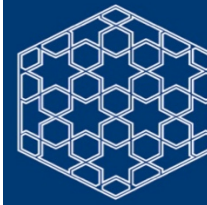




2017 FELLOWS AT LINCOLN CENTER, NEW YORK CITY



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

January 2018, Issue 6

IN THIS ISSUE

***The passing of one year and the start of another brings forth a time of reflection, preparation, and excitement for the months ahead. The Foundation looks forward to what the New Year will bring: a new class of inspiring Fellows looking to make lifelong connections, continued engagement of our talented alumni community, and ongoing efforts to build cooperation and mutual understanding between the United States and the Middle East.***

*Coming off the heels of another successful year, the Foundation is poised to continue to inspire and empower game-changing leaders from the United States and Egypt to make positive change within their communities, nations, and even the world. From retreats, events around the United States and Egypt, and connecting with policy and thought leaders from around the world, I have high hopes for the year ahead.*

*As the Fellows implement their action projects and we engage a new community of aspiring leaders, I look forward to watching the Foundation continue to grow, innovate, and have a long-term impact.*

*This newsletter is just one of many ways the Foundation and Fellows will engage friends like you. I hope you enjoy this latest edition and stay tuned for more exciting updates in the coming months.*

**M. Shafik Gabr**

## In Brief...

- Neveen Said and Jean Kwon launch AETF
- Ahmed Radwan cast in upcoming theatrical production at AUC
- Dalia Ihab Younis debuts music on the Safeera Aziza show
- Alexis Taylor joins the Visiting American Professionals Program
- Anis Issa has a new job title at the Swedish Institute
- Hadir Helal shortlisted for the Young Lawyer of the Year Award
- East-West Chitchat: Egyptian Museums Between Cairo and New York by Abdelrahman Amr and Michael Matthiesen
- Judson Moore delivers keynote address at media conference in Kyrgyzstan
- Ahmed Elassal receives his Master's degree
- Hani El Zoumor begins his Master's studies
- Gabr Fellows celebrate the holidays in Washington, DC
- Apply for the 2018 Gabr Fellowship Cohort

## *In Focus...*

### **Neveen Said and Jean Kwon Launch Fellowship**



**Jean Kwon and Neveen Said (2017 Gabr Fellows)** launched their action project American Egyptian Teaching Fellowship. You can find more information [here](#) and learn how teachers in your community can take part.

### **Ahmed Radwan cast in an adaptation of “Writer on Honeymoon”**



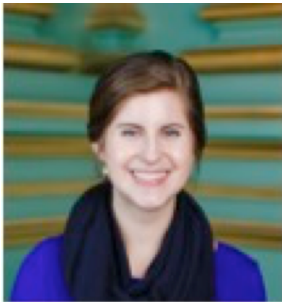
**Ahmed Radwan (2015 Gabr Fellow)** has been cast in an adaptation of Egyptian author Aly Salem’s play “Writer on Honeymoon.” The play will launch in February 2018 at the AUC Falaki Theater.

### **Dalia Ihab Younis on the Safeera Aziza Show**



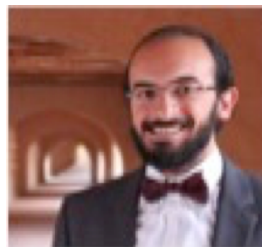
**Dalia Ihab Younis (2017 Gabr Fellow)** was featured on the DMC Channel’s Safeera Aziza show to discuss her latest music video. In the video, she performs a local folk song a Capella with a classical twist. The performance has already been viewed over 2 million times and can be viewed [here](#).

### **Alexis Taylor Participates in the Visiting American Professionals Program**



**Alexis Taylor (2016 Gabr Fellow)** was invited by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and will be the first person to participate in the program. She will lead entrepreneurship trainings for embassy and Iraqi government officials, university staff, youth-serving NGOs, and emerging entrepreneurs.

### **Anis Issa Joins Swedish Institute**



**Anis Issa (2016 Gabr Fellow)** recently started a new position with the Swedish Institute as the organization’s Media and Communications Officer. Congratulations Anis!

### **Hadir Helal Shortlisted for Young Lawyer of the Year Award**



**Hadir Helal (2015 Gabr Fellow)** has been shortlisted as one of the International Bar Association’s Young Lawyers of the Year. She has also been selected to participate in the upcoming International Visitor Leadership Program by the U.S. Embassy in Egypt, with a focus on the U.S. justice system.

## Hani El Zoumor Begins his Master's Studies



**Hani El Zoumor (2016 Gabr Fellow)** began his M.Sc. degree in Knowledge-Based Entrepreneurship at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. He was recently honored by the Swedish Institute as a scholarship recipient for the 2017-2018 academic year. In addition to his studies, Hani participated in an innovation competition focusing on sustainable cities and has visited Sweden's leading business centers and incubators.

## Gabr Fellows Celebrate the Holidays in DC



Gabr Fellows from across the Northeast gathered together - and were joined by **Chairman Shafik Gabr** - to kick off the Holiday season in Washington DC. Each Fellow cohort was represented and had the opportunity to mix and mingle with one another at Bodega Restaurant in Georgetown.

This was a chance for Fellows and Foundation leadership to not only network, but to also share updates about action projects, discuss current events in the United States and the Middle East, and begin planning for the coming year.

## Ahmed Elassal Receives his Master's Degree



**Ahmed Elassal (2014 Gabr Fellow)** will be graduating with his degree in Governance, Development and Public Policy from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Ahmed was awarded the UK Government's prestigious Chevening Scholarship to pursue his degree. He is now moving on to a new position with the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) as a governance advisor for a multi-stakeholder program called 'Strengthening Reform Initiatives in the Public Administration.'

## Judson Moore Delivers Keynote Address at Media Conference



**Judson Moore (Gabr Fellow 2015)** delivered the Keynote Address at a conference for the National Association of Community Media in Kyrgyzstan, at the invitation of Deutsche Welle in November. He spoke about his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in the country, where he helped local journalists launch KyrgyzMedia.com in 2013 and which now reaches a global audience of 120,000 readers annually.

## Apply to join the 2018 Cohort!



The application for the 2018 Fellowship will open this month. The Fellowship is an opportunity for aspiring young leaders to take part in an intensive and immersive learning and networking experience, with 10 days spent in the U.S. and Egypt. Fellows accepted to the program will also be tasked with implementing their own action projects to further the Foundation's mission of bridging divides and building lasting connections between both countries. Candidates should be at least 24 years of age; Egyptian candidates should never have travelled to the U.S. and American candidates should not have visited Egypt previously. Should you know of a suitable candidate, please do not hesitate to recommend them to us. For more information, please visit the foundation [website](#).

# 'East-West Chitchat: Egyptian Museums Between Cairo and New York

By **Abdelrahman Amr and Michael Matthiesen**, 2017 Gabr Fellows

Abdelrahman and Michael explore personal experiences of Egyptian history through visits to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo's Tahrir Square and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

View full article [here](#).

I had only six hours until my trip back to New York City from Cairo. After a week of meetings, little sleep, and being bused around the boroughs of Cairo, my fellows and I were ready to go. Yet, I was excited that we were scratching off the Cairo Museum before catching our plane. To Americans, Egypt is the land of pharaohs, gods, and Moses. To Egyptologists, history and the ripple of civilization started with this great ancient culture, and all we have today begins with them. Considering how much the Bible and elementary school textbooks talk about Egypt, seeing the relics, pyramids, and hieroglyphics can be both a historic and religious experience.

As the bus pulled up from Tahrir Square, I gazed at the Cairo Museum. I remember at seven years old, I saw the Temple of Dendur at The Metropolitan Museum – or The Met – and recalled all the stories I had read about it, including Ra, the pharaohs, and Moses. The Metropolitan Museum was my first time encountering a glance of Egypt, but I anticipated the Cairo Museum would top the Met. One of my Egyptologist friends raved about the relics in the Cairo Museum and how there were none else like them in the world. I was excited.

The one exception was the King Tut exhibit. Walking in felt like I stepped into legend. Staring at King Tut's Mask was like looking at the Mona Lisa, The Statue of David, or the Sistine Chapel. It is a moment I will remember forever, and it finally topped the feeling I had seeing the Temple of Dendur at the Met. It's the biggest impact the Cairo Museum made on me all day, and I was sad I had to step back into the dust. This was the Cairo Museum's chance to show me how America and Egypt are tied. I had heard from Egyptians all week about how the US Senate wanted to cut aid to Egypt, and how I had a responsibility to stop it. Other than the pyramids, and King Tut's exhibit, nothing motivated me to call my Senator for Egypt. Every American will see an Egyptian exhibit in their life, even if they don't see the Cairo

Museum. These exhibits are Egypt's chance to influence Americans and other foreigners. If all of them are like the Cairo Museum, then what's the point?

Visiting Egypt's most famous museum is more than enough to discourage you from visiting any other museums in the country. I have visited a few museums in Europe including the Louvre in Paris and was always amazed by how a visit to the museum can actually be enjoyable. This broke my heart as I have made an unintentional comparison between the museums I have visited abroad and the Egyptian Museum in my country. This disappointment was magnified when I visited the Egyptian section in the Metropolitan Museum of Art one month after visiting the Egyptian museum; a visit that assured me how Egyptian museums are still behind the times.

At first, I was amused by the vast space of the museum. The Egyptian section alone was, at least, as big as the whole Egyptian museum, if not bigger. Sadly, I was making comparisons at every step I took after grasping how the way an object being displayed can shape a one of a kind connection between it and between the audience experiencing it firsthand. As a visitor, I surely appreciated that the displays delivered a narrative or some sort of historical stories in regard to the ancient Egyptian civilization, how their noblemen and farmers lived, what tools they used, their cosmetics, the jewelry women used to wear, furniture in homes and so on.

Artifacts displayed were only a small amount of what Egypt is blessed with to the full and what you can find many of inside the famous Egyptian museum. Yet the point at issue here is not the objects themselves but the way they are being put on show. The Met managed to properly strike a wonderful balance between content and presentation. To my surprise, the end of our tour included a temple that is inside the Egyptian section, the Dendur temple. One other matter that I realized during my visit was how artifacts are divided according to sections that you can easily navigate through, taking you from the Paleolithic to the Roman period, again, something extremely simple and obvious yet neglected or not clear in the Egyptian museum.

On several occasions, I caught myself trying to find answers to basic questions in my head regarding actions that my country could make to allow for a better museum experience like proper signs, seating areas, and different facilities. I certainly noticed the presence of children and families inside the museum which made me realize how museums can be a great outing, something that has not been part of the culture of citizens of the country most famous for its history. I think that by the end of your visit to the Egyptian section in the Metropolitan Museum, you can learn a lot about ancient Egypt, which can set off new perceptions about the history of one of the most important countries in the Middle East. This should be one of the results of any museum visit. However, Egypt is yet to take advantage of a huge cultural diplomacy opportunity making its heritage more enjoyable.

Despite all the mismanagement, I truly understand how hard it could be for the Ministry of Antiquities to operate the museum in such tough times for the tourism industry after the number of visitors fell drastically after the 2011 revolution. This, of course, led to lack of the needed financial resources for development. In 2015, the ministry's budget fell from EGP 1.3 billion to EGP 125 million and it presumably relies entirely on self-financing through four projects for funding. Yet, the point is, funding can contribute to creating a better experience in one of the most important museums in the world if supported with the right management.

On the bright side, just two kilometers away from the Great Pyramids, construction is underway for the new [Grand Egyptian Museum](#), which is expected to be the first of its kind in the country with top-notch facilities and presenting a better story. The new facility will have about 100,000 artifacts on display, 30,000 of which have never been shown to the public, including the complete Tutankhamun collection. [After suffering problems with funding](#), in 2018 we might finally witness a new experience for Museums in Egypt that can hopefully spark dialogues and that will also give more space to the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities to develop.

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

For more information on the Shafik Gabr Foundation and its *East-West: the Art of Dialogue* Initiative, please visit the website <https://eastwestdialogue.org/>.

For earlier itineraries of the US program, please see the previous years' reports at <https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/>



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

1101 17th St. NW,  
Suite 1220,  
Washington, DC 20036

7 Hassan Al-Akbar Street  
Mokattam, Cairo,  
Egypt, 11571

Connect with us



<https://eastwestdialogue.org/>

[info@shafikgabrfoundation.org](mailto:info@shafikgabrfoundation.org)

**The Shafik Gabr Foundation (US)**

1101 17<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 1220,  
Washington, DC20036

**The Shafik Gabr Foundation (Egypt)**

7 Hassan Al-Akbar Street  
Cairo, Egypt, 11571