

GRADUATE EDUCATION STUDENT FORUM

BECOMING AN IMPACTFUL RESEARCHER: A JOURNEY OF EMPOWERMENT AND SUPPORT

JANUARY 24, 25, 26, 2020

PROGRAM

Day 1: Friday 24 th of January 2020	
2:45pm	Forum Registration <i>First floor, West Hall</i>
4:00 - 4:15pm	Opening and Welcoming <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i>
4:15 – 5:00pm	<p>Opening Session: Promoting Socially Responsible Research <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i></p> <p>Dr. Rima Karami, American University of Beirut Dr. Suzanne Abdul-Reda Abourjeili, Lebanese University</p> <p>This panel will include two professors of education from two different universities. Each speaker will have 20 minutes to talk about his/her experience in conducting socially responsible research, providing an example(s) from his/her research. Presenters are also invited to comment on the significance of addressing research topics or problems that are relevant to students' context and to discuss challenges that might be encountered during this process, as well as strategies that facilitate the selection of socially responsible research problems. Presenters will also recommend specific research strategies or methodologies they think are most useful when conducting such research</p>
5:00-5:30pm	<p>Brief Overview of the Network: Initiation, Goals, and Activities <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i></p> <p>Siline Itani, American University of Beirut Paul Said, American University of Beirut Noha Hosni, Lebanese University</p> <p>The GES Network members will present this session. The team will be presenting the newly initiated Graduate Education Students (GES) network, as well as its goals and activities. The team will also discuss the potentials of the network for initiating joint research between professors and novice researchers, allowing for including larger samples all over Lebanon and supporting authentic research.</p>
5:30-7:00pm	Poster Session <i>Common Room and Auditorium A, West Hall</i>

Students will display their posters that include an overview of their research and will discuss their research with circulating attendees. Posters will be presented in English, Arabic or French language.

Day 2: Saturday 25th of January 2020

8:30am	<p>Forum Registration <i>First floor, West Hall</i></p> <p>Welcoming <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i></p> <p>Master of the Ceremony: Karim Chebli</p>
9:00-10:30am	<p>Student Panel Discussion 1: General Challenges Typically Faced by Graduate Students <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i></p> <p>Michele Bejjani, Université Saint-Joseph Shaghig Chaparian, American University of Beirut Noha Hosni, Lebanese University</p> <p>Discussant: Dr. Bassel Akar, Notre Dame University</p> <p>Three students from different universities and specialty areas will present key challenges and encountered difficulties besides sharing practical tips that will help fellow graduate students on their research journeys. Michele - from USJ - will expose the challenges students face when choosing their research topic and how to make it the most concrete. Shaghig - from AUB - will discuss the challenges of setting a timeline for research and highlight common unexpected disruptions that may cause changes in timelines of students, especially for researches in the field of education. Noha - from LU - will share the challenges encountered during data collection through an intervention conducted in Lebanese private schools.</p>
10:30am	<p>Coffee Break – Terrace</p>
11:00-12:00pm	<p>Three Minutes Research Challenge <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i></p> <p>Master of the Ceremony: Karim Chebli</p> <p>Students will explain their research projects or topics and its significance in just three minutes. This challenge supports their ability to effectively explain research in a non-specialist language to a large audience.</p>
12:00-2:00pm	<p>Poster Exhibit and Lunch Break <i>Common Room and Auditorium A, West Hall</i></p>

Day 2: Saturday 25th of January 2020

WORKSHOPS			
Workshop 1:	Workshop 2:	Workshop 3:	Workshop 4:
<p>Choosing and Setting the Advisor-student Relation/ Connection.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Auditorium A, West Hall</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Lina Khalil & Souhair</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUB</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This workshop is designed for students currently working on their proposal</i></p> <p>Support: Mariam</p>	<p>Selecting Research Focus and Choosing the Conceptual Framework</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Auditorium B, West Hall</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr Samar Zeitoun & Sirine Sibahi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LU</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This workshop is designed for students currently working on their proposal</i></p> <p>Support: Yusra</p>	<p>Ethical Considerations and Access to Collect Data</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Auditorium C, West Hall</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Hagop Yacoubian & Ms. Joelle Khoury</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LAU</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This workshop is designed for students currently working on their Data Collection</i></p> <p>Support: Paul</p>	<p>Collecting and Analyzing Quantitative Data</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Common Room, West Hall</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Kamal Abou Chedid</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NDU</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This workshop is designed for students currently working on their Data Collection</i></p> <p>Support: Salwa</p>
<p>Workshop 1: Choosing and Setting the Advisor-student Relation/ Connection. In this workshop, Dr. Lina Khalil will address tips for selecting a thesis advisor who best fits student’s research objectives and highlight the importance of establishing healthy and positive relationships in professional contexts. She will present the roles and responsibilities of both thesis advisors and graduate students, as well as the common challenges faced by graduate students in this regard. She will also recommend ways of solving problems faced with advisors and explain the process of changing an advisor with an attitude of respect.</p> <p>Workshop 2: Selecting Research Focus and Choosing the Conceptual Framework In this workshop, Dr. Samar Zeitoun will address ways of choosing a research topic and developing a research focus. She will highlight the importance of choosing a theoretical framework in the research process. She will emphasize the significance of the conceptual framework in selecting a topic, developing research questions and conceptualizing the literature review.</p> <p>Workshop 3: Ethical Considerations and Access to Collect Data In this workshop, Dr. Hagop Yacoubian will address the key ethical considerations and issues that may confront students and researchers in education research. He will discuss the main challenges of the IRB review process. He will provide guidelines for the research process and its importance in collecting data. This includes issues of confidentiality, privacy and anonymity, responsible negotiation of access, ownership</p>			

of data and the physical and psychological safety of participants. He will relate research designs to its conduct and data collection tools, as well as explain procedures for reporting data in an objective, clear and responsible manner.

Workshop 4: Collecting and Analyzing Quantitative Data

In this workshop, Dr. Kamal Abou Chedid will explain the process of conducting research using a quantitative approach, the types of quantitative research designs, also he will specify their purpose, research question, or hypothesis. He will further discuss the epistemological or philosophical assumptions underlying quantitative designs. He will also address ways of planning quantitative data collection procedures and selecting appropriate statistical analysis methods. He will also explain how to interpret and read the statistical output.

3:30-5:30pm

Roundtable Research Discussions: Using Critical Friendship

Common Room and Auditorium A, West Hall

Discussant:

Dr. Suzzane Bou Rjeili, Lebanese University (Common Room)

Siline Itani, American University of Beirut (Auditorium A)

In this roundtable discussion session, participating graduate students will form subject or research field groups to discuss their projects, highlighting the key challenges encountered. Every group will include a student who is at an early stage of his/her research project and a student who, at least, defended his/her research proposal. Two students will give a five-minute presentation about their research to facilitate the discussion. Students will learn about and use the critical friendship technique to offer each other critical and constructive feedback.

Day 3: Sunday 26 th of January 2020	
8:30am	<p>Forum Registration <i>First floor, West Hall</i></p> <hr/> <p>Welcoming <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i></p> <p>Master of Ceremony: Fahd Jamaledine</p>
9:00-10:00am	<p>Presentation 1: Providing Psycho-Emotional Social Support: Peer Coaching Partnership. <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i></p> <p>Dr. Haneen El Hout, Haigazian University</p> <p>Discussant: Ms. Rasha Noureddine, Lebanese American University</p> <p>This session will provide psycho-emotional social support for a smoother and more productive journey especially as graduate students pass through many challenges during their journey of writing thesis.</p>
10:00-10:30am	<p>Presentation 2: My story of risk-taking in Research <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i></p> <p>Ms. Sally Kawtharani, Junior Research Coach (JRC)</p> <p>Discussant: Dr. Suzzane Bou Rjeili, Lebanese University</p> <p>This session will be presented by a member of the JRC. Using storytelling style, the student will share her experience and the research trends. This presentation will cover the following headlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Innovativeness</i> in research (take a risk with unconventional approaches) - Importance of <i>courage</i> in research work (enter new fields and leave the beaten track) - A vision of the future of <i>multidisciplinary</i> research. - <i>Data science</i> in Research: what is the future of research methods effected by Data Science?

Day 3: Sunday 26th of January 2020

10:45-12:15pm

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 5	Workshop 6	Workshop 7	Workshop 8
<p>Collecting and Analyzing (qualitative) Data</p> <p><i>Common room, West Hall</i></p> <p>Dr. Hwaida Bou Ramia. Ms. Sirine Sibahi</p> <p>LU</p> <p><i>This workshop is designed for students currently working on their data collection</i></p> <p>Support: Ephrem</p>	<p>Thesis Writing and Its challenges</p> <p><i>Auditorium B, West Hall</i></p> <p>Ms. Gacia Danaoghlian Salwa Ali</p> <p>Writing Center AUB/LAU</p> <p><i>This workshop is designed for helping students with the technicalities of the thesis writing</i></p> <p>Support: Joelle</p>	<p>Referencing</p> <p><i>Auditorium C, West Hall</i></p> <p>Dr. Maud Stephan-Hachem and Mrs. Rita Maalouf Amani Abul Hassan</p> <p>Shamaa/AUB</p> <p><i>This workshop is designed for students helping students with the technicalities of the thesis writing</i></p> <p>Support: Sara Loutfi</p>	<p>Finalizing the Thesis and Preparing for the Defense (Discussion and Conclusion)</p> <p><i>Auditorium A, West Hall</i></p> <p>Dr. Lina Khalil, American University of Beirut, Rana Naimi</p> <p><i>This workshop is designed for students currently working on finalizing their theses</i></p> <p>Support: Mariam and Yusra</p>

Workshop 5: Collecting and Analyzing (qualitative) Data

In this workshop, Dr. Hwaida Bou Ramia will explain the process of conducting research using a qualitative approach, the types of qualitative research designs, as well as she will specify their purpose, research question, or hypothesis. She will discuss the epistemological or philosophical assumptions underlying qualitative designs. She will also address ways of planning qualitative data collection procedures and selecting appropriate analysis methods. She will describe qualitative data interpretation techniques and will explain how to ensure the validity, reliability, and generalizability of data.

Workshop 6: Thesis Writing and Its challenges

In this presentation, Ms. Gacia Danaoghlian will discuss the different technical challenges students face in the process of writing their thesis/dissertation. The presentation will address the different writing challenges that writers might face, including but not limited to writer's block, losing motivation, and writing an argument in addition to tips and tools to overcome these writing obstacles. She will also provide several real-life examples from the challenges she faced during writing her thesis, as well as the challenges she witnessed and helped to solve when working at the writing center. The presentation will follow a small group exercise that tackles both the psychological and technical aspects of writing. The workshop aims to equip students with the necessary tools to help overcome the pressure and stress of thesis writing. The workshop also allows students the ability to combat emotional obstacles that arise from thesis writing with the necessary writing tools that help alleviate it.

	<p>Workshop 7: Referencing</p> <p>In this forum, Dr. Maud Stephan-Hachem and Mrs. Rita Maalouf will deliver a workshop for students who are working on their research studies using Arabic language. The workshop aims to introduce students to referencing techniques based on the APA Guide – and adapted to Arabic. This will enable participants to learn how to credit sources used in their research, and therefore avoiding plagiarism. The session includes guidelines for in-text citing, for providing bibliographical information on different types of references, and for presenting and organizing a reference list.</p> <p>Workshop 8: Finalizing the Thesis and Preparing for the Defense (Discussion and Conclusion)</p> <p>In this workshop, Dr. Lina Khalil will describe the contents of a well-developed discussion at the end of the thesis. She will introduce the subsections of the discussion section and explain how ideas should be presented, interpreted, and related to the findings of the research study. She will also address tips for making the final edits of the thesis and for preparing a presentation of the thesis to be used on the day of the thesis defense.</p>
<p>12:15-2:15pm</p>	<p>Networking and Lunch Break</p>
<p>2:15-3:45pm</p>	<p>Student Panel Discussion 2 Being an Impactful Researcher: Success Stories <i>Bathish Auditorium, West Hall</i> <i>Check depending on the number of people registered</i></p> <p>Hammad I. Sioufi, Beyond Learning Yusra Khattab, TAMAM</p> <p>Discussant: Siline Itani, American University of Beirut</p> <p>Two graduate students from different universities and specialty areas will share practical tips that will help fellow graduate students on their research journeys, how to overcome the challenges that they face, and how to transfer this knowledge into research and practical professional experiences. Moreover, students will introduce fellow graduate students to career paths that are available to peruse with a master’s degree in education.</p>

<p>3:45-5:45pm</p>	<p>World Café: Planning for Network Sponsored Activities - Empowering and Supporting Student-Researchers <i>Common Room, West Hall</i> <i>(we may fit in common room because not much people will stay)</i></p> <p>Discussant: Dr. Rima Karami, American University of Beirut</p> <p>This forum brings together a group of graduate education students from different higher education institutions, who could also be working in schools as teachers, school principals, and heads of departments, instructors, consultants, or coaches. The session builds on the previous Graduate Student Forum, during which students were introduced to the idea of a professional network or a professional association as a medium for promoting collaboration and support during and beyond the research process. Following a participatory approach for planning and organizing this network, students were also encouraged to suggest a number of goals and purposes that the network could serve.</p>
<p>5:45-6:15pm</p>	<p>Closing: Announcing the 3-Minute/Poster Session Finalists; Farewell and Distribution of Certificates <i>Common Room, West Hall</i></p> <p>Master of Ceremony: Fahd Jamaledine</p>

JANUARY 24, 25, 26, 2020 PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

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