



THE GABR FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER



Chairman M. Shafik Gabr, Gabr Fellows: Mr. Yasser El Zahhar 2016 Fellow, Mr. Mahmoud Makkawe 2025 Fellow, Mr. Shehab Farouk 2014 Fellow, Ms. Hanan Khayal 2018 Fellow, Ms. Lydia Kamiel 2025 Fellow, Ms. Ingy Musallam 2025 Fellow, Mr. Abdullah Hussein 2025 Fellow, Mr. Mohamed Sobhy 2025 Fellow, Ms. Maries Meshrequey 2025 Fellow, Ms. Mariam El Sherif 2025 Fellow, Mr. Youssef Emam 2025 Fellow, Mr. Omar Talaat 2025 Fellow, Mr. Muhammad El Hawary 2018 Fellow, Mr. Mohammed Mubarak 2013 Fellow, Mr. Amr Hesham 2022 Fellow, Mr. Wessam Bahar 2022 Fellow, Mr. Shady El-Sherif 2018 Fellow.

At the Gabr Fellowship Meeting, 26th June 2025 | ARTOC HQ, Cairo, Egypt

In This Issue

• The Days of The Gatsby	Page 2
• About the Author	Page 6
• Monthly Predictions	Page 8
• Fellows' Updates	Page 9
• About the Fellowship.....	Page 14
• Fellows' Experiences	Page 15
• Support Foundation.....	Page 16
• Updates With The Chairman.....	Page 17
• Chairman's Recommendations.....	Page 22
• Fellows' Recommendations.....	Page 23
• July Birthdays	Page 24
• Appendix	Page 25

THE DAYS OF THE GATSBY

M. SHAFIK GABR

JULY 2025

My dear daughter invited me and my wife to the theatre to watch The Great Gatsby at the London Coliseum.

Theatre to me has always been a very special event. In my days of youth, the audience arrived promptly, quietly... there was no queuing or security. Men wore suits with ties and women elegant dresses. The chairs were comfortable and there was space and an ability to cross your legs. The audience did not have to do a jack-in-the-box every time another member of the audience wanted to pass.

The performance was great in spite of members of the audience in shorts, flip-flops and jeans. Jamie Muscato as Jay Gatsby was very impressive and his voice was thunderous... Daisy(Francesca McCann), great voice and portrayed the cold, unemotional side of humanity to perfection... Corbin Bleu, representing humanity and rationality, got much less recognition than he deserved.

But leaving the theatre, I felt the play was not about Gatsby but about what the world is experiencing today. A present of materialism, moral decay and complete vaccination towards humanity.

In spite of the belief of many that history does not repeat itself, today is a reflection of the 1920s over 100 years ago. A week after enjoying The Great Gatsby I was invited in Hampstead, in Bishops Avenue, for a seated dinner at my friend Steve Ellison.

Ellison, at 77, looked 50. Athletic, full head of fair hair, a chiseled chin and a permanent smile. Steve was a semi-retired investor. Born in America in Tucson but living in London with two German Shepherds, Rocky and Toshka.

It was a small group of six guests in addition to Steve and I. We all arrived around 6:30 p.m. and by 7 p.m., after cocktails, we were seated at the dining table. Martin Clayton, a Londoner, was in his 50s sitting on Steve's left, a banker who covered the Middle East. Gabriella Cornelli, originally from Puglia, Italy, sat on Steve's right. She was the owner of a major pharmaceutical company. Gabriella was young, beautifully dressed, with a warm smile and a perfect English accent.

At one head of the table was Eli Elpstein, an Israeli American, in his late 50s or early 60s, a surgeon living in New York. I was to his right and on my right, facing Steve, was Mai Kawar, in her 40s, attractive Jordanian with a sharp mind. Mai was the founder and Chairperson of a think tank with branches in Amman, Paris, London, and DC.

On Mai's right was Sergey Mertchev, a Russian-Ukrainian, a former diplomat and present writer and author. At the other head of the table was Henry Goh from Singapore. Henry was in his late 60s, rod thin, white hair, owner of hotels and manufacturing facilities across Asia.

As the first course was being served, Steve shattered the small talk around the table and said, "Now what," in a clear strong but not high voice. His eyes went around the table looking at each guest as all of us sat silently. He repeated, "Now what," in a more definitive voice. I responded, "What do you mean, Steve?"

He smiled and said, "Now I got a reaction", he continued by explaining, "Now what?," given that the world's moral compass has gone into free fall and awry, plus more importantly, human beings have become vaccinated to mass murder, war, killings, starvation, irrational leaders and policies that are erratic, crises prone, racism, genocide, and a level of inhumanity not seen in the 21st century... "What next?" he asked.

Gabriella interjected and said that as the 21st century unfolded, she had the hope that the world would be more peaceful, more prosperous, and more prone to collaboration and focusing on no more homeless, improved medication dealing with diseases and more food plus less military budgets.

Martin said not with Trump and the leaders we have today. "None are 21st-century leaders—at best, 20th century," he added. "Why are there no 21st-century leaders?" asked Henry. "We in Singapore are doing very well."

I said we had a leader in the 20th century that truly was 21st—Anwar Sadat. Eli responded, "So was Rabin." Steve added, "Let's not forget Reagan or Clinton to be balanced."

However, Steve added, it's not only the leadership, the question is how are human beings continuing as if nothing is happening with the daily deaths, destruction and complete lack of serious action against planned starvation, ethnic cleansing, moving populations, demolishing homes, hospitals, infrastructure and stripping naked men, tying their hands and legs and peeing on them.

Silence was followed by Mai speaking in a quiet voice: "It's people like Netanyahu and Putin that have thrown out any rules and promoted horror, barbarism, amoral activity and total erosion of empathy."

As Mai was speaking and the servers removed our first plate and placed our main, my mind swung to *The Great Gatsby* play and how the actors acted in a total disregard to ethics, double treasons, unwarranted violence and not only lack of empathy but a simple act of total ignorance. It's like pins falling in a bowling game rather than lives extinguished, born of sick minds.

Eli, whilst rolling his pasta by the fork in his right hand into a spoon in his left, said, "I am a proud American Israeli, but I see Netanyahu bringing hatred upon Israel and Trump dividing the American population."

Mai interjected, "What about the tens of thousands killed and maimed in Gaza and thousands having their homes destroyed in the West Bank?" Eli did not raise his eyes from his plate as he swallowed a big swarm of pasta.

Sergey, with a glass of wine in his right hand, said what is happening in the Ukraine and Russia war is ludicrous and could have been avoided before it began. He added this war is beneficial to the West as it's destructive to Russia and Ukrainians pay the price, whilst a big chunk of money is being made daily. Many are benefiting from this war. A lot of profit in too many pockets—that is why it continues. Not to mention, whilst my heart is with Ukraine—Zelensky is enjoying his role on the global stage and the money that comes with it.

Sergey placed his glass on the table and proceeded to tear into his fillet. Gabriella stopped eating and said, "Do you realize the huge mental strain resulting from the wars and conflicts, not to mention the geoeconomics disruptions from sanctions, tariffs, supply chain problems, and geopolitical tensions?"

Steve placed his fork and knife across his plate, waved to the server for more wine, and said, "Trump has multiple times talked about a ceasefire and nothing occurred. Now he reflects upon starvation in Gaza as Netanyahu blocks all humanitarian aid and the world watches."

As Henry fidgeted in his seat, he said, "The lack of an Arab and Islamic front in facing Israel's atrocities has allowed this to happen."

Mai was nodding as Gabriella said, "I admire Ms. Meloni as she is a good Prime Minister for Italy, but I disagree with her statement recognizing a Palestinian State before its establishment may be counterproductive... a very wrong statement. Israel was recognized way before it was established."

Eli, who was quiet, interrupted and said, "Please all remember that Israel was attacked with no provocation and is acting in self-defense in Gaza."

Mai responded, "Unprovoked! 70 years of occupation and that is no provocation? A recent statement by Emily Damari said that when she was a hostage she was in a cage-like environment for 15 months. Does she not realize that there are Palestinians born and lived all their lives in a cage with daily checkpoints, midnight atrocity crimes — all detailed in B'Tselem human rights group's report titled '*Our Genocide*'?"

Silence grasped the table. I said, "No one seems to mind as disasters across the world increase in their ferocity and inhumanity."

My mind went again to *The Great Gatsby* — profits being made during the prohibition, ethics being shuffled aside, and whatever attacks occurred all danced to the music.

Steve ushered the dessert and coffee as he said once again, “Now what?” or better still, “What next?”

I ventured, “We need to find peaceful, sustainable solutions, win-win to all these problems. All problems can be sorted if there is the will and the courage of the conviction. There could have been,” I explained, “a Zelensky meeting in Moscow with Putin before the war broke out. Abbas and Hamas could have stepped out and America and Israel proclaimed a Palestinian State instead of the catastrophic state of affairs born by Netanyahu’s policies since 2006 when he supported Hamas to rule Gaza.”

Martin interrupted, saying to Steve, “Shall we go to the terrace for cigars?” Henry stood up along with Steve, followed by all of us. I bid Steve a thank you and good evening to all and headed to the door.

Raymond the butler opened the door and waved to my driver Jessie as my mind went one last time to *The Great Gatsby*. Gatsby was shot and killed for a crime he did not commit. But no one who knew did bat an eye — all convinced as if nothing happened. I hoped that would not happen to the world my daughter will face and that humanity will learn from its mistakes.

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, 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 of Art's Inter-

national 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, Gabr was presented with the Foreign Policy Association’s (FPA) award for Corporate Responsibility. In June 2014, 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.

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, Gabr has highlighted his extensive work on cross-cultural dialogue and offered perspective on world markets and geopolitics.

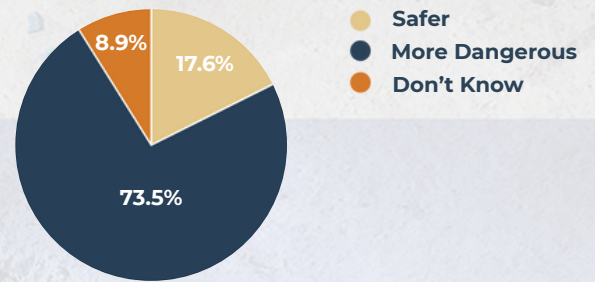
Through the Shafik Gabr Social Development Foundation, Gabr is helping to improve elementary-school education in Egypt, introducing students to arts and culture, and promoting sports and physical fitness for youth. In the area of higher education, Gabr is a major supporter of the American University 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.

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, Gabr has significantly contributed to fostering cultural appreciation and understanding of the Orientalist movement on a global scale.

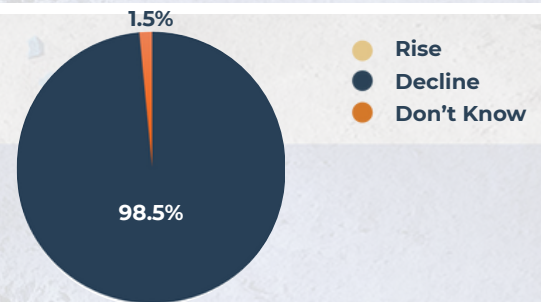
Gabr holds a BA in Economics and Management from the American University in Cairo and an MA in Economics from the University of London.

MONTHLY WORLD PREDICTIONS

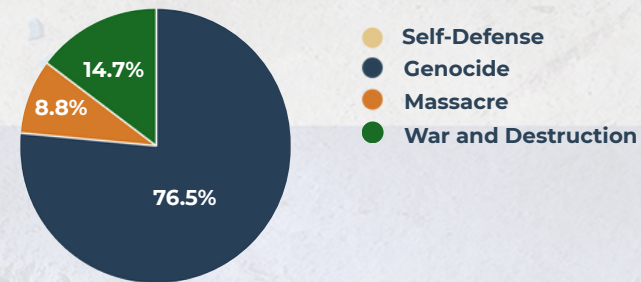
Do you believe that increased global military spending makes the world safer or more dangerous?



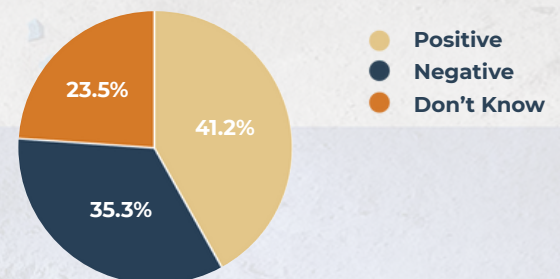
Is trust in global leadership on the rise or on the decline?



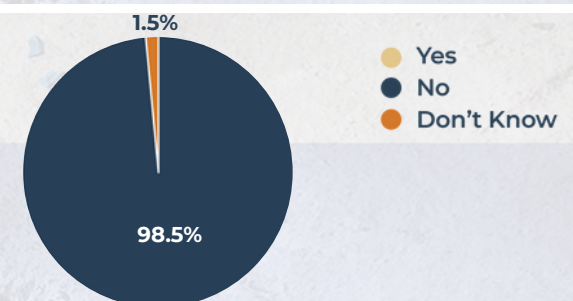
Is what the IDF has done and is doing in Gaza, in your opinion: Self-Defense, Genocide, Massacre or War and Destruction?



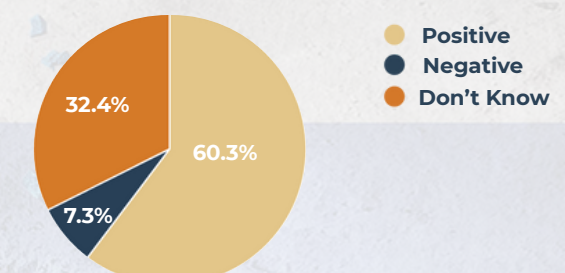
Is the weakness of the US dollar positive or negative for global trade?



Do you agree with President Trump's public statement: "Prime Minister Netanyahu is the greatest man in the world"?



Is Egypt's joining of BRICS positive or negative?





FELLOWS' UPDATES



Pascal Rathle, 2022 Fellow

Pascal Rathle, 2022 Gabr Fellow, has been serving since 2024 as the American Co-Head and Vice Secretariat for the official G20 and G7 youth engagement groups—Youth 20 (Y20) and Youth 7 (Y7). With the United States set to host both the G20 and G7 Secretariats in 2026, Pascal plays a key leadership role in shaping youth policy input and international collaboration. In August 2026, he will help lead the Y20 Main Summit in the United States, which will convene five-member youth delegations from each G20 country. The Summit will provide a platform to stress-test policy recommendations across five thematic tracks and contribute to building more effective, next-generation multilateralism.

Mariam Ibrahim, 2013 Fellow

Mariam Ibrahim, 2013 Gabr Fellow, recently celebrated a personal milestone, getting married in May 2025. Professionally, she is currently contributing to the Jerian project in collaboration with Nations of Sky and Palm Hills Developments. As part of her work with FP7, Mariam played a key role in developing the marketing strategy and advertising pitch for the New Nile Project in Mehwar El Sheikh Zayed. Her creative leadership earned her the prestigious Think Award at FP7. Additionally, she was recently recognized with a Gold Award at the MENA Effies for the highly successful Nescafé 3-in-1 Shot campaign, marking a major achievement in regional advertising.



Mohammed Mubarak, 2013 Fellow

Mohammed Mubarak, 2013 Gabr Fellow, was recently appointed as a member of the Urban Design Program Advisor Committee at Sheridan College. In addition to this role, he continues his work as Architectural Design Director and Partner at KIM Design Bureau (Cairo and Kuwait) and as an Urban Designer at Urban Strategies in Toronto.



FELLOWS' UPDATES



Moataz Hussein, 2013 Fellow

Moataz Hussein, 2013 Gabr Fellow, currently serves as Chief Legal Officer at IGI Holding Group and is now being promoted to Vice President of Legal at Clasera Global, a leading education technology company. This marks a significant milestone in his legal and corporate leadership career.

Reham Gamal, 2017 Fellow

Reham Gamal, 2017 Gabr Fellow, recently resigned from her previous role as Lecturer of Political Communication at the Future University in Egypt and relocated to Spain to pursue new professional opportunities. She is currently working as a Part-Time Researcher at the University of Valencia, where she is contributing to ongoing research projects while continuing to build her expertise in her field.



George D. Williams, 2025 Fellow

George D. Williams, 2025 Gabr Fellow, was named a Fellow of the Helsinki Geoeconomics Society as part of the 2025 Albert O. Hirschman Cohort, recognizing his leadership in geoeconomics at the intersection of law, strategy, and security. He is contributing to the forthcoming Helsinki Manual on Corporate Geoeconomics and engaging in global dialogues on economic statecraft and democratic resilience. In July, George is also co-leading a high-level delegation to Cleveland with the Global Futures Collaborative at Howard University, exploring how post-industrial cities can serve as platforms for equity-centered diplomacy and innovation.



FELLOWS' UPDATES



Youssef Emam, 2025 Fellow

Youssef Emam, 2025 Gabr Fellow, was promoted in June 2025 to Teaching Assistant of Commercial Law at the Faculty of Law, Ain Shams University. He also began his PhD program at Ain Shams University this month, with a thesis focused on the rights of minority shareholders in the context of public mergers and acquisitions.



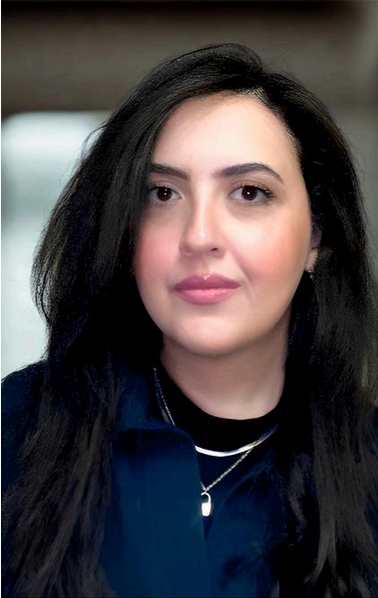
Nayra Gadallah, 2016 Fellow

Nayra Gadallah, 2016 Gabr Fellow, recently published an article in the International Journal for Doctrine, Judiciary and Legislation titled "The Role of the Administrative Prosecution in Providing Protection for Refugees under the New Egyptian Law for Refugees." The article explores the expanding role of the Administrative Prosecution Authority in safeguarding the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, particularly in light of Egypt's newly adopted asylum framework. It highlights how the Authority can act as a key national mechanism in upholding international protection standards and ensuring legal accountability in cases involving vulnerable populations.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



FELLOWS' UPDATES



Yomna El Awamri, 2022 Fellow

Yomna El Awamri, 2022 Gabr Fellow, joined PUM Netherlands in February 2025 as Country Manager for Egypt, where she leads the operations and strategic direction of PUM's expert-mission programme. In this role, she oversees more than 50 technical-assistance missions annually across 22 sectors, connecting Dutch senior experts with Egyptian SMEs. She also manages partnerships with local chambers, business-support organizations, and development actors to align with Egypt's national priorities. Alongside her part-time role at PUM, Yomna consults startups and SMEs on sustainability and impact—designing impact-measurement frameworks, developing ESG strategies, and delivering capacity-building programmes for private and development-sector clients including MicroMentor (a Mercy Corps initiative), UI Investments, among others.



Crystal Staebell, 2025 Fellow

Crystal Staebell, 2025 Gabr Fellow, moderated the “Global Energy Market Impacts” panel at the USEA event Navigating the Nexus: The Israel–Iran Conflict and American Energy Resilience, held in Washington, DC on July 10, 2025. The discussion—recorded by C-SPAN and made publicly available last week—centered on how escalating geopolitical tensions between Israel and Iran may affect U.S. energy supply and resilience, featuring insights from leaders at the Global Energy Institute and the American Petroleum Institute.

[Click here to watch video.](#)



FELLOWS' UPDATES



Heidi Green, 2016 Fellow

Heidi Green, 2016 Gabr Fellow, earned a Master's degree in Psychology from King Saud University and became the first American to be awarded a psychology license in Saudi Arabia—a significant milestone in international professional accreditation. She is currently working on opening her own private practice.



Tom Stein, 2017 Fellow

Tom Stein, 2017 Gabr Fellow, released a new book titled *"The Noble Agent's Guide to Level Funding,"* which reached No. 3 on Amazon's Business Insurance bestseller list. The book offers a practical introduction to level funding—an innovative health insurance model for small and mid-sized businesses—and serves as a guide for agents looking to build lasting, trust-based relationships with clients. Drawing on Stein's industry expertise, it has been praised for its accessible approach and real-world insights.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP



2022 Gabr Fellows at the National Defense University with the NDU 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 16-24 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

Amr Seda, 2017 Gabr Fellow, Advances Higher Education Partnerships During Strategic UK Visit



Amr Seda, 2017 Gabr Fellow, M. Shafik Gabr, Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation



Amr Seda, 2017 Gabr Fellow, Dr. M. El-Erian, President of Queens College, Cambridge

Amr Seda, 2017 Gabr Fellow, recently concluded a strategic visit to the United Kingdom, where he held a series of high-level meetings with university leaders and advancement professionals at Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester Metropolitan, Bournemouth, Surrey, and London South Bank Universities. The visit supported his ongoing work in global knowledge exchange and the establishment of the newly launched Alumni & Advancement Department at the British University in Egypt, where he serves as Founding Director.

While in London, Amr met with Chairman Shafik Gabr to discuss final preparations for the 2025 Gabr Fellowship. Additional highlights included a meeting with Dr. Mohamed El-Erian, President of Queens' College, Cambridge, in support of his candidacy for Chancellor of Cambridge University, and a visit with Ambassador Sherif Kamel, Egypt's Ambassador to the UK.

Amr continues to contribute meaningfully to the transformation of higher education in Egypt and beyond.



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@SHAFIKGABRFOUNDATION.ORG

We also invite our community to contribute thoughts, stories, and recommendations for the newsletter!
Please write to chairman@shafikgabrfoundation.org



UPDATES WITH THE CHAIRMAN

FELLOWSHIP MEETING IN CAIRO, EGYPT



Gabr Fellows with the Chairman of the Foundation, M. Shafik Gabr

On June 26, 2025, the Shafik Gabr Foundation conducted a Fellows Meeting at ARTOC Headquarters in Cairo, gathering Egyptian Fellows from across cohorts for an evening of engaging discussion, thoughtful reflection, and renewed connection.

Chairman Mr. Shafik Gabr welcomed the attendees and opened the evening by emphasizing the importance of continued engagement across Fellowship years. Following his remarks, each Fellow and attendee introduced themselves, sharing their background, current work, and reflections on the Fellowship journey. These brief introductions set a tone of openness, connection, and mutual curiosity.

Short introductions included:

Mohammed Mubarak, 2013 Fellow: Mohammed serves as the Architectural Design Director and Partner at KIM Design Bureau in Cairo and Kuwait, as well as an Urban Designer at Urban Strategies in Toronto. He also serves as a member of the Program Advisory Committee at Sheridan College in Toronto.



UPDATES WITH THE CHAIRMAN

Shehab Farouk, 2014 Fellow: Shehab serves as the Legal Director at CMS, a London-headquartered law firm, and is based in Oman. He frequently visits Cairo with his family.

Yasser El Zahar, 2016 Fellow: Yasser serves as the Head of Innovation at Abjjad, an e-book platform catering to Arabic readers across the Middle East and beyond. He is leading efforts to launch an audiobook feature that will be available in both the Middle East and the U.S.

Hanan Khayal, 2018 Fellow: Hanan serves as a consultant with the Social Protection and Jobs Team at the World Bank, supporting the design and implementation of national human development programs in Egypt.

Mohamed El Hawary, 2018 Fellow: Mohamed serves as a Senior Project Manager at Emirates NBD, where he leads initiatives in tokenization, Apple Pay implementation, and overall project management.

Shady El Sherif, 2018 Fellow: Shady serves as an Education Sales Consultant at Oxford University Press and is attending a Summer School in Oslo, Norway, focused on development, energy, and sustainability.

Amr Hesham, 2022 Fellow: Amr serves as a Site Service Engineer at the Central Bank of Egypt and also works as a Food Tour Guide with Bellies En Route.

Wessam Baher, 2022 Fellow: Wessam serves as an HR Manager at QNB and is completing a master's degree in Business and Human Resources at ESLSCA. He is a certified coach and a certified assessor in human resources.

Abdullah Hussein, 2025 Fellow: Abdullah serves as the Senior Advisor for Strategic Programs and Affairs at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Managing Director of Upnxt Experiences, and Chairman of Identechs Smart Solutions.

Ingy Musallam, 2025 Fellow: Ingy serves as a Junior Advisor for the Technical Education and Labor Market Cluster at GIZ. She previously worked on a USAID project implemented by AUC and held internships at UNFPA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lydia Kamiel, 2025 Fellow: Lydia serves as the Startups Partnerships Lead at CIB.



UPDATES WITH THE CHAIRMAN

Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow: Mariam serves as the Founder and CEO of Fame, a digital marketing agency, and of OneFuture, a new startup. She is also in the process of launching several ventures, including one focused on renewable energy.

Maries El Meshrequey, 2025 Fellow: Maries serves as the Senior Policy and Liaison Associate at the International Organization for Migration (IOM – UN Migration).

Mahmoud El Makkawe, 2025 Fellow: Mahmoud serves as the Digital and Public Diplomacy Officer at the EU Delegation to Egypt.

Mohamed Sobhy, 2025 Fellow: Mohamed serves as an Assistant Lecturer of Public International Law at Zagazig University.

Omar Talaat, 2025 Fellow: Omar serves as a Senior Business Developer at JRNY and led the launch of the PropTech Enablement Program in May.

Youssef Emam, 2025 Fellow: Youssef serves as an Assistant Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Ain Shams University, and as a Corporate Lawyer at Matouk Bassiouny, specializing in mergers and acquisitions.

Mr. Gabr made special remarks about Mohammed Mubarak, a 2013 Fellow, recognizing him as a continuing inspiration to the Fellowship even in 2025. He noted that Mohammed's journey—working closely with him and achieving notable success—exemplifies the spirit and potential of the program. Mr. Gabr emphasized his commitment to staying connected with those close to him and following their paths with pride.

Mohammed Mubarak, 2013 Fellow, reflected on his first Fellowship experience, expressing gratitude for having joined the program. He credited Mr. Gabr as a mentor whose life experiences offer invaluable lessons. Mohammed encouraged current Fellows to learn from Mr. Gabr, whom he sees as a guiding figure marked by resilience, perspective, and purpose.

Among the reflections shared:

Mr. Gabr took a moment to recognize Shehab Farouk, 2014 Fellow, calling him one of the most successful Fellows. Shehab is currently doing exceptional work as a Partner and Senior Legal Consultant in Oman, building an international career while remaining deeply rooted in Egypt.



UPDATES WITH THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Gabr noted that Shehab's commitment to regularly returning to Cairo reflects the kind of balanced global citizenship the Fellowship seeks to foster.

Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow, shared her experience of joining the Fellowship, explaining how it transformed her outlook and helped her form meaningful international relationships. She expressed her aspiration to enter the field of political business and her gratitude for being part of the Fellowship community.

Mr. Gabr reiterated the power of networks and family, underscoring their importance for personal growth, professional development, and global influence. He announced that the next U.S.–Egypt Fellowship reunion is expected in 2026, and fondly recalled the successful 2023 reunion.

On global affairs, Mr. Gabr emphasized the need for reciprocal visa policies, asserting that if one country restricts access, the same standard should apply in return.

Maries Mashrequey, 2025 Fellow, voiced frustration about the feeling of being a lone voice in the face of daily challenges in Egypt. Mr. Gabr responded with encouragement to act, persevere, and influence change, urging Fellows to move beyond talk and aim for real impact.

He highlighted Israel's disproportionate global influence—despite representing only 0.2% of the world's population—as a model of strategic clarity and coordination. He urged Fellows to view themselves as the emerging global elite, capable of initiating change in a highly connected world.

Ingy Musallam, 2025 Fellow spoke about her university course on East-West Dialogue at AUC, which opened meaningful conversations with American students. She emphasized that persistence, purpose, and action are essential in shaping influence and leadership.

When asked what defines successful individuals or nations, Mr. Gabr cited:

- A clear vision and courage to implement
- Clarity of purpose
- Solidarity and collaboration
- Strategic alliance-building
- A coherent narrative



UPDATES WITH THE CHAIRMAN

- Historical and generational leverage
- Financial means
- Speaking with authenticity, not political correctness

On AI and misinformation, Mr. Gabr warned of a new era shaped by disinformation and digital paralysis, calling for responsibility in navigating the digital age.

Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow reflected that while the world faces countless problems, many solutions are within reach with creativity and determination.

Commenting on the Iran–Israel dynamic, Mr. Gabr described it as a choreographed charade, not a real conflict. He warned that nuclear weapons may become obsolete as AI rises in dominance, referencing recent global events in Portugal and Spain.

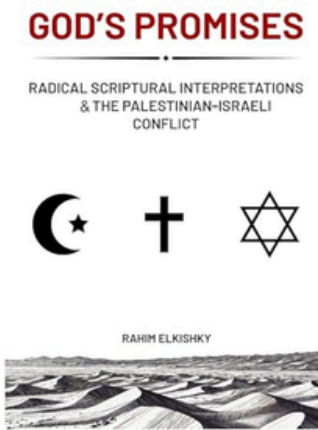
Mr. Gabr mentioned the Foundation’s ongoing tradition of holding “Expecting the Unexpected” working dinner four times per year in Davos, Munich, the UK, and the U.S., noting with regret that one hasn’t been hosted in Egypt yet. He predicted a future where the world will divide into technology-rich and technology-poor societies—and individuals, with implanted chips likely becoming a norm.

To close the evening, Mr. Gabr reflected on Cairo’s rich cultural heritage, reminding attendees that the city once led the region in fashion, cuisine, and intellectual life—even before cities like Paris. While only 24 Fellows are selected each year, Mr. Gabr expressed his wish to accept more if possible.



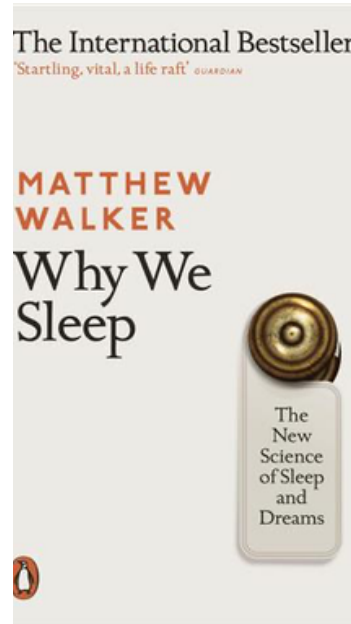
CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

BOOKS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS



God's Promises: Radical Scriptural Interpretations & The Palestinian- Israeli Conflict Rahim Elkishky

God's Promises by Rahim Elkishky examines how extremists misuse scripture to justify violence and calls for a return to the Abrahamic faiths' core values of peace and justice.



Why We Sleep: The New Science of Sleep and Dreams Matthew Walker

Why We Sleep by Matthew Walker reveals how sleep is essential for health, memory, and longevity—and how modern life is dangerously depriving us of it.

MOVIES & DOCUMENTARIES



Companion (2025)

Companion (2025) is a sci-fi thriller about an AI android, Iris, who breaks free from her controlling boyfriend during a tense weekend with friends. The film explores autonomy, control, and toxic masculinity through a blend of horror and dark satire.



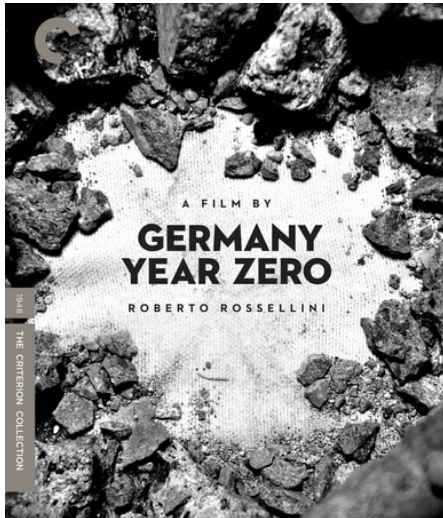
The Menendez Brothers (2024)

The 2024 Netflix documentary The Menendez Brothers revisits the 1989 murder case with exclusive interviews and new evidence. It explores claims of abuse, media influence, and renewed efforts for resentencing and parole.



FELLOWS' RECOMMENDATIONS

MOVIES FROM FELLOWS

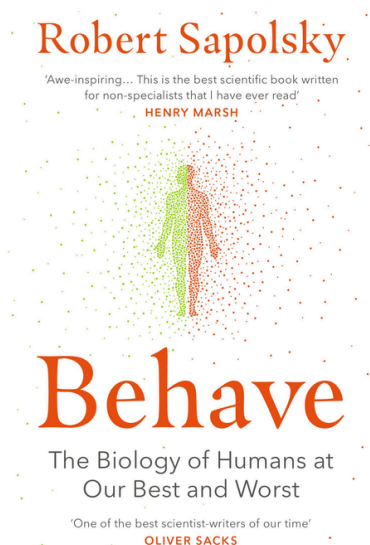


Germany, Year Zero is a 1948 film about a young boy's struggle to survive in post-WWII Berlin, capturing the despair and moral collapse of a defeated society.

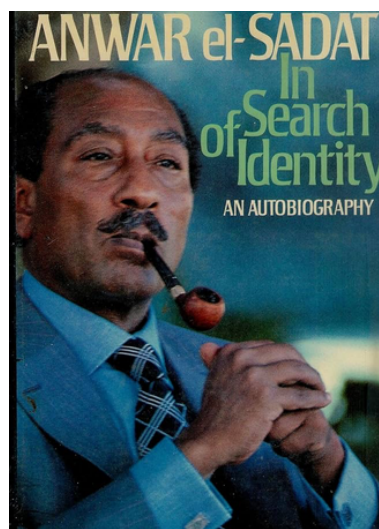


G20 (2025) stars Viola Davis as U.S. President Danielle Sutton, who must take matters into her own hands when terrorists attack a G20 summit. Set in Cape Town, the film blends action, suspense, and political drama as she fights to protect global leaders.

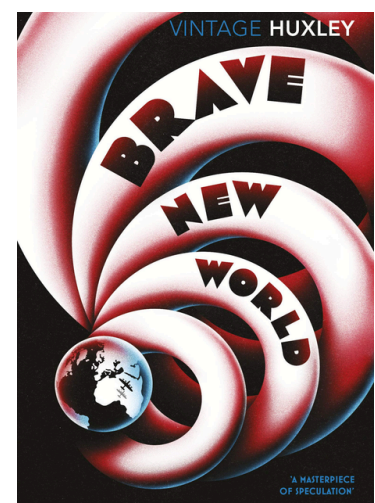
BOOKS FROM FELLOWS



Behave by Robert Sapolsky explains the biology behind human actions, linking behavior to the brain, hormones, and evolution.



In Search of Identity is Anwar El Sadat's autobiography, chronicling his rise to the presidency and his pursuit of peace and Egyptian independence.



Brave New World by Aldous Huxley is a dystopian novel that explores a future society driven by technology, consumerism, and control.

July
2025

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JULY FELLOWS !



Noha Eid
2013 Gabr Fellow
July 1



Lukaz Wenz
2022 Gabr Fellow
July 1



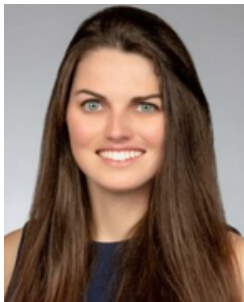
Chaza Abou Daher
2016 Gabr Fellow
July 2



Kristina Arakelyan
2025 Gabr Fellow
July 2



Crawford Horan
2022 Gabr Fellow
July 7



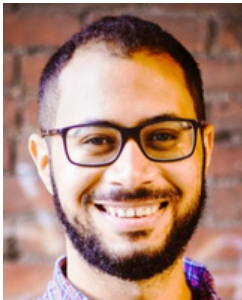
Katie Hagan
2022 Gabr Fellow
July 11



Imane Higazy
2016 Gabr Fellow
July 12



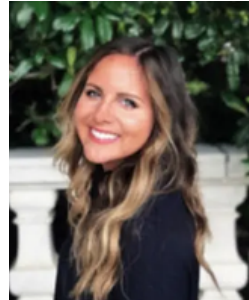
Shoruk Essam
2016 Gabr Fellow
July 12



Abdelrahman Amr
2017 Gabr Fellow
July 13



Hunter King
2017 Gabr Fellow
July 20



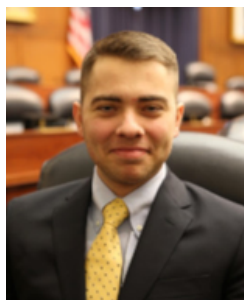
Lauren Ziegler
2018 Gabr Fellow
July 21



Sarah Derdowski
2014 Gabr Fellow
July 21



Menna El Touny
2022 Gabr Fellow
July 24



Charles Truxal
2018 Gabr Fellow
July 25



Jean Kwon
2017 Gabr Fellow
July 25



Youssef El Toukhy
2016 Gabr Fellow
July 27



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES



Mothers and Daughters, Will You Save Us from AI?

June 26, 2025 by [Fabrice Guerrier](#), 2018 Gabr Fellow

Dear Moun fou and fellow imaginists,

This is going to sound like a rant and perhaps a stream of consciousness again but I promise I'll have a good story to tell in the next newsletter. But first, I must begin and say that the Male archetype for our world right now, today, is so deeply broken. I hate to say this but it seems that the 'male gender' is central to our collective chaos, so much suffering to the planet in terms of this war-like energy, a lack of care and drought to emotional intelligence. I think this is a problem that many don't talk about.

When I co-taught at [Esalen](#) last year a futures workshop, one of the participants gave me a book that she had just finished reading called "[Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male Is Struggling, Why It Matters, and What to Do about It by Richard V. Reeves](#)" it initiates that there's a crisis to the modern male.

It shows evidence that boys and men are struggling in education, work and even family life. Without going too much on it, one of the aspects it talks about is the decline of fathers' involvement and positive male role models, which has had a



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

horrible impact on boys' development and for the rest of our collective society in the west.

It posits some compelling idea that Masculinity isn't toxic, it's just underdeveloped and arguing that positive masculine identity is tragically undernourished in today's culture. And it's true. I don't see that positive masculine identity. The book pushes for pro-male policies without being anti-female, which I recognized the same dynamics and tensions in implementation with the Black Lives Matter movement that pushed for change yet because this it didn't mean it was anti-white but others saw otherwise.

As a futurist, I think without responding to the decay in the Male Archetype in the 21st century where the classical notion of 'lack of emotions', 'rigidity in thinking' and very staunch and unchanging identifies that one must fit into our society, we will have a much harder time welcoming this new episteme that's trying to be born, this need for 'Moun Fou' I talked about in my last newsletter. Even so, I see women who live in this patriarchal world of decay, absorbing and upholding certain values from that Male Archetype as a means to breathe economically and advance in society.

If only we could balance this wretched imagination and myths of singular male superheroes, towards communities and the cosmic feminine. Yet this male archetype pushes a proactiveness that cannibalizes even our own essence, as seen in the deafening competition based hustle and burn out culture. And us beginning and needing to take much more seriously the thought provoking research that has define so much for me the manifestation of this crisis of imagination that the surgeon general during the Biden Administration, Vivek released "[Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community](#)." If you haven't read it, please do and I am pretty sure i've referenced it previously in another newsletter. It's affecting America and the entire soul of the western world.

I often ask myself, how can I live in the most 'developed' era of humanity where many people have been lifted out of poverty over the last few decades, new innovations in tech, health and increased life expectancy but I am also living in the loneliest era of humanity? Something doesn't add up.

I believe if we don't address these core fundamental 'creative and soul-based' challenges to the very design of humanity we will be swept over and over in these endless cycles. We will continue to blame each other



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

and wonder and forget where this even started. I say that a lonely society, a society lacking meaningful human connection is a society more prone to fascism and fanatical, destructive ways of being, that feels like a drug, sorta like a 'fatherless' young man feeling truly alive because the gang he is joining is recognizing his dignity for the very first time in his life, yet he has been unable to engage a profound radical agency and connecting to a deeper sense of his emotional self that was never developed or valued in a capitalist world in the first place.

Well by now, you're asking, how do we fix this, are we all doomed? How do we address this Fabrice? Obviously I am going to say "Imagination will save humanity." But first, I don't think this is something that can be fixed, honestly. I think we need to decenter humanity in our attempt to address and solve things. It's the externalization of the problem I see as the issue. It's truly a paradox. Because what I am getting at is something much more primordial, something beyond our humanity that I hinted at in the previous newsletter.

Our attempt to solve things is the very thing that creates and perpetuates the problem in the first place. Yet if this is so, I want to push this even further then with this new concept, I want to claim at a **'universal subjective primacy'** to the creative individual, and give immense weight to 'the role of the inner lives and our psychology of the future' like a anchor the size of mount Everest it stands to transforming the world, to access the higher realms and relating to everything else in existence including nature and other humans. It really starts with our individual creative posture.

Yes, I am going in the cliché direction of what Ghandi has famously said "Be the change you want to see in the world." I think this is a challenge of the inner life and one towards the cultivation of the human soul, its fiery flames must rise in our inner skies and we must meet her fiery rays with the greatest courage and then embody its intuitive voice and calling.

I'll give you this, one reading I think begins to capture the profound essence and complexity of how one can reach and very slowly begin the journey of shifting, evolving, transmuting, transmogrify the old dying male archetype in all of us is found in a speech that poet Audre Lorde gave all the way back in 1978! called ['Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic As Power'](#) I recommend reading this as a base to get started and even [listening to it](#) thereafter. I think here she is speaking to the Male Archetype as much as women in society to painting. I believe a unique futural vision so profound to reaching a more balanced, creative and nuanced human living. Ok, now I've primed you with what I am thinking. Now I want to move to AI and



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

technological growth in society that represents so much symbolically where our species is going and how our futures are being shaped blindly. I want to say most of the tech industry is led by men and the very technology we are creating is upholding this semiotically Male archetype that is at the same time in decay. This is troubling for me and should be for you too.

We have a loneliness crisis and now new technologies beyond social media are entering our lives at great immensity and we haven't had the time to slow down, stop, reflect and see how it's impacting us nor understand where we are headed or want to be headed! Our human connection is increasingly fragmented so we cannot collectively decide properly anymore it seems.

What I am getting at is that I truly think generational wisdom and feminine values found in mothers and daughters could guide our tech future or the futures we aim to imagine and how we imagine them. They have a central role to place.

It certainly will help us heal the nuclear bombs society has erupted inside our collective psyche and its toxic ooze, a healing from this trauma in ways we don't have the language for today. I love what Nietzsche says here "One must be a sea, to receive a polluted stream without becoming impure." He speaks on the imagination, the creative and the inner life. And we must repair the separation and descent from this cosmic creative force that most of society has rapidly discarded inside the infinite vastness of themselves.

I saw this generational wisdom, creative and feminine values deeply reflected in the mission and vision of an organization I am working with at the moment called [the Rithm Project](#) whose mission is "To empower young people to rebuild & evolve human connection in the age of AI."

I travelled to Denver, Colorado two weeks ago to work with a design team for their upcoming [Human Connection + AI Summit](#) on May 13-15. They're doing really incredible work around the future of AI, education and addressing the crisis of loneliness in young people.

I was brought in to do worldbuilding that supported the design of one of their immersive rooms that will exist during the conference. The room will explore human relationships and AI in the year 2040. Can't wait to tell you more about it. It was an amazing experience to say the least. We're working with this incredible immersive theatre company based in New York called [Oddknock](#), to create immersive rooms of experiential futures



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

that allow the participants to engage in a deeply personal and transformative experience on the implication of possible futures around AI. We aimed at imagining the complexities to build futures where AI can help us see more, understand more morally and connect to one another as humans. A difficult task indeed but not impossible.

I say all this because as we move more and more towards a state of uncertainty, the old tools are not working to meet the demands of today and tomorrow's diverse futures.

We need to imagine new worlds that allow us to step into new evolved ways of being.

I personally believe worldbuilding as a craft, as a tool, as an evolving art form, as a collaborative framework helps see more and can be extremely catalytic in transforming the perceptions, values and ideas one might hold internally in that moment in very emergent ways. It's true, it's deeply creative and the visionary flows one experiences is expansive and now I've deviated from my point.

Ok, ultimately to end this piece on the importance of generational wisdom, feminine values and the erotic vision Audrey Lorde speaks of - I want to first say AI is built on deeply masculine ways with it already and paradoxically being so 'generative', it's built on optimization and deep acceleration, and we too are accelerating because of it and we all know that there is a certain wisdom that comes from presence and slowing down and feeling everything, I often see it in mothers and the cosmic feminine. I see this too in a planted seed slowly emerging its green leaves and tiny roots in the Black dirt. There's no rush. Nature gives birth like mothers, its creative and emergent. We all must be birthers of this impossible future that has been shrouded in hopelessness, reinventing ourselves outside of categories with care, we must. These values can help us to shift away from control and competition to more connection and collaboration, something that's clearly becoming more and more difficult for young people and adults to do today, especially for males, to make new friends. It could help us embrace more creative and emotionally non-linear thinking that is deeply deeply intuitive, a form of thinking that is gut-base I spoke previously in the last newsletter, a way of being that we all didn't know we were starving for, to rebalance us in meaningful ways, to allow the soul spirit of collective humanity to rebuild it's dying atrophying communities and our precious precious human connections.

I ask again, darlingly, to all mothers and daughters - holders of the intergenerational threads of wisdom - I ask you, selfishly: will you save us



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

from AI?

About The Author:

“Imagination Will Save Humanity.” This notion fuels Haitian-American writer, painter, futurist, and producer Fabrice J. Guerrier, the award-winning founder & CEO of Syllble Studios— the first collaborative worldbuilding production house that is shaping the future of science fiction and fantasy storytelling. Guerrier champions a groundbreaking approach by connecting underrepresented creative writers, visual artists, scientists, experts, and inspired creators from diverse countries, backgrounds, and cultures through artist collectives. Together, they construct imaginative, collaborative worlds that reshape the storytelling landscape to be more inclusive and future-focused. These fictional universes spark bold and visionary collective narratives that represent global diversity, publishing the best original work that emerges and expanding these worlds through continued creative collaborations, content creation, and transmedia. Guerrier is an associate member of the Hollywood Radio & TV Society, a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, a Gabr Fellow at the Shafik Gabr Foundation and a Senior Fellow at Humanity In Action. He was selected as a 2022 PEN Emerging Voices Fellow finalist and a PEN Haiti Fellow by PEN America. He was inducted into Forbes 30 Under 30 list and named to The Root Magazine’s 100 Most Influential African-Americans. Fabrice lives in Los Angeles, California. He is fluent in French and Haitian Creole.

Follow his blog: fabrice.substack.com

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not represent the views of the Foundation.



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

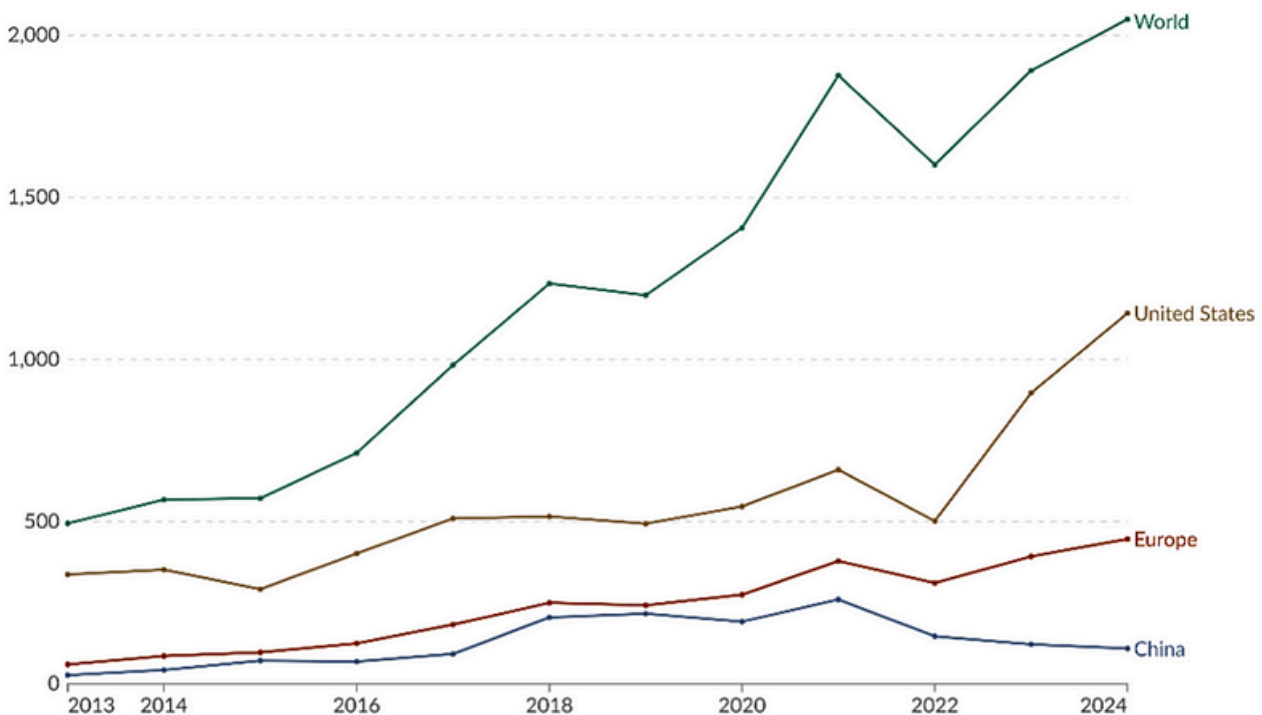
Dismal Ascension: A.I. Investment a Harbinger of Labor Demise?

July 1, 2025 by Alphaeus Hanson, 2025 Gabr Fellow

Newly-funded artificial intelligence companies

Newly-funded AI companies in each year that received an investment of more than \$1.5 million (not adjusted for inflation).

Our World
in Data



Data source: Quid via AI Index Report (2025)

OurWorldinData.org/artificial-intelligence | CC BY

Until A.I. market leaders like OpenAI generate consistent positive cash flow, the intrinsic value of most companies that comprise the A.I. stack (power generation and components, chips and cooling, model training, data labeling, etc) are probably more than current market valuations.

To maintain margin expansion and realize return on investment from A.I., companies will need to lay many people off. However, those displaced workers will not be able to leverage A.I. in the same way companies did because the ease of duplicating most applications of A.I. in an entrepreneurial context will drive entrepreneur profits down.

"We need to sit down and thoughtfully think through how we are going to distribute the coming productivity gains so that people are happy and



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

not unhappy." [1] In the remarks above, Paul Tudor Jones culminated his interview with Bloomberg in June 2025 by underscoring the potentially existential implications of the ubiquitous application of artificial intelligence (A.I.). In a foreboding manner, he informs the public that, although A.I. will bring productivity gains, the arbiters of this innovation will capture and distribute both the productivity and the financial upside.

A.I. increases digital capabilities for users. We've seen how these systems can quickly create programs and applications that previously would have taken much longer for individual programmers to accomplish. I challenge the idea that A.I.'s permeation through society will democratize profits for most individual users. My conviction persists even though people can use the technology to standup businesses that previously needed exorbitant amounts of expertise, money and human labor. Relationships between supply and demand explain why these profits may not be distributed evenly. An abundance of quality companies that, under previous market conditions, would have commanded \$1B+ valuations, will now paradoxically raise the standard for what investors assess to be worth \$1B+. This elevation to a new high watermark of productivity for startup firms supplants the idea that there will be more \$1B+ companies because that reality would characterize an inflationary effect of A.I. in this predicament. I prognosticate that the coming context of abundant A.I. will instead be best assessed as deflationary (at least for valuations). This is primarily because the ability to produce a company of such caliber is now easier with A.I. Put another way, if the set of companies with intrinsic valuations (not to be confused with market valuation which could be thought of as the market's willingness to pay) of \$1B+ were themselves units of supply, and investors' demand for these units remained stable, an outward shift in the supply curve – an increase in supply - would result in a decrease in equilibrium price paid for that product. This decrease in equilibrium price is what I postulate are the market (mainly private market post-money) valuations that A.I. companies will be able to raise capital at.

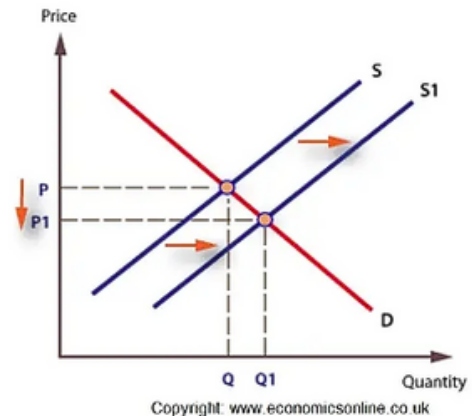
The corresponding need for corporations to realize returns on their investments in A.I. are what I conjecture harbors grave ramifications for the masses of employees in the crosshairs of corporate executives charged with implementing A.I.

[1] Tudor Jones on Next Fed Chair, Trump Budget, Markets, AI, 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6VniZdEPiA>.



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

Phillipe Laffront, founder of Coate, explicitly outlined that investors would realize the return on the \$500B of A.I. investment through the rich \$20T pool of labor spend in the U.S.[2] This is not even half of what Leopold Ashenbrenner, former member of Open AI's superalignment team and founder of an investment firm focused on artificial general intelligence, projects annual investment to be by 2030 (\$8T). (3)



This massive capital deployment will probably persist to enable firms like OpenAI and Anthropic to achieve the critical economies of scale necessary to drive down both computational costs and model training costs. These continued CAPEX investments will help these firms achieve unit profit margins that are greater than when investors first deployed capital. Corporations investing in and implementing A.I. can develop strategies to grow revenue directly through A.I. use – which they are probably doing in addition to contriving sinister designs on their employee base – designs to lay them off. While return on investment from A.I. can, and in some cases will come from revenue growth, the easier way to realize those returns is through price reductions in the form of labor cost optimization. We have already seen this afflict software engineers disproportionately.[4] The idea of people using A.I. with more entrepreneurial agency to generate more personal income is misguided because the pool of finite revenue (finite because the maximum amount of money a company can collect in earnings is some non-zero percentage of total money in circulation. Even with central banks creating more money, the corresponding inflationary effect creates an asymptote for the actual purchasing power of this revenue) is divided amongst more people pursuing a fixed upper limit of demand (fixed because the population of consumers that could/would purchase their product or service cannot meaningfully increase beyond current world population levels) for their product/service. More people may pursue entrepreneurship but I do not foresee the accessibility of success to coincide with this boost for the simple reason that A.I. will make so much of this newfound productivity common and replicable.

In aspiration to realize the productivity benefits of A.I., there are some countries and regions that will need to think twice before they allow domiciled companies to lay off their young male population. A large contingent of unemployed young males is formula for problems A.I. cannot solve practically at this moment. In the U.S. at least, personal consumption expenditures drive most of the economy.[5]



TIMELY READS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

Disrupting consumers' source of capital through mass layoffs (predating any form of universal basic income) would handicap many business models. The key to staying ahead of A.I.'s replication of typical human creativity is becoming creative with A.I. prompts themselves. Employees must produce creative, complex, sophisticated, and nuanced A.I. prompts in ways that reflect their unique perspectives. This way, requests cannot be reduced to replicable queries that enable A.I. systems to produce more value than previously provided. Domain specific prompts may hold the vision for the future of work and creativity. That is, humans adding personalized and interesting nuance to complex generative A.I. prompts to produce digital, and physical products that consumers are willing to pay a premium for. This, when combined with 3-D printing, advanced materials, synthetic morphology, epigenetics, and gene coding, becomes a revolutionary approach to creating entirely new categories of products - ones that may perhaps be sentient one day with the integration of types of technology that will make for interesting periodic pieces of propriety analysis I endeavor to author in the coming quarters.

Quarterly Capital Expenditure of Google, Microsoft, Meta from Q1 2023 – Q1 2025 in Billions

	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025
Google	6.3	6.9	8	11	12	13.2	13	15	17.2
Microsoft	6.6	9	10	9.7	10.9	13.8	14.9	15.8	16.7
Meta	7.1	6.4	7.9	11	6.7	8.5	9.2	14.4	13.7
Total	20	22.3	25.9	31.7	29.6	35.5	37.1	45.2	47.6
Growth Rate		12%	16%	22%	-7%	20%	5%	22%	5%

[2] Squawk Pod: Coatue's Philippe Laffont: The Year of the Privates - 06/25/25 | Audio Only, 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqIpFlzMvH4>.

[3] Aschenbrenner, Leopold. "Situational Awareness," n.d., 165.

[4] <https://www.republicworld.com/business/salesforce-joins-google-intel-in-tech-layoff-wave-ai-now-does-3050-of-the-work-says-ceo-marc-benioff>

[5] "Shares of Gross Domestic Product: Personal Consumption Expenditures," June 26, 2025. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/DPCERE1Q156NBEA>.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not represent the views of the 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/>



Gustav Bauernfeind, A Street Scene, Damascus
Oil on panel

THE SHAFIK GABR COLLECTION

Connect with us



The Shafik Gabr Foundation
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 840, Washington, DC 20001
7 Hassan Al-Akbar Street Cairo, Egypt, 11571