



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation



October 2021 Gabr Fellows meeting in Washington DC

## TIE-THE-WAN

It was pouring rain in Miami and the humidity was stifling. The roads were congested and rivers of water were being born where I was walking, trying to avoid puddles and splashing water from motorists.

Even with an umbrella I was getting wet, but I kept walking as I could not miss this very special meeting.

Thunderclap, lighting and people running to safety were my last images and sounds before I arrived to this beautiful home on the water.

I was welcomed warmly with a cool lemonade by my friends – a well-known historian, a former US Admiral and a Chinese professor.

I joined them on the covered terrace overseeing the water and it appeared I interrupted their discussion on the topic of US-China relations.

The distinguished Chinese professor sighed and said, addressing the historian and admiral: “Why is the US threatening China on Taiwan? Taiwan is part of China. Why is this a problem for the US?”

The Admiral retorted that Taiwan was a sovereign state and Beijing should not dare to threaten its independence. The historian added that there are large amounts of hydrocarbon in both South and East China Sea.

The Admiral then said that avoiding miscalculations is in the interest of the world, and the historian mapped the history of China-US relations from the days of Henry Kissinger who a year ago stated that “we are at the foothill of a war.”

The Chinese professor reminded us all that America has been, and continues to be, the superpower stretching its arms in Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Asia. He said: “Remember Vietnam, Korea, Ukraine, Israel, Chile, Venezuela, Japan and many more... America is not happy to remain within its boundaries - it wants to take on the world and change countries in its own image.”

I listened carefully as this was not in my domain and I avoided jumping in.

My friend the historian said: “And what is wrong with that? America is an empire just like Britain in the old days, and China is now threatening America’s supremacy. This is what we are witnessing.”

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As the discussion was getting heated, our host's wife came in to invite us for lunch. At this point the host said: "Shafik, give us some closing remarks." I did not expect being asked so I took a few seconds and outlined my view.

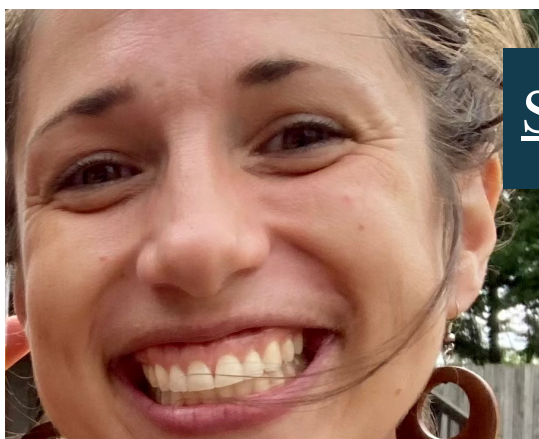
"The state of affairs has two glaring facts," I said. "On the one hand, what is happening in Taiwan with America coming up to the Chinese coast reminds us historically of Russia coming to America's doorstep in Cuba in the 1960s. The second glaring fact is that, as China is infiltrating Africa, Latin America, Europe etc, investing in ports and airports in Sudan, Greece, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and many more, it is creating a robust network of allies. America, on the other hand, is losing its allies. While China has a long-term focus, America has a very short concentration span."

The host and his guests all responded simultaneously with questions. This is when the host's wife put her foot down and ushered us to lunch.

As we were walking to the dining room, I said: "Remember the famous words of Admiral James Stavridis – 'Confront and Cooperate.' Avoid Cold War II."

**Shafik Gabr**

## FELLOWS NEWS & UPDATES



### SUZANNE YOUNGNER

2014 Gabr Fellow Suzanne has shared that her father, Stuart Youngner, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities, in recognition of the contributions he has made to the field of bioethics during his 40-year career.

[CLICK HERE](#)



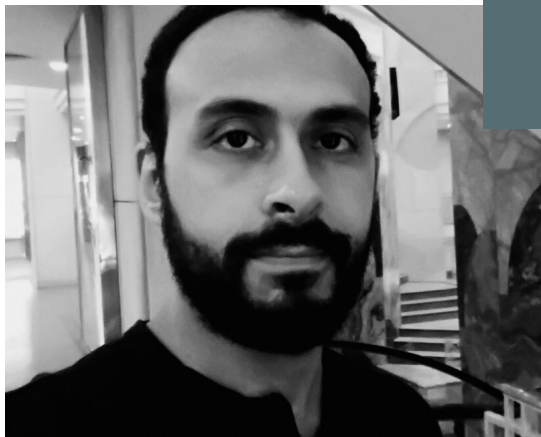
to see his acceptance speech.

### NAYRA GADALLAH

2016 Egyptian Gabr Fellow Nayra was recently listed in the presidential decree appointing her as an administrative prosecutor.



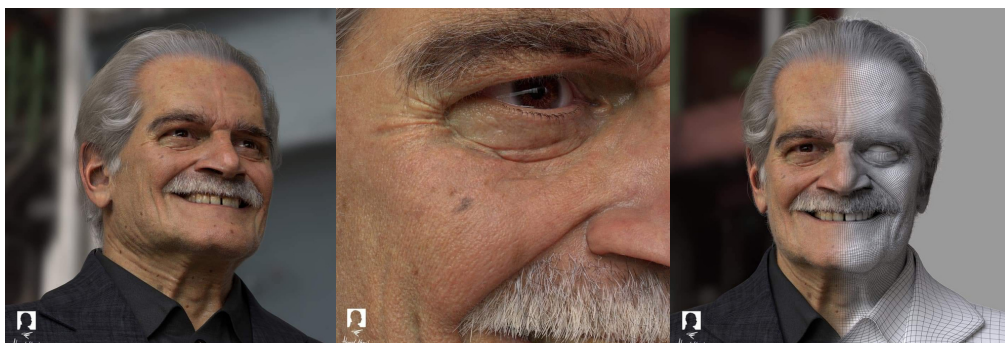




## AHMED NAGUIB

2014 Gabr Fellow Ahmed has completed some digital 3D sculpting of the Hollywood & Egyptian actor 'Omar El-Sherif'. Ahmed has provided us with a short breakdown video which demonstrates the sculpting process with levels of details.

[CLICK HERE](#)



As featured on Sky News Arabia, Nile Culture and Nile News.

sky news عربية



## FABRICE GUERRIER

2018 Gabr Fellow Fabrice has made it onto the Root 100. The Root 100 Magazine list is the top 100 influential African Americans between 25 and 45 in the United States.

[CLICK HERE](#)



to read more!

## KATHERINE TAN

2016 Gabr Fellow Katherine recently got married on October 2nd to her husband Michael Sagan.





## STEPHANIE LORD

2014 Gabr Fellow Stephanie and her partner Winston welcomed twins 'Xavion Bao Lord' and 'Tyson Everett Lord' in August! They were "MoMo" twins, a rare and high risk scenario where twins share the same amniotic sac.

## ANIS ISSA

2016 Gabr Fellow Anis is now living in Warsaw Poland, working as Head of Student Affairs and Professional Development in the College of Europe - Natolin. He is also writing a PhD thesis in Paris EPHE



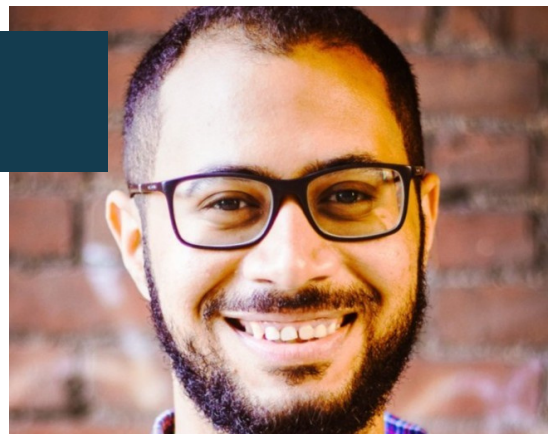
## SHEHAB FAROUK

2014 Gabr Fellow Shehab has been chosen by the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA) to put on one of their ADR training courses in their upcoming programme.



## ABDE AMR

2017 Gabr Fellow Abde co-authored a study that was recently published titled 'The Methodological Challenges of Studying "Fake News".'



[CLICK HERE](#)







# The Muslim Brotherhood Sees Cairo's Flirtation with Biden as an Opportunity

By Haisam Hassanein  
27th October 2021

On October 25, President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi terminated the state of emergency he declared in Egypt four years ago. The move is one of several recent measures aimed in part at addressing the Biden administration's concerns about human rights and democracy. Over the past few months, Sisi has announced a human rights strategy, released political prisoners, and even talked about potential openings with the Muslim Brotherhood (MB).

Ultimately, however, he is unlikely to pursue the deeper changes that Washington wants to see before it releases \$130 million in withheld U.S. aid. In Sisi's view, Egypt's progress on economic and security issues could not have happened without unity around one voice—namely, his. He is also unlikely to reconcile with the MB, in part because the group is splintered by internal rifts.

Bitter infighting between exiled MB leaders in Britain and Turkey has peaked of late as the group struggles to unify its messaging toward Cairo. On October 10, acting general guide Ibrahim Munir suspended six Turkey-based members of the group's shura (consultative) council from his headquarters in London, citing “administrative offenses.”

The most prominent of these members—former MB secretary-general Mahmoud Hussein—quickly responded to the move via the organization's main Facebook account, declaring that the shura council had convened and voted to dismiss Munir by an 84 percent margin. Munir then struck back by appearing on Al Jazeera, where he accused the Turkish camp of violating the group's constitution, denied any major internal fissures, and argued that the few members who disagreed with his leadership could leave if they want.

The roots of this squabbling stretch back to August 2020, when acting leader Mahmoud Ezzat was arrested by Egyptian authorities. After Munir was selected to replace Ezzat based on seniority rules, one of his first decisions was to cancel Hussein's long-held secretariat position and decrease his power by placing him on a newly established assistance committee.

Tensions were exacerbated this summer when Munir insisted that shura council elections be held on time in the Istanbul districts of Sirinevler and Beylikduzu, where the majority of Turkey's MB exiles reside. Hussein and his allies are widely unpopular among this constituency because of their perceived financial corruption and

tenepotism, so they sought to postpone the vote for fear of losing local control. When the election proceeded and proved unfavorable to them, they disputed the results on the grounds that MB elements in London had spent millions of dollars to sway voters in Istanbul.

Amid this infighting, Munir's camp has steadily pursued three main objectives that date to the beginning of his tenure:



**READ MORE**

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

# GABR FELLOWS MEETING

## Saturday 30th October, Washington DC



Gabr Fellows at US Gabr Fellows meeting at Shafik Gabr Foundation Offices, Washington

On Saturday 30th October, Chairman Shafik Gabr hosted a Gabr Fellows meeting in the Foundation office in Washington D.C.

The meeting was well attended with 15 Fellows who travelled from Virginia, Washington, San Francisco, New York, Boston, New Orleans and even Portland to join the meeting.

The meeting proved to be a fruitful forum for discussion. Some of the main topics discussed at the meeting were the planning of the Fellows reunion in February 2022 as well as the plans of the resumption of the Fellowship program in Autumn of 2022.

The Fellows, spearheaded by 2015 Gabr Fellow Murray Abeles and 2014 Gabr Fellow Christi Fallon, spoke about their personal and professional paths, and their plans for the future. Many words of advice were shared among Fellows, with ideas and encouragement of one another.

Among other topics discussed were also 'cancel culture,' privacy/anonymity of users on Facebook, freedom of speech, etc. Our original two hour meeting ended up turning into three as the discussion turned to ways in which the Fellows can more effectively keep in touch with one another and share insights and networks.

The Gabr Fellow community proved as strong as ever, as the Fellows conversed and offered their support to one another, sharing their personal and work experiences over the past year. The evening ended with dinner at the well-known DC restaurant IRicchi, where the Fellows continued the discussions and lively debates.



Gabr Fellows at dinner hosted by Chairman of the Foundation, M.Shafik Gabr



# A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS TO ROBERTO POWERS AND MURRAY ABELES WHO BOTH DONATED TO THE FOUNDATION THIS MONTH!

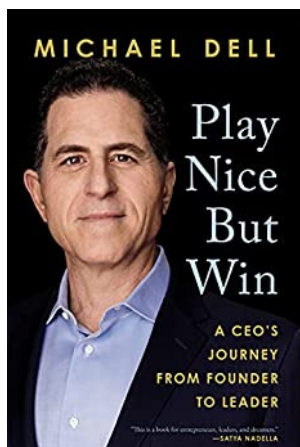


Support the  
Foundation

After several delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the East-West initiative will return in Fall 2022, with applications reopening in mid February 2022. Keep an eye out for updates in future newsletters and online [here](#).

We are asking for your support to sponsor a Gabr Fellow for the 2022 Fellowship Program which 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, organisation or corporation making the contribution. Sponsors will be recognised 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](#).

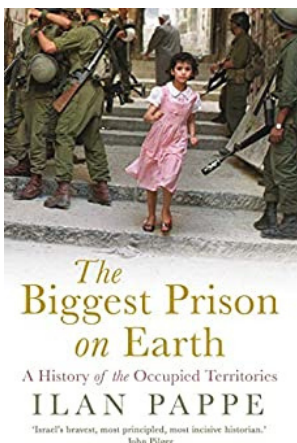


## Gabr Foundation Reading Corner

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 *Play Nice But Win* by Michael Dell and *The Biggest Prison on Earth* by Ilan Pappé.

*Play Nice But Win* is a riveting account of the three battles waged for Dell Technologies: one to launch it, one to keep it, and one to transform it. For the first time, Dell reveals the highs and lows of the company's evolution amidst a rapidly changing industry—and his own, as he matured into the CEO it needed.

*The Biggest Prison on Earth* is a comprehensive exploration of one of the world's most prolonged and tragic conflicts, Pappé uses recently declassified archival material to analyse the motivations and strategies of the generals and politicians – and the decision-making process itself – that laid the foundation of the occupation. From a survey of the legal and bureaucratic infrastructures that were put in place to control the population of over one million Palestinians, to the security mechanisms that vigorously enforced that control, Pappé paints a picture of what is to all intents and purposes the world's largest 'open prison'.



# Will PayPal's adoption of bitcoin make cryptocurrency more mainstream?

By Matthew Sparkes  
30th August 2021

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PayPal has two decades of experience in online payments and manages 403 million user accounts. So, it caused ripples when it announced on 23 August it would allow UK customers to buy and sell four cryptocurrencies: bitcoin prices rose to a three-month high. But will this – and last October's roll-out in the US – push cryptocurrencies into the mainstream, or is it just another blip in the short but volatile history of decentralised money?

Customers in the US who have bought cryptocurrencies through Paypal log in twice as often as those who haven't, says Jose Fernandez da Ponte at PayPal. "We expect digital currencies to play an important role in consumer payments over the longer term," he says.

Public interest in bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies is certainly growing, but only a minority have bought in. A YouGov survey revealed that by August 2019, just 3 per cent of people in the UK owned any cryptocurrencies. By July 2021 that had risen to 8 per cent.

Giving millions of existing PayPal customers the ability to buy at the click of a button has enormous potential for increasing those numbers, but access to the currency isn't the only limiting factor. People need a way to spend it.

A handful of large companies, such as Microsoft, have begun accepting bitcoin as payment, and others such as electric car company Tesla have done so at times too. And while several other retailers, including grocery stores, coffee shops and hardware stores, have systems to accept cryptocurrency in some countries, using only this form of payment day-to-day would be no easy task.

PayPal users in the UK won't be able to use cryptocurrency to buy goods or services – they can

only buy, hold and sell the currency. But in the US, the company offers the ability to use balances for payments anywhere that accepts PayPal. This effectively allows hundreds of thousands of retailers to accept cryptocurrencies without having to make any changes or accept any risk, and receive US dollars from PayPal as normal.

This is vital, as the risk for businesses is high, says Carol Alexander at the University of Sussex, UK. Cryptocurrencies are "dominated by huge speculation and rampant manipulation", she says.

Organised groups are able to cause swings in cryptocurrency values with coordinated buying or selling and, unlike the traditional financial services sector, there is little regulation to stop it. So, if you take bitcoin as payment directly, it may plummet in value before you convert it.

"I can't see this as the moment crypto goes mainstream. The widespread market abuse needs addressing first," says Alexander.

Cryptocurrencies are decentralised systems with no official oversight, so regulation is difficult. Registered companies that deal in them are finding themselves under increasing scrutiny. In June, the UK's Financial Conduct Authority ruled that Binance Markets Limited, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, had to cease regulated trading in the UK.

There are still hurdles to overcome before cryptocurrency can truly break into the mainstream, including its exorbitant energy use, volatility and complexity.

But some are still confident that the technology offers enough benefits, such as protection from inflation, a degree of anonymity and low fees for large payments, that widespread adoption is inevitable.

Nigel Green at financial services firm deVere Group is confident that cryptocurrencies will replace traditional money and, although that moment is still some way off, he says PayPal's announcement is "yet another example that exposes cryptocurrency deniers as being on the wrong side of history".


"This is a major step forward towards the mass adoption of digital currencies," he says. "More and more payment companies will naturally follow their lead."

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



# QUESTIONS 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.) Will you sign up for Donald Trump's new social media network 'Truth'?

Yes - 10%  
No - 77%  
Unsure - 13%

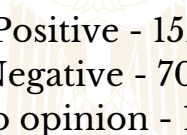
2.) Should the US defend Taiwan at all costs?

Yes - 25%  
No - 32.5%  
Unsure - 42.5%

3.) Do you trust the pharmaceutical industry?

Yes - 12.5%  
No - 77.5%  
Unsure - 10%

4.) What do you think of Facebook?



Positive - 15%  
Negative - 70%  
No opinion - 15%

5.) Should vaccination and boosters be mandatory?

Yes - 57.5%  
No - 30%  
Unsure - 12.5%

Stay tuned for next month's 'questions 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 TO OUR NOVEMBER FELLOWS!



2015 Fellow - Afnan Khalil  
November 1st



2013 Fellow - Heba Safwat  
November 1st



2013 Fellow - Amr Ismaeil  
November 3rd



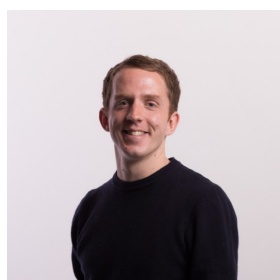
2014 Fellow - Elizabeth Trapp  
November 7th



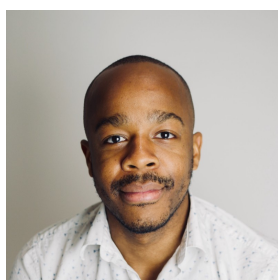
2017 Fellow - Amr Seda  
November 8th



2014 Fellow - Suzanne Youngner  
November 9th



2013 Fellow - Jeff Walls  
November 13th



2018 Fellow - Fabrice Guerrier  
November 14th



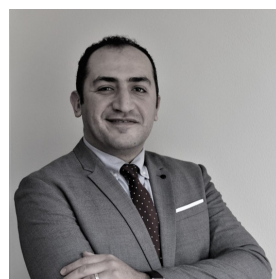
2013 Fellow - Morgan Williams  
November 14th



2014 Fellow - Jeremiah Bowden  
November 15th



2018 Fellow - Yara Albraidy  
November 22nd



2013 Fellow - Moataz Hussein  
November 30th

## November

November 17, 1869 was the opening of The Suez Canal for navigation.

Thanksgiving is celebrated on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the United States.



# THE GABR FELLOWSHIP

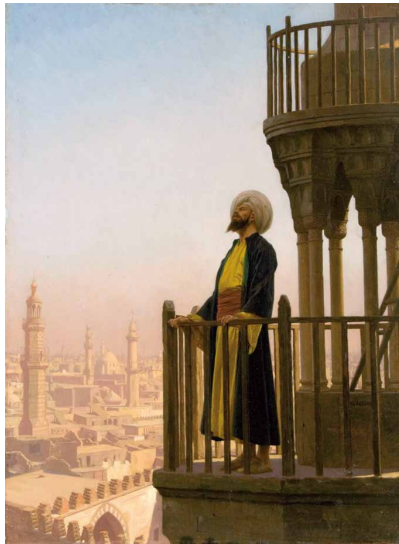
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For more information on the Shafik Gabr Foundation and its East-West: The Art of Dialogue Initiative, please visit the website <https://eastwestdialogue.org/>.

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



Jean-Léon Gérôme— *Le Muezzin (The Muezzin)* - Oil on Panel  
The Shafik Gabr Collection

## Connect with us!



[info@shafikgabrfoundation.org](mailto:info@shafikgabrfoundation.org)

<https://www.eastwestdialogue.org/>

**The Shafik Gabr Foundation**

444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 840 Washington,  
DC 20001

7 Hassan Al-Akbar Street Cairo, Egypt, 11571