

The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation



2022 Gabr Fellows with Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler, Congressman Michael McCaul, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann and Chairman Gabr, Washington DC, November 2022

Remembering and Celebrating 10 Years of the Gabr Fellowship

One Step at a Time— the Gabr Fellows' Story

In the midst of the confusion and uncertainty that characterizes current US-Egypt relations and with American and Egyptian attitudes toward each other having plummeted to all-time lows, I recently had the opportunity to participate in a "little" gem of a project that shows a way forward.

Last month, twenty American and Egyptian young professionals visited the US as part of a program sponsored by the Shafik Gabr Foundation. This group of Gabr Fellows was evenly divided between nationals from both countries and included artists, academics, and specialists in fields ranging from law to energy.

The goals of the program were to promote mutual understanding and to spawn implementable projects through which the participants could apply their expertise and their shared experiences to make a difference in improving the US-Egypt relationship.

The Fellows had earlier spent three weeks in Egypt visiting historical sites and participating in discussions with academics, policy experts, and community leaders. While in the US, they visited five cities seeing our historical sites and meeting with opinion makers to discuss a broad range of policy concerns from the state of race relations in the US and the partisan split in Congress to the current debate over immigration policy and health care reform.

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As important as these discussions may have been, the Fellows also benefited from the time they spent with each other, debating gender equality and the role of religion in an effort to better understand the differences that exist in their respective cultural contexts. In conversations that followed I learned how important these side conversations had been to the Fellows.

The Egyptians were struck by the persistence of race as a defining issue in American life and they were surprised by the dysfunctional nature of Washington politics. Both of these combined to shatter their view of the "American monolith".

For their part, the US participants came away from their experience with a better understanding of the aspirations of "ordinary Egyptians", which helped to demystify their notions of today's Egypt. Not only did each side develop a better understanding of the other—but a number of Fellows told me that they also ended up with greater insight into and appreciation of their own culture and traditions.

The Gabr program was about more than developing "feel good", personal relationships. A key component of the effort is the commitment of the Fellows to work in teams developing projects designed to bring their shared experience to others. One team, for example, is working on an "artist-in-residence" exchange program that would provide opportunities for young and accomplished artists from Egypt and the US to be hosted in each other's country and then to display the work they produce during their residency back in their home country. Another team has developed a project creating a network of "microclinics" to provide rural Egyptians with expanded healthcare options. Modeled after a similar successful network operating Kentucky, this program will also provide training and a business plan empowering Egyptians to self-start similar efforts in their communities. Another project (one of my personal favorites) involves the installation of two large screens - one each in Egypt and the US - that will serve as "communication portals" creating a 24/7 connection - a sort of massive permanent "FaceTime" providing residents in Egypt and the US the opportunity to look into each other's worlds, to engage in conversations, or simply, as one Fellow noted, to give each other a virtual "high five".

The twenty Fellows have now returned to their homes – though they remain in contact with their team members as they continue to refine their cooperative projects. Soon their programs will be up-and-running and the next group of Gabr Fellows will be preparing to begin their journey. The Gabr Foundation intends to expand the program with more groups coming each year.

Shafik Gabr, a successful Egyptian businessman, was prompted to launch the Fellows initiative by the unraveling of the US/Egypt relationship following the dramatic events of 2011. Gabr is an Egyptian who is deeply devoted to his country. At the same time, he has long-standing ties to and affection for the United States. The growing distrust between Egyptians and Americans and the unsettling confusion in America's handling of relations in the post-Mubarak era caused him great pain and then moved him to act.

With Egypt's economy in shambles, American and Egyptian attitudes toward each another at all-time lows, and the policy debate on both sides either embittered and/or a muddled mess, Gabr felt the need to make a personal intervention. While some might dismiss his effort as "a drop in the bucket", to those who participate as Fellows and to those who will benefit from the Fellows' projects, Gabr offers a life-changing experience. One can hope that the unique model he presents for private sector direct engagement in "public diplomacy" will become contagious. Should other private foundations and corporations get into the act, Gabr's projections of 40, 60, or 100 Fellows per year could grow to include thousands. Should this occur, we might see a time in the future when US-Egyptian relations are being shaped by individuals on both sides who have had direct experience in their formative years with the other side.

by **James Zogby**, Founder of the Arab American Institute, November 2013

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

STEPHANIE LORD, 2014 FELLOW



2014 Gabr Fellow Stephanie Lord has been recognized by MIT Solve, a marketplace for social impact and social entrepreneurship. Stephanie's Batonga Foundation "Podcasts for Equality" is an initiative to amplify the voices of women and girls in rural communities in West Africa.

Batonga Foundation won the Innovation for Women Prize for women-led, tech-powered solutions that aim to elevate women's voices and support positive and sustainable change for women and girls in communities around the world as well as the Prize for innovative technology-powered solutions that advance education, promote equality of opportunity, and contribute to a sustainable world.

SHEHAB FAROUK, 2014 FELLOW

2014 Gabr Fellow Shehab Farouk will organize and conduct a two-day training program on December 25-26, 2022 with the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration. This is a 2 days training program related to the preparation of the arbitral tribunal secretary, which is the first of its kind training program in the region.

Shehab be co-delivering this program with the renowned arbitration expert, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Wahab.



HARLEY ADSIT, 2022 FELLOW

2022 Gabr Fellow Harely Adsit got featured by her college Alumni (University of Virginia) paper for her efforts in running the team's franked mail program and communicating with constituents about the impacts that legislation will have on them.

Harley's latest project included interviewing patients across the country about their struggles with affordable healthcare which will aid policy reform, where she prioritizes concerns which directly impact local communities.



IBRAHIM HAMMOUDA, 2017 FELLOW

2017 Gabr Fellow Ibrahim Hammouda is extending his international focus. After serving in the office of Congressman Alex Mooney in Washington DC, he visited Greece to attend the 1st Kavala International Summer School.

Last month, Ibrahim was invited to the National Day of the Republic of Turkey on October 31st by Turkish Ambassador Salih Mutlu Sen at the St. Regis Cairo Hotel as a gesture from the Turkish embassy to support Egypt's young emerging leaders. He was also invited to attend the National Romanian Day by the Romanian embassy.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

ERIKA WITT, 2014 FELLOW

2014 Gabr Fellow Erika Witt, Coordinator of Public Services for SUNO Library, was recognized by the Southern University.

The University's 'Above and Beyond' award was bestowed on Erika on November 25, 2022 during the Southern University System Board of Supervisors meeting, to recognize her work with the opening of the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art.



JOHN RYAN, 2016 FELLOW

John Ryan, 2016 Gabr Fellow, married Tara Tighe, Pittsburgh native and Of Counsel at D.C. law firm Schertler, Onorato, Meade and Sears, at St. Matthews Cathedral, with a reception at The Army and Navy Club. Chairman Gabr was present for the wedding ceremony.



NOURHAN MOUSSA, 2014 FELLOW

2014 Gabr Fellow Nourhan Moussa, focused on human rights issues, published two articles: "A Proper Approach to Human Rights" at Al-Ahram Weekly, and "Climate Change Towards a Human Rights Based Approach" at Sada El-Balad.



PASCAL RATHLE, 2022 FELLOW

2022 Gabr Fellow Pascal Rathle recently participated in the American Enterprise Institute's Morality of Markets Seminar Series, as the youngest member. The roundtables were facilitated by globally renowned scholars to spur dialogue in the examination of the moral case for free markets.



LUKE WENZ, 2022 FELLOW

2022 Gabr Fellow Luke Wenz got engaged to his now fiancée, Tori Tramp, just before traveling to New York and Washington, D.C. for the US portion of the 2022 Gabr Fellowship.

Tori and Luke live in Phoenix but she was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, and they met in college at Nebraska Wesleyan University nearly a decade ago. Tori is a Certified Public Accountant and works as senior auditor at Forvis, LLP - one of the top-ten accounting firm in the US.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



YOUSSEF EL TOUKHY, 2014 FELLOW

2014 Gabr Fellow Youssef El Toukhy was invited to a major conference in the semiconductor industry which is taking place for the first time in Egypt, on 19 January 2023.

The event will feature the Minister of ICT, Meta VP, Mckinsey senior partner, and other executives from the semiconductor industries.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

U.S. - EGYPT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JOINT FUND

DEVELOPMENT, SECURITY, AND COOPERATION

Policy and Global Affairs

2022 Gabr Fellow Jeremy Pesner wanted to share the following with the Gabr Fellowship network:

The U.S.-Egypt Science & Technology (S&T) Joint Fund has opened a request for applications for its Collaborative Research Grant and Junior Scientist Development Visit Grant programs. The topic areas are in the fields of food security, green hydrogen, health, and water management.

Collaborative Research Grants foster research collaboration between Egyptian and U.S. scientists, with up to \$200,000 USD available for each country's research team. Researchers from U.S. and Egyptian scientific institutes, universities, and research centers are eligible to apply. U.S. researchers from private sector companies and governmental agencies are also eligible to apply.

Junior Scientist Development Visit Grants provide up to \$25,500 USD for short-term non-academic training visits for Egyptian researchers to go to U.S. institutions. While these grants are intended for Egyptian junior scientists, U.S. scientists may apply to host an Egyptian junior scientist at their institution.

Those who are interested in applying, but do not have a prospective partner in the other country, can complete the program's interested partner self-identification form.

The deadline to apply is January 25, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Egypt time. More information can be found on the NASEM webpage for the U.S.-Egypt S&T Joint Fund:

[CLICK HERE](#)



East-West: The Art of Dialogue

The 2022 Gabr Fellowship

USA, 27 November - 8 December 2022

The US portion of the 2022 Gabr Fellowship took place 27 November - 8 December 2022. The Fellowship began in New York City with a cruise around Manhattan. The Fellows were joined by former Fellows Fabrice Guerrier (2018), Daniel Lansberg-Rodriguez (2013), and Murray Abeles (2015). They took in the views, including that of the Statue of Liberty. This auspicious start foreshadowed a whirlwind time in the city, which included a visit to the United Nations, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and NASDAQ. The evening of November 29th, the Fellows departed the city to complete the rest of their program in Washington, DC.

In DC, they began with a day on Capitol Hill. Members of Congress (Congresswoman Kathleen Rice, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, Congresswoman Debbie Lesko, Congressman Darrel Issa, Congressman Michael McCaul, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler, Congressman Tom Graves, Congressman Bart Gordon) covered topics ranging from women in politics to climate and energy priorities to foreign policy. The day ended with a reception in coordination with the Congressional Friends of Egypt Caucus. The rest of the week included robust discussions with government officials and private sector and non-profit leaders.



2022 Gabr Fellows with Congressman Darrell Issa



2022 Fellows at NASDAQ in New York

East-West: The Art of Dialogue

The 2022 Gabr Fellowship

USA, 27 November - 8 December 2022

Some of the highlights of the US portion of the 2022 Gabr Fellowship included speaking with Matt Wollman, Chairman and CEO of the R10 Organization, on finding their passions, Dr. Christopher Chivvis, Senior Fellow and Director of the American Statecraft Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, on U.S. retreat abroad, and Ambassador John Negroponte, first Director of National Intelligence and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, on geopolitics. The Fellows also went to the Pentagon, U.S. Department of State, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund for meetings. During the weekend, they visited the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, the National Cathedral, Planet Word, and the National Gallery of Art.

By the numbers, the 2022 Gabr Fellows met with 12 Members of Congress, 6 Ambassadors, 3 military Generals, and 67 total speakers throughout the duration of the U.S. portion of the 2022 Gabr Fellowship.

Overall, the Fellows ended the program with a better understanding of the U.S.-Egypt relationship, U.S. politics, and U.S. policy priorities. They forged relationships with leaders and gained new resources that will help them in accomplishing their professional goals. Most importantly, the cohort grew closer, building lifelong friendships.



2022 Gabr Fellows at the National Defense University with the NDU's President, Lt Gen Michel Plehn



2022 Gabr Fellows being hosted by HE Amb and Mrs Motaz Zahran, Egypt's Ambassador to the US

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.) Who do you think will be the US Republican candidate for the 2024 Presidential election?

Donald Trump - 50%
Ron DeSantis - 41%
Glenn Youngkin - 0%
Tom Cotton - 0%
Someone else - 9%

2.) Who do you think will be the US Democratic candidate for the 2024 Presidential election?

Joe Biden - 52%
Kamala Harris - 16%
Cory Booker - 2%
Joe Manchin - 5%
Someone else - 25%

3.) Do you think the US and China are already in a Cold War?

Yes - 50%
No - 43%
I don't know - 7%

4.) Would you say COP27 was a success when it comes to mitigating climate change?

Yes - 20%
No - 41%
I don't know - 39%

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

How Misreading Culture Can Ruin Your Business In The Middle East

By Basma El Baz, 2015 Gabr Fellow

30 November 2022

I religiously visit the Hammam Spa to indulge myself with a Moroccan bath. This glorious traditional treatment cleanses and detoxifies the entire body and soul. If you haven't tried this treatment before, you are missing out on A LOT "also, ew!" During my last visit to a Hammam spa in a luxury 5 stars hotel in Dubai, I witnessed a bizarre exchange. A western tourist was having a heated argument with the staff because another guest used the steam room while fully lathered in a soapy material. The tourist insisted it was "not right." I wanted to ask her, "not right," for whom?

For those unfamiliar with the Moroccan Bath rituals, it starts with having a warm shower, followed by applying a layer of black soap all over the body, then entering the steam room for about 10 mins. Afterward, the black soap is removed with warm water; then, the attendant exfoliates the body with a special hammam glove. The tourist obviously didn't know about the treatment and got upset when she saw the other guest – who was actually sitting on a towel not to soil anything.

The thing is, this person, who is on a visit to an Arab country, didn't even bother to ask questions calmly about the nature of the culture behind the treatment; she rushed into having a fight with the staff.

Then made it into a formal complaint to the management, who politely asked her to leave the facility since she was disturbing other customers. I see similar situations regarding foreign companies doing business in the Middle East. Many companies pass uninformed judgments about the way things are in the region, unaware of the culture, the traditions, or where they come from. They start clashing with policymakers to impose their views because "this is the right way of doing things." Again, I ask: Right for whom? And who said there is only one "right" way of doing things? Consequently, in many cases, those companies end up making many wrong decisions that are obviously not good for the business. Then, they end up blaming the Middle East.

Making numerous field trips to the region and understanding its dynamics and geopolitics would be the ABC for any foreign company to operate properly. However, the key decision makers don't make such trips; worse, they do not factor in the consultation of the Middle Eastern staff they've hired for that exact purpose. For example, one big tech company insisted on tying specific experiences they created for the Middle East audience with targeting metrics that depended solely on language, despite the multiple trials from the team on the ground to explain that this would not work with users in the region. The result was minimal page views on the experiences. Instead of reviewing its user experience and understanding the culture,

the company decided to sunset those experiences which could have been a profit source.

On the other side, there's the example of Ariel in Egypt. This detergent is highly consumed in many villages, and the reason is not its powerful marketing, but rather because the company understood the culture and knew that consumers in villages would not go far to buy products, they give more weight to availability, & of course price, over brand names. So, Ariel made sure it had powerful distribution in villages, ensuring that the product was on the shelves of even the smallest store. Not only that, but a couple of years ago, it created a package worth only 1 EGP (0.041 USD) that could cover only one handwash, which became a massive success in rural areas where sometimes women who also own washing machines, like to use their hands to wash clothes.

Learning to avoid the pitfall of ignoring the culture and traditions of a given country or region while conducting business is crucial for any company because otherwise, the price could be something as simple as embarrassing yourself or your company, like the lady in the Moroccan bath. Still, it could also lead to the loss of millions of dollars and/or unnecessary catastrophic PR fires.

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 Major General Mohamed El Keshky, Egypt's Former Assistant Minister of Defense



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.

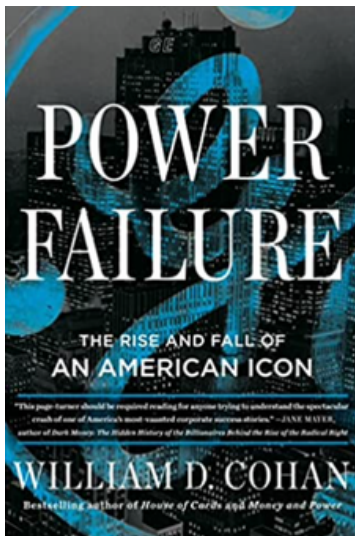
Corporate patron - Corporations can nominate Fellows for participation in the Fellowship Foundation and sponsor their participation on a company-wide level. The company will be listed in all publications, the logo will be presented on the Foundation's homepage and be given visibility at all events in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

<https://www.eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-support/> or

CLICK HERE

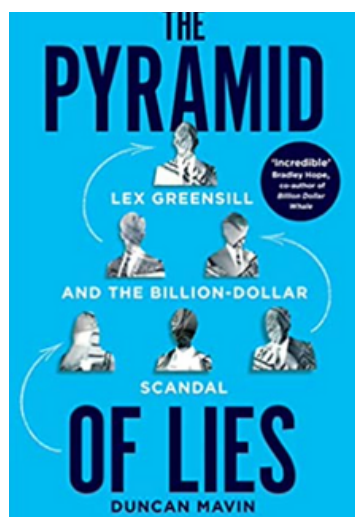


Gabr Foundation Reading Corner

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 *Power Failure: The Rise and Fall of an American Icon* by William Cohan and *The Pyramid of Lies: Lex Greensill and the Billion-Dollar Scandal* by Duncan Mavin.

In *Power Failure*, pre-eminent financial journalist William D. Cohan punctures the myth of General Electric, and argues that the incredible story of GE's rise and fall is not only a paragon, but also a prism through which we can better understand American capitalism. Cohan plumbs the depths of GE's storied management culture, its pioneering doctrine of shareholder value, and its seemingly hidden blind spots, to reveal that GE wasn't immune from the hubris and avoidable mistakes suffered by many other corporations.

Pyramid of Lies charts the meteoric rise and spectacular downfall of a financial technology company called Greensill Capital. As it unravelled, a multibillion-dollar scandal emerged that would shake the very foundations of the British political system, drawing in Swiss bankers, global CEOs, and world leaders.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR DECEMBER FELLOWS!



Nancy Habib
2014 Fellow
December 1st



Alex Goldmark
2013 Fellow
December 9th



Leisel Bogan
2016 Fellow
December 11th



Menna Farouk
2017 Fellow
December 14th



Ahmed El Assal
2014 Fellow
December 15th



Beth Cartier
2013 Fellow
December 16th



Zeyad El Kelani
2014 Fellow
December 17th



Nick Thomas
2015 Fellow
December 22nd



Becca Doten
2013 Fellow
December 23rd



Omar Raafat
2022 Fellow
December 25th

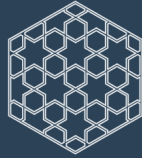


Soaad Hossam
2018 Fellow
December 26th

December

THE GABR FELLOWSHIP

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/>



Karel Ooms, *The Woman of Cairo*
Oil on canvas
The Shafik Gabr Collection

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