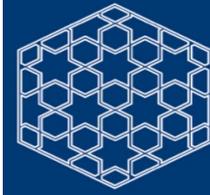




2017 GABR FELLOWS AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

May 2018, Issue 10

## IN THIS ISSUE

*As the Foundation enters the final month of recruitment for the 2018 Gabr Fellowship, I reflect on the past five iterations. Since 2013, I have had the privilege of engaging with an impressive array of young leaders from around the globe, each representing a variety of sectors ranging from tech to government, business, nonprofits, and the arts. Each one of them—regardless of background, industry, or ideology—came to this program with a common understanding that the future is in the hands of those who engage with difference. Fellows came together for a short-term, intensive program centered upon dialogue and collaboration between the cultures of the East and West. Despite their diversity, all participants left the program with a greater understanding of their peers and a mission to be ambassadors for ongoing engagement.*

The Fellowship does not end on the last day of the official program, however. Over the years, friendships have been formed, relationships cemented, and action projects implemented that provide avenues for long-term engagement between the two regions. From training nurses, to the institution of a Little League team in Egypt, and the ongoing exploration of American and Egyptian culture, the Fellowship program has brought about countless changes and transformations.

This Fellowship is a chance for young leaders, who otherwise would not have the opportunity, to have direct, honest conversations about the most pressing challenges of today, share their views of the other country, and address the barriers that need to be overcome to lay the foundation for stronger bilateral relations. Participants come away surprised at the commonalities between the two cultures and leave with an appreciation of each country's unique value add to the rest of the world.

As the Fellows move ahead in their careers and become influencers, they have the capacity to serve as ambassadors for cultural exchange and engagement. I look forward to watching this community continue to grow and make an impact around the world. I am pleased to share their successes and achievements with you in the months and years ahead.

**M. Shafik Gabr**

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- Reham Gamal publishes video about Egyptian perceptions of the US
- Alexis Taylor attends the Global Entrepreneurship Network's Global Entrepreneurship Congress
- Apply to the 2018 Gabr Fellowship

## In Focus...

### Liz Trapp Gives Birth to Baby Boy



Liz Trapp (2014 Gabr Fellow) gave birth to a healthy and happy baby boy, Benjamin. She also will have an essay on Egyptian art published in the upcoming book *Social Practice in Turbulent Times*. This essay is based on a paper Liz delivered at the Southeast College Art Association Conference. Congratulations Liz!

### Jessica Mulligan Has a Career Change



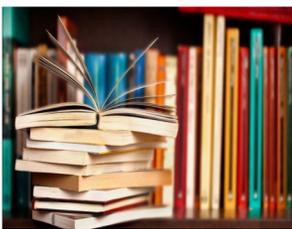
Jessica Mulligan (2017 Fellow) will be joining the office of Representative Pramila Jayapal, of Washington state, as a Legislative Staffer. Jessica previously served as the Government Relations Manager at the US Global Leadership Coalition and as an Associate at the Glover Park Group. Congratulations Jessica!

### Aly Salem Welcomes a Baby Boy



Aly Salem (2017 Gabr Fellow) and his wife recently welcomed a son Mostofa. Baby and mother are both healthy and the Gabr Fellowship community is so pleased to welcome the newest addition to the Fellowship family. It is the first child for Aly and his wife. Congratulations Aly and best wishes to you and your family. We are so excited to meet him!

### Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



In the latest edition of the Gabr Foundation reading corner, Mr. Gabr suggested to the Fellows that they read *Rise and Kill First* by Ronen Bergman and *The Shah* by Abbass Milani. Please send your thoughts, feedback, and other recommendations to the Gabr Foundation. We hope you enjoy these latest picks and happy reading!

### Sherif Soliman and Sarah Hesham Releases Video Project



Sherif Soliman and Sarah Hesham (2017 Gabr Fellow) released a video on US-Egypt perceptions of the other. In this video, 2017 Gabr Fellows from the US share what surprised them about Egypt and what they gained from their experience. Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPEZtMjKNrg&t=50s>

### Ahmed Aboul Naga Takes Part in Study Visit



Ahmed Aboul Naga (2016 Gabr Fellow) participated in a study tour organized for Egyptian diplomats of the Institute for Diplomatic Studies from April 23-27 in Paris. On April 29, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs visited Egypt, further cementing East-West engagement. Congratulations on this achievement Ahmed- the Gabr community is very proud.

### Judson Moore Named Responsibility Lead



Judson Moore (2015 Gabr Fellow) has been designated a Responsibility Lead at trivago's global headquarters in Dusseldorf, Germany. As a Product Owner, he is responsible for overseeing the execution of feature development on the trivago website. As a responsibility lead, Judson is now on the leadership development track. Great work Judson!

## Former Congressman Nick Rahall Introduces Fellowship to Georgetown Prep



Congressman Nick Rahall (Foundation Board of Advisors) spoke to students at Georgetown Prep, a prestigious high school in Rockville, Maryland. He discussed his work as a Congressman from West Virginia from 1977-2015 as part of a broader discussion on the US Congressional process. He also introduced the Gabr Fellowship to the next generation of emerging leaders. The feedback from participants was extremely positive and we are excited to engage the next generation.

## Fellows Keep Their Bond Strong by Sharing a Workspace



Magda Kura (2015 Fellow) and Hadeel Hassan (2016 Fellow) became friends through the Gabr Fellowship and now share an office space in New York. Magda works as a Product Manager at Empatico.org which connects youth around the world through video conferencing technology. Hadeel works for Kinolved, which elevates student achievement by improving attendance, as a Community Engagement and Marketing Fellow.

## Reham Gamal Completes Video on Egyptian Perceptions of the US



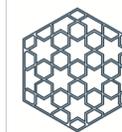
Reham Gamal (2017 Gabr Fellow) interviewed Egyptians—some of whom have travelled to the United States—about their perceptions of the US for her Fellowship action project. You can view the video here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yDBq7L3CNvAFFkuW8-sur6AI7fJtILeo/view?ts=5ac1d9c7>

## Alexis Taylor Attends the Global Entrepreneurship Network's Global Entrepreneurship Congress



Alexis Taylor (2016 Gabr Fellow), the Director of New Projects at 3 Day Startup, traveled to Istanbul, Turkey to attend the Global Entrepreneurship Network's Global Entrepreneurship Congress. The annual Congress brings together thousands of delegates from 170 countries to discuss economic and policy challenges around growing entrepreneurial ecosystems around the globe. 3 Day Startup is a nonprofit that provides immersive short-format entrepreneurial education to higher learning institutions around the globe. They have already reached 12,983 students from over 30 countries across six continents.

## Applications are Open for the 2018 Fellowship



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Applications for the 2018 Gabr Fellowship have officially launched. If you know someone who is passionate about creating lasting relationships, wants to participate in an immersive cross-cultural experience, and is interested in building a stronger, more inclusive world, then they should apply. Participants will meet with business leaders, government officials, and members of the academic and think tank communities. Fellows will visit institutions like the UN, the Suez Canal, the Library at Alexandria, the Egyptian Parliament, Capitol Hill, Morgan Stanley, the National Security Council, the Arab League, and more. Following the program, the Fellows will implement their own action projects that help facilitate ongoing dialogue and engagement. This program is open to emerging young leaders between the ages of 24 and 35. More information can be found on <https://eastwestdialogue.org>.

## East-West Chitchat: The 25<sup>th</sup> of January News Coverage in Egypt and the US

By Abdelrahman Amr and Michael Matthiesen, 2017 Gabr Fellows

*Disclaimer: The views presented are the authors' alone and do not necessarily represent the views of the Shafik Gabr Foundation.*

View full article at <https://egyptianstreets.com/2018/04/11/east-west-chitchat-the-25th-of-january-news-coverage-in-egypt-and-the-us/>

The US and Egypt have uniquely problematic, rightfully complained about cultures surrounding each countries news coverage. Americans live in a constant state of fear generated by a tsunami of negative news from privately owned news organizations. Egyptians have a government-controlled news cycle that only covers stories with a government approved spin on it. The contrast between both countries is especially evident to the 2017 World Press Freedom Index, which ranks the US at #43 and Egypt at #167 in terms of their freedom of expression.

Americans may have more freedom of expression than Egyptians, but that doesn't mean they use it properly. American news is probably the most innovative and ridiculous system in the world. It is the privatization of news that has led to the American free and independent press to become known as 'The Fourth Estate' of the American political system, spawning media practices that have become popularized and emulated around the globe. NBC became the first news network to have a regularly scheduled news program in the 1940s. CNN started the 24-hour news cycle and also initiated what is now called the CNN effect, which is the act of televising graphic images of human rights abuses in order to compel policymakers to act. The expansion of the internet and the rise of blogs, like the Huffington Post, Politico, the Drudge Report, and Breitbart has enabled people to get access to news for free, upending a system where previously readers had to pay for access.

An issue with the vast choices in news option in the US it has led to Americans only picking news outlets that support their opinion, and a population that isn't operating on a single set of well-defined facts.

The best illustration of the difference between news in the US and Egypt is how each news system covered the 2011 Revolution in Tahrir Square. Regardless of the news source, the Egyptian Revolution in

2011 was something that captured the attention of all American news outlets. CNN had wall-to-wall news coverage of the events in Tahrir Square. Americans were glued to their television trying to see if the protests in Tahrir would amount to any newfound freedom from Mubarak's 30-year reign. The following Occupy Movement even cited Tahrir Square as inspiration for their own protests.

On the other hand, while there were thousands of Egyptians protesting in Tahrir Square on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2011, Egyptian state TV channels decided to ignore the protests and instead presented its viewers tranquil live footage of the river Nile and an empty 6<sup>th</sup> of October bridge. They continued in this vein for a number of days in the midst of the revolution.

Seven years later, this mentality has not changed. Though mainstream media is forced to cover the current events that can't be overlooked, there is only one narrative that Egyptians can watch, which is the government-approved story. This forced outlook left media representatives who went in the opposite direction sidelined leaving viewers with uniform messages. It's hard to spot a difference when you're flipping through various channels.

Given that during the Revolution, Egyptians had no internet connection and were forced to consume television for their news. Choices were limited to Egyptian state and privately-owned media that supported the government, or Qatar's state-funded Al Jazeera, which painted a more sympathetic picture of the protesters and helped draw international attention to events on the ground, most Egyptians were forced to see the revolution through these narratives alone.

The scene completely changed after Mubarak stepped down and Egypt opened up to new sources of news coverage, including a number of contemporary, forward-thinking online websites and TV channels. In spite of this, mass media outlets were still mostly controlled by businessmen close to the government. During the numerous events that followed the revolution, citizen journalism spiked and news outlets dedicated new approaches, like Whats App numbers, for contributions from first-hand witnesses. However, as a new political wave overwhelmed the country in

2013, the free flow of information is even more hindered now with speculations on how the future of news coverage will be in the country.

About 500 websites are currently blocked in Egypt. Without solid legal grounds, including news outlets, personal blogs, international human rights organizations' web pages and until recently proposed a cybercrime that sparked a huge debate, while the Prosecutor General ordered senior prosecutors to take legal actions against media and social media content to combat fake news, a vague term popularized after the 2016 US Election. The new unclear bill could even result in a fake news snitching hotline. Additionally, the Minister of Telecommunications proposed developing an 'Egyptian Facebook' which can be a much easier way for the government to monitor and handle online content. Such grim policies will hugely affect the way 50 million internet users in Egypt receive and interact with the news.

News cultures are different everywhere and there are greater contrasts in news culture than the US and Egypt, but in a world plagued by fake news, there are overlaps. Both Presidents Trump and Sisi are leading a charge of restricting freedom of the press through the specter of "fake news." Though fake news is a problem, the restrictions they're taking don't actually reduce the number of false stories published, they just publish the news outlets that publish stories they don't approve of. Allowing our leaders to continue to attack the press leads to democratic backsliding— or the moving away from a liberal democratic society. To continue to allow democratic backsliding to occur would allow more freedoms, other than freedom of expression, to be taken away or reduced. Therefore, it is up to the people to participate in citizen journalism and hold our leaders accountable for their stories they don't like— instead of just letting them call it fake news. As the Washington Post now states on every issue, "Democracy Dies in Darkness."

To read more, visit <https://egyptianstreets.com/2018/04/11/east-west-chitchat-the-25th-of-january-news-coverage-in-egypt-and-the-us/> and stay tuned for more articles and thoughts from Gabr Fellows in the next newsletter.

# 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/>



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