

The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation



2022 Gabr Fellows with Mr. Ahmed El Alfi, Founder and Chairman, Sawari Ventures

IRRATIONALITY REIGNS

London is a special city with many positive attributes although its autumn/winter weather is certainly not one of them. Something that I always enjoy in London is its abundance of bookshops: Waterstones, Daunt Books, Hatchards and many more.

As I was at Waterstones, looking for a book on Amazon, I felt someone tap me on the shoulder. It was Pierre, a dear friend from Paris who was enjoying a coffee across from the shop and invited me to join him and his friends. He said they were missing a Middle Eastern perspective.

After paying for Amazon Unbound, I crossed Piccadilly and met Pierre's friends: Jonathan from Chicago, Scott from NY, Wolfgang from Germany, Sergei from Russia, Jamilla from India and Shinsu from Japan. I sat down and ordered a cappuccino. Pierre explained that he and his friends were here meeting Members of Parliament to discuss a wide range of issues related to post-Brexit policies, and when he saw me enter Waterstones, they had wanted to discuss the Middle East.

I thanked Pierre for the invitation and for introducing me to his friends but retorted that before we go 'micro', we should go 'macro.' Pierre asked what I meant, to which I responded that, before we get to post-Brexit and the Middle East, we should first discuss how everyone sees the state of the world.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- About the Fellowship
- Article: Egypt's Barren Fields Are Dire Bellwether for Climate Summit
- Chairman Gabr's book recommendations
- Gabr Fellows news and updates
- How you can support the Fellowship
- November birthdays
- Shafik Gabr Fellowship - 2022 Egypt Program
- Questions of the month

Scott, a global businessman, spoke about the pandemic. Sergei, an academic, discussed the energy crises and Russian-European relations. Jonathan, former senior government member and investor, explained why China is the biggest threat to the world. Wolfgang, a lawyer, discussed German politics, how Mrs Merkel was already missed, and the challenges facing the EU. Jamilla, who was a tech entrepreneur and made a fortune investing in startups, disclosed immense worry about Indian policies. Finally, Shinsu discussed US bases in Japan – a topic no Japanese person would normally broach. He felt alarmed about the Japanese economy and the recent political musical chairs.

As I sipped my cappuccino, Pierre asked for my feedback. I started by pointing out that the points raised by all are all well-taken, but only one is global and it proves what I believe: that the world has been on an irrational path for a while and that the pace of irrationality has been picking up as the ship of leadership has been without leaders.

I asked the group how they would explain the continued fiascos we have witnessed in our lifetimes: Vietnam, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan, Rwanda, Israel, Palestine, Cuba and many more.

“In the old days, you could say irrationality was a characteristic of the Middle East. Today, it is global. It is not only in the realm of politics. The manner in which the pandemic was handled is a farce, the Afghanistan evacuation is a human disaster, the immigration crisis a travesty, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict a mockery and it goes on with no light of rationality at the end of the tunnel,” I said.

“How can US intelligence fail in such a magnitude to assume Iraq had weapons of mass destruction? Or that the Afghan army can withstand the Taliban? How can the EU and the UK fail to negotiate Brexit? Why allow the Palestine people to be occupied for over 60 years? Why allow Russia to invade Ukraine? Why do we sit and observe homelessness, hunger, ignorance and disease to run amok and invest so much energy on space, while here on Earth we are unable to work as human beings to make tomorrow better for our children and grandchildren? In a global world we have no global leadership,” I added.

Scott interrupted: “Come on – no leadership? You can’t be serious.”

I retorted: “Remember, I am talking about global leadership, not leadership of your state, district, constituency or nation. In a world of constant and very fast change, there has to be global leadership that has the vision, courage, and ability to implement policies in the interest of humanity. Otherwise, what awaits is more irrationality and dire consequences. The pandemic, its various and ongoing repercussions are nothing more than “avant le prochain” (before the next) for what awaits us and we are not ready, not unlike a sail boat crossing the Atlantic with no chart.”

The long-standing irrationality that haunted the Middle East since the 1950s has now infected the world, at a time of serious turning points within fog and smoke.

Shafik Gabr

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



MOHAMED ELATTAR

2016 Gabr Fellow Mohamed Elattar received a grant for Mediterranean Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises from the European Neighborhood Instrument Cross Border Cooperation in the Cultural and Creative Industries. Mohamed received 20,000 Euro for the funding his project Egyptomania Bazaar.

The Egyptomania Bazaar is an ecommerce online portal that aims for international exposure of authentic Egyptian products and artifacts including essential oils and various products that represent the Egyptian identity, particularly the Pharaonic Era.



GABR FELLOWS AT TURKEY'S NATIONAL DAY

2015 Gabr Fellow Basma Fahim along with 2022 Gabr Fellows Amr Hesham, Menna El Touny, Aya Aly, Mohamed Hassan and Yomna El-Awamri were invited to the National Day of the Republic of Turkey on October 31st by Turkish Ambassador Salih Mutlu Şen at the St. Regis Cairo Hotel.

This gesture from the Turkish Embassy was to support Egypt's young emerging leaders, and to show appreciation for the *East-West: The Art of Dialogue* initiative.

2022 GABR FELLOWS INVITED TO CAIRO ART EXHIBITION

on 16 October 2022, Dr Farid Fadel, the famous Egyptian painter, addressed the 2022 Gabr Fellows with the topic of "Art Spirit Dialogue."

On 22 October, Dr Fadel invited 2022 Gabr Fellows Menna El Touny, Assem Bolbol, Mohamed Hassan, Wessam Baher, and Amr Hesham to attend the launch of Dr Fadel's Cairo Exhibition, which included 40 new paintings made specifically for the exhibition by 8 of Egypt's elite artists.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



BASMA ELBAZ

2015 Gabr Fellow Basma Elbaz has accepted a new position at Meta as part of the News Partnerships team, which will allow her to collaborate with the most exciting media organizations, public figures, and influencers on high-profile product opportunities in the Middle East, Africa, and Turkey.

Basma currently resides in Dubai, UAE.

MARWA ABDALLA

2018 Gabr Fellow Marwa Abdalla is participating in the second edition of DFMI Business Lab, organized by Durban FilmMart Institute. This is a 12-week business skills development program, aimed at nurturing and empowering film producers from African countries with the necessary skills to effectively engage in the global market.

The program is organised in partnership with DW Akademie and supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



ABDELRAHMAN AMR

2017 Gabr Fellow Abdelrahman Amr has co-published, with Ahmed Al-Rawi and Kelly Grounds, an Investigation of COVID-19 Misinformation in Arabic on Twitter: Content Analysis.

Aimed at scrutinizing the scale of Arabic COVID-19 disinformation, this study empirically examines how Arabic speakers use specific hashtags on Twitter to express anti-vaccine views to uncover trends in their social media usage.



AMR SEDA

2017 Gabr Fellow Amr Seda was part of the British University in Egypt's delegation to COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, where the university participated in multiple sessions, mainly presenting the results of the International COP27 Simulation which the university conducted one month ago.

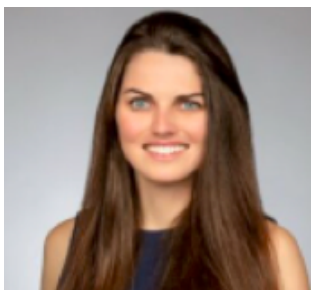
Amr took part in two panel sessions - one was titled "Entrepreneurship for Sustainability" and the other "Journey from the World Youth Forum to COP27."



KATHLEEN HAGAN

After her Egyptian Fellowship experience, 2022 Gabr Fellow Kathleen Hagan made an "Egyptian Lunch & Learn" presentation with her work team in Florida.

Kathleen shared stories, photos, and videos from the trip and catered Egyptian food for her team to try for the first time - the team enjoyed the food as well as stories of Kathleen's experience in Egypt.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

SARAH BADR

2017 Gabr Fellow Sara Badr has been featured in the British Council as a Youth advocate on the UN platform and Spokesperson for the World Youth Forum in Egypt, for joining the panel discussion of "The road to #COP27, marking 150 days to go" at the British embassy in Cairo. In addition to being a guest speaker in two sessions at COP27, The Role of Climate-Induced Mobility on Gender Inequalities in Africa and Creating Climate Change Awareness at the local level for women and vulnerable Populations; ACMI.



NOURHAN MOUSSA

2014 Gabr Fellow Nourhan Moussa was interviewed by the Egyptian TV "Good Morning Egypt" to discuss the Institutional and Legislative Setting for Climate Change Agreements.

Nourhan was also a guest speaker at COP27 on November 15th at a session titled "Youth and Climate Change".



ERIKA WITT

2014 Gabr Fellow Erika Witt, curator of the SUNO Museum demonstrated a session about the history of belly dance and the African experience at the UTICA Institute Museum.

In addition, the Southern University at the New Orleans assistant professor had been entrusted with displaying a treasure trove of more than 200 irreplaceable artworks and artifacts from various African cultures.



OMAR RAAFAT

2022 Gabr Fellow Omar Raafat got invited by the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) as a member of the Egyptian Civil Society delegation. He moderated a session on the 10th of November titled 'Mediterranean Youth and Climate', discussing mediterranean youth and contexts of climate effects.

The session took place at the Civil Society Pavilion Blue Zone, with participants from Anna Lindh Foundation, United Nations, and African Civil Society Activists.



East-West: The Art of Dialogue

The 2022 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt, 8 - 18 October 2022

The Egyptian portion of the 2022 Gabr Fellowship took place 8-18 October 2022. The Gabr Foundation's emerging leaders were given a unique opportunity to connect not only with each other, but also with significant thought leaders and policymakers of diverse sectors. With the tumultuous world events happening in the past years, it is the Foundation's belief that it is crucial for young leaders to understand the importance of cross-cultural exchange to overcome differences, build bridges of understanding, and in that way to shape a better world for all of us.

The Gabr Foundation created an intensive, extensive and comprehensive program that provided a rigorous perspective of Egypt. During the Egypt trip, both Egyptian and American Fellows already started new friendships and are in the process of developing working partnerships among themselves. And by the end of the Egyptian and US portions of the Gabr Fellowship exchange, they will have a profound understanding of the US-Egypt bilateral relations and their regional and global roles. Regardless of their backgrounds, these leaders are learning how to connect, emphasize, and empathize - they are the torch holders for a peaceful and unprejudiced world.



2022 Gabr Fellows with H.E. Sameh Shoukry, Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs



2022 Fellows at The American University in Cairo with President Ahmed Dallal in front of The Malak Gabr Theatre

East-West: The Art of Dialogue

The 2022 Gabr Fellowship

Egypt, 8 - 18 October 2022

Through the Egyptian portion of the 2022 Fellowship, the Fellows engaged with Fellows from the past years who are in the process of shaping their careers and becoming leaders in their fields.

They also met with significant figures, where they had insightful roundtable discussions which provided the Fellows with new perspectives and in-depth knowledge. The Fellows met with a large number of leaders, including H. E. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Hossam Zaki, Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League; along with other honorable politicians, where the Fellows learned about Egypt's role in the world, its foreign relations and policies. The Fellows also had the opportunity of a guided tour of the the New Administrative Capital, a large-scale project of a new capital city in Cairo that will become the new administrative and financial capital of Egypt. The Fellows also had a lively and interesting discussion with the US Charge d'Affaires to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ambassador Daniel Rubinstein, and his counselors. During their visit to The American University in Cairo campus, the Fellows were addressed by President Ahmad Dallal and other reputable professors, getting insights into education trends in Egypt. The Fellows also had a unique experience in the Suez Canal Authority, where they had an exclusive cruise along the expanded Canal.

In addition, the 2022 Gabr Fellows met with remarkable leaders in economics, media, art, politics, entrepreneurship and business. The program concluded with the 2022 Fellows discussing with their counterparts their action projects which aim to enhance the cultural understanding between both parties. The second portion of the 2022 Fellowship will take place in the United States between November 28th and December 8th in New York and Washington, DC., where the 2022 Fellows will engage in in-depth dialogue with major key figures in the U.S.



2022 Gabr Fellows with Eng. Sherif El Sherbini, Head of the New Administrative Capital Development Authority, under the Iconic Tower of the New Administrative Capital



2022 Gabr Fellows with Major General Khaled El-Azazy, Advisor to the Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority for Public Relations, at the Suez Canal Authority

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.) Do you think floating the EGP against the USD was a correct decision with all its consequences?

Yes - 38%

No - 21%

I don't know - 41%

2.) Do you think the US should support the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Yes - 85%

No - 3%

I don't know - 12%

3.) Do you think the US would go to war with China if it attacks Taiwan?

Yes - 19%

No - 69%

I don't know - 12%

4.) Will COP27 in Egypt be a serious positive step towards improving climate?

Yes - 38%

No - 50%

I don't know - 12%

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.

Egypt's Barren Fields Are Dire Bellwether for Climate Summit

By Laura Millan Lombrana, Mirette Magdy and Salma El Wardan

Bloomberg, 2 November 2022

When Shoukry Mohamed Abdel Salam joined a government program teaching farmers how to grow cotton and vegetables in the desert, his dream was to one day expand his small farm into the Sahara. Two decades on, Abdel Salam is using that desert-farming know-how just to keep his crops alive as salt from the rising Mediterranean seeps into wells around his farm and poisons the soil.

The planet is heating up, but Egypt is warming at a faster pace—making it a bellwether for the painful effects of climate change. The Nile Delta, the breadbasket of Egyptian civilization and where Abdel Salam farms, is gradually turning barren. “I’ve been working on this land for more than 50 years now. I saw wars, revolutions—big changes,” he says. “But water is my biggest worry.”

When world leaders descend on Egypt in November for the UN-sponsored COP27 climate talks, they’ll be stepping into a country that’s already living in the searing future. Egypt is almost 2C hotter today than it was at the start of the 20th century.

The 2015 Paris Agreement set a fall-back target of holding worldwide temperatures below a 2C warming threshold by 2100. Since Egypt is heating up almost twice as fast as the rest of the planet, it’s among the first to reach the hotter future the climate talks are trying to help avoid.

Months of record-breaking heat, drought, flood, and fire around the world have raised the stakes ahead of this year’s gathering in the Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh. This summer in Egypt saw long-lasting heat waves that exceeded 40C (104F). Extreme heat is now commonplace in spring and autumn as well, with a heat wave in April bringing thermometers in Cairo, the capital, to 39C. These effects bolster demands for financial support from Egypt and other developing countries, which are responsible for a fraction of historical emissions but are paying brutal environmental, economic, and human costs.

“We must ask ourselves what sorts of lives we are interested in living, because it’s not just about being here and surviving,” says Mohamed Abdrabo, head of the Alexandria Research Center for Adaptation to Climate Change. “It’s about being able to feel and act like a human, to develop and live our lives in the way humanity has done through history.”

Relying on little more than their own ingenuity, Abdel Salam and millions like him have found ways to survive in today’s hotter Egypt. Without help, it’s not clear what they can do to survive tomorrow’s. Facing everything from rising seas to drought, desertification, and deadly heat, the Middle East’s most populous country is a case study in what happens when efforts to adapt to warming fall short.

Twice the size of France, Egypt is almost completely covered in desert. At present, 95% of its people live on just 5.5% of its land, mostly along the banks of the Nile, the country’s lifeline throughout history. As the river’s flow ebbs and the desert expands, Egyptians have nowhere to go. Even if the COP27 talks are successful at encouraging countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions and find ways to finance climate disaster recovery, changes on the ground will take years to take effect.

To read the full article,



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

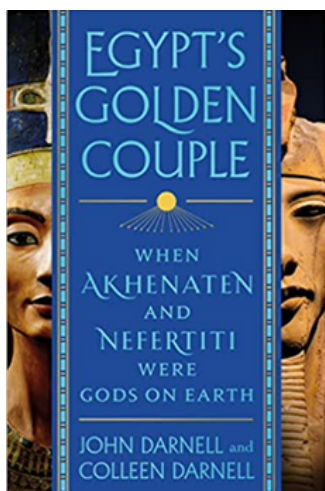
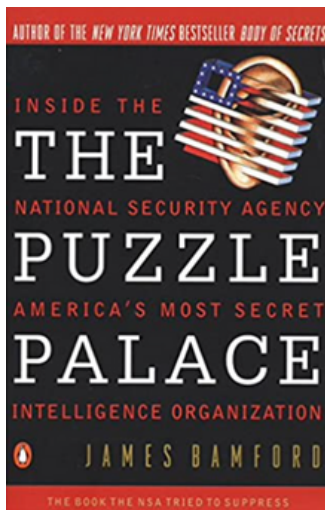


Gabr Foundation Reading Corner

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 *The Puzzle Palace: Inside the National Security Agency, America's Most Secret Intelligence Organization* by James Bamford and *Egypt's Golden Couple: When Akhenaten and Nefertiti Were Gods on Earth* by Colleen Darnell and John Darnell.

In a tour de force of investigative reporting, James Bamford exposes the inner workings of America's largest, most secretive, and arguably most intrusive intelligence agency. *The Puzzle Palace* penetrates the NSA's vast network of power and unmask the people who control it. With detailed information on the NSA's secret role in the Korean Airlines disaster, Iran-Contra, the first Gulf War, and other major world events of the 80s and 90s, this is an account of the use and abuse of technological espionage.

Combining fascinating scholarship, detective suspense, and adventurous thrills, *Egypt's Golden Couple* is a journey through excavations, museums, hieroglyphic texts, and stunning artifacts. From clue to clue, renowned Egyptologists John and Colleen Darnell reconstruct an otherwise untold story of the magnificent reign of Akhenaten and Nefertiti.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR NOVEMBER FELLOWS!



Afnan Khalil
2015 Fellow
November 1st



Heba Safwat
2013 Fellow
November 1st



Amr Ismaeil
2013 Fellow
November 3rd



Elizabeth Trapp
2014 Fellow
November 7th



Amr Seda
2017 Fellow
November 8th



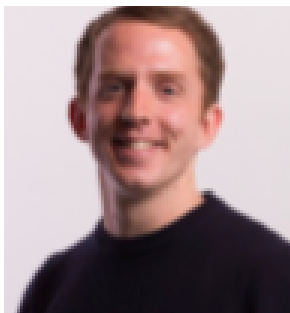
Suzanne Younger
2014 Fellow
November 9th



Samer Kirolos
2022 Fellow
November 9th



Harley Adsit
2022 Fellow
November 12th



Jeff Walls
2013 Fellow
November 13th



Fabrice Guerrier
2018 Fellow
November 14th



Morgan Williams
2013 Fellow
November 14th



Jeremiah Bowden
2014 Fellow
November 15th



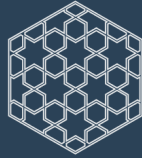
Yara Albraidy
2018 Fellow
November 22nd



Moataz Hussein
2013 Fellow
November 30th

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/>



Giulio Rosati, *The Carpet Seller*
Watercolour on paper
The Shafik Gabr Collection

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