



THE GABR FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER



Chairman Mr. M. Shafik Gabr, Mrs. Gehan Gabr, Special Guests: Mr. Moon Sulfab, Mr. Barret Travis, Mrs. Deidre Travis, Ms. Anna Wheeler, Ms. Savannah Lane, Ms. Mayachel Schaller, Mr. Mohamed Ramzi, Gabr Fellows: Mr. Alen Amini, Mr. Alphaeus Hanson, Mr. Charles S. Truxal, Ms. Clara Sherwood, Ms. Crawford Horan, Mr. Dan Sullivan, Mr. George Bogden, Mr. Hunter King, Mr. Jeremy Pesner, Mr. John Ryan, Ms. Jude Husein, Ms. Marielle Becker, Mr. Mohamed Ismail, Mr. Murray Abeles, Mr. Robert Gouldin, Gabr Foundation Staff: Ms. Sara Winkler, Mr. Tarek El-Tobgui.

At the Gabr Fellowship Dinner, May 8 2025 | Washington DC, USA

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HUMANITY AND HONESTY: WHERE ART THOU?

M. SHAFIK GABR

May 2025

Lord Francis resides in a beautiful estate about an hour outside central London.

Annually he will invite me to a very special dinner where he gathers guests from literally around the world. Last year his dining table hosted 36 guests and although I did not count this time, it must have been a similar number, if not more.

It is a black-tie event and although I am not a fan of black-tie events, I complied each year and I arrived at 6:30pm on the dot as per the invitation.

After a 45 minute reception where I mixed with many of the guests after being welcomed by Lord Francis who inquired about my family and Egypt, we were led to the dining hall which amazes me every time by its size and the very high ceiling, the intricately detailed walls with his ancestor's portraits and a dozen Rembrandts, Caravaggios and Gérômes plus a huge Deutsch depicting the Egyptian "mahmal" going to Saudi Arabia.

Lord Francis had been to Saudi, Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait on multiple occasions and also had a home in Morocco where he would visit frequently with his extended family.

My seat at the dinner was between Jeff Randall, an American asset management firm owner and Elizabeth Sanderson, an Australian Senator. Facing me was Osman Sakur, a Turkish industrialist.

The dinner was beautifully choreographed, served by at least 40 servers with at least two orchestra conductor-type leaders impressively managing the servers incoming and outgoing. The menu had many options and I chose salmon for starters, followed by a grilled Dover sole and steamed vegetables, finishing with a mouth-watering chocolate fondue.

The conversation during dinner was light, entertaining and at the end of dinner, Lord Francis gave an amazing recognition of all his guests in a light but insightful manner. The group included Rose, a Belgian author and academic; Ramadan, an advisor to the Emir of Qatar; Ezra, an Israeli media CEO; Alex, a Russian energy billionaire; Soliman, a Saudi investor; David, an American journalist; Penny, a Singaporean hotel owner; Yulia, a Ukrainian model and agency owner in Paris; Giuseppe, an Italian politician; Andreas, an Argentinian IT entrepreneur; Yuanyun, a Chinese EV company owner; Patrice, a South African mine owner; Rahul, an Indian data center owner; Reza, a former Azerbaijani Minister of Investment;

Laila, a Moroccan parliament member; Josef, a German industrial defense owner; Sandro, a Brazilian crypto leader and former hacker; Gloria, a Kenyan real estate owner; Ralph, a Canadian aircraft charter owner; Cindy, a Swiss heiress; and Pierre, a French senator..

I lost track of the guests after Pierre was introduced. Lord Francis thanked us for attending and as the huge clock in the hallway noisily indicated its 9 pm with nine string gongs, we were invited for coffee, tea, cigars and sage conversation.

We walked across the massive hallway to another large hall with an ordained ceiling and heavy wood paneling on the walls, with two imposing marble fireplaces facing each other across the room.

Servers appeared with coffee, tea, liqueurs, cognac and cigars. I took a green tea and sat in a large semi-circle of plush sofas and large seats ordained with Lord Francis' crests.

As most in the room were regulars, we knew what was to follow. A candid discussion of the state of the world and what we expect to occur in the immediate future.

Chatham House rules, careful language, no speeches and precise moderation by Lord Francis were the carefully crafted mannerisms of the after-dinner discussion. Lord Francis turned to Rose and asked her if she could name how many conflicts exist in the world today.

Rose's answer, precise to the point, was that as of May 2025, numerous armed conflicts were ongoing worldwide, affecting millions and contributing to widespread humanitarian crises. The Geneva Academy's Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts (RULAC) project monitors over 110 active armed conflicts involving at least 55 states and more than 70 non-state armed groups.

I was taken aback as many in the room were more or less shocked by the figure of 110. Gloria erupted "Oh my God!" and David was shaking his head and commented that the world population did not have such a figure in their perception.

Osman, holding an unlit cigar, commented that, "The worst conflicts were in Sudan, Palestine-Israel and Ukraine-Russia."

Yuanyun added "Don't forget Myanmar, Ethiopia and Somalia."

Reza said, "Political violence increased by 25% globally in 2024 compared to 2023, with one in eight people exposed to conflict and over 250,000 people killed."

Lord Francis turned to Jeff and asked, "What is the financial cost of these conflicts?"

Jeff demurred and admitted he could not provide an answer but that it was in the trillions. Laila stood up and exclaimed, "It's not only the killing, it's the maiming, the injured, the starvation and destruction that the world does not see..." She took two steps towards a table to place her coffee cup and continued, "I went to Gaza to receive the body of a Moroccan journalist killed by a shot to the head and could not believe the hell I saw."

Before Lord Francis could take back the mantle of the discussion, Giuseppe reflected in a quiet but audible voice, "We have lost our humanity and our moral compass has become mired in a blind fog."

Lord Francis noted Laila's emotional state and said, "We all have seen different challenging circumstances, but Laila has seen humanity at its worst."

Laila said, "I pray you never see children's body parts in the rubble rotting outside a morgue."

I could sense that the conversation was touching a chord amongst most of the group. Josef interjected that the world was a better place during the Cold War. All players knew the rules and played by them. Now it was a free for all and killing, bombing, massacring, injuring and destroying is an everyday sport. "It must stop." he finished.

As I heard the discussion continue, detailing how in Ethiopia tribes are slaughtering each other, Sudan's civil war was fueled by outside players and hearing of Yemen's famine and huge displacement, my mind went to the better days where human beings cooperated to make the world a better place. I remembered how I saw strangers help one another during the 1967 war, how I, standing in pouring rain in Austria, experienced a female driver stopping to drive me to a youth hostel in Vienna. There were no homeless people that I saw in the 70s in the major cities, as I see them everywhere now.

My mind returned to the discussion as Sandro was saying, "The world is experiencing an unprecedented number of conflicts, which appear increasingly intractable... violence from conflicts has risen dramatically by over 37 percent from 2023 to the end of 2024. If you want peace," he added, "go to Iceland but remember President Trump's words!"

Lord Francis turned to David and asked "how is the US?" Before David could respond, Yulia responded clearly, "Unstable. President Trump's manner of ruling, opting for rule of the jungle rather than rule of law has created instability internally and globally." she explained in perfect English, with no accent.

David conceded that even though he is a Republican the Trump - Musk duo has created an atmosphere of uncertainty, stress, worry and tension. "It's amazing," he mentioned, "that Trump's shock and awe policies framed in America's Supreme Court's decision to grant President's total immunity for official acts, is the new

norm in Washington DC.”

Cindy, who was usually a very quiet observer, said to Lord Francis in her Swiss-German accent, “As the world is losing its humanity let’s not forget in parallel, we are losing our honesty. Fraud,” Cindy gestured, “has increased in an unprecedented manner globally, driven by technology and evolving tactics used by fraudsters.” Ralph agreed the increase was evident in both the volume of fraud attempts and the financial losses incurred by individuals and businesses.

David interjected as he shuffled in his seat stating that Americans in 2024 were defrauded to the tune of a billion dollars in an abundance of illegitimate schemes.

My mind wandered again. I remembered in the 70’s and 80’s when I concluded successful business transactions based on a handshake, whereas today with a battery of lawyers and auditors you were faced with shocking dishonesty and fraud on multiple levels, regardless of written contracts.

The clock in the hallway announced that it was 11pm. Lord Francis stood and we all followed. The next 15 minutes were warm goodbyes and exchange of last minute comments. I found Lord Francis, expressed my sincere appreciation and found my driver hovering at the entrance.

As I was driven home, I was worried that the coming generations will face the complications of increased conflicts, a lack of wise leadership, more dishonesty, enhanced technology, a greater dark web, more complicated crypto tools and AI tools defining a new world with less humanity, and an enhanced difficulty in defining fact and fiction.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



M. Shafik Gabr is a renowned leader in international business, innovation, and investment; and is one of the world's premier collectors of Orientalist art, and an accomplished philanthropist. During his career, Gabr established over 25 companies, plus three investment holding companies, including ARTOC Group for Investment and Development, which is a multidisciplinary investment holding company with businesses in infrastructure, automotive, engineering, construction, and real estate. Over the past three years, he has focused on investment in technology and artificial intelligence. Gabr is the Chairman and founding member of Egypt's International Economic Forum (EIEF), a Board Member of Stanhope Capital, International Chairman of the Sadat Congressional Gold Medal Committee, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Center for Financial Stability. Gabr is also on the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum, on the Advisory Board of The Middle East Institute, and on the Global Advisory Council of the Mayo Clinic. He is a former Member of the Metropolitan Museum's

International Council and former member of the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum. In his capacity as Chairman of EIEF, Gabr has hosted global leaders from the worlds of politics, economics, business, media, technology, and culture. These include President Vaclav Klaus; Secretaries James Mattis, John Kelly, and Rex Tillerson; H.E. Amr Moussa; members of Congress; business leaders in technology; academics; and media figures from CNN, Fox, and CNBC. Gabr has also hosted six CNBC programs on 'World Business' and 'Peer to Peer.' Moreover, as Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Gabr regularly hosts his interactive 'Expecting the Unexpected' working dinners in Cairo, Davos, London, Munich, and Washington, DC. The dinners are off the record and engage leaders across the board in timely predictions of geopolitical and geoeconomics issues. The most recent dinners were held in Davos on January 16th, 2025 during the World Economic Forum, and on February 16th, 2025 at the Munich Security Conference. The guests included former Presidents, Ministers, Ambassadors, U.S. Congress members, international organization chairs, heads of think tanks, business leaders, and distinguished scholars from Europe, the Middle East, the United States, and Asia. Gabr was previously the Chairman of the COMESA (Common Market for East and South Africa) Business Council and a member of the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce (Paris). He also served on the advisory boards of

Zurich Financial Services and The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Furthermore, Gabr was a founder of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt in 1982, serving as its first Egyptian President from 1995 until 1997, and was a Founding Member of the Wilson Global Advisory Council.

Gabr has been recognized among the “Most Influential Arabs” and “Top 50 in NY.” In 2009, Mr. Gabr was presented with the Foreign Policy Association’s (FPA) award for Corporate Responsibility. In June 2014, Mr. Gabr was awarded the Meridian Global Citizen Award in Washington D.C., and in November 2014, the Middle East Institute’s Visionary Award. In March 2015, Gabr received the American University in Cairo’s Global Impact Award in New York. In May 2016, Gabr was awarded the College of Mount Saint Vincent’s Saint Vincent de Paul Award and Drew University’s Peacebuilder Award. In September 2017, Gabr received the Policy Direction and Leadership Award from the London Center for Policy Research. Most recently, in November 2024, Gabr was awarded the highest honor conferred upon foreign nationals by the President of Italy: the ‘Grande Ufficiale’ (Grand Officer) of the ‘Ordine della Stella d’Italia’ (Order of the Star of Italy) for his extraordinary achievements and merit.

Since 2016, Gabr has focused his attention on innovation and investment in technology, as well as his Foundations. Gabr has invested in a wide spectrum of technology companies, ranging from startups to fully mature companies, and in many sectors in between. Gabr’s focus is multidimensional in a world of technology, which is reflected in his personal approach to the sector through its multifaceted applications, including AI, machine learning, data mining, mobility, and business.

M. Shafik Gabr’s contributions and insights have been the subject of numerous articles, including some published in Egypt Independent. Additionally, his perspectives on international business, investment trends, and cultural diplomacy have been featured in interviews with global media outlets such as Bloomberg, CNBC, BBC, Al-Horra and many more. Through these platforms, Mr. Gabr has highlighted his extensive work on cross-cultural dialogue and offered perspective on world markets and geopolitics.

Through the Shafik Gabr Social Development Foundation, Gabr is helping to improve elementary-school education in Egypt, introducing students to arts and culture, and promoting sports and physical fitness for youth. In the area of higher education, Gabr is a major supporter of the American University in Cairo. The Foundation also developed a free medical-care system by providing “Medical Caravans” for residents of underprivileged areas of Greater Cairo. The Foundation established its first Medical and Social Development Center in Mokattam, Cairo, offering free medical and health services. In 2012, Gabr established the Shafik Gabr Foundation in the U.S., which supports educational and medical initiatives and, in November 2012, launched the ‘East-West: The Art of Dialogue’ initiative (see www.eastwestdialogue.org), promoting exchanges between young emerging leaders from the U.S. and Egypt with the purpose of cultural dialogue and bridge-building. At present, the Foundation’s Fellowship program has 141 Fellows.

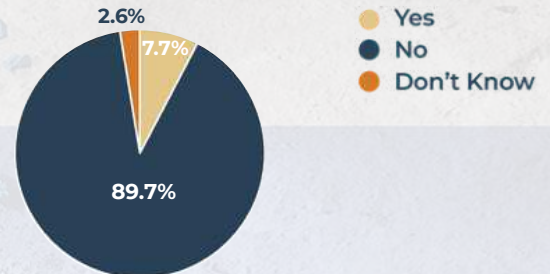
Mr. Gabr is recognized as one of the world’s largest collectors of Orientalist art, amassing a unique and extensive collection that captures the beauty, culture, and history of the Middle East and North Africa. His collection showcases masterpieces from the 19th and early 20th centuries, reflecting the works of prominent Orientalist painters who were captivated by the region’s vibrant landscapes, traditions, and people. Through his dedication and passion for preserving and sharing these historical artworks, Mr. Gabr has significantly contributed to fostering cultural appreciation and understanding of the Orientalist movement on a global scale.

Gabr holds a BA in Economics and Management from the American University in Cairo and an MA in Economics from the University of London.

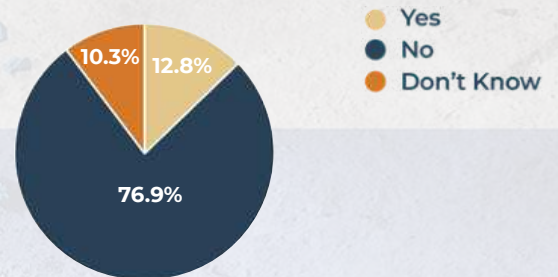
MONTHLY WORLD PREDICTIONS

In an era defined by uncertainty, geopolitical tension, and rapid technological transformation, the Gabr Fellowship community offers a unique lens into the perspectives of emerging leaders across sectors and continents. To capture the outlook of Fellows during this pivotal moment, the May 2025 poll reflects their views on a range of timely global issues. Conducted amidst ongoing challenges in governance, economic stability, and international relations, the poll serves as a snapshot of how this diverse network is thinking about the forces shaping our collective future.

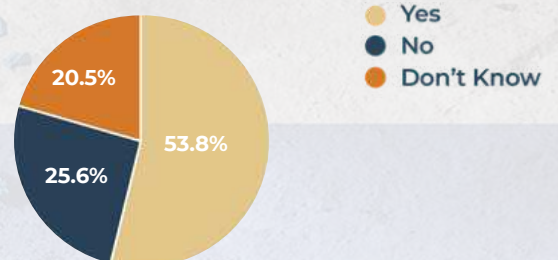
Will President Trump's current tariff policy contribute to "Making America Great Again"?



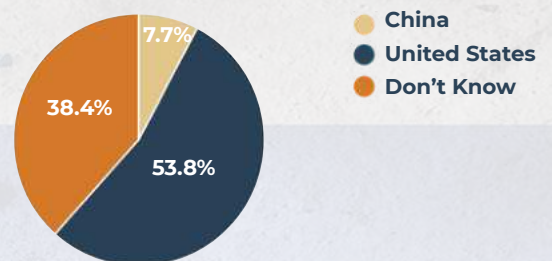
Will a peace agreement be signed between Ukraine and Russia by August 1st, 2025?



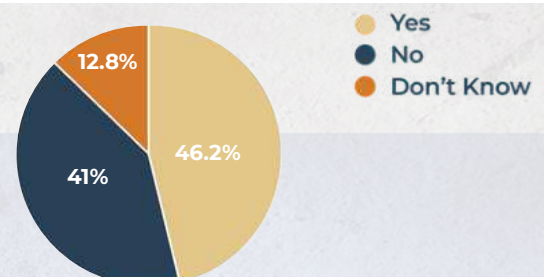
Will President Abdel Fattah El-Sissi and President Donald Trump meet in 2025?



Between China and the United States, which country will suffer more economically between June and October 2025 due to tariff policies?



Will advancements in artificial intelligence by the end of 2025 significantly reshape global power dynamics among the U.S., China and the EU?





FELLOWS UPDATES



Clara Sherwood, 2025 Fellow

Clara Sherwood, 2025 Fellow, graduated on May 16th 2025 from The George Washington University with a Master of Arts in International Affairs, with a concentration in Middle East Studies. This accomplishment marks a significant milestone in her academic and professional path, reflecting her commitment to the field and dedication to her studies. Her graduation sets the stage for the next phase of her career in international affairs.

Pascal Rathle, 2022 Fellow

Pascal Rathle, 2022 Fellow, was selected and sponsored as an Aspen Ideas Fellow for the 2025 Aspen Ideas Festival. This prestigious recognition reflects his ongoing leadership and commitment to engaging with some of the most pressing challenges of our time. His participation in the Festival will provide a unique platform to contribute to high-level discussions alongside global thought leaders, innovators, and changemakers.



Amr Hesham, 2022 Fellow

Amr Hesham, 2022 Fellow, was recently promoted to Senior Site Service Engineer at the Central Bank of Egypt, where he leads a team overseeing twelve high-speed banknote processing machines. He has developed maintenance procedures and a spare parts inventory system to enhance operational efficiency. Passionate about working with such a vital product, Amr is also pursuing an MBA at Heriot-Watt University to complement his technical expertise with strategic leadership skills.



FELLOWS UPDATES



Judson Moore, 2015 Fellow

Judson Moore, 2015 Fellow, has co-founded TrustPath, a cybersecurity company focused on online fraud prevention. The platform offers a developer-friendly API to help businesses detect and block threats like account takeovers, fake signups, and chargeback abuse.

TrustPath recently launched on the Shopify App Store, expanding its reach to over 4 million online stores. Judson welcomes feedback, connections, and referrals to businesses that may benefit from enhanced fraud protection. Learn more at trustpath.io.

Muhammed Nagi, 2025 Fellow

Muhammad Nagi, 2015 Fellow, has made major strides in expanding his business in Egypt. He signed a protocol with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to transform youth centers into coworking and entrepreneurial hubs—highlighting the private sector's role in national development. He also secured a new MQR location in the prestigious Nile City Towers.

As CEO of WRK+, the region's largest workspace operator, Nagi now manages over 60,000 sqm across The Greek Campus and MQR, which he founded in 2012.



Kellie Quinn, 2022 Fellow

Kellie Quinn, 2022 Fellow, recently became actively involved in cultural and international initiatives, currently serving on the Arts, Culture, and Design Committee for the Port of San Diego, where she contributes to shaping the region's creative and public spaces. She was also selected as a member of the inaugural fellows cohort of the U.S.-Ireland Alliance Fellows Program, recognizing her leadership and commitment to cross-cultural exchange.



FELLOWS UPDATES



Nayra Gadallah, 2016 Fellow

Nayra Gadallah, 2016 Fellow, took part in the first Arab Conference for Judiciary, held in late April under the theme “The Impact of AI on the Judiciary.” The event brought together legal experts and policymakers from across the region to discuss the evolving role of technology in justice systems.

Nayra is also pleased to share that she has been appointed to the Legislative Committee at the National Council for Women, where she will contribute to shaping legal reforms and advancing women’s rights in Egypt.



Jeremy Pesner, 2022 Fellow

Jeremy Pesner, 2022 Fellow, will travel to Israel next month, where he plans to engage with the ongoing conflict. He also hopes to visit Cairo to reconnect with the Egyptian Fellows.

Additionally, Jeremy recently joined DMS as a Foresight Scholar, leading business development for their foresight education and consulting division. He welcomes collaboration with Gabr Fellows interested in strategic decision-making.



FELLOWS UPDATES



Sherif Soliman, 2017 Fellow

Sherif recently relocated from Germany to the United Arab Emirates, marking an exciting new chapter in his career. After serving as a Procurement Manager at Capri Sun GmbH, he has now joined Ernst & Young (EY) in Dubai as Manager – Procurement and Supply Chain Operations.



Michael Matthiesen, 2017 Fellow

Michael Matthiesen, 2017 Fellow is currently serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge David Nuffer, U.S. District Court for the District of Utah. Judge Nuffer, appointed by President Barack Obama, previously held the position of Chief Judge of the District. This distinguished clerkship represents a significant milestone in his legal career. He is currently based in Southern Utah, approximately 90 minutes from Las Vegas, and remains deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the federal judiciary.

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP



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

Launched in 2012, the Gabr Fellowship program helps connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders aged 24 and 35. Each year, the Fellowship consists of 20-24 Fellows, half of whom 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.

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 intercultural 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.



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

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 region's most pressing issues.



Gabr Fellows at the Pyramids



FELLOWS' EXPERIENCES

Bassma Fahim, 2015 Gabr Fellow, Joins Launch of *Empowerise Initiative* in Support of Animal Rights, Cairo, Egypt

On Friday, April 18th, Bassma Fahim had the honor of attending the launch of the *#Empowerise Initiative*—a heartfelt movement dedicated to giving a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves, with a particular focus on animal rights.

The event took place at Faten El Assra Animal Shelter, home to over 200 rescued dogs, all receiving the care and compassion they deserve. The occasion was further elevated by the presence and support of Their Royal Highnesses Prince His Excellency Mohamed Ali Farouk and Her Excellency Princess Noal Zaher Farouk, whose attendance added immense value to the cause.

Bassma shared the day with celebrated figures such as Hussein Fahmy and Mervat Amin, alongside a community of passionate advocates. During the event, she met TV presenter Sherine Hamdy, and they engaged in a meaningful conversation about the Foundation's mission, its support for the younger generation, and the potential for future collaboration. Sherine shared her admiration for Mr. Gabr and expressed enthusiasm about contributing to the Foundation's initiatives.

Bassma also reflected on the past economic forums and roundtable discussions organized by the Foundation, highlighting their value and impact. She voiced her hope for their revival and suggested that Sherine Hamdy would be a remarkable moderator should such gatherings return.

The *Empowerise Initiative*, dedicated to advancing animal welfare in Cairo and across Egypt, works closely with organizations such as Egypt Equine Aid and S.P.A.R.E. (Society for the Protection of Animal Rights in Egypt). These groups provide essential veterinary care, promote public education, and advocate for stronger animal protection laws. Their efforts focus on addressing critical issues, including the exploitation of horses and camels at tourist sites and the mistreatment of stray animals—working toward a more humane and compassionate future for animals in Egypt.



Bassma Fahim, 2015 Fellow,
Ms. Nourhan El Abbassy, Assistant
Secretary General of the Youth
Secretariat



Bassma Fahim, 2015 Fellow,
TV Presenter Mrs. Sherine Hamdy.



Celebrating Unity and Shared Values: Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow at *Europe Day 2025*



Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow, Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst.

Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow, shared her reflections on a recent experience that left a lasting impression—her participation in the 75th anniversary celebration of Europe Day, held at the EU Residence in Cairo. The event brought together diplomats, civil society leaders, and cultural figures to mark a milestone in the history of peace, unity, and shared progress across the European Union and its partners.

“Attending this celebration was a deeply meaningful experience,” Mariam said. “It reminded me of the power of collaboration across borders and the importance of building bridges between communities. Surrounded by inspiring individuals from Egypt and across Europe, I witnessed the strength that emerges when cultures connect and work together toward common goals.”

She expressed her heartfelt appreciation to EU Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst for hosting such a thoughtful and beautifully organized gathering, and to the European External Action Service and the EU Delegation to Egypt for their ongoing efforts to promote dialogue, partnership, and mutual understanding.

Mariam added, “Moments like these reaffirm my personal and professional commitment to shaping a future rooted in shared values—where cooperation, empathy, and inclusive development are at the heart of our efforts.”

She looks forward to continuing her work in advancing meaningful connections across cultures and sectors, inspired by the spirit of Europe Day.



Uplifting Community Voices: Jude Husein, 2025 Fellow Advocates for Palestinian Recognition in Philadelphia

Jude Husein collaborated with the City of Philadelphia's Law Department and the Mayor's Office to rewrite the City's policy on the PHL Diversity Program, ensuring it was both fair and equitable. The policy allows communities with longstanding ties to Philadelphia to raise their flag in recognition. With roots dating back to the mid-1800s, Philadelphia's Palestinian community—made up of business owners, musicians, students, teachers, and professionals—clearly meets this standard.

Despite this, the City refused to raise the Palestinian flag, instead offering only a press conference in symbolic recognition. In December, during Philly's fourth annual Palestinian Solidarity Day—a tradition started in 2021 led by Husein—a way to celebrate her community. But since October 7th, she has faced increasing barriers to organizing the event, including Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's revocation of approval for the 2024 celebration.

Undeterred, Husein took matters into her own hands, she hired an airplane to fly it over the city for more than half the day. "The flagpole is too short," she remembered thinking. "The plane seemed like a good option."



Jude Husein is pictured at the first annual Philadelphia Palestine Day in 2021.



FELLOWS' EXPERIENCES

Jude Husein serves as the Chief of State Advocacy and Strategic Initiatives at the Pennsylvania State Senate, where she leads efforts to advance equitable policies and community engagement across the state. She is also a board member of PHILADELPHIA250, an organization dedicated to creating an inclusive commemoration of the United States' 250th anniversary in 2026.

In her advocacy work, Husein has been instrumental in organizing Philadelphia's annual Palestinian Solidarity Day, an event she initiated in 2021 to celebrate and recognize the city's Palestinian community. Despite facing challenges, including the revocation of city approval for the 2024 celebration, she continued her efforts by arranging for a plane to fly the Palestinian flag over the city, symbolizing resilience and community pride.

Husein's dedication to social justice and community empowerment has been recognized through various accolades, including being named a 2023 Philadelphia Forty Under 40 honoree by City & State Pennsylvania.



Jude Husein speaks at the 4th annual Philadelphia Palestine Day.

[Read more](#)



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 recognized 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 program 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 PLEASE CONTACT SARA@SHAFIKGABRFUNDATION.ORG



UPDATES WITH CHAIRMAN

FELLOWSHIP DINNER IN WASHINGTON, D.C



On May 8, 2025, the Shafik Gabr Foundation convened a dinner for Gabr Fellows and special guests at I Ricchi in Washington, DC.

The Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Mr. Shafik Gabr, his wife, Mrs. Gigi Gabr, Board Member Mohamed Ramzi, and staff were joined by 15 Fellows and six honored guests. Among the old and new friends of the Foundation in attendance were Mr. Moon Suflab, Administrator of Information Technology in the office of U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell; Barret Travis, a former U.S. diplomat and his wife Mrs. Deidre Travis; Anna Wheeler, Head of Partner Developments at C4ADS; Mayachel Schaller, Service Specialist at Mayo Clinic; and Savannah Lane, Associate Director of International Partnerships, Aspen Institute.

Referencing the increasing rates of conflict around the world, Mr. Gabr opened the dinner by reflecting on the importance of maintaining interpersonal networks and face-to-face engagement across national, political, and cultural divides. Mr. Gabr emphasized the Foundation's crucial work in nurturing a community of international leaders, where mutual understanding and support can produce real-life social and political solutions.

Throughout the evening, Gabr Fellows shared career and personal updates, including a range of entrepreneurial ventures from Jeremy Pesner, 2022 Fellow, and Dan Sullivan, 2013 Fellow; a resurgence of "Shakespeare in the Park", the public arts program championed by 2015 Fellow Murray Abeles; a fresh career pivot into the medical device industry for Hunter King, 2017 Fellow; an exciting new role for 2018 Fellow Charles S. Truxal as Chief of Staff for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives; 2025 Fellow Alphaeus Hanson attended the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting and attended Mr. Gabr's annual Expecting the Unexpected dinner in Davos, Switzerland; and 2025 Fellow Clara Sherwood's imminent achievement of a Master of Arts in International Affairs from George Washington University.



UPDATES WITH CHAIRMAN

2015 Fellow Robert “Kemp” Gouldin shared a big update from his Fellowship project: after proposing to use the funding provided by the fellowship to bring baseball to the children of Egypt, Kemp founded the ‘Because Baseball’ initiative. Now more than ten years later, ‘Because Baseball’ has helped to develop a Minor League in Egypt, and more than 3,000 Egyptian students have participated in the program. Kemp has secured independent funding beyond the initial support from the Shafik Gabr Foundation, including from professional Major League baseball players.

At the heart of the evening’s events was a lively discussion of the future of innovation. The conversation ranged from defining – or disproving – the U.S.’s current innovative edge, structural challenges to technological progress in America, reflections on the inequality of technology access in both the Global South and rural America, and the ethics and possibilities of AI and gene editing. Fellows and guests discussed a variety of local, federal, and foreign policies that may be leveraged to improve basic governance and incentivize innovation for public health, computing, and global communication.

“The leaders of the free world must consider how they position themselves to advance universally beneficial values in the development of frontier technology, intergenerational resource transfer and capital allocation,” reflected Alphaeus Hanson, 2025 Fellow. “The Gabr Foundation advances discussions and practical initiatives that platform emerging leaders across international borders.”

With attendees from diverse fields of art, military service, business, finance, policy, and academia, and hailing both from Egypt and many corners of the U.S., the gathering was a living practice of the Shafik Gabr Foundation’s initiative, East-West: The Art of the Dialogue.

Egyptian Fellow Mohamed Ismail Khalil remarked “I have been engaged with the Fellowship since 2015. I now have had the privilege to live in the U.S. for several years now, and Mr. Gabr has always welcomed me to events with the American Fellows, which have been very interesting and useful. I deeply appreciate his bringing Egyptian voices to these tables.”

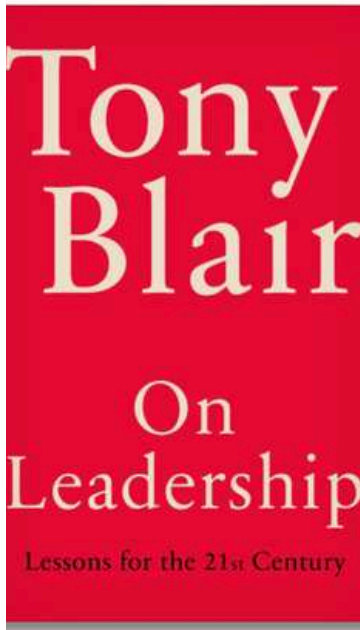
The Shafik Gabr Foundation holds a minimum of six Fellowship dinners per year around the world as part of its annual programming to develop some of the brightest and creative minds of the next generation and allow them to exchange diverse ideas.

For more information or to donate to the Foundation, please contact sara@shafikgabroundation.org or visit our [website](#).



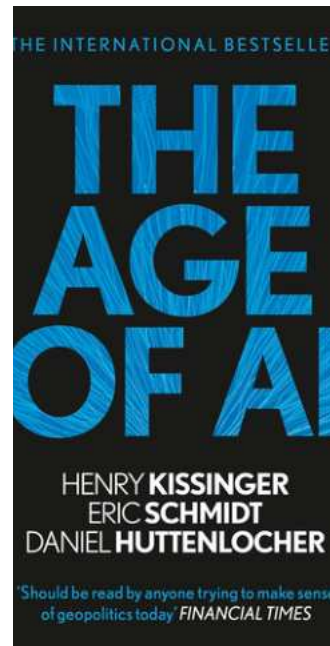
CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

BOOKS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS



On Leadership Lessons for the 21st Century Tony Blair

In *On Leadership: Lessons for the 21st Century*, Tony Blair distills his experience into a concise manual on how modern leaders can navigate complexity with clarity, adaptability, and purpose-driven governance.



The Age of AI Henry Kissinger Eric Schmidt Daniel Huttenlocher

The book *The Age of AI: And Our Human Future* argues that artificial intelligence will profoundly transform how we think, govern, and relate to one another—posing both unprecedented opportunities and existential risks.

MOVIES & DOCUMENTARIES



The Ultra Zionists Louis Theroux

The Ultra Zionists is a 2011 BBC documentary by Louis Theroux, in which he explores the lives and ideologies of ultra-nationalist Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, delving into their religious motivations and the tensions arising from their settlements in contested areas.



Official Secrets

Official Secrets is a political thriller based on the true story of whistleblower Katharine Gun, who exposed a secret illegal NSA memo in an attempt to stop the Iraq War.



FELLOWS' RECOMMENDATIONS

MOVIES FROM FELLOWS



Oppenheimer is a powerful biographical drama that chronicles the rise of J. Robert Oppenheimer, his role in developing the atomic bomb, and the moral reckoning that followed.

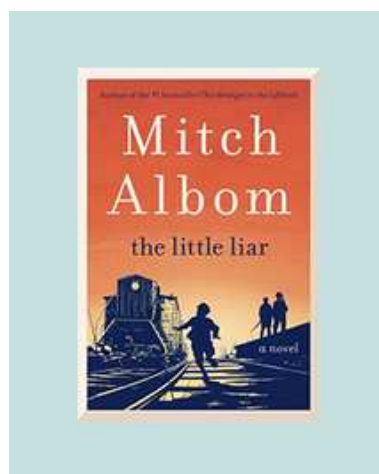


Conclave is a tense Vatican thriller in which Cardinal Lawrence navigates intrigue, secrets, and power struggles during the secretive election of a new pope.

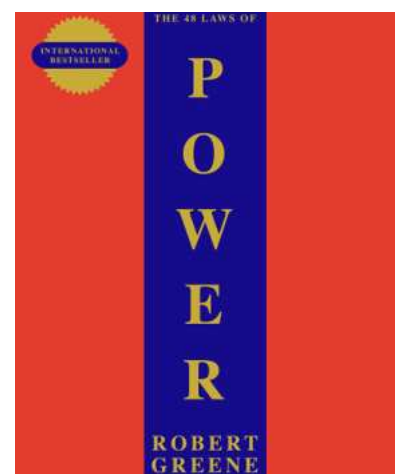
BOOKS FROM FELLOWS



Moscow X by David McCloskey is a gripping espionage thriller where undercover CIA agents attempt to infiltrate Putin's inner circle through his private banker and his secret-agent wife.



The Little Liar by Mitch Albom is a haunting tale of a Jewish boy in Nazi-occupied Greece who is tricked into leading his community to their deaths, leading to a lifelong struggle with guilt, truth, and redemption.



The 48 Laws of Power is a provocative manual that distills centuries of political strategy and manipulation into 48 laws for gaining and defending power in personal and professional life.

May
2025

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY
FELLOWS !**



Ola Ali
2015 Gabr Fellow
May 1



Ahmed El Habibi
2013 Gabr Fellow
May 7



Hayley Rose
2018 Gabr Fellow
May 10



Nayra Gadallah
2016 Gabr Fellow
May 10



Hani Elzoumor
2016 Gabr Fellow
May 11



Kristina Ryan
2017 Gabr Fellow
May 18



Hanan Hayal
2018 Gabr Fellow
May 19



Chase Bowman
2014 Gabr Fellow
May 22



Michelle Matus
2015 Gabr Fellow
May 23



Courtney Joline
2017 Gabr Fellow
May 25



RJ Johnson
2018 Gabr Fellow
May 30



Yasser El Zahar
2016 Gabr Fellow
May 30



In Memoriam of Dr. Laila El-Baradei



In Loving Memory of Dr. Laila El-Baradei (1961-2025): A Light That Will Never Dim by Nayra Gadallah, 2016 Gabr Fellow

It is with deep sorrow and enduring gratitude that I write these words in memory of Dr. Laila El-Baradei—an exceptional scholar, mentor, and human being—whose sudden departure on Friday, April 18, 2025, in a tragic car accident has left us all in disbelief. Her absence echoes across every space she once lit with her presence, but her legacy continues to guide us like the north star she so effortlessly was.

I first met Dr. Laila through the Youssef Jameel GAPP Public Leadership Fellowship at the American University in Cairo (AUC), where she served as the program advisor. Her role went far beyond academia; she was the heart of the fellowship, the architect of a community that felt like family. Through her vision, we bonded not only over our studies but over our shared experiences in Know Your Country trips, regular gatherings, and book clubs. Dr. Laila had a gift for creating spaces that nurtured both intellect and belonging.

Her academic brilliance was recognized internationally. In 2024, Dr. Laila made history by becoming the first Egyptian and Arab recipient of the International Public Administration Award from the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA)—a milestone that speaks to her lifelong dedication to excellence in public policy, governance, and leadership development.



In Memoriam of Dr. Laila El-Baradei

Beyond classrooms and conferences, Dr. Laila's teachings came alive in the moments we shared during travel. I had the privilege of accompanying her on two unforgettable trips—once to China and another to Aswan.

During those journeys, I learned that resilience can be graceful, and that true leadership often shows itself not through words, but through presence. Dr. Laila had a soul large enough to embrace everyone. Her radiant smile could pierce through the darkest of times, offering hope and warmth without asking for anything in return. Just a week before her passing, she had been busy organizing a trip to Turkey for the Jameel fellows to present their impact to donors—a trip meant to secure the future of the fellowship for generations to come. In true Dr. Laila's spirit, the fellows carried on with the trip, despite the heartbreak, demonstrating the very resilience she had instilled in us. Through tears and resolve, we proved that her lessons did not die with her, they live on through action.

Her students are now the torchbearers of her legacy. From the Milk Initiative—which seeks to provide nutritious school meals to underprivileged children in Egypt—to a scholarship launched in her name to support aspiring law students, Dr. Laila's vision continues to ripple through the lives she touched. And more initiatives are on the way, each one a testament to how deeply she inspired us.

On a personal note, Dr. Laila was always a source of unwavering encouragement. She fondly called me "Professor Ni," a nickname that carried more than affection, it carried faith. She believed in me long before I believed in myself. She paid attention to every detail, no matter how small, and this attention wasn't reserved just for me. After her passing, I was astonished to learn how many others had experienced her exact same care. It was as if she carried a piece of each of us in her heart.

Dr. Laila El-Baradei did not simply teach public policy. She taught us grace under pressure, the power of empathy, and the beauty of commitment. She was a professor in title, but in truth, she was a guiding light. Her legacy lives on - not only in awards or programs - but in the lives she transformed.

May we honor her by living the values she so deeply embodied: resilience, compassion, service, and hope.

To Dr. Laila, You are missed. You are loved. And you will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Your faithful student "Professor Ni", 15 May 2025



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/>



Gustav Bauernfeind, A Street Scene, Damascus
Oil on panel

THE SHAFIK GABR COLLECTION

Connect with us



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