

GRADUATE EDUCATION STUDENT FORUM

BECOMING AN IMPACTFUL RESEARCHER: A JOURNEY OF EMPOWERMENT AND SUPPORT

JANUARY 24, 25, 26, 2020

BIOGRAPHIES

Rima Karami-Akkary

Doctor Rima Karami-Akkary is an Associate Professor of Educational Administration, Policy and Leadership in the Department of Education at the American University of Beirut. Her research mainly focuses on understanding the current practices of school leaders, and on designing approaches to build capacity among school practitioners to prepare them to lead school improvement initiatives. She is a co-principal investigator and leads the professional development activities in the TAMAM project, a joint project of the Arab Thought Foundation and the American University of Beirut, which works on initiating and researching school-based reform in the Arab region. She is the Director of the TAMAM Lebanon Hub funded by LORE Foundation.

Suzanne Abed El Rida Bou Rjeili

Dr. Suzanne Abed El Rida Bou Rjeili is specialized in Educational Sociology. Currently, she is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Education in the Lebanese University. At the same faculty, she also serves as the coordinator of the research team which studies revolve around "Educational Reform in Lebanon".

Dr. BouRjeili has previously worked as an educational expert with several famous organizations and institutions. Some of which are : Dirasati, Social Movement, Carnegie Middle East, World Bank, Educational Center for Research and Development and others.

Actually, her research interests focus on school climate and change in education. Recently, Dr. Bou Rjeili coordinated a book on higher education and the labor market. Besides, she has edited numerous articles on educational reform in Lebanon, policies of teacher training, and the contribution of procedural research to the development of the school.

Karim Chebli

Karim is a multi-career professional with 10 years of experience in academia, artistry, and business. Initially, Karim was a business administration graduate from Notre Dame University. He is now a graduate student at the American University of Beirut seeking a master's degree in Educational Administration and Policy Studies. Mr. Karim is writing his thesis titled: "the development of pedagogic content knowledge for theatre teaching artists". Devoted to continuous professional-learning, he is simultaneously pursuing a Bachelor in Theatre at the Lebanese University's Faculty of Fine Arts. Karim's devotion, and hard work secured him various responsibilities across different private and non-profit institutions including Saint Joseph School Cornet Chauhan, Khalil Fatal et Fills., Teach for Lebanon and Amelie School. Currently, he is assigned the role as Head of Finance at the Council Leadership Academy.

Siline Itani

Siline Itani earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Teaching Diploma from Haigazian University in 2015. She invested all this knowledge in teaching students from various backgrounds, across different settings, from PreK-7. Through these experiences, her passion, for attending not only to the intellectual needs of her learners but also their psycho-social emotional wellbeing, lead her to pursue a Master of Arts in Education (Educational Psychology – School Guidance and Counseling) from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and she graduated in 2019; her thesis focused on Academic Procrastination, Academic Self-efficacy, and Academic Achievement of the Lebanese Baccalaureate Program Candidates. During her graduate journey, Siline has interned as a middle school counselor and a community counselor. In parallel, she worked as a graduate assistant at AUB, research, translation, and interpretation assistant at Oxford Policy Management, content creator for a character education program abroad, and research assistant for various projects. By serving humbly the field of education, through research and practice, Siline formed the conviction of having a true educator to be, a researcher, teacher and counselor. She is currently a university instructor in the School of Education at the Lebanese International University (LIU).

Paul Said

Paul Philippe Said, MA in Education Administration from AUB. His Thesis Title was: Towards a Grounded Understanding of Student Leadership Identity. Mr. Paul is currently the Principal at the National Renaissance School, Alley. His previous position was the Head of Intermediate Division and Assistant Principal at Beirut Orthodox Schools. Besides, he also acted as a Youth Talks Teacher in the same school.

Noha Hosni

Noha El Husni is a Civil Engineer - American University of Beirut graduate - with 27 years of experience in the field of Design and Project management. By chance, she found herself in a classroom teaching Physics and was hooked since then. Her professional development and passion for education motivated her to continue and pursue her graduate studies after 17 years of work. She got her Master's degree in Educational Technology – University Of Balamand - and now is in her final steps to her Ph.D. degree in STEM/STEAM Education from the Lebanese University. Noha has 6 publications in peer-reviewed international journals, banks 30 years of experience in the school-education field and 7 years as a UOB instructor in the field of Educational Technology. She has exposure in conducting classes with various teaching techniques empowering 21st-century skills. Noha is a true leader by example and a strong believer in personal integrity and work ethic along with skills in relating to and creating trust with students of diverse backgrounds.

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Ms. Michele Bejjani

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Occupation: Biology, Chemistry, Physics teacher in a private school

Academic review: Actually working on my master's thesis in Sciences of Education at USJ, Faculty of Education

Shaghig Chaparian

Shaghig Chaparian has a Bachelor of Sciences in Biology and a Teaching Diploma in Secondary School Sciences from Haigazian University. She has a Master's degree in Science Education from the American University of Beirut. She has worked on various research

studies as a graduate assistant. Her research interests are science education for informed and active citizenship in the context of social controversial scientific issues. Shaghig has seven years of experience, teaching sciences in Middle schools, and she works on several developmental projects with local NGOs.

Dr. Bassel Akkar

Dr Bassel Akar is Associate Professor of Education and Director of the Center for Applied Research in Education at Notre Dame University – Louaize, Lebanon. His research focuses on learning and teaching for active citizenship in the context of Lebanon and other sites affected by armed conflict. Recently, he has closely examined citizenship and history education teachers demonstrate their agency for curricular and pedagogical change through innovative approaches inside the classroom. Bassel also has a strong interest in approaches to empowering young people through participative research methodologies. In addition to citizenship education, he has led research projects that examine educational programs for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and Jordan (formal, non-formal, early childhood), explored debates of approaches to history education, and investigate education for environmental sustainability in public schools. Dr. Bassel has most recently published Citizenship education in conflict-affected areas: Lebanon and beyond (2019) and a book chapter, “An Emerging Framework for Providing Education to Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon” in Syrian Refugee Children in the Middle East and Europe (2018).

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Lina Khalil

Lina Khalil is an assistant professor at the Department of Education in The American University of Beirut. She recently received her PhD from the University of Southampton. Her own PhD explored choice-making of international schooling. She was also part of an upstream study of e-books in public schools in the UK. Currently, Lina is planning to do a comprehensive, exploratory study of demographics of schools in Lebanon. Lina is interested in a sociological understanding of practice in schooling and how that can be translated into efforts for school improvement and effectiveness. Lina enjoys a good book and has recently taken up the flute.

Rana Niami

Rana Naimi, responsable des cycles préscolaire et primaire, à l'école de Saint Jean Baptiste des Sœurs Maronites de la Sainte Famille Wadi Chahrour. Mon expérience en éducation a eu lieu au Liban et au Canada dans les services de gardes et les écoles.

Au niveau académique, j'ai achevé mon master en gestion scolaire et je suis en cours d'accomplir un master en counseling et orientation scolaires. En ce qui concerne les recherches, j'ai travaillé en tant qu'aide chercheur à l'université Libanaise et présentement je suis membre de JRC.

Dr. Samar Zeitoun

Dr. Samar Zeitoun is a full-time professor at the Lebanese University. She received her first PhD in teaching education from the University of Nottingham in the UK in 2009. Her second PhD is in educational Leadership & Management from the Lebanese University in 2019. She is currently an instructor at the Faculty of Education and at the Faculty of Letters and Human sciences. She is also the Director of the Centre of language Sciences & communication at the Faculty of Letters & Human sciences. She taught various courses in general education, instructional supervision, educational leadership and educational technology.

Her research interests include teacher education in both initial training and continuous professional development as well as leadership in education and technology education. Her interest in educational technology led her to seek additional training in this topic. Doctor Samar is currently an affiliate academic at University College London in the UK.

Sirine Sibahi

Sirine is an enthusiastic researcher in educational management and leadership. She took her B.S. in biology from Beirut Arab University (BAU) in 2005, pursuing Masters in Educational Management and Leadership from Lebanese University (LU) in 2012, and is waiting to defend her thesis in 2020. She is a science teacher for cycles 2 and 3 at UNRWA since 2005. She also used to be a research assistant at the educational reform research team in Lebanon (at LU) from 2016 till 2019, a part-time principal at Afak Institute throughout the scholastic year 2014-2015, and a trainee at the placement and career guidance unit at UNRWA in scholastic year 2010-2011. This is in addition to participating in national and international conferences, being a member of the organizing committee for this conference, and attaining diverse certificates as Training of Trainers (TOT) from Gatq in 2019, School Based Teaching Diploma for science teachers (SBTD) at UNRWA in 2018, a certificate related to teaching english by science teachers from British Council in 2016, professional diploma in Human Resources Management (HRM) at Haigazian University (HU) in 2008, and one year in-service teaching diploma at UNRWA in 2008.

Dr. Hagop A. Yacoubian

Hagop A. Yacoubian is an Associate Professor of Education at the Lebanese American University (LAU). His research generally focuses on exploring how future citizens can be empowered so that they develop a critical mindset and engage in democratic decision-making processes. A list of his publications can be accessed through <http://sas.lau.edu.lb/education/people/hagop-a-yacoubian.php>

Ms. Joelle Khoury

Joelle Khoury is part of the logistics committee organizing the 2020 Graduate Education Student Forum. She has had a career in Education since 2008. She first obtained her BA from the Lebanese University in English Language and Literature, then an MA from NDU in School Management and Educational Leadership, and she is now working on her PhD in Education at USJ.

In 2015, she presented her Master's study at The National Conference on Education in NDU. In 2016, her study was accepted at the conference on Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) in Vancouver, Canada. And in 2018, she took part in the Graduate Education Forum at AUB as a presenter.

She now works at an NGO as a Junior Education Specialist in charge of mentoring and monitoring teachers in projects all over Lebanon, as well as a master trainer to all staff and teachers.

Dr. Kamal Abou Chedid

Kamal Abou Chedid earned a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies in Education from the University of Manchester, U.K in 1997. Doctor Abou Chedid also earned an M. Ed. in Adult Education from the same university in 1992. He has been serving as the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) since 2014. He also served as an advisor to the Minister of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)-Lebanon in 2011 and has provided educational consulting services to regional and local organizations. His research

interests mainly focused on quality assurance in higher education, citizenship education, and attribution theory.

Ms. Mariam Yamout

Mariam has a BS degree in Food Science and Management and a teaching diploma in Secondary Science Education from AUB. She is currently completing her Master degree in Science Education at AUB. Mariam has experience as a volunteer and a research assistant in TAMAM. She believes in continuity in learning and change stems from the collaborative and deliberative effort of all educators.

Ms. Souheir Ghozayel

“Whatever you are, be a good one,” Abraham Lincoln

My name is Souhair Ghozayel. I was born on March 7, 1991. I majored in English Language and Literature at the Lebanese University and got my Teaching Diploma in Teaching English for Secondary and High School Classes from Haigazian University. I have earned a Professional Certificate in English Language Teaching (PCEL) from World Learning/ SIT Graduate School in association with AMIDEAST. Currently, I am pursuing my Master’s degree in Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at the Lebanese American University (LAU). I have also been a teacher at Ras Beirut International School for eleven years. On top of that, I am a mother for a smart and beautiful two-year old girl. During the year that I spent in the USA as a YES (Youth Exchange and Study Program) student, I had the opportunity to learn about community service. This has made me a passionate volunteer. I enjoy giving back to my community and helping it prosper educationally, professionally, and environmentally.

Dr. Haneen El Hout

Dr. Hanine C. Hout is the Chair of the Faculty of Social & Behavioral Sciences at Haigazian University. In addition to teaching a variety of education and psychology courses, Dr. Hout has been advising graduate students during their thesis writing journey for the last 18 years. Such interactions with her students are considered as one of the highlights of her career as she gets to escort her students during this important phase of their academic lives. Beside her work at the university, Dr. Hout, who is also a practicing therapist, is involved in different community services, from offering different types of educational workshops and seminars to teachers, parents and students to leading groups for women with breast cancer as well as groups of empowerment for young people. In fact, she served as the treasurer of the Lebanese Psychological Association from 2008-2011. She is also currently co-investigating a research project on critical thinking in several Lebanese public schools.

Ms. Rasha Nouredine

Rasha Nouredine is an Education Graduate currently working on her MA Thesis. She is also a graduate research assistant carrying out research under the supervision of Dr. Morten Greaves. In addition, Ms. Nouredine currently teaches IB History to high school students, and is the coordinator of her department. She has over a year’s experience as a research assistant, two years’ experience teaching in private schools, and ten years teaching privately. In her down time, Ms. Nouredine is a mother, avid reader, and writer.

Ms. Sally Kawtharani

Co-Founder & CEO at JRC Junior Researcher Coach. Data Science epistemologist. Interested in working on the epistemological shifts provoked in research methodologies by Data Science.

Dr. Hwaida Bou Ramia

She is a professor at the Lebanese School of Social Work (Ecole libanaise de formation sociale) of the Saint-Joseph University in Beirut, where she is head of the social work PhD program. She earned a Master's degree in social work from the University of Ottawa and a PhD in the same field from the University of Montreal. Professor Bou Ramia is currently teaching several courses concerning qualitative research, evaluation of programs and interventions, social intervention with individuals and families in difficulties, and theoretical and ethical foundation of social work. She focuses her research on different issues ranging from drug addiction to child abuse and parental competencies, with an interest on the analysis of social policies and the evaluation of programs and interventions.

Ms. Gacia Danaoghlian

Gacia Danaoghlian earned her master's degree in English Literature from the American University of Beirut (AUB), focusing on Shakespeare, Christian theology and Early Modern Society. Her BA and Teaching Diploma was attained at Haigazian University. Gacia started her journey as an instructor in 2017. She used to work at the Writing Center at AUB during her graduate years. She also taught in several schools across Lebanon. Currently, Gacia is a part-time instructor at AUB and LAU-Byblos. At AUB, Gacia teaches Academic Writing Courses that target enhancing oral, writing, and research skills for students in the Communications Skills Program- English Department. At LAU- Byblos, Gacia is both an Instructor of Literature and a Writing Center Tutor, where she helps students with the writing process as well as overcoming different writing challenges. Gacia has also taken part in several projects and presentations at several conferences. She notably authored a fourth-grade elementary English textbook and published many articles and creative pieces.

Ms. Salwa Ali

Salwa Ali is a graduate student in Science Education at the American University of Beirut (AUB). She holds a bachelor's degree in Chemistry in addition to a Teaching Diploma in Secondary Education from AUB. Salwa worked as a **research assistant** at the Education Department working on projects related to the nature of science and argumentation. Currently, she is working on her thesis where she is investigating the role of language of instruction in relation to conceptual understanding in multilingual settings. Her study aligns with the need for sociocultural framed research to inform on the choice of the language of instruction in the Arab region.

Dr. Maud Stephan-Hachem

Dr. Stephan is a board member of **Shamaa** as well as a Member-at-large of the Executive Committee.

She is a Professor of Information and Libraries Sciences at the Lebanese University. She holds a doctorate in Education from Saint Joseph University in Beirut, a postgraduate degree in Information and Documentation, and a master's degree in Philosophy.

Dr. Stephan held the position of Director of the Lebanese National Library Rehabilitation Project from 1999 till 2003, then its Scientific Advisor from 2003 till 2018. As advisor to the Minister of Culture between 2000 and 2003, she established the public libraries network of the said Ministry. Between 2014 and 2018, she coordinated the Shamaa's project on developing the capacities of master's and doctoral students in education. The project delivers training courses on the use of educational resources.

She has published four books and many articles on documentation, libraries, publishing and reading.

Dr. Stephan is a founding member of the Assabil Association and currently its Vice-President. She is member of the Lebanese Library Association (LLA) and the Lebanese Association of Women Researchers (Bahithat).

Rita Maalouf

Mrs. Rita Maalouf, Shamaa's executive director since its inception in 2007, graduated with a master's degree in information sciences from the École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI) of Montreal University, Canada, with a specialization in the management of electronic information, after obtaining a B.A. in Documentation from the Lebanese University in Beirut. Prior to that, she held a position within the European Commission funded project on the Rehabilitation of the Lebanese National Library for three years. Mrs. Maalouf is an undergraduate instructor at the Lebanese University, Faculty of Information and Documentation. She is a member of the Lebanese Library Association (LLA) and the Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec (CBPQ). She has presented papers at various regional and international professional conferences.

Mr. Hammad I. Sioufi

Hammad Sioufi, founder and MD of Beyond Learning, completed his education in administration, educational development and management, strategic leadership, and personnel management in 2008. After his master's degree in educational administration from the American University of Beirut, he served in several educational institutions, including International College (IC) and Rawdah Educational Institution, where he held the position of Dean of Students. Hammad also served the Lebanese Scout Association as Beirut District Commissioner and Commissioner of Leadership Development. After taking on different projects in education and youth leadership around the region, mainly in consulting and training, Hammad founded Beyond Learning.

Beyond Learning is a consultancy specialized in educational management and youth leadership. We undertake different projects that improve educational institutions as well as businesses, while providing our very own character, skills, and leadership building programs. Our team strongly believes that education, training, and awareness can make a difference and can inspire us to create a more equitable and sustainable humanity for the future.

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Ms. Yusra Khattab

Yusra has a BS in Mathematics, Minor in Computer Science, Minor in Education, and a Teaching Diploma in Mathematics for Secondary School from AUB. She is currently completing her Master degree in Mathematics Education at AUB. Yusra has an experience as in teaching and as a research assistant at AUB. She believes in lifelong learning and in the role of education in changing people's lives.

Currently, Yusra is the School Coach for TAMAM-Taawon Partnership, and a member in the TAMAM Project Steering Team.