

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | AMMAN

ANNUAL REPORT
2016 – 2017



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The work of the Columbia Global Centers has matured and gained in its impact at precisely the moment when the demand for contributions of this type has become more urgent.

A MESSAGE FROM LEE C. BOLLINGER

Columbia's Global Centers are an extension of our core belief that a global presence is essential to the highest levels of excellence in discovering new knowledge and educating future leaders. Eight years after its inception, the network of Columbia Global Centers is fulfilling this objective in remarkable ways. Students and faculty from around the globe, as well as leaders of business, government and diplomacy, converge on our global centers for just the sorts of thoughtful, cross-disciplinary conversations and academic programming that we anticipated.

Global society is facing an uncertain future and existential challenges. No issue has loomed larger in recent years than the historic migration of millions of people. Syria, with its border fewer than one hundred miles from our global center in Amman, is at the epicenter of this crisis; during this period, the leadership demonstrated by the Amman Center in response has been admirable. The Center is hosting symposia about refugee inclusion with representatives from leading research centers in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, and the United Kingdom. It is also responsible for the implementation of our Scholarship Program for Displaced Persons, through which Syrian students are planning to commence their studies at Columbia in the fall.

Programs like these reflect the University's determination to better understand and help remedy the world's most urgent challenges. The first Columbia Global Center in Amman remains a model for the network of centers that now stretches across five continents.

None of this would exist without your support. The work of the Columbia Global Centers has matured and gained in its impact at precisely the moment when the demand for contributions of this type has become more urgent. Thank you for your continuing partnership in this essential endeavor.

Lee C. Bollinger

President, Columbia University



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The environment we currently live in underscores the importance of engagement around the world through programming and research activities, and compels us to reinforce our global mission.

A MESSAGE FROM SAFWAN M. MASRI

Significant and unprecedented challenges are facing our global community—from climate change to refugee crises to strains on democratic systems of governance. Recent trends signaling an extreme shift toward reclusion, isolationism, and hyper-nationalism, underscore an imperative for increased global interconnectedness. These serious problems require us to work together—across borders, cultures, and continents—in new and inventive ways.

With the transformative vision of President Lee C. Bollinger, the commitment of Columbia University to working globally has never been stronger. Columbia has been leading the way in elevating the role of the University as an incubator for policy, research, education, and action in the world.

Columbia Global Centers, among other important global initiatives of the University, provide a physical and intellectual infrastructure around the world where scholars and practitioners can work together, across disciplines, to tackle issues of mutual interest or concern. In all the cities we are located in, from Amman to Rio de Janeiro, our faculty and students have engaged in important work that has both enriched their own scholarship and research, and resulted in real impact on the ground. With the vision for a Global Columbia, the opportunities for coupling deep knowledge with applied solutions are boundless.

The global centers have always been motivated by the recognition that we do not know enough about the world, and that we need to be in it, and to learn from, and with, our partners on the ground. The environment we currently live in underscores the importance of engagement around the world through programming and research activities, and compels us to reinforce our global mission.

Safwan M. Masri

*Executive Vice President for Global Centers
and Global Development, Columbia University*

Columbia Global Centers
promote and facilitate
the collaborative and
impactful engagement of
the University's faculty,
students, and alumni with
the world, to enhance
understanding, address
global challenges, and
advance knowledge and
its exchange.

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS

The global centers, as envisioned by President Lee C. Bollinger, were founded with the objective of connecting the local with the global, to create opportunities for shared learning and to deepen the nature of global dialogue.

Under the leadership of Professor Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, the eight global centers are located in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago. This network forms the core of Columbia's global strategy, which is to expand the University's ability to contribute positively to the world by advancing research and producing new knowledge on the most important issues confronting our planet.

The Columbia Global Centers engage regional experts and scholars and encourage teaching and research across disciplinary boundaries. Some of the centers' programs and research initiatives are country-specific, some regional, and an increasing number are multiregional, even global. The Columbia Global Centers are now well

immersed in their local regions, and in a position to further leverage their networks and expertise on behalf of the Columbia community.

The centers facilitate research opportunities for Columbia faculty and students on globally relevant, interdisciplinary topics, promote global conversations about pressing and complex issues facing the world, supplement the curriculum with global learning and immersion experiences, and provide a point of ongoing engagement for international alumni and friends. Perhaps most importantly, the centers represent multidirectional learning: Columbia is not pushing education into a new environment, but instead, through the global centers, our faculty and students are able to become part of an international dialogue with partners around the world.



Amman, Jordan

The Amman Center offers student programs in Arabic language studies, architecture, environmental sustainability, and democracy and constitutional engineering. Programmatic themes include public health, social work, education, gender, and refugees.



Istanbul, Turkey

The Istanbul Center hosts educational programs focusing on democracy, Byzantine and Ottoman studies, architecture, transcultural studies, and conducts programming on journalism, gender, refugees, politics of memory, freedom of expression, and the arts.

Beijing, China

The Beijing Center's programmatic themes include public health and aging, arts and culture, energy and sustainability, and entrepreneurship. The Center's events feature environmental engineering, international relations, and economic and political development.



Mumbai, India

The Mumbai Center serves as a knowledge hub, and develops research-based programs and activities related to critical issues in the South Asia region, such as health, education, knowledge, sustainable urbanization, culture, and economic policy and justice.

Nairobi, Kenya

The Nairobi Center's programmatic themes include sustainability, public health, environmental sciences, and entrepreneurship. The Center also houses one of the only study-abroad programs for undergraduates in tropical biology and sustainable development.



Paris, France

The Paris Center hosts an undergraduate program, an MA in History and Literature, an architecture program (BA/MA), and residencies for the Executive MS in Technology Management. It also offers a rich and diverse program of public events.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The Rio Center's programming focuses on themes of enormous relevance to Brazil, such as social inclusion, economic development, and urban infrastructure. The Center also hosts the Global Executive MPA and the Innovation Hub.



Santiago, Chile

The Santiago Center hosts joint research in volcanology, engineering, public health, and architecture. The Center's programming focuses on corporate governance, arts and culture, global economics, waste management, solar energy, and water security.

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | AMMAN

Columbia Global Centers | Amman was established in March 2009 as one of the first in the network of Columbia Global Centers. The Center serves as a hub for programs and educational initiatives throughout the Middle East; providing Columbia faculty and students with opportunities to expand their research and scholarship, but also as a conduit for knowledge exchange and skill development with local and regional academics, experts and practitioners.

In 2016, the Center was engaged in a number of important themes pertaining to the current regional context, including youth entrepreneurship, refugee inclusion, and the preservation of historical monuments. The Amman Center continues to organize programs and research activities in the areas of public health, education, and architecture, and provides scholarly perspectives that help inform a more nuanced understanding of current events in the region.

LEADERSHIP

Professor Safwan M. Masri is Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University. In this capacity, he is responsible for the development of an expanding network of Columbia Global Centers. Professor Masri has also been director of Columbia Global Centers | Amman since its founding in 2009.

Masri holds a senior research scholar appointment at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Previously, he was vice dean at Columbia Business School (1993-2005), where he taught operations management since joining the faculty in 1988. He was a visiting professor at INSEAD in 1990 and 1991, and has also held teaching positions at Stanford University and Santa Clara University.

Masri's research and scholarly interests are focused on education and contemporary geopolitics and society in the Arab world. He is particularly interested in understanding the historic, postcolonial dynamics among religion, education, society, and politics.

His forthcoming book, which will be published in 2017 by Columbia

University Press, attempts to explain Tunisia's relative success in its transition to democracy through its history of reformism — education, women's rights, and religion, and the intersections thereof.

Masri earned his bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering from Purdue University in 1982; his master of science in industrial engineering, also from Purdue in 1984; and his doctorate of philosophy in industrial engineering and engineering management from Stanford University in 1988.

Masri was honored with the Singhvi Professor of the Year for Scholarship in the Classroom Award in 1990, the Robert W. Lear Service Award in 1998, and the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence in

a Core Course in 2000. Masri has also been honored with the 2003 American Service Award from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Masri is an honorary fellow of the Foreign Policy Association, trustee of International College, and a board member of a number of non-profit educational institutions globally. He was founding chairman of King's Academy and of Queen Rania Teacher Academy, and has served as an advisor to Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah and as director of the Arab Bankers Association of North America, Aramex, and the Nuqul Group.

FACULTY STEERING COMMITTEE

The Amman Center is governed by a board of directors of Columbia University senior administrators, and receives guidance and direction from the Office of Global Centers and Global Development in New York and a Faculty Steering Committee. The Committee provides academic and intellectual input, leadership, and advice regarding the Center's activities and plans, supports its engagement with faculty, as well as helps identify, expand and advance scholarly exchange, and create innovative and sustainable programming, at and through, the global center.

The Faculty Steering Committee is chaired by a faculty member who serves a renewable three-year term and is viewed as a thought-leader by other members of the faculty. Committee members represent a wide spectrum of faculty interests and disciplinary areas, and are selected because of their commitment to globalization in general, and to the study of the Middle East, as well as their familiarity with, and interest in, the region's nations, cultures, and issues.



The following individuals comprise the Faculty Steering Committee of the Columbia Global Centers | Amman

Brinkley Messick, Professor of Anthropology and of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, and Director of the Middle East Institute [Committee Chair]

Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Bittenwieser Professor of Social Science, Department of Anthropology

Amale Andraos, Associate Professor and Dean, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and Architecture Advisor to the President

Carol Becker, Professor and Dean, School of the Arts

Jason Bordoff, Professor of Professional Practice and Director of the Center on Global Energy Policy, School of International and Public Affairs

Steve Coll, Henry R. Luce Professor of Journalism and Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism

Thomas Corcoran, Co-Director of the Consortium for Policy Research in Education, Teachers College

Nabila El-Bassel, Willma and Albert Musher Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work

Wafaa El-Sadr, University Professor; Dr. Mathilde Krim-amfAR Chair of Global Health; and Director of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs

Najam Haider, Assistant Professor of Religion, Barnard College

Kamel Jedidi, John A. Howard Professor of Business, Columbia Business School

Timothy Mitchell, William B. Ransford Professor of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies and Professor of International and Public Affairs, and Chair of the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies

Ibrahim Odeh, Lecturer in Construction Engineering and Management, School of Engineering and Applied Science

Kathryn Yatrakis, Faculty Advisor for Manhattanville, Office of the President

ADVISORY BOARD

The Center's Advisory Board also provides oversight and is composed of prominent academics, public figures, and business leaders. The Board meets annually and provides ongoing leadership and counsel regarding the Center's activities.

The following individuals comprise the Advisory Board of the Columbia Global Centers | Amman

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah has been a tireless advocate of educational advancement in Jordan and helped create the vision for establishing the Center.

His Excellency Kofi Annan, Nobel laureate and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, was named one of Columbia University's three inaugural Global Fellows in 2009

Mustafa Abdel-Wadood, Managing Partner and Global Head of Private Equity, The Abraaj Group

Loulwa Bakr BUS '04, Founder and Managing Partner of Edu21 Group

Jean Magnano Bollinger TC '72, P: LAW '02, IA '11, a practicing artist with an academic background in education; she received her master's degree in education from Teachers College

His Excellency Amr Al-Dabbagh P: CC '19, Chairman and CEO of Al-Dabbagh Group, Founding Chairman and Chair of the Board of Trustees of STARS Foundation, and former Governor and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority

Hanzade Doğan BUS '99, Founder of one of Turkey's leading Internet investment companies, and serves as Deputy Chairman of Doğan Gazetecilik, a leading Turkish media company

Professor Meyer Feldberg, Senior Advisor at Morgan Stanley, and Professor and Dean Emeritus of Columbia Business School

His Excellency Zaid Al-Rifai is a former Prime Minister of Jordan and former President of the Senate of Jordan.

Isam Salfiti P: BUS '00, CC '03, Chairman of Bank al Eithad and Chairman of the Board of Etihad Land Development Company and Jordan Hotels and Tourism Company

Mughith Sukthian BUS '01, Managing Director of GMS Specialized Services

Asem Toukan P: CC '17, General Manager and CEO of Support Services Company

Elaine Wolfensohn is an expert in international education and has worked closely with the World Bank on education and gender issues. She also works with the Wolfensohn Development Center at the Brookings Institution.

TEAM

The Amman Center employs professional staff who manage programs and provide research assistance, administer and oversee operations and logistics, and lead communications, media and outreach efforts. The Center also houses Studio-X Amman, which investigates a wide range of issues in urban planning, historic preservation, and advanced architectural design in Jordan and the region.

Team at Columbia Global Centers | Amman



In December 2016, the Center lost a loyal and committed member of its team, Nadine Kharouba. Nadine was the Operations Manager, and joined Columbia Global Centers | Amman in May 2010, making her one of the first members of the global team.

Amal Ghandour, a writer, blogger and communications strategist, based in Beirut, is Special Advisor to Columbia Global Centers | Amman. Ghandour holds a bachelor of science in foreign service from Georgetown University, and a master of science in international policy from Stanford University. She is the author of *About this Man Called Ali: The Purple Life of an Arab Artist*, and is a strategy advisor to Ruwwad, a regional community development initiative. Ghandour sits on a number of boards including the Arab Human Rights Fund, International College, and the Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at the American University in Cairo.

PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

Many of the Amman Center's programs pair Columbia University students and faculty with practitioners throughout the Middle East, working in a variety of sectors, to develop hands-on projects that promote study and expand the range of academic experiences.

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An advocate for educational advancement, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah joins a workshop session with Jordanian teachers

Education and Learning Opportunities

SUMMER ECOSYSTEM EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES PROGRAM

In conjunction with Columbia College and the Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability, the Center offered the sixth iteration of the Summer Ecosystem Experiences for Undergraduates (SEE-U) Program. The five-week program was held in July-August 2016, and enrolled 17 students from Columbia University.

The program provides undergraduate students of all majors with a global understanding of ecology and environmental sustainability. In addition to participating in a combination of lectures and labs, students also conducted fieldwork in the distinctive topography of Jordan, and visited unique places like Wadi Rum, Petra, Jerash, Dana, Ajloun, and Aqaba. With the collected data, students were required to contextualize their project within the core issue of environmental sustainability.

Students studied the fundamentals of ecology, evolutionary biology, environmental science, taxonomy, and experimental design, and used current issues in Jordanian resource management to explore the interface between science and sustainable development. Guest lecturers from

government ministries and non-profit organizations were incorporated into the SEE-U curriculum to provide a full understanding of current issues in sustainable development including freshwater resource management, desertification, biodiversity conservation, and deforestation in Jordan.

Students also conducted individual projects that took them through the process of planning, executing, and presenting their own ecological research on a topic of their choice. The group was accompanied by Jenna Lawrence, Lecturer in Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, and Program Director of Summer Programs at the Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability.



SEE-U program students in the field



Columbia students taking a view of downtown Amman

SUMMER ARABIC LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

In conjunction with Columbia's Office of Global Programs and Columbia Global Centers | Paris, the Amman Center held the seventh offering of the annual Arabic language program and the third offering of the Columbia MENA Summer Institute in May – July 2016. The programs are run by Taoufik Ben-Amor, Gordon Gray Jr. Senior Lecturer in Arabic Studies, and Madeleine Dobie, Professor of French and Romance Philology, who leads the cultural seminar.

This program builds on efforts in the humanities and social sciences to bring Middle East and North Africa Studies into a closer dialogue. Drawing on the resources of Amman and Paris, it allows students to hone their language skills while being exposed to the most recent developments in the scholarship on the Middle East and North Africa,

and to cultural products from the region including cinema, art, music, urban planning and architecture.

The nine-week intensive program offers a multi-faceted introduction to the languages, culture, and history of the Middle East and North Africa. During the first part of the MENA Summer Institute, students spent time in Amman learning Arabic and attending seminars that examine the interrelatedness of the Mashrek and the Maghreb through various disciplines.



Arabic class in session

The second part of the program took place in Paris, whereby students continued to study Arabic and examine various themes. They were given the opportunity to learn Mashreki dialect in Amman and Maghrebi Darija in Paris. Both programs attracted 23 Columbia and non-Columbia undergraduate and graduate students, and 13 of them traveled on to Paris.



Students pledge to only speak in Arabic throughout the duration of the program

Like the cities of Rome and Jerusalem, the city of Amman is unique in its urban concept of exhibiting its archaeological past in the very center of the town. It is true that many cities all over the world are proud to call attention to their ancient and even near past histories by exposing ruins and remains of 'previous' architectural achievements. These monuments are displayed as if in a museum – an open one, which has no clear borders. And yet, the decision to designate a large space at the very center of a metropolis for presenting archaeology and to expose the underground history of urban spaces to the everyday inhabitants and visitors of a city is a revolutionary plan. The display of the Forum Romanum in Rome and the Cardo in Jerusalem as sites of learning of historical knowledge is modern and is strongly embedded in the histories of nationalism and of constructing identities.

Travel seminar students with Professors Avinoam Shalem and Holger Klein at the Amman Nymphaeum



Gabriel Rodriguez

CITIES OF KNOWLEDGE: DISPLAYING ARCHAEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE PUBLIC SPACES OF AMMAN

In partnership with the Department of Art History and Archeology at Columbia University, the Amman Center hosted a travel seminar for nine undergraduate students on March 12-18, 2016. Students were accompanied by Avinoam Shalem, Riggio Professor of the History of the Arts of Islam, and Holger Klein, Professor of Art History and Archeology.

The seminar explored the urban development of the city of Amman through its two major archaeological sites, the ancient buildings of the Roman city of Philadelphia, with its amphitheater, Odeon theater and the Nymphaeum, and the Qala'a (Citadel), the Umayyad Palace. Students studied these sites as related to the modern city of Amman, discussing how modern methods of urban planning all relate to the idea of reconstructing past narratives for Amman, while focusing mainly on archaeology, urban architectural developments, specific cultural centers and even museum display. Presentations were held both in situ, in front of the monuments of Amman, as well as in class.

INTERNSHIPS

The Amman Center hosts interns for six weeks, primarily over the summer. Additional interns assist with activities and the coordination of programs throughout the academic year.

Interested candidates inquire about internship positions through the Center's website or through referrals. Internships are available in a range of fields, including the arts, architecture, social work, communications, and research support.

Gabriel Rodriguez



ACOR Director Dr. Barbara Porter shows students fragments of papyri at her facility in Amman

In 2016, the following students completed an internship at the Center

Name	University	Field of Study	Area of Support at the Center	Internship Duration
Natasha Abaza	Barnard College	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	June - July 2016
Marion Abboud	Georgetown University	Global Human Development	Programs and Research	May – August 2016
Sumayah Abu Hayeh	University of Jordan	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	January – February 2016
Adam Ishaqat	German Jordan University	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	January – February 2016
Mohammad Kabariti	University of Toronto	Global Health and Human Geography with a Minor in Biology	Programs and Research	February – April 2016
Hani Al Qudah	University of Jordan	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	January – February 2016
Beatrice Riva	University of Cambridge	Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	Programs and Research	March – June 2016
Tala Sabbagh	High school student	N/A	Programs and Research	June 2016
Mary-Grace Stone	Princeton University	International Relations with a Minor in Arabic Language and Culture	Programs and Research	November – December 2016
Nadine Zaza	Rhode Island School of Design	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	January – February 2016; June – July 2016

COLUMBIA EXPERIENCE OVERSEAS PROGRAM

The Center continues to hold the Columbia Experience Overseas Program (CEO), in partnership with the Center for Career Education at Columbia University. The CEO program is a unique eight-week internship program that offers

Columbia undergraduates high-quality internship experiences in a diverse array of industries in Amman, developed through alumni and employer partnerships. The program was offered for the fifth time in Amman to eight students in June-August 2016.

Throughout the internship, students explore a career field and develop professional skills, while living in a new city and gaining global experience. They are paired with an alumni mentor and also have the opportunity to connect with different professionals in Jordan

by participating in professional development training and networking events.

An orientation was held at the start of the program for interns to learn more about Columbia Global Centers and specifically the Amman Center. Students then connected with their individual mentors and learned about their field of work at an Iftar that was hosted at the Center on June 9. The program concluded with a reception for interns, their employers and mentors.



Alumni meet with CEO interns over Iftar at the Center

In 2016, the following students completed an internship program through the Columbia Experience Overseas Program

Columbia Student	Internship Organization	Mentor/Relation
Kyle Misquitta (SEAS '17)	Hikma Pharmaceuticals	Lina Ejeilat (JN '09)
Michael Julve (GS '18)	Oasis500	Faris Gammoh (BUS '07)
Kieran Birch-Desai (SEAS '18)	Oasis500	Ramzi Muna (SEAS '81)
Meredith Sullivan (GS '18)	The King Hussein Foundation	Wasim Salfiti (CC '03)
Dylan Okabe-Jawdat (CC '17)	The King Hussein Foundation	Adnan Talhouni (IA '73)
Hamza Taghy (CC '18)	Bank al Etihad	Hazem Zureiqat (Friend of the Center)
Chisom Onyea (CC '18)	The King Hussein Foundation	Manal Husein (SSW '14)

FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ENGINEERING EDUCATION IN TUNISIA

In collaboration with the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), the Amman Center is working with engineering colleagues at leading Tunisian universities to introduce critical elements of an entrepreneurship curriculum and consult on how to build an ecosystem that will support entrepreneurial activities in the Tunisian context. These include The National Engineering School of Tunis, The Business School of Carthage, The Business School of Sousse, The National Engineering School of Sousse, The National Engineering School of Monastir and Tunis Business School.

The initiative is led by SEAS, and draws on the strengths of other Columbia schools, including Law, Business, and International

and Public Affairs, as well as the expertise of Columbia Technology Ventures. The project responds to an expressed interest from Tunisian universities to strengthen the culture of entrepreneurship in engineering education. Meetings were held in Tunisia in January 2016, with faculty, students and administrators at seven engineering and business schools in Tunis, as well as with representatives of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the U.S. Embassy, and AfricInvest. A working group was established made up of steering committees in Tunisia and at Columbia University to inform the design of a week-long training program.

A training program composed of workshops and lectures for a group of 11 engineering and business educators, and three university directors from Tunisia was held on campus in New York on April 27-May 5, 2016, providing opportunities to learn from immersion in an ecosystem of entrepreneurship. The participants also attended and participated in discussions at the Columbia Venture

Competition finals, Columbia Start-up Festival, as well as visiting Columbia Start-up Lab and Senior Design Expo.

The training program enhanced participants' understanding of the factors required to create a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem that allows access to quality human capital and professional resources, availability of appropriate finance, along with enabling governmental policies and leadership. The material delivered during the workshops and lectures provided participants with technical and practical knowledge on how an entrepreneurial culture supported by the engineering schools could be developed and sustained when largely supported by a number of factors, including building entrepreneurial networks, motivating and rewarding behavior, meeting institutional and infrastructural needs, among others.

The program also held an interactive forum that gave participants a platform to explore and articulate their ideas in relation to how they want to apply this knowledge and translate it to the Tunisian context. Participants were involved in laying out a plan that articulates the practical learning into action. The plan included organizing a national university-wide event; *The Open Start-up Tunisia Competition*,



Tunisian engineering and business group in New York, joined by Dean Mary Boyce of SEAS and Professor Kamel Jedidi

which brought together engineering and business students to work in inter-disciplinary teams, advised by engineering and business faculty.

The activities of the *Open Start-up Tunisia Competition* included a one-day ideation camp on December 18, 2016 and a final competition on January 19, 2017. The purpose of the event was to create a structure that unifies business and engineering schools in an organized and collaborative entrepreneurial ecosystem. This was beneficial for both the business and engineering communities, in that it provided the business community with innovative ideas from engineering, and it invited students from the engineering and business communities to reform the mindset of labs and associations that used to work in isolation.

The winning student team will be invited to visit Columbia's New York campus in spring 2017 to participate in the annual Columbia Venture Competition finals and Start-up Festival.

Students at the *Open Start Up Tunisia Competition*



THE COLUMBIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

Columbia University has launched a scholarship program to support up to six individuals who have been displaced as a result of the conflict in Syria. These students will receive full tuition, housing, travel, and living assistance while pursuing select undergraduate or graduate degrees at Columbia University.

The scholarship program was conceptualized by 12 MBA students who conducted an independent study, sponsored by The Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School, to assess the feasibility of the concept and to prepare a draft business plan. The program focuses on addressing the gap in higher education access for Syrian refugees by establishing a non-profit impact investment fund.

The Amman Center has been involved in refining the details of the program and arranging and participating in meetings with a wide range of humanitarian organizations that provide educational support services for Syrian refugees. The Center has also promoted the scholarship program through its wide network.

Participating schools at Columbia include the School of General Studies, the School of Engineering and Applied Science (undergraduate programs), and the Business School and School of International and Public Affairs (both for graduate degree programs). Applicants must apply to, and be accepted by, one of the four participating schools. Applicants must have been displaced by the conflict in Syria, and currently residing in Jordan, Lebanon, or Turkey, or residing under Temporary Protected Status in the U.S. Students will begin their studies in fall 2017.

ARABIC TRANSLATION PROJECT

This project is spearheaded by The Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life (IRCPL) at Columbia University, and involves the translation and publication of a number of important English language books on democracy and case studies on democratic transitions into Arabic.

The translated texts include *Democracies in Danger* by Alfred Stepan, *On Democracy* by Robert Dahl, *Patterns of Democracy* by Arend Lijphart, *Democracy and Islam in Indonesia* by Mirjam Kunkler and Alfred Stepan, *The Arab Uprising Explained: New Contentious Politics in the Middle East* by Marc Lynch, and *Civil Resistance in the Arab Spring: Triumphs and Disasters* edited by Adam Roberts, Michael J. Willis, Rory McCarthy, and Timothy Garton Ash. The texts are available on eKtab, the first Arabic electronic book marketplace and publishing company. The global center in Amman continues to work with IRCPL on the distribution of the books to interested scholars, students, non-profit organizations, public libraries, civil society organizations, ministries, universities, and research centers across the region.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

PRESIDENT'S GLOBAL INNOVATION FUND

The President's Global Innovation Fund (PGIF) awards grants for faculty members to engage and leverage Columbia's network of global centers. The program aims to enable the development of new projects and scholarly collaborations across global centers, in order to increase global opportunities for research, teaching, and service. Projects must engage at least one of Columbia's global centers and may be sited in one of the eight cities in which a global center is based or in other locations in the regions served by a global center.

The first round of PGIF grant request proposals was issued in May 2013. To date, a total of 61 projects have been supported in the past four rounds of grants. Together, these and future projects will play an essential role in realizing the potential of the Columbia Global Centers to create new opportunities for faculty and students, and defining what it means for Columbia to explore new channels of knowledge in the 21st century.

A total of 12 proposals across eight centers were selected for funding in 2016, two of which leverage Columbia Global Centers | Amman:

Human Rights Treaty Body Reform Process: Towards a Stronger Human Rights Protection Regime (*Amman and Istanbul Centers*): This project brought together experts from around the world to contribute to the ongoing process of the UN General Assembly's 2020 review of the UN human rights treaty bodies by identifying opportunities and generating innovative ideas to improve its function and deepen its impact. The project is led by Elazar Barkan, Professor of International and Public Affairs and Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University, and Jack Snyder, Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Relations.

The intended outcome is for participants to be able to contribute to a UN-led process on the future of the United Nations human rights protection, and the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening the treaty body system, which oversees reporting on human rights treaty

compliance. The project aims to organize convenings in Istanbul, Amman, and in Latin America, to reflect on ways of enhancing the effectiveness and functioning of the treaty bodies and develop innovative proposals and solutions that would feed into the work of decision makers in the lead-up to a review and resolution at the UN General Assembly in 2020.

The project involves and is supported by a number of Columbia professors and centers, including Sarah Cleveland, Louis Henkin Professor of Human and Constitutional Rights; Agnès Callamard, Director of Global Freedom of Expression and Special Advisor to the President; Alexander Cooley, Director of the Harriman Institute and Adjunct Senior Research Scholar; Lori Damrosch, Hamilton Fish Professor of International Law and Diplomacy; Michael Doyle, University Professor and Director of the Global Policy Initiative; Yasmine Ergas, Lecturer in the Discipline of International and Public Affairs and Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights; and Andrew Nathan, Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science. The project is also supported by the Geneva Academy, which is coordinating the worldwide academic track in support of the 2020 review process, and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is responsible for supporting the treaty body. Both entities will provide in-kind staff support to the project's activities.

Advancing Solutions in Policy, Implementation, Research, and Engagement for Refugees

(ASPIRE) Project (*Amman Center*): This project is a collaboration led by faculty at Columbia University School of Social Work (CUSSW), Columbia Global Centers | Amman, University of Jordan, and Jordan Health Aid Society International. The purpose of this project is to establish a consortium of faculty committed to identifying the needs of Syrian refugees in the areas of research, education, training, and service. Recognizing that the needs of refugees are multi-faceted, and that solutions will require multidisciplinary approaches, the ASPIRE consortium includes senior faculty across Columbia's professional schools, including social work, public health, medicine, and international and public affairs, who have the expertise, passion, and commitment necessary to constructively contribute to the global dialogue around successful refugee resettlement.

This consortium is embarking on a joint research activity with the University of Jordan that aims to address two critical gaps in the existing research and intervention literature on barriers and access to services, and attitudes of health and service providers towards Syrian refugee women and their needs. The objective of the research study is to inform intervention, prevention programming, and policies.

The ASPIRE project will train local medical students to carry out the data collection. The project is led by Professors Nabila El-Bassel, Willma and Albert Musher Professor of Social Work, and Neeraj Kaushal, Professor of Social Work, in partnership with Columbia Global Centers | Amman and in collaboration with faculty and pre- and post-doctoral fellows from Columbia's professional schools.

CHANGING HEALTH NEEDS IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES: NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SERVICES FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN

The Center is working with the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and the American University of Beirut on a research study that aims to conduct a series of in depth interviews with key stakeholders in Jordan, as well as those working at the global level for UN agencies, relief agencies, and other organizations involved in policy, financing and/or service delivery.

The research explores the burden of disease amongst Syrian refugees and the services and systems developed to address these health needs, with a focus on chronic non-communicable diseases. The overall goal of the project is to explore the changing health needs of Syrian refugees, and the systems and services available to them in Jordan. By identifying health needs and

gaps, and highlighting best practices, the research study intends to generate policy-relevant data that will inform the global policies and frameworks that support health services for displaced persons.

This study is funded by Columbia University through an award from the Columbia Global Policy Initiative. The project is spearheaded by Dr. Miriam Rabkin, Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health and Dr. Fouad Fouad, Assistant Research Professor at the American University of Beirut.

VISITING SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS

The Amman Center hosts local, regional and international academics and researchers to pursue independent projects and contribute to the intellectual vitality of the Center by hosting conferences, discussions, and seminars. The Center supports the visiting scholars by providing them with office space and administrative assistance, and connecting them with resources, universities, and research centers in the region and beyond. Research undertaken is quite varied and covers disciplines ranging from law, to economics, to social sciences and the humanities.

In 2016, the Center hosted the following two researchers:

Basim Al-Janabi has been a visiting scholar at Columbia Global Centers | Amman since 2012 and specializes in international relations. His research has focused on various topics in the field of political science, with a number of his works published in scholarly journals. He is currently working on a research project focused on the Tunisian democratic experience, and the pressing challenges the country has had to overcome in order to achieve its goals.

Malay Firoz is a PhD candidate from the Department of Anthropology and Department of Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. Firoz was a visiting scholar at the Amman Center in August-December 2016. His project explores the difficulties and dilemmas of humanitarian assistance in the wake of the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan and Lebanon. Firoz works on understanding how the Syrian crisis has impacted humanitarian policy and practice through a comparative ethnographic study of humanitarian programs in Jordan and Lebanon. The study contrasts how humanitarian NGOs in the two countries negotiate the tension between their universal commitments to human rights and the local social, political and historical pressures they encounter.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The Amman Center cooperates with partners on campus and in the region to organize conferences and workshops featuring international scholars and regional experts that focus on a variety of relevant issues. These events promote academic dialogue and help solidify the Center's presence in the region as a focal point of intellectual engagement.

WORKSHOP ON MAPPING ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES AND THE MISSING

In collaboration with Hafiza Merkezi in Istanbul, the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability, CHREST Foundation, and the Open Society Foundation, the Amman and Istanbul Centers held the second thematic workshop of the Regional Network for Historical Dialogue and Dealing with the Past in Istanbul on January 27-28, 2017. The first workshop, *Truth Telling and Encounters*, took place in Istanbul in 2015. The 2017 iteration focused on the issue of enforced disappearances and the missing by providing a platform for participating civil society representatives from the MENA region to discuss the issue with specific examples from their work.

Representatives from around the region meet in Istanbul to discuss the issue of enforced disappearances



The workshop was structured around a presentation of case studies, followed by roundtable discussions whereby participants identified areas of progress and challenges that they faced, with the goal of developing areas for knowledge sharing and joint work. The processes that form transitional justice, the struggle of victims' relatives and human rights organizations to establish records of the disappeared, to form truth commissions, to seek accountability of those responsible and to pursue reparations, memorialization and reforms all relate very closely to the processes surrounding the search for the disappeared.

Participants shared their experiences with reference to the transitional justice framework. They discussed optimal methods of data collection and verification, legislative changes that can help address the issues of social rights of those left behind, examples where the legal/judicial approach has worked in the Middle East, and strategies that can be used to combat impunity, among other important considerations.

The workshop also aimed to strengthen advocacy for the victims of enforced disappearance and the work of organizations in this field.

THE FUTURE OF THE PAST: ADDRESSING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE CRISIS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA

In partnership with The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Columbia University in New York, Columbia Global Centers | Amman hosted the second regional cultural heritage workshop on November 11-13, 2016. The workshop, spearheaded by Zainab Bahrani, Edith Porada Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Art History and Archaeology, brought together museum specialists from Iraq, Syria, and Jordan, as well as colleagues from Europe and North America, to discuss their current situation in the ongoing crisis and identify pressing needs and ways to address them.

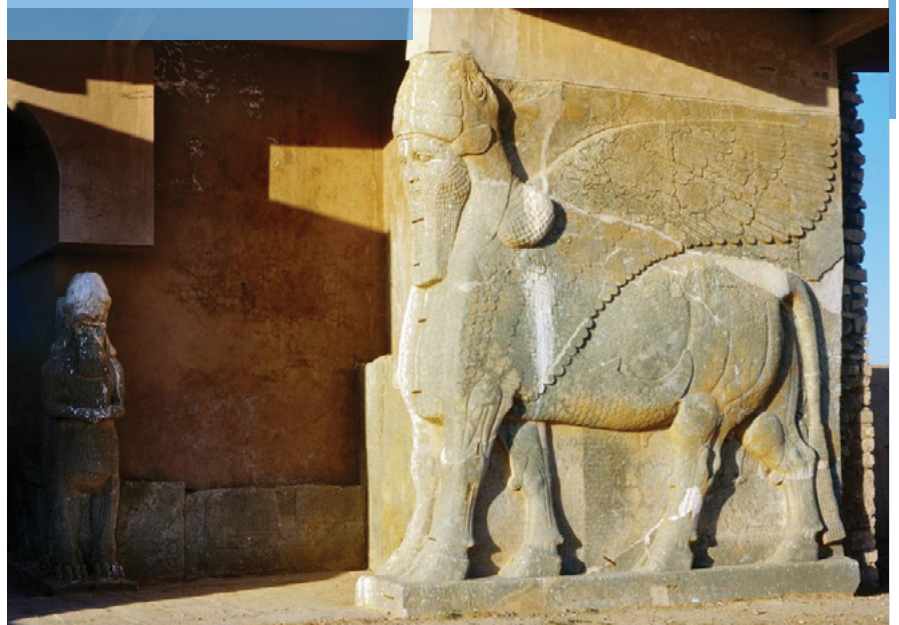
Workshop session themes included emergency response and the conservation of collections, curatorial documentation of collections, exchange of information, and education and training. The workshop also identified other areas in which The Metropolitan Museum and Columbia University can offer support to museum colleagues in the future to preserve their countries' cultural heritage.

The workshop was launched with a talk by Dr. Ihsan Fethi titled *The Future of Historic Monuments, Museums, and Sites Destroyed by ISIS: A Proposed Course of Action*, which took place at the Amman Center on November 11. The talk and workshop were followed by a training session on November 14-19 at the American Center of Oriental Research, on photographic documentation of museum objects.



Ihsan Fethi gives a keynote lecture on the future of historic monuments

A statue located in the Iraqi city of Nimrud, the capital of the ancient Assyrian empire



THE SORAYA SALT YOUTH FOR YOUTH SERIES

Columbia Global Centers | Amman launched the Soraya Salti Youth for Youth Series in November 2016 with the support of Mr. Waleed Al-Banawi, Founder and Chairman at JISR Venture Partners. The series, which will take place over the course of five years, honors the incredible work and achievements of the late Soraya Salti, former President and CEO for Middle East and North Africa at INJAZ Al-Arab, in the field of youth education and entrepreneurship.

The program aims to establish a speaker and workshop series by youth, and for youth, which focuses on themes of gender equality, entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership, among others. Based at Columbia Global Center in Amman, this initiative reaches out to young people to promote and advance youth leadership development. Four young leaders from the MENA region will be hosted during the first year of the program, from November 2016 to May 2017, to speak and interact with fellow youth who stand to benefit from positive role models. Talks will feature personal success stories on diverse issues, and provide insights

into practical applications to complex challenges.

Inaugurated by Najla Al Midfa, General Manager of Sheraa, an Emirati government entity that seeks to inspire the next generations of entrepreneurs, the series is creating a space for debating, reflecting and understanding the challenges and opportunities faced by youth, as well as for proposing immediate applications to address them.

Al Midfa gave a talk titled, *Unleashing the Next Generation of Change-Makers*, about her work in the fields of youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and innovation. The talk was preceded by a workshop on *How to Find Your Passion* delivered by Naser Al Sughaiyer, an empowerment coach and trainer for youth. The interactive workshop provided participants with an opportunity to learn how to turn

their personal interests and hobbies into careers or businesses.

The second event of the series took place on February 4, 2017 with Tamara Abdel Jaber, Co-founder and Executive Board Member at Palma Consulting, who gave a keynote talk and a workshop on the basics of developing a business model. This was followed by a series of workshops presented by different session leaders including Hanae Ayoubi, Co-founder of Harir.com, Rola Fayyad, Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Friendture, and Omar Hamdallah, former manager at Palma Consulting.

The Center is currently working on creating an internship program through the Soraya Salti Youth for Youth Series that aims to pair young entrepreneurial students with start-up companies in Amman.



Students attend *Life is about choices* workshop



Group photo with Tamara Abdel Jaber and workshop participants at the Amman Center



Najla Al-Midfa launches the Youth for Youth series with a talk on the next generation of change-makers



Workshop participants engage in a discussion on youth empowerment

GLOBAL NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CLINICAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE SUMMIT

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al Hussein, Columbia Global Centers | Amman, the Columbia University School of Nursing and its Office of Global Initiatives hosted a summit in Amman on July 18-19, 2016. The event was held in conjunction with local and regional partners including the School of Nursing at the University of Jordan, the Faculty of Nursing at Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordanian Nursing Council, Faculty of Nursing at Badr University in Cairo, Rafic Hariri School of Nursing at the American University of Beirut, King Abdulaziz University College of Nursing, and the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office.

The goal of the summit was to disseminate recommendations and develop a sustainable network to support nursing and midwifery clinical research. The summit was led by Elaine Larson, Anna C. Maxwell Professor of Nursing Research and

Professor of Epidemiology and Associate Dean of Scholarship and Research, and Jennifer Dohrn, Assistant Professor of Nursing at the Columbia University Medical Center and Director of the Office of Global Initiative and its WHO Collaborating Center for Advanced Practice Nursing.

Experts from 15 countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region convened to identify, prioritize, and gain consensus on how to address critical regional health needs. Other participants included the Dean of the School of Nursing at Columbia University, Bobbie Berkowitz and His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Al-Sheyyab, the Jordanian Minister of Health.

The Amman summit brought nursing and midwifery leaders from around the region together to determine new ways to improve people's health amidst war and political upheaval. With many countries facing severe nursing and midwifery shortages, the conference attendees also shared ideas for identifying ways to attract and train new nurses and midwives. As the participants broke into groups,

they identified some of the essential gaps on the ground, which include the lack of primary healthcare training, emergency preparedness and disaster management, capacity building, and community-based interventions. Participants also discussed causes behind these gaps such as the lack of mentorship, research competencies, authority, and interest by hospital management on clinical research, among many more.

This summit is part of a larger initiative of the Columbia University School of Nursing's Office of Global Initiatives, which received a three-year grant from the President's Global Innovation Fund. The initiative includes the two regional summits that brought together nursing and midwifery leaders from Sub Saharan Africa (Nairobi, 2015) and the Eastern Mediterranean region (Amman, 2016), as well as a third summit that will convene the two groups in Amman in 2017.

One of the outcomes of the 2016 Amman summit is a research study that is being designed to describe knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices (KAP) of childbearing age Syrian refugee women in Jordan. This project is a partnership among the University of Jordan School of Nursing, the Columbia School of Nursing and the Amman Center, and is in synergy with the School of Social Work and the ASPIRE initiative.

The research study, *Reproductive Health Needs of Syrian Refugee Women Living in Jordan*, aims to assess Syrian refugee women's views and understandings of reproductive health needs in Jordan. An agreement was signed among the Amman Center, the University of Jordan's School of Nursing and Columbia University's School of Nursing, for reciprocal clinical placement experience and observation.

Her Royal Highness Princess Muna and Professor Safwan Masri with Columbia faculty members and nursing summit participants



Breakout sessions to discuss gaps in nursing infrastructure and resources

STUDIO-X AMMAN

Studio-X Amman operates as a regional platform for conversations and research in architecture, focusing on questions of access, migration, representation, memory, and citizenship in the Arab region.

Through partnerships with institutions and individuals on overlapping areas of interest or concern, Studio-X Amman's projects invite audiences and collaborators to join Columbia's faculty and students and other partners from around the world for programming and research initiatives. The activities, which include lectures, symposia, screenings, workshops, and seminars, have become recognized occasions for students, architects, designers, artists, and researchers to come together to exchange knowledge and ideas, and for new collaborative projects to emerge. Operating from Columbia Global Centers | Amman, Studio-X Amman has continued to expand and build upon ongoing projects.

In the prologue of *The Arab City*, edited by Amale Andraos, Nora Akawi and Caitlin Blanchfield, and published by Columbia Books on Architecture



Discussion after the Janet Abu-Lughod seminar presentations at Sijal Institute

and the City, Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Bottenwieser Professor of Social Science at Columbia University, introduces the personal library of her late mother, towering figure in urban studies and history, Janet Abu-Lughod. The Janet Abu-Lughod Library was donated to Columbia University and is housed at the global center in Amman.

Studio-X Amman, in partnership with Sijal Institute for Arabic Language and Culture in Amman, has launched the Janet Abu-Lughod Library Seminar, a series of seminar discussions around readings selected

from the library on questions of migration, racism, capitalization, and globalization in cities. After an open call for applications, the first iteration of the seminar titled *The World in the City and the City in the World* was convened from March to June 2016, and led by Zachary Sheldon, PhD candidate in socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology at The University of Chicago. In 2017, the Janet Abu-Lughod Library will continue to produce seminar sessions, as well as expand into a lecture series and fellowship program.



Aerial photography workshop during the Echoing Borders seminar travel in Jaffa

ECHOING BORDERS

Echoing Borders, a project launched in August 2014 by Nora Akawi, Director of Studio-X Amman and Adjunct Assistant Professor at GSAPP, and Nina Kolowratnik, Adjunct Assistant Professor at GSAPP, produces through a fall seminar course at Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), new representations of border regions and new definitions of territories that challenge static and exclusive understandings of geopolitical boundaries. In fall 2016, seminar participants traveled to Jordan and

Israel/ Palestine, to conduct field visits and conversations supporting the mappings of borderlands. Seminar participants met with human rights activists and legal aid consultants in the Naqab desert, and in the Syrian town of Majdal Shams near Mount Hermon. They also worked closely with PhD candidate and former Janet Abu-Lughod Library seminar participant, Allison Hartnett, on the conditions of migrant workers and refugees along the Jordan Valley's agricultural communities. Mappings and essays produced in

the various iterations of the Echoing Borders seminar will culminate in an e-publication and exhibition in 2017/2018.



Meeting with Al-Marsad Arab Human Rights Center in Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights

FROZEN IMAGINARIES

Antonio Ottomanelli, photographer and Co-founder of Planar, an NGO in Bari, Italy, and Jawad Dukhgan, Associate Director of Studio-X Amman, continue to run Frozen Imaginaries, an initiative that investigates Amman's abandoned

construction sites and speculative projects that were stopped or fell short of realizing their intended results. Architects, students and participants took part in a third workshop in December 2016, contributing to a thorough audio-visual documentation of important abandoned construction sites in Amman.

This landscape of abandoned structures is also studied in relation to past visions for the city, as portrayed in master plans for Amman since the 1950s, and in relation to a timeline of events of war and migration in

the region and their effects on the economic development and growth of the city. The closing exhibition of the workshop took place at Turbo gallery in downtown Amman, where participants were joined by external critics, including Javier Arpa, Education and Research Coordinator at The Why Factory, as well as Marco Ferrari and Elisa Pasqual, co-founders of Studio Folder. The outcomes of this workshop were presented in an exhibition at Planar in February 2017, which will travel back to Amman later in the year.

Participants visit abandoned site in East Amman



LIKE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THERE: CINEMA AND THE MEMORY OF CITIES

In June 2016, Nora Akawi and Rasha Salti, an independent film and visual arts curator and writer, curated a program of film screenings and discussions titled *Like You've Never Been There: Cinema and the Memory of Cities*. Over the course of a week, Studio-X Amman held a program of film screenings, discussions, and conversations around cities, film,

counter-narratives, and subjectivity. Speakers included Mona Assaad, an independent filmmaker, *Neighbors (Giran)*; Sarah Francis, independent filmmaker, *Birds of September (Tuyur Ayloul)*; Omnia Khalil, participatory planner, urban anthropologist, and doctoral candidate in Anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York; Arya Laloo, independent filmmaker, *Jeppe on a Friday*; Khaled Malas, architect and doctoral candidate at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; Mpho Matsipa, curator of Studio-X; Elis Mendoza, doctoral candidate in Architecture History and Theory at Princeton University; and Rasha Salti. The second iteration of this program will be held in Tunis in fall 2017.

Rasha Salti and Khaled Malas at *Cinema and the Memory of Cities*



In 2016, Studio-X Amman has increased its presence on campus through both courses at GSAPP and public events.

Recent public events on campus included a screening of the Jordanian film *Theeb*, and a lecture on the work of Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency by Palestinian architect and scholar Sandi Hilal.



Closing Iftar and reception of *Cinema and the Memory of Cities* in June 2016

X-TALK SERIES

As part of its ongoing public programs, Studio-X Amman organized the following public X-Talks in 2016:

X-Talk #20 by **Mayssa Fattouh**, curator and co-founder of TandemWorks – *River Without Water: The Stillness of Closed Spaces* on February 17

X-Talk #21 by **Ali As'ad**, architect and researcher – *Contingency vs. Insurgence: Future Practices of Architecture in the Present* on March 30

X-Talk #22 by **Nabil Abu Dayyeh**, Associate Professor of Architecture at the Applied Science University in Jordan – *The Planning of Amman: 1955 to 2010* on May 11

X-Talk #23 by **Ahmed Al Ali** and **Farid Esmail**, principals of X-Architects – *X-Architects: On Transformation, Translation, and Representation* on May 18



X-Talk #24 by **Petra Kempf**, Adjunct Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University – *Catch it if You Can: The Art of Mapping Urban Change Through Storytelling* on August 18

X-Talk #25 by **Marco Ferrari** and **Elisa Pasqual**, co-founders of Studio Folder – *On Visualization: The Work of Studio Folder* on December 20

X-Talk #26 by **Javier Arpa**, Research and Education Coordinator at The Why Factory – *Instant City: Learning from Madrid* on December 21

X-Talk #27 by **Omar Nagati** and **Beth Stryker**, Co-founders and Principals of the Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research, CLUSTER – *Critical Mapping and Creative Interventions: Lessons from Downtown Cairo* on January 9, 2017

X-Talk #28 by **David Grandorge**, photographer – *A Visual Exploration of Hinterlands and Landscapes: The World is Still Beautiful* on January 20, 2017



OUTREACH

ON CAMPUS EVENTS: BRINGING THE WORLD TO COLUMBIA

STRENGTHENING REFUGEE ACCESS, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:
DEVELOPING A NEW FRAMEWORK

THE MENA CONTEXT



Panelists discuss the main challenges preventing refugee inclusion in host communities in the region

The Columbia Global Centers in Amman and Istanbul organized a symposium on the topic *Strengthening Refugee Access, Equity and Inclusion: Developing a New Framework* on October 13, 2016 at Columbia University. The symposium gathered Columbia University faculty examining the refugee issue, as well as scholars and experts working on the ground in the Middle East and North Africa region, to explore the unprecedented challenges created by the current refugee crisis. The group included representatives from the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labor Organization Jordan, the World Bank, and research centers in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, and the United Kingdom.

The symposium was divided into four sessions, each addressing a critical component of the crisis, including the main challenges preventing refugee inclusion in host countries; past policies and approaches to the refugee issue in the region; the various pathways of enhancing human capacity in education, employment, and health; and the link between rights, humanitarian approaches and development response. The closing session, moderated by Professor Safwan Masri, addressed the role of the University in advancing policy responses and reshaping the narrative. In this session, panelists reflected on some of the recent approaches by Columbia University in addressing the crisis, and highlighted the various



Panelist Tendayi Achiume discusses the legal foundation of international refugee responsibility sharing

initiatives and research projects pursued by faculty members.

The symposium attracted hundreds of Columbia students and faculty, along with a global audience of about 1,000 people in over 40 countries viewing the event online. Some of the challenges identified in the various sessions include the need to think past immediate relief, the stress on neighboring countries, the limits of the international legal framework for refugees, the insufficient awareness of refugee needs, and the misconception of where refugees are located.

Panelists had the opportunity to discuss potential solutions and how institutions can better address the identified challenges. Some of these included the need to match research with actual needs, so that the work of researchers can have a real impact on the ground. Other solutions included opening up educational opportunities, harnessing journalism teams to cover

on underreported issues about the crisis in the press, and decentralizing the refugee response by enhancing the support for local governments.

The Amman Center participates in UNHCR civil society network meetings that seek to explore ways to establish links and strengthen engagement of civil society groups with Columbia University.

An interview with symposium panelist Murat Erdoğan





THEEB AT COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY: FILM
SCREENING AND
DISCUSSION



Naji Abu-Nowar and Richard Peña in conversation at film screening of *Theeb*

Columbia Global Centers | Amman presented a screening of the Oscar-nominated film *Theeb* at Columbia University on April 29, 2016. The movie was filmed in the desert of Wadi Rum and depicts a Bedouin story of brotherhood and betrayal.

Set in 1916, *Theeb* lives with his Bedouin tribe in a forgotten corner of the Ottoman Empire when his life is

interrupted with the arrival of a British Army Officer on a mysterious mission. The movie portrays the journey he embarks on through the harsh terrain that has, since the start of World War I, become the hunting ground of Ottoman mercenaries, Arab revolutionaries and outcast Bedouin raiders.

The screening was followed by a

discussion with Naji Abu Nowar, writer and director, and Richard Peña, Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University. The event was co-sponsored by the Columbia Global Centers, Studio-X Amman, the Middle East Institute, the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and The Film Program at Columbia University School of the Arts.



THE SEARCH FOR A
MIDEAST SOLUTION:
A DISCUSSION
BETWEEN PROFESSOR
SAFWAN MASRI AND
NICOLAS PELHAM

Book discussion with Nicolas Pelham and
Safwan Masri, moderated by Nicholas Lemann

On April 11, 2016, Columbia Global Reports and Columbia Global Centers hosted a discussion about the book *Holy Lands: Reviving Pluralism in the Middle East*, published by Columbia Global Reports in 2016. The speakers included the book's author, Nicolas Pelham, Middle East correspondent for *The Economist* and Professor Safwan Masri, Executive Vice President for Global

Centers and Global Development at Columbia University.

The speakers discussed how European powers broke up the Ottoman Empire and tried to turn it into a collection of secular nation-states, which has now been proven to be a failure. Rulers turned religion into a force for nationalism, and the result has been ever increasing sectarian violence.

The only solution, Pelham argues in his book, is to accept the Middle East for the deeply religious region it is, and try to revive its venerable tradition of pluralism. This discussion was moderated by Nicholas Lemann, Joseph Pulitzer II and Edith Pulitzer Moore Professor of Journalism, Dean Emeritus of Columbia Journalism School, and Director of Columbia Global Reports.

SPEAKER SERIES

The Amman Center hosts regular public talks for members of the local community to engage with scholars and learn more about a wide range of topics, from current affairs, to history, to the arts. Podcasts of past talks are available on the Center's website.

The following is a listing of the public lectures the Center held in 2016:

Gregory Khalil, President and Co-founder of the Telos Group – *The Holy Land and the (un)Holy: How Religious Communities in the United States Shape the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* on January 18

Robert Young, Dean of Arts and Humanities at New York University – *Walter Benjamin, and Other Illegal Immigrants* on February 10

Ahd Kamel, actress and filmmaker from Saudi Arabia – Film screening and discussion of *Sanctity* on February 24

Joseph Nye, University Distinguished Service Professor and former Dean of the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University – *Is the American Century Over?* on March 19

Hugh Herr, Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology – *The New Era of Extreme Bionics* on April 19

Alice Wells, United States Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – *Beyond the Rhetoric of False Choices: The Case for Lasting U.S. Engagement in the Middle East* on April 26

Wade Davis, Professor of Anthropology and the BC Leadership Chair in Cultures and Ecosystems at Risk at the University of British Columbia – *The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in a Modern World* on May 4

Ghada Karmi, physician, writer and academic – Talk and book launch of *Return: A Palestinian Memoir* on May 9

Nicolas Pelham, Middle East Correspondent for *The Economist*, and **Marwan Muasher**, Vice President for Studies at Carnegie Endowment and former Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan – Book Debate on *Religious Pluralism in the Middle East: the Relic of a Bygone Era or a Foundation for the Region's Recovery?* on September 27

Tamim Al-Barghouti, Palestinian poet, columnist and political scientist – *Poetry of the Streets* on October 5

Laila Khan, film director and producer – *Is Water a Human Right or Commodity?* on October 19

Ihsan Fethi, architect, urban planner, and heritage consultant – *The Future of Historic Monuments, Museums, and Sites Destroyed by ISIS: A Proposed Course of Action* on November 11

Anders Jägerskog, Counselor for Regional Water Issues in the MENA Region at the Embassy of Sweden, Amman – *Emerging Security Threats in the Middle East: The Impact of Climate Change and Globalization* on November 23



ALUMNI AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Columbia Global Centers | Amman continues to hold alumni receptions and gatherings across the region, in collaboration with the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA). These events help strengthen Columbia University's connections to alumni living or working in the Middle East; increase awareness about the network of Columbia Global Centers among alumni, students, parents, and friends of the University; and provide a foundation for ongoing alumni engagement in the region.



A number of alumni and student events were held in the region in 2016, including:

AMMAN – A holiday reception was organized by the alumni chapters of Columbia University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oxford University, and Cambridge University. The event was held at a local venue in Amman on December 17, 2016.

In coordination with Faris Gammoh (BUS '07), the Center organized an alumni gathering and dinner on May 31 in honor of Bruce Usher, Professor of Professional Practice and Faculty Director of the Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School, and colleagues and students from Columbia Business School. The event was hosted at the residence of His Excellency Sami Gammoh.

On March 16, a dinner was hosted by Ramzi (SEAS '81) and Reem Muna for a student and faculty group who traveled to Amman as part of the traveling seminar, *Cities of Knowledge: Displaying Archaeological Knowledge in the Public Spaces of Amman*, along with selected guests. Faculty included Holger Klein, Professor of Art History and Archaeology and Avinoam Shalem, Riggio Professor of the History of the Arts of Islam at Columbia University.

DUBAI – On November 11, a Columbia Entrepreneurship Soirée was hosted in Dubai Design District by the UAE Alumni Association, in collaboration with the Fatima Bint Mohamed Bin Zayed Initiative to celebrate female entrepreneurship. The event was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, who delivered the keynote speech.



TUNIS – An alumni dinner was held on January 16 at a local venue in Tunis with Kamel Jedidi, John A. Howard Professor of Business, and a group of MBA students who traveled to Tunisia as part of the class, *Global Immersion: Doing Business in North Africa*.

CONNECT WITH FELLOW COLUMBIANS

The Columbia Alumni Association is a global network connecting Columbians of all schools to one another and to the University. It links over 310,000 alumni through more than 80 regional clubs and affinity groups, online resources, and over 200 programs around the world each year. Columbia's global presence includes alumni and clubs in over 40 international locations.

The following is a listing of the alumni clubs and regional contacts in the Middle East and North Africa that work to organize events throughout the year that help strengthen the connection between alumni and their alma mater.

Country	Leader (s)
Egypt	Yasser Sobhi (JRN '02) Emad Barsoum (SEAS '90, SEAS '92) Mohamed Metwally (BUS '95)
Israel	Ofer Wainberg (SEAS '94)
Jordan	Ramzi Muna (SEAS '81) Osama Jumean (GSAPP '89)
Kuwait	Dr. Mussaad Al-Razouki (DM '07, BUS '08)
Lebanon	Serge Airut (LAW '13) Nadine Debbas Achkar (LAW '95) Habib Torbey (SEAS '86, SEAS '90, SEAS '92)
Morocco	Lamia Bazir (SIPA '14) Anas Chraïbi (BUS '86) Chafika Kadiri (DM '86) Brahim Slaoui (BUS '82) Younes Sbihi (BUS '87)
Oman	Salim Al-Jahwari (SIPA '09)
Saudi Arabia	Ayman Mansi (BUS '08) Faris Abuzeid (GSAPP '13) Loulwa Bakr (BUS '04) Fahad Alshamsan (TC '15)
Tunisia	Youssef Cherif (GSAS '09)
Turkey	Ilknur Aslan (SIPA '98)
Qatar	Karim Nour (GS '01)
United Arab Emirates	Ameera Amir (SIPA '11) Sara Alemzadeh (BUS '08) Liria Gjidija (TC '11) Tarik Chelali (SIPA '12) Nasma Barghouthi (SPS '13)

MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS



PLURALISM IN EMERGENCIES: MOVEMENT, SPACE, AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCE

Pluralism in Emergencies is a conference series that draws on the Columbia Global Centers and explores pluralism as it emerges in response to the contemporary global crises. The project is a joint effort by the global centers in Amman, Istanbul, Tunis and Mumbai in conjunction with the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life at Columbia University. Spearheaded by Walid Hammam, Associate Director of the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life at Columbia University, the series will bring together academics, artists, and activists to address how pluralism becomes activated in emergency situations, utilized in different ways and towards different ends. Events will be held in Mumbai, Beirut/Amman, and Tunis; all historical epicenters of human, commodity, and capital mobility.


RELIGION AND THE GLOBAL FRAMING OF GENDER VIOLENCE

Over the past couple of decades combatting “violence against women” or more recently, “gender based violence” has come to prominence as a highly visible and powerful agenda within global governance. This project aims to open up a critical conversation among scholars and practitioners from the Middle East and South Asian contexts about two key issues: which phenomena or events fall under the rubric of “violence against women” or “gender based violence” in different regions? How, why or where do religious traditions and institutions figure as explanations or solutions?

Led by the Amman Center in collaboration with Lila Abu Lughod, Joseph L. Battenwieser Professor of Social Science, the project will address comparative questions about the forms and politics of inquiry, techniques of measurement, and technologies of intervention that are being used to frame and treat the issue of violence in relation to gender.

DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF PAST AND PRESENT YEMEN: A SERIES OF TALKS

The Amman Center will organize a series of talks in 2017, in parallel to a photo exhibition and followed by a workshop, with the aim of highlighting the situation in Yemen and the reality of the country moving forward. The series will provide a historical context that sheds light on the sectarian and theological layers that characterize Yemen today, examining contemporary developments shaping the country’s political structures, power relations and sectarianism, and exploring future prospects.



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