

The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

Monthly Newsletter

2022 GABR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

OPEN 15/06/2022

see page 3



Chairman Shafik Gabr hosting the Foundation's annual opening dinner at the WEF in Davos, May 2022

STRIKE THREE... YOU ARE OUT

He died. It hurt. He was a friend who loved life. A smile always adorned his face. His family and friends miss him.

I was sitting on the terrace of the Cairo Four Seasons looking at the magnificent Nile flow by. I was kindly served a cold glass of pomegranate juice, compliments of the day manager, as I was waiting for my friends to arrive. I was early.

It was just past noon and the sun was out in full force, but there was a cool breeze and, with the blue sky, not a cloud in sight. I was trying to relax. I had been deeply sad about the loss of my friend. But I realized it was foolish to brood about something I could not control. I dismissed the thought and absorbed the constantly changing panorama unfolding before me. The Nile waters shimmering as they reflected the sun's rays. The feluccas sailing across. A beautiful and serene painting in the making.

My mobile phone interrupted the calm. It was Alexander Petrov, a Russian painter who lives in Paris and commutes between there and Moscow. I met Petrov during my art gallery and exhibition visits. Alexander told me that Chen Lee, Layla Miller, and Robert Davies were downstairs in the lobby.

Lee was a China expert teaching in London for the past decade, and a fellow at a research centre. Layla was a medical scientist of Lebanese origin living in Egypt but constantly traveling. Davies was an American historian working in Washington D.C. at a conservative think tank.

Walking to the restaurant, I remembered meeting Chen three years earlier at a London conference. Robert, I met via my nephew at a World Bank lunch a year earlier, Layla by accident during the start of the pandemic at a friend's home. Coincidentally, she knew Robert from her visits to D.C. We had a table reserved in a private corner as this get-together had been planned more than six weeks earlier. Davies was coming to visit Layla. Chen was heading to Riyadh and agreed to stop by in Cairo. Alexander was visiting Cairo to go to the newly inaugurated museum of civilizations. Layla lived here.

After settling in, the head waiter appeared and welcomed us with a warm smile and gave us the menus. We ordered both sparkling and still mineral water. Robert and I also asked for iced tea. We ordered off the menu, but Alexander was unhappy there was no "koshari." Layla and Robert chose a plate of chicken kebab with vegetables, Chen asked for a spicy carbonara, Alexander settled for a spaghetti pomodoro, and I had fish with boiled potatoes.

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After some opening pleasantries, Robert kicked off a serious discussion. He looked at Layla and asked, "Will Egypt suffer because of the Ukraine war?" Layla nodded: "Yes, Robert, Egypt will suffer," She explained how Egypt depends on Ukraine and Russia for most wheat imports. Added Alexander: "Many countries will suffer because of this war. Prices of essential products and energy will skyrocket." Chen was quiet, listening intently. Continued Alexander: "I am no supporter of Putin, but compared to the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen, what is happening in Ukraine is a walk in the park." Robert, with astonishment on his face, retorted, "How can you say that?" Layla, with sharp hazel eyes, lifted her brows in a high curve, giving her a look of innocent surprise. I could not discern if she was surprised by what Alexander said or by Robert's reaction.

The head waiter arrived with his Nubian smile and with two assistants served us in a jiffy. We dug in. A moment of silence, then Alexander in a passionate voice said, "I am against violence so I am against wars, but you can't compare the million casualties in Iraq, the million plus in Afghanistan and the 400,000 in Yemen with a few thousand in Ukraine unless you are brainwashed by the Western media."

Robert swallowed hard: "Putin started this war." Alexander interjected: "Yes, yes, he did, but the raw facts are clear." He put his fork and spoon down with spaghetti circling the fork and counted on his fingers: "First, America would not allow missiles in Cuba. Why would Russia allow missiles in Ukraine 180 seconds from Moscow? Second, NATO has been sending trainers and advisers to work with the Ukrainian military for 14 months. Third...." Robert cut him off: "None of this is an excuse. The West will put Russia in its place," he said, as he continued to work on his kebabs.

Alexander and Robert had never met, and it was clear animosity was growing between them. I could see their body language as Layla, to no avail, tried to change the subject. Chen was clearly enjoying his carbonara and eating silently, observing the table -- as was the whole restaurant.

I looked at Layla: "No one is talking about the pandemic in Ukraine and Russia. What are the facts?" Layla shifted in my direction. Sipping sparkling water, she answered, "No one knows, no talk about Coronavirus generally as the Ukraine war has usurped the news, and specifically no data from Russia and Ukraine." Looking at Chen, Robert announced, "It all began in China, and it still is huge there with the lockdown in Shanghai and draconian measures popping up every now and then." Chen was unmoved. Finishing his spaghetti, he took a slice of bread and buttered it, adding some pepper. Oddly, he did not eat it but put it on the side of his plate.

I took over the mantle and said the world has been going from one crisis to another since late 2019. Pandemic, I explained, then war in Ukraine, both touching the lives of billions of people. I then asked what was next, picking up my iced tea for a sip. No one reacted. I continued, explaining that today Europe is faced with an economic and social depression, America's growth is stifled, the Chinese economy is derailed, rising inflation everywhere and worsening supply bottlenecks, not to mention expected contractions as interest rates rise. Layla added: "Germany facing high energy prices; Turkey and Italy huge inflation; Czech, Poland, Moldova huge influx of refugees; Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, and other places historic surges of food prices." I added that none of this was good news, and that the U.S. economy contracted last quarter and Europe was facing a recession.

Chen, quiet until then, slowly and in clear, perfect English said, "Leadership around the world -- specifically, the five members of the Security Council -- is on the verge of being struck down." We all looked at Chen as he finished his food and moved his right palm down across the table. "Believe me, friends," he said calmly, "we have witnessed the pandemic -- which is not over -- and it was very poorly dealt with by the top five global leaders (Biden, Johnson, Xi, Putin and Macron). Then the Ukraine challenge emerged and again the five leaders messed up in a huge manner, allowing the train to leave the station, war to occur and chaos to ensue. It is not over yet with all its potential ramifications." "Finally," Chen said as we waved to the server for coffee and tea, "one more conflict, be it economic, political, social, or military, and it is three strikes and these leaders should be out."

Alexander shook his head in agreement: "Putin has failed, and Macron is a lightweight." Robert argued, "Biden is doing a good job and will strike Putin down and put Russia in its place." Chen interjected, "Robert, as a historian, you don't believe that. Xi Jinping has derailed China's political system and disrupted its economy." Layla said, "As for Boris, he saved his seat, but his actions are hurting his party. If it weren't for the weak Labour Party, he would have been gone a long time ago."

I was listening carefully and remembered that three strikes in baseball is when a batter receives three strikes during his time at bat, which leads to an "out." But I also recalled that the three-strike law is one that can remove offenders from the general population to make the community safer. The law still exists in some U.S. states. The only cost was of housing offenders for the rest of their natural life.

As the conversation continued, I visualised Biden, Putin, Macron, Xi Jinping, and Boris Johnson all housed altogether in Madagascar, at the cost of all humanity, to make the world a safer place.

2022 GABR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN 15/06/2022



Ludwig Deutsch, *A Gathering around the Morning News, Cairo*
Oil on panel, The Shafik Gabr Collection

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the Gabr Fellowship is very pleased to be returning and accepting new applicants.

Established by The Shafik Gabr Foundation, the Gabr Fellowship brings together a group of 24 emerging leaders from across Egypt and the U.S. – 12 Egyptians and 12 Americans. Fellows will meet with world-renowned public figures to explore transnational challenges faced by their societies and to gain insight into the diversity within Egyptian and American societies, traditions, politics, business, governance, art, law, media, customs and religions.

Leveraging their expertise and the depth of the exchange, Fellows will work together on collaborative action projects. The action projects address common challenges facing Egyptian and American societies. The projects serve to broaden the impact of the Gabr Fellowship to the Fellows' peers, communities and societies with the goal of sustainable bridge building across both the east and west.

The program accepts applications from Egypt and the United States. All applicants need to be between 24 and 35 years of age. All Americans should not have visited Egypt before, and all Egyptians should not have visited the US prior.

For the application form and more information starting June 15th,

[CLICK HERE](#)



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



MIKE BURGESS

In May this year, 2015 Gabr Fellow Mike Burgess presented and appeared on a panel at the 2nd annual Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET) conference at Kings College London. Mike spoke on the panel titled Methods for Strategic Intervention.

In the same month, Mike also spoke at the Hedayah Countering Violent Extremism research conference in Spain.

Mike is currently Manager at Moonshot CVE, based in London.

NOURHAN MOUSSA

2014 Gabr Fellow Nourhan Moussa attended the WBG Youth Summit, an annual event hosted by the World Bank Group (WBG) to engage with youth globally on the most pressing topics facing our generation, bringing hundreds of participants together from across the globe. This year's Summit took place from May 26-27, 2022, under the theme of Unlocking the Power of Inclusion for Equitable Growth.

Nourhan was selected not only to attend the summit but also to participate as a delegate for the case challenge competition, tackling the topic of "Inclusive Growth for Ethnic Minorities."



JSK CLASS OF 2023

**ALEX
GOLDMARK**

executive producer,
NPR
New York, NY

@alexgoldmark

ALEX GOLDMARK

2013 Gabr Fellow Alex Goldmark has been selected to participate in the John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University.

The fellowship runs from Sept. 6, 2022, to May 31, 2023. The fellows will document their work publicly throughout the year, highlighting key strategies and lessons learned.

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



NATHAN THOMAS

This May, 2014 Gabr Fellow Nathan Thomas moderated the Clinton Foundation's third annual Student Presidential Leaders Forum, which shined a light on disparities in education, mental health, and social justice that exist in communities across America.

Students were able to hear from and speak with Dr. Chelsea Clinton; author, educator, and activist Michael Tyler; and mental health advocate and founder of Silence the Shame Shanti Das.

Nathan is Educational Programs Senior Manager at the Clinton Foundation.

Because Baseball, founded by 2015 Gabr Fellow Kemp Gouldin, will partner on June 10-11 with Major League Baseball in the 2022 International Play Ball Weekend.



With concurrent events on each continent, Egyptian youth will join with their contemporaries around the world, connecting across borders in a historic way – for one weekend, children will unite worldwide around the game of baseball. And the children of Cairo will learn from a team of coaches comprised of some of the finest baseball minds – players, coaches and executives with MLB and college experience – including:

- Cory Gearrin - former pitcher whose MLB career began in 2011 with the Braves and concluded in 2020 with the Twins
- Bobby Evans – former San Francisco Giants General Manager who visited Egypt in 2019
- Josh Nashed – current pitching coach at St Mary's College whose grandfather is Egyptian
- Terry Johnson – 2019 Because Baseball Coaching Fellow

Expecting the Unexpected: 2022 and Beyond

Shafik Gabr Foundation Annual Davos Opening Dinner



Chairman Shafik Gabr moderating the Davos dinner discussion

Chairman Shafik Gabr and his wife Gigi have held the Shafik Gabr Foundation Davos opening dinner for several years during the World Economic Forum, under the title ‘Expecting the Unexpected: 2022 and Beyond.’

This year, the dinner was held on the first day of the World Economic Forum, on Sunday 22 May 2022, at the Central Sporthotel.

In a casual and friendly environment, over 95 guests came together to informally discuss the predictions and expectations of the year ahead.

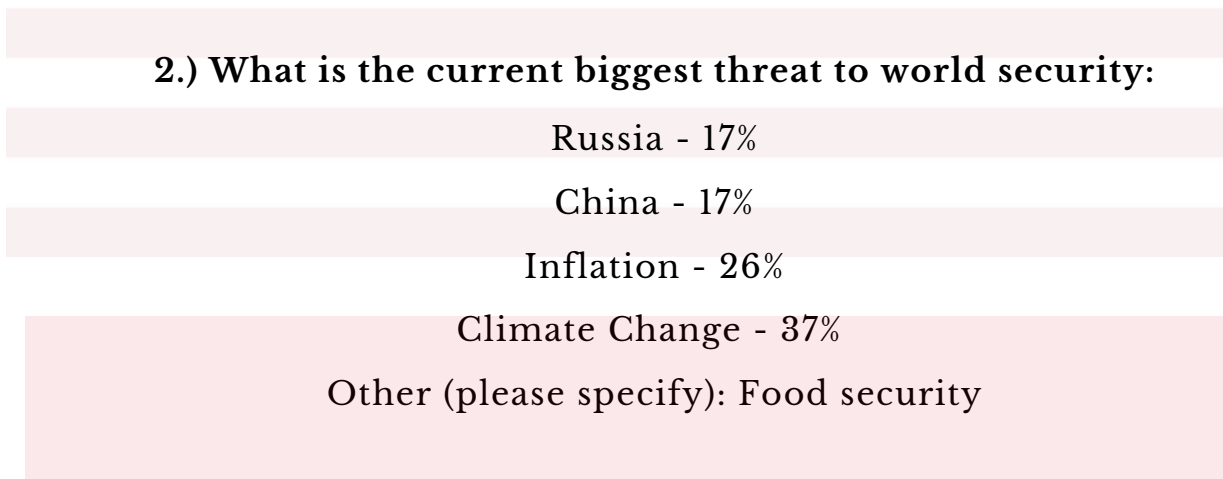
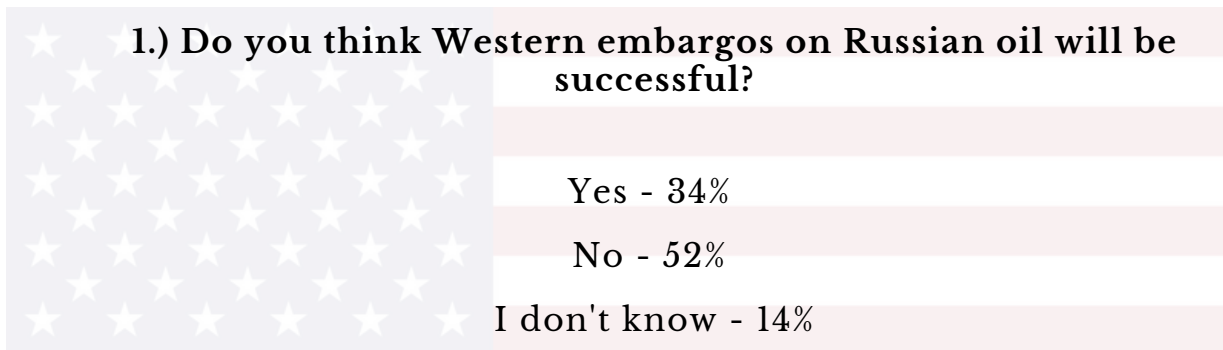
Among the distinguished guests were HSH Prince Philipp von und zu Liechtenstein and HSH Princess Isabelle, Ambassadors, Ministers, government officials, members of the US Congress, distinguished scholars, businesspeople, media executives and entrepreneurs. The dinner was also attended by Alexis Taylor, a 2016 Gabr Fellow and ESG Strategy lead at Indeed.com.

During this evening of good company and compelling discussion under Chatham house rules, topics discussed ranged from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, pandemics past present and future, global economy, media and fake news, international relations and much more.

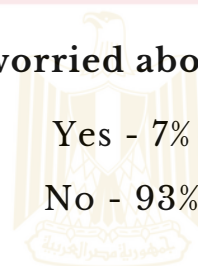
The dinner discussion was moderated by Chairman Shafik Gabr and the renowned international broadcaster Nik Gowing.

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.



3.) Are you worried about Monkeypox?



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.

Instability in Egypt

by: The Center for Preventive Action, May 2022

Council on Foreign Relations

Background

Wilayat Sinai (formerly known as Ansar Beit al-Maqdis) emerged as a terrorist organization in the Sinai Peninsula following the popular uprising and subsequent overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak in 2011. Mubarak's successor, the democratically elected President Mohammed Morsi, was also ousted from power by the military in July 2013 following widespread anti-Muslim Brotherhood protests.

After a year-long interim government, former Defense Minister Abdel Fatah al-Sisi was elected president in May 2014 and vowed to continue crackdowns against the Muslim Brotherhood and its supporters.

In November 2014, Wilayat Sinai declared its allegiance to the Islamic State. The group has since claimed responsibility for numerous attacks, including the November 2017 attack on a mosque that killed more than three hundred people, the April 2017 attack on Coptic churches in Tanta and Alexandria that killed at least forty-four people, the December 2016 attack on at a Coptic chapel in Cairo that killed at least twenty-five people, and the October 2015 downing of a Russian airplane that killed all 224 people aboard.

Wilayat Sinai has also carried out attacks on Egyptian military and government sites near Egypt's border with Gaza and Israel, prompting security cooperation between Egypt and Israel.

Egypt also faces a burgeoning terrorist threat in its western desert where al-Qaeda affiliate, Ansar al-Islam, has begun operating. The group orchestrated an attack on Egyptian security forces in October 2017 and has since operated along Egypt's border with Libya.

Since assuming office in 2014, Sisi has enacted economic reforms to improve the flagging economy, and counterterrorism laws to combat the threat of insurgency. Critics of Sisi have warned that his government has marginalized poor communities, repressed free speech, and infringed on human rights.

Concerns

The United States remains concerned that Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Western Desert could become sanctuaries for the Islamic State and al-Qaeda. Terrorist groups could also contribute to political instability in Egypt, which remains a key regional ally for the U.S. military, further destabilize Libya, and threaten Israel.

Recent Developments

In February 2018, Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi ordered the Egyptian military to defeat the militant group Wilayat Sinai, a local affiliate of the self-proclaimed Islamic State.

The military subsequently announced the launch of wide-ranging counter-terrorism measures in the Sinai Peninsula and parts of the Nile Delta and Western Desert. Operations have included the demolition of homes, commercial buildings, and farms, resulting in the displacement of thousands. The military stated in February 2019 that it has killed more than five hundred and fifty militants since operations began in 2018.

After orchestrating the arrests of his primary challenger and dozens of critics, Sisi was re-elected for a second term in March 2018. Sisi has since pushed through new laws to combat extremism, including one in August 2018 that increased government control over the internet, and has consistently extended Egypt's state of emergency, which was first declared in April 2017 following terrorist attacks on Coptic churches.

In February 2019, a proposal to extend Sisi's presidency and expand his power was put before Egypt's parliament; despite allegations of bribery, the proposal was approved in a referendum later that month, allowing Sisi to extend his term and run again in 2024.

To read the full article,

[CLICK HERE](#)



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:

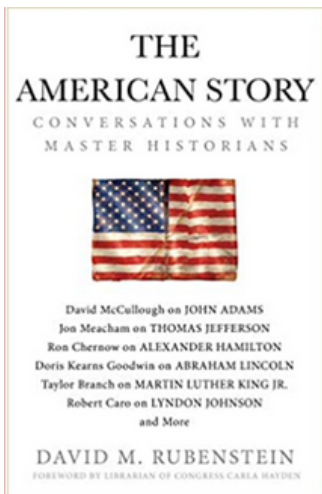
Sponsor a Fellow - Individuals have the opportunity to nominate a Fellow and if selected, sponsor their participation in the Gabr Fellowship. Sponsors will be recognised in all Foundation publications, marketing materials, and at all events.

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,

CLICK HERE

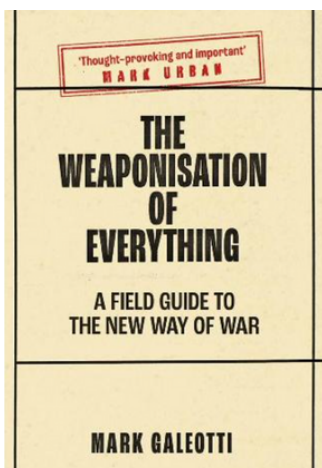


Gabr Foundation Reading Corner

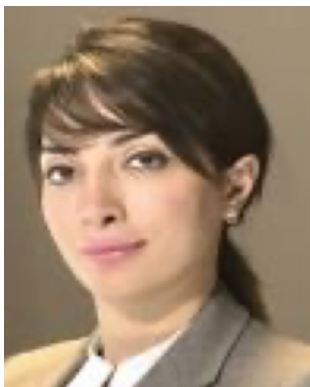
The Foundation Reading Corner encourages Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended to them in each issue. For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends *The American Story: Conversations with Master Historians* by David Rubenstein and *The Weaponisation of Everything: A Field Guide to the New Way of War* by Mark Galeotti.

In *The American Story*, co-founder of The Carlyle Group and philanthropist David M. Rubenstein takes readers on a journey across the grand arc of the American story through revealing conversations with the country's greatest historians. Through these captivating exchanges, these authors offer fresh insight on pivotal moments from the Founding Era to the late 20th century.

In *The Weaponisation of Everything*, transnational crime expert Mark Galeotti provides a comprehensive survey of the new way of war. Ranging across the globe, Galeotti shows how today's conflicts are fought with everything from disinformation and espionage to crime and subversion, leading to instability within countries and a legitimacy crisis across the globe.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JUNE FELLOWS!



Hadir Helal
2015 Gabr Fellow
June 1



Dalia Younis
2017 Gabr Fellow
June 5



Wes Rogerson
2018 Gabr Fellow
June 13



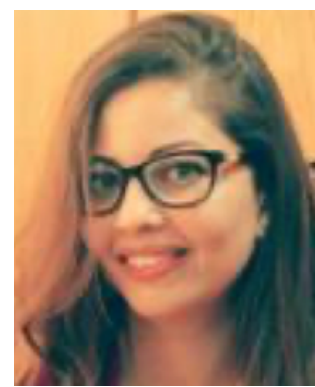
Anis Issa
2016 Gabr Fellow
June 15



Abby Weidenhafer
2016 Gabr Fellow
June 19



Sarah Badr
2017 Gabr Fellow
June 23



Marwa Abdalla
2018 Gabr Fellow
June 23



Ahmed Aransho
2015 Gabr Fellow
June 25



Elizabeth Dent
2015 Gabr Fellow
June 26

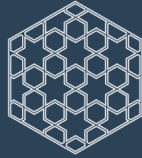


Judson Moore
2015 Gabr Fellow
June 29

June

THE GABR FELLOWSHIP

Monthly Newsletter



The
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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/>



Edward Lear, *View of the Nile*
Pen, ink and watercolour
The Shafik Gabr Collection

Connect with us



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

The Shafik Gabr Foundation

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