

The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation



2022 Gabr Fellows at NASDAQ in New York

Reflections on the 2022 Gabr Fellowship

Tensions flare. Hot spots permeate. And fragmentation is beguiling. Yet, hope blooms and new compositions are voiced.

Globally, young and old are fatigued by political, business, military and cultural leaders who engage in the bonfire of lies. Posturing, self-interest, and greed is not the dictum to repeat nor is hubris, betrayal or bullying a set of behavioral actions to follow. This prototyped Art of Dialogue is ineffective and outdated when operationalized in this manner.

Rather, today's emerging global leaders seek a regenerative evolution. Collaboration and cooperation must be avant garde and candor coupled with connection ought to be fashionable. Yesterday's misinterpretation begins its decomposition and today and tomorrow's perceptive sprint sparks an ethics first apotheosis.

A globalized and interconnected planet demands humanistic friendship, empathetic rhetoric, and fearless subpoenas of appreciation for difference and similarity. In short, the consensus builder archetype, clairvoyant ambition, and nonviolent measure should be routine. It is this Art of Dialogue blueprint that Gabr fellows are harnessing.

Eleven American and eleven Egyptian Fellows were deliberately assessed and attentively selected by experienced evaluators (former Fellows and Foundation board members), including a one on one interview with the Chairman, Mr. Shafik Gabr. Ideas, knowledge, openness, professionalism, and principles were tested in the written and oral examinations. Such entrance tests sorted a large pool of highly qualified candidates who were afforded the 2022 Gabr pin. And so began a two part journey where the self was studied, community was born, and the world was deconstructed to be reconstructed again.

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New minds convened in Cairo, Egypt from October 9th to 18th, 2022. Egyptian Fellows embodied hospitality, humor, ancient intellect and pride. While Americans underwent an operation of awe, and encountered new truths. Over 40 meetings with political/governmental representatives, academics, financiers, artists, and journalists occurred. While, 20 unique cultural visits from the Suez Canal to the new Administrative Capital accelerated an understanding of a nation, Egypt, in stride. Meals were plentiful, laughter was ripe and songs on the Nile were sung. Panels with executive decision makers from every industry afforded Fellows an opportunity to pose questions, posit individually, debate respectfully, and network rapaciously. As days compounded, Fellows practiced intellectual endurance and physical resilience, attempting to stand tall with the same grace as the Giza pyramids. Bus commutes from meeting to meeting (Arab League to Ministry of Foreign Affairs for example) became grounds for thought, completing unfinished dialogues and unlocking a deeper understanding of our peers. The Egyptian portion of the Gabr fellowship elucidated an Art of Dialogue characterized by strength in compromise, preservation of fact over opinion, and an explicit choice to embody love and compassion over belligerent criticism or misguided assumptions.

Next, the Fellows minds were assembled in New York City from November 27th to 29th, 2022. Once strangers, but now supporters of one another's success—the United States portion of the fellowship cast the apple of the shared world into the epicenter of the Fellow's experience. From the United Nations to the NASDAQ—Fellows were exposed to the fast paced nature of a metropolis described by dreams. Policy roundtables groomed sharp interactions and one to many coffees. Yet, NYC's soft warm-up of CEOs and Lady Liberty led Egyptians and Americans to the political capital of the world, Washington D.C. (November 28th to December 8th, 2022).

American Fellows exteriorized story telling, assertiveness, and hard work. While Egyptians entered a window of unvarnished veracity and a plethora of realizations. Combined between both American cities, 75 meetings with generals, members of Congress, scholars, ambassadors, university presidents, and visits from the State Department to the International Monetary Fund brewed. In these sessions, Fellows interfaced with some of the leading agenda setters in the world and built bonds authentically. In these moments, the twenty-two Fellows learned history, listened to stories not privy to the public, and witnessed statecraft in action. From Times Square to the National Mall, the American portion of the Gabr Fellowship articulated that the Art of Dialogue requires patience, charisma, astute mental agility, powerful focus, relentless dedication and an intersectional comprehension of competing narratives.

The Gabr Fellowship is a one of a kind cultural public diplomacy exchange that animates the human spirit and fosters peace and understanding. The bilateral relationship between Egypt and America is a source of stability and progress for the Middle East and the world writ large. Every piece of programming is intellectually rigorous and socratically designed to teach, expose and launch emerging leaders into the next generation of leadership.

Equipped with a multi prism microscope of the East and West, Gabr Fellows are challenged to return to their field with a first hand grip to problem solve, inspire and author new designs. Ultimately, the Shafik Gabr Fellowship lends Gabr Fellows the opportunity to reinvent themselves, strengthen independent and collective knowledge, fuse together opposing cultures, and rehabilitate a shared world while manifesting the Art of East-West Dialogue.

by **Pascal Rathle**, 2022 Gabr Fellow

FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

FABRICE GUERRIER, 2018 FELLOW

2018 Gabr Fellow Fabrice Guerrier launched a novelette called "Medusa's descendants" a Haitian mythology, as well as GUERRIER Online Store where he sells his acrylic paintings, books, and apparel.

From his base in Los Angeles, California, Fabrice elegantly intertwines Haitian mythology and authentic culture into his designs, stories and paintings. The result is a store that offers a unique cultural experience.

On sale is also Fabrice's painting collection "Portraits of the Loa Vodou Spirit Gods."

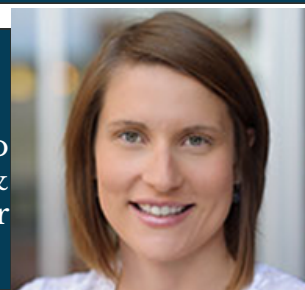
To view the website,

CLICK HERE



SARAH DERDOWSKI, 2014 FELLOW

2014 Gabr Fellow Sarah Derdowski has been promoted to Executive Director at JP Morgan Center for Commodities & Energy Management at the University of Colorado Denver Business School.



NATHAN THOMAS, 2014 FELLOW

2014 Gabr Fellow Nathan Thomas has been selected by Watson Foundation (where he was a former Fellow) to serve as a member of the Selection Committee to award 40 students from across 41 private colleges and university partners across the US.

The awards range from \$40,000 for a Fellow pursuing a 12 months project or \$50,000 for traveling with a spouse or dependent.



IBRAHIM HAMMOUDA, 2017 FELLOW

2017 Gabr Fellow Ibrahim Hammouda has been invited to attend the Romanian National Day at the Marriott Hotel.

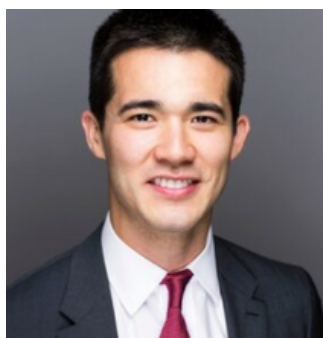
In addition, he was also invited to the Polish embassy to attend a cultural day with the Polish Ambassador and the Polish Cultural Attache.



DAVID GUHL, 2022 FELLOW

2022 Gabr Fellow David Guhl has taken the position of Associate Director at the UNESCO International Jazz Day at the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz.

The Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz is a nonprofit education organization with a mission to offer the world's most promising young musicians college level training by internationally acclaimed jazz masters and to present public school music education programs for young people around the world.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



MORGAN WILLIAMS, 2013 FELLOW

2013 Gabr Fellow Morgan Williams developed a research-based strategy to design and maintain nuclear waste disposal cells across the United States, where these cells have a design of 1,000 years and a replacement value of more than \$ 15 billion.

As a Chief Scientist and Co-founder of Climate Robotics, a carbon removal start-up, Morgan also designs and manufactures agriculture equipment that converts field waste into carbon-negative fertilizers.

WESSAM BAHER, 2022 FELLOW

2022 Gabr Fellow Wessam Baher has been invited by the Ambassador of the Republic of Malta Mr. Roberto Pace and Mrs. Bojana Dimitrovska to attend the Malta National Day.

During the event, Wessam connected with ambassadors who he met during the Gabr Fellowship program in 2022.



THOMAS STEIN, 2017 FELLOW

2017 Gabr Fellow Thomas Stein has been appointed as the CEO of American Trust Administrators, an insurance company with half a century of history.

Thomas and his wife Julie are also expecting their son in late March 2023. We wish them the best of luck!

RJ JOHNSON, 2018 FELLOW

2018 Gabr Fellow RJ Johnson received his Master's Degree in Public Administration with a focus on Public Management from the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

RJ was also accepted and started his studies in the Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Science's Executive PhD Program in Public Policy at Southern University-Baton Rouge.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

JACK GORDON, 2017 FELLOW

2017 Gabr Fellow Jack Gordon invites all Gabr Fellows to a screening of a short documentary he directed on the theme of religious freedom in America.

The George Washington University's John L. Loeb Institute for Religious Freedom presents TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, a short documentary inspired by George Washington's 1792 Letter to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island.



Jack's film explores the origins of religious freedom in America and its relevance today, using a combination of interviews with scholars and practitioners, on-location footage, and primary documents. The film will be followed by a discussion with Maggie Siddiqi, Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in the Department of Education, and Professor Joseph Capizzi from the Catholic University of America.

Date: Tuesday 17 January, 5-6:30 PM

Location: Myers Room, GW Textile Museum, 701 21st Street NW, Washington DC

Contact: loebinstitute@gwu.edu

INTERVIEW WITH....



JEREMY PESNER, 2022 GABR FELLOW

Jeremy Pesner is the Senior Technology Policy Analyst for the Bipartisan Policy Center, where he conducts research and writes informational reports on topics ranging from broadband, artificial intelligence, data privacy and more.

1) What are the 3 most important takeaways of your 2022 Gabr Fellowship?

One, big questions about international relations aren't the exclusive domain of diplomats and politicians - everyone can contribute. Two, it's not difficult to bridge cultural divides and experiences if both parties are truly willing. And three, Egypt is a much larger cultural and economic power player than I'd ever known.

2) Would you visit Egypt again?

Definitely - there is a lot more to see, and many more people to meet and issues to understand.

3) What 3 things can make Egypt-US bilateral relations stronger?

Firstly, modern Egyptian culture that's as well-defined as its ancient one. Secondly, a clearer sense of Egypt's priorities and what it wants to offer the US and the world. And thirdly, a clearer sense of both shared and divergent values and norms of both countries.

4) Did the program in Egypt and the US bring new knowledge to you?

Without a doubt - not only did I learn so much about Egypt and its place in the world, but I learned a lot more about the US's government and culture, and how accessible it can feel with the right kinds of connections.


5) How would you describe the Gabr Fellowship program in three words?

Intense, perspective-enhancing, diverse.

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.) Are you still concerned about C19?



Very much	- 3%
Somewhat	- 39%
Very little	- 33%
Not at all	- 25%


2.) Do you see the Ukraine-Russia war ending before June 1, 2023?

Yes	- 11%
No	- 84%
I don't know	- 5%

3.) The US Congress and President Biden have passed and signed a bill recognizing same-sex marriage. Is this a positive or negative development?

Positive	- 64%
Negative	- 25%
I don't know	- 11%

4.) In a phone call to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi urged Israel's new government to refrain from "any measures" that could inflame regional tensions. Do you think PM Netanyahu's election could have negative consequences for the Middle East?



Yes	- 78%
No	- 5%
I don't know	- 17%

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.

The Problem with Armchair Diplomacy and Social Media

By Harley Adsit, 2022 Gabr Fellow

January 2023

Technology has democratized soft power, turning TikTok users into modern-day diplomats. Now, everyone from the Oval Office to the streets of Cairo can influence public policy and diplomacy.

We're seeing this play out right now in Ukraine, which in many ways is the first truly global war. Early on, when the U.S. was still debating whether and how to send aid to Ukraine, Americans watched from their couches as homes and businesses were flattened and lives were destroyed. They didn't wait for Congress to get its act together; instead, they booked Airbnbs in Ukraine to help financially support small-business owners and get money into the hands of the people who needed it.

Never have the people been able to circumvent the government to provide direct relief to another nation in need. This fundamentally changes the context in which foreign diplomacy is conducted; the average citizen can now shape the U.S. response to international crises from their phone.

The age of armchair diplomacy is here. Young people are particularly well positioned to take on this new responsibility. But absent barriers to entry, how do we ensure that these conversations are effective and informed?

How do we master the art of dialogue?

While powerful, I submit that digital platforms are insufficient for building bridges of cultural understanding. In the same way digital art is different from a painted canvas, online interactions, while valuable, have different traits and qualities that create a different lens through which to view the world.

That lens is often sound bites, video clips, news articles and viral social media posts. It is not a deep, long-form conversation that challenges our global perspective. Whether you blame algorithms, Generation Z, or the nature of technology itself, it is undeniable that parasocial relationships and 280-character posts cannot capture the depth and complexity of political strife and foreign relations.

In diplomacy, physical interaction is still king. Fortunately, young leaders still have a major role to play in the physical landscape.

The Shafik Gabr Foundation's fellowship program, *East-West: The Art of Dialogue*, provides a powerful framework through which to view the role of young people in world affairs. Each year, this program brings together 10 Americans and 10 Egyptians, ages 24 to 35, who spend time in each other's country, engage in rigorous discussion, and participate in robust cultural exchange.

As a 2022 Gabr fellow, I gained invaluable, firsthand experience by living with and learning from the Egyptian fellows in a way that I never could have through articles and videos. It's one thing to read about the Arab Spring.

It's another thing entirely to be sitting in Cairo and hearing someone's story about protesting in Tahrir Square.

We talked with, questioned, and learned from one another. Even on particularly divisive issues, such as free speech and democracy, we listened to each other. We grew to understand the cultural and political frameworks that shaped our respective worldviews.

We had political debates while enjoying a bowl of koshari and came out stronger for it. Then, we came back to our home countries with the knowledge and connections necessary to effect real change. Now, when issues of U.S.-Egyptian relations arise, we don't have to wonder what the Egyptian people think; we can call them and ask.

Not everyone will have the opportunity for international travel, but we all have access to the global political landscape in the palm of our hands. It is up to us to wield this power responsibly by understanding the limitations of online platforms and pushing beyond our own cultural understanding by crossing, building and mending bridges of understanding.

As Thomas Friedman says, the world is flat, and globalization offers a new, decentralized method of interpersonal connection.

Use your armchair diplomacy wisely.

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.

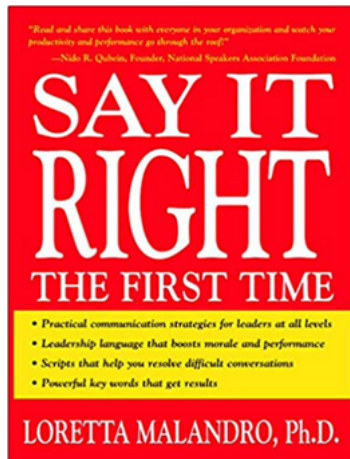
To support the Foundation, visit

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

CLICK HERE



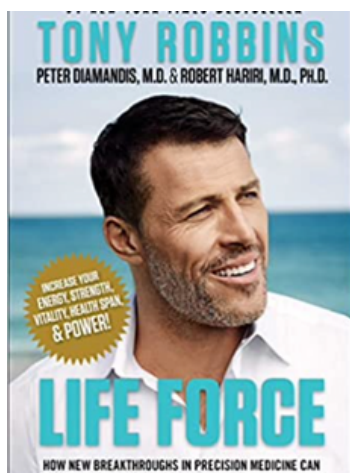
Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



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 *Say It Right the First Time* by Loretta Malandro and *Life Force: How New Breakthroughs in Precision Medicine Can Transform the Quality of Your Life & Those You Love* by Tony Robbins, Peter Diamandis and Robert Hariri.

Written by an internationally recognized expert on business communications, *Say it Right* offers managers insights into the power of language and how to wield it effectively in any organization. Loretta Malandro arms readers with more than 200 power words and phrases designed to help readers become better managers, leaders, and coaches. She also reveals communication secrets such as emotional triggers, victim versus ownership language, escape phrases, as well as language for "softening the edges."

In *Life Force*, Tony Robbins brings you more than 100 of the world's medical minds and the latest research, inspiring comeback stories, and advancements in precision medicine that people can apply today to help extend the length and quality of their life.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JANUARY FELLOWS!



Sherif Soliman
2014 Fellow
January 1st



Shehab Farouk
2014 Fellow
January 1st



Wessam Baher
2022 Fellow
January 9th



Bassma Fahim
2015 Fellow
January 11th



Reem Soliman
2013 Fellow
January 12th



**Daniel Lansberg-
Rodriguez**
2013 Fellow
January 14th



Jack Lincoln
2022 Fellow
January 22nd



**Mohammed
Mubarak**
2013 Fellow
January 26th



Katie Applebaum
2018 Fellow
January 27th

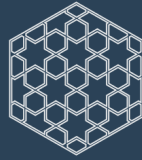


Alexis Taylor
2016 Fellow
January 29th

January

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/>



John Frederick Lewis, *Greeting in the Desert, Egypt*
Oil on panel
The Shafik Gabr Collection

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