalists who covered the conflict in Iraq during the study period. The interviewees include journalists with diverse backgrounds, especially Arabs, whose absence was noticeable in the already scarce literature. I draw upon my first-hand experience as a broadcast journalist who covered the war in Iraq for *Al Jazeera English* and later reported on other conflicts in the Middle East for the *BBC*. My autoethnographic insights provide valuable information about the challenges faced by local journalists when embedded and their implications for the production of misinformation and disinformation.



Imad Rasan

PhD graduate with a doctorate in sociology from Lund University in Sweden, focusing on women's participation in the public sphere in Egypt (2011-2014).

Exploring the Distinction between Exclusion and Marginalization, and Mediated Visibility in the Public Sphere: A Study of Women Activists in Egypt

This paper explores the distinction between the exclusion and marginalization of women activists in the public sphere in Egypt from 2011 to 2014, as well as how they strategically mediated their visibility to overcome these constraints. The analysis demonstrates that women activists faced numerous challenges in their participation in various counter-publics within the Egyptian public sphere. One effective strategy for women to engage in the public sphere is through mediating their visibility, especially within the context of an authoritarian regime. Mediated visibility encompasses the discourse, topics, and voices that allow women to be present in the public sphere without physically being there. This concept was exemplified by anti-harassment initiatives and graffiti projects, which served as platforms for women to mediate their visibility in the public sphere. By adopting the empirical approach to understanding the public sphere, we can gain deeper insight into the experiences and strategies employed by women activists in Egypt during this critical period.



Iman Ali

PhD Candidate of Anthropology at Cornell University. Iman worked for the University of Michigan Medical School as a researcher. She graduated with a BA in anthropology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her research focuses on the United Nations Interim Force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL) to learn about militant intervention in the name of peace. The scope of her research lies at the intersection between militarism, international relations, governance, development, and infrastructure. She has completed two rounds of preliminary research in South Lebanon and is preparing to begin her year-long ethnographic research in July 2024.

Armed in the Name of Peace: An Ethnographic Capture of Everyday Militant Peacekeeping in South Lebanon

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was created in 1978 to prevent Israel's imminent invasion. However, UNIFIL was unable to do so, and Israel invaded Lebanon in 1978 and 1982-2000. Although UNIFIL failed, it remains present and ever more powerful in Lebanon 45 years later. In my research, I focus on UNIFIL's provisioning of aid through short-term infrastructural insertions and long-term development techniques in the region to unpack how UNIFIL, initially created to restrain Israel's power in South Lebanon, continues to create conditions that necessitate its presence. Over 18 months of dissertation research on UNIFIL's history, infrastructure, and development initiatives in South Lebanon, I examine how UNIFIL deploys infrastructure and development through its militant peacekeeping practices. I approach UNIFIL as a militarized cultural institution that is cemented and contested by locals through infrastructure and development. There are three questions at the heart of this project: What does UNIFIL's presence in Lebanon tell us about the extension of Israeli occupation? How do locals engage, contest, and negotiate UNIFIL's presence through infrastructure and development? What type of future materializes through UNIFIL's development and how do Southerners envision their own futures beyond UNIFIL?



Ismail El Mouttaki

PhD researcher at the Scuola Normale Superiore in the department of political science and sociology. His research explores socio-political instability and stability, the breakdown and persistence of authoritarian regimes, and strategies of regime survival, with a special focus on North Africa and the Middle East.

Survival Strategies of Monarchical Regimes: The Case of Morocco

The persistence, adaptability, and durability of authoritarian regimes was a central academic thesis until the late 2000s. However, the 2011 critical juncture posed an analytical challenge to scholars in understanding the factors that explain regime survival and breakdown. This investigation identifies survival strategies used by the Moroccan regime from independence till the 2010/2011 juncture. The paper uses a systematic and analytical description of political institutions, policies, ruling coalitions, and legitimation strategies to unpack how the ruling elite employed a variety of patronage tactics to consolidate the cohesion among traditional and emergent elites. It argues that the difference between the trajectory of a monarchical regime and a single party socialist regime is the use of patronage through state institutions, policies, and political institutions to consolidate ties between the monarchical institution, traditional elites, and the military. The paper demonstrates that the main difference between monarchical regimes and single party socialist regimes in North Africa is the composition of the ruling coalition that subsequently shaped social, political, and economic dynamics from independence till the 1980s. Moroccan alignment with the Western capitalist block, the colonial consolidation of the traditional elite, and the asymmetrical mobilizational power between the latter and the emergent nationalist movement explain the difference in the composition of the ruling coalition, policies, and legitimation strategies. Conversely, patronage as a strategy to maintain elite cohesion persists across the regimes of the region beyond any specificity of the regime type.



Khaoula Bengezi

PhD Candidate at the Department of Politics at York University. Bengezi is researching global responses to climate change in the Sahara Desert through renewable energy transitions vis-à-vis clean energy technologies. She uses a multi-scalar case study to examine how renewable energy imaginaries are constructed and implemented by international and Moroccan national actors. She juxtaposes these imaginaries by providing insight on how longstanding subsistence farming practices have been affected by the construction of global large-scale climate mitigation technologies. Bengezi's research is informed by an array of intersecting interdisciplinary approaches including global environmental governance, critical science, and technology studies, and decolonial and feminist political ecology.

Continuities of International Neoliberal Extractivist Logics in Morocco's Shift Towards Renewable Energy

The Sahara Desert in Morocco has long been a subject of ambitious techno-scientific visions. These visions often contrast the Orientalist perception of a barren desert with the Sahara's transformative potential. This is exemplified by various large-scale development initiatives introduced throughout history, including the French Administrations' dam projects, Morocco's Green Plan, and more recently, elaborate and futuristic large-scale solar power projects. This paper examines how these temporal notions of 'sustainability' are situated within a specific time and space and prioritize the visual grandeur of the projects at the expense of their long-term viability and their benefits to local communities and the nation. The current global preoccupation with the construction of expansive solar power plants is exemplified by the Noor Ouarzazate Solar Power Plant, the largest of its kind in the world with approximately two million solar power mirrors. The paper emphasizes the cost of these grand imaginaries by highlighting how these projects require a significant amount of water to operate, thereby posing a threat to an already water-scarce region. It argues that these water shortages are not solely the result of climate change drought, but also the consequence of internationally envisioned and nationally implemented grandiose development projects.



Laila Omar

Postdoctoral Research Associate and a Fung Global Fellow at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), with primary research interests in international migration and qualitative methods. She earned her PhD in Sociology from the University of Toronto. Her thesis, "Times of Uncertainty and Future Projections for Forced Migrants: The Case of Syrian Refugee Mothers and Youths in Canada," examines the temporal experiences and future projections of Syrian refugee mothers and teenagers after their resettlement in Canada.

Syrian Refugee Teenagers' Experiences with Time and Future Projections in Canada

This paper interrogates the importance of age and life stage at the moment of migration for imaginations of the future after resettlement in the host country by examining Syrian refugee teenagers' experiences. I draw on in-depth interviews including the "timeline-drawing" activity, conducted with 25 teenagers in 2022. I discuss two main trajectories for older teenagers who arrived in Canada at different times. Teenagers who arrived as children as part of the first waves of 2016 were able to overcome some challenges as they adapted to the Canadian context. Therefore, they are able to embrace a "slow present" where they live day by day and are able to plan and dream for the future. This is opposed to teenagers who resettled in Canada at an age when they were approaching adulthood. These teenagers experience a "tense present," where they simultaneously feel held back by the system in place in the host country and wanting to speed forward to make any kind of progress as newcomers. These two trajectories have meaningful consequences for each group when it comes to imagining their futures. As I demonstrate in this paper, examining refugee teenagers' temporal experiences offers rich insights into the different ways that time is subjectively experienced and perceived by different groups of people. This paper allows me to build on the existing literature on temporal dimensions of migration and refugee youths' hopes and aspirations.



Leena Adel

PhD Candidate at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia. She has taught and lectured units in international relations, politics, and history at Curtin University. Her research investigates counterrevolution responses to women's political mobilization in the Middle East.

Women and the Arab Counterrevolution: Assessing the Socio-Cultural Barriers to Women's Political Mobilization in the Post-2011 Middle East and North Africa

This paper explores socio-cultural barriers facing Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) women as they engage in political processes, particularly in the backdrop of the counterrevolution response to the Arab revolts. Over the past decade, women have been at the forefront of political movements. Counterrevolutions have led to the collapse of many of these efforts, disproportionately impacting women's activism and political participation. This study uses interview data as well as secondary literature to engage in a narrative analysis. The women interviewed in this study hail from the Yemeni, Egyptian, and Tunisian contexts – and have all participated actively in their respective countries through activism, political commentary, and public discourse at some point in time. Despite the differing contexts, interviews with participants displayed similar patterns in socio-cultural barriers they faced, as well as the internalized thought processes forcing them out of active engagement. On another level, this paper also aims to push back against orientalist and Western-centric approaches in interpreting women's political engagement within the MENA by centring the narratives of MENA women without isolating them from their indigeneity. The paper draws from the literature and interviews to outline and compare the nature of counterrevolution tactics of fallen regimes that had previously targeted women and to assess how this impacts movements at large. Despite differing contexts, participants shared similar experiences, highlighting distinct patterns in which counterrevolutions weaponize existing social and cultural norms to dismantle resistance led by women.



Mahmoud Emam

PhD Candidate in Asian, African, and Mediterranean Studies at University of Napoli "L'Orientale", Italy. He has worked as an Inspector in the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Egypt and as an assistant teacher in the History Department at the Institute of African Research and Studies, Cairo University. He obtained his MA in Ancient Ethiopian Studies and his BA from the Faculty of Archaeology, Egyptology Department at Fayoum University. He has participated in many archaeological missions in Egypt in Luxor, Aswan, Sa El-Hagar, and Behbeit El-Hagar, and was recently charged as Field Director of the Italian mission in Mersa/Wadi Gawasis on the Red Sea Coast for field seasons 2022 and 2023, in addition to participating in excavations in Russia, Italy, and Sudan. He has received international research grants in the United Kingdom, France, Cyprus, Netherlands, and Italy and has published in national and international journals.

Meroitic Funerary Amulets: A Multi-Approach Study for Uncovering Technology, Production Workshops, and Distribution in Ancient Sudan

Amulets are considered among the characteristic material culture of the Meroitic Period (ca. 3rd century BC-4th century AD), but a general comprehensive study has never been attempted. Despite the heavy looting of the Meroitic cemeteries in ancient and modern times, amulets survived in substantial quantities from the royal burials of Begrawiya and Gebel Barkal cemeteries, not to mention high-status burials in the Meroitic territory. Studying Meroitic amulets was neglected in the field of Meroitic studies in the past because the study of Meroitic religion is still in progress and many religious aspects are not yet understood. The data of this study was provided by the examination of published and unpublished materials found at several funerary sites dated to the Meroitic Period. A total of 1769 amulets from 21 funerary sites have been recovered and studied as a unit. The study presented the first large-scale classification attempt that combined theoretical and applicable methodology for the Meroitic funerary amulets that were found in royal and non-royal tombs. The study also interweaves multi-stranded approaches (typological, archaeometric, and ethnographic) to identify different aspects moving beyond the traditions of amulets and try to understand the interactions between people, materials, and environment.



Mahmoud Masud

Researcher and an Assistant Professor of Law at Coventry University. Masud is also an academic integrity lead in the law school and acts as an external reviewer at The Journal of Corporate Law & Governance Review and The European Journal of Legal Education. Masud's PhD debates the possibility of harmonizing European human rights law and the internal policies of Muslim states on issues surrounding free and offensive anti-religious expression, with the protection of religious and non-religious minorities at the centre of such debate. His research interests extend beyond freedom of expression to Islamophobia in Western countries and to human rights in Islamic law in general.

The Blurred Line between Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion: A Case Study of the Desecration of the Holy Qur'an

The desecration of the Holy Qur'an is promoted in Sweden and Denmark as a form of free expression. Such expression has been met with both support and opposition, especially where religious insult is domestically disassociated (linguistically and legally) from freedom of religion. Supporters argue that, although Islam is sacred to its followers and that they have the right to freely exercise it without interference, this right does not protect religious sensibilities from insult. This calls into question the purpose of post-WWII human rights law treaties, and (considering the limited scope of European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) guidance on religious text) the ECtHR's and the domestic regulation of Sweden and Denmark's stance towards insulting religions. This paper seeks to determine whether the domestic regulation in Sweden and Denmark offers sufficient protection to religions and their sensibilities to demonstrate that desecrating the Qur'an is contrary to international, mainly European, human rights law and ideals. In doing so, this article argues that, in the case of desecrating the Qur'an, the approach of the ECtHR in general anti-religious case law supports that freedom of religion can outweigh freedom of expression. Consequently the failure of Sweden and Denmark to impose a blanket ban on the desecration of the Qur'an interferes with Muslim minorities' right to exercise their religion freely and, potentially, their right to private life, freedom from inhuman or degrading treatment, and their right to freedom from discrimination.



Maro Youssef

Visiting scholar at the Institute for Middle East Studies at George Washington University. She obtained her PhD in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. She has worked for the World Bank as a consultant and the US Department of State as a diplomat. Youssef holds a master's degree in Middle East Studies from George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research focuses on gender politics, feminist activism, and social movements in the Middle East and North Africa.

Quiet Rebellion: Elite Mobilization during Tunisia's Democratic Transition (2011-2021)

Usually, when a political leader is ousted, his advisers and elites who do not pledge loyalty to new leaders are also forced to exit politics or go into exile. This assumption is based on findings on male elites. But what about women elites? Do they have different experiences? This article focuses on the behaviour of women elites during the Arab Spring and the political transition that followed in Tunisia. In this paper, I ask why states let women elites rebel. I draw on interviews and textual data to argue that leftist (secular) women elites joined the feminist movement after Islamists seized power and threatened to curtail the rights they helped to secure. Women elites had a legacy of "women's emancipation" to protect. They acted based on their loyalty to state feminist ideals and President Habib Bourguiba's vision for society. The state let them rebel because elite women (1) joined leftist feminist coalitions, a powerful interest group, and (2) exploited political cleavages between leftists and Islamists inside the state. I call this "quiet rebellion". The article discusses elite behaviour, power, mobilization, political transitions. It advances elite theory in North Africa and elite rebellion theory generally.



Maureen Abi-Ghanem

Doctoral candidate in Urban Planning at Columbia University. Maureen's research lies at the intersection of urban planning studies and refugee studies, with a focus on displaced people in Lebanon and Germany. Her work traces the UN Urban Refugee Policy that discourages encampment in the Global South and expands spaces of protection to cities, primarily investigating the socio-spatial impact of forced displacement on urban environments. By comparing large processes as well as shelter settlements of the displaced in urban areas in two distinct cities, Beirut and Berlin, Maureen's dissertation research addresses a gap in the literature on the geographies that urban refugees struggle to access, produce, and inhabit.

Shelter: On the Socio-Spatial Protection and Exclusion of Displaced Syrians in Beirut

Following its failed history of Palestinian camps, the Lebanese state had one incomplete vision for its most recent wave of refugees since 2011: A 'no-camp' policy for Syrians. Faced with a national decision in a country with a depleted stock of affordable housing, displaced Syrians had no choice but to seek informal ways to access spaces of refuge. Beirut and its outskirts unsurprisingly became major magnets due to economic opportunities and a variety of makeshift shelters to dwell in. This paper questions how displaced Syrians have been navigating informal city systems to find shelter, secure tenure and achieve livelihoods. The methodologically is based on in-depth interviews with over forty displaced Syrian households in Beirut as well as with experts in the shelter sector conducted in Lebanon between 2022 and 2023. The paper concludes that, although many of these spaces were produced for, or by, refugees, tenure security continues to depend on a very delicate balance of social, economic, political, and sectarian criteria shared by both the displaced and local communities. Theoretically, the paper explores the concept of protection for displaced people in Global South cities at the socio-spatial, legal, and symbolic levels, as narrated by the displaced themselves.



Meryem Belkadi

Fulbright and Vanier scholar currently pursuing a PhD in urban and regional planning at the University of British Columbia. Belkadi holds a master's degree in community planning from the University of Cincinnati and a master's equivalent in architecture from the National School of Architecture in Rabat, Morocco. She has developed expertise in the areas of housing, urban design, and gender, and has also accumulated more than six years of professional experience as an architect and urban designer in Morocco, the US, and South Africa. Her PhD research investigates state-led displacement in Morocco to better understand the trajectories and experiences of displaced households and the key factors shaping these trajectories.

Different Outcomes of Displacement: What Factors Shape the Trajectories of Displaced Households? Case Study of Tangier, Morocco

Forced state-led displacement in urban areas of Morocco is a complex phenomenon that unfolds over a multitude of scales, spaces, and systems. Yet, the phenomenon's complexity has not been fully captured by urban planning scholarship and policymaking, which treat movements of displacement as linear and artificially bounded processes, beginning and ending with the destruction of informal housing units. This research considers deconstructing this pre-conceived linearity and boundedness of displacement and seeks to better understand the different phases that precede and follow the actual destruction of housing units. The research emphasizes the post-displacement transition phase and analyses the trajectories and experiences of displaced individuals and households, as well as the key factors shaping these trajectories. The study examines these issues through a case study of Tangier, Morocco, and adopts a gender-informed perspective in its analysis. For this purpose, this research asks the following questions: 1) What are the different phases of displacement? 2) What are the different factors that impact these different phases, including the post-displacement transition phase, and how does this transition phase impact the different forms of displaced households' capital? 3) What are the different life trajectories post-displacement and why is the transition critical in shaping these life trajectories?



Moez Hayat

Ax:son Johnson Institute for Statecraft and Diplomacy Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Politics and International Studies at Cambridge University's Center for Geopolitics. A former US Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Researcher in the Academy of Brunei Studies at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam, he holds a master's in Asian Studies and a bachelor's in Foreign Service from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. He writes on regional and world affairs with articles in *The East Asia Forum*, *The Strategist*, *The Diplomat*, and *The National Interest*. His doctoral research explores the formation of regional order in Southeast Asia. He has a broader interest in smaller states and security in Asia and the Middle East.

Hybrid Pathways to Security and Autonomy: A Comparison of the GCC and ASEAN

Research on the growing role of regional institutions since the end of the Cold War has become an established focus of the international relations literature. Often these studies compare institutions in the Global South to the European Union now considered the standard for robust integration between disparate nation-states across a defined geography. But what is often overlooked is the actual effectiveness of institutions in building a stable security order through the prevention of inter-state war. Only three institutions stand-out as having never witnessed a war between member states: the European Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and ASEAN. But while the EU exists parallel to the alliance commitment of NATO – both the GCC and ASEAN eschew collective security arrangements as well as external pressure for liberal democratization. How then are the GCC and ASEAN able to maintain internal stability in the absence of great power intervention, and are these institutions robust enough to deter external aggressors? This study argues that the GCC and ASEAN maintain regional security not through armaments or internal trade but an elite political consensus to maintain internal security by deescalating disputes from rising to the point of conflict. This paper draws from a classical realist approach, modified by recent advances in the theories of social constructivism. It takes seriously Kenneth Waltz consideration of "second image" domestic policy concerns as playing an important role in shaping the international environment.



Mohammad Lari

Doctoral researcher in law at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He holds a master's degree in general law with distinction from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. He earned a bachelor's degree in law from Kuwait University with a distinction and was honoured by the Emir of Kuwait as one of the top ten graduates in the Faculty of Law at Kuwait University for the year 2017.

The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Contractual Obligations under the Kuwaiti Civil Law of 1980

The COVID-19 pandemic had profound and wide-reaching consequences, impacting health, administration, economy, society, and law. Notably, the legal system emerged as a severely affected domain, particularly for contractual transactions, demanding prompt resolution. In Kuwait, like many other countries, contracts bore the brunt of this crisis, leading to social and economic upheavals, with the weaker party in contractual relationships suffering the most. This paper scrutinizes legal doctrines within Kuwaiti civil law and explores avenues for devising equitable and sustainable solutions conducive to enhancing social justice. The initial segment delves into the framework of the Kuwaiti social and legal system. Subsequently, it examines the theoretical foundations and terms stipulated in the law, with a specific focus on their potential to alleviate the crisis's impact and offer just and fair solutions. Furthermore, the paper evaluates the inadequacies inherent in these doctrines while concurrently seeking alternative measures that may contribute to enhancing social justice in Kuwait. This analysis takes into account the state's features, historical context, guiding principles, and the societal structure upon which the community is founded.



Mohammed Abuarqoub

PhD Candidate at Regent University, US. Holding two master's degrees in international relations from Fairfax University in Virginia and media from the Middle East University in Jordan, and a BA in journalism from An-Najah National University in Palestine. With two decades of experience, as a journalist and trainer in digital media, he has also served as a professor at Palestinian universities, spearheading studies in collaboration with international and regional institutions. His leadership has been instrumental in driving media development projects across the Middle East.

Diffusion of Innovations in the Arab Newsrooms: Opportunities and Obstacles of Adopting Generative AI to Enhance Digital Storytelling

The dissertation employs a comprehensive approach, integrating the diffusion of innovation theory and systems theory to analyse the adoption of generative AI within Arab newsrooms, explicitly aiming to enhance digital storytelling. The study delves into opportunities and challenges associated with the decision-making processes employed by Arab media organizations, journalists, and newsroom leaders when considering the adoption or rejection of generative AI innovations. The study strategically categorizes the responses of Arab media organizations to generative AI innovations, aligning with the five categories of adoption outlined by the diffusion of innovation theory: innovators, early adopters, early majority, late majority, and laggards. Furthermore, the study explores the functioning of systems within Arab media organizations, providing a comprehensive understanding of how these entities operate in the context of adopting generative AI into their workflows. The study employs an experimental quantitative methodology, utilizing a survey as its primary instrument. The research population is strategically crafted to mirror journalists and professionals engaged in Arab digital newsrooms, particularly those who play a role in considering the adoption of generative AI innovations to elevate storytelling techniques.



Motasem Abuzaid

Doctoral student in Politics at the University of Oxford (St Antony's College). He completed two master's degrees in Sociology at Marmara University and Arab Studies at Georgetown University. His research is broadly concerned with the study of ethnic and political violence under authoritarian contexts in the Middle East. This includes interlinked projects based on a mixed-methods approach: collective action under high-risk repressive conditions; sub-national affiliations in authoritarian coercive formations; and the changing nature of revolutions since the 1980s with a particular focus on the urban-suburban dimension.

Between the Square and the Quarter: The Urban Logic of Violence in the Syrian Revolution

How do people mobilize and sustain mobilization in highly inauspicious contexts, like authoritarian polities that regularly exercise violence against non-violent challengers? Social movements literature highlights weak ties between civil society groups and rebel mobilization literature highlights strong ties among secretive, often co-ethnic insurgents. But strong ties alone lack the scale needed for mass urban challenge and weak associational ties alone are crushed by arbitrarily violent authoritarian regimes. This article proposes that both are necessary in revolutions against arbitrarily violent authoritarian incumbents. The two interact to spread and sustain challenge, which is intimately tied to the physical environment. While dense, informal neighbourhoods produce and enable the functioning of strong ties, weak ties give additional challengers from outside those communities' access to the resources of those neighbourhoods. This paper develops and empirically evaluates these claims in the case of the city of Damascus during the first year of the 2011 Syrian uprising. Specifically, it uses new quantitative data on protest to show that broad patterns of challenge are consistent with this hypothesis and validate the posited causal mechanisms through case studies of three neighbourhoods experiencing internally varying levels of mobilization, Midan, Rukneddin, and al-Hajar al-Aswad.



Mubarak Al-Jeri

PhD Candidate in the School of Social and Political Science at the University of Edinburgh. He earned his MA in Politics from Kuwait University in 2016. Al-Jeri's PhD thesis focuses on the connection between Political Islam, specifically the Brotherhood, and the prominent tribes in Kuwait. He has published several articles and books, including: *Transformations of the Islamic Constitutional Movement in Kuwait* (London: IB Tauris, 2021), "The Arab Spring and Salafism in Kuwait" (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2021), and "The Many Facets of Political Islam's Struggle in Kuwait" (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2018). His research interests encompass social movements in the Middle East, the evolution of Political Islam, and the political role of tribes in the Arabian Peninsula.

Exploring the Dynamics of Social Movements in Kuwait: Nature, Objectives, and Impact

Why do social movements in Kuwait fundamentally rely on social and cultural, rather than material, resources, in their mobilization endeavours? To address this question, the paper argues that the political and social influence of social components (tribes and families) has increased due to the characteristics of the Kuwaiti welfare regime and the absence of political reform that would enable the establishment of political parties. Consequently, the impact and effectiveness of social movements are closely tied to their social networks more than their material resources. In this context, social capital, demonstrated through social networks, is the essential foundation and pivotal resource for their mobilization.



Muhammad Amasha

PhD Candidate in sociology at Yale University. He holds a BA in political science and an MA in sociology. One of his research projects studies intellectuals' politics, especially Muslim religious scholars' (*ulama*) engagement with the Arab Spring uprisings. Some of his work has appeared in the *American Journal of Islam and Society*, in addition to *Jadaliyya*, *Maydan*, and *Middle East Eye*. His academic interests include the sociology of culture, politics, intellectuals, religion, and art.

Moral Dilemmas and Conflicts of Interest: How do Intellectuals Take Political Stances in Politically Volatile Times?

Strands in the sociological theory of action refer to values or interests, conscious or unconscious, to explain empirical cases. Yet, mere "values" or "interests" do not have enough explanatory power, given the diversity of each person's values and interests in a given situation. Most people believe in diverse values that, in specific situations, can lead to different courses of action – i.e., moral dilemmas. Similarly, interests can be material (economic), ideal (prestige), egoist or altruist. So, we need more specific answers on which values and interests are impactful and under what conditions. I answer this question through intellectuals' politics in politically volatile times. More concretely, I study the political stances of Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the "global mufti," toward the Arab uprisings.



Muznah Madeeha

Doctoral student at the School of Social Policy at the University of Birmingham, UK. She has previously worked as a research assistant at the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute at Qatar University and the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Madeeha's research interests include gender, religion, feminist economics, labour market inequalities, and Middle Eastern studies.

Generational Changes and Qatari Women's Economic Participation: A Postcolonial Feminist Approach

This study uses postcolonial feminism to examine the relationship between Qatari women's economic participation and generational changes taking place in Qatar. Scholars have examined the impact of economic growth, social norms, and family formation on women's economic participation. However, little is known about the generational impact of social and economic changes on older and younger cohorts of Qatari women with regard to their employment patterns and gender role beliefs. Following a postcolonial feminist perspective, I am critical of how such changes with regard to women's employment are theorized and represented in the academic literature. Scholars have used various concepts to make sense of Arab women's economic participation such as culture, religion, tradition, modernization, patriarchy, and women's empowerment. The study argues that, in many ways, the English language academic discourse on the rights of Arab and Muslim women still theorizes these key concepts in terms of European history and selective representations of what constitutes "Arab", "Western", and/or "modern" values and experiences. As a result, essentialist and monolithic notions of culture, tradition, and religion are still present in discourses on Arab Gulf women that portray their struggles as cultural paradoxes, while underplaying the impact of economic factors and women's practical struggles that continue to shape work-and-family decisions.



Nael Chami

Architect and an Architectural Historian. He recently finished his doctoral thesis at the University of Rome, La Sapienza. His research field concerns the evolution of the Middle Eastern cities of Bilad al Sham, from the Hellenistic period until the arrival of Islam, highlighting the influence of the classical period on the creation and evolution of the Muslim medina. He has published articles and organized and participated in many conferences. He is also involved in the study of the stratified city of Beirut where he attended and organized a conference about the city and its different phases of reconstruction, followed by articles and a book that was published in 2022.

Unpacking the Symbolism and Cultural Significance of Figure Representation in Early Islamic Art

The discourse surrounding the portrayal of figures in antiquity, especially in Islamic contexts, encompasses Aniconism, and the prohibition of representations of living creatures in Islamic art. Despite the absence of a specific Quranic prohibition, the Hadith serves as the foundation for the avoidance of depictions, emphasizing the need to distinguish between creation and the Creator. In contrast to Greek and Roman traditions, Muslims, guided by the Hadith, refrain from representing God to preserve sanctity. This research delves into Aniconism in early Islam, specifically during the Umayyad era, characterized by the widespread use of living figures in art. Utilizing historical sources, it traces the origins of Aniconism, analysing structures like Anjar and Qusayr Amra to establish a timeline and discern motivations. The research further scrutinizes the portrayal of Umayyad caliphs in art, symbolizing their authority and proximity to God, and investigates the link between the decline of the Umayyad dynasty and their self-aggrandizement, echoing practices from late antiquity.



Nasir Almasri

Predocctoral Research Fellow at the Middle East Institute at the Harvard Kennedy School and a PhD Candidate at MIT in comparative politics and international relations/security studies. He is also the Palestine Fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington DC. His research interests include social movements, authoritarianism, and regional power competition.

How Exclusion Shapes Moderation and Radicalization in the Middle East

This article analyses the consequences of political inclusion and exclusion on opposition group moderation and radicalization. To contextualize contradictory arguments in the literature about their relationship, I develop a framework centring on the cross-generational reproduction of factional tensions within opposition groups. I argue that political exclusion plays a foundational role in exacerbating tensions between moderates and radicals, helping explain variation in their levels of moderation or radicalization. To assess the theory and move beyond the literature's heavy focus on Islamists, I compare the Egyptian Islamist, Iraqi Communist, and Palestinian Nationalist movements using unique insights from 80 interviews with activists and extensive participant observation. I find that a "pendulum" effect exists whereby political exclusion favours moderates, who survive by avoiding confrontation but inevitably fail to effectively challenge regimes. Their failure shifts support to radicals, who begin confronting regimes once again. This research has significant implications for democratization processes and youth-led movements today.



Nerouz Satik

Doctoral Tutor in Social Anthropology at the School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK. He holds a master's degree in Sociology and Anthropology from the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and worked as Assistant Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha from 2011-2020.

The Revolutionary Practices of Syrians during the Refugees' Voyages to Europe: The Dead and Alive Bodies

The main focus of previous refugee literature has been on how refugees live in exile and their challenges with regard to space and time. However, the revolutionary dimensions of refuge have not been closely considered during the refugees' voyage. This research examines the death and life stories of Syrian refugees in their voyages to exile to draw out their embodied revolutionary practices. The data will be collected from ethnographic work with Syrian refugees in Germany and the UK, conducted over a nine-month period. This paper invokes Giorgio Agamben's concept of homo sacer to describe the refugees' voyage, where the nomadic outsiders face death, violence, and humiliation at every moment and place, but resist all these risks and challenges. It argues that the embodying of the homo sacer's challenges uncovers the physical revolutionary practices of refugees. It makes the case that the refugees' voyage is a revolutionary space, which contains embodied practices of their challenges, resistance, and defeat. The living body embodies revolutionary practices that express the bodies' resistance to the risks of the refugees' voyage. The dead body embodies the result: starving, drowning, killing, etc. Both the living and dead bodies, represent the revolutionary expression of the refugees' practices because they challenge the powers through survival and sacrifice.



Nour Al Wattar

PhD Candidate in International Relations and Political Science at Corvinus University in Budapest, with a specialization in human rights. She earned a master's degree in European and International Business Law from Karoli Gaspar University in Budapest. Her research focuses on the protection of women's rights during migration crises. Beyond her scholarly pursuits, she is actively engaged in the field as a freelance legal translator. This multifaceted approach allows her to contribute both academically and practically to the critical issues surrounding human rights and international relations.

Unveiling the Suffering: Human Rights Violations Against Women in Refugee Camps

This article addresses the issue of gender-based violence against women in refugee camps, examining the implementation of human rights within these settings and the susceptibility of women to rights violations. The analysis begins with an overview of different types of refugee camps and evaluates the degree to which they can be considered safe havens. Subsequently, the article undertakes a comprehensive examination of the challenges faced by refugee women concerning their security within these camps. Notably, experiences in the camps are diverse, influenced significantly by factors such as race and gender. The article underscores the significance of recognizing the distinct experiences of refugee women compared to their male counterparts in these camps, emphasizing gender differences. This recognition is crucial due to its substantial impact on the nature of insecurities faced by women, encompassing discrimination, sexual assaults, and other threats. The article illuminates the unique experiences of women in refugee camps and stress the importance of considering these experiences in the development of effective solutions and methodologies to safeguard their rights.



Orubba Almansouri

Doctoral candidate in Urban Education at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York. Her interdisciplinary research experience and her own experience as a multilingual learner and immigrant youth prepared her to work as an educator across disciplines with students from various cultural, linguistic, and academic styles. Her work explores cultures of care in school settings that are co-created by the community members including its students, as well as the experience of these youth in schools. Her work aims to push forward the importance of multicultural and translingual education and cultures of care in transforming academia into an environment where immigrant students are able to connect to and thrive in the world that revolves around them.

Moving Forward: Re-envisioning Education for Multilingual Multicultural Immigrant Youth

The education of immigrant youth and multilingual language learners has shifted over the years depending on the various educational policies in place and on the US mainstream political attitude towards immigrants and multilingual learners. Immigrant kids make up 23% of public school students in the US and as of 2020, there are 4.96 million English language learners across K-12 schools. However, immigrant students have one of the lowest graduation rates in the country. This paper examines the schooling experience of English language learners who graduated from Global High, a New York City public high school that has one of the highest graduation rates for immigrant language learners in the country. Combined, the school's approach to teaching and learning and its culture of care allowed students to create and navigate schooling in New York in a unique way. This pilot study explores how immigrant alumni of Global High reflect on navigating learning in a new language, a new culture, and a new land all while preparing for college and career paths. It highlights the individual and collective experiences of immigrant language learners on their journey to career and college access.



Rafea Chehoudi

Lecturer and PhD Candidate at Fulda University in Germany. Chehoudi has a background in various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international entities specializing in democratization, including the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and the Maghreb Economic Forum. He earned his master's degree from Memorial University, achieving the distinguished title of "Fellow of Graduate Studies" in acknowledgment of his outstanding academic achievements. His primary research focuses on democracy promotion, international organizations, and international relations theories.

The United Nations and Democratization in the Middle East and North Africa

This study seeks to evaluate the impact of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) on the democratization processes within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) between 2000 and 2020. Employing a mixed-methods approach, it examines the relationship between UNDEF's financial support and democracy levels in MENA countries. Key findings suggest a positive correlation between the financial support offered by the UNDEF and the levels of democracy across the MENA region. However, this positive impact is limited and contingent upon both local and global factors. The study finds that certain local factors, such as conservative gender dynamics, economic development reliant on oil exports, and the presence of abundant natural resources, exert a negative influence on the levels of democracy. Additionally, the substantial geographical size of some countries in the region poses challenges to UNDEF initiatives. On a global scale, while the positive influence of democracy spreading in neighbouring countries contributes to democratization, the study argues that foreign interventions impede the effective functioning of the UNDEF. Furthermore, the research highlights operational issues within the UNDEF, particularly emphasizing concerns related to its hands-off approach.



Saleh Almogrbe

Doctoral student at the University of Strathclyde and an Associate Lecturer in the Department of Built Environment at Anglia Ruskin University, UK. He served as a lecturer at the National Nuclear Energy College in England and holds a master's degree in civil engineering and environmental management from the University of South Wales in 2017. He co-authored a chapter titled "Benghazi: Conflict, Instability, Urban Degradation and Culture as the Catalyst for Post-Conflict Recovery" featured in *City Re-construction: Urban Policy Innovation, Towards Sustainable Cities in MENA Region*. His research explores reconstruction after armed conflicts, drawing lessons from cities like Coventry, Mostar, Sarajevo, and Beirut.

Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Lessons for Benghazi from Beirut

This paper scrutinizes the urban redevelopment process in Benghazi following Libya's civil conflict of 2014-2017. It extracts lessons from restoration efforts in Beirut, Coventry, Mostar, and Sarajevo, aiming to assess the efficacy of stability projects in Benghazi. The analysis highlights a significant lapse: the persistent displacement of around 5,000 Old City families due to disruptions in compensation and resettlement efforts, precipitating rampant and unregulated urban expansion. This conundrum exemplifies the municipality's challenge in reigning in the sprawl and adhering to sanctioned urban plans. The protracted halt on public housing projects post-2011 revolution has further exacerbated this condition, fostering illegal constructions amidst national instability. The study draws lessons from cities that faced challenges following conflicts to rebuild their urban environment to provide recommendations appropriate to the context of Benghazi, emphasizing the necessity of a comprehensive reconstruction strategy that meets local needs and contributes to a sustainable urban environment supportive of social peace.



Salma Shash

PhD Candidate in the history department at University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Her project focuses on the everyday life of justice in the Egyptian countryside between 1850 and 1914. Before coming to UCSB, she worked at Nazra for Feminist Studies, a feminist Egyptian collective. She holds a master's degree in Middle East Politics from SOAS, University of London.

Policing the Village: Violence, Bureaucracy and Political Economy in Nineteenth-Century Egypt

This paper explores justice in the everyday life of rural Egypt between 1850-1914. Where and how did villagers seek justice? How did the local police station define and control crime? What role did land ownership play in shaping policing powers? It specifically focuses on the role that the Ministry of Interior played in policing crime and managing land in tandem. In the countryside, policing agents and institutions were central not only to surveilling, punishing, and disciplining the population but also to overseeing the khedival and colonial economies. Analyses of policing in modern Egypt have neglected the countryside, where seventy percent of the population lived as late as the 1930s. The specificity of rural socio-economic conditions, reforms, and gendered regimes shaped different categories of and interactions between "criminals," "villagers," and "law enforcers." The village itself, rather than courts or police stations are primary sites of the making and unmaking of justice. Rural actors, like 'umdass (village headmen), policemen, villagers, and criminals, crystalize the shifting meanings of (in)justice, law, and crime in a period of sweeping legal and economic changes.



Samir Belkff

Researcher in Philosophy at the Sorbonne University in France, and former lecturer at the University of Algeria. He holds a doctorate in Philosophy at the University of Constantine in 2017, and a certificate from the University of Abou El Kassem Saadallah in Algiers in 2020, specializing in modern and contemporary Western philosophy. He has published many philosophical books: *Kant: The Philosopher of Cosmopolitanism*, *Thinking with Kant Against Kant*, *Kant's Mathematical Epistemology*, and *The Psychology of Reading*. His published articles include "Moral Philosophy from the Question of Meaning to the Dilemma of Procedure", "German Philosophy and Critical Conquests", "Contemporary French Philosophy", and "Anglo-American Philosophy from Deconstructing to Reconstructing Reality".

Philosophy and Universal Hospitality

The concept of Universal Hospitality is based on the moral and philosophical dimensions of communication between humans, which makes it urgent to frame this concept as a legitimate legal matter. Since antiquity, moral philosophy has paid attention to the cosmic dimension in man, which involves prior guarantees – if idealistic – on the ability of man to respect the other and treat them as a human being. Among the human rights and political concepts that have been strengthened by a philosophical background is the concept of universal hospitality, which considers man as a wanderer in the world who has the moral, human, and political right to cross affiliations because human beings are equal in this right. In the modern era, German philosopher Immanuel Kant emphasized the need to consider that "man, and in general every rational being, exists as an end in himself, not merely as a means". The paper sheds light on the essential relationship between philosophy, as a field to search for truth, and man, as a universal value. It seeks to establish a precedent for philosophy in terms of its honour in its research on man, as a moral end, that is, in considering man with universal dignity, and in response to open critical philosophical questions, beginning with the epistemological question: What can I know? and ending with the ethical question: what should I do? That is, it approaches man axiologically and universally rather than taking a narrow and limited epistemological approach.



Sara Aljuaid

PhD Candidate in the English Department and Graduate Writing Specialist at Morgan State University. Sara is also a Graduate Fellow at the Benjamin A. Quarles Humanities and Social Science Institute. Her dissertation, titled "Reimagining the Orient: Revisiting the Ontological Representations of the Middle East in Post 9/11 American Literature", examines the narrative about the Middle East's cultural, social, and political representations in American literature. It includes an analysis of the residual colonial ideologies deeply rooted in the newly emerging stereotypical portrayals of the Middle East in contemporary Arab American literature and Hollywood.

Reimagining the Orient: Revisiting the Ontological Representations of the Middle East in Post 9/11 American Literature

Following the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Arab, Middle Eastern, and Muslim Americans became high-profile and trending subjects of primetime American TV. American media and Hollywood have subjected the Middle Eastern community to scrutiny by broadcasting stereotypes that demean and dehumanize Middle Easterners and their homeland. Post-9/11 Middle Eastern American literature centres around questions of conflicting identities and new discourse on mainly the representation of Muslim women. Since 9/11, the orientalist stereotypical representations of Muslim women as docile, passive, and exotic, dating back to the colonial projects in the 18th century, have been weaponized to create a sense of sympathy and to provoke hostile sentiment against Muslim men. This was done to foster support for the so-called 'War on Terror'. This dissertation examines the narrative pertaining to the Middle East's cultural, social, and political representations in American literature. It includes an analysis of the residual colonial ideologies deeply rooted in the newly emerging stereotypical portrayals of the Middle East. The recurring patterns of these texts are critical to understanding how the fictional representation of the Middle East, the Orient, is depicted and the psychological after-effect.



Sara Bolghiran

PhD Candidate in Religious Studies and Philosophy at the Leiden University, the Netherlands. She is also part of a working group at Yale University's Macmillan Center on Decoloniality in Europe, interested in exploring ways to epistemologically reassess academic studies of/on Muslims in Europe. The overriding theme of her research focuses on meaning-making, subjectivity, and the theorization of Islam through non-dogmatic and non-scriptural means. She is interested in how young diasporic Muslims in the West are rethinking Islam and engaging spiritually through aesthetics, philosophy, Sufism, poetry, and art and how they use these matters to create ethical socio-ethical imaginaries of their future.

Muslim Futures in Europe: Imagining the Unimaginable? An Exercise in Contemporary Muslim Utopian Thinking

When it comes to Muslim imaginaries of the future, particularly those of Muslims in the West, most narratives tend to be characterized by rather dichotomous and simplistic visions of self, community, and other. We can find visions of Taliban or DAESH-like figures in which a particular puritan idea of 7th century Arabia ought to be reinstated, for instance. At the same time and at the complete other end, we find those who have completely coopted Western imaginaries and wish to live accordingly. These binaries do not do justice to the wealth of imaginaries that do in fact exist, imaginaries in which Muslims envision futures that are encapsulated in different conceptions of time and space to begin with. As of now, there is very little theoretical exploration of these visions and imaginaries. This paper, which is forthcoming in Brill – Journal of Muslims in Europe in 2024, demonstrates how Muslim imaginaries flourish and thrive in between dichotomous conceptions of being by i) theoretically exploring the 'Islamic' in Muslim futures building on the work of philosopher Abderrahman Taha, ii) discussing the importance of the episteme of imagination, iii) empirically complementing the theoretical exercise by sharing narratives obtained from conversations with several self-proclaimed Futurists in the Netherlands, Germany, France, and the UK.



Sara Hussein

PhD Candidate in the History Department at the University of California, Los Angeles. She earned her MA in Middle East Studies from the American University in Cairo. Hussein is a historian of modern Egypt, Afro-Arab histories, anti-colonial movements, and pan-Africanist thought. Her dissertation is a diplomatic and intellectual history project focusing on Egyptian-African relations in the mid-twentieth century, looking at Nasserist Cairo as a hub for African revolutionaries.

Revolutionary Cairo and its Contours: Between Pan-Africanism and Afro-Asian Solidarity 1954-1970

This paper seeks to recover histories of pan-Africanist, anti-colonial, and Afro-Asian activity from Cairo during the Nasser period. Using archival material from the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization including conference proceedings and ephemera, interviews, memoirs of state and non-state actors, and the organization's political and literary publications, it argues that Cairo became a key node in networks of militant African liberation struggles and a site of transregional Third Worldism as a political project. By analysing publications, organizing, and attempts at institution building oriented towards a politics of anti-imperialism and Bandung humanism from Cairo, the paper seeks to historicize the diverse actors, visions, and dynamism that characterized metropolises of African liberation. Although scholarly attempts to locate and historicize post-war African decolonization during the Cold War have increased recently with considerable literature on Algiers, Accra, and Dar es Salam as capitals of Black liberation, less attention has been paid to Cairo's role in this period of anticolonial struggle, specifically as a site of African revolution. Critically engaging with texts produced by and between "hubs of decolonization", the study expands on the historical contours of South-South solidarities and offers a clearer understanding of ideological underpinnings, means of mobility, artistic and literary exchange, and militant organizing.



Shadi Rohana

Literary Translator and Researcher who teaches Arabic language and literature at the Center for Asian and African Studies at El Colegio de México in Mexico City. He is the translator of the Mexican novel *Las batallas en el desierto* by José Emilio Pacheco into Arabic (Akka, 2016) and *Volverse Palestina* by the Chilean writer Lina Meruane (Cairo, 2021). He holds a bachelor's degree in Latin American studies and Spanish language from Swarthmore College, US, and a master's degree in Latin American studies from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

The Morisco Question in Cervantes' *Don Quixote*

In early 16th century Spain, a few years after the fall of Granada to the hands of the Catholic Monarchs, various royal edicts were issued to proscribe Islam and Arabic in the Peninsula. To avoid their expulsion from their homeland, Granadian and non-Granadian Muslims who remained in Spain converted to Catholicism, becoming, in the words of one of the characters of *Don Quixote*, "enemies in one's own house". This novel by Miguel de Cervantes shows how the Moriscos, Muslims forced to convert to Christianity, are represented during the various historical moments of their collective life, their stay in Spain under Catholic rule, their conversion, and later expulsion and diaspora. Moreover, the expulsion of the Moriscos by King Phillip III took place between the publications of the first and second parts of *Don Quixote* (1605 and 1615). In this paper, I will introduce the Morisco characters in *Don Quixote* and demonstrate how they contribute to the fiction. I will also explore whether it is possible to formulate a hypothesis regarding Cervantes' ethical and political position on the Morisco question to which he bore witness.



Soheila El Ghaziri

PhD Candidate at the University of Montreal. She is also part of the "globalization under strain" research group (UdeM, McGill, UQAM, Bishops) which takes a critical look at the edges of globalization and global governance. Her research focuses on health in Lebanon and Transjordan during the interwar period. She is particularly interested in the different health actors in this context: local doctors, missionaries, mandate authorities and experts from supranational institutions. Her work highlights circulations from a regional, (trans)imperial and transnational point of view as well as the exchanges and links maintained by these different actors.

Care Beyond Borders: Medical Trajectories and Therapeutic Itineraries in the Interwar Levant

This paper explores medical care pathways in the interwar Levant, with a focus on how British and French mandatory authorities harnessed the mobility of medical practitioners and patients to serve their own interests. The interwar Levant witnessed an increase in the movement of students seeking medical education, doctors in pursuit of career prospects and patients in need of medical attention. In this context, Lebanon, particularly Beirut, emerges as a triple hub. Its two universities (the American University of Beirut and the Université Saint-Joseph), and its multiple hospitals and sanatoria made it highly attractive, prompting circulation throughout the region. These circulations are not specific to the mandate period and were already visible during late Ottoman times. Yet the mandates stand as a unique moment characterized by political and spatial reconfiguration. Physicians and patients reframed pre-mandate networks and perceived the new borders established by the League of Nations in inconsistent ways. This prompted responses from the French and British mandates that either facilitated or restricted these movements, depending on their political interests. Drawing from diverse sources such as alumna journals, sanatoria records, and administrative archives, this paper underscores the distinctiveness of the mandate period in the Levant in terms of medical circulation and exchanges. It adopts a transnational and trans-imperial approach, broadening the perspective beyond national boundaries and offering a comprehensive insight into the interwar Levant.



Tala Maragha

Dentist and PhD Candidate in Craniofacial Science at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. During her time in the Health Science Professionals – Education Research (HSP-ER) Lab, Tala's research focused on understanding the wellbeing of oral health sciences students and professional in a North American context. She examines the intersectionality of individual, structural, and organizational factors, and its role in shaping the overall health and wellbeing of students and workers in oral health sciences. Additionally, Tala adopts a constructivist approach to bridge the gap between theory and practice in teaching health sciences, particularly in early years.

Mental Health Experiences among Canadian Oral Healthcare Providers and Students: An Exploratory Study

Amidst concerns about the health and wellbeing of oral health care providers and students in Western countries like Canada, this study investigates the evolving challenges in dentistry and dental education. These challenges may impact patient care and the students' learning experience, with stress and mental health issues linked to attrition and academic struggles. In light of the changing landscape of the profession, marked by increasing feminization and greater diversity among dentists and students, the study explores the intersectionality of gender and ethnicity in shaping wellbeing. It employs a case study design, conducting interviews with dentists and students across Canada. A thematic analysis through gender, ethnic, and racial lenses revealed two key themes: challenges faced by women in dentistry and the struggle of standing out. The first theme discussed stereotyping, competency issues, and the stress of caregiving responsibilities. The second theme exposed micro-aggressions, racism, and a lack of representation in institutional leadership, contributing to a range of mental health challenges, including stress, anxiety, depression, and burnout. Considering the ongoing reforms in dentistry and dental education, the study's findings inform policies and support strategies to empower women and People of Colour (POC) in the field.



Tamara Maatouk

PhD Candidate in Middle Eastern History at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She holds a BA in Cinema and Television from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik and an MA in History from the American University of Beirut. She is the author of *Understanding the Public Sector in Egyptian Cinema: A State Venture* (American University in Cairo Press, 2019), which examines the emergence, expansion, and demise of the public film sector in Egypt between 1957 and 1971. Her current research explores the intersection of cinema and politics in Egypt, with attention to histories of culture, concepts, and emotions.

Preaching Socialism: The Revolutionary Intellectual in Nasser's Egypt

Egypt embarked on its socialist journey, officially in 1961, with high expectations for the future and the promise of building a modern, progressive, egalitarian, self-sufficient, and free society. This journey not only entailed changes in the political, economic, and social arenas; culture, too, had to be transformed. Cinema was expected to be both the subject and object – the agent and product – of socialist aspirations. While much existing scholarship on 1960s Egypt explores the state's implementation of socialism or assesses the extent to which the socialist project was successful, often in comparison to European experiences and expectations, I prioritize the ideals that Egyptians associated with socialism to study the Egyptian socialist project on its own terms. By juxtaposing films with official documents concerning cultural and film affairs, popular and specialized periodicals, conference proceedings, memoirs, interviews, contemporaneous essays, the press, and other cultural products, this paper explores the cinematic image of the revolutionary intellectual, or the socialist preacher tasked with inculcating the "new human values" that Egyptians were expected to cultivate to become socialist.



Tamara Tamimi

PhD Candidate in international Law and the Palestine question at Queen's University Belfast. Tamimi holds an MA in Human Rights Law from SOAS, University of London in 2016, where her dissertation, which focused on destruction of property and forcible transfer in Jerusalem, received the Sarah Spells Prize for the best dissertation of the 2015-2016 academic year. Tamimi's research focuses on settler colonialism, transformative justice, forcible displacement, and policies of Western countries as effectuated through international development assistance. She has experience in research, advocacy, political economy analysis, program development and program evaluation across the fields of gender equality, international law, and human rights, with a focus on right to education, residency rights, cultural heritage, transitional justice, and settler colonialism.

Bottom-Up Transformative Justice: An Alternative to the Liberal Peace Paradigm in the Question of Palestine

As part of the liberal peace paradigm, Western countries have framed "conflict resolution" in Palestine through the advancement of the two-state solution, based on a conceptualization of military occupation. Apart from the failure of this approach and its lack of engagement with the wishes of the Palestinian people, several issues arise from the imposition of a two-state solution from the outside. First, it entrenches the fragmentation of Palestinians. Second, it does not address Israeli settler colonial measures. Third, it excludes key Palestinian groups and milestones. This paper advances the approach of bottom-up transformative justice, operationalized through centralizing Palestinian voices at the heart of any political process and peace solutions. To this end, the paper will: i) analyse key issues arising from liberal peace paradigm, ii) demonstrate the utility of expanding the conceptual framework on Palestine to include, alongside military occupation, settler colonialism, and iii) present in-depth findings among the Palestinian general public and societal actors on Palestinian perceptions of justice. The paper presents an original proposal for bottom-up transformative justice as a decolonial alternative to the liberal peace paradigm that characterizes Western engagement with the question of Palestine.



Tariq Alsabahi

PhD Candidate at the University of Exeter's Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies, Department of Gulf Studies. Alsabahi has been selected for the Sakharov Fellowship for human rights defenders in 2023. He is a former lawyer and human rights activist from Oman. He is interested in international governance and focuses on international procedures in the Human Rights Council and international civil society organizations.

Legitimacy of Gulf Monarchies in a Human Rights Context

This study is consistent with empirical studies of legitimacy, which necessitate a multidimensional approach beginning with a discursive investigation of the grounds and assessing how far a specific power holder corresponds to them in practice. It reconsiders prevailing ideas about legitimizing the monarchy in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries through international human rights engagement, using Oman and Qatar as case studies. This research raises the question: how do Gulf states gain legitimacy in the international human rights arena? This study assesses the performance of Oman's and Qatar's National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in order to understand the origins and changes in institutional development to the practice of these organizations to claim legitimacy. It examines the adherence to the Paris Principles of Omani and Qatari NHRIs according to six main functions: 1) legal independence; 2) nature of the mandate; 3) autonomy from government control; 4) principal duties; 5) pluralism of representation; and 6) staff and financial resources. Furthermore, the research investigates the Universal Periodic Review as a new global human rights framework and to assess Oman and Qatar's performance during three review cycles. It makes use of a quantitative model developed by the UPR Info group and illustrates how international human rights treaties, UN Special Processes, and internal implementation of recommendations promote performance. The thesis relies on extensive published literature on United Nations Human Rights Council reports and government submission, internal regulations analysis and International Non-Government Organizations reports focused on GCC human rights situations.



Wassim Naboulsi

Lawyer and Associate Lecturer in International Relations at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. He holds a PhD in International Relations from Sussex University, UK. Naboulsi's research interests include Middle Eastern studies, Syria, rural-urban relations, Marx and Gramsci, social psychology, discourse, and drama analysis.

Rural-Urban Relations in Syria: The 2011 Uprising and Beyond

This article argues that the existing literature on the role of rural-urban relations during the Syrian 2011 uprising and the subsequent conflict suffers from its economistic perspective, which tends to focus mainly on the economic liberalization of the 2000s and how it benefited certain urban groups at the expense of the rural population. The article complements this literature by investigating the ideological and discursive dimensions of rural and urban identities in Syria. It uses Social Identity Theory to study the processual and relational construction of these identities and how their reproduction has been linked to power relations and the political and socio-economic developments in the country. The article analyses various drama and cinema productions to present a new understanding of rurality and urbanity in Syrian society, which goes beyond qualitative data on population thresholds and densities to comprise the discursive and perceptive aspects of these identities. The article shows that various rural and urban groups had been suffering not only from economic deterioration but also from a hostile public discourse which eroded their social and political status. These rural-urban grievances, therefore, had been more consequential and sophisticated on the eve of the uprising than how they are depicted in the existing literature.



Yazid Zahda

PhD Researcher and Guest Lecturer at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) Erasmus University Rotterdam. He previously worked as a part-time lecturer in the European Studies Program at Al Quds University between 2016 and 2019. He also served as an education specialist at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Palestine from 2002 to 2014. He is the co-author of *Local Perceptions of the EU's Role in Peacebuilding: The Case of Security Sector Reform in Palestine* (2018) and a forthcoming article on the role of Palestinian agency in mediating neoliberalization processes in Palestine. His research focuses on neoliberalism in the case of Palestine.

Neoliberalization in Palestine: The Emergence of Palestinian National Development Plans

This paper examines the emergence of National Development Plans (NDPs) from 1994 to 2023 to understand neoliberalism in the unique context of Palestine. Scholars have broadly approached neoliberalism in Palestine as either a hegemonic project, or a set of ideas imposed by financial institutions that are supported by the local elite with an objective to establish pro-market institutions. The paper offers a critical and comprehensive analysis of neoliberalism in Palestine using two lenses: the variegated neoliberalization thesis (VNLT) (Brenner, Peck et al. 2010) and critical realism (Bhaskar 1979). The paper demonstrates that the NDPs represent the tip of the iceberg of the neoliberalization process that started with the Oslo Accords and subsequent interventions of international and local actors.



Zakaria Fahmi

PhD Candidate in the Linguistic and Applied Language Studies (LALS) program at the University of South Florida. His research interests include language and culture, sociolinguistics, discourse and ideology, social approaches to multilingualism, and corpus linguistics.

Cultural Representation in Arabic through Foreign Language Textbook: An Exploratory Mixed Study of Content and Languaculture

Language textbooks play a pivotal role in the construction, dissemination, and legitimization of knowledge. However, such curricular processes are often ideologically motivated. In the context of Arabic as a foreign language (AFL) in US higher education, the two most widely used textbook series are *Al-Kitaab* and *Arabiyyat Al-Naas*. To this end, this study analyses the cultural representations in the aforementioned textbook series and seeks to explore the (sometimes) competing interests underlying curricular contents. The general approach of the study relies on a mixed method design consisting of quantitative content-analysis and qualitative discourse analysis (Risager, 2018). This approach allows for a systematic exploration of both representations of cultural content (e.g., cultural artifacts, persons, communities, practices, and perspectives), and more linguistically embedded domains of culture-in-language (i.e., semantic-pragmatic, sociolinguistic, and poetic meanings). Content analysis results reveal the predominance of surface culture and the paucity of deep culture in both series, while languaculture analysis attests to the presence of its three meaning domains. Contributing to the scant research on AFL teaching materials, this study offers a critical understanding of the cultural politics of language textbooks, identifying what is considered "general" knowledge about Arabic and its cultures.



Zeidon Alkinani

PhD Candidate and former Teaching Assistant in Politics and International Relations at the University of Aberdeen. Non-resident Fellow at Arab Center Washington DC and Politics Lecturer at Georgetown University in Qatar. Currently, he also works as a Media Specialist at a non-profit educational organization in Qatar known as Qatar Foundation for Education, Research and Community Development. Formerly was Non-resident Fellow at the Center for Iranian Studies in Ankara (iRAM). His primary research interests are geopolitics, identity politics, democratization, power-sharing agreements, state-building, civil societies, and other policy issues in Iraq and the Middle East, where he has published extensively in articles, reports, policy analyses and briefs, and a book chapter.

Iraq's Intra-Sectarian Consociational Democracy: The Case of Post-2003 Iraq's Intra-Shia Political Rivalry

This research focuses on the implications of consociational democracies on intra-group relations. There is an extensive body of literature on how consociationalism mitigates the relationship and cooperation between political elites that are supposedly representing an ethnically or religiously diverse society. However, the scholarly debate evidently lacks a similar level of focus on the implications of consociational democracies on intra-group relations. The chosen case study is the intra-Shia political rivalry in post-2003 Iraq's consociational democracy. Political sectarianism is allegedly one of the main obstacles to Iraq's political stability—a claim that assumes that Iraqi society is divided across sectarian lines and that a power-sharing agreement was and is still necessary to establish peace and stability. It is also an argument that fails to address the consequences of homogenizing several communities into separate 'imagined' political identities and ignores the ideological, generational, and individualistic diversity within those groups. This research aims to investigate the consequences of consociational democracies on in-group relations and how minimal efforts to acknowledge them can lead to a failed democratic process and further damage domestic political relations.



Zeinab Farokhi

A SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at Concordia University and serves as an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga. She holds a PhD in Women and Gender Studies and Transnational and Diasporic Studies from the University of Toronto. Her postdoctoral research involves a mixed-methods comparison of Hindu nationalist and white supremacist accounts on YouTube. Farokhi's work is grounded in feminist approaches to extremism, digital media, and transnational and diaspora studies. It underscores the critical importance of comprehending how national and transnational extremist rhetoric manifests, spreads, and persuades within digital ecologies.

Gendered and Sexual Abjection of Muslim Masculinities by Hindu Nationalists on Social Media

This paper scrutinizes the weaponization of X (formerly known as Twitter) features and affective strategies by Right-Wing Extremist Groups (RWEs) in India and North America, focusing on the abjection of Muslim masculinities within Hindu and White supremacist political ideologies. The rhetoric serves to critique Muslim masculinities, idealize Hindu and White masculinities, advance nationalist agendas, and foster global unity against Muslim Others. Muslim men are depicted as hypersexual monsters, terrorist villains, and economic and political threats. Drawing on Kristeva, Butler, and Agamben, the analysis reveals how affective rhetoric on X strategically targets and abjects Muslim masculinities, aiming to establish the supremacy of White and Hindu masculinities and forge alliances against their perceived "common enemy". The paper contends that this abjection justifies the fear, hatred, and disgust espoused by RWEs, concurrently championing White and Hindu masculinities and reducing the Muslim male body to the status of homo sacer – an existence undeserving of protection or mourning.

Opening Session



Ayat Hamdan

Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies and Editing Director of Ostour Journal for Historical Studies. Hamdan received her PhD from the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter, UK, where she served as an assistant lecturer in the Political Science department. She was also awarded a fellowship at the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford. She is editor of *Jerusalem: Ethnic Cleansing and Forms of Resistance* (ACRPS, 2023).



Azmi Bishara

General Director of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Bishara is a leading Arab researcher and intellectual with numerous books and academic publications on political thought, social theory and philosophy. He was named by Le Nouveau Magazine Littéraire as one of the world's most influential thinkers. His publications in Arabic include *Civil Society: A Critical Study* (1996); *From the Jewishness of the State to Sharon* (2004); *On The Arab Question: An Introduction to an Arab Democratic Manifesto* (2007); *To Be an Arab in Our Times* (2009); *On Revolution and Susceptibility to Revolution* (2012); *Religion and Secularism in Historical Context* (in 3 vols., 2013, 2015); *The Army and Political Power in the Arab Context: Theoretical Problems* (2017); *The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Daesh): A General Framework and Critical Contribution to Understanding the Phenomenon* (2018); *What is Populism?* (2019) and *Democratic Transition and its Problems: Theoretical Lessons from Arab Experiences* (2020). Some of these works have become key references within their respective field. His latest publication is titled *The Question of the State: Philosophy, Theory, and Context* (2023) with a second volume forthcoming in 2024 titled *The Arab State: Beginnings and Evolution*. Bishara's English publications include *Palestine: Matters of Truth and Justice* (Hurst, 2022); *On Salafism: Concepts and Contexts* (Stanford University Press, 2022); *Sectarianism without Sects* (Oxford University Press, 2021), among other writings. His trilogy on the Arab revolutions, published by I.B. Tauris, consists of *Understanding Revolutions: Opening Acts in Tunisia* (2021); *Egypt: Revolution, Failed Transition and Counter-Revolution* (2022); and *Syria 2011-2013: Revolution and Tyranny before the Mayhem* (2023), in which he provides a theoretical analysis and a comprehensive assessment of the revolutions in three Arab countries.

Discussants



Abdelkarim Amengay

Assistant Professor on the Politics and International Relations program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, where he teaches Comparative Politics, Democratic Governance and Democratization Theories, and readings in Politics. He holds a PhD in political science from Sciences Po Paris and the University of Ottawa. His research interests include political behavior, party politics, and populism in Western countries and the MENA region. He collaborates with Team Populism, an international research network that brings together scholars from several universities to study the causes and consequences of populism. He published peer-reviewed articles in the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Political Studies Review*, and *Revue Française de science politique*.



Abdulla Saaf

Professor at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Science at the Mohammed V University in Rabat. He received his PhD in Law at the Université Paris II and lectured in Moroccan and French universities before being tasked with a ministerial portfolio for education between 1998 and 2000, and then served as Minister for Education until 2002. Saaf chairs the Center for Research in the Social Sciences and is Director of the Moroccan Journal of Social Sciences. Besides advising the World Health Organization and other international bodies, he is the author of 20 published books.



Ahmed Abushouk

Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Qatar University. He received his PhD in History at Bergen University, Norway, in 1998. Before joining Qatar University in 2012, he worked at Bergen University (1998-1999) and the International Islamic University Malaysia (1999-2012). He has authored more than 25 books and 70 articles published in peer-reviewed journals. His publications include: *The Anglo-Persian Oil Company and the Gulf Arab Emirates* (2019); *Sudan: Power and Heritage*, 7 volumes (2008-2021); *The Sudanese Revolution (2018-2019): An Analytical and Documentary Approach of its Motives, Stages and Challenges* (2021); and *The Historian Yusuf Fadl Hasan: The Sagacious Accomplishment and All-Embracing Contributions* (2023).



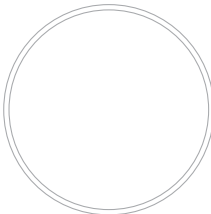
Ahmed Hussein

ACRPS Researcher and Managing Editor of the *Siyasat Arabiya* journal and the *Istishraf* yearbook. He was assistant professor at the Faculty of Political Science at Damascus University and holds a doctorate in International Relations from the University of Florence. He has many published widely on IR theory. His book *The European Union and the Arab Region: A Realistic Portrait of Challenges* was published by the ACRPS in 2021. He also edited *Challenges to Democratic Transition and the Crisis of State-Building in Libya* (ACRPS, 2022); *The June 1967 War: Paths and Implications* (ACRPS, 2019); and *The Boycott of Israel as a Strategy: Reality and Ambitions* (ACRPS, 2018).



Aicha El Basri

Researcher at the ACRPS. She earned a PhD in French literature from Savoy University in France. A former UN expert, she has held several media positions at the UN Department of Global Communications in New York, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in Sudan, the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), then as a media consultant at the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) for the Arab states in Cairo. She has published several peer-reviewed articles on UN work.



Al Anoud Al-Khalifa

Researcher in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. She holds a PhD in Gulf Studies from Qatar University. In 2023, she was honoured as one of the distinguished researchers at Qatar University in recognition of her academic achievements and research contributions. Her research seeks to clarify the vital role played by museums in creating and shaping narratives related to national identity and belonging in Gulf societies, examine shifts related to national identities and the new contexts that affect them at the local, regional, and international levels, and explore political and economic issues in the region and their impact on the societal environment.



Alaa Elgibali

Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Language Center at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He received his doctorate in Theoretical Linguistics from the University of Pittsburgh, and his MA in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language from the American University in Cairo. Elgibali was previously a tenured full professor and founding chair of the Arabic department and founding director of the Arabic Flagship programs at the University of Maryland. He is also a senior advisor to a number of leading international educational organizations, including the American Councils for International Education,

the World Languages Initiative, the National Foreign Language Center, and the American Council for Teaching Foreign Languages. Elgibali has also been a practicing simultaneous and conference interpreter for over twenty-five years and is a certified top-level simultaneous conference interpreter by most major international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Elgibali is a leading expert on the acquisition, teaching, and testing of first and second language. He has extensive experience in experiential, blended and independent learning, content-based and sheltered advanced language instruction, language learning across the curriculum, and proficiency testing. In addition, he has developed and delivered numerous training workshops in teaching Arabic as a foreign and first language in Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



Amal Ghazal

Professor of History and Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. She received her BA from the American University of Beirut and her MA and PhD in History from the University of Alberta. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto, and a faculty member at Dalhousie University in Halifax, and Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, where she also directed the Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies. She specializes in modern Arab intellectual history. She was the recipient of several grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, of the Gerda Henkel Foundation Research Scholarship, and the Institut d'Etudes Avancées de Nantes Fellowship. Her publications have covered many topics across the MENA region.



Amin Dawwas

Professor of Law at Qatar University. He holds a PhD in Civil Law from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, and another in International Commercial/Private Law from Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. Dawwas has published many books and articles in Arab and international peer-reviewed journals on various legal topics. Dawwas has provided consultations to several governmental and non-governmental agencies and participated in multiple regional and international seminars, workshops, and conferences.



Ammar Shamaileh

Assistant Professor of Politics and International Relations. Prior to joining the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, he held positions at the University of Louisville and Franklin & Marshall College. He earned his PhD from Florida State University in the United States of America. His research interests primarily reside at the intersection of

comparative political behaviour and political economy and he is currently undertaking research on the effects of autocratic instability on economic policy. He is the author of *Trust and Terror: Social Capital and the Use of Terrorism as a Tool of Resistance* (Routledge), and coauthor (with Sabri Ciftci and F. Michael Wuthrich) of a forthcoming book with Indiana University Press. His academic work has appeared in *International Interactions*, *Political Research Quarterly* and *the Journal of Information Technology*, as well as other venues.



Ashraf Abdelhay

Associate Professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies programme of Linguistics and Arabic Lexicography. He worked for the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies in the University of Edinburgh, and then joined the Department of Middle Eastern Studies in the University of Cambridge as a Postdoctoral Fellow, and Clare Hall College in the University of Cambridge as a Research Associate. He also taught in other universities in the Arab World. He holds a PhD in Sociolinguistics from the University of Edinburgh (UK). His research interests centre on decolonial linguistics and Southern linguistics. The current project he is developing (with Sinfree Makoni and Cristine Severo) addresses the sociolinguistics of protesting. He serves on the editorial boards of some journals in the field including the *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*; *Language Policy*; *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, and *Ampersand*.



Ayah Randall

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Ayat Hamdan

Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies and Editing Director of *Ostour Journal for Historical Studies*. Hamdan received her PhD from the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter, UK, where she served as an assistant lecturer in the Political Science department. She was also awarded a fellowship at the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford. She is editor of *Jerusalem: Ethnic Cleansing and Forms of Resistance* (ACRPS, 2023).



Dina Taha

Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Her research is committed to decolonizing research and to community-engaged scholarship and focuses on decolonial research and praxis related to issues forced migration, gender and family with special focus on Muslim minority. Her work has been published in book chapters and journal articles in critical periodicals such as *Gender, Place and Culture*, *Mashriq and Mahjar*. She leads a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) partnership engaged grant project that involves the community in rethinking responses to gender-based violence among cultural and religious minorities. She is pioneering a groundbreaking approach to the shelter system tailored for religious and cultural minorities in the Canadian context. She also co-leads a collaborative project with the Refugee Research Networking, aimed at mobilizing refugee research knowledge and facilitating knowledge exchange among scholars, policymakers, and individuals with lived experiences of forced migration.



Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab

Associate Professor at the Doha Institute, where she heads the Philosophy Program. She has taught courses in modern and contemporary Arab philosophy, contemporary Arab political philosophy, gender in the Middle East, the history of liberation ideas, and coordinated the faculty-wide course entitled "Issues in Social Sciences and Humanities". She is on the editorial board of journals *Tabayyun* and *Qalamoun*, and a founding member of the Brill series "Modern Intellectual Trends: The Middle East, Africa, and Asia". She is an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Council for the Social Sciences. She graduated from the Université de Fribourg, Switzerland (PhD) and the American University of Beirut (BA, MA). She has taught at the American University of Beirut and Balamand University in Lebanon, and was a Visiting Professor at Bonn, Columbia, Yale, and Brown. She was a Fulbright fellow at the New School University in NYC, a Visiting Research Fellow at the Universities of Bielefeld, Erfurt, Marburg, Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies, and the Käte Hamburger Center for Advanced Study in the Humanities in Bonn.



Fadi Zaraket

Associate Professor at the Doha institute for Graduate Studies and Founder of the Digital Arabic Social Spaces Research Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He received a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from University of Texas, Austin. His research focuses on automated reasoning and its applications to language

understanding and information extraction, in particular for Arabic texts. He has published in peer reviewed journals and participated in conferences in the field.



Farah Aridi

Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Doha Institute. She studied literature in Beirut (MA), focusing on Anglophone literature, diasporic narratives, and literary theory. She received her PhD in Comparative Literature from Goldsmiths University of London, in 2020. She lectured in literature, literatures in translation, and culture studies at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Lebanese American University (LAU) from 2013 to 2016, and taught culture studies and creative writing at Phoenicia University in Lebanon from 2019 to 2021. Her teaching and research interests include comparative literature, literary theory, literatures in translation, postcolonial literature, spatial theory, and city literature. She is currently working on her monograph on literary spaces of transgression and the formation of the subject. She is a member of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), the British Comparative Literature Association (BCLA) and the Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (MESA).



Ghassan El Kahlout

Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies and Associate Professor in Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. ElKahlout received his PhD in post-war reconstruction and development studies from the University of York in 2001. His specialized experience covering three decades of professional work includes humanitarian response, post-war early recovery, and capacity building. He served as a member of a wide range of emergency humanitarian response teams and has extensive field experience in conflict and disaster-affected contexts, including but not limited to Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Libya, and Jordan, working for international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Federation of Red Crescent Societies, and Islamic Relief Worldwide. In 2015, he was appointed as Director of the Humanitarian Forum, playing a key role in convening spaces for training and knowledge sharing in the UK humanitarian sector.



Haider Saeed

Head of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Siyasat Arabiya*. He holds a PhD in Linguistics from Baghdad's Al Mustansiriya University (2001). His research interests focus on Iraq, divided societies, and critical analysis of political discourse. He published

Arab Shiites: Identity and Citizenship (2019), *The Politics of the Symbol and the End of National Culture of Iraq* (2009); and *The Status of Social Sciences in Iraqi Universities* (2008). He wrote three chapters in the book published by the Arab Center titled *The Islamic State Organization, 'ISIS'* (2018), and supervised a study on Islamic Civil Society in Iraq (2010). He contributed to writing the National Report on Human Development in Iraq for the years 2009 and 2014.



Hamza Almustafa

Director of Syria TV in Istanbul, Turkey and a Board Member of the Harmoon Center for Contemporary Studies in Turkey. He holds a PhD from the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter in the UK. Prior to his current position, he worked as a researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies where he authored multiple books and studies.



Hani Awad

Researcher in the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies and a lecturer at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Awad holds a DPhil in International Development from the University of Oxford. He is the author of *The Dilemma of Authoritarian Local Governance in Egypt* (Edinburgh University Press, 2022), and *Transformations of the Arab Nationalism Concept* (Beirut: Arab Network for Research & Publishing, 2012). He has published in the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* and *Middle East Critique*, among other academic journals. His research interests include local governance, politics of authoritarianism, sociopolitical mobilization, informality, local politics, Islamic movements, and social movements in the Middle East with special focus on Egypt and Palestine.



Harith Hassan

Associate Researcher at the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies. He holds a PhD in Political Science and a master's in political communication. He previously worked as a non-resident researcher at the Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center, and a resident researcher at both the Central European University and Harvard University. He has published widely in Arabic and English academic journals. His interests research include state issues and their relationship to society, identity, and development.



Hiba Ghanem

Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. She received her PhD in Philosophy at Lancaster University, UK and studied English and Comparative Literature at Balamand University (BA; MA). She lectured in English and Comparative Literature, Translation Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies at the Lebanese University (LU) and the Lebanese American University (LAU) from 2016-2019. From 2019 to 2022, she taught Migration Literature, Philosophy and Concepts in Political Theory at Istanbul Gelisim Universitesi, Turkey. Her research interests include Middle Eastern Literature, Continental Philosophy, Arabic and Islamic Philosophy, Comparative Literature, Postcolonial Literature, Cultural Studies, Political Cartoon Studies as well as Literature of the Arab Diaspora. She is also an associate fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She is currently working on her monograph on literary creation of hospitable migrant spaces, in which she explores the role of affects in redefining migrants' agency.



Imad Mansour

Assistant Professor in the Critical Security Studies Program. He was a Non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute (Washington DC). He previously worked at McGill University, Qatar University, and Sciences Po Paris (Campus Moyen-Orient Méditerranée à Menton). Mansour's research interests include foreign policy analysis, the social roots of international politics – especially regional orders and rivalries, critical development approaches and state building in post-colonial contexts, and, relatedly, non-state actors. He has a regional emphasis on the contemporary Middle East and North Africa (MENA). His research contextualizes MENA experiences within the Global South. On a complementary level, his research explores multifaceted MENA relations with global politics, and especially developing ties with China under the Belt and Road Initiative.



Ismail Nashif

Associate Professor at the Anthropology and Sociology program, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He held academic positions in different Arab and international universities and is a literary and art critic, and curator. He has initiated and participated in different cultural and academic projects in academia and elsewhere. His research focuses on materiality, language, and ideology, topics he explores as they are manifested and expressed in literature and visual arts. His current research is on visual arts and literature in colonial contexts, with special attention to Arab Islamic societies, in particular Palestinian society. His publications include: *A Language of Ones' Own:*

Literary Arabic, the Palestinians, and Israel (2023); *Ruins: Expressing al Nakba* (2019); and *Arabic: A Story of A Colonial Mask* (2018).



Issam Nassar

Head of the History program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Specialized in late Ottoman history in the Levant and in the history of Ottoman photography. He is the co-author of *Camera Palaestina: Photography and Displaced Histories of Palestine* (2022); and *The Storyteller of Jerusalem: The Life and Times of Musician Wasif Jawhariyyeh, 1904-1948* (2014) among other books and essays.



Khalil Osman

Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies. He has worked in academia, diplomacy, and journalism in a range of geographic settings. He worked for 15 years in different media and political affairs capacities at the United Nations, serving in Sudan, Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Somalia. Osman also taught politics and international relations at Indiana University and the American University of Kurdistan (Dohuk, Iraq), where he served as Acting Dean of the College of International Studies. He has also worked for several media organisations. Whilst at the BBC, he completed several high-profile assignments, including as the Arabic Service Bureau Chief in Baghdad, Team Leader to set up a radio and TV network for southern Iraq funded by the UK's Department for International Development, as an embedded reporter with Coalition Forces in Iraq, and as a Correspondent in Dubai covering Gulf affairs. Osman holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Exeter. He completed his post-graduate studies in Political Science and History and a BA with a double major in Political Science and Telecommunications and a Minor in History at Indiana University.



Laurent Lambert

Assistant Professor at the School of Economics, Administration and Public Policy, where he teaches courses in energy policy and sustainability. He previously was Senior Policy Analyst at the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) and senior administrator of the Qatar Humanitarian Innovation Lab initiative (QHIL) at Qatar University. Prior to that, Lambert worked as R&D Director at Oxford Consilium (Oxford University) and was Director of the annual green workshop of the Europaeum (Oxford). In 2015-2016, he was a Board Member of the United Nations Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN). His research and policy interests lie at the intersection of water and energy security, environmental risks, including climate change, public policy, humanitarian innovation, the science-policy interface, and national security.

Lambert has worked as a researcher and Lead Principal Investigator, program manager, consultant and government adviser with the United Nations, the African Union, and the French Ministry of Defence, and is now in charge of several international projects on humanitarian innovation and sustainable development.



Marwa Farag

Head of the Public Policy Program at the School of Public Administration and Development Economics, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies in Qatar. Prior to joining the Doha Institute, she held the position of Associate Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Saskatchewan in Canada. Previously, She worked as a Senior Research Associate at the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy, Global Institute For Health and Development at Brandeis University. Farag's international field experience includes working in Iraq on health financing and resource allocation issues and on health sector reform in Egypt. Her Primary research areas are health policy, health financing, health economics, and health program planning and evaluation. Farag is interested in examining inequities in health care utilization and health outcomes



Mehran Kamrava

Professor of Government at Georgetown University in Qatar and Director of the Iranian Studies Unit at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. Kamrava has authored numerous journal articles and books, including, most recently, *Righteous Politics: Power and Resilience in Iran* (Cambridge University Press, 2023); *A Dynastic History of Iran: From the Qajars to the Pahlavis* (Cambridge University Press, 2022); *Triumph and Despair: In Search of Iran's Islamic Republic* (Oxford University Press, 2022); and *A Concise History of Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2020).



Moataz El Fegiry

Assistant Professor at the Doha Institute, He was a senior teaching fellow of law at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. He has extensive experience in human rights research and advocacy in the Middle East and North Africa and represented key international human rights NGOs including International Centre for Transitional justice (ICTJ) and the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. He was the executive director of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) and is currently a member of its board of directors. El Fegiry is also the treasurer and member of the executive committee of the Euro Med Rights and founder of the Egyptian Human Rights Forum. He served previously as an

associate researcher at the International Foundation of International Relations and External Dialogue (FRIDE).



Mohamad Hamas Elmasry

Professor of Media Studies at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He received his PhD in Mass Communication from the University of Iowa, where he was a Presidential Fellow. Elmasry's research on Arab media systems, news coverage of race, and the media and terrorism has appeared in reputable peer-reviewed publications, including *Journalism*, *Journalism Practice*, *Journalism Studies*, *International Communication Gazette*, and *the International Journal of Communication*. He has also written for *Al-Jazeera English*, *Middle East Eye*, *The New Arab*, *Muftah*, and *Jadaliyya*, and appeared on *Al-Jazeera*, *CNN*, *BBC World News*, and other networks.



Mohammed Maraqtan

Historian and Archaeologist, specializing in the languages and civilizations of the Ancient East, especially the languages and writings of the pre-Islamic Arabian Peninsula. He currently works at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. He obtained a master's and doctorate in Semitic Languages and Civilizations of the Ancient East from the University of Marburg, Germany, in 1987. He has worked at several German universities, including the University of Marburg and the University of Heidelberg, and as a coordinator of scientific research at Qatar University, a researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, and a visiting linguist/lexicographer at the Doha Historical History. He has participated in archaeological investigations and excavations in Jordan, Bahrain, Oman, Yemen, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt, some of which he headed. He has published dozens of research papers in English, German, and Arabic on the civilizations and languages of the Ancient East, including four books, especially on South Arabian and Aramaic inscriptions, place names, and historical theory.



Mounir Saidani

Editor-in-Chief of the *Omrans* Social Sciences journal. Saidani is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Council for the Social Sciences. He is also a researcher at the Center for Economic and Social Studies and Research in Tunisia (SERAS), and serves on the Academic Board of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Tunisia. He holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Tunisia (2001) and worked as a professor of sociology and anthropology at Tunisian universities (2000-2022). Member of the editorial board of the *Global Dialogue* (2010-2023), the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association (2018-2023), and Editor-in-Chief of the *Tunisian Journal of Social*

Sciences. He has published dozens of articles and books in Arabic, French, and English, and translated several books and studies, including Serge Paugam's *La pratique de la sociologie* (2013).



Muhanad Seloom

Assistant Professor in Critical Security Studies at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and researcher at the Strategic Studies Unit in the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies. He is also an Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter (UK). His main specialization involves national security, intelligence studies, military and strategic studies, and counterterrorism. He is an associate editor at the *Strategic Studies and Political Research* journal, published by the University of Tlemcen. His research focuses on state and non-state armed actors, national security, and intelligence studies. He is currently working on a research project titled, "Covert Currents of the Cradle: A History of Iraq's Intelligence". In addition to his academic publications, Seloom has published and recorded numerous op-eds and interviews in policy journals, media outlets, and academic blogs targeting a broader audience, including for *Al-Araby TV*, *BBC*, *The Economist*, *Al-Jazeera*, *TRT*, among others.



Nabil Khattab

Professor of Sociology and the Head of the Sociology and Anthropology program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Previously, he worked as a lecturer and researcher at various universities, including the University of Bristol, UK. Khattab specializes in quantitative sociology, focusing on interconnected topics such as social and economic inequality, labour market issues, migration, education, racism, gender, religion, and the relationship between ethno-religious identities and life opportunities. Khattab has led numerous research projects, including those on residential segregation of ethnic minorities in Britain, youth and professional integration, globalization's impact on the academic labour market, discrimination among Palestinian and Jewish populations in Israel, and the relationship between aspirations, expectations, and educational achievement. Recently, he led a team researching skilled migration in Qatar and another project on the formation of educational and professional aspirations among Qatari students. Khattab has published over 70 articles in peer-reviewed English and Arabic journals and book chapters.



Natalie Tayim

Assistant Professor of psychology and a Lebanese-licensed clinical psychologist. She holds a Clinical Neuroscience Masters and Clinical Neuroscience and Medical

Neuropsychology PhD from University College London. After obtaining her PhD, she pursued a postdoctoral certificate and training in Sexual Therapy and Education from the University of Michigan. Her research interests include interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships. She has taught for several years at the American University of Beirut and Beirut Arab University. Tayim has also worked at Clemenceau Medical Center in Beirut, Lebanon since 2019 and has since garnered experience to assess and treat individuals who have sexual and/or relational issues.



Rabia Naguib

Associate professor in the Program of Public Policy at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. She holds a PhD in Strategic management with a minor in Philosophy from HEC Montréal. Prior to joining the DI, Naguib was a faculty member at the University of Sharjah (UAE) where she held the position of Director of the Executive MBA. She received the distinguished Faculty Member Award for Scientific Research and Teaching (2011). She also taught postgraduate students at the University of Leicester and supervised DBA students at Nottingham Trent University. She acted as a supervisor, co-supervisor, second reader, and external examiner for several EMBA, MPA, MPP dissertations, as well as DBA, and PhD theses. She has also been a reviewer for reputable academic journals such as *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, and *Management International*. She has published in international peer reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Gender in Management*, *Journal of Productivity and Performance Management*, and *Revue Internationale de gestion*. She received many research grants, notably from Gender Economic Research and Policy Analysis (GERPA), and Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) as LPI and PI.



Rachid Boutayeb

Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies since 2019. Member of the North American Levinas Society (NALS) and of the Wiener Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Philosophie. Editor (together with Dieter Haller) of an academic series concerned with the study of cultural relations between continents. In his current research, he focuses on the construction of an Arab intercultural philosophy, ethics of immigration, critique of security thinking, and the idea of the university and sociological critique of philosophical reason. He is also working on democratic political culture, religion, democracy and human rights, and the cognitive theory of human rights. He has published books and research papers in journals and written numerous articles and book reviews.



Raja Bahlul

Professor on the Philosophy Program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, and Editor-in-Chief of *Tabayyun* journal for Philosophical Studies and Critical Theory. He completed his PhD in Philosophy at Indiana University and undergraduate studies in Philosophy and English at the American University of Beirut. Before joining the Doha Institute, Raja Bahlul taught Philosophy at several universities, including Yarmouk University (Jordan), Indiana University-Purdue University (USA), and Birzeit University (Palestine). He played an active part in developing the MA Program in Democracy and Human Rights at Birzeit University, and the PhD Program in Society, Language and Technology at the United Arab Emirates University. He has published articles on Forgiveness, Forgiveness in Islamic thought, Action, Emotion, and Intersubjectivity. Currently he is working on Democratic Political Culture, Religion, Democracy and Human Rights, and the Cognitive Theory of Human Rights.



Rania Elmalky

Professor of Practice on the Journalism Program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. She holds a master of Fine Arts degree in Documentary Production and Studies from the University of North Texas, where she taught media arts writing with a focus on narrative screenwriting, and production from 2018-2020. Elmalky also holds a master's degree in Journalism with distinction from London's Westminster University, which she attended as a Chevening scholar. Following her tenure as a reporter and Editor-in-Chief of Cairo-based *Daily News Egypt*, then the local publishing partner of the International Herald Tribune (the global edition of the New York Times) she transitioned to documentary filmmaking. In 2011, she was shortlisted for the prestigious Anna Lindh Journalism Award in Monaco. In 2019, she won the Best Denton Documentary Award at the Thin Line Festival for her animated documentary *489 Days*, which was also among the official selection of Berlin's Factual Animation Festival and was selected for broadcast by KERA, a PBS affiliate in North Texas.



Sahar Yousef

Assistant Professor at the Department of Development Economics at The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Her research is at the intersection of international trade, development economics, and political economy with a focus on water resources and climate change problems. In her work, she uses a combination of theoretical and empirical methods to study the economic causes and consequences of interstate and intrastate conflicts. Her current projects focus on factors that can trigger interstate conflicts,

such as water scarcity, or mitigate them, such as liberalizing trade. She is also studying the effectiveness of peace agreements, the impact of militarized bombardments on hindering climate change adaptation, and the impact of increasing staple food prices on social unrest, especially when experiencing extreme climatic events.



Stephen Sheehi

Sultan Qaboos Professor of Middle East Studies and a member of the faculty of the Asian and Middle East Studies Program (AMES), Modern Languages and Literatures Department, and Asian and Pacific Islander Studies Program (APIA) at the College of William & Mary, Pamunkey Confederacy Territory USA. He is also Director of the Decolonizing Humanities Project. Currently, Sheehi is a Visiting Professor on the History and Comparative Literature programs at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Among his most recent publications, he co-authored *Palestine: Psychoanalysis Under Occupation: Practicing Resistance in Palestine* (Routledge, 2022), which won the Palestine Book Award for Best 2022 Academic Book on Palestine with Lara Sheehi; and *Camera Palaestina: Photography and Displaced Histories*, (University of California Press, Fall, 2022) with Salim Tamari and Issam Nassar. He is co-editing with Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian a special issue of *State Crime Journal*, "Settler-Colonialism as State-Crime: Abolitionist Perspectives" (December 2023). His two current book projects are titled *On the Intimacies of Guerillas* and *A People's History of the Maronites*.



Suhad Daher-Nashif

Lecturer in Sociology and Anthropology of Health, and Programme Director for MSc. in Global Healthcare Leadership in the School of Medicine, at Keele University, UK. Her main research interest concerns the intersectionality between science, culture, politics, and bureaucracy in health and death practices among vulnerable populations in different contexts, mainly in the MENA region. Her main fields are post-mortem practices, medical education, and mental health. In addition to being an active author and reviewer in several academic Q1 journals, and international conferences, Daher-Nashif has established and developed several curricula and syllabi that aim to integrate social and behavioural sciences in health professions and medical education programmes.



Tamara Kharroub

Tamara Kharroub is the Deputy Executive Director and a Senior Fellow at Arab Center Washington DC. Her research focuses on the intersection of technology and human

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Tariq Dana

Associate Professor and Head of the Conflict and Humanitarian Studies Program at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and adjunct lecturer at Northwestern University, Qatar. He was the director of the Center for Development Studies at Birzeit University and a senior research fellow at Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, and the School of Oriental and African Studies. He is also a policy advisor for the Palestinian Policy Network (Al-Shabaka). His research interest includes political economy, civil society, state-building and state-society relations, and settler-colonial studies with a particular focus on Palestine and the broader Arab Middle East.



Yasmeen Mekawy

Assistant Professor in the Liberal Arts Program at Northwestern University. She received her PhD in political science from the University of Chicago, focusing on the comparative politics of the MENA region. Mekawy's research and teaching examines social movements and revolution, digital media and popular culture, and emotion. In her research, she examines the role of emotions in mobilizing and demobilizing collective action, as well as how affect circulates through social media and popular culture.



Zaher Omareen

Researcher, Journalist, and Documentary Filmmaker, with 15 years of media experience. His primary focus intertwines art and conflict zones, where he has covered pivotal global events such as the Ukrainian War, the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the revolution in Sudan. Omareen holds a PhD in Media and Communication Sciences from Goldsmiths, University of London. He earned a master's degree in Media and Cultural Studies from the University of Sussex, and a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Media from the University of Damascus. He currently serves as Senior Presenter at *Al-Araby*

TV and participates in the production of documentary films and investigations rooted in classified archives. He has also published widely in journals within his field. Notably, his book, *Syria Speaks: Art and Culture from the Frontline*, published by Saqi Books, received the prestigious International Pen Award.



Zahia Jouirou

Researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies since November 2023. Professor of Islamic Studies and Religious Sciences at the Tunisian Faculty of Literature, Arts and Humanities of Manouba, where she directed the master's programme in Religious Sciences from 2017 to 2023. Director General of the Tunis Institute for Translation from 2019 to 2023. She holds a doctorate and has published many books on the Holy Texts, Popular Islam, history, and Women's Jurisprudence, in addition to numerous peer-reviewed academic articles on Islamic legislation, comparative religious studies, gender studies, and women's issues in the Islamic world. On two occasions (2007 and 2019), she received the Women's Studies Award from the Center for Studies, Research, Media and Documentation on Women and was honoured by the Ministry of Women and Family in Tunisia (2018) for serving women's issues.



Zarqa Parvez

Political Sociologist and Social Scientist in the faculty of International Politics at Georgetown University in Qatar. Parvez studies nationalism, national identity, and gender studies in the Arab Gulf region, and her research also engages international politics. She focuses mainly on women, youth, and the politics of identity in Gulf state-society dynamics. Her research uses both an intersectional and post-colonial lens to further a comprehensive understanding of society, and to also bring to light marginalized and invisible voices. Her past research includes "Women and Status Quo in Saudi Arabia", "Women and Family Friendly Practices", "Intersectionality and Women's Rights Narratives in the Arab Gulf", "Tribalism and National Identity in the Arab Gulf and Women and Politics of Sports in FIFA 2022", and other articles on public policy and identity.