



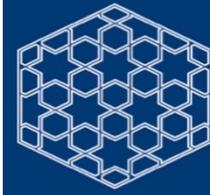
2018 GABR FELLOWS WITH MR. REZA BAQIR AT THE IMF IN EGYPT

*As 2018 winds down, I take this time to reflect on the success of the Foundation in engaging stakeholders around the world on the importance of East-West dialogue, most notably between Egypt and the United States. The world today is more complex and interconnected than it has ever been. It is increasingly evident that dialogue, win-win engagements, multinational partnerships and open communication will be deciding factors for success – or failure – in confronting the toughest challenges of today and tomorrow.*

Over the past year, the Foundation has remained steadfast in its pursuit of empowering current and future influencers to spearhead positive change. Through the annual Gabr Fellowship, the Foundation connected young leaders with key decision makers in the United States and Egypt, allowing them to bolster their networks and initiate their own action projects that celebrate the power of East-West dialogue. In addition, we have convened key stakeholders from Egypt and the United States representing government, business, defense, and finance through roundtable discussions and transparent dialogue to delve deeper into areas of mutual interest and importance and to confront misperceptions, conflict of interest, and complex challenges.

As I look back on a busy — but impactful — 2018, I am pleased in the progress that the Foundation has made in cementing dialogue and exchange as the cornerstone of policy in the realm of business, diplomacy, politics, economics, finance, and more. I look forward to the year ahead and I wish all our readers a happy and healthy New Year.

**M. Shafik Gabr**



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

December 2018, Issue 17

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## News and Updates...

### Because Baseball Nominated for Regional Initiative of the Year



**Murray Abeles (2015 Gabr Fellow)** represented the Gabr Fellowship Action Project *Because Baseball* at an annual awards ceremony hosted by Peace and Sport, which aims to bring sports to communities in crisis. *Because Baseball* was nominated as the Regional Initiative of the Year and Murray traveled to Rhodes, Greece for the ceremony. This was an opportunity for the action project to be recognized for its efforts to bridge cultural divides.

### Ahmed Aransho Participates in Global Forum



**Ahmed Aransho (2015 Gabr Fellow)** participated in the Global Forum of Young Diplomats in Sochi, Russia. The Forum had over 130 diplomats from around the globe in attendance. This was a unique opportunity for networking with current and emerging leaders in diplomacy and participants had the chance to delve deeper into a variety of critical topics, including media, international cooperation, and economic diplomacy.

### Michael Matthiesen Represents University at International Conference



**Michael Matthiesen (2017 Gabr Fellow)** represented Miami Dade College at the International Learning Assistant Alliance Conference in Colorado. He presented a project entitled "Instructional Learning Assistants as a Form of Intervention." Michael participated alongside other teaching professionals from around the world, including Norway and Japan and institutions across the United States.

### Yasser El Zahhar Guest Lectures



**Yasser El Zahhar (2016 Gabr Fellow)** was a guest speaker in **Amr Seda's (2017 Gabr Fellow)** entrepreneurship class at the American University in Cairo. He talked about his company Geddety, with a special focus on operations and marketing activities. This is an inspiring example of how Gabr Fellows continue to support one another.

### Judson Moore Moves to Berlin



**Judson Moore (2015 Gabr Fellow)** moved to Berlin to take on a new professional challenge. He is now working for the eBay Classifieds Group as Product Manager, where he is a key decision maker in the development of software solutions for the automotive sales business vertical of various classifieds websites in the eBay portfolio around the world. Judson previously worked as a Product Manager and Industry Marketing Manager for North America at trivago in Germany.

### Mr. Gabr Meets with Egyptian Fellows



**Mr. M Shafik Gabr** met with Egyptian Fellows in Cairo on November 7<sup>th</sup>, where they discussed personal and professional updates. They also touched on a variety of topics, including the Egyptian film industry, the role of young people in Egypt in light of the International Youth Forum in Sharm El Sheikh, and the impact of the US midterm elections on the Middle East. Mr. Gabr confirmed the Foundation will coordinate meetings for the Fellows to engage with public figures and experts throughout the year.

## Shady Saleh Selected for International Study Trip



**Shady Saleh (2018 Gabr Fellow)** was selected by the Danish-Egyptian Dialogue Institute to participate in a study trip to Copenhagen to discuss a variety of topics, including civic education and democracy, with Danish experts and practitioners. Shady is currently pursuing his Master's Degree in Comparative Middle East Politics and Society, jointly offered by the American University in Cairo and Tubingen University in Germany.

## The Shafik Gabr Foundation Sponsors Sadat Congressional Medal Reception



The Shafik Gabr Foundation, in partnership with the Anwar Sadat Congressional Gold Medal Commission, organized a reception to celebrate the passage of the bill to award Egyptian President Anwar Sadat with a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East. 2018 marks the centennial of his birth and forty years since the historic signing of the Camp David Accords by President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin following twelve days of secret negotiations hosted by President Jimmy Carter. In 1978, President Sadat was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts and was lauded as a visionary global leader. This recognition by the US Congress cemented President Sadat's standing in history and the critical role his legacy still plays in the Middle East. The reception featured remarks from members of the US Congress and business leaders committed to President Sadat's legacy, and marked a grand celebration in honor of a true statesman.

## Suzanne Younger to Lead International Workshop



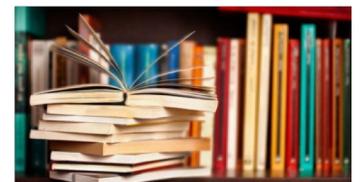
**Suzanne Younger (2014 Gabr Fellow)** will travel to Yaounde, Cameroon with the International Medical Corps to deliver workshops on the international humanitarian coordination system to local and national NGO staff. With the same organization, she previously served as a Program Assistant with the Humanitarian Response Training Unit. She has also worked as a Resettlement and Placement Program Specialist with the Ethiopian Community Development Council and as an ESL instructor in Ohio.

## Gabr Fellows Discuss US-Egypt Relations with US Embassy



A number of Egyptian Fellows participated in a panel discussion organized by Egypt's International Economic Forum entitled 'Egypt-US Relations in the Trump Era.' **Mr. M Shafik Gabr, Charge' d' Affairs** **Thomas Goldberger** of the US Embassy in Cairo, and **Dr. James Sunday** from the American University in Cairo, discussed different areas of cooperation between the two countries, the midterm elections in the United States, and the role of initiatives like the Gabr Fellowship in building bridges between America and Egypt.

## Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



The Foundation Reading Corner is encouraging Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended over the past many issues. For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends *AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order* by Kai-Fu Lee and *The Billionaire Raj: A Journey Through India's New Gilded Age* by James Crabtree.

## Question of the Month: A Pulse of the Gabr Fellowship Community



As the Gabr Fellows enter into leadership roles — in business, diplomacy, government, finance, and more— they will continue to grapple with significant challenges, magnified by an increased pace in technological advancement, the potential for ramped up global inequalities, and changes in governance and economic structures.

To better understand the pulse of the Gabr Fellowship community and to begin to articulate substantive dialogue, the Foundation polls the Fellows each month on the key issues facing their respective countries and the global community at large.

### **Question 1: Do you foresee an Israeli-Palestinian agreement in the next twelve months?**

Yes: 4% of respondents

No: 89% of respondents

I don't know: 7% of respondents

### **Question 2: Given the recent joint military exercises with Egypt and some other Arab States, do you think there is potential for an 'Arab NATO'?**

Yes: 32% of respondents

No: 57% of respondents

I don't know: 11% of respondents

### **Question 3: A Chinese news agency unveiled two AI news anchors. Do you think that other news agencies will follow suit?**

Yes: 47% of respondents

No: 34% of respondents

I don't know: 19% of respondents

### **Question 4: Do you think the US-China trade war will end in December 2018?**

Yes: 4% of respondents

No: 94% of respondents

I don't know: 2% of respondents

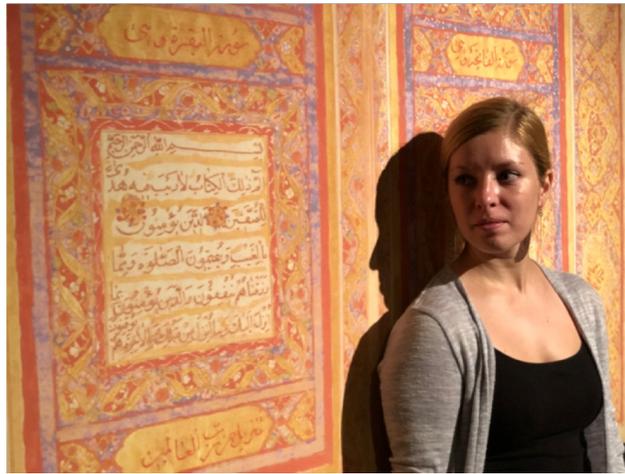
Stay tuned for next month's question of the month and the Gabr Fellows' takes on current events, as our community of future leaders grapple with the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.

## **2018 Fellowship Photo Contest Winners**

Throughout the course of the 2018 Fellowship, the Fellows were tasked with capturing their experience through photography. The photos were meant to showcase the Fellowship beyond the meetings, receptions, and site visits by capturing unique images that depict the East and West in a different way. The Foundation is pleased to announce the winners, who will be rewarded with a monetary prize and a dinner in their respective countries. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all who participated.

### **Category: Photos of Fellows**

Winner: Marwa Abdalla Elsayed, Egyptian Fellow



### **Category: Photos of Egypt**

Winner: Katie Applebaum, American Fellow



Winner: Charles Truxal, American Fellow



## In Focus...

# Trump gave Jerusalem to Israel. He now has to give Palestinians a state.

Abdelrahman Amr and Michael Matthiesen, 2017 Gabr Fellows

*Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the authors' alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation. This article was originally published on [Egyptian Streets](#).*

Israel and Palestine are both guilty of delaying a solution to the conflict between them until the circumstances for negotiation are more favorable for their side. However, waiting is no longer a viable option, and their people keep suffering as they keep endlessly waiting.

Trump should use the political capital that he has gained with Israel to bring them to the table on a two-state solution. Up to this point, Israel has seen little reason to negotiate. With the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements into Palestinian Territories, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has finally found a way to maybe make the two-state solution irrelevant.

Just like how Israel was able to declare itself into existence, after the mass immigration of Jews into the region after World War 2, Netanyahu seems to be hoping that if he continues to occupy Palestinian lands, that it'll no longer make the two-state solution a viable option. Until now, he has received little repercussions other than public condemnation from the world regarding the settlements. As long as the US is on Israel's side, no one will stop them from building. That's where Trump comes in.

Trump is a President who is dead-set on leaving his mark on the world, especially wanting to succeed where other presidents, especially Barack Obama, failed. Well, what better solution than Israel-Palestine? Even he has acknowledged that this is the holy grail for U.S Presidents. But with his moving the U.S Embassy to Jerusalem, he has both gained ground with Israel and lost it with Palestine.

Everyone knew that Jerusalem was never going to actually go to Palestine,

but it was a good negotiating piece for the Palestinians against an opponent that otherwise holds most of the cards. By handing that piece to Israel, Palestine might be thinking they rather Russia or another ally be the referee from now on, or wait for a more favorable U.S President. Israel will never agree to Russia as the negotiator, they prefer the U.S. That's why Trump should bring Russia to the table as well.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Comparative Religion and Director of Drew's Center on Religion, Culture & Conflict Jonathan Golden states that there are several things worth noting when approaching the issue of moving the embassy, especially as the possibilities for co-existing capitals begin to open up.

"First is that conflict is frequently misconstrued as a zero-sum game. We have a tendency to see the varying interests and claims made by the parties in conflict as competing for the same "space." Its either mine or yours, and that's it. And if I acknowledge even the slightest piece of your claim, I may as well be giving up on all of mine," Golden said. "But let's consider a different perspective. If we look at the question in purely pragmatic terms, in what ways might a Palestinian Capital in East Jerusalem diminish the realization of a Jewish capital in West Jerusalem and vice versa?"

Trump should use the same tactics that Obama used to negotiate the Iran Deal. By bringing all the UN Security Council Permanent Members, and Germany, into a negotiation in order to make sure any opposing forces are in agreement, Trump will ensure that the deal is not only accepted by the UN but recognized by all major world powers. This will also make sure that Palestine feels comfortable with some allies at the table.

For Golden, the second important principle from conflict resolution

methodology urges us to focus on interest, not positions. That we should not cling to "bundles" of issues, with predetermined sets of opinions.

"There are ways Jews and Muslims can share the holy sites, but not as long as they refuse to even acknowledge the validity of each other's religious claims," he added.

For Trump to be able to reveal his ultimate plan, or the 'Deal of the Century' and develop a timeline for it, he will need the complete support of his key and pivotal allies in the region: Cairo, Riyadh, and Abu Dhabi.

Jared Kushner, the United States President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior advisor, and Jason Greenblatt, Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, started touring the region to promote the plan to their allies. Their tour included Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, yet, the most important seat in the table, Palestine, represented by Hamas in Gaza and the Palestine Authority 'PA' in the West Bank, were not officially briefed yet. This where Cairo comes in.

Outside the political sphere, yet adjacent to it, Golden informed us that in terms of what is missing to start a change for this conflict, he said that in his opinion its mutual empathy, mutual respect, and the will to treat each other with dignity.

**To read the rest of the article and to see please visit <https://egyptianstreets.com/2018/10/04/east-west-chitchat-trump-gave-jerusalem-to-israel-he-should-now-give-palestinians-a-state/>. 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/>



*Preparations for the Wedding, Algiers, Frederick Arthur Bridgman*

Connect with us



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