



2018 GABR FELLOWS VISIT THE WORLD BANK WITH HARTWIG SCHAFTER, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP

The Great Reopening

How long will it take for the economy to bounce back post-COVID-19? Will things ever be the same again? These are the questions on everyone's minds.

Governments are working to fight the global coronavirus-induced recession that is currently underway. According to the World Bank's Global Economic Outlook, a decline of 7% is anticipated for developed economies, while emerging ones will see around a 2.5% decline in their projected growth (my guess is it will probably be more).

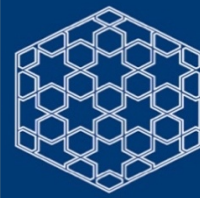
For places like Africa, small businesses could be key to economic recovery in the post-pandemic era. In the United States, Europe and Asia, safely opening up will play a vital role as productivity and supply chains are key. However, trade wars, conflicts, and more unpredictable developments like a second COVID-19 spike can cause more disruption and delays.

This aside, there is a social and psychological component that is equally if not more important to consider in this great and gradual reopening of our world economy.

The coronavirus has certainly had an impact on the way people think about government, work, shopping, other people and open spaces. Many have lost faith in their governments, while others have gained newfound respect. Working from home will likely become more commonplace (although I am against it). And the psychological impact of it all remains to be seen.

However, in every crisis, there is an opportunity. It is up to us to use the tools of today to build a better tomorrow. In the process, we should make sure not to lose sight of humanity. If we do, COVID-19 would be a minor blip on the radar of life.

M. Shafik Gabr



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

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News and Updates...

Magdalena Kura at Bread Finance



2015 Gabr Fellow Magdalena Kura started a new position as a Senior Product Manager at Bread Finance. The new role is an industry change for Magda as she is moving from education technology to financial technology, but she says it's been a positive experience for her so far.

Saleh and Counter-Terrorism



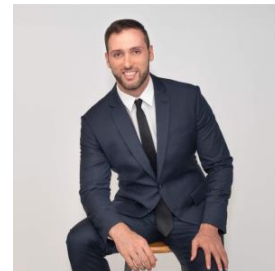
2018 Gabr Fellow Shady El Sherif started an online internship at an international private security company as a counter-terrorism analyst. Shady also got his MA thesis proposal approved by the AUC graduate council. In addition to this, he is writing an article on Statues and Racism in light of what has been happening in the protests in the US and in the UK.

Mariam Loves Working from Home



2013 Gabr Fellow Mariam Ibrahim has been working as an associate creative director in a multinational advertising agency under the MCCANN group. Mariam says advertising in Egypt has taken a hit creatively and revenue wise which has forced clients to renegotiate their fees. She says COVID-19 has pushed everything online and she prefers this set up which enables her to work from home.

Michael Matthiesen Takes Summer Externship



2017 Gabr Fellow Michael Matthiesen is serving as a judicial extern (externships are shorter than traditional internships) at the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, for Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga this summer. Michael is assigned to one of Judge Altonaga's law clerks and he works with them on their cases, conducting legal research on the cases for the judge and helping her manage her case load.

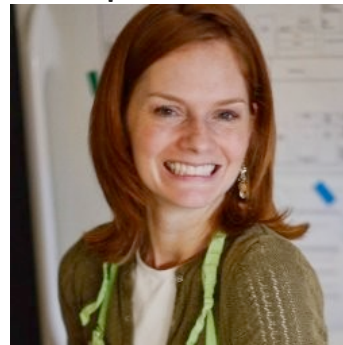
Alexis Reimagines Society



2016 Gabr Fellow Alexis Taylor started the "Reimagine Society" initiative through the World Economic Forum's Global Shaper Community. The Reimagine Society is a grassroots initiative that mobilizes young leaders to tackle longstanding system gaps exposed by the pandemic. She has a co-founder and has built a coalition of 172 shapers in 60 countries. An overview of their April call can be found here:

drive.google.com/file/d/1tjTM0Uqwh8GU3_ZE7k0Y2MCfjFvK1jri/view

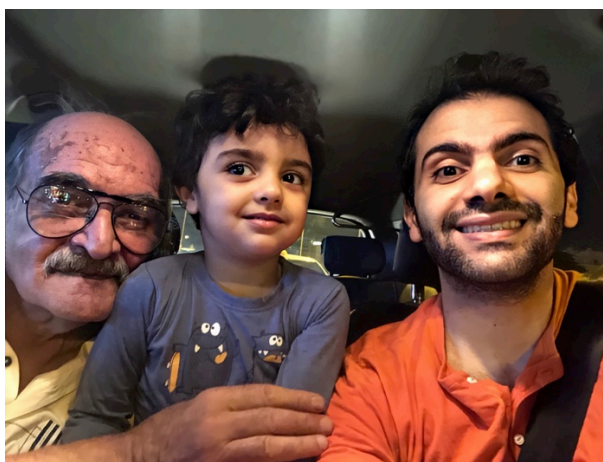
Casey Smith Helps with Economic Recovery



2015 Gabr Fellow Casey Smith works for the City of Austin as Strategic Planning Manager for the Economic Development Department. Casey was recently assigned to supporting the City's overall Economic Recovery and this allows her with an opportunity to work across all departments - transportation, health, housing, streets, tourism; and to see how to collectively provide meaningful solutions to Austinites struggling with impacts related to COVID-19.

Shehab Farouk Loses His Father

2014 Gabr Fellow Shehab Farouk, who is a legal advisor working in the Sultanate of Oman since 2015, lost his dad, Dr. Farouk Kamel in June. He was 65. Below is a tribute from Shehab, accompanied by the last picture taken of Shehab and his son with his late father. Our condolences go out to him and his family:



"My father Eng. Dr. Farouk Kamel had the greatest influence in my life. He supported me at every stage of my personal, academic and professional paths. Over the past 10 years, since I got married, we grew even closer and we spent the most fabulous 5 months together when my parents stayed with me in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, very recently. Rest In Peace my hero."

Meet the Gabr Fellows

Moataz Hussein, 2013 Gabr Fellow, Egypt

Name: Moataz Hussein

Profession: Corporate Lawyer for IT Worx

I am a corporate in-house Lawyer who is currently leading the legal team of IT Workx, a multi-national software and IT company. I lead the team in the U.S., Egypt, Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. I received my LL.M degree in Business International Law, from Indiana University's Robert McKinney School of Law in 2011. I was born and raised in Alexandria, Egypt. My hobbies include painting, poetry and traveling and I am also social activist who founded several initiatives and projects aiming to develop the Egyptian community through enhancing the capabilities and awareness of youth.

I was part of the Inaugural Gabr Fellowship cohort held in 2013. When we started and there was nothing in Egypt that had happened like this before, so the effect was very big and it was a golden opportunity to get to know Mr. Gabr in person and benefit from his wealth of experience and knowledge. And having been able to meet so many officials from the White House and Barack Obama's team, members of USAID, the official board of CNN at their headquarters in Atlanta, attended general meetings between Republicans and Democrats, and so many others, was an experience of a lifetime. We were not aware of how big the impact was until we completed the Fellowship. But I understood after how important the Gabr Fellowship is. It has helped shape my thinking. It helped me understand America better and how it impacts the world, and it has helped me realize how similar we the Egyptian people are to the people in the U.S. We have common challenges and shared values and I benefited greatly from the whole experience.



Elizabeth Dent, 2015 Gabr Fellow, U.S.

Name: Elizabeth "Liz" Dent

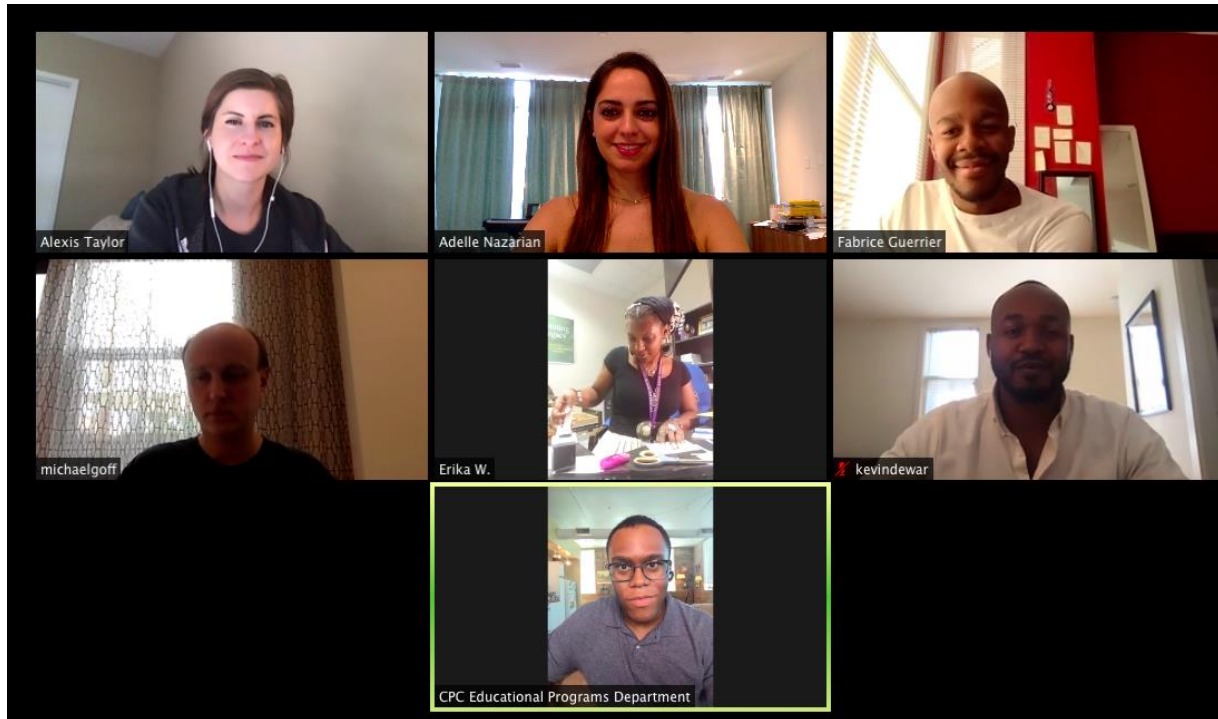
Profession: Non-Resident Scholar, Middle East Institute

I am currently a non-resident scholar with the Middle East Institute's Countering Terrorism and Extremism program and a consultant for a security technology company. I previously worked as the Special Assistant to the Special Presidential Envoy to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, supporting diplomatic engagements with coalition countries and working with local partners on the ground in Iraq and Syria to accelerate the campaign against ISIS

I did the Gabr Fellowship in 2015, eager to finally explore Egypt and Egyptian culture, a place I studied since I was little. The Gabr Fellowship was the perfect opportunity to do that--I came out of it with lifelong American, Egyptian and British friends and a deep understanding of Egypt and the U.S.-Egyptian relationship, something that very few people get to see up close. My cohort and I spent hours and hours together debating, learning, growing and most importantly, having incredible amounts of fun. The cohort also visited my family home in Atlanta, changing not only my life, but the lives of my family. My family is from the south of the United States and had rarely had contact or exposure to cultures outside of white, Christian Americans. The fellows fell in love with my parents and many of them keep in contact with them even today (five years later!). This confirmed for me that if you're open to new experiences and approach them with empathy and understanding, there's no limit to the strength of the relationships you can build, regardless of your differences. I'm so thankful to have had this experience for myself, but am more thankful to have been able to share it with my family.



Zoom Call with U.S. Gabr Fellows

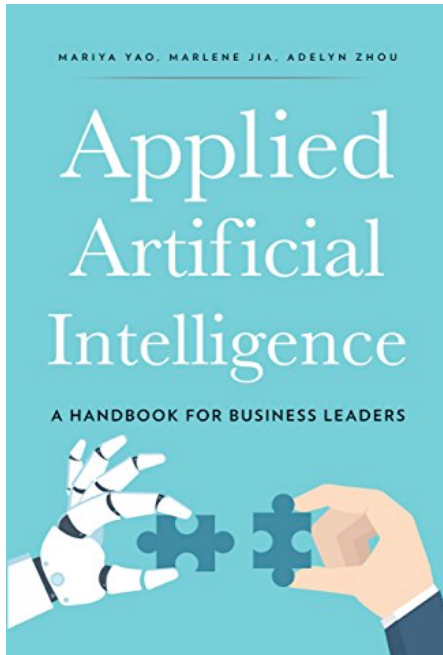


Shafik Gabr Foundation Executive Director **Adelle Nazarian** hosted a Zoom call with several U.S. Fellows from various cohorts where issues in the news and topics that affect Americans were discussed. Alexis Taylor (2016), Fabrice Guerrier (2018), Michael Goff (2014), Erika Witt (2014), Kevin DeWar (2016), and Nathan Thomas (2014) were on the call. Topics of discussion included the coronavirus pandemic, the reopening of the economy, nationwide riots and protests in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd, and race relations in the 20th century; where do we go from here?

Announcement

Adelle Nazarian will hopefully be joining us at the Shafik Gabr Foundation again closer to when the new 2020/2021 Fellowship exchange is set to take place. In the meantime, for Foundation-related items you can reach out to Aleks at aleks.medic@artocgroup.com.

Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



The Foundation Reading Corner encourages Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended to them in each issue. For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends “Applied Artificial Intelligence: A Handbook for Business Leaders,” by Mariya Yao, Marlene Jia, and Adelyn Zhou. The title spells it out for the reader and it is a straightforward handbook for business leaders. The authors of the book are focused on helping readers understand the hurdles faced by any enterprise manager on their road to successfully applying AI technology, just as the title states. The authors believe AI will follow the role of the internet and become commonplace. But as the authors say: “Sadly, market hype about AI has made it trendy to brag about using AI without any understanding or experience.” This book is meant to help shed some light on that.

Sponsor a 2020 Gabr Fellow

Sponsoring a Gabr Fellow for the 2020 Fellowship Program goes beyond financial support—it helps build bridges of cross-cultural understanding between the East and the West.

The sponsorship package costs \$35,000 which includes the sponsoring of a Fellow who can carry the name of the individual, organization, or corporation making the contribution.

Sponsors will be recognized in all Foundation publications, marketing materials, and at all events. You may find information about how to become a Sponsor, Corporate Patron, or provide Unrestricted Support here: eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-support



Is an Egypt-Ethiopia war an option? A comparison between the Egyptian and Ethiopian armies



One day after hostile statements made by the Ethiopian foreign minister, in which he hinted at the possibility of war with Egypt over stalled negotiations on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi sent a message laden with meaning.

While inspecting Egypt's Western Military Zone on Saturday, Sisi said, "The Egyptian army is strong, and is one of the most powerful armies in the region. But it is a reasonable army, an army that protects and does not threaten, an army that secures and is not the aggressor. This is our strategy, our beliefs, and our constant position. And I am sure that if we need you to do work and sacrifice [you will]."

Sisi thanked the combat units of the Egyptian Air Force, saying: "Be prepared to carry out any mission on our borders or, if necessary, outside our borders."

Sisi's message, which promoted peace more than war, appeared to be a response to comments made by Ethiopian Foreign Minister Gedu Andargachew in an interview with the Associated Press.

Andargachew was quoted as saying that Egypt seeks war, and that Ethiopia will go ahead with filling the dam in July, despite having not yet reached an agreement with Egypt and Sudan.

Contrary to Ethiopia's statements, Egypt's tone in dealing with the crisis has seemed calm and responsible, stressing the historical rights of Egypt to the waters of the Nile.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry characterized his Ethiopian counterpart's statements as "hostile" and "disappointing." This "will not make us abandon our

policy of negotiations and seeking peaceful solutions," Shoukry said.

Although Ethiopia has repeatedly hinted at war, according to documented military information there is a significant gap between the respective capabilities of the Egyptian and Ethiopian armies.

Here is a comparison between the Egyptian and Ethiopian armies based on figures provided by the [Global Fire Power website](#):

1. The Egyptian army ranks ninth out of 138 armies around the world, while the Ethiopian army ranks 60th.

2. The Egyptian Air Force owns 1,054 assorted military aircraft, including 215 fighter jets, 59 military means of transport, 388 trainers, and 294 military helicopters.

The Ethiopian army has only 86 aircraft, 24 of which are fighter jets, 20 are trainers, nine are transports, 33 are military helicopters and eight are attack helicopters.

3. The Egyptian army has more than 4,000 tanks, 10,000 armored vehicles, 1,000 self-propelled artillery and more than 2,189 field artillery, while the Ethiopian army has 400 tanks and 650 pieces of field artillery.

4. The Egyptian naval fleet includes about 320 marine vessels, including two helicopter carriers, seven corvettes and four submarines, in addition to 50 patrol ships and nine frigates.

Because it is a landlocked country, Ethiopia does not have a naval fleet.

5. The defense budget of the Egyptian army is US\$11.2 billion, compared to \$350 million for the Ethiopian defense budget.

6. The Egyptian army has about 920,000 soldiers, with 440,000 currently in service and 480,000 in reserve. The Ethiopian army has a total 162,000 soldiers, and no reserve soldiers.

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the authors' alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation. This article was originally published in [Egypt Independent](#).

Question of the Month: A Pulse of the Gabr Fellowship Community



As the Gabr Fellows enter into leadership roles—in business, diplomacy, government, finance, and more—they will continue to grapple with significant challenges, magnified by an increased pace in technological advancement, the potential for ramped up global inequalities, and changes in governance and economic structures.

To better understand the pulse of the Gabr Fellowship community and to begin to articulate substantive dialogue, the Foundation polls the Fellows each month on the key issues facing their respective countries and the global community at large.

1. Is Egypt close to passing the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes: 13%

No: 53%

I don't know: 34%

2. Who will win the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election?

Donald Trump: 35%

Joe Biden: 65%

3. Is war imminent between Egypt and Ethiopia over the Nile Dam dispute?

Yes: 16%

No: 44%

I don't know: 40%

4. Do you believe the Chinese government is stealing intellectual property for their own advantage?

Yes: 87%

No: 0%

I don't know: 13%

5. Is Turkey hindering Egyptian peace efforts in Libya?

Yes: 53%

No: 13%

I don't know: 34%

Stay tuned for next month's question of the month and the Gabr Fellows' takes on current events, as our community of future leaders grapple with the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



July 1: **Abdelrahman Amr**, 2017 Gabr Fellow, Egypt



July 1: **Noha Eid**, 2013 Gabr Fellow, Egypt



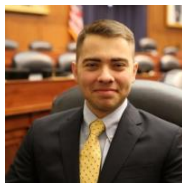
July 2: **Chaza Abou Daher**, 2016 Gabr Fellow, Egypt



July 12: **Imane Higazy**, 2016 Gabr Fellow, Egypt



July 21: **Sarah Derdowski** 2014 Gabr Fellow, US



July 25: **Charles Truxal**, 2018 Gabr Fellow, US

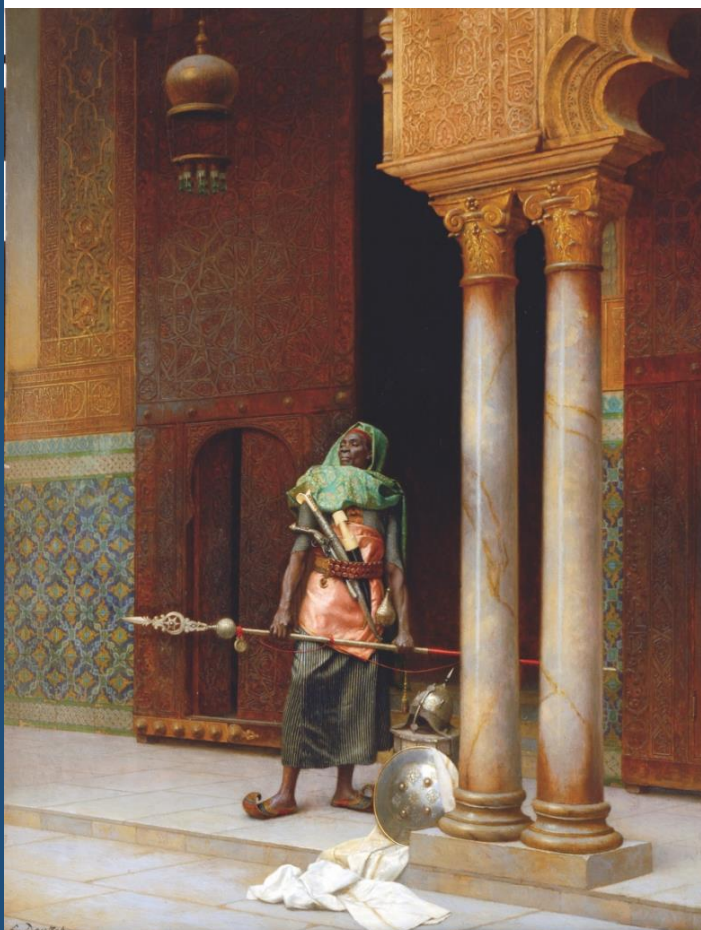


July 25: **Jean Kwon**, 2017 Gabr Fellow, US

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

For more information on the Shafik Gabr Foundation and its *East-West: The Art of Dialogue* Initiative, please visit the website <https://eastwestdialogue.org/>.

For earlier itineraries of the US program, please see the previous years' reports at <https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/>



Ludwig Deutsch – *The Palace Guard*, The Shafik Gabr Collection

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