



2022 Gabr Fellows visiting the Suez Canal with Major General Khaled El Azazy, Advisor to the Chairman of Suez Canal Public Relations, October 2022

BARBARIANS MEET

It was dark and raining hard. I arrived wearing a heavy overcoat and gloves that I passed to a pleasant receptionist at the Global Security Institute, a 50-year-old think tank located 45 minutes west of London.

Jeremy Walters, the director of the Institute, invited me last minute to attend a roundtable entitled Barbarians Meet. A very model-like tall usher met me with a smile, despite me being 25 minutes late and walked me rapidly through a long hall towards a large octagonal auditorium. I walked in limping due to an earlier triple fracture in my left leg. The room was full and the table in the middle in dark rich oak was busy with only three seats empty. Another usher asked for my name which I gave her in a low voice. Dressed in a black pantsuit and white blouse, she led me to my seat quickly. The only person I knew at the table was Jeremy, although I recognised Professor Nelson McDonald on his right and on his left was Michelle Harmon, the famous war zone journalist.

Jeremy was concluding his remarks, saying: "In summary, the situation is not only grave, it is not only chaotic, it is inflammable with no solution on the horizon. Although", he added, "today is 17 November, one month

and ten days past October 7. Emotions, violence, bombing, killing are on the runaway scale." Jeremy paused then continued: "We want to keep the discussions balanced, practical, and ending with serious and potentially applicable resolutions." After Jeremy concluded his remarks, two more persons entered the room filling all the seats at the main table. A loud murmur arose as they both sat down. The gentleman in a dark suit with a beard and a very grim face and a woman in a grey pinstripe suit. I did not recognise them nor could I read their name plates. They were too far for my failing eyesight.

The next three hours were very difficult. Jeremy had the most laborious and demanding role as the chair and moderator. You could see the stress on his facial features as he tried to keep the discussion on track, reduce tension, interruptions and the audience's reactions to the horrifying images on the screens. There were no scenes of beheaded children as was claimed on many occasions, but many dead grey children being pulled out of the rubble of bombed buildings. Michelle Harmon, the well-known war-zone journalist, described the macabre scenes she witnessed as she had left Gaza two days ago.

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Michelle's description of what she saw had some members of the audience in tears, especially as she showed slides of parents carrying their dead children. Another speaker whom I did not recognise was to the right of Netanyahu in his views. He demanded that all attendees understand that Israel had not only the right but the obligation to defend itself and eradicate by all means all Hamas terrorists. When asked if that meant murdering over 10,000 Palestinians including 4000 children, he nodded but did not answer.

There were many interjections, some serious and worthy of consideration, others emotional and impractical.

“One thing was clear as day: Israeli Defence Forces are performing genocide,” said an American Jewish University professor, and he stressed in his remarks that Netanyahu had to leave and resign now. Another American on the head table lamented that what Israel has done as a reaction to Hamas’s despicable attack on October 7 is exactly what America did after 9/11. America, he explained, attacked Iraq with all its might with the excuse that it was behind 9/11 and had weapons of mass destruction. “Neither was true,” he explained, “and Iraq, from an ally to America fighting Iran, disintegrated until today. Israel”, he continued, “in attacking Gaza due to Hamas’s murderous attack on 7 October, is killing over 10,000 Palestinians, including 4000 children, dislocating over 1 million Palestinians from their homes and destroying all of Gaza’s infrastructure and buildings. This,” he concluded, “is giving birth to Hamas 2 and Hamas 3.”

A very distinguished head of a European think tank in France said that he was ashamed to see the world leaders act in such a manner: “The deaths, carpet bombing, hostage taking, denying civilians water, food and energy plus bombing hospitals and schools based on false unsubstantiated evidence of tunnels is a reflection that the world leaders have gone The mood was grim and Jeremy tried to give all the speakers and commentators a voice.

Regarding the resolutions, it came down to the following:

- Creating a demarcation line protected by UN multinational peace forces, south of Khan Younis (see attached Gaza map).
- The area between the demarcation line and the Egyptian border will be a no-fly zone with no military activity, whilst Hamas would lay down its arms in that zone and allow for UN inspections, and Israel would stop its military operations beyond that point.

- Egypt would have access to provide humanitarian aid, medical supplies and human assistance (a significant number of large trucks from Egypt carrying humanitarian and medical aid remain at the border with Gaza, not being allowed in by Israel).
- Egypt would also receive the wounded; and women and children on a temporary basis.
- Immediate release of all hostages, provided Israel would commit to launching negotiations with the Palestinian authority, mediated by the US, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, with the objective of reaching, in no longer than 6 months, a two-state solution, in which the Palestinian side would be:

- a. governed by Palestinians in its entirety – no outside power
- b. demilitarized
- c. economically supported for the first seven years

As Jeremy came to close the meeting, shouts came from the audience: “Ceasefire now, not temporarily but towards a negotiated peace!”

As I got up to leave, I pondered the title of the event - Barbarians Meet. Quite appropriate, I thought. What Hamas did on 7 of October was barbaric. What Netanyahu and the IDF launched since then was also barbaric and uneven. Israel, the world’s fourth most powerful military with aircraft, bombs, artillery supported by US intelligence, Delta forces and more fighting unarmed Palestinian civilians and a Hamas terrorist organisation that a few weeks ago was still supported by Israel since birth. The roles of David and Goliath have switched since 1948.

Walking towards Jeremy to say goodbye, I was feeling deep dismay about the hope of finding global or regional leadership that can bring wisdom, rationality, peace and prosperity. All I could see today on 17 November 2023 is barbarianism, hypocrisy galore, blind leadership, blood and tears.

M. Shafik Gabr



Sources: OpenStreetMap; United Nations - By The New York Times

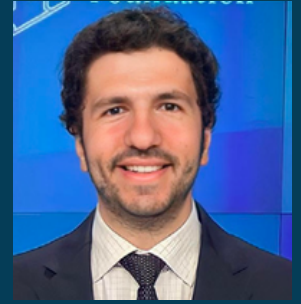
FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

AMR HESHAM, 2022 FELLOW AND FABRICE GUERRIER, 2018 FELLOW

2022 Gabr Fellow Amr Hesham and 2018 Gabr Fellow Fabrice Guerrier are embarking on a collaboration to create a documentary entitled "An Exploration of Egyptian-American Cultural Perspectives."

At present, Amr and Fabrice are crafting a project proposal, with recordings and footage from conversations between themselves, as well as other Fellows and explorations of historical sites in Luxor captured during this year's Gabr Fellows Reunion.

If you share their passion for cultural exploration and have insights or connections regarding potential funding opportunities for this film project, we encourage you to reach out to Amr Hesham at amrhsaa0@gmail.com



ALLISON FEIKES, 2017 FELLOW

2017 Gabr Fellow and 2022 U.S. Program Coordinator Allison Feikes recently founded AZ DC Consulting, LLC.



Launched in September 2023 with her partners, Chuck LeVinus and former Congressman Matt Salmon, AZ DC provides services to influence and navigate government policies and regulations on behalf of its clients. These services include policy analysis, strategic planning, lobbying and advocacy, coalition building, legislative drafting, and political risk assessment. The firm primarily focuses on elevating Arizona-based companies and organizations.

MENNA EL TOUNY, 2022 FELLOW

2022 Gabr Fellow Menna El Touny recently worked as Backstage Manager and Artist Liaison at CANEX at IATF 2023, an initiative that is organised by Afreximbank in collaboration with the African Union and AfCFTA Secretariat. It facilitates the development and growth of the creative and cultural industries in Africa and the diaspora.

The opening was attended by the Prime Minister of Egypt and Ministers of Industry and Culture from all over Africa, as well as leaders in the cultural industry, film, music, and sports.

In addition, Menna organized and ran two voluntary campaigns with the Egyptian Red Crescent and the Food Bank for aiding Gaza.



FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



KELLIE QUINN, 2022 FELLOW

This November, 2022 Gabr Fellow Kellie Quinn collaborated with UN Women to prepare 9 teenage girls to speak at the Parliament with their concerns against child marriage. In Morocco, the family code is under review and therefore their stories and requests were shared in a 90 minute private meeting so that they can be considered in change.

To read more about the initiative,

[CLICK HERE](#)



Kellie will also soon travel to India for a meeting with the Secretary of the Ministry of Culture.

MICHAEL MATTHIESEN, 2017 FELLOW

2017 Gabr Fellow Michael Matthiesen passed the Florida Bar and is now officially a lawyer in Florida and Washington DC.

Michael recently started a new job in Miami as an attorney, where he works at Baker McKenzie's Miami office in the Commercial Litigation department. Even though he has a national focus at the company, mostly working on cases in the U.S., Michael worked with Baker McKenzie lawyers worldwide including Australia, Belgium, the United Kingdom, and Canada.



ERIKA WITT, 2014 FELLOW



2014 Gabr Fellow Erika Witt has been awarded the Frontier Award from the Tusculum University Alumni Association.

The Tusculum University Alumni Association has honored four individuals from the higher education institution for their achievements and support.

During the Alumni Association meeting on Homecoming Saturday, the group presented the Frontier Award to 2012 graduate Erika Witt, and three other honorees from the University.

In his remarks, Alumni Executive Board president Bob Kleinertz noted that the four honorees represent Tusculum with distinction and are inspiring examples to alumni, today's students and the community.

The Frontier Award was created in 1995 and goes to an outstanding alumnus or alumna in recognition of outstanding or meritorious advancement in that person's career. Erika serves as director and chief curator of the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art.

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



INTERVIEW WITH....



SARAH BADR, 2017 GABR FELLOW

2017 Gabr Fellow Sarah Badr is the official Spokesperson of the World Youth Forum, as well as a Facilitator at the United Nations Network on Migration.

With over 8 years of experience in the energy sector and the youth movement, Sarah is a passionate geoscientist and youth activist.

She has recently been officially nominated for the position of UN Assistant Secretary- General for Youth Affairs.

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

- The Gabr Fellowship highlights the importance of cross-cultural dialogue, leadership growth, and collaborative problem-solving between nations. I acquired valuable insights, fostered cultural understanding, and developed skills that allowed me to grow as a person and a global citizen.

2) Would you visit the US again?

- Yes! Absolutely.

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

- Investment in technology and industries; tourism; joint educational programs.

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

- Yes, participating in the Gabr Fellowship in Egypt and the US provided me with a deeper understanding of cross-cultural dynamics and the ability to collaboratively address complex global issues. I learned beyond what the media from both sides export, and came to understand that everything is “negotiable”. I learned to value the power of building bridges and connecting with peers from the US and Egypt, who are change makers in every way. I came to understand how money systems work and what true strong ties between countries mean, when it is governed by investments and mutual economic cooperation.

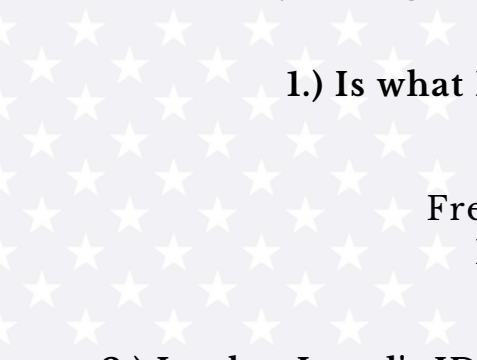
4) How would you describe the Gabr Fellowship program in three words?

- Exciting, Engaging, Impactful.

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.) Is what Hamas did on October 7th:



Terrorism - 52%
Freedom fighting - 36%
I don't know - 12%

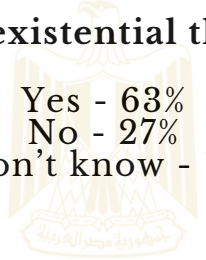
2.) Is what Israel's IDF did after October 7th:ons before the end of 2023:

Self-defence - 21%
Genocide - 75%
I don't know - 4%

3.) Have you personally, or anyone you know, suffered from hacking in the last 12 months?

Yes - 46%
No - 54%

4.) Is China an existential threat to the US?



Yes - 63%
No - 27%
I don't know - 10%

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.

Top UN official in New York resigns and accuses body of supporting Israel

Craig Mokhiber, the director of the United Nations's human rights office in New York, has resigned from his position in protest of Israel's counterattacks in the Gaza Strip, calling it "a text-book case of genocide."

The letter goes as follows:

28 October 2023

Dear High Commissioner,

This will be my last official communication to you as Director of the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

I write at a moment of great anguish for the world, including for many of our colleagues. Once again, we are seeing a genocide unfolding before our eyes, and the Organization that we serve appears powerless to stop it. As someone who has investigated human rights in Palestine since the 1980s, lived in Gaza as a UN human rights advisor in the 1990s, and carried out several human rights missions to the country before and since, this is deeply personal to me.

I also worked in these halls through the genocides against the Tutsis, Bosnian Muslims, the Yazidi, and the Rohingya. In each case, when the dust settled on the horrors that had been perpetrated against defenseless civilian populations, it became painfully clear that we had failed in our duty to meet the imperatives of prevention of mass atrocities, of protection of the vulnerable, and of accountability for perpetrators. And so it has been with successive waves of murder and persecution against the Palestinians throughout the entire life of the UN.

High Commissioner, we are failing again.

As a human rights lawyer with more than three decades of experience in the field, I know well that the concept of genocide has often been subject to political abuse. But the current wholesale slaughter of the Palestinian people, rooted in an ethno-nationalist settler colonial ideology, in continuation of decades of their systematic persecution and purging, based entirely upon their status as Arabs, and coupled with explicit statements of intent by leaders in the Israeli government and military, leaves no room for doubt or debate. In Gaza, civilian homes, schools, churches, mosques, and medical institutions are wantonly attacked as thousands of civilians are massacred. In the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, homes are seized and reassigned based entirely on race, and violent settler pogroms are accompanied by Israeli military units. Across the land, Apartheid rules.

This is a text-book case of genocide. The European, ethno-nationalist, settler colonial project in Palestine has entered its final phase, toward the expedited destruction of the last remnants of indigenous Palestinian life in Palestine. What's more, the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, and much of Europe, are wholly complicit in the horrific assault. Not only are these governments refusing to meet their treaty obligations "to ensure respect" for the Geneva Conventions, but they are in fact actively arming the assault, providing economic and intelligence support, and giving political and diplomatic cover for Israel's atrocities.

In concert with this, western corporate media, increasingly captured and state-adjacent, are in open breach of Article 20 of the ICCPR, continuously dehumanizing Palestinians to facilitate the genocide, and broadcasting propaganda for war and advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility, and violence. US-based social media

companies are suppressing the voices of human rights defenders while amplifying pro-Israel propaganda. Israel lobby online-trolls and GONGOS are harassing and smearing human rights defenders, and western universities and employers are collaborating with them to punish those who dare to speak out against the atrocities. In the wake of this genocide, there must be an accounting for these actors as well. In such circumstances, the demands on our organization for principled and effective action are greater than ever. But we have not met the challenge. The protective enforcement power Security Council has again been blocked by US intransigence, the SG is under assault for the mildest of protestations, and our human rights mechanisms are under sustained slanderous attack by an organized, online impunity network. Decades of distraction by the illusory and largely disingenuous promises of Oslo have diverted the Organization from its core duty to defend international law, international human rights, and the Charter itself. The mantra of the "two-state solution" has become an open joke in the corridors of the UN, both for its utter impossibility in fact, and for its total failure to account for the inalienable human rights of the Palestinian people. The so-called "Quartet" has become nothing more than a fig leaf for inaction and for subservience to a brutal status quo. The (US-scripted) deference to "agreements between the parties themselves" (in place of international law) was always a transparent slight-of-hand, designed to reinforce the power of Israel over the rights of the occupied and dispossessed Palestinians.

To access the letter in full,

[CLICK HERE](#)



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

See the Trove of Ancient Treasures, Including a Shrine to Aphrodite, Just Discovered in an Underwater City Off the Coast of Egypt

by Sarah Cascone
Artnet, 6 October 2023



Archaeologists have uncovered a trove of ancient treasures on the site of the sunken port city of Thonis-Heracleion, about four miles off Egypt's coast, beneath the waters of the Bay of Aboukir in the Mediterranean Sea.

The European Institute for Underwater Archaeology (IEASM), which first discovered the lost city in 2000, conducted its most recent exploration of the site in conjunction with the Department of Underwater Archaeology of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of Egypt.

French marine archaeologist and IEASM president Franck Goddio led the joint mission, which investigated the south canal of the ancient city. At some point in the 2nd century B.C.E., a natural disaster triggered the collapse of huge stone blocks from the temple of Amun, an important site for Pharaonic rituals.

The recent excavations have yielded a wealth of precious objects from the temple treasury, including silver ritual instruments, gold jewelry, and alabaster jars that would have held for perfumes.

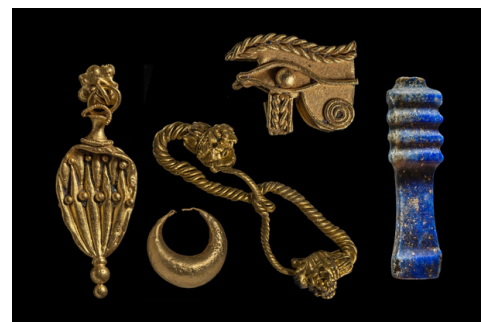
"It is extremely moving to discover such delicate objects, which survived intact despite the violence and magnitude of the cataclysm," Goddio said in a statement.

Thonis-Heracleion was Egypt's biggest port for centuries, before being surpassed by Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C.E. The city was eventually lost thanks to a combination of rising sea levels, earthquakes, and tsunamis, disappearing beneath the waves along with a large section of the Nile delta. It was largely forgotten for centuries, until 21st-century archaeologists began investigating.

The most recent mission has uncovered well-preserved underground structures beneath the temple, made from wooden posts and beams from the 5th century B.C.E. To detect subterranean chambers and objects buried beneath yards of clay, the team used new geophysical prospecting technologies.

During the mission, archaeologists discovered a new sanctuary to Aphrodite, suggesting a strong presence of Greek settlers and traders in Thonis-Heracleion. Several finds of ancient Greek weapons provide further evidence of Grecian influence in the port city during the time of the Saïte dynasty (around 664 to 525 B.C.E.)

Other recent archaeological discoveries in Egypt include a 3,200-year-old underground tomb complex and two mummification workshops in the ancient Saqqara necropolis.



To read the full article and see more photos of the most recent Thonis-Heracleion excavations and their finds,



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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.



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

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.

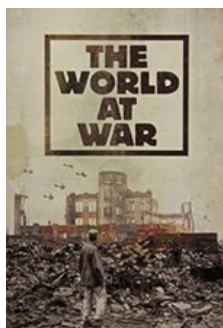
Together, they are creating the legacy of 'The Gabr Fellowship': an international cohort dedicated to pursuing cooperative, collective solutions to their regions' most pressing issues.



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



Gabr Fellows take on the Pyramids



Gabr Foundation Movie and Documentary Corner

This November, Mr Gabr recommends two documentaries: *Born in Gaza* and *The World at War*.

Born in Gaza is a Spanish documentary film directed by Hernán Zin and released in 2014, which focuses on the violence of the Israel-Palestine conflict and its effects on the children of Gaza. The documentary follows the story of ten children who describe what their daily life is like after the horror of the war in Gaza in the summer of 2014.

The World at War is a 26-episode British documentary television series that chronicles the events of the Second World War. It was produced in 1973 by Jeremy Isaacs, and narrated by Laurence Olivier. When it was released, *The World at War* attracted widespread acclaim, and now it is regarded as a landmark in British television history.

Gabr Foundation Book Corner

The Foundation Book Corner encourages Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended to them in each issue. For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends:

The News: A User's Manual, in which Alain de Botton takes twenty-five archetypal news stories - from an air crash to a murder, a celebrity interview to a political scandal - and submits them to an intense analysis, raising questions like: How come disaster stories are often so uplifting? What makes the love lives of celebrities so interesting? Why do we enjoy politicians being brought down?

Seeing the World, the second anthology by Fu Ying, a Chinese politician and diplomat. The anthology is divided into nine chapters on world order, global changes and China's role, China-US relations, China-Russia relations and Asian issues. Given the profound changes in the current international situation, this book will give readers more insights about how people in China see the world.

The Return of Great Power Rivalry by Matthew Kroenig provides both an innovative way of thinking about power in international politics and an optimistic assessment of the future of American global leadership. Drawing on a range of historical evidence combined with social science research, Kroenig advances the argument that democracies tend to excel in great power rivalries.

In *What We Owe Each Other*, Minouche Shafik takes readers through stages of life and shows how a reordering of our societies is possible. Drawing on evidence and examples from around the world, she shows how every country can provide citizens with the basics to have a decent life and be able to contribute to society.



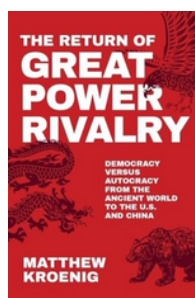
The News
A User's Manual
Alain de Botton

"A thought-provoking look at the impact of news on culture and individuals."
—Booklist



SEEING THE WORLD
看世界

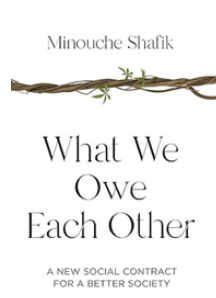
Fu Ying
傅莹



THE RETURN OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY

DEMOCRACY VERSUS AUTOCRACY FROM THE ANCIENT WORLD TO THE U.S. AND CHINA

MATTHEW KROENIG



Minouche Shafik

What We Owe Each Other

A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR A BETTER SOCIETY

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



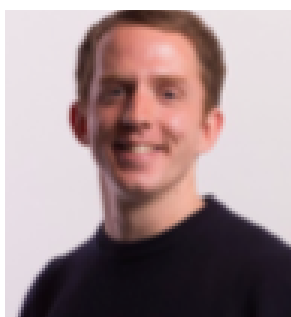
Suzanne Younger
2014 Fellow
November 9th



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



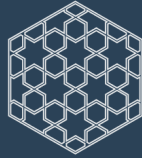
Yara Albraidy
2018 Fellow
November 22nd



Moataz Hussein
2013 Fellow
November 30th

THE GABR FELLOWSHIP

Monthly Newsletter



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

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/>



Carl Haaag, *The Artist's Studio in Cairo*
Graphite, watercolour and bodycolour
The Shafik Gabr Collection

Connect with us



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