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On the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2019, the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at AUB hosted a day-long Research Development Workshop at its premises in collaboration with the American Political Science Association (APSA), as the Arab Political Science Network (APSN) - which stems from it as a branch focusing on the Arab region - is seeing its first light. 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.

The presented research papers revolved around a variety of political science and political sociology topics and phenomena such as the evolution of authority mechanisms in Egypt; the use of transnational media as soft power tools in the Arab world; the emergence of gated communities, urban insecurity and the privatization of security in the Moroccan society; Arab women's engagement in social media campaigns; Arab youth's protest movements in Algeria in the aftermath of the Arab spring; and civil resistance, public sphere, and political change in the post Moroccan spring.

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.

The organizers and participants have admitted that this workshop is a special-of-a-kind event in the region as it brings together young and senior Arab scholars from different backgrounds and interests, allowing them to share their notes, exchange their experiences and lessons learned, carry out enriching interactive discussions, network, and explore potential areas of collaboration. Moreover, this workshop promotes the culture of appropriate feedback provision and receipt, which is not very common in the region. AI and APSA/ APSN have therefore agreed that this synergy should become more frequent and continuing, for it is vital for an enhanced research quality and a higher academic standard in the Arab region.