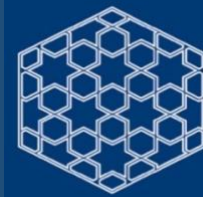




GABR FELLOWS MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN SHAFIK GABR IN WASHINGTON DC, JULY 2021



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

July 2021, Issue 48

IN THIS ISSUE

Two Espressos

I was sipping an espresso and reading the *Financial Times* newspaper when the voice level of the couple beside me at the small café where I was enjoying some sun and quiet erupted, breaching the serenity.

“Professor, don’t you believe in the sovereignty of nations?”, the younger man said in frustration.

“I do Jacob, firmly, but Orban and Hungary are restricting the visibility of LGBTQ in schools and the media.”

“You mean, Professor, that nations cannot choose their values anymore and must succumb to other people’s values?”, the younger man retorted.

“Fundamental values,” the professor immediately responded, “should not be violated.”

“But there is no signed up and defined so-called fundamental values”, the young man protested. “Regardless of what Orban is doing, is it not the right of the Hungarian people to decide what values they wish to pursue.”

“I don’t understand why a young man like you is defending an illiberal autocrat like Orban,” the professor retorted.

“But Professor, what I am saying has nothing to do with Orban. It is the principle of self-determination,” the young man responded, pressing his point. “It is not an attack on gays, as mentioned by EU leaders and the world media, if a sovereign nation decides having a law prohibiting the promotion of homosexuality or sexual reassignment to those under the age of 18, it is their sovereign right”, the young man emphasised. “Professor, forcing peoples of different cultures, societies, religion and nations to be uniform is most illiberal.”

“You are wrong!”, the professor shouted and waved his hand.

“No,” the young man responded firmly as he got up and was paying the bill. “I am gay and I am right. We do not impose our values - that is how we are respected” and he walked away.

The professor was shaking his head as he left the café in a different direction than the young man.

I had found the engagement informative and insightful in the world of much fogginess. I ordered another espresso and continued reading my FT.

M. Shafik Gabr

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News and Updates...

Elizabeth Dent Joins Biden-Harris Administration



2015 Gabr Fellow Elizabeth Dent has recently joined the Biden-Harris administration to work on Defeat ISIS issues at the Pentagon.

Previously, Elizabeth was a non-resident scholar with the Middle East Institute's Countering Terrorism and Extremism program. Prior to that, she served as the Special Assistant to the Special Presidential Envoy to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS.

Hunter King Welcomes Baby Boy



2017 Gabr Fellow Hunter King welcomed his newborn boy this month. Bennett Dean King is a happy and healthy 5lbs 15oz baby. We wish him and his proud parents all the best.

Hunter currently works as Director of Federal Affairs at the National Association for Gun Rights.

Katherine Tan Becomes Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations



2016 Gabr Fellow Katherine Tan was just admitted as a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations this cycle.

Katherine is a Program Officer in the Development Policy and Finance group at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She manages a portfolio of grants related to development finance policy and is building an internal advisory practice to help program teams mobilize external co-financing to scale strategic priorities.

Katherine has an MBA with honors from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Fabrice Guerrier Launches One Humanity Writing Collective



2018 Gabr Fellow Fabrice Guerrier's Syllble Studios is collaborating with The Innovation Station: Creative Industry Lab at the U.S. Department of State on a program called the One Humanity Writing Collective. The program will bring fiction writers from Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico together with fiction writers from Australia and New Zealand to collaborate on stories inspired by their shared experiences and ideas. This one-year program will ask the writers to respond to monthly prompts related to diverse global challenges.

links: <https://syllble.com/innovation-station-syllble/>

<https://syllble.com/onehumanity/>

Abdelrahman Amr Published in Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' Magazine



2017 Gabr Fellow Abdelrahman Amr recently published an article for a think tank in Canada called the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The article was published in their magazine, The Monitor. It's called *Weaponizing fact-checking: What Canada needs to know*. See below an excerpt:

In the summer of 2020, military reservist and small business owner Corey Hurren posted COVID-19 conspiracy content before arming himself and ramming the gates of Rideau Hall with the intention of arresting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Before this attempt, and after the start of the pandemic, Hurren found refuge in conspiracy theories like "Event 201," which he referenced in a note left in his car. This theory claims that the elite are the reason behind the pandemic, and it is based on an actual exercise (called Event 201) that took place a few months before the COVID-19 outbreak, which simulated a policy response to a hypothetical pandemic scenario.

While Hurren's actions did not end up physically hurting anyone, they highlight the dangerous implications of fake news in Canada. The conspiracy theories that Hurren fell into were debunked by fact-checking organizations months before his attack on Rideau Hall, but that information either never entered Hurren's digital world, or he didn't believe it if it did. His actions demonstrate the real violence and consequences that we are increasingly seeing in Canada and around the world as the spread of misinformation online becomes more common.

According to Stats Canada, 96% of Canadians who used the internet to search for COVID-19 facts came across information they suspected were false or misleading. And two in five Canadians said they believed such misinformation before realizing that it was false. As the pandemic increases discussions around fake news and studies come out showing evidence of previous foreign disinformation campaigns in Canadian elections, taking the discussion around fake news to the mainstream level is becoming more essential.

Read the entire article here: <https://monitormag.ca/articles/weaponizing-fact-checking-what-canada-needs-to-know>

Sponsor a Gabr Fellow



Sponsoring a Gabr Fellow for the Fellowship Program 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 events. Contributions of any amount, big or small, are encouraged and welcomed with sincere gratitude.

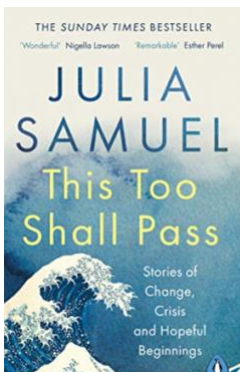
More information can be found here:
eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-support

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 *The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon* by Brad Stone and *This Too Shall Pass: Stories of Change, Crisis and Hopeful Beginnings* by Julia Samuel.

Brad Stone enjoyed unprecedented access to current and former Amazon employees and Bezos family members, giving readers the first in-depth, fly-on-the-wall account of life at Amazon. *The Everything Store* is the revealing, definitive biography of the company that placed one of the first and largest bets on the Internet and forever changed the way we shop and read.



At a time when even the most certain things feel disrupted, acclaimed psychotherapist Julia Samuel provides an antidote to the chaos we are all feeling. In *This Too Shall Pass*, Julia draws on hours of conversations with her patients to show how we can learn to adapt and even thrive during our most difficult and transformative experiences.

Will This Be The Most Anti-American Independence Day Yet?

By Bryan Griffin, 2017 Gabr Fellow
Newsweek.com, 1 July 2021

We are just a few days from the Fourth of July, and many who bear witness to current cultural trends are asking the obvious question: are we in for the most anti-American Independence Day yet?

While some will proudly fly the American flag this Fourth, others will burn it. This divisive mood has been fed by school curricula, university syllabi and corporate employee trainings that paint a dark picture of the formation of our country.

Critical Race Theory (CRT), like other forms of Marxism, insists that the primary characteristic of any society is the conflict between its people. CRT divides people into two basic and conflicting camps—oppressors and the oppressed—on the basis of physical differences.

CRT and similar worldviews insist that conflict within America is an inevitable product of its design—that America stands for and is designed to exhibit the worst examples of human interaction (i.e., that our country is "systemically racist.") Their proponents contend that any societal progress must come from fighting and even overthrowing a tainted American design, not working through it.

This is entirely backwards. America is not a flawed country with a few redeeming qualities. It is an exceptionally good country that, as a product of a flawed humanity, can and does exhibit flaws. The battle between these perspectives is what we are currently witnessing; and indeed, it will come to a head this Fourth.

America's history is one of confronting flaws, fighting flaws and righting flaws. This process has been such a regular feature of American life that it reveals the true nature of America's design and institutions. Our progress is not complete, but the process is nonetheless possible and even encouraged by the country's design.

For every racist motive that a CRT proponent reads into the founding documents, there is ample virtue expressed therein. The Declaration of Independence insists that Americans are naturally, unconditionally entitled to equality and freedom. The result of the Founders' efforts was a country destined for a free citizenry with equality under the law.

The blueprint wasn't perfect. Reflections of antebellum society, like the three-fifths compromise, are frequently used as evidence of a flawed design. But to focus exclusively on such features would not do justice to the founding documents. The truth is that they nurtured a better society despite their historical context.

America, by design a republic, recognizes individual rights that withstand the whims of government and the attitudes of the majority. The Bill of Rights promises the freedom to speak and demonstrate, to assemble and be free of government harassment, to every individual no matter the contemporary mood of the public about race, class, gender or any controversial issue. Most

importantly, the Bill of Rights is not conditioned on citizens' outward characteristics. There is no three-fifths limitation on any of its rights.

To allow for the progress that was to come, the Framers designed an amendment procedure for the Constitution. And to enable citizens' "pursuit of happiness," America was developed inextricably with a free and accessible market that would ensure economic liberty. And as for the equal application of the law, judicial review developed as a noble and immutable part of American jurisprudence.

America's design shaped America's history. And America's history reflects a trend of progress towards the Founders' aspirational ideals of virtue—not in opposition to them. America fought a civil war to end slavery and a world war to defeat fascism; it begat the women's suffrage movement and the civil rights movement.

Over this history, America has developed a reputation around the world that causes many millions to immigrate. The American dream entices the most remote populations and inspires democratic revolutions abroad. American symbology—like the Statue of Liberty, the personification of freedom atop the Capitol rotunda or the blind Lady Justice that adorns every American courtroom—is synonymous with noble virtues.

Even for those who disagree, the American conceptualization of liberty uniquely defends the activist. It protects the protestor; the harshest citizen critics are free to express themselves peacefully.

Surely these are the primary characteristics of American society. And, surely, these are reflections of a good society, worthy of celebration. It is right to acknowledge the sins of our past, but wrong to distill our country to flaws shared by all humanity. Those who would welcome a "revolution" idealize systems of government which—in practice—stifle reform and endanger dissent.

A government with no basis in natural rights—or a government that is not predicated on freedom—would mean a government of elites who define justice and allocate resources according to their own views. This would be a government destined for oppression.

The world recently witnessed the civil rights efforts in Hong Kong—and the Chinese government's extraordinary action to stamp out resistance. The effort has quieted largely without reform. China is governed by an elite. The communist party leaders define the "social good," allocate resources according to their own sense of fairness and certainly never celebrate freedom. This is no example to follow.

Whether one looks into America's original design or around the world, it becomes clear that the stars and stripes are still worth hoisting.

Original article can be found here:
<https://www.newsweek.com/will-this-most-anti-american-independence-day-yet-opinion-1605258>

Disclaimer: *The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.*

Can Haiti's diaspora save it?

By Fabrice Guerrier, 2018 Gabr Fellow
NYdailynews.com, 20 July 2021

Haiti's president has been assassinated. Despite there being 30 seats in the Senate, only 10 Haitian senators are legally in office. Various groups are vying for power. The resultant political vacuum could soon beget a full-on constitutional crisis.

The success of the upcoming transitional Haitian government is highly dependent on solutions created by and for the Haitian people.

What Haiti needs is not heavy-handed intervention from the U.S. or United Nations but an International Congress made up of its diaspora to work with Haitians on the ground. Again and again, we have seen foreign donors, governments and international development organizations use their expertise and money to help the Haitian people with what they think are the right solutions. Yet all too often, this creates more dependency. Because their intervention isn't rooted in a trauma-sensitive or anti-racist approach, it prevents the well-meaning benefactors from understanding the rich yet complex past and recent history we Haitians have endured.

In 2004, my family and I left Haiti to move to the United States. The same year, the Haitian coup d'état deposed President Jean Bertrand Aristide. Soon after, the UN Security Council established its Stabilization Mission in Haiti, MINUSTAH, a several-dozen-country coalition of peacekeeping forces.

The MINUSTAH focused most of its efforts on training and increasing the police presence in Haiti. Yet it largely ignored the socioeconomic problems that fueled the conditions of violence and a staggering unemployment and poverty rate.

After the 7.0 earthquake toppled Port-au-Prince in 2010, my grandma and uncles were among the displaced. They lost their entire home in Carrefour Feuille and were lucky enough to flee to the United States, while many didn't have that opportunity. As the MINUSTAH grew in size for the recovery efforts on the island, hundreds of MINUSTAH soldiers had been accused of acts of sexual exploitation and abuse against Haitian children. To make matters worse, MINUSTAH soldiers from Nepal introduced cholera to Haiti, which affected more than 900,000 Haitians and killed more than 10,000. Even after the Institute for Justice and Democracy filed a lawsuit in New York against the UN and 19 members of the U.S. Congress petitioned UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to acknowledge their involvement in the outbreak, it took six years for the UN to admit its involvement.

I was an intern at the United Nations in 2015 as a graduate student, studying conflict transformation and peacebuilding. Sitting through the Security Council session that was set to discuss the renewal of MINUSTAH's mandate in Haiti, as most

diplomats stood there reading from pieces of paper, I was disappointed by the lack of discussion regarding the Haitian dilemma and its full context.

More than \$13 billion in humanitarian aid had been donated to rebuild the entire country. NGO workers from around the world came with their PhDs, their research on poverty alleviation and urban design. Even so, the vast majority failed to engage local Haitians in the Haitian Creole language.

Haiti has come to be called the "republic of NGOs." It had the most non-governmental organizations working in any country on the planet. NGOs came to provide more than 80% of social services in the country, creating a dependency that not even Haiti's civil society or government could match.

To be sure, international aid has alleviated severe poverty and provided critical healthcare to Haitians who desperately need it. Thousands of hardworking aid professionals have dedicated their lives to the Haitian cause with no end in sight, simply doing what has been done before. At this point, however, Haitians also need to take responsibility for the corruption that plagues the country and the elite who have a vested interest in keeping their wealth.

We have reached a point of no return, and the way we have done things in the past simply isn't working anymore. We must think very carefully about whether we are to send military troops or humanitarian aid money to Haiti to fix the problem. Our current international model lacks imagination and is no longer suited to meet the demands and complexity of tomorrow — especially in Haiti. We need bold, new ideas that uphold Haitians' dignity.

There are more than 4 million distraught Haitians living across the world, and they all have been impacted by the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. These Haitians now await foreign donors, governments and international development organizations to commit the same mistakes that they always do in the wake of a Haitian crisis. These Haitians are scientists, surgeons, engineers, novelists, software developers and entrepreneurs who have deep creative insights and knowledge regarding what it means to be Haitian. Forming an International Congress of the Haitian Diaspora — one tasked to work with Haitians on the ground, exploring solutions across industries — might just be the radical plan that Haiti desperately needs to give true power back to its people.

Original article can be found here:
<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-can-an-international-haitian-diaspora-save-the-home-country-20210720-c5ymdkv4cvg47hgqrlh33fcjy-story.html>

Disclaimer: *The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.*

Egyptian start-ups are Africa's new venture capital darlings

By Tawanda Karombo
Quartz Africa, 2 July 2021

From e-commerce to edtech and fintech, Egypt's start-ups are emerging as the preferred destination for global and regional investment, threatening to overtake South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria.

Just in the month of June, Egypt's start-ups are close to surpassing the \$190 million they raised in 2020. Cairo based digital trucking marketplace start-up Trella closed a \$42 million funding round for expansion of its services into the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The round was led by Maersk Growth and Saudi Arabian venture capital company, Raed Ventures. Edtech iSchool attracted \$160,000 from Edventures. There was also the acquisition of Tareeqi, an Egyptian start-up that develops transportation-tracking software by an Omani Internet of Things (IoT) company, eMusharif, for an undisclosed amount.

All these funding deals were in addition to the National Bank of Egypt securing \$100 million from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to help small and medium size companies in the country make improvements in the areas of energy efficiency, climate change mitigation, and adaptation. These investments make Egypt even more attractive as an investment destination as South Africa and Nigeria struggle with power outages, a possible deterrent to some investors.

And there is every indication that the country's attractiveness for venture financing is set to keep rising as bigger sovereign investors commit funding to development projects in the country. France recently committed to providing Egypt with €1.8 billion (\$2.1 billion) in financing to support a range of development projects in the country that include upgrading Cairo's metro system, as well as power generation and water management.

In a statement to Quartz, Rahul Shah, the head of financial equity research at Tellimer—an emerging markets investment insights company—said there is likely to be even more investor interest into African tech start-ups moving forward. “Elevated valuations in other markets are forcing international investors to take a closer look at African start-ups, where the risk-reward profile looks much more compelling. Key hurdles include international investors' limited local knowledge, the small scale of the continent's tech hubs, and poor infrastructure.”

Other Egyptian tech start-ups that bagged funding in June included Egyptian e-commerce start-up DressCode raised \$250 000 from Egypt Ventures while Tejarra—another e-commerce start-up—raised an undisclosed six figure sum. Fintech start-up Money Hash also secured another undisclosed six figure sum from UAE based COTU Ventures and other partners, cementing Egypt's position as an emerging attractive hub for start-up investment in the Africa region.

In September, president Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's government passed a new law governing the central bank, with provisions allowing it to give out banking licenses to fintech and digital commerce firms. In an interview with Reuters, Mohamed Essam—a fintech specialist—said, “We believe that within the next few months or couple of years we will see a big bang in fintech.”

Investors have been favoring Egypt more and more. The fintech and e-commerce licenses, as well as the prioritization of the tech and startup sector under Egypt's National Structural Reform Program 2021-2024 have contributed to the country's position as a fast rising hub for start-up investment.

At an event to drum up support for young innovators in the country this week, Elena Panova, UN Resident Coordinator for Egypt, said that together with the UNDP, the development agency “supported the establishment of 233 tech startups, providing support to 247 tech MSMEs at various stages of growth” in Egypt in 2020 alone.

By the end of the first quarter, there were already indications that 2021 was going to be a great year for start-ups in Egypt. During that period, 34 Egyptian startups raised about \$22 million, doubling up on the amount of investment inked in the 2020 fourth quarter period by 24 startups. The launch of new venture capital funds in Egypt after Sawari Ventures closed its \$71 million fund and Algebra Ventures, launched its second fund targeting \$90 million, will likely add a big contribution to the total venture capital investment for start-ups by the end of the year.

“Government policies should signal this sector as a priority area of investment. More national and international financing should target this promising sector in Egypt,” noted Panova.

To read the full article, please visit https://qz.com/africa/2027988/egypt-attracts-startup-funding-after-banking-regulatory-changes/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=africa-weekly-brief&utm_content=665f46a2-db75-11eb-a9a3-86941b672d42

Disclaimer: *The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.*

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 believe Israel's new Prime Minister will make a positive difference in the Israel/Palestine conflict?

Yes: 19%

No: 59%

I don't know: 22%

2. Do you support the possible break up of Google and Amazon?

Yes: 47%

No: 25%

I don't know: 28%

3. Do you believe that Afghanistan will fall to the Taliban when the US withdraws its troops?

Yes: 56%

No: 22%

I don't know: 22%

4. Egypt has approached the UN Security Council protesting the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam conflict and its impact on the Nile. Is this a move you support?

Yes: 81%

No: 6%

I don't know: 13%

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



July 1: Abdelrahman Amr, 2017 Gabr Fellow



July 1: Noha Eid, 2013 Gabr Fellow



July 2: Chaza Abou Daher, 2016 Gabr Fellow



July 12: Imane Higazy, 2016 Gabr Fellow

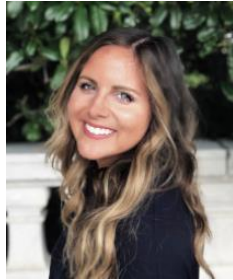


July 12: Shoruk Essam, 2016 Gabr Fellow



July 20: Hunter King, 2017 Gabr Fellow

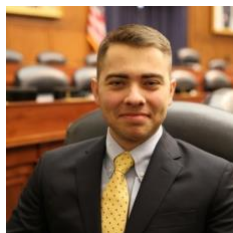
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



July 21: Lauren Ziegler, 2018 Gabr Fellow



July 21: Sarah Derdowski, 2014 Gabr Fellow



July 25: Charles Truxal, 2018 Gabr Fellow



July 25: Jean Kwon, 2017 Gabr Fellow

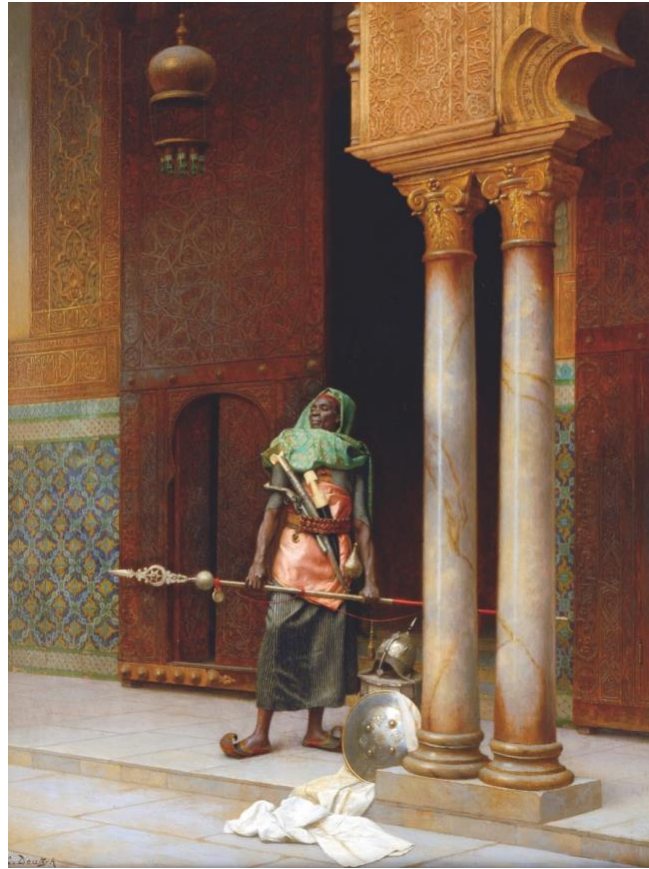


July 27: Youssef El Toukhy, 2016 Gabr Fellow

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



Ludwig Deutsch, *The Palace Guard*, oil on panel
The Shafik Gabr Collection

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