

The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation



Gabr Fellows meeting in Cairo, Egypt with Chairman Shafik Gabr, March 2022

KINDERGARTEN POLITICS 2

It was very early in London. Big Ben was striking 6am and I was walking by, feeling cold despite my coat, scarf, hat and gloves. I crossed Whitehall towards St James's Park and continued walking sharply, in spite of an ache in my left leg reminding me of a nasty accident I had three years ago in Kenya.

I am not usually much of an early riser nor do I enjoy walking in the cold, and breakfast meetings I try hard to avoid. However, this one I could not miss.

I arrived ten minutes late to Chez Antonio Café and already Josef Moss, a prominent and very influential political operator in Brussels was there; Nicola Ayesh, an Iraqi businesswoman with a significant global tech empire; and our host Pierre Pincon, a very prominent and influential member of France's ruling party.

After early pleasantries, we placed our breakfast orders (plain omelettes for Pierre and I, waffles for Nicola and cereal with berries for Josef, plus English Breakfast tea all around and orange juice for Pierre and Nicola).

Pierre had invited us to discuss his forthcoming roundtable in Paris. Originally it was planned to focus on Euro-Mediterranean regional relations but with the Ukraine crisis taking centre stage, Pierre asked for this meeting to switch the focus of the event.

Pierre sliced his omelette horizontally and vertically, placed a quarter on a piece of brown toast, and between bites he and Josef were analyzing the status of Ukraine. Nicola and I finished our breakfast and we were both listening to Pierre's plans for his forthcoming roundtable which he earnestly shifted to focus on failed leadership. Pierre brought to the table attention that John Mearsheimer, the well-known real politics University of Chicago professor, had clearly and in a detailed manner predicted the Ukraine crisis six years ago. Nicola added that Henry Kissinger wrote an opinion piece about Ukraine's future three years ago and forecasted the downfall of Ukraine if it took sides between Russia and the West.

It appears that there was no other scenario except wherever you looked there was failed leadership regardless of the explanation you put forward.

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Josef's view was that Putin was a dictator and would not accept Ukraine joining NATO at any cost. Pierre explained that Biden, Johnson, and the EU gained by enticing Russia to invade Ukraine. Pierre added that Biden needed to get his polling numbers up and to stand up to Putin so as to get rid of his weak leadership stigma after the Afghanistan debacle. Pierre continued as he was scribbling some notes on a small pad and said Biden wants to enhance his party's standing prior to the mid-term elections in November and Johnson wanted to avoid his leadership becoming a lame duck after his repeated scandals. Pierre stretched, took a long sip of his orange juice and said: "As for the EU, the paper tiger found a united voice to scream at Putin." Finally, as he brought his arms to his sides, Pierre said it worked for all the West. He took a deep breath and stretched his arms forward open-palmed, closing his case.

Somehow, I was not convinced with Pierre's argument and asked: "What about the destruction of Ukraine's infrastructure, the deaths, the injured, the displaced, the trauma? Does all that not count for anything?" Before I could add any more thoughts, Nicola jumped in and cynically said the world's perception was that America invaded Iraq to bring democracy and Russia invaded Ukraine to conquer it. Nicola was not smiling as she added: "But it was Saddam and his infantile leadership that killed a million Iraqis. Bush pulled the trigger for his ego and the world watched without a peep. Saddam, Iraq's president had zero leadership, unable to bring the world to see that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction."

I interjected: "But what about the media that painted Saddam as a criminal, convincing over 60% of the American public that he was behind 9/11 whilst he had nothing to do with it?"

Josef brushed my comment aside by saying: "Saddam was a criminal." Nicola jumped back in with a sharp voice: "It was America and the EU that were arming Saddam to hold Iran back. It was France," she added, "that sent Khomeini back, America that shunned the Shah and France that led the bombing of Libya, destroying it as a country for the past 10 years."

I listened with patient anxiety and then said: "Dear friends, we are losing focus. If it is failed leadership we are concentrating on, the prize should go to Volodymyr Zelenskyy." Josef interrupted by saying: "Shafik, Zelenskyy is a hero. He stood up to Putin and fought back."

Nicola could not restrain herself. She thrust forward and said: "Josef, how can you say that? Leaders are accountable to their people." She shifted in her seat and tinkered with her knife – for a moment I thought she will use it but she drew a line across the table with it. Nicola was uncomfortable, a wealthy businesswoman with a huge heart and passion for humanity, she could not hold back and burst out: "Josef, do not be ridiculous - Ukrainians that got killed, Ukrainians that lost relatives, Ukrainians that were displaced..." The table went silent. "None will for a moment support your statement that Zelenskyy is a hero. Zelenskyy, in reality, is a big zero at best, misjudged and miscalculated, and at worst planned to raise himself on the ashes of his own country."

Pierre nodded slowly: "There is no question that if Zelenskyy had committed to non-alignment, he could have saved his country and his citizens, and forced negotiation to be on the table."

"Failed and weak leadership is very costly", I commented, "and it can be catastrophic. How can we expose it early enough should be the key focus of your conference, Pierre", I suggested.

Josef, looking very serious, said: "This would be a most worthwhile initiative, to create early awareness of a predictable crisis requiring real effective leadership that can avert costly conflict." Pierre, taking more notes, said: "I am convinced and will work on the subject matter and the speakers." He called the server to pay.

As I was putting my coat on, I looked at Pierre and said: "Sisi and Egypt have been patient." Pierre looked surprised and did not understand. Josef and Nicola were listening, and I said: "Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia is the next Zelenskyy." Pierre took his pen out and started once again to take notes.

As we walked to the door, I added: "Abiy has repeatedly broken his commitments to his people, starting a civil war; and to Egypt and Sudan refusing to reach an agreement on the Nile Waters and using challenging language just like Zelenskyy."

Nicola, knowing the region well, commented that Egypt is the gift of the Nile and that no Egyptian leader will stand for the water to be restricted by any deranged politician. She added: "Hopefully, Pierre, your conference can expose Abiy Ahmed and make him see the light before he becomes another Saddam or Zelenskyy."

We walked out in the cold, promising to get on a conference call in a couple of weeks.

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

LIZ TRAPP



2014 Gabr Fellow Elizabeth Trapp been promoted to Associate Professor of History of Art & Visual Culture at Columbus College of Art & Design (from Assistant Professor).

Liz teaches contemporary art and the history of fashion at CCAD and has taught there since 2011.

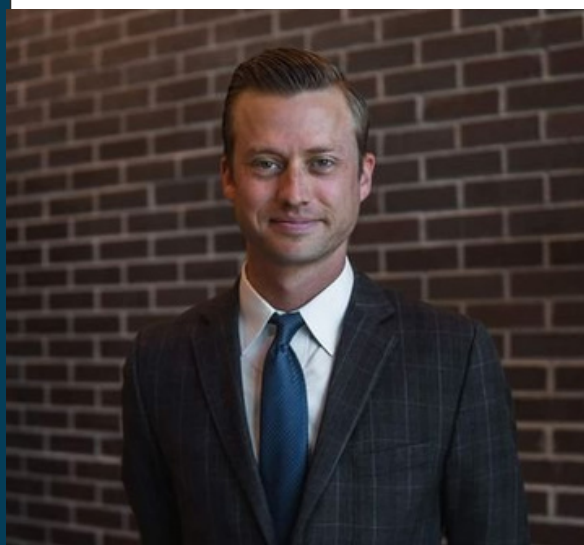
Her current research is focused on the revival of historical national dress in contemporary fashion as a method of creating contemporary national identity (mostly focused on Ukraine since 2014). This research has led her to follow how contemporary Ukrainian fashion designers reorganize and respond to war in Ukraine.

BRYAN GRIFFIN

2017 Gabr Fellow Bryan Griffin has accepted a new role: he is now the Deputy Press Secretary for Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

For this new position Bryan moved to Tallahassee, Florida.

Bryan was previously the national field director of the Maccabee Task Force Foundation. He received a Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University, a Juris Doctorate, Masters of Management, and Bachelors in Classical History and Political Science from the University of Florida.



MENNA FAROUK

2017 Gabr Fellow Menna Farouk won the Media Leader title at the Women SME Leaders Awards 2022, for her reporting at Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The inaugural Women SME Leaders Awards, a virtual event staged by Mastercard and Entrepreneur Middle East on March 29, 2022, celebrated some of the region's most enterprising women-owned and run SMEs across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region.

Winning The Media Leader title at the Women SME Leaders Awards 2022 has motivated Menna to aim for greater success in her career, and she hopes her peers in the industry will follow suit.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



SHEHAB FAROUK

2014 Gabr Fellow Shehab Farouk has been invited to be a speaker at an international conference organized by the Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre, titled: Arbitration and Mediation in Oman: Challenges and Opportunities.

Shehab was glad to have this opportunity and to be in the company of distinguished lawyers and legal practitioners in Oman.

Dr Shehab Farouk is a Senior Legal Consultant with Hamad Al Sharji, Peter Mansour & Co, and he advises local and multinational clients in corporate affairs and commercial arbitration.

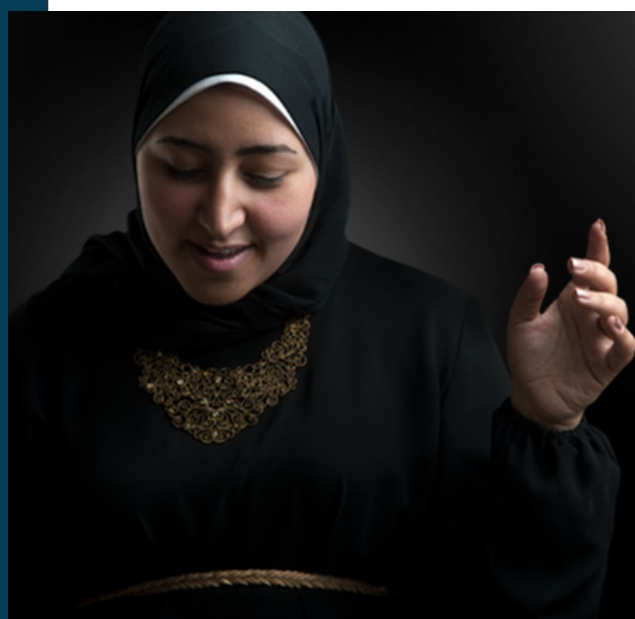
DALIA IHAB YOUNIS

2017 Gabr Fellow Dalia Ihab Younis recently gave a workshop that included Egyptian members from her A Cappella project Klaxics' and refugee women from Syria, Yemen and Sudan in collaboration with UNHCR Egypt.

Celebrating these countries' joint heritage, Dalia made a special A Cappella arrangement for a medley of 4 folk songs from these countries about women. The ladies joined the rehearsals and recording, and their spirit was above the moon.

To have a listen,

[CLICK HERE](#)



GABR FELLOWS MEETING

On 31 March 2022, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, M. Shafik Gabr, the Gabr Fellows met in Cairo at the ARTOC Headquarters.



Gabr Fellows with the Chairman of the Foundation, M Shafik Gabr

The Fellows shared their latest achievements academically, socially and career-wise, as well as their plans for the future.

2017 Gabr Fellow Dalia Younis shared an update on her recent trip to New York where she presented a special programme of Arabic versions of the most popular Christmas carols at St Patrick’s Cathedral, as well as the subsequent media interviews.

2016 Gabr Fellow Youssef El Toukhy shared his news on being accepted to do an MBA at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

2015 Gabr Fellow Bassma Fahim shared an update on a training that she recently undertook in Bahrain, and 2014 Gabr Fellow Nurhan Moussa discussed her work with USAID and the Ministry of Justice.

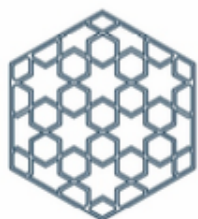
The meeting concluded with a general discussion around the question: “What are the major stressors currently, locally or globally?”, and it focused on national economic conditions and their future impact.

In attendance were:

Name	Year
Ahmed Mostafa	2018
Bassma Fahim	2015
Dalia Younis	2017
Ibrahim Hammouda	2017
Nourhan Moussa	2014
Youssef El Toukhy	2016

Note: For all Information Statements, please visit <https://www.eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/updates/>

Shafik Gabr Foundation collaborates with the Middle East Institute



The
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MEI@75
Peace. Prosperity. Partnership.

The Shafik Gabr Foundation is pleased to announce that it has decided to sponsor six young people as Interns at the Middle East Institute.

The Middle East Institute is a non-profit, non-partisan think tank and cultural center in Washington, D.C., founded in 1946. It seeks to increase knowledge of the Middle East among the United States citizens and promote a better understanding between the people of these two areas. Therefore its goals and missions closely align with those of the Shafik Gabr Foundation.

The Middle East Institute supports a number interns each year. It is a rigorous application and interview process, and they aim to really get the best young persons, potential leaders of tomorrow.

The MEI interns are integral to the Institute's work and they help in all programs including arts and culture, economics and energy, cyber and technology, etc.

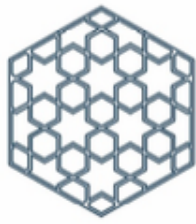
The Shafik Gabr Foundation, as a long-term collaborator with the Middle East Institute, is going to sponsor a total of six interns, each to work at the institute for a total of four months.

The first 2022 Shafik Gabr Fellows at MEI are Maria Harika and Amanda Msalem.

Maria is a graduate student at the University of Alabama Birmingham, interning with the MEI's Cyber Program, and Amanda is a final year undergraduate student at GW, interning with the MEI's Arts & Culture Center. Please find attached a brief document outlining their background and interests.

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Meet the Shafik Gabr Interns

Spring Term 2022

Cyber Program

Maria Harika

Maria is an MS Cyber Security Candidate at the University of Alabama Birmingham and an Open-Source Intelligence Analyst and Supervisor at the UAB Cyber Forensics Research Lab. Her work focuses on researching, analyzing, and reporting online extremism through intelligence reports and social media/internet-wide data collection. Maria focuses mainly on cyber intelligence gathering across the Middle East, focusing especially on Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Yemen. As a Cyber intern she works closely with program director Eliza Campbell to assemble literature reviews, and complete other essential research tasks.



Arts & Culture

Amanda Msalem

Amanda is a senior at the George Washington University double majoring in Art History and International Affairs (with a concentration in Conflict Resolution) and a minor in French. Amanda is also a cohort member of the Dean's Scholars Program at the Elliott School, which selects students to conduct research projects over the course of two years; Amanda is researching the experiences, attitudes, and interactions between Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon, within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other recent compounding humanitarian crises. Aside from her studies, Amanda is a dancer and choreographer within the GW Dance Club and the GW Dance Department, and continues to leisurely make art.



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.) 1. Do you think that the devaluation of the Egyptian Pound will have a negative economic impact?

Yes - 80%

No - 5%

Unsure - 15%

2.) Do you think increasing the interest rate in the US, as well as higher energy prices, are going to have a negative impact on the US economy?

Yes - 65%

No - 17.5%

Unsure - 17.5%

3.) Is unionization of Amazon's workers a positive or a negative thing?

Positive - 52.5%

Negative - 17.5%

Unsure - 30%

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.

HAITIAN FUTURISM

The decline of the West

By Fabrice J. Guerrier*

Arendt, a Jewish refugee who moved to the United States to escape the horrors of the Holocaust, authored *The Human Condition*, in which she champions both equality and the merits of each of our soul's radical uniqueness.



Fabrice Guerrier

Our actions have indelible consequences—a fact we must remember amidst a storm of collective clashes. Speaking to the nature of power, Arendt explains that politics represents a singular force that can mediate the ills of corruption.

In the context of Haiti, politics has been used as a vehicle to admonish the voices of the common folks on the ground, and it's no different in the United States, with its party-based division.

The modern social fabric has been ripped apart by social, economic, and political conflict. We need to rethink Western values, especially as applied to countries like Haiti. We have to wrestle with these ideas that seem to flare up the intergenerational trauma, often not equipped to deal with transforming one of the 21st century's most important issues: Conflict within the state.

With globalization, the composition of Western nations continues to diversify, hosting a multitude of backgrounds and interests that typically defy its original mythology. Meanwhile, the state's software of operations—its legal precedent, or institutional memory—hasn't caught on to the exponential globalized growth of technology, which continues to blur the imaginary lines between digital and the realms of metaverse which allow for new possibilities while remembering the past amidst a storm of collective clashes.

Historians and academics have said that Western constructs date back thousands of years to Ancient Greece when Roman Senator Cicero lived in 50 BC—or even further back to Plato in 400 BC. The West claims the jewels of its vision are democracy, human rights, freedom of speech, self-expression, and the scientific process, which are said to be the fundamental pillars of civilization.

Here's our appraisal. The normative claim that democracy and Western values are the final form of organizing humanity across the planet, as Francis Fukuyama has claimed, is exceptionally dangerous. Dangerous enough that countries like Haiti often become sandboxes for outside democratic enforcement. Indeed, the faults lie in antiquated systems that operate on old manuals of uncreative statecraft that serve no one, of course the leadership excepted.

It doesn't leave much room for imagination to flourish, nor the notion of our living side by side, having addressed entrenched prejudice, resolved historical trauma, and established sus-

tainable systems.

I admit that the West and its values (of which I am a product) have tremendously benefited mankind. That I can't ignore. First, having been born in Haiti and being a Black American living in the US for the past eighteen years, I've experienced this firsthand. I do believe in people's inalienable human rights and the decency that one should be afforded as a human being.

I do believe in democracy. However, my critique of its failure is in step with the belief that such a framework is only created over generations. All of us must agree that democracy is never truly complete, although it's said that it's the best of all the other government systems. But, claiming that Western values constitute a panacea capable of saving us all, especially Haiti, from its problems, is wildly misguided.

We need to imagine new values and new visions, things that are created and born beyond the very constructs and fabric of the Western mind, just as the enslaved African smelting his own golden shackles. To do so may re-

quire opening old wounds, but more importantly, we need a brand-new post-colonial lens through which to glimpse the future.

This will be the greatest challenge of all for those who have endured the horrors of colonization. And this, my friends, is the very reason that *Haitian Futurism* exists.

By using the imagination to shift, we can collectively heal from history and its dialectical fallacies, or even from the penchant to disregard anything that can't be neatly compartmentalized by scientific dogma, which perceives aspects of Haiti's mysticism as primitive and non-intelligent. We're also empowered to move beyond capitalism and socialism, which amount to a Western game of tug-o-war, casting our minds as the rope's fraying threads.

Haiti will need to imagine a new vision that isn't bound by the same language and the same tools that created and instigated its problems. The West is in decline, not because it is inherently bad. Rather, the tensions indicate

that something new is being born. The institutions of old still seek to stop its due delivery, but together we can will it into existence and forge a brighter future.

Haiti needs to imagine a worldview rooted in all of its parts and people, a new vision that allows it to embrace change fully and adaptively, so our varying sources of potential don't clash but work in harmony. As a nation, Haiti needs to embody its creative spirit and use it to rebuild not just the homeland, but the whole of Earth. Such is the central purpose of *Haitian Futurism*.

*Fabrice J. Guerrier, Founder & CEO SYLLBLE;

fabrice@syllble.com,

3/23/ 2022



Fabrice Guerrier is a 2018 Gabr Fellow.

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

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Launched in 2012, the Gabr Fellowship programme helps to connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders between the ages of 24 and 35. Each year, the Fellowship consists of 20-24 Fellows, half of which are men and the other half women, with an equal distribution between participants from the United States and Egypt. The Fellowship also accepts applicants from Jordan, Lebanon, France and the United Kingdom. Fellows represent a variety of sectors, including the arts, law, finance, tech, non- profits, and entrepreneurship – both business and social.

The mission of the Fellowship is to promote greater mutual understanding by building bridges between the two cultures by instigating dialogue and the exchange of ideas between emerging leaders from the United States and Egypt. Together, they explore one another's cultures, political realities, business trends and their goals for the future.



2018 Gabr Fellows visit the World Bank, Washington DC

In addition to engaging in deep discussions with key stakeholders from both countries in business, government, academia, religion, science, tech and finance, all Fellows are invited to form multinational teams to complete an action project. These projects empower the Fellows as inter-cultural ambassadors, amplifying the Fellowship's reach and impact.

Ultimately, through hands-on activities, rigorous discussions, cultural site visits, and the collaborative action projects, the Fellows have a greater understanding of both countries and become part of an international cohort dedicated to building a more equitable and peaceful world.

The Gabr Fellows have acquired a greater understanding of both Egypt and the United States and the challenges faced by both communities. Having served as cultural as well as linguistic ambassadors to one another, they then return home to play the role of diplomat, introducing Egyptians and Americans to a people, a culture and a future never before explored in this way.

Together, they are creating the legacy of 'The Gabr Fellowship': an international cohort dedicated to pursuing cooperative, collective solutions to their regions' most pressing issues.



Gabr Fellows with Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister Sameh Shoukry



Gabr Fellows take on the Pyramids

SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

The Shafik Gabr Foundation invites you to invest in the future and partner with the Foundation using one or more of the following means:

Sponsor a Fellow - Individuals have the opportunity to nominate a Fellow and if selected, sponsor their participation in the Gabr Fellowship. Sponsors will be recognised in all Foundation publications, marketing materials, and at all events.

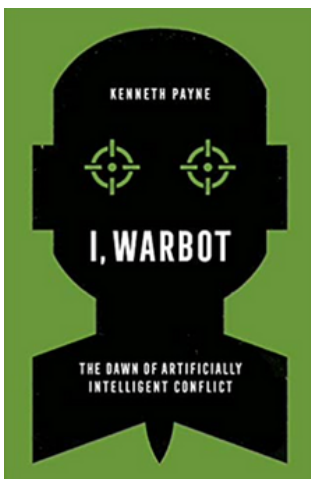
Corporate patron - Corporations can nominate Fellows for participation in the Fellowship Foundation and sponsor their participation on a company-wide level. The company will be listed in all publications, the logo will be presented on the Foundation's homepage and be given visibility at all events in the United States and Egypt.

Unrestricted support - A general operating grant can empower the Foundation to continue to invest in innovative platforms to facilitate ongoing dialogue between the East and West. From new technologies to expanding the programme to more countries and a greater number of participants, the Fellowship can create a broader multiregional impact.

To support the Foundation,



Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



John E. Charalambakis Ph.D.

The Canon of the Markets

Reflections from the Attic of History, Philosophy, Literature, and Statecraft

Foreword by Barbara Kolin Ph.D.
Prologue by M. Shafik Gabr
Introduction by Nicholas Surgen Ph.D.



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 *I, Warbot: The Dawn of Artificially Intelligent Conflict* by Kenneth Payne and *The Canon of the Markets: Reflections from the Attic of History, Philosophy, Literature, and Statecraft* by John E. Charalambakis.

Warbots will be faster, more agile and more deadly than today's crewed weapons. New tactics are already emerging, but much deeper thinking is needed. When will an intelligent machine escalate, and how might we deter it? Can robots predict the future? And what happens to the 'art of war' as machines become creative? These are some of the questions tackled in Kenneth Payne's *I, Warbot*.

Erudite, focused and entertaining, *The Canon of the Markets* is a compendium of many of Dr. John Charalambakis' finest commentaries, and it is especially useful for investors who feel overwhelmed by data and starved for information. Dr. Charalambakis has a historian's ability to identify and explain the root causes behind many very complex geopolitical events, with a great eye for detail.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR APRIL FELLOWS!



Christi Fallon
2013 Gabr Fellow
April 4



Maram Osama
2018 Gabr Fellow
April 6



Ahmed Abounaga
2016 Gabr Fellow
April 10



Casey Smith
2015 Gabr Fellow
April 10



Heidi Green
2016 Gabr Fellow
April 10



Kate Chiuccini
2016 Gabr Fellow
April 10



Mohamed El Hawary
2018 Gabr Fellow
April 12



Mohamed Elattar
2016 Gabr Fellow
April 18



Basma Elbaz
2015 Gabr Fellow
April 22



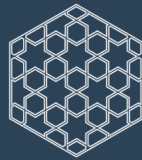
Sarah Walker
2018 Gabr Fellow
April 24



Eze Redwood
2015 Gabr Fellow
April 30

April

Monthly Newsletter



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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/>



Eugene Fromentin, *Le Simoun*
oil on canvas
The Shafik Gabr Collection

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

The Shafik Gabr Foundation

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