

Research and Outreach Centers and Institutes

AUB Nature Conservation Center (NCC)

Director

Saliba Aoun, Najat, PhD	Professor, Chemistry (FAS)
Daou, Alain, PhD	Assistant Professor, Entrepreneurship(OSB) (As of January 2021)

Executive Committee Members

Chaaban, Jad, PhD	Associate Professor, Agriculture (FAFS)
Daou, Alain, PhD	Assistant Professor, Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB)
Darwiche, Nadine, PhD	Assistant Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics (FM)
Romani, Maya, MD	Assistant Professor, Family Medicine (FM)
Saad, Walid, PhD	Associate Professor, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering (MSFEA)
Saliba Aoun, Najat, PhD	Professor, Chemistry (FAS)
Talhok, Salma, PhD	Professor, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management Department (FAFS)

AUB Faculty with Membership in the AUB-Nature Conservation Center

Abebe, Gumataw, PhD	Assistant Professor, Agribusiness Marketing and Management (FAFS)
Abunnasr, Yaser, PhD	Associate Professor - Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (FAFS)
Aramouny, Carla	Assistant Professor - Architecture and Design (FEA)
Al Hindi, Mahmoud, PhD	Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering (SFEA)
Alameddine, Mohammad, PhD	Associate Professor, Health Management and Policy (FHS)
Al-Zein, Mohammad	Instructor, Biology (FAS)
Amin, Tamer, PhD	Associate Professor, Education (FAS)
Aoun Saliba, Najat, PhD	Professor, Chemistry (FAS)
Atwood, Blake, PhD	Associate Professor - Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies (FAS)
Bahn, Rachel	Instructor, Agriculture (FAFS)
Bou Nassar, Makram, PhD	Lecturer, Economics (FAS)
Carney, Josh, PhD	Assistant Professor - Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies (FAS)
Choueiri, Lina, PhD	Associate Provost and Professor, English Language (FAS)
Daou, Alain, PhD	Assistant Professor, Entrepreneurship (OSB)
Darwiche, Nadine, PhD	Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics (FM)

Dimechkie, Riad	Senior Lecturer (OSB)
El Hajj, Wassim, PhD	Associate Professor, Computer Science (FAS)
El-Sabban, Marwan, PhD	Professor, Human Morphology (FM)
Enzerink, Suzanne, PhD	Assistant Professor (FAS)
Fayad, Nicolas	Senior Lecturer - Architecture and Design (FEA)
Frem, Sandra	Lecturer - Architecture and Design (FEA)
Habib, Rima, PhD	Chairperson and Professor, Environmental Health (FHS)
Homaidan, Fadia, PhD	Director of Grants and Contracts, Associate Professor, Physiology (FM)
Karam, Pierre, PhD	Assistant Professor, Chemistry (FAS)
Khauli Hanna, Leila - Lecturer	Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB)
Khishfe, Rola, PhD	Associate Professor, Education (FAS)
Lakkis, Issam, PhD	Professor, Mechanical Engineering (MSFEA)
Madani, Mehran, PhD	Assistant Professor, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management Department (FAFS)
Malleson, Claire Joanna, PhD	Assistant Professor - History and Archaeology (FAS)
Massoud, May, PhD	Associate Professor, Environmental Health (FHS)
Naja, Farah, PhD	Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences (FAFS)
Perdigon, Sylvain Jean Daniel, PhD	Assistant Professor - Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies (FAS)
Romani, Maya, MD	Assistant Professor, Family Medicine (FM)
Saad, Walid, PhD	Associate Professor, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering (SFEA)
Talhok, Rabih, PhD	Professor, Biology (FAS)
Talhok, Salma, PhD	Professor, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management Department (FAFS)
Tannir, Lina	Lecturer, Finance (OSB)
Yerezian, Aram	Assistant Professor - Architecture and Design (FEA)
Zurayk, Rami, PhD	Chairperson and Professor, Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management (FAFS)

Introduction

The AUB Nature Conservation Center (AUB-NCC) is the only transdisciplinary academic center addressing nature conservation in the MENA region, which promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and encourages individuals to relate to nature through research, education, community development, and knowledge dissemination. Ultimately, AUB-NCC aims to make people and communities the guardians and beneficiaries of nature.

AUB-NCC is a firm believer in citizen science and the role it can play in addressing issues related to air and water pollution, deforestation threats, and climate change challenges. Being one of the first organizations to adopt a public participatory approach to its projects, the Center takes full advantage of the collaborative framework put in place, which invites the general public into the fold, utilizing better data collection and analysis processes for the good of the cause at hand. This approach allows the Center to understand the needs of the communities and offers up a platform to engage the public and allow them to contribute to the research, study, and science of the subject at hand.

AUB-NCC's interest in promoting eco-innovation, entrepreneurship, and education is woven into all of its programs. It understands the importance of organizing environmental science programs in several fields and disciplines that raise awareness amongst communities of the environmental challenges we face today.

In addition, AUB-NCC's medicinal program ventures into the validation of folk practices, which involve the country's nature plants, flowers, and trees. Plant use is a primary concern in this field as Lebanon's natural wealth is second to none; therefore, a thought given to sustainability in that regard would prove significant in the context of natural medicines and remedies.

Membership

Since its establishment in 2001, AUB-NCC has mobilized people and institutions throughout Lebanon to support nature conservation, improved the environment, and inspired countless individuals to appreciate and embrace sustainability. The Center leverages the expertise and experience of AUB's faculties from different fields and involves around 50 faculty members to tackle the region's most pressing environmental challenges.

Throughout its tenure, AUB-NCC has recruited interns, worked with local and international businesses, engaged and impacted Lebanese citizens, engaged students, enrolled volunteers, operated with municipalities, worked alongside NGOs, collaborated with universities, and cooperated with government authorities. All the actors at stake illustrate the Center's multidisciplinary, as they aid the Center in achieving its mission.

Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences (CAMS)

The American University of Beirut has established the Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences (CAMS), the first such center among the institutions of higher learning in the Arab world. Given the seminal historical role of the Arab Middle East in the development of mathematics and astronomy, it is only natural for the region to have such a center dedicated to advanced teaching and research. The establishment of the Center is also especially timely, in view of the significant scientific talent both within the region and among its Diaspora, as well as the central importance of mathematical inquiry to the region's scientific, technological, and economic development.

Director: Jihad Touma

International Advisory Committee

Sir Michael Atiyah (Chairman), University of Edinburgh, UK

R. Dijkgraaf, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

I. Ekeland, UCB, Canada; PIMS, Canada

P. Griffiths, IAS, Princeton, USA

N. Khuri, Rockefeller University, New York, USA

D. Zagier, MPI Bonn, Germany; College de France, France

In addition to their scientific distinction, members of the International Advisory Committee are highly experienced, scientific leaders and have been involved in the administration of some of the world's top academic institutions in Europe and the USA. The International Advisory Committee's main task is to advise the president of AUB and the director of CAMS on policies, fundraising, appointments of fellows, and scientific programs.

CAMS Objectives

CAMS provides a vehicle for promoting research and graduate studies in the mathematical sciences, and a focal point for collaborative research among scientists and mathematicians in Lebanon and the region at large. Its aims are to:

- conduct research in the sciences and engineering, with special emphasis on their mathematical aspects. In this regard, CAMS acts as a regional research facility in various mathematical sciences such as theoretical physics, pure and applied mathematics, computer science, engineering, and a variety of fields in computational science
- promote and contribute to the graduate programs in the mathematical sciences and engineering at AUB
- promote postdoctoral research and education at AUB and at other local universities, and foster a multi-disciplinary environment encompassing various areas of mathematical science
- assist the university community at large in integrating the use of high performance computing into the various academic and administrative programs by capitalizing on the expertise developed by the scientific and professional staff of CAMS
- identify and pursue promising new fields of science and engineering that might be integrated within CAMS and the university
- act as a focal point for promoting collaborative research among scientists in the region, partly by accommodating visitors for various intervals of time, and partly by organizing topical meetings, workshops, and conferences in different fields
- encourage and help promising young students to start academic careers in mathematical sciences, including applied areas crucial to economic growth.

Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service

Director:	Shibli, Rabih
Administrative Assistant:	Bou Fadel, Mireille
Staff and Research Assistants:	Abou Farraj, Lina; Basma, Ali; Fleihan, Hala; Chahine, Karen; Hajaig, Rabih; Kouzi, Sarah; Bou Matar, Sarah; Ziadeh, Raghida; Dabbous, Lin; Nehme Ali; Massalkhi, Fatima; Shamma, Dina; Maadarani, Omar; Rizkallah, Patricia; Zreik, Judi; Youssef, Hani; Monzer, Shadi;

Staff and Research Assistants: AUB's Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) actively works towards instilling an ethos of transformative leadership across campus, developing high impact multi-year interventions to empower local communities, and bridging theory to practice for experiential learning. This approach is embedded within the overall mission statement of the university emphasizing the leading role of students as change-agents equipped with skills needed to navigate the context of uncertainty and humanitarian crisis. Accordingly, the Center's operational framework is rooted in solid university-community partnerships and built on two cross-cutting tenets:

1. **Transformative Education:** Through extra-curricular activities and course offerings, CCECS guides students along structured programs aimed at developing the skills, mindsets, and values for active civic participation. Accordingly, students are provided with extensive opportunities that equip them with the tools needed to assess, analyze, and respond to the most pressing challenges facing Lebanon, MENA, and beyond:
 - a. **Leadership Development (extra-curricular):** CCECS engages students in a 4-pillar sequenced journey beginning with workshops, volunteering rotations, community-based internships, gradually building up to the implementation of Community Service Projects (CSP).
 - b. **Community Engaged Learning (course offerings):** CCECS liaisons with faculty members and community partners to develop courses addressing challenges faced by marginalized communities, ensuring balanced exchange of knowledge, and designating academically relevant field work.
2. **Developmental Planning:** Through contextualized programs aimed at empowering the poor and marginalized, CCECS plays an instrumental role in identifying themes, setting schemes for impactful multi-year interventions, and establishing partnerships with credible and like-minded universities, donor agencies, local organizations, and stakeholders. Concurrently, these programs serve as platforms for AUB students, faculty, and staff to engage in the transformative process:
 - a. **Community Development Projects:** primarily includes marginalized local groups and focuses on enhancing livelihoods and upgrading dilapidated infrastructure. Every intervention incorporates local knowledge and resources throughout the design process, implementations, and operations.
 - b. **Refugees' Track:** aims at reinforcing the resilience of refugees and vulnerable groups enduring a protracted stay by adopting an integrative approach that conflates quality education, livelihoods and transferable-skills development, and trauma-informed medical and mental health care programs.

AUB's civic engagement through CCECS has earned international recognition. AUB has been designated as the "most civically engaged campus" in the Middle East and North Africa, won the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship, the MIT Enterprise Forum 'Innovate for Refugees' Award, as well as the Fritz Redlich Human Rights Award from Harvard University.

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI)

Director:	Bahout, Joseph
Assistant Director:	El-Amine, Rayan
Staff:	Abbas, Dania; Ahmad, Ali; Al-Baalbaky, Rudayna; Baroud, Maysa; El-Ghali, Hana; El-Hajj, Rana; El-Houssari, Suzanne; Farajalla, Nadim; Karajerjian, Sarine; Mourad, Yara; Moussawi, Fatima; Salamé, Dounia

Inaugurated in 2006, the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut is an independent, research-based, policy-oriented institute. It aims to initiate and develop policy relevant research in and about the Arab region. The institute is committed to expanding and deepening knowledge production and to creating a space for the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas among researchers, civil society actors, and policy makers.

IFI's research programs are:

Arab and International Affairs

The Arab and International Affairs (AIA) program analyzes general trends of world politics from the perspective of their influence on Arab realities. More specifically, it examines

the impact of policies designed by major states and international actors on policies in Arab countries. In addition to analyzing the impact of foreign policies on the Arab world, the program contributes to informing policy-making through research as well as correspondences with diplomatic communities and other concerned actors.

Civil Society Actors and Policy-Making

The Civil Society and Policy-Making program examines a wide spectrum of civil society actors and analyzes their role in policy-making. The program also studies advocacy coalitions of civil society actors and the ways through which such policy networks influence processes and outcomes. In addition to the role of policy research institutes and their contribution to the translation of knowledge into policies, the program explores the media's expanding role in being a catalyzer of protests and revolutions in the Arab world.

Climate Change and Environment

The Climate Change and Environment program aims to initiate and enhance research in both fields of applied and social sciences. To activate the link between research and policy-making, the program strives to improve scientific discourse and produce appropriate policy recommendations on issues related to climate change and sustainable development, as well as influence national and regional debates on international negotiations affecting policy-making.

Education and Youth Policy

The Education and Youth Policy Research program aims to inform educational policy and improve educational practices. Through an all-encompassing exploration of education based issues in the Arab world, the program assesses the impact on children and youth in the region through engaging in applied and policy relevant research. Consequently, the program serves as a resource for government agencies and other concerned institutions to help shape the education and youth policy debate in Lebanon and the region.

Energy Policy and Security

The Energy Policy and Security program is an interdisciplinary platform that seeks to examine, inform, and impact regional and global energy sectors as well as security policies within the Middle East. Moreover, it closely monitors the challenges and opportunities of the shift towards alternative energy sources. With a seed grant support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the program investigates the prospects of nuclear power in the Middle East and its potential to promote regional cooperation to address security concerns associated with the spread of nuclear power.

Governance and Policy Lab (IFI GovLab)

In light of the growing need for countries to adapt their governance mechanisms to meet the demands of an increasingly complex, globalized, and technology driven world, IFI GovLab aims to undertake innovative policy research and activities that address some of the most pressing policy issues and public sector challenges faced in Lebanon and the region. Furthermore, the IFI GovLab's goal is to strengthen the ability of local and regional actors to enhance governance mechanisms and to integrate innovation within organizations, particularly those in the public sector, by providing them with the right tools and evidence to address national priorities, to the ultimate benefit of the public good. The IFI GovLab also aims to conduct policy research affecting digital policies and internet governance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region with the aim to advance knowledge creation and existing evidence on inclusive institutions and good governance in the region.

Refugee Research and Policy

Lebanon and the Arab region are facing one of the largest refugee crises spawning serious public policy challenges. Given this context, the Refugee Research and Policy program generates refugee related/policy oriented research that addresses an existing knowledge gap in the field of refugee studies. Moreover, the program seeks to enrich the quality of debate among scholars, officials, international organizations, and civil society actors, with the aim to inform policy-making relating to refugees in the Middle East and beyond.

Social Justice and the City

By establishing a partnership between scholars, policymakers, and activists in Lebanon and beyond, the Social Justice and the City program seeks to formulate an agenda for research aiming towards more inclusive cities. The program acts as a platform where concerned parties share their experiences and strategies to document and analyze ongoing urban processes affecting the organization and life of the city. Furthermore, the program seeks to share and validate research with activists, affected communities, and other social groups interested in sharing both the acquired competence and the pool of research tactics to bring about change through debates, media, publications, and advocacy.

Internship Program

The institute offers internships for local and international students seeking first-hand experience in the fields of public policy, international affairs, and communications. Each year dozens of students have an opportunity to intern with IFI's various programs and gain research and administrative skills that pave the way for a successful career in their fields of interest.

Affiliate Program

Out of IFI's commitment to expanding and deepening knowledge production and to creating a space for the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas among researchers, civil society actors, and policymakers, the Institute established an affiliation program divided into four different categories, Visiting Scholar, AUB Faculty Fellow, Senior Policy Fellow, and Distinguished Senior Fellow. The affiliates contribute in their areas of expertise to IFI's research programs and participate in the intellectual life of the institute. The specific requirements, interactions, and contributions made by intellectual life of the institute. The specific requirements, interactions, and contributions made by affiliates, differ depending on the specific needs of each research program.

The Center for Arts and Humanities¹ (Mellon Grant)

Director:	Abdulrahim Abu-Husayn
Program Manager:	Rita Bassil

AUB received a grant for \$2,000,000 over five years from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** for the establishment of the Center for Arts and Humanities (CAH), the largest Mellon Foundation commitment to the University to date. The award is intended to strongly facilitate AUB's quest to establish a permanent Center for Arts and Humanities as the leading regional intellectual base for innovative and interdisciplinary curricular development and teaching, as well as for scholarly humanistic and artistic production.

Building on the remarkable success of the Arts and Humanities Initiative (AHI), generously supported by the Foundation since its inception in 2012, this award reaffirms the critical global importance of liberal arts education and AUB's leading role in this regard. Previous support from the Foundation has been instrumental in the reinvigoration of the intellectual environment for faculty in the arts and humanities at AUB, and in the creation of a transformational and independent forum for collaborative and interdisciplinary curricular experimentation, research, intellectual dialogue, and production—especially for young thinkers and writers.

In a region undergoing radical transformation, sustaining and expanding our commitment to the arts and humanities is more essential than ever. At a time when cultural legacies and humanistic traditions are at risk of being eroded, the need for critical reflection and research on works created in Arab and other local societies is desperately needed.

This Mellon grant supports faculty and postdoctoral fellowship program, an artist or writer-in-residence, high profile public arts events, and regional collaboration with scholars and universities, as an alternative site for the production of humanistic knowledge rooted in regional cultures and as an interlocutor for east-west cultural dialogue.

1) An overview of the Center's program and activities can be found on the Center's website: <http://www.aub.edu.lb/cah/Pages/index.aspx>. The Center is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and builds upon AUB's successful Arts and Humanities Initiative.

Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources

Director:	Ghaddar, Nesreen R., Professor and Qatar Chair in Energy Studies, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Executive Assistant :	Assaad, Sandrine

Institute Steering Committee

Abdel Rahman, Abdel Fattah	Professor, Department of Geology
Ahmad, Mohamad	Professor, Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering
Al Ghoul, Mazen	Professor, Department of Chemistry
Ghaddar, Nesreen	Professor and Qatar Chair in Energy Studies, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Jabr, Rabih	Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Moukalled, Fadl	Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Srou, Issam	Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Introduction

The Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources at the American University of Beirut (AUB) was established in June 2007 through a generous endowment pledge of \$5 million by AUB Trustee Munib Masri of the Munib R. Masri Foundation.

Mission

The Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources provides a vehicle for promoting research and advanced study in the petroleum, water, and energy disciplines, as well as a focal point for collaborative research among scientists, engineers, and professionals in Lebanon and in the region at large. The institute serves as an interfaculty coordinating unit in AUB and a catalyst for advanced research in the sciences and engineering for the management and conservation of natural resources and energy.

Objectives

The objectives of The Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources are the following:

- Initiate, guide, and support collaborative and interdisciplinary research in renewable energy and energy efficiency, water and mineral resources, and management of natural resources to protect the environment
- Support research studies that advance knowledge in areas that promote sustainable development in the region
- Form research clusters and multi-disciplinary research teams crossing boundaries of disciplines to address complex problems
- Organize specialized training workshops, academic and public seminars, conferences, lecture series, and similar high scholarly events

Activities of the Institute

The activities of The Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources are the following:

- Initiate and enhance collaborative and interdisciplinary research that leads to sustainable impact
- Form research clusters and MOUs with a focus on critical contextual issues
- Organize academic and public seminars, lecture series and international workshops
- Enhance collaborative research and dissemination of research results at AUB
- Support projects and blended learning increasing graduate (master) students
- Support outreach contextualized digital hybrid learning
- Support activities of the interdisciplinary master program in energy studies at MSFEA