



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



The Asfari Institute
for Civil Society and Citizenship

2019

Annual Report

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asfariinst@aub.edu.lb



<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPZFxeutK7wMOd4XkqEacLkLI8VsQCIU3>



P.O. Box 11-0236
Riad El Solh,
Beirut 1107 2020
Lebanon



+961-1-350000 ext. 4469/ 4461

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Foreword

In the year 2019, the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship (AI) made significant progress in producing innovative knowledge about the role of activism and civil society, adding new projects, making new partnerships, and organizing more than nineteen public events ranging from lectures, book launches, to professional and academic training sessions. These activities were pursued as part of the role set by our founder, Trustee Ayman Asfari, in the wake of the Arab Spring. His USD 11.5 million donation to establish the first research institute entirely devoted to Arab civil society and citizenship at the American University of Beirut (AUB) is a model for Arab philanthropists supporting emerging civil initiatives in the region. Moving forward in the next year, AI will continue its signature activities, namely the Arab Social Activism Program (ASAP), mapping and consolidating cultural initiatives as well as training young media professionals on ethical practices in conflict settings. In 2020, we also plan to submit two research proposals: one on engaged scholars and off-campus knowledge production in Arab states, and one on the rigid debate revolving around social safety net programs in 5 Arab countries and their impact on social equality and inclusivity within the Arab region. Moreover, we are already in deliberations to continue our work as a platform for Arab universities on how civil society is taught, researched and disseminated. The Lebanese October Uprising perfectly illustrates the dire need for a research institute like ours to document, analyze and support civic movements in their fight for inclusion, equality and transparency. Therefore, this year's planned activities will include research projects conducted by AUB faculty to provide in-depth analysis of the revolutionary process not only in Lebanon, but also in Iraq, Algeria and Sudan. Once again, we would like to thank the generous support of the Asfari Foundation over the past seven years as well as the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, and the Open Society Foundations (OSF) for the financial support they have been providing over the past few years.



**Dr. Dina El Khawaga,
Director**



Ms. Hala Yanni, Ms. Saba Almubaslat, Dr. Dina El Khawag and Ms. Marieke Bosman (Left to Right) at the Asfari Culture Award Event in May, 2019

New Partnerships

This year, the Asfari Institute initiated new partnerships with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Action for Hope, Ettijahat, the American Political Science Association (APSA), the Lebanese American University (LAU), the Century Foundation, the Lebanese Association for Educational Studies (LAES), the Arab Political Science Network (APSN), Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development (ARRD)-Jordan, Kohl Journal, the Arab Forum for Alternatives (AFA), the Lebanese Association of Women Researchers-Bahithat (a leading Lebanese Feminist research center), Durham University, the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) and the Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA), among others. At AUB, we have continued our partnerships with the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies (SOAM) and the Department of Political Studies and Public Administration (PSPA), particularly in covering the Lebanese uprisings on our blog, and have newly partnered with the MSFEA Urban Lab. We have also maintained academic ties with AUB student clubs, and two Graduate Research Assistantships were maintained in collaboration with the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) and the Architecture and Design Department (ARD). Lastly, the Institute hired four interns and three work-study students over the year.



Arab Political Science Network
الشبكة العربية للعلوم السياسية

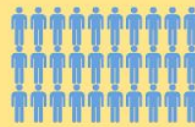


ASFARI 2019 IN NUMBERS

480

Attended/ participated in the
Institute's events

EVENT ATTENDEES



PUBLICATIONS



10

Scope of research papers
and reports ranged from
women's rights to social
activism and citizenship

22

PUBLIC EVENTS

Encompassing Public Lectures,
Book Launches, and Training
modules



GRANTS

\$500K



Was awarded by the Ford
Foundation to AI

FACEBOOK



44K

LIKES

ASFARI 2019 IN NUMBERS

24

Benefited from the
Institute's training modules

TRAINEES



TRAINERS



9

Contributed to the Asfari
Institute's Activities

22

Produced by
AI Staff and Contributors

BLOG POSTS



TWITTER

2672



FOLLOWERS

Regional Consultation Workshops

January 2019

1. Anti-Globalization Transnational Social Movements in the Arab Region

This consultation session gathered 20 experts and activists from the region to discuss the effects of anti-globalization social movements for Arab activists, and examine how these mobilization efforts have generated new narratives about neo-liberal agendas and social injustice within each of these countries.

2. Mapping forms and tenants of Digital Activism in the Arab Region

This consultation session gathered more than 20 experts and activists from the region and focused on Digital Activism and its actions, tactics and major challenges, both technically and politically. The consultation highlighted the use of digital tools in the region as a catalyst for social change.

July 2019

3. Environmental Activism in the Arab Region

This consultation aimed at analyzing the principal actors and modes of environmental activism in the Arab region nowadays. It attempted to answer questions on how to interpret the expansion of mobilization on environmental causes as well as the principal modes of environmental activism, and the strategies used by activists on the ground.

4. Urban Rights Activism in the Arab Region

This consultation sought to critically investigate urban forms of activism in the Arab region in order to document their work and further enable their action. By learning from each other's experiences, urban activists were given the opportunity to intersect, exchange, and forge productive links.

5. Second Regional Consultation about the ASAP Report 2019

This consultation gathered scholars and activists - some of whom have participated in the first version of the report - to deliberate on several issues to be potentially tackled in the next version of this report based on the current regional landscape and priorities. Hence, the upcoming report will be on "Uprising Squares and Shrinking Spaces in the Arab Region".



1. Urban Rights Activism in the Arab Region
2. Dr. Mona Harb and Roland Nassour at the Urban Rights Activism Consultation Workshop
3. Tarek Ammar at the Digital Activism Consultation Workshop
4. Karim Eid-Sabbagh at the Environmental Activism Consultation Workshop

Public Lectures/Workshops/Conferences

February 2019

1. *Oh Cinema, You Are All We Have, Oh Cinema* (Public Lecture)

In this lecture, the Syrian director and cinematographer, Hala Al-Abdallah, walked the audience through the work of Syrian directors over the years, and showcased their means of resistance against multiple constraints amid the Syrian crisis.

2. *Women and Radicalization in the Arab Region* (Panel Discussion)

In partnership with ESCWA, the Asfari Institute organized this panel discussion as part of its series of symposia on Gender Issues. The panel discussed the issue of women between victimhood and agency through violent extremism while referring to experiences of radicalization and deradicalization from the Arab region. This event brought together speakers from a wide array of backgrounds including Amel Grami and Mehrnaz Al Awady.

3. *Policies for Naturalization of Foreign-Born Athletes: Qatar and Turkey in Comparison* (Panel Discussion)

This panel discussion investigated why, how, and under which conditions countries decide to naturalize foreign-born athletes. Specifically, the cases of Qatar and Turkey were analyzed, as they are at the forefront of giving citizenship to migrant athletes. Dr. Danyel Reiche, Associate Professor for Comparative Politics at AUB, and Dr. Cem Tinaz, Director of the School of Sports Sciences and Technology at Istanbul Bilgi University, co-presented their work in this lecture.



1. Panel Discussion on Women and Radicalization in the Arab Region
2. Panel Discussion on Policies for Naturalization of Foreign-Born Athletes

March 2019

4. War Economy/Reconstruction Economy in Syria (Workshop)

As part of *The Lay of the Land* project, the Asfari Institute organized a workshop to fulfill the project's goals of engaging in the academic debate on Syrian displacement. Speakers and participants gave feedback and engaged in fruitful discussions to identify key messages, realities on the ground, and suggestions for future research and engagement. Opting for a closed-door workshop allowed for a more conducive atmosphere that would have been missing in an open workshop. The session also covered current discussions and perspectives on reconstruction in Syria, drawing upon the standpoints of the biggest actors in Syria, such as Iran and Russia, and the host communities such as the European Union and Lebanon.

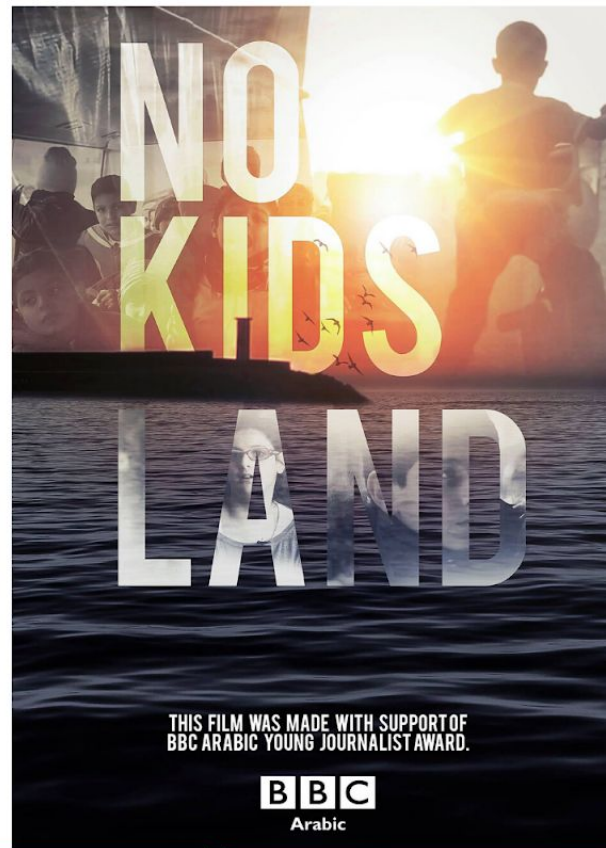
May 2019

5. No Kids Land (Film Screening)

This film explored the social, cultural and political issues behind the options available to unaccompanied Syrian child refugees in Lebanon. Dire circumstances, such as poverty and broken families, have driven parents to either seeking asylum without their children or abandoning them to orphanages in Lebanon. After the screening, the movie director, Jumana Saadeh, answered questions from the audience.

6. Syrian Cultural Activism in Lebanon

The Asfari Institute, in partnership with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI), organized a panel discussion on Syrian cultural activism in Lebanon. The panel gathered a number of practitioners, journalists and cultural operators, both Syrian and Lebanese, to discuss the interactions and effects of Syrian cultural action on the Lebanese cultural scene.



1. Workshop on War Economy/Reconstruction Economy in Syria in partnership with IFI

7. Refugee Education in Lebanon: Past, Present, and Future (Workshop)

As part of the *Lay of the Land* project, the Asfari Institute and the Harvard Graduate School of Education organized a workshop titled “Refugee Education in Lebanon: Past, Present, and Future Prospects.” The aim of this workshop was to fill the gaps in the ethnographic fieldwork of the project, pertaining to the access to education amongst Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Attendees included members of civil society organizations, researchers, practitioners, and international and local non-governmental organizations working in the field of education. The focus of the workshop was on the status of education policy and services provided to Syrian refugees and the degrees to which Syrian children are included in formal or informal education, and future aspirations and challenges in the post-return phase.

June 2019

8. Mapping Experiences of Teaching Gender in Arab Universities (Regional Conference)

In collaboration with the Lebanese Association of Women Researchers-Bahithat, the Asfari Institute hosted a two-day conference that mapped patterns for teaching gender studies in Arab universities and research centers. This conference brought together around 40 academics, researchers, and civil and human rights activists from 11 Arab countries. During the event, 13 experts detailed their experience in designing, implementing, defending and mainstreaming a new gender studies curricula in the region.

9. Protesting Lebanon’s Regime (Panel Discussion)

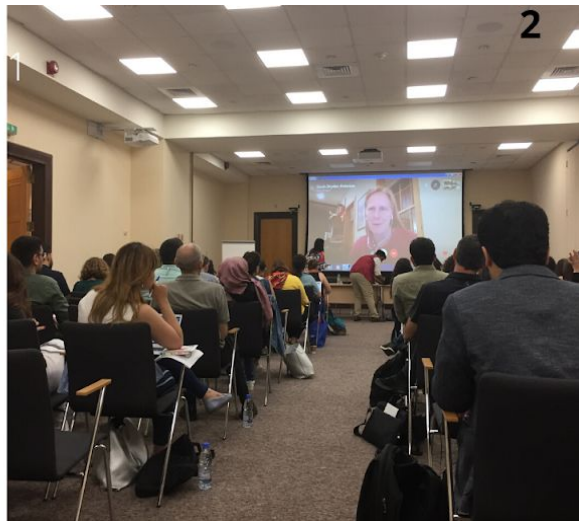
The Asfari Institute, in collaboration with the Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, organized a panel discussion that sought to address three main questions: What strategies does the Lebanese system employ to co-opt protests and protestors? How do politicians devise and use counter-narratives to discredit demands for change? And what types of repression and violence have been used against protestors? The discussion also aimed at looking into the external factors behind the failure of the protest movements in Lebanon up until June 2019, at a time when studies on the subject matter have only examined the internal factors. Moderated by Dr. Dina El Khawaga, the

panel included Dr. Carmen Geha, Dr. Samer Frangie, Dr. Nizar Ghanem, Ms. Nayla Geagea, and Mr. Wasef Harake.

September 2019

10. Displaced Syrians in Lebanon's Refugee Crisis: Gender and Humanitarian Aid Activism (Public Lecture)

In collaboration with the Arab Institute for Women at LAU, the Asfari Institute hosted a Public Lecture by Dr. Connie Carøe Christiansen. During the lecture, Dr. Christiansen outlined Lebanon's humanitarian policies and the conditions of humanitarian action, more broadly, which tend to produce a contested field of action that constitute 'imagined' gender relations.



1. Regional Conference on Mapping and Analyzing Experiences of Teaching/Studying Gender Issues in Arab Universities and Research Centers 2. Workshop on Refugee Education in Lebanon: Past, Present, and Future Prospects 3. Panel Discussion on Protesting Lebanon's Regime

Books/Report Launches

January 2019

1. "بناء ونضال: من أرشيف الحركة النسوية المصرية" (Book Launch)

In January 2019, the Asfari Institute hosted the launch of Dr. Hoda Elsadda's book with a panel that included Dr. Dima Kaedbey and Lama Kahal. The book aims at documenting and archiving the Egyptian feminist movement through photos, posters and articles published in newspapers and magazines. The first part of the book sheds light on the organizations and associations that were formed by women or included women participants, while the second part tackles some of the battles that women in Egypt fought.

March 2019

2. "Reform and Development of the "Arab Regional Order" (Report Launch)

This event gathered the steering committee members of the corresponding project and the working team of experts and researchers, along with representatives of Arab ambassadors in Lebanon and various actors in the fields of political sociology and political economy. The attendees were walked through the challenges that the Arab systems and the League of Arab States face, the major findings and key messages of the report, the methodology and processes that led to them, and the main issues that were noted during the workshops, roundups and interviews which took place during the year-long research process.

3. Arab Social Activism Report (ASAP Report Launch)

The Arab Social Activism Report was launched during a panel discussion in the presence of those who contributed to it with research papers on different aspects and case studies of Arab social activism; and those who trained the first cohort of young Arab activists during the first edition of the ASAP in 2018. This report came as a culmination of the first round of ASAP training launched in 2018 to incubate a new generation of social activists in the Arab world. It aims to counter the prevalent outlook on social activism and supports the hypothesis on the continuity of a democratic movement and the variety of its forms beyond the organization. Speakers included Dr. Dina El Khawaga, Dr. Youssef El Chazli, Abdou Moussa, Dr. Hassan Abbas, Dr. Mohamed Abouelghit Ahmed, Amr Ismaeil Marzouk, Dr. Ala Talbi, Salma Hussein, and Mona Khneisser.



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1. Book Launch of 'بناء ونضال: من أرشيف الحركة النسوية المصرية'
2. Arab Social Activism Report Launch
3. Dr. Dima Kaedbey at the latter Book Launch event

4. *For the War Yet to Come: Planning Beirut's Frontiers* (Book Launch)

In conjunction with the Beirut Urban Lab at AUB, the Asfari Institute hosted the launch of Dr. Hiba Bou Akar's book *For the War Yet to Come: Planning Beirut's Frontiers*, in a panel that included Dr. Seteney Shami and Dr. Mona Fawaz. The book argues that sectarianism is a key player in Lebanese urban development.

October 2019

5. *Citizenship and its Discontents* (Book Launch)

In collaboration with the Century Foundation, the Asfari institute co-published a report in Arabic titled *Citizenship and its Discontents*. The report features articles by Dr. Mona Fawaz, Dr. Joseph Dagher, Michael Hanna, and Thanansis Cambanis. Translating this selection of articles, co-publishing them and hosting the book launch event mainly comes as part of the Asfari Institute's mandate to make the produced knowledge about citizenship in the Arab region more accessible to the Arab society and help making a pragmatic impact from it.

December 2019

6. *Threats and Alliances in the Middle East: Saudi and Syrian Policies in a Turbulent Region* (Book Launch)

In December 2019, the Institute hosted the launch of Dr. May Darwich's *Threats and Alliances in the Middle East: Saudi and Syrian Policies in a Turbulent Region* book in a panel that included Dr. Sami Baroudi as the book's discussant. Through comparative case studies, Dr. Darwich advanced our understanding of the conditions under which identity can play a predominant role in shaping the perception of threat in some cases, whilst material power is predominant in others.



1. Dr. May Darwich and Dr. Sami Baroudi at the Launch of *Threats and Alliance in the Middle East* book 2. Dr. Hiba Bou Akar at the *For the War Yet to Come: Planning Beirut's Frontiers* book launch 3. Thanansis Cambanis and Dr. Dina El Khawaga at the *Citizenship and Its Discontents* book talk

Publications

- ١ - الحركات الاجتماعية متعددة القومية: الحالة المصرية، تحرير وإدارة عمرو عادلي بمشاركة عمرو إسماعيل، محمد جاد، هبة خليل، وهند أحمد زكي
- ٢ - إصلاح وتطوير "النظام الإقليمي العربي - جميل مطر، د. يوسف الحسن، د. ناصيف حتي بمشاركة د. عز الدين شكري فشير، علاء عبد العزيز، شهير زكي، د. زياد عقل، سمير حسني، لينا عطالله، د. جنى جبور، ود. علي مراد
- ٣ - الناشطة المجتمعية في المنطقة العربية: التقرير السنوي الأول، تحرير وإدارة د. دينا خواجه بمشاركة د. حسان عباس، فرح الشامي، بشار الحلبي، ميادة مدبولي، فرح رمزي، سناء بن بلي، يوسف الشاذلي، علاء الطالبي، أحمد شابي، هند أحمد زكي، منى خنيسر، فؤاد غربلي، عمرو إسماعيل، سلمى حسين، هبة خليل، ومحمد أبو الغيط
- ٤ - خربشة وجه السلطة: الأرثييزم وجماليات الغضب في مصر - عبده موسى البرماوي
- ٥ - المواطنة وتحدياتها - ثاناسيس كامبانيس، د. منى فواز، لينا عطالله، د. إليزابيث ف. طومسون، ود. جوزيف ضاهر
- ٦ - تقرير الحلقة النقاشية بعنوان "رصد آليات تشكّل وتطور حركات الناشطة الرقمية في المنطقة العربية - فرح الشامي
- ٧ - تقرير الحلقة النقاشية حول الحركات الاجتماعية عبر القومية المناهضة للعولمة في العالم العربي، إعداد د. عمرو عادلي
Report of the Construction Workshop on Anti-Globalization Transnational Social Movement in the Arab Region - Dr. Amr Adly
- 8 - Traveling Critique: Anti-imperialism, Gender and Rights Discourses - Dr. Hoda Elsadda
- 9 - The Workshop on War Economy/Reconstruction Economy in Syria - Manar Fleifel
- 10 - Report of the Advisory Committee to Reform and Develop the "Arab Regional Order" Project - Gamil Matar, Dr. Yousef Al-Hassan, and Dr. Nassif Hitti
- 11 - Digital Activism and the Feminist Movement - Ghida Anani (Policy Brief)
- 12 - Asfari-AUB-Bahithat Conference Report - Dr. Dina El Khawaga, Dr. Azza Sleiman, Dr. Azza Charara Baydoun, Dr. Fadia Hoteit, Dr. Jana Badran, Dr. Sara Mourad, and Farah Al Shami. **Papers by:** Myriam Sfeir, Dr. Eileen Kuttat, Dr. Balkis Badri, Dr. Amal Hamada, Dr. Bilkis Zabara, Dr. Amel Grami, Dr. Jana Badran, Dr. Meisoun Ali, Dr. Khadidja Boussaid, Dr. Nawar Golley, Dr. Asmaa Jamil, Dr. Hanan Ibrahim, Dr. Hoda El Sadda, Dr. Lama Abou Odeh, Dr. Jana Badran, Dr. Sara Mourad and Dr. Shereen Abou Elnaga
- 13 - Transnational Social Movements: The Case of Lebanon - Dr. Mona Harb
In collaboration with: Dr. Diala Haidar, Dr. Bernadette Daou, and Dr. Janine Clark
- 14- Report of the Consultation Workshop on Urban Rights Activism - Dr. Mona Harb





Lebanon Protests Page

Since its launch in 2012, the Asfari Institute has devoted its efforts to cover and document new forms of mobilization and social activism in the Arab region. Working as a regional hub, we are thrilled to devote our attention to the current Lebanese Uprising to allow our partners, audience, and readers to live this unprecedented moment of decentralized cross-sectarian, cross-social, and material solidarity. By doing so, we hope to illustrate the diversity, innovation, and determination of the Lebanese protesters since October 17, 2019. Therefore, the Lebanon Protests page on our blog contains different elements that allow our audience to appreciate this transformative moment at its fullest and come to know the various expressions of this ongoing uprising.

The first section includes the Asfari Institute papers on the protests, in which scholars and activists shed light on specific issues, demands, and roadmaps raised by the disenchanted masses in short op-eds. The second section illustrates the continuous creativity and innovation of this leaderless movement through the circulating posters it produces every day. A third section is dedicated to the artwork of the revolution, be it graffiti, stand-up comedy, banners, hashtags, chants, or street art. The fourth section compiles most of the video tutorials produced by NGOs, social movements or newly organized unions that explain political and technical terms, as well as the social demands of the revolution, to make it accessible to all citizens. In the fifth section, we gather our featured readings to give our audience a wider view of the daily posts, articles, and public lectures that accompany the continuous uprising until the fulfillment of its demands.

Additional components were added to grasp the new tactics and agency among the protestors. The sixth section contains interviews that document the voices of students, teachers, artists, media professionals, experts, scholars, urban and environmental activists, and policy analysts and will be posted both on the blog and on our new Instagram page. The prospected seventh section will be composed of maps created during the uprising. It aspires to add spatial depth to our understanding of the movement and to put at the forefront similar initiatives undertaken by other Lebanese cities other than Beirut.



Asfari OP-ED

CIRCULATING



Informative VIDEOS

هل تحرر الانتفاضة الشاطئي
الليبناني؟



Video by Legal Agenda

فرض التسوية بالخيار الأمني



Video by Megaphone

أمهات التباريز يمشين لملاقة
أمهات الخندق الغميق عند
برج الغزال



Video by اخبار الساحة

Featured ANALYSIS Background READINGS

Training programs

March 2019

How to Build a Cultural Initiative

The aim of this four-day training workshop was to enable civil society activists from the Arab world acquire the necessary means to produce culture as resistance either through initiatives or through increasing awareness on the concept of resistance in independent cultural production. The workshop entailed the participation of 11 Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian youth from the cultural field where they received theoretical and practical training.

April 2019

Arab Political Science Network (APSN) Research Development Workshop

In April 2019, the Asfari Institute and the Arab Political Science Network (APSN), hosted a Research Development Workshop that gathered 10 young Arab PhD candidates researching the region and are affiliated with Arab and Western Universities. This training aimed to provide them with a platform to present their work and get constructive feedback from prominent senior scholars from AUB, LAU, and Durham University. Researchers of the Asfari Institute also presented their current research, which covered different issues. Since then, AI and APSN have signed an MOU to maintain this the doctoral workshop as an annual co-organized event. The next workshop will be held on June 5, 2020.



During the “How to Build a Cultural Initiative” Training Workshop

Asfari Culture Award

In May 2019, the Asfari Institute handed out the first annual Asfari Culture Award. The “short story” was chosen as the piece of prose for the competition submission. The prize was shared between Anas Nassif and Hassan Al Joude (both Syrians), who read their work at the Award ceremony. The Award’s selection committee was composed of Ibrahim Samuel, a Syrian writer and Arabic teacher; Ibrahim Abdel Maguid, an award-winning Egyptian novelist and author; and Hassan Daoud, a well-known Lebanese novelist and journalist. The Award honors and celebrates civil actors in their respective cultural fields by acknowledging and supporting their cultural activities.





1. Hassan Al Joude 2. Anas Nassif 3. Dr. Hassan Abbas

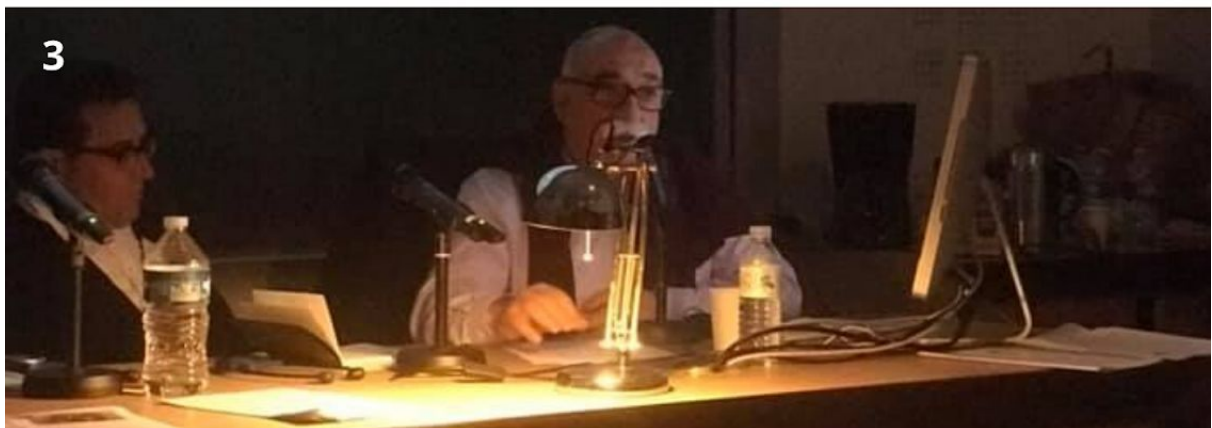
AI in Academic and Activist Settings

January 2019

In 2019, the Asfari Institute was represented by its team in many regional academic and activist settings. In 2019, Dr. El Khawaga represented AI at conferences, workshops, panel discussions, and Ph.D. defenses in the region and Europe. Dr. El Khawaga was the discussant of the roundtable discussion on Arab Horizons report. The roundtable was held on 14 & 15 of October at the Carnegie Middle East Centre-Beirut, with the aim of building on the recommendations of the Report. In October, she presented the Institute's work in Amman at the Arab Council for Social Sciences conference on Gender Studies. Also in Amman, Dr. El Khawaga gave a lecture on Activism and Diversity of Civil Struggles at the University of Jordan for a seminar organized by the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development. She also lectured on the Lebanese October Uprising at Al Makan community center, Beirut. Moreover, she has continued to serve on the governing board of UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning in Paris, France. She has also served on one Ph.D jury and one Ph.D committee at Paris Nanterre University.

Dr. Abbas led many different training workshops. These included Ettijahat's annual capacity-building training program that took place in October, and that aimed to develop the research skills of young Syrians, specialized in the field of cultural studies; Globally Connected's "Identity and Citizenship", in Dortmund-Germany (May); Mubadiroon's "Identity and its transformations in conflicts" in Beirut (June); Hamsat Wassel's "Political Modern History of Syria", in Al Naameh-Lebanon (July). Dr. Abbas also gave multiple lectures in Europe, one at the Modern Art Museum in Rome on "Syrian resistance artists" (June), one at the Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Sardinia-Italy on "the Reality of Syrian Labor in Lebanon" (June), and one on "Traditional Music in Syria" as part of the "Celebrating Syria Festival" in Manchester (October). He has also served on the steering committee of the Breaking the Mold program at the Issam Fares Institute.

Program officer, Farah Al Shami, presented her research at the Middle East Economic Association conference in Atlanta-Georgia, as well as at Kohl's Alternative Economies Conference in Beirut-Lebanon. Senior Research Assistant, Mona Khneisser, presented her research at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Conference in the United Kingdom. Project Coordinator, Manar Fleifel, participated by the Migration Study Week organized by Lebanon Support.



1. Dr. Dina El Khawaga, Dr. Kate Maude, Dr. Sara Mourad, Dean Nadia Cheikh, Dr. Carmen Geha (Left to right)
2. Dr. Marwan Muasher at the Arab Horizons' Report Launch - Carnegie Middle East Center
3. Dr. Hassan Abbass speaking at l'École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts
4. Ms. Farah Al Shami at Kohl Journal's Alternative Economies Conference

2019 Contributors

(Listed in Alphabetical order of their last names)

1. Dr. Lama Abu-Odeh

Lama Abu-Odeh is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. She has written extensively on Islamic law, feminism, and family law. She earned her LL.B. from the University of Jordan, her LL.M. from the University of Bristol, England, her MA from the University of York, England, and her S.J.D. from Harvard University. She has taught at Stanford Law School and worked for the World Bank's Middle East/North Africa division.

2. Dr. Amr Adly

Dr. Amr Adly is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the American University in Cairo. He worked as a Researcher at the Middle East Directions Program at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy. He also worked as a non-resident Scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center, where his research focused on political economy, development studies and economic sociology of the Middle East, with an emphasis on Egypt. Dr. Adly has taught Political Economy at the American University in Cairo and at Stanford University. He has also worked as a Project Manager at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford University, where he was a postdoctoral fellow. Dr. Adly is the author of *State Reform and Development in the Middle East: the Cases of Turkey and Egypt* (Routledge, 2012). He has been published in a number of peer-reviewed journals, including *Business and Politics*, the *Journal of Turkish Studies*, and *Middle Eastern Studies*. Dr. Adly is also a frequent contributor to printed and online news sources.

3. Hala Alabdalla

Hala Alabdalla is a Syrian cinematographer and director. She currently lives in Paris producing movies. She is known for *Je suis celle qui porte les fleurs vers sa tombe*, *I Am She who Brings the Flowers to her Grave*, *Comme si nous attrapions un cobra*, *As If We Were Catching a Cobra*, and *Besieged Like Me* (2016).

4. Ghida Anani

Ghida Anani is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Public Health in the Lebanese University. In 2009, she was a guest speaker at the UNSG press conference on the occasion of the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. Ms. Anani has published a number of published studies and articles on GBV & Child Sexual Abuse in Lebanon and the MENA region. In 2008, Ms. Anani received the Excellence in Collaborative Teaching Award from the American University of Beirut. In June 2011, she founded and continues to manage ABAAD (Dimensions) – Resource Centre for Gender Equality a UN ECOSOC accredited lead gender-focused organization in Lebanon and throughout the MENA region and which was granted “WOMANITY Award”. In 2014, Ms. Anani was selected for Women in Diplomacy School by the Italian Society for International Organization and the Italian government and she was awarded in the same year the “Women Leadership Achievement Award”. Anani lead a number of public opinion campaigns, notably the latest #Undress522 national campaign calling upon abolishing the article 522 from the Lebanese Penal Code. In 2018, Anani was listed by the World Bank as one of “10 Inspiring Women Entrepreneurs Making a Difference across MENA”.

5. Alia Awada

Alia Awada is a feminist activist and Co-Director at FE-MALE

6. Dr. Janna Badran

Dr. Janna Badran is a Professor of Management at the Lebanese University of Beirut. She received her master's degree in philosophy from the University of Paris-Sorbonne and a doctorate in gender studies from the University of Vincennes-Saint-Denis in Paris. Her research interests are focused on work ethics, women's leadership, and gender mainstreaming in economic policies, in addition to institutions of higher learning.

7. Dr. Sami E. Baroudi

Dr. Sami E. Baroudi joined LAU as an assistant professor of political science in October 1992, and is currently a professor. He is also the

associate chairperson at the Department of Social Sciences. He played a major role in launching the MA in International Affairs Program at LAU. Between October 2001 and September 2005, he served as chairperson of the Education and Social Sciences Division on the Beirut campus. In October 2005, he was appointed assistant provost for Faculty Affairs, a position he held until October 2013. In the 2013-2014 academic year, he served as the interim chair of the Communication Arts Department. Between October 2014 and August 2016, he was an assistant dean in the School of Arts and Sciences. Baroudi has published extensively on the political economy of the Middle East, particularly Egypt and Lebanon and on sectarian relations in Lebanon. His current research agenda focuses on political Islam; and more specifically on how contemporary mainstream Islamists view international relations. Baroudi is a member of several professional associations, including the American Political Science Association, the International Studies Association and the Middle East Studies Association.

8. Dr. Azza Charara Baydoun

Dr. Azza Charara Baydoun is a former professor at the Lebanese University, a researcher on women and gender studies, and a consultant on women and gender affairs with Lebanese, Arab, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. She is a committee member of "The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)" at the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), and a founding member of the Lebanese Association of Women Researchers (Bahithat). Dr. Azza is the author of several books and publications. She was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Scientific Research in the field of Social Psychology (Women and Gender Affairs) from the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS)-Lebanon for her overall production in the years 2001-2011, and was the recipient of the Prize for Social Sciences from the Arab Women Organization (by the League of Arab States) for the year 2007.

9. Dr. Yasmine Berriane

Dr. Yasmine Berriane is a Moroccan Researcher at the French Centre Maurice Halbwachs, in Paris. Trained in Political Science and Middle

Eastern Studies in Germany, the UK, France, and Morocco, she is primarily interested in political and social transformations in Middle Eastern and North African States. Her current project focuses on the close connection between the commodification of land and its political reconfigurations, including new forms of protest and negotiation. She has co-edited a special issue for *Mediterranean Politics* on “Allying beyond Social Divides: Coalitions and Contentious Politics in the Middle East and North Africa.” Yasmine is our youngest steering committee member of the Transnational Social Movements in the Arab region project (funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York). She has been serving as a scholar and mentor since September 2017 for young Moroccan activists. Her Ph.D. on domestic workers in Morocco illustrates her skills in both Social Movement Theory and Gender Studies.

10. Dr. Hiba Bou Akar

Dr. Hiba Bou Akar is an Assistant Professor in the Urban Planning program at Columbia GSAPP. Her research focuses on planning in conflict and post-conflict cities, the question of urban security and violence, and the role of religious political organizations in the making of cities. Bou Akar’s recent book, *For the War Yet to Come: Planning Beirut’s Frontiers*, published by Stanford University Press in 2018, examines how Beirut’s post-civil war peripheries have been transformed through multiple planning exercises into contested frontiers that are mired in new forms of conflict. It contributes to planning thought by studying planning practice within a framework of past and anticipated violence. Her first co-edited book, *Narrating Beirut from its Borderlines*, published by Heinrich Böll in 2011, incorporated ethnographic and archival research with art installations, architecture, graphic design, and photography to explore Beirut’s segregated geographies.

11. Thanassis Cambanis

Thanassis Cambanis is an author, journalist, and senior fellow at The Century Foundation. He is co-director of TCF’s foreign policy program. His work focuses on U.S. foreign policy, Arab politics, and social movements in the Middle East. His most recent book, *Once Upon A Revolution: An Egyptian Story* (Simon and Schuster: 2015), chronicles

Egyptian efforts to create a new political order. His edited volumes for TCF Press include *Hybrid Actors: Armed Groups and State Fragmentation in the Middle East* (2019), and *Citizenship and Its Discontents: The Struggle for Rights, Inclusion and Pluralism in the Middle East* (2019). He regularly contributes to the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and the *Boston Globe*. He is an adjunct professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. He has also taught as a Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University.

12. Dr. May Darwich

Dr. May Darwich is an Assistant Professor in IR of the Middle East at Durham University (UK). Between 2014-2016, she was a Research Fellow at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies. Her main research interests are identity politics, security politics, and foreign policy in the international relations of the Middle East. Her research appeared in internationally renowned journals, namely *Foreign Policy Analysis*, the *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Democratization*, *Mediterranean Politics*, *Global Discourse*. She is the author of *Threats and Alliances in the Middle East: Saudi and Syrian Policies in a Turbulent Region*. Cambridge University Press 2019.

13. Dr. Joseph Daher

Dr. Joseph Daher completed a Doctorate in Development Studies at SOAS, University of London (2015), and a Doctorate in Political Science at Lausanne University (2018). He currently teaches at Lausanne University and is a part-time affiliate professor at the European University Institute, Florence. He is the author of *Hezbollah: Political Economy of the Party of God* (Pluto Press, 2016) and *Syria after the Uprisings* (Pluto Press, 2019). He is the co-editor of *Penser l'émancipation* (La Dispute, 2013) and founder of the blog Syria Freedom Forever.

14. Dr. Nada Ghandour Demiri

Dr. Nada Ghandour Demiri was the Mary Fox Whittlesey Chair and Visiting Assistant Professor in Sociology in the SOAM Department at AUB. She is a

Political Sociologist whose research focuses on migration, social movements, development and security in the Middle East and Europe. Before joining AUB, she was working with Translators without Borders, and conducting research on the impact of language and communication barriers on the lives of refugees in Greece. She is also the co-editor of Jadaliyya's Daily Acts of Resistance and Subversion subpage. She holds a PhD in Politics and an MSc in International Relations from the University of Bristol, and a BA in Sociology & Anthropology from AUB. Her doctoral thesis explored the ways in which non-violent resistance against the Israeli occupation is being conducted and disciplined.

15. Jasmin Lilian Diab

Jasmin Lilian Diab is a researcher, author, manager, and consultant in the areas of Conflict, Migration, Refugee and Gender Studies. She is a Research Associate at the AUB Global Health Institute at the American University of Beirut, working under their Research for Health in Conflict Project's Political Economy of Health workstream.

16. Dr. Michel Douaihy

Michel Douaihy is a Lecturer in Political Science and Research Methods at the American University of Beirut. He holds a Ph.D. in History from Saint Joseph University, an MA in International Political Economy from the University of Birmingham, an MS in Financial Services Management from the University of Surrey, and a BS in Business Administration from the Lebanese American University. He is the founder of Kelna Beirut, an independent electoral campaign that seeks to introduce a new approach to political life based on the issues and problems of the people of Lebanon and Beirut in particular.

17. Dr. Mona Fawaz

Dr. Mona Fawaz is Professor in Urban Studies and Planning and the coordinator of graduate programmes in Urban Planning, Policy and Design at the American University of Beirut (AUB). She is also director of the Social Justice and the City research programme at the Issam Fares Institute of Public Policy at AUB. The research programme, which focuses

on making Lebanon's cities more inclusive, aims to formulate an agenda for research, mobilisation and policy advocacy between scholars, policymakers and activists. Dr. Fawaz's own scholarly interests include methods to make cities more inclusive. Her research spans urban history and historiography, social and spatial justice, informality and the law, property and space, as well as planning practice, theory and pedagogy. Professor Fawaz was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies at Harvard University and an affiliated fellow in the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. She served as a member of the Affordable Housing Institute MENA Research Advisory Board and a member of the scientific committee of the Order of Engineers and Architects in Lebanon in 2017/18. She is the author of over 40 scholarly articles, book sections and reports in Arabic, French and English, and has edited several collections of essays.

18. Dr. Samer Frangie

Dr. Samer Frangie is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Studies and Public Administration at the American University of Beirut, where he teaches courses on Arab politics and political thought, and social and political theory. He received his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2009. He has been a EUME Fellow in 2013/14. Aside from his academic work, he is a frequent contributor to the pan-Arab daily newspaper al-Hayat. Among his publications are: *The Anatomy of a Crisis: On Mahdi 'Amil's Naqd al-Fikr al-Yawmi*, *Exiled from History: Yasin al-Hafiz's Autobiographical Preface and Transformation of Political Critique*, *Historicism, Socialism and Liberalism after the Defeat: On the Political Thought of Yasin al-Hafiz*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *Theorizing from the periphery: The Intellectual project of Mehdi 'Amil*.

19. Dr. Carmen Geha

Dr. Carmen Geha is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration at AUB. She teaches public management, citizenship and civic engagement. She is also the Director of the "Education for Leadership in Crisis" Scholarship Program for Afghan women at AUB. Dr. Geha specializes in the study of the nexus between public administration and political systems. In particular, she comparatively analyzes challenges to administrative and political reform and civil society in the Middle East and

North Africa. She is the author of *Civil Society and Political Reform in Lebanon and Libya* (Routledge, 2016). Dr. Geha has a decade of experience in development consulting having worked with governments, international organizations, and UN agencies in Lebanon, Tunisia, Libya, Kuwait, and Iraq on issues including municipal governance, women and youth empowerment, voter education, and entrepreneurship programs. She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews, and a BA and MA in Public Administration from AUB. She has taken courses and attended seminars at the Fletcher School, Tufts University and at Georgetown University.

20. Poliana Geha

Poliana Geha is a Senior Consultant with Euromena Consulting, an impact-oriented management consulting firm serving high profile stakeholders in the private and public sectors across the MENA region, Africa and Europe. She holds a Masters of Science in Political Communication from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), United Kingdom; a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration with an Emphasis in Public Policy and a Diploma in Media and Communication from the American University of Beirut. She is also an avid reader and writer with a particular interest in culture, media, and politics.

21. Dr. Dalia Ghanem

Dr. Dalia Ghanem is a resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut and the co-director for gender-related work for the program on Civil-Military Relations in Arab States, where her work examines political and extremist violence, radicalization, Islamism, and jihadism with an emphasis on Algeria. She also focuses on the participation of women in jihadist groups. Ghanem has been a guest speaker on these issues in various conferences and a regular commentator in different Arab and international print and audio-visual media. Ghanem was previously an El-Erian fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center. Prior to joining Carnegie in 2013, she was a teaching associate at Williams College in Massachusetts and she also served as a research assistant at the Center for Political Analysis and Regulation at the University of Versailles.

22. Nayla Geagea

Nayla Geagea is a lawyer and researcher with more than ten years of experience and practice with a focus on international human rights, protection of vulnerable groups and international criminal justice. Since 2008, she has engaged in legal research and drafted legal briefs, memoranda, and draft laws encompassing a range of issues related to human, social and economical rights. She has worked with multiple local and international organizations including research centers to develop public policies and advocate for legal reforms, to implement projects and activities aiming at addressing forms of discrimination and marginalization of various vulnerable groups, in addition to conducting workshops and training for local communities in remote areas on active citizenship and economical sustainability and supporting civic campaigns on the local and national level. She has an extensive experience assisting civil society actors working on human rights issues as well as engaging with Lebanese authorities and parliamentarians to advocate for laws and policies reforms to comply with Lebanon's international commitments and promote mechanisms for the protection of human rights. She graduated from the Faculty of Law at the Lebanese University (Filière Francophone) with distinction, and holds a master's degree in International and Human Rights Law from the Faculty of Law at Paul Cezanne University based in Aix en Provence, France.

23. Nizar Ghanem

Nizar Ghanem is a research specialist with more than a decade of experience in policy research and training. Nizar's research portfolio includes leading research projects, needs assessments and baseline surveys for The World Bank, UNICEF, Search for Common Ground, World Learning, and the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies. Nizar has also authored several reports and scholarly articles on a variety of topics related to governance and development in the West Asia region. Nizar holds a Bachelors in Business and Accounting from Notre Dame University, Lebanon and a Masters in International Relations and Economics from The School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, USA.

24. Dr. Tania Haddad

Dr. Tania Haddad is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration at AUB. Her teaching expertise includes civil society, public and nonprofit management, program evaluation and research methods. Her research interests currently focus on issues related to civil society and nonprofit management in Lebanon and the Middle East.

25. Dr. Mona Harb

Dr. Mona Harb is a Professor of Urban Studies and Politics in the Department of Architecture and Design at AUB. She received her PhD in Political Science in 2005 from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques at Aix-Marseille (France). She is the author of *Le Hezbollah à Beyrouth (1985-2005): de la banlieue à la ville* (Karthala-IFPO, 2010), co-author of *Leisurely Islam: Negotiating Geography and Morality in Shi'ite South Beirut* (Princeton University Press, 2013, with Lara Deeb), and co-editor of *Local Governments and Public Goods: Assessing Decentralization in the Arab World* (Beirut: LCPS, 2015, with Sami Atallah). Her ongoing research investigates local governance and refugees, urban activism, and youth in Lebanon. She is the founder and co-editor of the Cities Page on Jadaliyya e-zine. Dr. Harb served as the coordinator of the AUB graduate programs in Urban Planning, Policy and Design, Chair of her department, and as Associate Dean of her faculty. She provides professional advice on urban development issues for several international organizations (ESCWA, WB, EU, UNDP).

26. Michael Hanna

Michael Hanna is a senior fellow at The Century Foundation. He is also a non-resident senior fellow at the Reiss Center on Law and Security at New York University School of Law. Hanna works on issues of international security, international law, and U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and South Asia. He is the co-editor of *Arab Politics Beyond the Uprisings: Experiments in an Era of Resurgent Authoritarianism* (2017) and *Order from Ashes: New Foundations for Security in the Middle East* (2018). He

has published widely on U.S. foreign policy in newspapers and journals, including articles in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Financial Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor, The New Republic, Democracy, Middle East Report, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Survival, and World Policy Journal, among other publications. He appears regularly on PBS, BBC, and NPR, including appearances on Charlie Rose and the PBS NewsHour. Hanna directed The Century Foundation's 2015 International Working Group on Pakistan, chaired by Ambassador Thomas Pickering, and served as a co-director of The Century Foundation's 2011 International Task Force on Afghanistan, co-chaired by Ambassador Pickering and Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi.

27. Dr. Fadia Hoteit

Dr. Fadia Hoteit is a researcher and professor at the Lebanese University. She holds a PhD in Psychology from the Sorbonne University (Paris 5) in France. She teaches courses on early childhood and children's literature at the Faculty of Education in Lebanese University, and she also heads its Center for Studies and Research. Dr. Hoteit has many educational, social and psychological studies and research on children, family and women. She participated in organizing a number of conferences on children's literature through the Lebanese Association of Women Researchers (Bahithat), and on nurseries via the Faculty of Education at the Lebanese University. Additionally, Dr. Hoteit co-edited several of the books produced by the Lebanese Association of Women Researchers (Bahithat). She is the author of 2 books: "Children literature in Lebanon (in Arabic)" and "Play in the Early Childhood (in Arabic)" and the co-author of "Preschool Education in Lebanon (in Arabic)". Fadia Hoteit is also the writer of two children's books "My Dream" and "Big Boy".

28. Dr. Rana Issa

In studies of the Nahda, Rana Issa has been most interested in the translation of foundational texts as a way to interrogate three aspects of the literary landscape of Arab modernity: 1) the linguistic impact of translation on the styles and genres of written Arabic 2) the dependence of conceptual transfers on key (foundational) texts and 3) the emergence of translation as a technology of choice for the elaboration of a discourse

on globalization. Her doctoral work on the Bible explores how translation emerged as a tool of synchronization in the nineteenth century. This interest has triggered specific interests in temporal concepts of origin, tradition, newness, progress, belatedness and acceleration. Some of her recent publications include “The Arabic Language and Syro-Lebanese National Identity: Searching in Buṭrus al-Bustānī’s Muḥīṭ al-Muḥīṭ.” “Rakākah and the Petit Quarrel of 1871: Christian Authors and the Competition over Arabic.” “The Fallibility of Tradition in al-Shidyāq: The Case of Islam.” And “Missionary Philology and the Invention of Bibleland.” She has also published translations of the Syrian author Yassin Hajj Saleh. She is an Assistant Professor in Translation Studies at the Department of English at AUB.

29. Dr. Jeffrey G. Karam

Dr. Jeffrey G. Karam is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the Lebanese American University (LAU). He is also a non-resident associate at the Middle East Initiative at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. Previously, Dr. Karam was a postdoctoral research fellow in the International Security Program at Harvard University’s Belfer Center. Also, before joining LAU, Dr. Karam was a visiting assistant professor of International Relations and Middle East Politics at Boston University’s Pardee School of Global Studies, where he taught courses on International Relations, Security Studies, Politics of the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, and the Middle East, and Revolutions, Coups, and Wars in the Middle East. Most recently, Dr. Karam was a visiting assistant professor of International Relations and Middle East Politics at Harvard University’s Summer School.

30. Dr. Hiba Khodr

Dr. Hiba Khodr is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Public Management and is currently acting-Chair of the PSPA Department at AUB. Her research interests include policymaking in the Middle East North Africa region in general, and the Gulf Cooperation Council in particular in terms of process, participants, and drivers. She has conducted work on energy policy and addressing the utilization of

scientific evidence in public policymaking in Lebanon. Her recent work is on both policy innovation and diffusion, and the dynamics of policy and politics. She is also interested in changes in foreign policy post-Arab uprisings. She has contributed to *Politics & Policy* (2013), *Energy Policy* (2012), *International Journal of Event and Festival Management* (2012), the *Digest of Middle East Studies* (2012), and the *Journal of Emerging Trends in Educational Research and Policy Studies* (2011).

31. Khaled Mansour

Khaled Mansour has 30 years of experience in human rights, humanitarian aid, development, peacekeeping, journalism, and communication. He has worked with civil society, academic, media and international organizations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North America. He has led large, multicultural teams at global, regional and national levels including in complex emergency situations at the UN Headquarters in New York and in various countries and regions. His knowledge and experience of global issues and organizations includes work in post-conflict situations and countries in transition, including South Africa (1994-1995), Afghanistan (2000-2002), Iraq (2003), Lebanon (2006), Sudan (2008-2010), and currently in the MENA region. After ten years of journalism in Egypt, South Africa and the USA, he spent 13 years at the UN, then in 2013 moved to Cairo to become the executive director of Egypt's leading human rights organization, Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. Since 2015, he has been a full-time independent writer and an adjunct professor on humanitarian aid, human rights and peacekeeping.

32. Ms. Kholoud Mansour

Ms. Kholoud Mansour is a Syrian Researcher and Consultant. She is affiliated with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University. She worked as a Senior Consultant for the Local-to-Global Protection Initiative (L2GP) and as an Asfari Academy Fellow at Chatham House. Ms. Mansour is the co-author of *Funding to national and local humanitarian actors in Syria: Between subcontracting and partnerships* report. She has also contributed, under a pseudonym, to national newspapers and other platforms. Ms. Mansour holds an MA in Middle Eastern Studies from Lund University, a BA in Economics and a postgraduate diploma in International

Economic Relations from Damascus University. She also has a Diploma in Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Reconciliation from the International Peace and Security Institute & Johns Hopkins University. In Syria, she has worked extensively with refugees, resettlement programs, and humanitarian assistance.

33. Dr. Walid Marrouch

Dr. Walid Marrouch was appointed Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies & Research in January 2019. He is an associate professor of economics and served as associate chair of the Department of Economics at Adnan Kassar School of Business between 2012 and 2019. He first joined LAU in 2009 as an assistant professor of economics. Between 2007 and 2009, he was a part-time lecturer at HEC Montréal, from which he received a PhD in Applied Economics in 2009. He also holds an MA in Economics from Concordia University. In addition to his involvement in academic research, he has conducted consultancy work for a number of international organizations. He is also an Associate Fellow at the Center for Interuniversity Research and Analysis of Organizations (CIRANO) in Montreal, Canada and a Research Fellow with The Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey (ERF).

34. Dr. Hamza Meddeb

Dr. Hamza Meddeb is a Research Fellow at the Middle East Directions Program at the European University Institute, Florence. Previously, he was a Visiting Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (September-December 2016), a non-resident Scholar at Carnegie Middle East Centre (January 2015- March 2016) and a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute from 2013-2015. Dr. Meddeb holds a PhD in Political Science from Sciences Po, Paris. His research interests lie in the intersection of political economy, security studies, and state-society relations in Tunisia.

35. Diana Moukalled

Diana Moukalled is a veteran journalist that has extensive experience in both traditional and new media. In 1991 Diana graduated from Lebanese

University faculty of journalism and started her career as a correspondent for Future Television where she covered many regional and international topics in her series "Through the Naked Eye." Her expertise varies from news writing and reporting to documentary and TV production, and war coverages in hot zones including Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon. Human Rights, women, war, minorities, and many other issues were topics of her long and extensive world coverages. Since 2011, Diana has focused extensively on online including social media strategies and training. Diana is also a columnist and freelance documentary producer.

36. Ahmed Morsy

Ahmed Morsy was a nonresident research associate in the Democracy and Rule of Law Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His research interests include Arab political reform and the regional order and security of the Middle East, including the regional security policies of Egypt, Iran, and the United States. Morsy's professional experience includes public diplomacy and youth outreach with the U.S. embassy in Cairo and political party development with the National Democratic Institute in Egypt. He also works as a consultant for the Middle East and North Africa Project at the American Political Science Association.

37. Dr. Sara Mourad

Dr. Sara Mourad is an Assistant Professor in the Media Studies program at AUB. She works at the intersection of media studies, feminist theory, postcolonial theory, and queer studies. Her current research explores the role of media in the formation and expression of sexual subcultures and identities in post-war Lebanon. It examines gender and sexual nonconformity in television talk shows, literary texts, digital publications, and films to understand the shifting boundaries of publicity in contemporary Arab societies. Dr. Mourad earned her BA in Political Science at AUB and her PhD in Communication at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work has appeared in the International Journal of Communication, the Journal of Communication Inquiry, Critical Studies in Media Communication, and Jadaliyya.

38. Dr. Danyel Reiche

Dr. Danyel Reiche is an Associate Professor for Comparative Politics at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. His work focusses on sport policy and politics as well as on climate policies. Reiche's book "Success and Failure of Countries at the Olympic Games" was published with Routledge in 2016. In 2019, his book "Sport, Politics and Society in the Middle East" (co-edited with Tamir Sorek) will be published with Hurst and Oxford University Press.

39. Dr. Azza Slieman

Dr. Azza Slieman is a professor at the faculty of law at the Lebanese University since 2009. Her work focuses on Cyber Law and Digital Commerce, as well as intellectual property and maritime and air trade. She holds a BA in Law from the Lebanese University (2001), a DEA in labour law from the Lebanese University (2004) and a PhD in private law from Universite de Paris 2.

40. Dr. Ahmad Sukkar

Dr. Ahmad Sukkar is a scholar, architect, urbanist, and educator. He is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is also a former Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at AUB, a former Visiting Lecturer at the University of Cambridge, and a former Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. He completed a PhD with a thesis in Architecture and an MA in Humanities and Cultural Studies at the London Consortium (the University of London in collaboration with the Architectural Association). He also received an MA in Architecture and Urbanism from the Architectural Association. Dr. Sukkar holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Design and a BA in Architecture from the University of Damascus. He has worked at leading architectural offices in the UK and the Middle East, including Zaha Hadid Architects.

