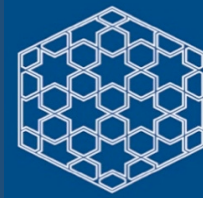




2018 GABR FELLOWS MEETING WITH HIS GRACE ANBA PAVLI, BISHOP OF EASTERN ALEXANDRIA



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

August 2020, Issue 37

IN THIS ISSUE

In Brief...

- Amr Seda** teaches digital marketing
- Anis Issa** in Poland
- A Word About **Hagia Sophia**
- Judson Moore** develops COVID-19 App
- Leisel Bogan** thrives in US Congress
- Article by **Menna Farouk**: Egyptian women flood Instagram with #MeToo stories as suspect arrested
- Gabr Foundation **Reading Corner**
- Promotion for **Soaad Hossam**
- Question of the Month**: A Pulse of the Gabr Fellowship Community

The Future is Now

Even though it has often not felt like it in the last four months, the world is moving at a higher speed than ever before - a trend that shall inevitably continue.

We will face more and more of these fast-moving challenges, and it will be up to us to stay ahead in the game. Artificial intelligence, complexity of differentiating fact from fiction, biotechnology, robotics, automation, big data and even global pandemics are here to stay.

This requires, with no delay, the development of "futures studies" and strategic foresight that provides anticipatory thinking to assist the decision-making process.

Without "futures studies", we risk one of two paths: on the one hand, impulsive, knee jerk reactions, or alternatively weak decisions with poor results. The third path is "no action" and being forced to be repeatedly reactive and defensive.

Anticipating all potential outcomes is a necessary process to reach the best possible decisions, and the key is to envision a believable yet unanticipated tomorrow. There are many different methodologies with which to craft alternative futures and to anticipate the unexpected and potential disruptions as much as possible.

It is my opinion that we need to be proactive rather than reactive, and start thinking about the future without delay, in order to be able to imagine, anticipate, envision and build a better future, rather than simply wait for the future to happen to us.

M. Shafik Gabr

News and Updates...

Seda Teaches Digital Marketing



2017 Gabr Fellow Amr Seda got certified last year by Google MENA to deliver their Digital Marketing training courses.

This July, he has started training 200+ people on digital marketing in partnership with Google MENA, E-Business School in Egypt, and Lumas Global.

Leisel Bogan Thrives in US Congress



Following her tenure as a Senior Fellow for Cybersecurity, Technology and National Security in the office of Senator Mark Warner through the Congressional Innovation Fellowship, **2016 Gabr Fellow Leisel Bogan** has become the Director of the Congressional Digital Service Fellowship and a Senior Fellow on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Anis Issa in Poland



Shafik Gabr met with **2016 Gabr Fellow Anis Issa** at Warsaw's airport. It was a chance for Anis to update Chairman Gabr on his success in the College of Europe in Natolin with distinction, as well as his new position in the College as Professional Development Officer, where he will be in charge of designing and implementing a new practical program in the College.

Promotion for Soaad Hossam



2018 Gabr Fellow Soaad Hossam has been promoted to a Chief Prosecutor at the Administrative Prosecution Authority.

Soaad has been a prosecutor at the Administrative Prosecution Authority (one of the four judicial authorities under the auspices of Ministry of Justice) since 2012. She is also founder and managing director of the Euro-Arab Legal Association (EALA).

Judson Moore Develops COVID-19 App



2015 Gabr Fellow Judson Moore, in response to COVID-19 pandemic recovery, has founded a new initiative called Social Contract with a former colleague in Austin, Texas.

Social Contract allows users to create “pods” of their friends, family, and coworkers, in order to come to a consensus on taking the same precautions against the pandemic. Every few days, each person in the group is asked a few short questions to determine their compliance with the group’s rules. This initiative is now in the very early development phase. Find out more on <https://socialcontract.app/>

A Word on Hagia Sophia



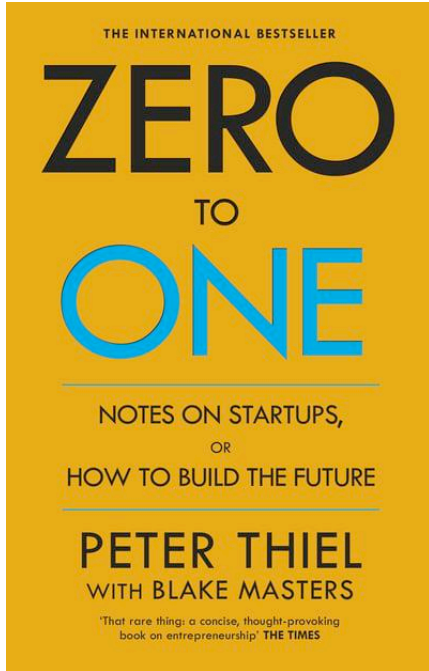
Last month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan decided to strip the Hagia Sophia, a majestic 65,000-square-foot stone structure from the sixth century in Istanbul, of its museum status, and reconvert it into a mosque.

What has long been a symbol of unity and peace between East and West has become a symbol of Turkey’s retreating into exclusivity and towards intolerance rather than interfaith.

We at the Shafik Gabr Foundation believe that the only way to achieve peace is by cross-cultural understanding. Art and architecture play an increasingly important part in this. Hagia Sophia’s museum status served as a compromise between Orthodox Christianity and Islam, as reconciliation, as a place of learning and amalgamation of cultures, faiths, and symbols.

Unfortunately, this move to strip the Hagia Sophia of its powerful interfaith and cross-cultural status is a big step backwards. Peace and understanding cannot be sustained by parochialism and insularity.

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 *Zero to One: Notes on Startups, or How to Build the Future* by Peter A Thiel and Blake Masters.

Zero To One is an exercise in thinking — about questioning and rethinking received wisdom to create the future. Thiel's position is that progress can be achieved in any industry or area of business. It comes from the most important skill that every leader must master: learning to think for yourself.

Zero to One presents at once an optimistic view of the future of progress and a new way of thinking about innovation: it starts by learning to ask the questions that lead you to find value in unexpected places.

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



Egyptian women flood Instagram with #MeToo stories as suspect arrested

by Menna Farouk

Hundreds of Egyptian women are speaking out about sexual violence after a #MeToo campaign on Instagram led to the arrest of a man accused of raping and blackmailing multiple women.

The Instagram account Assault Police said more than 100 women had given testimonies since it was set up to target the man on July 1, and the public prosecution office said on Monday that the man was under arrest as it carried out investigations.

Lawyer Tarek Elawady said the events of the last few days showed that Egypt was starting to take sex crimes seriously and women should have the courage to speak out, even though it was difficult in the patriarchal society.

"This is now the start of an opportunity (for change) that we must take advantage of," said Elawady, who represented his own daughter in a harassment case and won.

"We must shed our culture of victim blaming. We cannot keep telling girls, 'It's because you were walking wrong or were dressed inappropriately'."

A 2017 Thomson Reuters Foundation poll found Cairo to be the most dangerous megacity for women and 99% of women in Egypt interviewed by the United Nations in 2013 reported sexual harassment.

An outcry over attacks on women near Cairo's Tahrir Square during President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's inauguration celebrations in 2014 prompted a new law punishing sexual harassment with at least six months in jail.

Seeing convictions under this law has gradually encouraged the public to be more sympathetic toward victims, Elawady said.

PRIVACY

Egypt's public prosecution office said that the man targeted by the Instagram account Assault Police was being held for 15 days while it investigated the allegations made by four women, one under the age of 18.

Women's rights activists said Egyptian women were now finding their voice because they saw the legal system was protecting their identities.

"With the public prosecution protecting the right of the girls to privacy of their data, they have been encouraged

to go and testify," said Nehad Abul-Komsan, director of the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights, an advocacy group.

"It will also encourage other girls and will pave the way for other sexual harassment cases to be revealed."

The Government's National Council for Women said on Tuesday that it had received 400 complaints and enquiries about violence against women from July 1st to 5th.

The country's top Islamic clerical authority al-Azhar also encouraged women to report incidents, saying that silence posed a threat to society and led to more violations.

PROUD

Despite having been shunned by her family for accusing her father of abusing her, Egyptian-American journalist Reem Abdellatif joined the online campaign in a video message of encouragement for women sharing their stories.

"The fact that these girls are speaking out this loudly with this kind of momentum - I've never seen it before," she said by phone from the Netherlands where she is currently based.

"And it's not just this guy. Like I said in my video, he's only a symbol for what we've been having to deal with for decades."

There has been some backlash on social media, with some calling the accusers liars and hypocrites and others saying women who were raised properly should know to dress appropriately.

But most comments were supportive, with many using the #MeToo hashtag - used to reveal sexual misconduct by powerful men, including now jailed former movie producer Harvey Weinstein - to highlight the taboo issue of sexual harassment in Egypt.

"I am very proud of this new generation of young girls who speak up. Harassment and rape are shameful for those who commit it, not the victim," tweeted Cairo-based Tunisian actress and lawyer Henda Sabry.

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation. This article was originally published in Reuters:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-women-harassment-trfn/egyptian-women-flood-instagram-with-metoo-stories-as-suspect-arrested-idUSKBN2482PP>

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. Do you think America has a racism problem?

Yes: 92.5%

No: 7.5%

I don't know: 0%

2. Is racism a problem in Egypt?

Yes: 57.5%

No: 17.5%

I don't know: 25%

3. Do facial recognition apps concern you?

Yes: 77.5%

No: 20%

I don't know: 2.5%

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



August 4: Leslie Lang Tsai, 2013 Gabr Fellow, USA



August 4: Nathan Thomas, 2014 Gabr Fellow, USA



August 17: Mike Burgess, 2015 Gabr Fellow, UK



August 22: Mariam Ibrahim, 2013 Gabr Fellow, Egypt



August 23: Ahmed Naguib, 2014 Gabr Fellow, Egypt



August 26: Neveen Mohamed, 2017 Gabr Fellow, Egypt



August 26: Katherine Tan, 2016 Gabr Fellow, USA

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/>



Giulio Rosati – *A Game of Tavli*, The Shafik Gabr Collection

Connect with us



<https://eastwestdialogue.org/>

info@shafikgabrfoundation.org

The Shafik Gabr Foundation
400 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 585
Washington, DC 20001

7 Hassan Al-Akbar Street
Cairo, Egypt, 11571