

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



“Rather than observing world events from a distance, our students and faculty who travel to the global centers find themselves immersed in those events and learning in unique ways from the experience.”

Lee C. Bollinger

*President, Columbia University*



Eileen Barroso



## A MESSAGE FROM LEE C. BOLLINGER

With the opening of global centers in Amman and Beijing in 2009, Columbia began an initiative that has become central to our understanding of what it means to be a global university. Amman and Beijing have been joined by six additional Columbia Global Centers, producing a network across four continents that is bringing together great minds from diverse backgrounds to meet the challenges of our time.

The potential of the Columbia Global Centers to provide the intellectual leadership for addressing their regions' daunting challenges was apparent from the outset. With each passing year, more and more of that potential is being realized, and the results have been gratifying and at times inspiring. The pages of this report set forth those achievements. All who know the Amman Center are well aware that this growth would not have occurred without the steadfast support of so many. Professor Safwan Masri, Columbia's Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, deserves recognition for his role, as well.

At the Columbia Global Centers, Columbia students and faculty are encountering some of the leading figures from every corner of the globe: innovative scholars, former heads of state, government officials, policy makers, and leaders of industry. This past year, each center hosted a rich variety of programs and events: from workshops assessing the impact of the refugee crisis on global public health in Amman, to lectures on immigration and African-American cinema in Rio de Janeiro, to panels on women's rights in Beijing and many more. Rather than observing world events from a distance, our students and faculty who travel to the global centers find themselves immersed in those events and learning in unique ways from the experience.

The scholarship, research, and teaching we see at each of the global centers are essential to Columbia's academic leadership at a moment when global society critically needs fresh approaches to persistent problems. Thank you for taking an interest in these initiatives and supporting them.

“The network of global centers has served as a catalytic base for faculty and students eager to pursue their research interests in new settings, as conduits that have forged connections between Columbia faculty and regional experts and academics, and as curators of important conversations around the globe.”

**Safwan M. Masri**

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



#### A MESSAGE FROM SAFWAN M. MASRI

From the very beginning, the Columbia Global Centers have been motivated by the recognition that we do not know enough about the world, and that we need to be in it to learn from, and with, our partners on the ground. For a university steeped in the tradition of individual academic disciplines and focused on the campus experience for its students, it has become imperative in our globalized society that we seek deep and meaningful approaches to engagement with scholars, learners, activists, and both governmental and non-governmental actors in various fields of inquiry and in cities and regions that span the globe.

With eight centers that serve as Columbia’s physical and intellectual infrastructure around the world, the University, under the transformative leadership of President Lee C. Bollinger, has made a serious commitment to connect its faculty, students, and alumni with the rest of the world, to learn from different regions, and to harness collaborative research and educational opportunities.

In Amman and elsewhere, the network of global centers has served as a catalytic base for faculty and students eager to pursue their research interests in new settings, as conduits that have forged connections between Columbia faculty and regional experts and academics, and as curators of important conversations around the globe. The centers have provided innovative platforms for advancing learning and sharing of knowledge, and for finding solutions to pressing problems facing our global society — an increasingly central function that institutions of higher learning have a responsibility to perform.

As we continue to coalesce and extend our efforts around the world under President Bollinger’s vision for a Global Columbia, the University’s role as an incubator for policy, research, education, and action in the world — and the potential for global impact — is ever more necessary and possible.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our partners and supporters for their enthusiasm and encouragement, and for their important contributions to helping us enact this compelling vision.



The 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. The global centers, as envisioned by President Lee C. Bollinger, are founded with the objective of connecting the local with the global, creating opportunities for shared learning, and deepening the nature of global dialogue.

Under the leadership of Professor Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, the eight centers are located in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago. This network forms the core element 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 the globe.

Functioning as a network, the global centers engage with 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 multi-regional, even global.

The building blocks of the Columbia Global Centers network are seen in the strong links being forged by each center with local and regional universities and institutions. Collaborations with regional experts and scholars are strongly encouraged, as is innovative research that crosses the boundaries of academic disciplines. Perhaps most importantly, the centers represent multi-directional learning: Columbia is not thrusting education into a new environment; instead, through the global centers, our faculty and students are able to become part of a dialogue with partners around the world. The experience of opening and operating the centers allows members of the Columbia community the opportunity not only to impart and produce knowledge and expertise, but also to absorb and learn through this global network.





The 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 2015, the Center was engaged in a number of important themes pertaining to the current regional context, including the Syrian refugee crisis, the role of religious leaders in combatting extremism, issues of women's rights, and social inclusion. The Amman Center organizes programs and research activities in the areas of public health, social work, education, and architecture, among others. The Center will continue to provide current and 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. As an ambassador for Columbia, he cultivates relationships with Columbia alumni and with international leaders, essential to the continued development of a global Columbia. In this role, he helps coordinate various University-wide global initiatives, and works to extend Columbia's reach to match the pressing demands of our global society.

Professor Masri is responsible for the development of an expanding network of Columbia Global Centers, located in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago. The centers promote and facilitate the engagement of faculty, students, and alumni with the world, address global challenges, and advance knowledge and its exchange. He has been Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Amman since its founding in 2009.

Professor Masri joined the Columbia Business School faculty in 1988 and was appointed Vice Dean in 1993, a position he held for thirteen years. He was Visiting Professor at INSEAD in 1990 and 1991, and has also held teaching positions at Stanford University and Santa Clara University. He 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 Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management from Stanford University in 1988. Professor 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. He has also been honored with the 2003 American Service Award from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Professor Masri is Founding Chairman Emeritus of King's Academy and of the Queen Rania Teacher Academy, 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 has served as Advisor to Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, and as director of the Arab Bankers Association of North America, Aramex, and the Nuqul Group.

Professor Masri's scholarship is 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.

## 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. Bottenwieser 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

[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

[Ibrahim Odeh](#), Lecturer and Associate Research Scientist, School of Engineering and Applied Science

[Kathryn Yatrakis](#), Dean of Academic Affairs and Senior Associate Vice President for Arts and Sciences

## 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](#), board member of The Abraaj Group, a member of the firm's Investment Committee, and a member of the Management Executive Committee

[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

[Her Excellency Dr. Rima Khalaf Hunaidi](#) is the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

[His Excellency Amr 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 Sukhtian](#) BUS '01, Managing Director of GMS Specialized Services

[Asem Toukan](#) P: CC '17, General Manager, and CEO of Support Services Company

[Savio Tung](#) SEAS '73, P: SEAS '01, BUS '11, Chief Executive Officer of North America Investcorp, and Trustee Emeritus of Columbia University

[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, administer and oversee operations and logistics, and provide research assistance, and who are organized into several teams: the programs team, which pursues academic partnerships and develops programming in partnership with Columbia University schools; the administration team, which manages internal operations, finances and human resources; the communications team, which leads communications, media and outreach efforts and develops alumni relations; in addition to the operations team, which handles event management, information technology, as well as support for logistical, and maintenance-related tasks. 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 the Columbia Global Centers | Amman

[Amal Ghandour](#), a writer, blogger and communications strategist, based in Beirut, is Special Advisor to the 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.

## SOCIAL WORK

### PILOT STUDY COMPLETED WITH TOMORROW'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION

The Columbia Global Centers | Amman and the Columbia School of Social Work (CSSW) partnered with Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO) to examine the effectiveness of their Youth Service Learning Program, a youth employability and volunteer program with young adults incorporated in a larger Student Employment and Education Program. Tomorrow's Youth Organization is an American, non-governmental organization that works in disadvantaged areas of the Middle East, enabling children, youth and parents to realize their potential as healthy, active, and responsible family and community members. The collaboration aimed to enhance the organization's early childhood and youth service programs from a social work perspective, and capture evidence of the TYO volunteer model program's impact on young adults' employability.

The Columbia School of Social Work, Tomorrow's Youth Organization and the Amman Center, designed a mixed methods pilot study, which was completed in December 2014. The team, led by Timothy Hunt, Director of Training and Capacity Building at the Social Intervention Group at CSSW, also assisted TYO in refining and manualizing core curricula and training staff and volunteers to deliver an early childhood and adolescent, pre- and after-school program based on evidence-based educational theory and social work practice.



Workshop at Tomorrow's Youth Organization

The results of the pilot study, which included the surveying of over 100 young adults, provided evidence of the ongoing usefulness of TYO's Youth Service Learning Program to offer an effective continuum of strategies and activities to enhance readiness for employment and addressing children and young adults' educational and psychosocial needs in Palestine. The TYO program was found to be strongly associated with volunteers' increased self-efficacy in employability skills, optimism toward potential job opportunities, and a perception of gender equal opportunities.

Following the pilot and building on the strengths of the program and its staff expertise in the psychosocial needs of children and youth, TYO's leadership will explore strategies to build youth confidence and highlight the youth's individual reasons for volunteering to build a greater sense of satisfaction and personal accomplishment. Bolstered by the findings of this pilot study, TYO will continue to coordinate with universities, other youth serving organizations, and the business sector, to mitigate challenges to learning and employment self-efficacy impacted by the youth's experience of a chronically stressful and politically and economically unstable environment.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

The Family Development Foundation (FDF), the Columbia School of Social Work and the Columbia Global Centers | Amman completed the first phase of a five-year partnership in 2015 built on cooperation and exchange of experiences, ideas and best practices, in areas of mutually-agreed domains, to enhance the Foundation's capacity to provide evidence-based social services and to build the profession of social work in Abu Dhabi.

In 2015, CSSW and the Amman Center completed a needs assessment and summary report culminating in a visit in September 2015 to Abu Dhabi to present the findings to the Foundation's leadership. Zayed University was also engaged to provide assistance with secondary institutional review. Additionally, the Columbia University team developed a five-year road map, which is informed by the findings of the needs assessment, as well as mutually agreed on objectives defined by FDF's leadership.

Recommendations included technical assistance for staff and training for implementation of a Case Management Model for a comprehensive service center. Advanced courses to support evidence-based social work interventions and research methods have also been identified as priorities to continue to build a cadre of professional social workers in Abu Dhabi.



Discussion with the Family Development Foundation on social work priorities

## SOCIAL WORK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In conjunction with the Open Society Foundations and CSSW, the Amman Center has continued to support a Social Work Fellowship Program. The program was originally designed to provide social work education to fellows to prepare them to implement reforms, create policies and foster the development of social work in Jordan. A total of 15 social work fellows completed a two-year Master of Science in Social Work at the Columbia School of Social Work, with the final cohort graduating in May 2015.

Upon their return to Jordan, the fellows have continued to be mentored by CSSW and the Amman Center, to support their contributions to evidence-based practice and research in Jordan and the region. Several of the fellows have been engaged in CSSW and the Center's projects, providing expertise for social work research, training and technical assistance activities. Fellows, including Lina Hamdan (CSSW '13), provided significant contributions to the project with the Family Development Foundation in Abu Dhabi, during implementation, training and report writing. The Fellowship Program was generously funded by the Open Society Foundations, Columbia School of Social Work, King Abdullah II Fund for Development, the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and a number of private donors.

## SOCIAL WORK MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM

The Columbia Global Centers | Amman is launching a partnership with a number of prominent local and international experts to advance the role of social workers in mental health. The proposed program would be grounded in local expertise, with the support of two faculty members from Columbia University. The program would build on the learnings of the Jordan Social Work for Excellence in Education Program, and is based on numerous discussions with the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development.

In 2016, the Social Work Mental Health Training Program will work closely with the Ministry to lay the foundation for a sustainable capacity building program that aims at advancing the role of social workers in improving mental health services in Jordan. The program will also work to inform efforts initiated by the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health to improve mental health service provision.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Partnering with the Mailman School of Public Health (MSPH), the Amman Center continues to build local and regional capacity in health, nutrition, and child protection, with local and international institutions by developing new partnerships, offering training workshops to address current gaps, providing technical assistance, and supporting operational research.

## PUBLIC HEALTH IN EMERGENCIES

Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and Columbia Global Centers | Amman partnered with the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to design a training curriculum for an eight-day course on *Coordinated Public Health Response in Emergencies*. The

course took place at the Center on December 6-14, 2015, with an opening session led by James Eliades, Assistant Professor of Population and Family Health, and Leslie Roberts, Professor of Population and Family Health at Columbia University.

UNICEF MENA Regional Office is working to build capacity of country-based staff by organizing a number of training courses to develop a knowledge-base engaged in emergency response in countries in or on the verge of conflict. As crises are expected to increase, humanitarian actors, including UNICEF health staff globally and in particular in affected country offices, are challenged to respond in an efficient and effective manner. To meet this challenge, UNICEF was in need for a training mechanism to ensure that all staff are equipped with adequate skills and understanding of emergency health, nutrition, and water sanitation and hygiene based on their responsibilities and scope of work.

Additionally, support on information management and data analysis for country offices is needed to promote useful integration of reliable data and valid information for program performance, with equity focus in emergency contexts.

Faculty at the Program on Forced Migration and Health at Columbia University, in collaboration with UNICEF counterparts, have designed a contextually relevant and comprehensive training course for staff engaged in emergency public health response in the region. Based on a number of training needs assessments conducted through surveys and focus groups, it was concluded that there is an unmet need and overall interest for an emergency health training that adopts a comprehensive approach addressing technical and operational areas, and that is contextually relevant to health priorities in the region.

To address information management and data analysis gaps, an information system is currently being developed with the goal of providing state-of-the-art analysis of the child survival and development situation in conflict-affected countries in the Middle East and North Africa.



Session on coordinated public health response in emergencies

## RESPONDING TO CHANGING HEALTH NEEDS IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES

The Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean regions are displacement epicenters: more than three million Syrian refugees are straining the socio-economic absorptive capacity of Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. The crisis has critical health implications for Syria and surrounding host countries, and highlights broader issues about changing health needs in complex emergencies worldwide. While relief agencies and health organizations traditionally focus on provision of shelter, securing access to food and water, prevention of infectious diseases, and treatment of acute illness, today's displaced persons need access to health services in contexts beyond the traditional "camp" settings, but current global policies, frameworks and tools are not designed to address these needs.

There is an urgent need, and an important opportunity, to transform the global policies and frameworks that support health services for displaced persons. To this end, the Amman Center is working with a number of Columbia University faculty on a research project that aims to influence policy by providing a compelling evidence-based argument that current frameworks for refugee health are not optimally configured for 21<sup>st</sup> century needs, and that there is an opportunity to enhance health services for the millions of displaced Syrians in the Middle East and Turkey, and tens of millions of additional displaced persons worldwide.

The project is led by 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; Miriam Rabkin, Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at the Columbia University Medical Center; and Neil Boothby, Allan Rosenfield Professor of Forced Migration and Health Population and Family Health at the Columbia University Medical Center.

The three-year project has commenced with a comprehensive situational analysis, and will be followed by collaborative research projects with partners in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. It is focused on the specific issue of Syrian refugees in these three countries, but will also have broad generalizability for the global policy context relevant to health imperatives facing other displaced persons.

## NURSING SUMMIT PREPARATORY VISIT

The Amman Center hosted Jennifer Dohrn, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Columbia University Medical Center and Director of the Office of Global Initiatives and its World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Advanced Practice Nursing, on a visit to Jordan on July 12-15, 2015. Her visit followed the Global Nursing and Midwifery Research Development Initiative Summit Meeting, which was held on July 9 at the Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi.

This visit was Professor Dohrn's first to Jordan, made possible by the President's Global Innovation Fund, which she was awarded in 2014, along with Elaine Larson, Anna C. Maxwell Professor of Nursing Research and Professor of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. The aim of the trip was to initiate preparations and planning for the Global Nursing and Midwifery Clinical Research Development Initiative, which will take place in July 2016 at the Columbia Global Centers | Amman.

The Amman Center organized a meeting for leading academics and experts in the field of nursing and midwifery in Jordan to discuss the upcoming summit. During the meeting, Professor Dohrn introduced the concept of the initiative, and the group identified opportunities for future collaboration. The discussion informed the overall planning of the upcoming research summit.

During her visit, Professor Dohrn followed up on separate meetings with those identified as the potential core collaborators in Jordan: the WHO Collaborating Center in Amman, the Jordanian Nursing Council, and the University of Jordan. Professor Dohrn also visited health facilities at the Zaatari Refugee Camp near the city of Mafraq to learn about some of the challenges and intricacies of urgent medical responses during crises. She met with a number of healthcare providers, social workers and government officials, and heard their different perspectives on Jordan's response to the Syrian refugee crisis.



Professor Jennifer Dohrn visits health facility at Zaatari Refugee Camp



Nursing and midwifery roundtable with leading academics and experts

## SEMINAR ON INVESTING IN YOUNG CHILDREN: GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

The Center organized a seminar on *Investing in Young Children: Global, Regional, and National Perspectives* on May 7, presented by Professor Neil Boothby. Professor Boothby's research focuses on the impact of war, violence and other adversities on child health and development.

The seminar focused on the growing body of interdisciplinary science that sheds light on the importance of childhood health and development as building blocks for policies focused on the social and economic development of communities and nations. It also highlighted different applications of the science of healthy child development to major policy and programmatic issues, such as child health disparities and anti-poverty programs.

Professor Boothby was joined by Dr. Moazzem Hossain, Senior Health Officer at UNICEF, who addressed key child health investments and inequities in the Middle East and North Africa. Participants from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, UNICEF, Jordan River Foundation, Save the Children, and International Rescue Committee, among others, engaged in a discussion on ways to reduce the effects of significant adversities on children in Jordan and the region.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

### PRESIDENT'S GLOBAL INNOVATION FUND

The President's Global Innovation Fund (PGIF) awards grants for faculty members to leverage and engage Columbia's network of global centers. The program aims to enable the development of new projects and scholarly collaborations within and across these sites, in order to increase global opportunities for research, teaching and service.

The first round of PGIF grant request proposals was issued in May 2013 for two types of grants: planning grants, for a period of no longer than one year; and project grants, for a period of up to three years. A total of 16 proposals were selected for funding in 2015, six of which leverage the Columbia Global Centers | Amman:

**Building Community Anthropology across the Jordan Valley (Amman Center):** This project involves anthropological and museological research and teaching centered on the establishment of a community museum in the town of *Shuqba* in the West Bank.

**International Legal Dialogue – Middle East and North Africa (Amman Center):** The project brought together local, regional and international speakers in December 2015 in the form of panel discussions on various timely international legal themes of particular relevance to the Middle East and North Africa region.

**Covering Religion: A Global Perspective (Amman and Mumbai Centers):** A two-year research project that aims to train a cohort of religion-sensitive journalists by dispatching recent graduates to conduct research at the global centers in Amman and Mumbai, and brings together the work of journalists and academics who study at the intersection of religion and media through fieldwork conducted by the fellows and the faculty investigators.

**Global Operational Data Index (Amman and Istanbul Centers):** This project is a collaboration with the Columbia Journalism School, on an initiative to build and train a network of collaborators from universities, non-profits and news organizations who can provide timely, operational advice about the on-the-ground communication conditions and issues in their local area.

**Digital Justice: Public Discourse, Censorship, and the Technologies of Dissent (Amman, Santiago and Mumbai Centers):** The project involves three rounds of workshops at the global centers in Mumbai, Amman and Santiago where local NGOs, artists, and academics can think through the implications of these global concerns in their specific geographies. These conversations will lead to a series of publications, lectures, tools, and other digital artifacts that seek to affect change for digital justice globally.

**Advancing Sustainable Waste Management in Latin America and Disseminating the Results to Other Developing Regions (Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, and Mumbai Centers):** The project aims to identify and characterize the obstacles to sustainable waste management in selected Latin American nations, starting with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Costa Rica. The project also looks for ways to overcome these obstacles by encouraging and nurturing the formation of national academia-industry waste management organizations in Latin America, similar to existing ones in thirteen countries, and disseminating the findings of this study to other developing regions, using the existing Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council web network, publications, and a 2016 international meeting at Columbia University.

The Columbia Global Centers are pleased to facilitate the fourth round of the President's Global Innovation Fund. Over 40 proposals have been submitted, and funded projects are announced in late spring 2016.

## STUDIO-X AMMAN

The Studio-X Global Network is growing as a leading model working with and within the shift towards the global university, suggesting a new architecture of education that is the opposite of assertive and static, but mobile and willing to travel between worlds, traverse territories, continuously redefining its own context and reformulating existing positions. Studio-X becomes an integral part of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation's (GSAPP) infrastructure: a multi-directional horizontal network channeling knowledge and research between Columbia University and partner institutions and individuals.

In Amman, "turning the university inside-out," and allowing for faculty and students at GSAPP to be in dialogue with, and build upon, existing critical research being developed in and on the Arab world provides the infrastructure for new areas of research and narratives to infiltrate into the curriculum on campus through partnerships and collaborative work, and into the overall experience of the GSAPP student. These partnerships can take place in response to events and transformations happening in cities worldwide, almost as they occur.

Studio-X Amman's projects in the region, particularly in Sharjah, Doha, Beirut, Jerusalem, and Cairo, invite the audiences and collaborators to join Columbia's faculty and students and other partners from around the world at the heart of the discourse, in areas for which GSAPP faculty and programs have been leading contributors. Studio-X Amman has become a point of reference for programming and research in and on Arab cities. Activities including 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 the Columbia Global Centers | Amman since 2009, Studio-X Amman has developed several research and programming activities on questions of access, migration, representation, memory and citizenship. In 2015, Studio-X Amman continued to expand and build upon existing projects, as well as launch new ones.



Studio-X Amman organizes *Propositions* workshop

## PROPOSITIONS 1: ON THREAT AND YAQĒEN – CONVERSATIONS ON PEDAGOGIES AND RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICES IN ARCHITECTURE

On March 14-15, 2015, Studio-X Amman organized a closed conference and workshop with architects, artists, scholars, and practitioners. The work of participants in this program demonstrated a diverse array of instances when the tools that architecture provides are activated to rearrange information, places and ideas, and represent them to make visible overlooked injustice, to make heard silenced narratives, to make sense of ungraspable scales of infrastructure, and even to make imaginable the spatial conditions that would bear the revolutionary movement's demands for social justice.

Part of an ongoing annual program, *Propositions*, strives to become a collective pause: a group of leading scholars, researchers and other practitioners are invited to meet for joint reflection and for an intensive exchange of their projects, methodologies, areas of research, and the driving forces and beliefs that shape them. What the participants have in common is not only that they are collectively redefining the field of contemporary critical practice and research in architecture, but also that they are investigating, together with students or their respective institutions, the roles of research-based practices and teaching in architecture within territories of conflict.



Participants discuss research-based practices at *Propositions* workshop

Workshop participants included:

[Nora Akawi](#), Curator of Studio-X Amman and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

[Hani Asfour](#), Founder/Director of Polypod

[Zenobia Azeem](#), participant, *Echoing Borders* seminar

[Rene Boer](#), member of Failed Architecture

[Xiaoxi Chen](#), participant, *Echoing Borders* seminar

[Samir Harb](#), Artist and Architect

[Sandi Hilal](#), Co-founder of Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency

[Saba Innab](#), Artist and Architect

[Sam Jacoby](#), Director of the Projective Cities Program at Architectural Association

[Thomas Keenan](#), Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Director of the Human Rights Program at Bard College

[Noura Al Khasawneh](#), Co-founder of Spring Sessions

[Nina Kolowratnik](#), Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

[Laura Kurgan](#), Associate Professor and Director of Visual Studies and Director of the Spatial Information Design Lab at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

[Adrian Lahoud](#), Dean of the School of Architecture, Royal College of Art

[Carolina Llano](#), participant, *Echoing Borders* seminar

[Madeeha Merchant](#), Research Associate, Spatial Information Design Lab at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

[Mark Minkjan](#), member of Failed Architecture

[Antonio Ottomanelli](#), Architect and Photographer

[Alessandro Petti](#), Co-Founder of Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency, Program Director of Campus in Camps, and Chair of the Urban Studies and Spatial Practices Program at Al-Quds/ Bard College

[Felicity Scott](#), Associate Professor of Architecture and Co-Director of the Critical, Curatorial, and Conceptual Practices in Architecture Program, and Director of the PhD Program in Architecture at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

[Rayyane Tabet](#), Artist

[Toleen Touq](#), Co-founder of Spring Sessions

[Jamon Van Den Hoek](#), Assistant Professor at Oregon State University

[Michiel Van Iersel](#), member of Failed Architecture

[Mark Wasiuta](#), Co-Director of the Critical, Curatorial, and Conceptual Practices in Architecture Program, and Director of Exhibitions at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

[Eyal Weizman](#), Professor of Spatial and Visual Cultures and Director of the Center for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London, and Global Professor at Princeton University

## DOCUMENTING AMMAN: URBAN PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

In May 2015, Studio-X Amman collaborated with Fouad Khoury, photographer and Co-Founder of the Arab Image Foundation, on the second iteration of the *Amman Urban Photography* workshop. The first iteration was held in November 2014. Developed in collaboration with Noura Al Khasawneh, Co-Founder of Spring Sessions, the project revisits a photographic portrait of Amman produced by Fouad Khoury in 1987, and later exhibited at Darat al Funun. Khoury has been returning to Amman to produce a new updated portrait of the city, as well as conduct an urban photography workshop with Jordanian architects, with a particular focus on housing and mobility.

## FROZEN IMAGINARIES PROJECT

Studio-X Amman has developed a research initiative, *Frozen Imaginaries*, which is led by Jawad Dukhgan, Co-Curator of Studio-X Amman. Through summer internships, design charrettes, and workshops, the project explores various typologies of housing in Amman, particularly investigating speculative projects that have fallen short of realizing their intended plans. The project documents and analyzes frozen construction sites or suspended and abandoned residential buildings in relation to the political context of the region.

In collaboration with the architect and designer Rand Abdul-Jabbar, a design charrette was held on July 25-30, 2015 whereby participating students and architects developed a design proposal for the stopped construction site of the Jordan Gate high-rise towers in Amman.



Suspended construction site in Amman

Students and architects during the *Frozen Imaginaries* design charrette

## AMMAN CULTURAL TRAILS

The *Amman Cultural Trails* workshop was held in August 2015, and was led by Jyoti Hosagrahar, Adjunct Assistant Professor at GSAPP, Director of the Sustainable Urbanism International Lab, and UNESCO Chair in Culture, Habitat, and Sustainable Development. The workshop was a pilot study to explore ways that the cultural heritage of Amman can be understood and interpreted in the contemporary context, and viewed as a resource to contribute towards more socially and environmentally sustainable urban futures.

Participating students from GSAPP and from Amman worked on the mapping of the cultural resources in the city, both tangible heritage, such as monuments and artifacts, as well as intangible heritage, such as visual and performing arts, building crafts, and contemporary creative practices. The resulting maps and publications were presented during the international symposium, *Urban Futures 2030: Middle East and North Africa*, co-curated with Jyoti Hosagrahar as the third iteration of the *Urban Futures 2030* symposia, following Beijing and Mumbai.

Speakers included:

May Alibrashy, British University in Egypt

Mohammad Asfour, Jordan Green Building Council

Georgia Cesaro, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Soheir Hawas, Cairo University

Maya Hmaidan, Notre Dame University in Lebanon

Evangelos Kyriakidis, University of Kent

Naima Lahbil, independent research, author, and consultant

Omar Nagati, Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research

Maya Rafih, independent architect

Assaad Seif, Ministry of Culture, Lebanon

Beth Stryker, Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research

Minja Yang, University of Leuven



*Echoing Borders'* visit to site in northern Jordan

## ECHOING BORDERS

Following the summer workshop and the fall seminar in 2014, the *Echoing Borders* project has grown into an ongoing platform for rethinking the visualization and mapping of borderlands. Taught by Nora Akawi, Curator of Studio-X Amman and Adjunct Assistant Professor at GSAPP, and Nina Kolowratnik, Adjunct Assistant Professor at GSAPP, the seminar participants traveled to Amman and Lesvos on November 6-16, 2015. The project investigates alternative forms of visual representations of borders and territories, where maps represent processes rather than static conditions. The research focused on temporality, migration, access, and human rights.

## LEARNING FROM EDUCATION CITY CONFERENCE

*Learning from Education City* conference was held at Qatar Foundation's Education City in Doha in November 2015, and was organized by Amina Ahmadi, Director of Technical Affairs at the Qatar Foundation, and planned in partnership with Studio-X Amman, Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and the Columbia Global Centers | Amman. The conference brought together internationally renowned thinkers and architects to examine the architecture of learning. Speakers included:

[Nora Akawi](#), Curator of Studio-X Amman and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

[George Katodrytis](#), Professor of Architecture, American University of Sharjah

[Rem Koolhaas](#), Founder and Director of the Office for Metropolitan Architecture

[Reinhold Martin](#), Professor of Architecture, and Director of the Buell Center at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

[Adrian Lahoud](#), Dean of the School of Architecture, Royal College of Art

[Mark Wasiuta](#), Co-Director of the Critical, Curatorial, and Conceptual Practices in Architecture Program, and Director of Exhibitions at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University



Panel discussion at *Learning from Education City* Conference in Doha

## X-TALK SERIES

Studio-X Amman organized the following X-Talks in 2015:

X-Talk #12 by [Léopold Lambert](#), architect, writer, and editor of *The Funambulist*, with [Rahel Aima](#) and [Ahmad Makia](#), Chief Editors of *The State*, and [Dena Qaddumi](#), Architect and Co-Editor of *Arena of Speculation – Archipelago in Amman: Two Conversations on the Politics of Bodies and Space* on February 15

X-Talk #13 by [Karim Elgendy](#), architect, sustainability consultant, and Founder of Carbound – *The State of Sustainability in the Middle East: iSustain Initiative Series* on February 25

X-Talk #14 by [Guillaume Crédoz](#), architect, designer, and Founder of Ghouyoum Architecture and Design's office and Rapid Manufactory's 3Dprinting workshop – *Systems in Space: Organic Integration of Digital Fabrication in the Creation Process* on May 20

X-Talk #15 by [Mohamed Elshahed](#), Founder and Editor of Cairoobserver – *Writing the City: On the Need for Architectural Journalism in the Arab World* on August 19

X-Talk #16 by [Medine Altiok](#), Architect and Director of the AA Mittelmeerland Visiting School – *Mittelmeerland: Territorial Explorations of the Mediterranean* on September 20

X-Talk #17 by [Gurjit Singh Matharoo](#), Principal Architect at Matharoo Architects – *Eat Love Play Discourse: A Conversation on the Works and Methodologies of Matharoo Associates* on November 11

X-Talk #18 by [Noura Alsayeh](#), Head of Architecture, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities – *On National Representation and Civic Engagement: Bahrain 2010-2015* on November 30

X-Talk #19 by [Antonio Ottomanelli](#), architect and photographer – *Down to Mothers Photography, Landscape and other Infrastructures of Revolution* on December 16



## INTERNSHIPS

The Amman Center hosts interns for six weeks, primarily in 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 referrals. Internships are available in a range of fields, including the arts, architecture, social work, communications, sustainability and research support.

In 2015, the following students completed an internship at the Center:

NAME	UNIVERSITY	FIELD OF STUDY	AREA OF SUPPORT AT THE CENTER	INTERNSHIP DURATION
Sumaya Abu-Hayeh	University of Jordan	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	June – July 2015
Eliane Bejjani	University of Cambridge	Politics, Sociology and Psychology	Communications and research support	May – August 2015
Ramzi Chahin	Applied Science University	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	June – August 2015
Hanna Al-Dineh	German Jordanian University	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	June – August 2015
Joshua Donavan	Columbia University	History (PhD)	Studio-X Amman	June – July 2015
Amira Faris	William Peterson University of New Jersey	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	June – July 2015
Hala Haddadin	German Jordanian University	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	June – August 2015
Sarey Hamarneh	Duke University	Economics and History	Programs and research support	June – July 2015
Noor Lozi	Cornell University	Landscape Architecture	Studio-X Amman	June – July 2015
Khaled Al-Masri	John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies	International Economics and Finance	Studio-X Amman	April 2015
Talal Toukan	Columbia University	Comparative Literature and Computer Science	Research support	October – December 2015
Emily Wilkinson Salamea	Columbia University	Global Health	Programs and research support	September – December 2015
Abdulrahman Al Zubeidi	Jordan University of Science and Technology	Architecture	Studio-X Amman	June – July 2015

## 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 internships developed through alumni and employer partnerships. The program was offered for the fourth time in Amman to 10 students in the summer of 2015.

Throughout the internship, students explore a career field and develop professional skills, while gaining global experience. Students also had the opportunity to connect with professionals in Amman who have been selected to support the program either as an employer or mentor. The Center hosted an orientation lunch in June 2015 for students and mentors to connect.



CEO students meet their mentors at orientation event

In 2015, the following students completed an internship program through CEO:

COLUMBIA STUDENT	INTERNSHIP ORGANIZATION	MENTOR / RELATION
Iris Chijioke (CC '16)	Bank al Etihad	H.E. Umayya Toukan (BUS '86, BUS '87)
Ellie Dominguez (CC '17)	King Hussein Foundation	Lina Ejeilat (JN '09)
Shannon Haynie (SEAS '16)	Hikma Pharmaceuticals	Ramzi Muna (SEAS '81)
Elena Klein (CC '17)	King Hussein Foundation	Haif Bannayan (Friend of the Center)
Kevin Palma (CC '17)	Bank al Etihad	Adnan Talhouni (IA '73)
Luis Ramirez (SEAS '16)	Telephoenic	Faris Gammoh (BUS '07)
Kathleen Sullivan (GS '16)	Wamda	Barbara Porter (GF '86, GF '87, GF '01)
Etsub Ketema Tadesse (SEAS '16)	Arabtech Jardaneh	Rula Aburayyan Jardaneh (P: BUS '14)
Christian Wesselhoeft (CC '16)	Oasis500	H.E. Suhair Al-Ali (P: EN '13)
Ruohan Zhang (CC '17)	King Hussein Foundation	Wasim Salfiti (CC '03)

### QUEEN RANIA TEACHER ACADEMY

The Columbia Global Centers | Amman has been deeply engaged in the work of the Queen Rania Teacher Academy (QRTA), which the Center helped establish pre-dating its own official launch in March 2009. QRTA was established under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah to improve public education in Jordan by providing high-quality professional development training programs for government school teachers and administrators. To date, approximately 30,000 school teachers and educators have been reached through the various programs and networks.

Throughout the years, QRTA has partnered with key governmental entities, such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, along with donor agencies including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Global Affairs Canada.

QRTA entered into a partnership with Global Affairs Canada in late 2014 to implement a five-year project titled “Scaling-Up Teacher Professional Development.” The project aims to improve learning outcomes through programs that promote excellence in teaching in Jordan’s public school system from the primary level to grade ten.

The Early Grade Reading and Math Project, a nationwide effort designed to improve reading and math skills from grades K-3 was also launched. The project seeks to develop and distribute improved learning materials to every K-3 classroom in Jordan, as well as to train teachers, principals, supervisors, and administrators to provide more effective instruction. The project, which will be carried out over the next five years, expects to deliver improved reading and math instruction to nearly 400,000 public school students.



Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah addresses the Teacher Skills Forum

QRTA has also partnered with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to launch the “Blended Approach to Teacher Training,” which is a continuation of the “Safeguard Education Quality for Students in Jordan” Project. The new project is funded by both the European Union and the Saudi Fund for Development, and is comprised of two main tracks: psychosocial pedagogy targeting all teachers, and math and physics instruction for secondary school teachers.

Twice a year, QRTA conducts the International Baccalaureate (IB) biannual professional development workshops that target IB teachers, coordinators and administrators from Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

In December 2015, QRTA organized a regional Teacher Skills Forum, held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah. The Forum is an annual regional event created to provide teachers from the Arab world with modern and creative strategies and innovative teaching techniques. It is a platform for teachers to explore, learn, and share experiences with some of the world’s most renowned educators and scholars. The 2015 Forum offered a wide array of opportunities for participants and stakeholders to engage, learn, network and share experiences, and was attended by over 1,000 participants, including classroom teachers, school administrators, educational supervisors, and stakeholders such as governments, thought-leaders, and pioneers in the field.

In addition to the continuous work on its flagship School Networks program, QRTA has worked to create an environment for public and private school teachers to enhance their professional skills, and is increasing its outreach in Jordan through short courses carried out over the winter and summer holidays. These courses, which range in duration from three days to one week, engage teachers in knowledge-sharing discussions and activities tackling a variety of subjects.

Due to the growing number of training programs offered, QRTA continues to work closely with the Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE) at Teachers College, to document the activities conducted in support of the networks, and their impact on practice, policy and performance. The documentation focuses on the use, adaptation, and sharing of the practices, lessons, units and tools acquired or developed through network activities, in order to allow for improvement of services, as well as tracking the design and enhancement of the school network strategy, and the use of new practices and sustainability over time.



A QRTA-trained teacher with her students

## TEXTS ON DEMOCRACY

The Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life (IRCPL) at Columbia University has partnered with All Prints Publishers in Beirut to translate and publish a number of important English language books on democracy and case studies on democratic transitions into Arabic for distribution throughout the Middle East and North Africa. The aim of the project is to make more accessible some of the nuanced literature available on varieties of representative government, paths and pitfalls to democratization, and detailed case studies about democratic transitions in countries like Indonesia, Turkey, and Spain.

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, and *The Arab Uprising Explained: New Contentious Politics in the Middle East* by Marc Lynch. The texts are now available on *eKtab*, the first Arabic electronic book marketplace and publishing company.

The global center in Amman is working with IRCPL to develop distribution networks in the Arab world to reach interested scholars, students, and policy makers. Hardcopies of the books are available for free distribution via IRCPL.



## ONSITE LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Onsite learning is strongly advocated in the mission of the Amman Center. The following programs were held in 2015:

### SUMMER ECOSYSTEM EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES PROGRAM

In conjunction with Columbia College and the Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability, the Center offered the fifth iteration of the Summer Ecosystem Experiences for Undergraduates (SEE-U) Program. The five-week program was held in May-June 2015, and enrolled 15 students from Columbia University.

The program offered students the opportunity to conduct fieldwork in the distinctive topography of Jordan, and to visit unique places like Dana, Ajloun, and Aqaba. With the collected data, students were required to contextualize their project within the core issue of environmental sustainability. Students conducted environmental fieldwork in unique natural settings, and gained a sense of exploration and appreciation of Jordan's ecology through a combination of field research and coursework. The group was accompanied by Jenna Lawrence, Adjunct Associate Research Scientist at the Center for Environmental Sustainability and Lecturer in Ecology and Environmental Biology at Columbia University.



SEE-U program students in the field



Columbia students enjoy a meal at a local restaurant

## MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA SUMMER INSTITUTE

In conjunction with Columbia's Office of Global Programs and the Columbia Global Centers | Paris, the Amman Center held the sixth offering of the annual Arabic language program and the second offering of the Columbia MENA Summer Institute in May-August 2015. 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.

The nine-week intensive summer program offered a multi-faceted introduction to the languages, culture, and history of the Middle East and North Africa. During the first part of the Columbia 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.

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 30 Columbia and non-Columbia undergraduate and graduate students, and 13 of them traveled on to Paris. The feasibility of moving part of the program to Tunis, ideally in the summer of 2017, is currently under consideration.



Students attend an Arabic music class



Middle East and North Africa Summer Institute in Amman

## SUMMER PROGRAM ON DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL ENGINEERING IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Students from Columbia and the region during program in Tunis



Group photo with Ennahda co-founder, Sheikh Rachid Al-Ghannouchi

Columbia University offered a new intensive three-week summer program in May-June 2015 focused on democracy and constitutional engineering in the Middle East. The program was organized by Columbia Global Centers | Amman, Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, and the Office of Global Programs.

The program, spearheaded by John Huber, Professor of Political Science, was held in Tunis, followed by a segment in Istanbul. It enrolled Columbia students alongside students from leading universities in the Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey. The substantive focus of the program is on the concept of democracy, the challenges of democratic transitions and consolidation, and trade-offs associated with different ways of organizing democratic institutions. Although the program studies general issues associated with democratic politics and does not focus exclusively on Tunisia and Turkey, these locations provided students with meaningful exposure to the recent histories and challenges that both countries have faced.

Student perspectives of the central issues in the program were influenced by the incorporation of students from Tunisia, Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine, where recent experiences with democratic governance have been extremely challenging and dramatically different. To enable students to think systematically about how to formulate and test arguments about democracy, the program integrates the study of democracy with the study of quantitative research methods.

The program is supported by the President's Global Innovation Fund and the Lee C. and Jean Magnano Bollinger Fellowship.

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The Amman Center continues to cooperate 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.

Professor Safwan Masri has been invited to speak and participate in numerous conferences and forums during the academic year, with a focus on education and contemporary geopolitics and society in the Arab world.

Highlights include:

*American Higher Education in the Middle East*, organized by The American University in Cairo and the Lebanese American University (LAU New York, January 28, 2016)

*The Reform Agenda, World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa 2015* (Dead Sea, May 22, 2015)

*Foreign Policy Association's Financial Services Dinner* (New York City, February 26, 2015)



Professor Masri participates in discussion at LAU New York

## INTERNATIONAL LEGAL DIALOGUE – MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA CONFERENCE

The Columbia Global Centers | Amman organized a conference on *International Legal Dialogue – Middle East and North Africa* on December 13-15, 2015. The conference was spearheaded by Lori Damrosch, President of the American Society of International Law and Hamilton Fish Professor of International Law and Diplomacy, and was held in collaboration with the Columbia Law School, American Society of International Law, University of Jordan Law School, American Red Cross, Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution, and the American Bar Association – Rule of Law Initiative.

The conference was the first of its kind in the region, and brought together local, regional and international speakers in the form of panel discussions on various timely international legal themes that are particularly relevant to the Middle East and North Africa. Some of the major issues and topics that were covered in the conference are arbitration, child abduction and protection, environmental effects of armed conflict, humanitarian law, and human trafficking in refugee situations. The audience engaged with the panelists on unanswered questions and controversial legal stipulations.



International Legal Dialogue – Middle East and North Africa Conference

Professor Lori Damrosch addresses conference participants

## WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN PREVENTING INCITEMENT

In conjunction with the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, and Columbia Global Freedom of Expression, the Center organized a workshop on November 11-12, 2015 that brought together some 40 religious leaders and experts from across the Middle East and North Africa to discuss the role of religious leaders in responding to, and countering, hate speech and incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes. The religious leaders worked together to develop a regional strategy to counter incitement to violence, and agreed on steps towards its implementation. Participants were joined by Dr. Agnès Callamard, Director of Columbia Global Freedom of Expression and Adama Dieng, the United Nations Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide.

Throughout the two-day closed meeting, participants analyzed incidents of hate and incitement speech, on or off line, the way they are transmitted and the effectiveness of the responses by religious actors and others. They discussed the triggers of hate speech and the willingness of the audience to act on the advocacy for violence in these messages. The group examined the identity and influence of the speakers, including state and non-state actors, religious and non-religious leaders, and the abuse of religion to justify hatred and violence.

Participants at the meeting in Amman spoke about their own experience and the various tools, mechanisms and programs they have used to counter incitement and hatred, evaluate them and identify ways of strengthening their impact. The meeting builds on the work already done by religious leaders in Fez, Morocco, who drew up a global Plan of Action for religious leaders to prevent incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes and the Draft Fez Declaration of principles for religious leaders to follow. At a meeting of religious leaders from the European region in September, they developed a regional strategy to implement the elements of the plan that they felt were most relevant to that region.



Religious leaders from across the region at opening session



Dr. Agnès Callamard leads workshop session

### WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

In partnership with Chatham House and the Identity Center, the Amman Center organized a workshop on June 2-3, 2015 on *The Role of Local Government in Addressing the Impact of Syrian Refugees: Jordan Case Study*.

The workshop convened local officials, civil society, and experts to discuss the Jordanian case, focused on the role local government can play in addressing the impact of Syrian refugees, particularly in northern Jordan. Participants sought to answer questions of how municipalities and local authorities could be better enabled to support the needs of host communities and refugees, and possible long-term repercussions if adequate support is not given to host communities.

The concluding session was a consultation with national policymakers and donor representatives including the United States Agency for International Development, Save the Children, the Embassy of Japan, the Embassy of the United States, the Embassy of Canada, among others. In working groups, participants discussed ways to overcome the political, legal, financial and capacity constraints that are preventing local authorities from being able to better address the impact of Syrian refugees on host communities.

### GLOBAL THINK-IN ON TIME AND TRAUMA: MEMORY IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The Columbia Global Centers | Amman hosted the *Global Think-In on Time and Trauma: Memory in Global Perspective* Symposium on April 18, 2015. The event included a film screening of “Letter to a Refusing Pilot” by filmmaker Akram Zaatari, and a panel discussion on:

*Traumas of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Middle East* – Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies and Chair of the Department of History, Columbia University

*100 Years of Armenian Memory* – Hülya Adak, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, Sabancı University

*1923 Massacre of Koreans in Japan* – Minoru Iwasaki, Professor of Philosophy, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies



Panel discussion on global memory with Professor Rashid Khalidi, Professor Carol Gluck, and other experts



Akram Zaatar discusses his film

The Global Think-Ins are designed as incubators for academics and practitioners from varying disciplinary and methodological backgrounds, geographical locations, and expertise to share, critique, and develop new ideas.

Global Think-Ins are supported by the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. The series is part of the committee’s project *The Politics of Memory in Global Context*, led by historian Carol Gluck, Columbia’s George Sansom Professor of History and Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures. The events in Istanbul and Amman followed the first international Think-In: *Remembering across Time: Psychological Studies of the Two World Wars in Transgenerational Memory*, held in January 2015 at the Columbia Global Centers | Paris.

The series of workshops examine the politics and culture of public memory by bringing together scholars of memory from the social sciences and humanities, cognitive science and neuroscience, and curators of historical and memorial museums.

The transdisciplinary conversations juxtapose memories of events in different places to discern commonalities and develop new analytic perspectives on the formation and operation of public memory today. The focus is on the transnational framework for even the most local and individual of memories, and the goal is to re-conceive our understanding of the way different societies manage their national pasts in the global present.



President Lee C. Bollinger, Jean Magnano Bollinger, and Professor Safwan Masri participate in Tunis roundtable

## ROUNDTABLES IN TUNIS

The Amman Center organized two roundtable discussions in Tunis in January 2015, focused on electoral processes and democratic transitioning, and freedom of expression. The roundtables were convened by President Lee C. Bollinger and Professor Safwan Masri. Participants included:

**Mohamed Chafik Sarsar**, Professor at the Faculty of Law of Tunis Al Manar, and President of the Independent Higher Authority for Elections

**Moez Chakchouk**, Chairman and CEO, Tunisian Internet Agency

**Rafik Halouani**, General Coordinator, Mourakiboun

**Malek Khadraoui**, Director, Inkyfada

**Kamel Labidi**, Vice President, Comité de Vigilance pour la Démocratie en Tunisie (Vigilance)

**Nouri Lajmi**, President, Haute Autorité Indépendante De La Communication Audiovisuelle (HAICA)

**Monica Marks**, Rhodes Scholar and doctoral candidate at St. Antony's College, Oxford

**Corinna Mullin**, Visiting Assistant Professor in International Relations, University of Tunis, and Research Associate, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

**Ian Woodward**, Senior Program Manager, National Democratic Institute

**Amira Yahyaoui**, President, Al Bawsala

The visit to Tunis also included meetings with a number of political figures, journalists, and academics, which provided a more nuanced understanding of developments following the revolution, including insights on the country's transition to democracy and future prospects. Other components of the visit included an informal gathering with current students and alumni in Tunisia, a luncheon with university presidents, and a dinner with business leaders, hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce and AfricInvest. Professor Masri held follow-up visits in July and again in November 2015 to conduct research for an ongoing academic project, and to continue discussions regarding the potential expansion of Columbia's engagement in Tunisia.

## ON-CAMPUS EVENTS: BRINGING THE WORLD TO COLUMBIA

In addition to holding programs and events in Amman and across the region, the Center works closely with partners on campus to organize events at Columbia University that engage faculty and students, as well as leverage local and regional voices, in conversations on important issues affecting the region.

The following are highlights of major events held on campus in 2015:

### VISIT BY TUNISIAN MINISTER HEDI LARBI

His Excellency Hedi Larbi, Tunisia's Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (2014-2015) visited Columbia University on November 30, 2015. As part of his visit to campus, Larbi met with students at the Columbia Business School, and with faculty member Kamel Jedidi, John A. Howard Professor of Business.

Larbi delivered a public talk on *Political and Economic Inclusiveness in Arab Societies: Rethinking the Arab Development Model*. His lecture focused on the main reasons behind the limitations of Arab development models, and he proposed a new approach to rethink the terms of a new social contract to better meet the aspirations of the people for free, inclusive and prosperous societies.

The event was organized by the Columbia Global Centers | Amman and the Jerome A. Chazen Institute of International Business at the Columbia Business School.



H.E. Hedi Larbi meets with Columbia students

### ARAB CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT: SECULARIST OR THEOLOGIST? A TALK BY GEORGES CORM

The Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation held a talk by Georges Corm on *Arab Contemporary Political Thought: Secularist or Theologist?* The event, which was held at Columbia University on November 17, was co-organized by the Columbia Global Centers | Amman, the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, and the Middle East Institute.

Corm is an economist specialized in the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean regions, and consultant to international organizations, banking and financial institutions. His recent publication, *Pensée et politique dans le monde arabe*, is an important archive that reconstitutes two centuries of Arab intellectual engagement with modernity through literature, art, architecture and political thought.

## 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 2015:

**Maha Yahya**, Senior Associate at Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut – *The Significance of Discontent: Arab Faces and Perceptions of Injustice* on March 4

**Çağrı Erhan**, Jean Monnet Chair at Ankara University – *Centenary of Dardanelles Battle and Turkish-Arab Relations since the End of World War I* on April 22

**Nezar AlSayyad**, Professor of Architecture and Planning at University of California, Berkeley – *Virtual Uprisings: Tahrir Square, Social Media and the Return of Public Space* on April 29

**Raja Shehadeh**, Writer and Lawyer – *Language, Landscape and Identity in Palestine* on May 24

**Hayat Sindi**, Co-founder and Director of Diagnostics for All – *Living Through Innovation* on October 21

**Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi**, United Arab Emirates-based Columnist – *Gulf States' Hard Power vs. Soft Power: A Line in the Sand* on November 9

**Mehran Kamrava**, Professor and Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar – *Qatar: Small State, Big Politics* on December 8

## LOOKING AT TUNISIA: A SERIES OF TALKS

The Center organized a thematic speaker series entitled "Looking at Tunisia" that ran from March to June 2015. The series featured a number of talks by prominent speakers on various aspects of the country's democratic transition, religious tolerance, political moderation, and civic engagement. Talks were given by:

**Hamadi Redissi**, Professor in Political Science at the University of Tunis – *Tunisia: Moving from Transition to Democratic Consolidation* on March 24

**Mehdi Jomaa**, Head of the Tunisian Government (2014-2015) – *Tunisia's Transition Experience* on April 1

**Safwan Masri**, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University – *Understanding Tunisia's Democracy* on April 27

**Corinna Mullin**, Visiting Assistant Professor in International Relations at the University of Tunis, and Research Associate, School of Oriental and African Studies – *Rights, Justice and Democracy in Tunisia: Between Revolution and National Security* on May 18

**Alfred Stepan**, Wallace Sayre Professor of Government and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration, and Religion, Columbia University – *The Tunisian Democratic Transition in Comparative Perspective* on June 8



## ALUMNI AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The 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.

The Center organized several alumni and student events in the region, including:

**AMMAN** – The Amman Center planned a reception and dinner hosted by Asem and Zina Toukan (P: CC '17) on January 14, 2016. The event brought together more than 50 alumni, current and prospective students, and friends of the Center who were joined by Professor Masri and Michael Pippenger, Dean of Undergraduate Global Programs.

**DUBAI** – The Amman Center organized a reception and dinner in Dubai on January 24, 2016, hosted by Hana and Marwan Dalloul (AC '02, BUS '08), which brought together over 25 alumni and friends. The event was held in honor of President Lee C. Bollinger, Jean Magnano Bollinger, Professor Safwan Masri, and a visiting delegation of senior administrators and distinguished faculty from Columbia, including the Deans of both the Columbia School of Engineering and Applied Science and the School of International and Public Affairs.

**JEDDAH** – In collaboration with the Columbia Alumni Association, the Center organized a dinner hosted by Loulwa Bakr (BUS '04) and Hussein Akeil on June 3, 2015. The dinner was held in the company of Professor Safwan Masri; Mary Boyce, Dean of The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science; and Merit Janow, Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs.

**TUNIS** – The Columbia Alumni Association and the Amman Center organized a reception on January 8, 2015 in Tunis with nearly 20 Columbia alumni who were joined by President Lee C. Bollinger, Jean Magnano Bollinger, and Professor Safwan Masri.

On July 30, the Center organized another alumni event in Tunis, which allowed the group to reconnect with Professor Masri, and learn more about plans to potentially expand the Columbia Global Centers' presence in Tunisia.



## 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 Columbia Global Centers | Amman is working closely with the CAA, the Office of Alumni and Development, and a working group of interested alumni to organize a potential regional event in Dubai in 2017.

There are currently eight alumni clubs and three regional contacts in the Middle East and North Africa that work to organize a series of 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	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) Younes Sbihi (BUS '87) Brahim Slaoui (BUS '82)
OMAN	Salim Al-Jahwari (SIPA '09) Fatima Muneer (JRN '12)
SAUDI ARABIA	Ayman Mansi (BUS '08)
TUNISIA	Youssef Cherif (GSAS '09)
TURKEY	Ilknur Aslan (SIPA '98) – <i>President</i> Nedim Olcer (BUS '82, P: CC '08) – <i>Business School Rep</i> Lale Deliveli (LAW '05) – <i>Law School Rep</i> Zeynep Basak Civi (SIPA '05) – <i>SIPA Rep</i> Filiz Bikmen (TC '98) – <i>TC Rep</i> Pinar Ozbek (TC '09) – <i>TC Rep</i> Siret Unsal (GSAS '05) – <i>GSAS Rep</i> Osman Ogun (CC '05, BUS '08) – <i>CC Rep</i>
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (DUBAI)	Tala Al Ramahi (JRN '10) Hannah Allawi (GSAPP '12) Ameera Horriyat (SIPA '11)



#### FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ENGINEERING EDUCATION IN TUNISIA

In collaboration with the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), the Amman Center is working with engineering colleagues at five 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. 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. Training workshops for a group of engineering educators from Tunisia were held on campus in New York in April 2016, providing opportunities to learn from immersion in an ecosystem of entrepreneurship.

#### GLOBAL NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CLINICAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Columbia Global Centers | Amman will host the Global Nursing and Midwifery Clinical Research Development Initiative in July 2016. Experts from approximately eight countries in the region will meet to identify and reach consensus on gaps in knowledge and priorities to address critical health needs, and develop a dissemination of recommendations and implementation plan for support for nursing and midwifery research with a mentorship component. The aim is to develop sustained networks to strengthen the advances in nursing and midwifery at the clinical and educational levels. The initiative is a President's Global Innovation Fund project led by Elaine Larson, Anna C. Maxwell Professor of Nursing Research, and Jennifer Dohrn, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Columbia University Medical Center and Director of the Office of Global Initiatives and its WHO Collaborating Center for Advanced Practice Nursing.

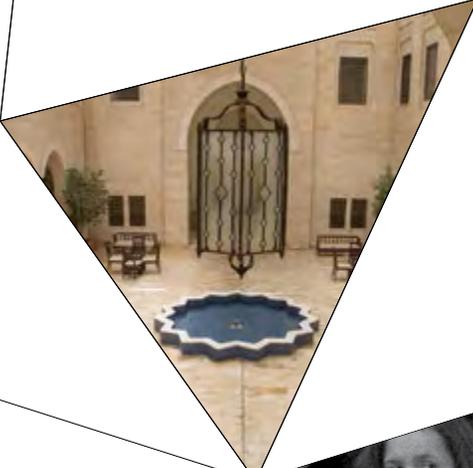
#### REFUGEE INTEGRATION: DEVELOPING A NEW PARADIGM

Columbia Global Centers | Amman and Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul are organizing a workshop and public panel in fall 2016 that will bring together Columbia faculty in mutual conversations with practitioners from the Middle East. The group will discuss the current response plan to the refugee crisis, with a focus on Syria, and offer their expertise on addressing the gap between humanitarian response and development in the context of refugee assistance. Debating policy on this issue will be an opportunity to leverage Columbia University expertise to explore a new paradigm of refugee integration in host countries beyond relief and temporary settlement, and identify a framework that responds to this global crisis with a long-term development vision.

#### REFRAMING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

In collaboration with Women Creating Change at Columbia's Center for the Study of Social Difference, the global centers in Amman, Istanbul, and Paris are developing an initiative focused on gender-based violence. The initiative aims to question common and often static understandings of gender-based violence, and identify current gaps in the literature. The Amman Center has assembled a group of local scholars, feminist theorists, and experts who will contribute by providing an informed regional perspective on the issue. Themes of economic, political and structural forms of violence, and its manifestation, will be explored. Engagement with the network of global centers allows for a comparative perspective that such an initiative necessitates, and offers the possibility of extending and deepening the reach of the research study.





5 Moh'd Al Sa'd Al Batayneh St.  
P. O. Box 144706 Amman 11814 Jordan  
Tel +962 5777955 Fax +962 5777964  
amman.cgc@columbia.edu  
globalcenters.columbia.edu/amman

facebook.com/CGCAmman  
@CGCAmman