



Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship
معهد الأصفري للمجتمع المدني والمواطنة
www.activearabvoices.org

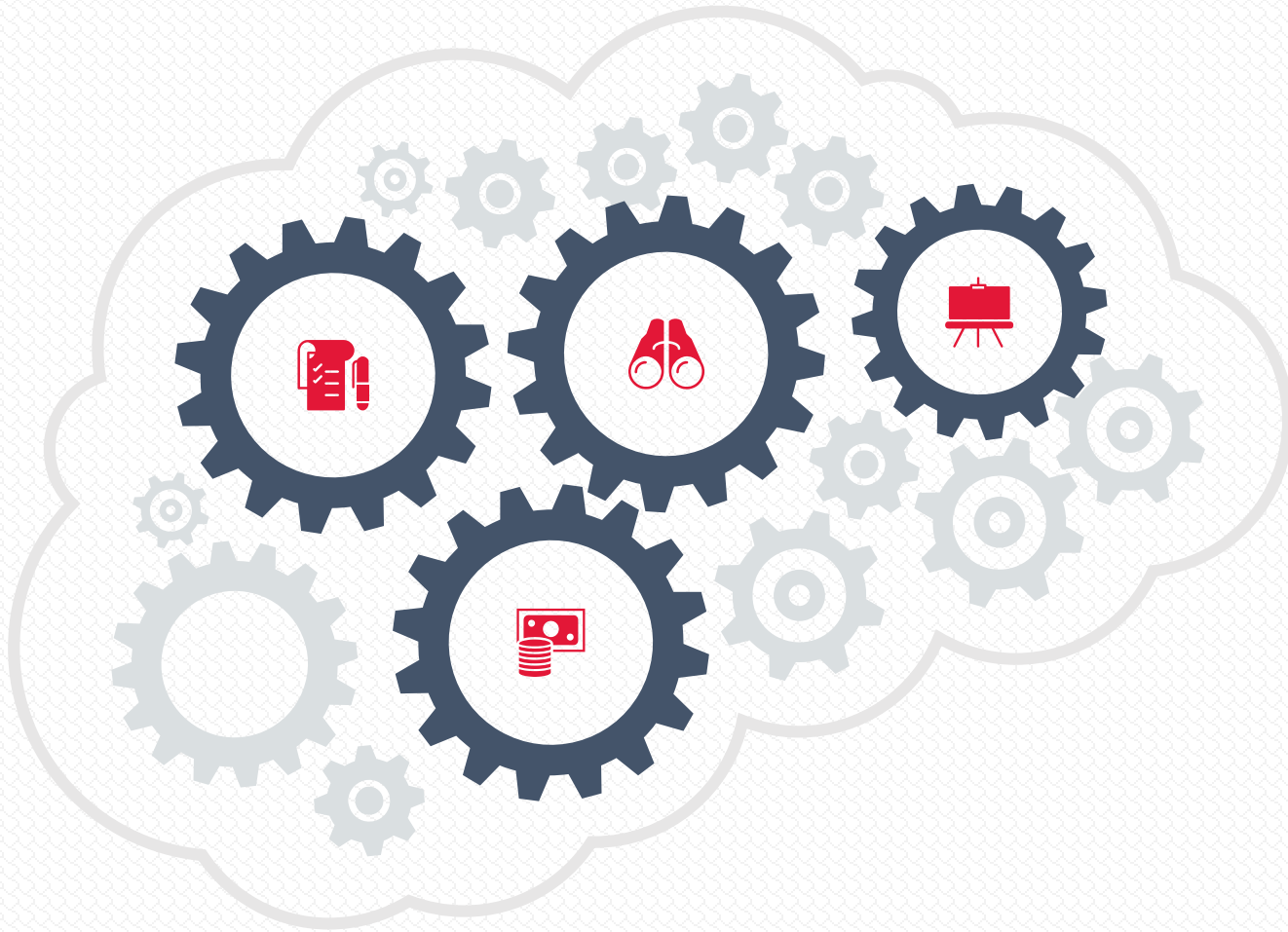
Asfari Institute

APRIL 2019

Monthly Events Roundup



MONTHLY ROUNDUP



The monthly roundup of the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship is a summary of :

- Events organized by the institute
- Events attended by team members
- Publications
- Interviews
- Research and projects updates
- New team members

Events Organized – Steering Committee Meeting

الاجتماع الثاني للجنة التيسير



Program/ Project:

الثقافة كمقاومة - "الناشطينة في ميداني الثقافة والنوع الاجتماعي"

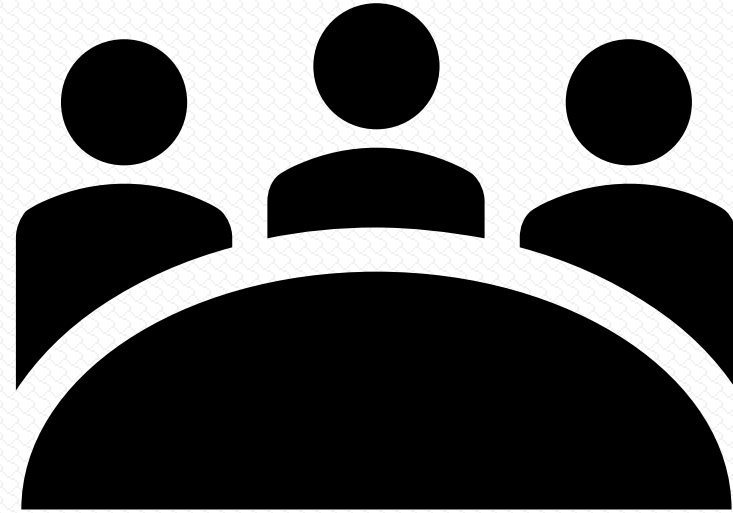


Donor: Ford Foundation



Date: 1- 2 April

عقد معهد الأصفرى للمجتمع المدني والمواطنة في مركزه في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت الاجتماع الأول المغلق للجنة تيسير مشروع "الناشطينة في ميداني الثقافة والنوع الاجتماعي"، والذي يسعى المعهد من خلاله لرصد الناشطينة المدنية في حقل النسوية والثقافة في كل من سوريا، لبنان، واليمن. وقد تم عرض الموضوعات الأساسية التي يتطلع المشروع لرصدها ونوقشت الآليات المنهجية التي سيتم العمل حسبها، واتفق الميسرون على المخطط الزمني للعمل في الأشهر القادمة. وقد أدار الجلسات كل من د. دينا الخواجة ود. حسان عباس.



Events Organized – Workshop

APSN Research Development Workshop



Date: 11 April



Location: Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship

The workshop gathered young Arab scholars from both Arab and Western Universities who are conducting research on their region, and provided them with a platform to present their research work and get constructive feedback from prominent senior scholars from AUB, LAU, and Durham University. Researchers of the Asfari Institute (AI) have also presented their past and current research work, which covered different issues - from gender discrimination in Arab public policies and particularly in Arab tax systems to the impact and implications of women empowerment programs on displaced Syrian women – and have received eye-opening questions and comments from the participants and discussants.



1/10

Events Organized – Meeting

APSN Meeting



Date: 12 April



Location: Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship

The Arab Political Science Network (APSN) invited several Arab scholars residing in Lebanon and beyond, to attend a meeting that took place at the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the mission of APSN, the future of planned activities and possible collaborations with other institutes and universities including AUB and LAU. In addition, the meeting conferred the organizational structure of the APSN, its strategic planning and the added value the network could bring to political science without replicating the work of similar initiatives and networks.



Events Organized – Award Winner's Announcement

إعلان الفائزين بـ "جائزة الأصفري الثقافية"



Program/ Project:

الثقافة كمقاومة



Date: 30 April

أعلن معهد الأصفري للمجتمع المدني والمواطنة في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت اسم الفائز في الدورة الأولى (2018 – 2019) لجائزة الأصفري الثقافية والمخصصة هذه السنة لكتابة القصة القصيرة. وبعد تداول معمق فيما بينهم حول النصوص التي ستحظى بالجائزة في هذه الدورة الأولى، انتهى المحكمون إلى التوافق على اختيار فائزين اثنين لاقتسام الجائزة مناصفة (خمسة آلاف دولار لكل فائز)، وهما:

- أنس ناصيف (سوري مقيم في قطر)
- حسّان الجودي (سوري مقيم في هولندا)



The Asfari Culture Award
جائزة الأصفري للثقافة



Events Attended – Lecture

*“Steps to an Ecology of Refuge
(Along with a Manifesto for the Environmental Humanities at AUB)”*



Organizing Entity: *Center for Arts & Humanities (CAH) at AUB*

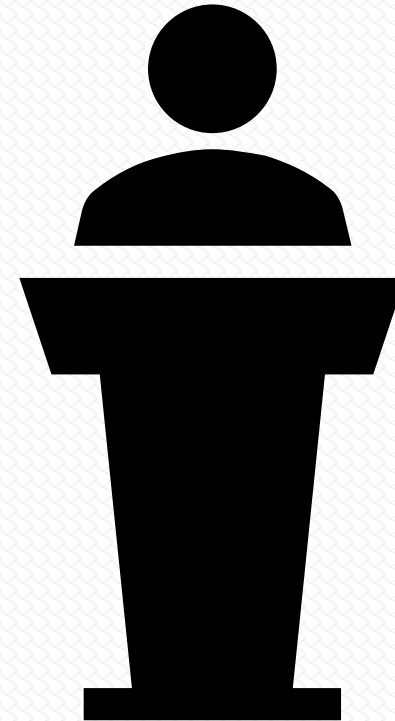


Date: 5 April



Location: Building 37, AUB

Sylvain Perdigon, assistant professor of anthropology at the ‘Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies’ department at the American University of Beirut, presented his most recent work at a lecture that shoots off from a statement by the feminist historian of science Donna Haraway, “Right now, the earth is full of refugees, human and not, without refuge”. According to Perdigon, the edge and force of Haraway's formulation lie in suggesting, of course, that the problem of refuge straddles human and non-human “lifeworlds”. Accordingly, he says that the same modern age that invented the refugee will also be the age in which humans started to grapple with a new and bleak understanding of themselves as a cataclysmic ‘biogeological’ agent.



Events Attended – Lecture

Poverty Alleviation and Arab Women Refugees in the Middle East : Empowerment through Grassroots Micro-entrepreneurship (Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon)



Organizing Entity: *Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs*



Date: 9 April



Location: Conference Room – IFI, AUB

This event aimed at disseminating the research findings of the report on “Poverty Alleviation and Arab Women Refugees in the Middle East: Empowerment through Grassroots Micro-entrepreneurship”. The discussion was heated since some people in the audience questioned the methodology adopted (the interviewees were substantive and not "transformative" entrepreneurs which affect the research recommendations). Also, NGO and MFO practitioners from the audience debated that governmental Organizations and Micro Finance Organizations do contribute to the growth of micro-finance but the adopted research methodology does not reflect these facts.



Events Attended – Lecture

Meeting with China's ambassador to Lebanon, Wang Kejian



Organizing Entity: *Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) students at AUB*



Date: 25 April



Location: Conference Room – IFI, AUB

China's ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Wang Kejian, was hosted in order to discuss China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and more specifically Lebanon. According to Mr Wang, the BRI, also defined as the Eurasia belt road and maritime, is the 21st century version of the Chinese Silk Road, the ancient network of trade routes that connected the East and West that was central to cultural interaction between the regions for many centuries. The ambassador finished his talk announcing that China is building a new music conservatory as a symbol of goodwill and cultural exchange.



Publications

أوراق عمل



خربشة وجه السلطة
الآرتيفيزم وجماليات الغضب
في مصر
عبد موسى البرماوي

► Title:

خربشة وجه السلطة: الآرتيفيزم وجماليات الغضب في مصر

👤 Author(s):

عبد موسى البرماوي

📄 Summary:

تطرح الورقة فرضية مفادها أنّ المجموعات والروابط التي نشطت مستخدمةً الفن في سياق الربيع العربي قد ارتبطت في حركتها صعودًا وهبوطًا، بمسار الغضب الجماهيري، وتعاقت ضمن دورات تعبئة قصير 5، ما عطل تحولها إلى شكل تنظيمي يتسم بالديمومة، وإن نجحت الدورات القصيرة في انجاز مهمتها، وذلك من خال الاحتلال البصري لحيز السلطة. تتناول الورقة دينامية الانخراط – الانسحاب من منظور دورات التعبئة وأفعال الانخراط المتعاقبة، مستنتجة الطرح القائل إنّ تناوب حوافز "السعادة الخاصة" و"الانشغال بالهم العام" ظلت تعدل بوصلة توجه هؤلاء الناشطين، لتلعب كعامل دافع لقرار الانخراط/الانسحاب، جنباً إلى جنب مع مشاعر الإحباط والرضا. ولسبر هذه الإشكالية، توّظف الورقة عدسة مركبة لبناء فهم لعالم الفعل الجمعي للآرتيفيزم وآليات التفاعل بين فاعليه من فنانيين وحركيين، وكيف صاغوا خطابهم على نحو يدمج أهدافاً بعينها ويترجمها إلى فعل تشاركي يعبر عن هويتهم وتصوراتهم.

Publications

► Title:

The Specter of ‘Politics’ and Ghosts of ‘Alternatives’ Past: Lebanese ‘Civil Society’ and the Antinomies of Contemporary Politics



Author(s):

Mona Khneisser, *Junior Researcher at Asfari Institute*



Summary:

Exploring the recent developments in ‘alternative’ collective action in Lebanon, this research makes use of a content analysis of Facebook campaigning posts and interview data to study actors’ contending relations to ‘the political.’ The research concludes that rather than reconcile citizens with political participation, nascent groups that claim to represent ‘alternatives’ to the ‘corrupt’ political parties and sectarian political order, instead advance a consensual understanding of politics and social change that is more techno-moral and less contentious.



Publications

► **Book Title:**

The Specter of 'Politics' and Ghosts of 'Alternatives' Past: Lebanese 'Civil Society' and the Antinomies of Contemporary Politics

👥 **Chapter Author(s):**

Mona Khneisser, *Junior Researcher at Asfari Institute*

📄 **Summary:**

This book examines the ways in which Arab civil society actors have attempted to influence public policies. In particular, the book studies the drive towards a change of policies that affect women and their well-being. It does so through the lens of women civil society activism and through analysis of cases of policy reform in three Arab countries namely: Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen. Asfari Institute's Mona Khneisser is the author of the book's first chapter titled, '*Civil Societies' and the Arab Uprisings-Prospects for Socio-political Change: A Comparative Analysis of the On-going Tunisian and Egyptian Plight*

