

Keynote Speakers



Nadjé Al-Ali

is Professor of Gender Studies at the Centre for Gender Studies (CGS), SOAS University of London. She is currently chair of CGS and head of the Doctoral School at SOAS. Her main research interests revolve around feminist activism; transnational migration and diaspora mobilization; war, conflict and peace; as well as art & cultural studies; mainly with reference to Iraq, Egypt, Turkey and the Kurdish political movement. Her publications include *What kind of Liberation? Women and the Occupation of Iraq* (2009, University of California Press, co-authored with Nicola Pratt); *Women and War in the Middle East: Transnational Perspectives* (Zed Books, 2009, co-edited with Nicola Pratt); *Iraqi Women: Untold Stories from 1948 to the Present* (2007, Zed Books); *New Approaches to Migration* (ed., Routledge, 2002, with Khalid Koser); *Secularism, Gender and the State in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press 2000) as well as numerous book chapters and journal articles. Her co-edited book with Deborah al-Najjar entitled *We are Iraqis: Aesthetics & Politics in a Time of War* (Syracuse University Press) won the 2014 Arab-American book prize for non-fiction. Her most recent research and publications focus on the Turkish-Kurdish conflict and the Kurdish women's movement. Professor Al-Ali was President of the Association of Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS) from 2009-2011. She is also a member of the Feminist Review Collective and was a founding member of Act Together: Women's Action for Iraq. She was involved in several projects with Iraqi academics and women's rights activists with the aim to facilitate the introduction of women and gender studies and increase evidence-based research capacity in Iraq.

Beth Baron

is Distinguished Professor of History at the City College and Graduate Center of the City University of New York and Director of the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at the CUNY Graduate Center. From 2009 to 2014, she edited the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, and from 2015 to 2017, served as president of the Middle East Studies Association of North America. Her most recent book, *The Orphan Scandal: Christian Missionaries and the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood*, appeared with Stanford University Press in 2014. Earlier works include *Egypt as a Woman: Nationalism, Gender, and Politics* (University of California Press, 2005) and *The Women's Awakening in Egypt: Culture, Society, and the Press* (Yale University Press, 1994). She co-edited *Women in Middle Eastern History: Shifting Boundaries in Sex and Gender* (Yale University Press, 1991) with Nikki Keddie and *Iran and Beyond: Essays in Middle Eastern History in Honor of Nikki R. Keddie* (Mazda, 2000) with Rudi Matthee. She is currently working on a project on the history of medicine, disease, and reproductive health in colonial Egypt.



Hoda Elsadda

is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Cairo University and an activist for women's rights. She previously held a Chair in the Study of the Contemporary Arab World at Manchester University (2005-2011), and was Co-Director of the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World in the UK. She was also Carnegie Visiting Scholar at Georgetown University in 2014-2015. In 1995, she co-founded and is currently Chairperson of the Board of Governance of the Women and Memory Forum (www.wmf.org.eg), an Egyptian research organization that focuses the production of knowledge on gender in Arab cultural history. She is member of the Editorial Board of *Hawwa: Journal of Women of the Middle East and the Islamic World*; member of Editorial Board, *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* (JMEWS); and member of the International Advisory Board of the Asfari Institute at AUB. She was member of the 50-committee that drafted the Egyptian constitution endorsed in a referendum in 2014 and was coordinator of the Freedoms and Rights Committee in the constitutional assembly. Her research interests are in the areas of gender in Arab cultural history, women's rights, and oral narratives. She is author of: *Gender, Nation and the Arabic Novel: Egypt: 1892-2008* (Edinburgh University Press and Syracuse University Press, 2012).



Frances Hasso

is Associate Professor in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies at Duke University with secondary appointments in the Department of Sociology and the Department of History. She is an Editor of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* (2015-2018). Her scholarship focuses on the intersections between transnational dynamics, states, and social movements and practices in the Arab world. In 2016, she published with Zakia Salime *Freedom without Permission: Bodies and Space in the Arab Revolutions* (Duke University Press). Other recent publications include "Civil and the Limits of Politics in Revolutionary Egypt," in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* (Vol. 35:3, 2015). She is author of *Consuming Desires: Family Crisis and the State in the Middle East* (Stanford University Press 2011) and *Resistance, Repression and Gender Politics in Occupied Palestine and Jordan* (Syracuse University Press 2005).



Islah Jad (Hossneya Gad)

is an Associate Professor, currently linked to Qatar University, International Affairs Department since 2014. Jad is a lecturer on gender issues and politics at the Women's Studies Institute and Cultural Studies Institute of Bir Zeit University, where she was its director from 2008-2013. She is a founding member of its women's studies MA program. She has written books and papers on the role of women in politics, Palestinian women and the relationships among them, Islam, and NGOs. Dr. Jad is also a consultant on gender issues to the United Nations Development Programme and is co-author of the UN's Arab Development Report on Women's Empowerment and author of two books.

1. *Palestinian Female Headed Households*, MAS, Ramallah, 2002.
 2. *Women at the Crossroads: The Palestinian Women's Movement between Nationalism, Secularism and Islamism*, MUWATIN-The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy, Ramallah. Palestine June 2008. Second edition reprinted by Dar al Farabi, Beirut, 2013.
- Dr. Jad received her Ph.D. from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London in 2004.

Participants

Abouziane Daabaji, Professor of Economics and Management at the University of Sidi Mohammad Ben Abdallah, Morocco.

Allison Finn is a community organizer, trainer, and researcher working on anti-discrimination and gender equity initiatives. She is currently pursuing her MA in Sociology at AUB, where she researches the intersections of feminist activism, gender-based violence, and coloniality. As the Graduate Assistant for AUB's Equity & Title IX Program, she leads campus trainings and student organizing against sexual harassment and discrimination. Off campus, she is a member of the Feminist Network, a collective fighting sexual harassment in Lebanon, and a case manager with the Migrant Community Center. Prior to joining AUB, she worked for five years in the fields of community mediation, non-discrimination, and intercultural dialogue in the US and Middle East. She holds a BA in Theatre and International Studies from Northwestern University and trained as a community mediator with the New York Peace Institute.

Angela Kahil, Professor of History, political Science, Geopolitics and International Relations, I am specialized in contemporary Middle Eastern Studies (peace-building processes, Arab-Israeli conflict and gender issues). My research papers were presented in several conferences, such as in the Middle East Dialogue 2017 in Washington D.C or in UC Berkeley Boalt Faculty of law last year. Graduated from USJ and Panthéon-Sorbonne and Assas Universities in Paris, I am a PhD candidate in Paris at INALCO, working on diplomacy and feminism in the Arab world and Lebanon. I have been selected to participate to the Fulbright Junior Program last summer at UT Austin. I currently teach in Beirut at AUB and USEK and I am a visiting professor at Erfurt University in Germany.

Asli Karaca is a PhD candidate in Comparative Politics at Central European University (CEU) in Budapest. Her dissertation “Women’s Islamic Movements and Politico-Religious Empowerment: Accommodation, Dissent, and Transgression in Turkey and Egypt (1995-2016)” (to be defended in February) analyzed the acts and corresponding empowerment capacities of diverse women’s groups which use an Islamic language vis-à-vis the religious traditionalism and authoritarianism in two countries. Her recent research interests are visibility of dissent and transgression in challenging contexts. She was a visiting research fellow at Political Science department and Middle East Studies Center at American University in Cairo in 2014. She taught introduction to political science courses at Roma Graduate Preparation Program at CEU and held guest lectures on gender and politics at CEU and AUC. Besides her academic work, she has written and performed slam poetry and monologues about women’s ‘going public’, ethnicity, discrimination and visibility of dissent since 2014. She has an MA degree in Political Science at Central European University in 2011 and BA in International Relations at Koc University in 2009.

Ayesha AlRifai is an associate professor of Health Policy, and Dean of Education Sciences Faculty and Principal of Ramallah Women Training Center at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Ramallah- West Bank where she manages and plans for more than twenty-four degree awarding programs and courses offered in a 1000 capacity college solely serving the young refugee women of Palestine. She earned her doctorate from City University of London- UK and worked at the Public Health Faculty at AlQuds University and guest lecturer at Birzeit and Bethlehem Universities in Palestine. AlRifai international experience include working as an affiliated scholar at the Gender department -UC Berkeley between 2012-2013, International project evaluation leader for UN Women in Georgia, Supervisor of PhD dissertations in British, Malaysian and Egyptian universities and USAID Program Gender Assessment for Dev Tech consulting Firm in Washington. Alongside her academic works in the area of public health policy, planning and evaluation AlRifai served as a national consultant in the areas of Gender, Reproductive Health, Policy Research, and Programs Evaluation for UN agencies, governmental and NGOs working in humanitarian, aid and development in Palestine. AlRifai is the author of several academic works, including “Palestine: Contexts in Health Policy Discourse” (Saarbrücken: VDM Verlag, 2009). This is in addition to numerous smaller pieces in her area of expertise in peer reviewed journals and UN publications. AlRifai is an affiliated member in many professional and activism bodies such as the Association of Women of the Mediterranean Region and International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

Beverly Metcalfe is an Associate Professor in International Management and Development at AUB. Her research interests focus on women’s empowerment in the Arab Middle East. She is especially interested in Islamic Feminism and women’s organizations and how they may contribute to social change and development.

Carmen Geha is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration at the American University of Beirut. She teaches courses on public management, organizational development, and civic engagement. Carmen’s research on gender equality focuses on the influence of political systems, particularly power-sharing politics, on women’s political participation and representation. She also works on power-sharing, civil society and protest movements in the Arab region. Carmen is author of “Civil Society and Political Reform in Lebanon and Libya” (Routledge, 2016). In addition to her academic career, Carmen has a decade of experience in the development sector having worked with grassroots movements, governments, UN agencies and NGOs in Myanmar, Lebanon, Tunisia, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq. She has advised and consulted international and local organizations on issues including social cohesion, constitutional development, voter education and women political participation. She holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews, and a BA and MA in Public Administration from the American University of Beirut. She has been a Visiting Scholar at the Watson Institute at Brown University in summer 2015. She will be hosted as a Visiting Scholar at the Weatherhead Centre in Harvard University for Spring 2018. Carmen is a member of the National Commission for Lebanese Women.

Charlotte Karam is an Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior and Associate Dean of Programs at the Olayan School of Business, American University of Beirut. Her research focuses on the career ecosystems of women and other marginalized groups in developing economies, and how businesses can adopt responsible and development-oriented initiatives that better shape HR/HRD policies and practices. Animated by concerns about power, gender, and institutional logics in the Middle East and North Africa, much of her research also draws from and informs the overlapping conversations about public policy and responsible business behavior in the Arab world. Within a multilevel contextual framework which considers factors relating to the national business systems, institutional power, and the related multilevel sociocultural and sociopolitical dynamics, Charlotte strives to employ analytic tools and theories emerging from critical management studies and feminist epistemologies to centralize a more gendered analysis in her work. Recent publications appear in Journal of World Business, Journal of Business Ethics, Business Ethics Quarterly, Business & Society, International Journal of Management Reviews, Asia-Pacific Journal of Management, Career Development International, Women’s Studies International Forum and others. Her research and activism have been supported by a number of grants. In 2015 Charlotte was awarded US State Department Federal Assistance Award for the initiation of the Knowledge is Power (KIP) Project. Charlotte is an executive board member of the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality and the Academy of Management’s Gender and Diversity in Organizations division. She is also a highly engaged member of various academic communities, and has recently been selected as an Area Editor --Human Resource Management and Development -- at the Journal of Business Ethics.

Connie Carøe Christiansen, Ph.D, is Associate Professor in Gender Studies at Lebanese-American University, Beirut, Lebanon where she manages a Carnegie-funded collaborative research project, “Gender equality and Islamic family laws – a transnational approach”. She

was an Associate Professor at Roskilde University (DK) where she taught international development studies and a Senior Advisor at KVINFO (DK) where she managed academic projects promoting gender equality in Arab societies. During seven years she collaborated in establishing an MA program on International Development and Gender at Sanaa University in Yemen. She has published research on gender, migration and Islam in Denmark, Turkey, Morocco and Yemen, e.g. "Migrants and non-migrants in Küçükale: Consumption and cultural differentiation in the transnational community: 2013 *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*; "Teaching Gender in a transnational perspective – challenges, resistances and strategies. *Women, Gender and Research* no. 2, 2016; Gender and Social Remittances; Return migrants from the Horn of Africa to Yemen, pp. 1-24, *Arabian Humanities, International Journal of Archeology and Social Sciences in the Arabian Peninsula*, vol. 17, 2012 <http://cy.revues.org/1869>. She has her MA in Cultural Sociology and Ph.D in Anthropology from Copenhagen University, Denmark.

Cynthia El Khoury, MPH, received her Master's degree from the American University of Beirut. Her work in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) started in 2008 when she compiled an informal registry of "sex-positive" physicians designed by and for queer women and gender nonconforming folks to safely navigate the Lebanese medical system. She has led SRHR trainings for activists, front-line workers, healthcare workers, and key stakeholders and designed and implemented a health intervention with and for trans individuals. She is currently Associate Director at the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality and the Research Director of Baymetna and Mpowerment in Lebanon.

Dina El Khawaga is the director of the Asfari Institute. Dr. El Khawaga's areas of research include the dynamics of knowledge production in the Arab region, and higher education policies more broadly. She has acted as advisor to governmental and non-governmental institutions on civil society, the media industry, right to information, and higher education. Before joining AUB, she served as the programs director at the Arab Reform Initiative for four years. Prior to that, she worked at the Institut d'études politiques de Paris. Between 2011 and 2012, she was the Director of the Arab Regional Office of the Open Society Foundations (2011-12) in Amman and the Higher Education Program Officer at the Cairo Office of the Ford Foundation (2005-11). Dr. El Khawaga received her BA in political science from Cairo University, her MA in Sociology of Development from the Sorbonne in Paris, and her doctorate from the Institut d'études politiques, also in Paris.

Doris H. Gray directs the The Hillary Clinton Center for Women's Empowerment at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco where she also serves as Associate Professor in the Gender Studies Program. She is the author of three books:

Women, Social Change and Law in North Africa; What counts as revolutionary? (with Sonneveld, N.). Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Beyond Feminism and Islamism: Gender and Equality in North Africa. Second revised edition 2014. London: I.B. Tauris.

Muslim Women on the Move: Women in Morocco and France speak out. Rowman and Littlefield, 2008.

She also published extensively on transitional justice in Tunisia and on Islamic Feminisms. Before moving to Morocco, she served in the Women's Studies and Francophone Studies Program at Florida State University, USA. Prior to becoming an academic, Dr. Gray worked as foreign correspondent based in South Africa and then Kenya for ten years. She is a frequent international speaker on gender and women's rights in North Africa.

Fatimaezzahra Belfakir, Ph.D advanced candidate at the University of Tunis, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Tunis. Member of the team of Young Researchers on Gender in Morocco (EREG), affiliated to the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences Ain Chock, Morocco. Researcher Associate with Applied Social Sciences Forum (ASSF), Tunisia, led by Dr. Abdelwahab Benhefaïdh. I have participated in many conferences on Gender and public sphere, Youth, Labor rights, Political participation, and Social work. Good knowledge of diagnosis, investigation, analysis and evaluation Tools. For publications, on 2016 I published an article in a collective book entitled " *Doctoral Thesis's Trends in Social Sciences: The Case of Hassan II-Casablanca University and El Akhawayn University* ", Applied Social Sciences Forum, Tunis-Tunisia... For academic awards, I have got an Award of Excellence (*graduated with First honours in urban sociology*), 2017 and Gold Award for elaborating entrepreneurial project (*Doctoriales' Mohammedia Morocco*), 2013.

Fatima Moussawi is a researcher and a coordinator in the Civil Society & Policymaking in the Arab world program at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy & International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. Moussawi graduated with a Master's degree in Public Health concentrating in health promotion and community health from the American University of Beirut and with a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics from the same university. She worked as a researcher at the Faculty of Health Sciences on many gender and health related research topics. Among the projects she was involved in during her work in the faculty was tracking the implementation of the Tobacco law in Lebanon, exploring social exclusion in health provision and discussing youth engagement in health and community projects. She was also a research consultant on the HIV and health rights of refugees in Lebanon in collaboration with some NGOs in addition to a health researcher and advocacy intern at the Knowledge to Policy center at the American University of Beirut. She worked later on exploring the statement of gender related policies in Arab world as part of her research work at IFI. Her research interests are mainly related to maternal health, gender related policies, gender relation to politics and healthcare laws.

Fidaa Chehayeb is currently pursuing her PhD in Philosophy from the University of Birmingham. Her research interests include feminist philosophy of social science and feminist epistemology. Her research focuses on the individual and structural mechanisms underlying implicit bias. Her background is in psychology and she holds an MA in philosophy from AUB.

Ginger Feather has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Kansas and Master's degrees in Arabic/Islamic Studies and International Affairs. The majority of Dr. Feather's research focuses on the impact of discriminatory legal codes on violence against women (VAW) in Morocco and Tunisia, based on in-depth interviews with civil society leaders across the political spectrum. In addition to academic publications, she recently completed a case study in Morocco for Women's Learning Partnership (WLP) assessing the impact of legal discrimination on VAW as a part of a 12-country survey directed by former UN VAW Rapporteur Erturk. The surveys inform an upcoming global campaign to challenge discriminatory legal codes that leave women vulnerable to VAW. Dr. Feather has conducted quantitative time-series analysis across the 49 Muslim-majority countries to analyze the impact of various measures of women's empowerment, particularly individual and personal empowerment, on good governance. She presented this research at conferences in the U.S., Sweden, Germany, and the UK. Dr. Feather has published in the *Journal of Women and Human Rights in the Middle East*, the *Journal of North Africa Studies*, and the *Review of Middle East Studies*, as well as several book chapters both in print and forthcoming.

Hanan Ibrahim is currently teaching in the English Department at Al-Ahliyya Amman University in Jordan. She obtained her BA and MA degrees in English literature from the English Department at Jordan University, and her PhD degree in Comparative Feminist Literary Studies from the School of European Culture and Languages at University of Kent at Canterbury in the United Kingdom. She taught English literature at Jordan University, was head of Women's Studies Programme at the same university, and director of two Jordanian NGOs. She also worked for the UNDP as head of the regional office for the Enhancement of Quality Assurance in Arab Universities. She is published in national, regional and international journals. Her research interests are diverse and covers the areas of feminism, interculturalism, interfaith relations and the "postcolonial" narrative. She is a founding member of the Muslim-Christian Arab group based in Beirut-Lebanon and a member of the Jordanian National Forum for Women. For more than eight years, she was a consistent participant in the interfaith dialogues organized by the World Council of Churches in Genève.

Hanane Darhour works as an associate Professor of English, Gender and Politics at the Polydisciplinary Faculty of Ouarzazate Ibn Zohr University. In October 2017, Hanane Darhour has organized an international conference on Gender and Politics on the theme of "Women and Politics in Age of Uncertainty: The Road to Sustainable Democracy and Democratization". Hanane Darhour has published on gender and politics, gender quotas, and political empowerment of women. In 2013, she published together with Professor Drude Dahlerup an article entitled "Sustainable representation of women through gender quotas: A decades experience in Morocco" in *Women's Studies International Forum*. She worked in 2013 as consultant and Morocco national researcher with the London School of Economic and Political Science in a project entitled "Report on women's Rights and Political Participation in Morocco after the Arab Spring: Mapping of existing and new emerging political and social forces". In 2012, she published a book entitled "Implementation of Electoral Gender Quotas: Evidence from the 2002 Moroccan Elections". She also published an article entitled "Empowered or Not? Moroccan Women MP's Strategies to Empowerment" in the *European Journal of Scientific Research* in 2011. She also worked from 2011 to 2012 as a project coordinator with the WEP, Nordic-Arab Network of Research on Women's Empowerment, Gender and Politics.

Helen Mary Rizzo is an associate professor of sociology at The American University in Cairo and she received her PhD in sociology from Ohio State University in 2000. She has published numerous articles on public opinion, citizenship rights and the democratization process in Kuwait. Her book, *Islam, Democracy and the Status of Women: The Case of Kuwait*, was published in 2005 by Routledge Press. Her more recent projects include working with colleagues from anthropology and media studies on a British Academy Small Grants funded project, titled *Youth Perspectives on Gender Norms and Public Sexual Violence in Cairo: Cultural and Media Perspectives*, in addition to research focusing on social movement campaigns against street sexual harassment in Egypt. Rizzo has also volunteered in the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights campaign titled *Making Our Streets Safe for Everyone* and worked as a research consultant with *Harassmap*, an initiative to end the social acceptability of sexual harassment. She is currently the chair of the Department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology and serves on the graduate advisory committee of the Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women's Studies at AUC.

Hend F. Alawadhi is a Visual and Cultural Studies PhD candidate at the University of Rochester. She researches the gendered representations of trauma and taboo in Arab cinema and popular culture. Her work has appeared in *Artslant*, *Afterimage*, *IAFOR Journal of Media, Communication and Film* and *International Journal of Comic Art*. She was managing editor of *InVisible Culture: An Electronic Journal for Visual Culture* in 2014 and 2016, and has served on the editorial board since 2011. Since 2012, she has been curator of "On Film," Rochester's experimental film series. She received the Teaching Fellowship from the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies in 2014, and the Flaherty Seminar Film and Media Studies Fellowship in 2015. Hend is also a part-time translator at Refugees Helping Refugees.

Isabel Käser is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Gender Studies at SOAS in London. Her thesis with the working title 'Militant Femininity: the PKK-led women's movement in the Kurdish Middle East – a transnational analysis' analyses everyday experiences of violence and

resistance, highlighting patterns and processes of female mobilisation and organisation in the activist, political and armed sphere of the movement. Her work contributes to debates around feminism, nationalism and militarism, as well as gender, sexuality and conflict.

Inas Abdelwahed is a physician and public health practitioner, she earned her masters' degree in public health from the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut. Inas has previous work experience in the field of HIV/AIDS, mental health in Egypt and refugees/humanitarian settings in Lebanon. Additionally, she has previously worked with local Egyptian NGOs aiming at promoting the quality of the healthcare sector and patients' rights. Inas has a special interest in women's health, reproductive and sexual health and gender studies.

Jade Moussa is currently a Master's candidate in Advanced International Studies at the Diplomatic Academy. He is Lebanese of origin, and is interested in the intersection of gender, language, and biology. He is currently working on the historiography of sexual chromosomes and their effect on the solidification of gender norms. His thesis will look over the interplay of biology and queer theory to discuss the reality of gender as a pseudo-biology. As a Lebanese queer individual, he believes that the Queer Arab identity should develop independently of Western influence, and create a center for non-white queerness through the Arabic language.

Jennifer Nish is an Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition in the English Department at the American University of Beirut. Her research focuses on transnational feminism, activism, and digital rhetoric. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition*, *Genre and the Performance of Publics* (eds. Mary Jo Reiff and Anis Bawarshi), and *Feminist and Queer Theories: A Transnational Reader* (eds. Ayu Saraswati and Barbara Shaw). She is currently working on a book manuscript about feminist activist rhetoric, titled *Activist Assemblages: Transnational Feminisms, Rhetorical Genres, and Social Media*.

Joseph Alagha is Professor of Political Science and Intercultural Studies at Haigazian University, Beirut, Lebanon. He is a prolific author in humanities and social sciences on minorities in the Middle East; family law and violence against women; Islam and popular culture; the performing arts; philosophy of art and aesthetics; political mobilization; Islamic movements; and the democratization and liberalization processes in the MENA region. Alagha is the author of four peer-reviewed university press books, two monographs, and more than one hundred refereed publications (Journal Articles; Festschriften/Book Chapters; Review essays, Book Reviews and Commentaries) in four languages: Arabic, English, French, and Dutch, but mostly in English.

<http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/Publications/Documents/Inspirit/Inspirit24.pdf> (p. 11).

His current research deals with popular culture and lifestyles as well as marital captivity and violence against women. His forthcoming publications include: "Marital Captivity & Violence in Lebanon: A Human Rights Perspective"; "Twelve Shi'a Debates on Mixed and Temporary Marriages in Lebanon". His latest publications include: "Ibn Khaldun: A sociology of history", *International Sociology Reviews* 32.2 (1 March 2017): 180-188; "Moderation and Performing Arts in Contemporary Muslim Societies" *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 32 (3), 2015: 44-68; "Al-Farabi's Political Philosophy and Shi'ism" *The Maghreb Review* 40 (3), 2015: 319-355; 'G Al-Banna's and A Fadlallah's views on Dancing' *Sociology of Islam* 2 (1-2), 2014: 60-86; Grootayatollah Fadlallahs boodschap aan de Nederlandse moslims: 'Integratie is een religieuze plicht' [Ayatullah Fadlallah's Message to the Dutch Muslims: 'Integration is a religious duty']. *Tijdschrift voor Religie, Recht en Beleid (TRRB) [Journal for Religion, Law and Policy]* 3.1 (2012): 41-55.

Kamile Dincsoy, attending classes at the Istanbul University post-graduate program of Department of Women's Studies in 2012, at present takes her master's degree at the Political Sciences Department of the Istanbul University, and her dissertation work on women, peace, and security research is ongoing. She is an activist of feminist movement, women initiative for peace, refugee women solidarity group in Istanbul.

Liina Mustonen has a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. Her PhD discusses processes of othering and social distinction in Egypt from various angles including gender. She is currently working on her post-doc project that analyzes gender performativity and mobility. She is currently a visiting scholar at the Lebanese university in Beirut.

Maha Aboraya, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Ajman University, UAE.

Maissam Nimer is a postdoctoral researcher at the Migration Research Center at Koç University, working on a needs assessment research project among youth Syrian Refugees in Turkey and a member of the 'Axe Migrations et Mobilités' at the French Institute for Anatolian Studies, Istanbul (AMiMo, IFEA). She had previously worked as program manager of a development program for social promotion of underprivileged youth and also worked at an NGO, which aims to alleviate social inequality by recruiting, training and sending qualified teachers to teach in rural underprivileged areas in Lebanon. It is following these experiences that she invested in a thesis in sociology to understand, more precisely, social inequalities. She obtained her PhD in sociology from Paris Saclay University, France, in July 2016 working on understanding the mechanisms of social and cultural selection that explain the inequality of access to higher education in Lebanon.

Meriem El Haitami is an Assistant Professor at l'Université Internationale de Rabat. She holds a PhD in Cultural Studies from the University of Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah in Fez, Morocco. Her research explores the dynamics of women's religious authority and activism in Morocco with focus on state-sanctioned female imams and their particular role in nation-building and in the war on terror. During 2015-2016, El Haitami was a Rice Fellow and Lecturer at Yale University, where she taught courses on Islam and gender in North Africa. From 2012-2013, she was a Fulbright Scholar at SUNY Binghamton, her research during this period explored Sufism as a global Islamic movement. In spring 2015, she was a Carnegie Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, where she was conducting research relating to modes of religiosity and attitudes towards human rights in Morocco.

Menna Agha is a doctoral researcher in the architecture program at the University of Antwerp, she works under the umbrella of Henry Van der Velde research group. Menna holds a Bachelor degree in architecture and a master's degree in Design, her research looks at the structure of marginality within the context of involuntary resettlement. Menna is a third generation displaced Nubian (Fadikka), her research record has a clear focus on Nubian and gender issues. Ms Agha identifies as a third wave feminist. She is also a mother of an 18-month-old girl named Bahr.

Mona Khneisser is a researcher in the Civil Society & Policymaking in the Arab World program at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy & International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. Khneisser graduated with a Master's degree in Sociology, concentrating in social movements and collective action from the American University of Beirut, and with a BA in Sociology from the same university. As part of her work at IFI, Ms. Khneisser is working on sexual harassment legislation in Lebanon and on the historical development of 'civil society' in post and pre-civil war Lebanon. Ms. Khneisser is also working as a part-time researcher at the Arab Forum for Alternatives on several topics such as social justice, taxation and municipal elections. She has previously worked as an Intern with UNDP Regional Office on social cohesion in the Arab World. Her research interests are mainly related to civil society and political participation, new social movements and collective organization.

Nay El-Rahi is a feminist writer, activist, and ILO certified gender audit, working on gender auditing political parties under the Women Empowered for Leadership (WE4L) with Hivos International in Beirut. She has a BA in journalism from the Lebanese University and an MA in Global Media and Gender from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London. Since 2008, Nay has been working at the intersection between advocacy for gender justice; and the production of critical knowledge around relevant themes. She has published on platforms like Assafir, Al Modon, Sawt Al Niswa and The Guardian, and has worked with Nahwa Al Muwatiniya, Oxfam in Lebanon and Tunisia, Raising Voices and Kafa among others. She teaches gender and communication at the Lebanese American University (LAU), and is the co-founder of the initiative HarassTracker to fight societal acceptance and normalization of sexual harassment in Lebanon.

Niels Spierings has a PhD in political science and economics and currently holds the position of assistant professor in sociology at Radboud University in the Netherlands. Core themes in his work include women's economic position in developing economies and Muslim-majority countries; sexuality and gender equality attitudes in the Middle East and North Africa; Islamic religiosity and political attitudes in the MENA; gender, politics & migration; and gender & populism. Besides this he is an expert on intersectionality in quantitative research. On the topics above he has recently published multiple international journal articles in, among others, *European Journal of Women's Studies*, *Feminist Economics*, *Journal of Ethic and Migration Studies*, *Journal of Marriage & Family, Politics & Gender, Politics & Governance, Religion & Politics, West European Politics*, and *World Development*. Also he published several monographs at Palgrave, including *Women's Employment in Muslim Countries. Patterns of Diversity*.

He currently coordinates two multi-year projects funded by The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research:

- (1) Where are the Muslim feminists? Explaining the reconciliation of Islamic beliefs with support for gender equality and sexual freedom among Arab Middle Eastern citizens (NWO 406.16.517)
- (2) Understanding the Influence of Islamic Religiosity on Democratic Attitudes in the Arab Middle East (NWO 451-15-006)

Patrick Haddad is an M.A. student of English Literature at the Department of English at AUB. He is the founder and first president of the Gender and Sexuality Club here at AUB, and his fields of research include Arab Modernity, The Nahda, and Queer Fiction.

Rachel L. Kaplan, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor in the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health at the University of California, San Francisco, is trained in Public Health and Social Science with experience in sexual and mental health and HIV prevention and treatment in the Middle East and North Africa. With a focus on international HIV prevention among key populations, Dr. Kaplan is interested in the intersections of risk, gender, sexuality, conflict, and health. Having worked on HIV research in the region since 2006, Dr. Kaplan is PI of an NIMH-funded study to determine potential strategies for addressing sexual and mental health risk among transgender women in Lebanon.

Rim Saab is a social psychologist specialized in the study of intergroup relations, particularly collective political action and social and political attitudes. She received her doctorate in 2011 from Cardiff University, UK and she is currently an assistant professor in the psychology department at AUB. She published several articles in international journals on the social psychological factors that drive

collective action in its violent and nonviolent forms. She is currently pursuing two research lines, one on female political participation in the Arab world and another on the factors underlying support for religious and secular forms of governance in the Arab world.

Rola El-Husseini is a new senior lecturer (associate professor) with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University, Sweden. She has previously held positions at Yale University, Texas A&M University, the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and George Washington University. Her areas of interest include Middle East politics, gender in the Middle East, political Islam and Shi'ism, and her first book *Pax Syriana: Elite Politics in Postwar Lebanon* was published by Syracuse U Press in 2012. The book which was based on extensive fieldwork, analyzed power sharing in the Lebanese political system in the post-civil-war period (1989–2005), and examined the role of Syrian hegemony in underpinning the stability of the Lebanese state. She has also published on Hezbollah and on Lebanese Shi'ism, and is currently preparing an edited volume on this topic. She is also in the process of writing her second book manuscript which addresses the political representation of Arab women after the 2010–2011 Arab uprisings. This manuscript is based on work commissioned by the Center for Women at the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), and uses interviews with civil society actors and Arab government officials to analyze the impact of grassroots and external pressure on women's political rights and representation in the Arab world.

Sabah Ikhmayees, PHD Fellow, Seminar für Arabistik/Islamwissenschaft, Göttingen University. The topic of her dissertation is the implications of Gender Quota in Palestine as a conflict-torn, Divided Society. She is currently the director of Insan Centre for Gender Studies, Faculty of Arts/Al-Quds University, Palestine. She is also the representative of Gender Unit for the President of Al-Quds University. She is a Lecturer and Researcher at Insan center for Gender Studies and Sociology Department, Al-Quds University, Palestine.

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Samar Kassis is a Head librarian, instructor and a researcher assistant in the Institute of Women studies at Birzeit University, Palestine. From 2009 until September 2013 She was a research assistant and part of mental health unit team in the Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University, Palestine. Kassis received her bachelor degree in English literature from Birzeit University in 2001, and a diploma in project management from the EMIDEAST Ramallah, Palestine. In 2006 she completed an advance training course related to SPSS and quantitative data analysis in the Institute of community and Public health/Birzeit University. She earned her Master degree in Gender and development in 2014 from Birzeit University. Recently she ended two years workshop on training to engaged transformative gender research: mentorship program, the trainers (Prof. Souad Joseph, Dr. Zeina Zataari, Dr. Lena Meari) were mentoring her research. Kassis had conducted and she was part of many researches on Palestinian youth and traumatic experiences. The project was entitled "Youth as a strategy", it was in collaboration with North community Based Rehabilitation program. The main goal was to assist Palestinian youth in coping positively with traumatic experiences. In addition, she conducted research on child abused and violence in Palestine, political prisoners and ex-political prisoners and their families in Palestine, and gender representation in visual culture and settler colonialism in the Palestinian context. Currently, she studies Palestinian female ex-political prisoners who had released after Oslo accords in relation to the concept of resistance.

Sara Mourad is an Assistant Professor of Media Studies in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies and the coordinator of the Women & Gender Studies Initiative at AUB. She works at the intersection of media and cultural studies, feminist theory, and queer studies. Her current research on the politics of difference in postwar Lebanon explores identity formation, cultural production, and collective action in feminist and queer circles in Beirut. Sara earned her BA in Political Science at the American University of Beirut and her PhD in Communication at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work has appeared in the *International Journal of Communication*, the *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, and *Jadaliyya*.

Sara Shaker graduated from the British University in Egypt (BUE) - in partnership with Loughborough University - in 2011 with a BSc in Political Science. During my undergraduate commencement, she was awarded the "**Top Student Award**" for my outstanding academic performance across the four years of university. Till today, I am the first student to graduate with a First Class Honours and a Distinction. Afterwards, she shifted to the American University in Cairo (AUC) for an MA. My thesis was titled "The Visualization and Representation of Gender in Egyptian Comics". After graduation from AUC, I was granted the "**Graduate Honor Award**" in honor of outstanding academic achievement. Along with teaching activities, she has been engaged in community service activities particularly in the area of education & health. She assisted the grants department at *Life Makers Foundation* in proposal funding initiatives. At *LifeMakers*, I have collaborated closely with external donors and assisted in the implementation of the projects such as *Insaan* (Improving lives), Future Guardians, Village Project, & *Al-Im Quwa* (Eradicating Illiteracy).

Sara Wehbe holds a background in design. She first started sexuality work when she became a member of a queer women and gender non-conforming community support group. She later joined the feminist group Nasawiya. Sara is currently an active member of the feminist group Dammeh. She is the Administrative Assistant at MOSAIC and the Peer Facilitator of Baynetna in Lebanon.

Sarah Boukhary is the Middle East and North Africa Coordinator at the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Her work focuses specifically on conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in the Middle East, and the impact of militarisation on women and gender. She formally represents WILPF at the United Nations and is actively engaged in submitting oral and written reports that highlight the impact of conflicts on women in the MENA region to various international human rights mechanisms. Besides being a trainer on gender, WPS and SGBV, Sarah has been a moderator and panelist on several platforms, including ones on GBV and the Arms Trade Treaty, and on feminist approaches to root causes of war and violence. Sarah Boukhary's academic work will feature in the *Cambrian Law Review* and in "Women Against War System" book (Lit Verlag). She has also co-led a research on women's multidimensional insecurities in Yemen and Libya, edited numerous reports including one on the disproportionate impact of the conflict in Syria on women. Prior to joining WILPF in January 2015, Sarah has previously worked at Human Rights Watch in Beirut, the Arab NGO Network for Development, and in the humanitarian field. Sarah holds an M.A. in Human Rights Policy and Practice from Gothenburg University, Roehampton University and the Arctic University of Norway, as well as a B.A. in Political Studies from the American University of Beirut (AUB). She is a 2017 Fellow in the Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship Programme.

Sarah ElMasry is working as a researcher under the Gender Equity Network at Lebanon Support research center in Beirut, Lebanon. She is a former adjunct instructor at the Sociology Unit of the American University in Cairo and a researcher for "the civil society and state repression in Egypt" project based at the AUC's Sociology Unit from November 2016 – August 2017 under the supervision of Dr. Amy Austin Holmes. Before joining Lebanon Support, she worked as a journalist and then a researcher for several civil society organisations in Egypt. Sarah moved to Lebanon to enhance her knowledge on women and gender related issues in the region. She has a BA in political science and an MSc in Sociology from the University of Oxford. Her main research interests lie within the realm of sociology of gender and gender with a focus on themes such as activism, mobilisation and repression in Egypt and the MENA region. For her future Ph.D. project, she intends to examine the family as an "ecology" of political mobilization during the time of the Egyptian uprisings.

Saskia Glas is a PhD-student in the department of Sociology at the Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Her research interests include (attitudes regarding) gender equality, political opportunity structures, and religion, in particular in the Arab Middle East and North Africa, as well as context-dependency, multilevel analyses, and the combination of quantitative and qualitative literatures. Presently, she is working on her PhD-thesis, funded by the NWO Research Talent Grant, which deals with the interplay of religion and support for gender equality in different countries in the Arab Middle East and North Africa. Previously, she obtained her MSc in interdisciplinary social sciences and wrote her master's thesis on anti-American attitudes in the Arab Middle East and North Africa, simultaneously examining individual, intra-regional and extra-regional causes. She also obtained an MA in political philosophy where she wrote her master's thesis on the justification of the authority of the state.

Shereen Abouelnaga is a Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Cairo University and is a literary critic. She has published books (Arabic & English) and critical literary articles in scholarly journals, with a special focus on gender (see list of publications). Aware of her position in the third world, Abouelnaga views the world from the lens of a socialist feminist, and her research engages with women's lives, voices and position. That gender and feminist scholarship must be recharged politically is her aim currently. Her Arabic books include: "A Passion of Difference: Readings in Selected Feminist Texts" (1997); "Feminist or Womanist?" (2001); "Nation in the Narration of Arab Women Writers" (2003); and "Intellectuals in the Transitional Phase" (2014). In English she has published "Women in Revolutionary Egypt: Gender and the New Geographics of Identity" (2016, AUC Press). She is a member of the editorial board of *New Perspectives on Theory/ Culture/Politics* (Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory, Cardiff University) and a jury member of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal Award. She has attended several conferences in the Arab World, Europe, Canada and North America; and in 2013 she co-organized a workshop with the Free University in Berlin under the title "Invitation to Discourse: Normative Concepts in Transformation in the Arab Spring & Beyond." Presently, she is co-editing a volume on the theme of 'gendered identities in the Arab World' along with Hoda El Sadda and Hala Kamal.

Yasmin Shafei is a PhD student studying Arab and Middle Eastern History at the American University of Beirut. After receiving her BA and MA in International Relations from the American University in Cairo, she spent fifteen years working with various UN agencies managing projects related to refugees, education, health, poverty and women. She has also worked with a number of international and national non-governmental organizations in Egypt on strengthening and supporting civil society. Yasmin returned to academia to focus on the histories of segments of society that may have previously been ignored, focusing her research on women and minorities. Her research projects and interests include women's history, Arab feminisms, the Egyptian feminist movement, women in the Arab press, and the histories of minorities in the coastal city of Alexandria. She is currently working on her PhD proposal, focusing on the history of mental illness in Egypt.