

## #BREAKING\_THE\_MOLD

### ARAB CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS & THEIR QUEST TO INFLUENCE POLICYMAKING

Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs – AUB Auditorium Level B

Day 1: Wednesday, December 4, 2019	
9:00 – 9:30 am	<b>Registration &amp; welcome coffee</b>
9:30 – 10:00 am	<p><b>Opening session:</b> Opening remarks and introduction</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Nasser Yassin, Mahmoud Haidar, Rania Berro, and Fatima Moussawi</p>
10:00 – 11:30 am	<p><b>First session: The influence of Arab civil society actors on social and economic policies</b></p> <p>This panel addresses the influence of Arab civil society actors such as labor movements, social and economic rights movements, teachers movements, and those advocating for the rights of marginalized communities and individuals. The session will discuss how such movements are initiated, their organization and mobilization tactics, and will also look into the reactions and responses of policy makers. Cases from Lebanon, Morocco, Iraq, Egypt, and Tunisia will be presented.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Alexi Touma, Omar Samir, Dany Younes, Janan Al Jaberi and Rachid Touhtou</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ziad Abdel Samad</p>
11:30 – 12:00 pm	<b>Coffee break (Reception room – B floor)</b>
12:00 – 1:30 pm	<p><b>Second session: The influence of civil society actors on political reforms and liberties</b></p> <p>This panel will address politically-charged issues such as citizenship rights and revocation, freedom of expression and access to information laws, and electoral laws. The panel will discuss how political concerns and demands are addressed in the Arab world, as well as the role of international organizations in helping and supporting civil society actors. Cases from Kuwait, Bahrain, Tunisia, Egypt, and Iraq will be presented.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Shimaa Al Sharqawi, Emad Dawood, Abdullah Al Khonaini and Nawafel Shahbi</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mohamad Al Agati</p>

<b>1:30 – 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch break (Terrace on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor)</b>
<b>2:30 – 4:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Third session: Arab civil society activism on gender policies</b></p> <p>This panel will address the current state of gender policies in the region, looking into both similarities and challenges that Arab civil society actors and feminist movements face in their activism towards gender equality. Several cases will be addressed, including the fight against domestic abuse and violence against women, sexual harassment, rape laws, nationality and citizenship laws, and women’s right to drive in Saudi Arabia. Cases from Lebanon, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Egypt will be presented.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mariam Mecky, Mohamad Banane and Fatima Moussawi  <b>Moderator:</b> Lina Abou Habib</p>
<b>4:00– 4:30 pm</b>	<b>Coffee break (Reception room – B floor)</b>
<b>4:30 – 6:30 pm</b>	<p><b>Panel Discussion: From Civil Society to Political Society: When does civil society become political? A discussion on the political role and activism of civil society in Lebanon, Iraq, and Morocco</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Carmen Geha, Mohamad Saadi and Emad Dawood  <b>Moderator:</b> Mahmoud Haidar</p>
<b>End of the day</b>	

**Day 2: Thursday, December 5, 2019**

<b>9:30 – 10:00 am</b>	<b>Registration &amp; welcome coffee</b>
<b>10:00 – 11:30 am</b>	<p><b>Fourth Session: Civil society activism in the realm of youth, environment, health, and education policies</b></p> <p>This panel will explore several cases pertaining to environmental issues in the region such as environmental justice, protection of rivers, and public maritime property, as well as issues linked to better access to medical coverage and health insurance, and youth rights. Cases from Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Tunisia and Egypt will be presented.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Karim Merhej, Nissaf Brahimi, Abdul Moez Bdwan and Farah Al Zuhairi  <b>Moderator:</b> Aziza Khalidi</p>
<b>11:30 – 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Coffee break (Reception room – B floor)</b>

12:00 – 1:30 pm	<p><b>Fifth Session: The activism of Arab civil society actors in the context of conflict and instability</b></p> <p>This panel will focus on a variety of cases conducted in conflict-affected areas such as Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Yemen, and will address how civil society has managed to operate in those areas to achieve policy changes. It will address the challenges and particularities that civil society actors need to accommodate while operating in a conflict zone. Cases from Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine will be presented.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Nabil Dweikat, Soulafa Tareq, Abdul Moez Bdwan, presentation of the Syrian cases (By Dr. Hassan Abbas). <b>Moderator:</b> Hassan Abbas</p>
1:30 – 2:30 pm	<p><b>Lunch break (5<sup>th</sup> floor)</b></p>
2:30 – 4:00 pm	<p><b>Sixth Session: Activism of emerging civil society actors vs. established civil society actors</b></p> <p>This panel will compare cases from countries with established civil society actors and movements such as in Egypt and Lebanon versus others with emerging movements such as in Iraq, Syria, and the Gulf region. The panel will address the forms of activism in each context and the diffusion of ideas between old and new.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Shareefa Al Adwani, Abdul Azim Jaber Hafiz and Daniel Tavana <b>Moderator:</b> Barbara Ibrahim</p>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<p><b>Coffee break (Reception room – B floor)</b></p>
4:30 – 6:30 pm	<p><b>A panel discussion on the evolving role of trade union movements in Lebanon and Iraq in light of the uprisings in the two countries.</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Janan Al Jaber, Ahmad Al Assi and Ghassan Slaibi <b>Moderator:</b> Ziad Abdel Samad</p>
<p><b>End of the day</b></p>	