

# ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014





A MESSAGE FROM

LEE C. BOLLINGER



**LEE C. BOLLINGER**  
President, Columbia University

The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East in Amman occupies a special place among the eight Columbia Global Centers comprising a network that now stretches across Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America. Each center exists to promote international research, teaching, and problem solving. They are designed as flexible hubs to be used by Columbia's faculty and students in different ways over time, and to the benefit of their host communities and the world at large. A central pillar of this endeavor always has been the expectation that the new knowledge acquired through individual experiences at the global centers will be brought home to our campuses in New York City, enriching the learning that occurs in schools and departments across the University.

From the outset, the Columbia global center in Amman has been at the forefront of developing these capacities and has provided a template for our more recently established global centers. The original programming developed by the Center in Amman is both inventive and exceptionally varied, covering topics from education, sustainability, and geopolitics, to the arts, women's rights, and public health. The Center's initiatives are shedding light on the policies and the events that are reshaping the Middle East during this period of remarkable upheaval and change. Specific initiatives with this promise include a study of Syrian refugees, exploration of trans-African slavery networks, and an effort to map and document Mesopotamian monuments. Led by Professor Safwan Masri, Columbia's Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, the Center in Amman has become a thriving example of the contributions that can be made by all eight of our centers to their home regions and to our University community.

We continue to be especially grateful for the support of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, who has strengthened the Center's teaching and research capabilities through programs like the Queen Rania Teacher Academy. This type of initiative demonstrates the value of applying scholarship and actionable research to society's urgent challenges.

The Columbia Global Centers are becoming an indispensable resource in fulfilling the University's mission to learn about and engage with the world. Your generosity allows us to expand and deepen this engagement. I know you share my enthusiasm in looking forward to what the coming years will bring in Amman and at our centers across the globe, and I want to thank you for your interest and support.

*Global Centers are a core element of  
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A MESSAGE FROM

SAFWAN M. MASRI

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## SAFWAN M. MASRI

Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University  
Director, Columbia Global Centers | Middle East

Columbia is a university with a unique global character; with distinguished faculty engaged in the creation of new knowledge and cutting-edge research, and in addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges; a diverse and international body of students, faculty and partners from around the world, and; through the Columbia Global Centers, an intellectual infrastructure that includes eight centers across four continents.

As one of the leaders of the transformation of Ivy League colleges into full scale research universities in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, today, Columbia stands again at an important historic opportunity: one with incredible transformative promise, which could very possibly define its future course and perhaps even higher education more broadly. Committed to reorienting and adjusting its work in a way that is better suited for the realities of this century, Columbia aspires to add to its global scaffolding to become the preeminent global university, along many dimensions.

As physical and intellectual loci around the world, the Columbia Global Centers are a core element of the University's global strategy. With the unwavering support and engagement of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah coupled with the visionary leadership of President Lee C. Bollinger, our first chapter has been marked with tremendous growth for the global center in Amman and indeed the Columbia Global Centers' network as a whole. Anchored by a committed and accomplished group of directors, we have grown from two centers in Amman and Beijing to an increasingly intertwined web of eight with nodes added in Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago.

In Amman, we celebrated an auspicious milestone in 2014: the fifth anniversary of the launch of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East. Over the years, the Center has worked to enrich the variety and scope of its programming and research efforts. With flagship programs grounded in the areas of education, social work, and sustainable development, we reached important landmarks in each, and continued to expand our focus and offerings to include architecture, geopolitics, and the arts.

I am profoundly optimistic about what the future holds for us, both in Amman and at the other global centers, and am excited for inspiring new developments to come. As always, we remain deeply indebted to all of our partners and friends around the world, and look forward to many more anniversaries with your continued support.

# COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS

The last half-century of technological innovation and increased global trade has dramatically changed the context in which institutions of higher education operate. However, the structure of the university has not kept pace with globalization or technological changes, and many institutions are still relying on a twentieth-century infrastructure to tackle twenty-first century realities. Leaders at Columbia began asking what the University should look like in 2050, in 2070, and this line of questioning inspired the realization that new structures needed to be put in place to leverage the opportunities and tackle the challenges that will face future generations.

Rather than follow in the increasingly popular trajectory, at the time, of branch campuses, Columbia University chose to create an entirely new model that no university had ever tried before: the **Columbia Global Centers**.

The eight global 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, learning, discussion, and discovery around the most important global issues through a truly global perspective.

The global centers serve as a nucleus for programming and educational initiatives, and as conduits for increasing the University's global scope and enriching the diversity of the academic experience. The centers help increase international content in the classroom; supplement the curriculum with global experiences, internship opportunities, and course offerings; provide resources needed to attract students from abroad; facilitate research opportunities for Columbia students and faculty on globally relevant, interdisciplinary topics; and provide a point of ongoing engagement for international alumni and friends.

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.





*“We need to think of ourselves as explorers. We have to regain a sense of what the new reality is, because it’s on top of that sense of reality that you then begin to come up with the questions that academic institutions are designed to try to address.”*

**Lee C. Bollinger**  
President of Columbia University

The work at the global centers revolves around four main pillars: **research and academic support, education, programs, and outreach**. In the Middle East, the Amman Center’s partnership, focused on education reform, involving Columbia’s Teachers College and the Queen Rania Teacher Academy, has resulted in the training of more than 20,000 public school teachers in Jordan and helped develop customized teacher training programs that promote and expose teachers to values of tolerance and inclusion. Teachers College and the global centers have been invited to initiate and implement similar work in Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Other highlights from across the network is the work of the Columbia Global Centers | Latin America in Rio de Janeiro on projects dedicated to social inclusion and economic development in poor communities, and the work of the Columbia Global Centers | East Asia in Beijing in addressing challenges of urbanization and priority issues in public health. The centers in Rio de Janeiro, Beijing, and Mumbai will offer a Global Executive Master of Public Administration to a group of mid-career professionals; creating an international community of public management experts ready to tackle some of the world’s most pressing urban challenges.

A large number of the centers, including Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Amman, and Istanbul are deeply involved in the work of Columbia's Women Creating Change initiative, and have hosted workshops on varying themes including historical trauma, cultural memory and social repair, subaltern urbanism and the global sum, and women's rights, citizenship, and social justice. The global centers in Istanbul and Amman are particularly engaged in themes of regional geopolitical developments, freedom of speech and the press, and democracy and democratization.

The hallmark of the Columbia Global Centers is that they represent multi-directional learning: Columbia is not thrusting education onto a new environment; instead, through the global centers, faculty and students increasingly become part of an international 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 to absorb and learn. This allows for the reinvention of Columbia's home campuses in New York City, where its scholarly mission demands a global presence.

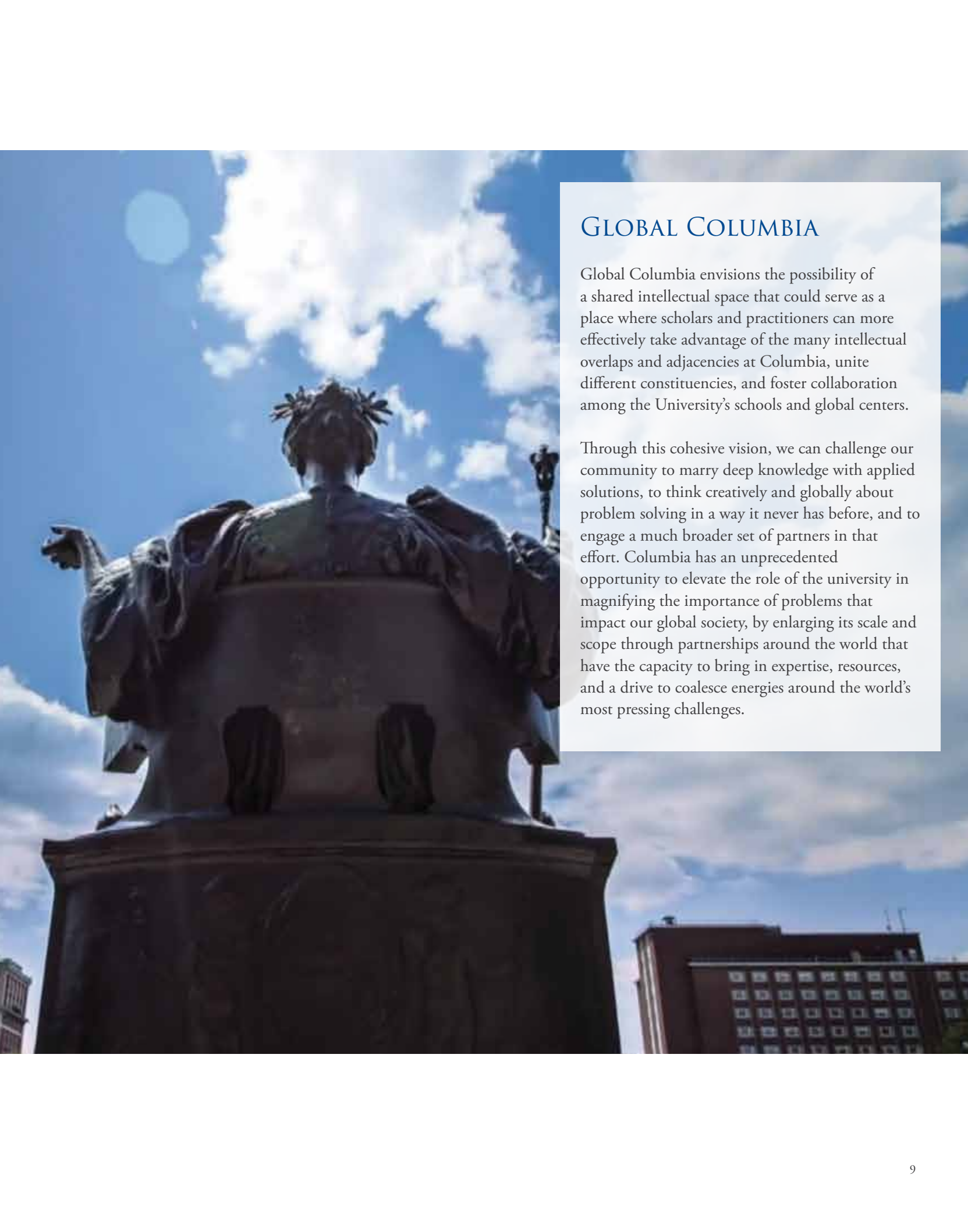
Columbia is creating a global networked structure, one that allows faculty and students to leverage research disciplines across the world and across the academic spectrum. Some of the centers' programs and research initiatives are country-specific, some regional, and an increasing number are multi-regional, even global. The building blocks of this network are seen in the strong links being forged by each center with regional universities and institutions.

Collaborations with non-Columbia experts and scholars are strongly encouraged, as is innovative research that crosses the boundaries of academic disciplines. The long-term ambition is for center programs to facilitate stronger connections in a network of global conversations about the most pressing and complex issues across boundaries—both geographic and intellectual.

The Columbia Global Centers are about so much more than having a presence throughout the world. They are about connecting the local with the global, finding scholars with shared interests around the world, and engaging others in global conversations. They are helping transform Columbia into a global university for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, one offering an ever-expanding number of opportunities for faculty and students to conduct their research and focus their learning wherever their intellectual interests take them.

The Columbia Global Centers, combined with a wide range of initiatives from a broad array of Columbia schools and programs, represents the next stage in Columbia's evolution. By moving beyond the current concepts of international research universities and locally focused international outposts to a truly networked structure, Columbia is on its way to becoming the world's first truly global university.





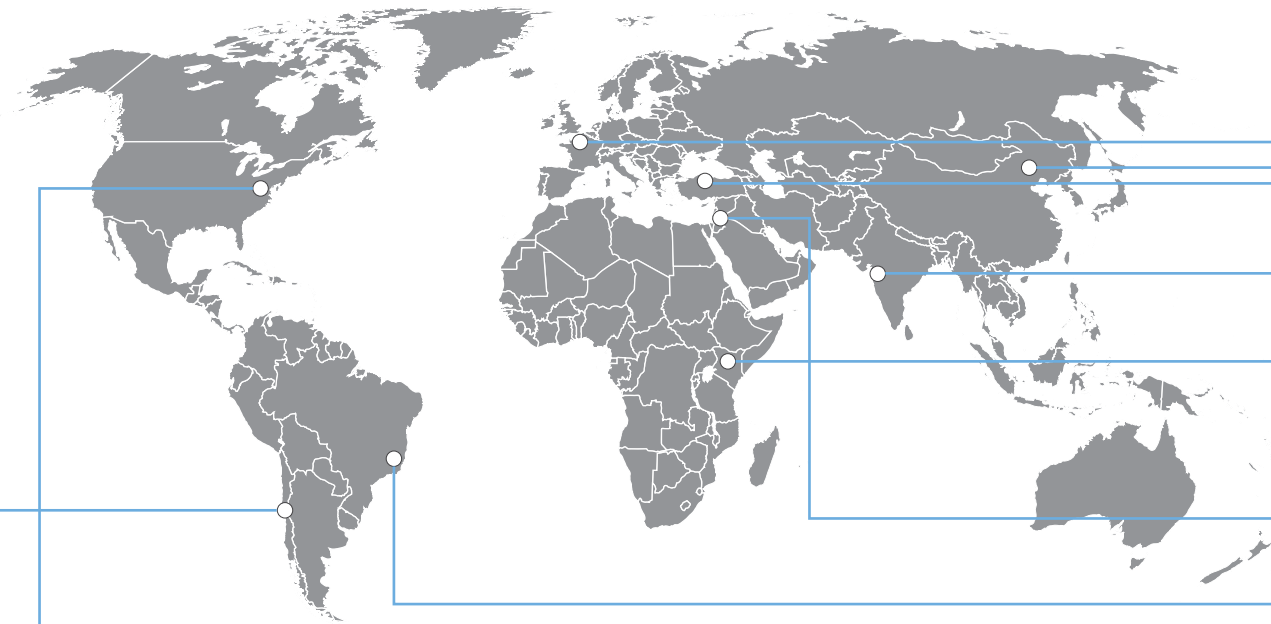
## GLOBAL COLUMBIA

Global Columbia envisions the possibility of a shared intellectual space that could serve as a place where scholars and practitioners can more effectively take advantage of the many intellectual overlaps and adjacencies at Columbia, unite different constituencies, and foster collaboration among the University's schools and global centers.

Through this cohesive vision, we can challenge our community to marry deep knowledge with applied solutions, to think creatively and globally about problem solving in a way it never has before, and to engage a much broader set of partners in that effort. Columbia has an unprecedented opportunity to elevate the role of the university in magnifying the importance of problems that impact our global society, by enlarging its scale and scope through partnerships around the world that have the capacity to bring in expertise, resources, and a drive to coalesce energies around the world's most pressing challenges.



# COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS



## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



The home campuses in New York City—one of the most global cities in the world—serve as a ninth node in the network, particularly with increased programming and events of the Columbia Global Centers being held on campus. The Office of Global Centers and Global Development, under the leadership of Professor **Safwan Masri**, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University, has grown to a team of 11 employees covering programming, human resources, administration, finance, communications, and development. In addition to dedicated space in Low Library, the office has recently relocated to 91 Claremont Avenue, and is situated in a wing that now houses many of Columbia's global initiatives, including Columbia Global Reports, Global Policy Initiative, Committee on Global Thought, Global Freedom of Expression and Information Project, among others.

[globalcenters.columbia.edu](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu)

## RIO DE JANEIRO

Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Rio de Janeiro) was launched in March 2013 and is directed by **Thomas Trebat**, former director of Columbia's Center for Brazilian Studies. In partnership with the State of Rio de Janeiro and the City of Rio, the Center works in tandem with the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation's (GSAPP) Studio-X in Rio on projects focused on social inclusion, economic development, and public sector management. In partnership with the School of International and Public Affairs, the Center is launching a Master's degree in public management, and offers programs in writing for television and films led by Columbia's School of the Arts.

[globalcenters.columbia.edu/riodejaneiro](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/riodejaneiro)



## SANTIAGO

Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago) was launched in March 2012 and is directed by **Karen Poniachik**, a graduate of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and former minister of Mining and Energy in Chile. The Center's activities include joint research projects between faculty at GSAPP and their counterparts at Chilean universities, as well as sustainability and climate programs in the areas of waste management, temperate forests, and drought management. The Center has hosted the Global Scholars Program, and workshops focusing on memory and human rights. An ongoing activity is the Chile-Columbia Fund that fosters long-term ties and exchanges between Columbia and Chilean universities.

[globalcenters.columbia.edu/santiago](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/santiago)



## BEIJING

Columbia Global Centers | East Asia was one of the first centers to launch in March 2009. The Center is directed by **Joan Kaufman**, a faculty member at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. The Center's major projects include the Urban China Initiative, assessing rapid urbanization; Beijing +20 Seminar Series and Symposium, discussing women's rights and empowerment in China; and the Sustainability Consortium China Evaluation Project in collaboration with the Earth Institute. The Center engages Columbia faculty and local experts to address sustainable development and clean energy issues on several projects, and has an active public events program. The Beijing Center has hosted a number of student programs, including the Global Scholars Program.

[globalcenters.columbia.edu/beijing](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/beijing)



## PARIS

Opened in March 2010, Columbia Global Centers | Europe is based in Columbia's historic Reid Hall, which has welcomed students, scholars, and faculty since 1964. The Center is directed by **Paul LeClerc**, former president of the New York Public Library and a noted scholar of French literature. Program offerings include the Master of Public Health, two Master of Arts programs; one in History and Literature and another in Global French Studies, and a number of undergraduate courses. The Center launched the World Writers' Festival in September 2013, featuring some of the world's greatest writers in intimate conversations, readings, performances, and debates open to the public, with a second iteration in 2014 focused on Writers of India.

[globalcenters.columbia.edu/paris](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/paris)



## ISTANBUL

Columbia Global Centers | Turkey was launched in November 2011, and is directed by **Ipek Cem Taha**, a journalist, businesswoman, and a graduate of Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs and its Graduate School of Business. Among the Center's programs is Byzantine and Ottoman Studies: History, Monuments and Urban Life, and the Columbia Global Seminar in Istanbul: Byzantine and Modern Greek Encounters. The Center also engages in various programs on Istanbul's cultural heritage, sustainability, historical dialogue and reconciliation, as well as gender issues. The opening of Studio-X Istanbul in November 2013 helped create further momentum for developing programs on urban challenges and the future of cities.

[globalcenters.columbia.edu/istanbul](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/istanbul)



## AMMAN

Columbia Global Centers | Middle East was launched in March 2009, and is directed by Professor **Safwan Masri**. The Center's offerings for undergraduate and graduate students include a summer Arabic language program, Ecosystem Experiences for Undergraduates program, and a workshop focused on public space. The Center's Institute for Sustainable Development and other projects in social work and public health are focused on building local and regional capacity, and Studio-X Amman Lab is dedicated to investigating the future of cities in the Arab region. Other programming includes an ongoing public lecture series, and the training of public school teachers with Teachers College.

[globalcenters.columbia.edu/amman](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/amman)



## NAIROBI

Columbia Global Centers | Africa opened its doors in January 2013, and is directed by **Belay Begashaw**, Director of the Millennium Development Goal Center for East and Southern Africa and a former Minister of Agriculture in Ethiopia. The Center hosts a number of projects focused on sustainable development including the Millennium Villages Project, the Africa Soil Information Service Project, and the Drylands Initiative. Columbia students have participated in internships in more than a dozen African countries through the Nairobi Center, and continue to enroll in a summer program for undergraduates in Tropical Biology and Sustainable Development.

[globalcenters.columbia.edu/nairobi](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/nairobi)



## MUMBAI

Columbia Global Centers | South Asia was launched in March 2010, and is directed by **Ravina Aggarwal**, who previously worked for the New Delhi office of the Ford Foundation, and was a tenured faculty member and chair of the department of Anthropology at Smith College. The Mumbai Center's student opportunities include the Global Scholars Program, Columbia Experience Overseas Program and Summer Ecosystem Experiences for Undergraduates Program. The Center provides a platform to further faculty-led research in the region on land management and water, and organizes public lectures by Columbia faculty, with a focus on gender, politics, sustainability and business. Other major initiatives include the Model Districts Health Project and Model Districts Education Project.

[globalcenters.columbia.edu/mumbai](http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/mumbai)








# COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | MIDDLE EAST






A high-angle, slightly tilted photograph of a courtyard in a historic building. The courtyard is paved with light-colored stone tiles. On the right, a large, ornate wooden balcony with intricate carvings and a metal grille extends from the upper floor. Several arched doorways lead into the building. In the center, there is a small outdoor seating area with dark wooden chairs and tables. A large potted plant sits near one of the arches. In the bottom left corner, a portion of a green, octagonal fountain is visible. The overall atmosphere is one of a well-maintained, historic interior space.

*“Our model is about learning. It’s about a two-way exchange of knowledge and skills. We want to create organizations that will not only be partners with us in this transfer of knowledge phase, but that will be peers for us in the future.”*

**Professor Safwan M. Masri**

Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development  
Columbia University



The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East (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.

Since its founding, the global center in Amman has launched and upheld programs and research initiatives in crucial areas such as sustainable development, public health, social work, teachers' education, and architecture, among others. And while many of these continue to be at the heart of the Center's work and mission, its location at the epicenter of one of the most geopolitically dynamic places in the world provides perhaps some of the greatest opportunities for study, involvement, and impact.

Over the past couple of years, the Center has facilitated a number of important discussions, gatherings and conferences concerned with regional geopolitical developments. In collaboration with the global center in Istanbul, the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East has held meaningful conversations and academic dialogues with regional experts and thought-leaders, and has actively sought ways in which Columbia—with its diverse intellectual capacities—may contribute positively to developments taking place across the region.

The Center has approached the study of current events from multiple lenses, and has been engaged in themes of freedom of the press and expression, women's rights, social inclusion, and democracy and democratization. A number of new programs under these themes are planned for 2015-2016, with programming and activities also expanding into the areas of energy, economics, and the rise of city states.

*“[Columbia] is a place that respects ideas, values **diversity** of thought and experience and, perhaps most importantly, recognizes that what defines great scholarship is not the easy acceptance of what we already know, but the relentless determination to discover what we still have to **learn**.”*

**Lee C. Bollinger**  
President of Columbia University







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## THE MIDDLE EAST REGION...

is rich in history and culture, as well as being fertile ground for growth and development. With many of the region's countries boasting upwards of 35% of their population under the age of 15, its youthful nature must rapidly develop to meet the demands countries will face in the coming decades. Over the past couple of years, the region has been transformed by internal and external conflict, with economic and political struggles catapulting longstanding dictatorships, and giving rise to new political systems.

The choice to locate one of Columbia University's first global centers in the Middle East was driven by an invitation to help contribute to building local and regional capacity in a number of fundamental areas, including education, but also by a need to better understand geopolitical trends and interreligious and cultural complexities.

The global centers in Amman and Istanbul will offer an integrated pair of courses on democratic transitions and constitutional engineering, and statistical methods, in summer 2015 in Tunisia and Istanbul, which will serve as a pilot program that could later be replicated at any number of the global centers or in other cities in the region. In collaboration with Columbia's Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, which is overseeing the translation into Arabic of seminal modern texts on democracy and democratization, the global centers are helping disseminate these books, which offer useable theories, and discuss the processes other countries have gone through to effectively create and consolidate democracy.

## 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 | Middle East since its founding in 2009.

Professor Masri has been a member of the Columbia Business School faculty since 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, Trustee of International College, Trustee of the National Children's Museum in Jordan, Director of Endeavor Jordan, Director of the Luxury Education Foundation, and member of the advisory boards of the School of Business and the Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at the American University in Cairo. He has also 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 scholarly interests include education reform in the Middle East, and contemporary Arab geopolitics and society. His area of academic expertise has been in operations management, with a focus on supply chain management. He has consulted and written on change management and operational efficiency in banking and finance.

## FACULTY STEERING COMMITTEE

The 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 Center.

The Faculty Steering Committee is chaired by a faculty member who serves a renewable three-year term and is highly regarded within the University, and 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, universities, and issues.

The following individuals comprise the Faculty Steering Committee of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East:

**Timothy Mitchell**, Professor and Chair, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies  
[Committee Chair]

**Lila Abu-Lughod**, Joseph L. Battenwieser Professor of Social Science, Department of Anthropology; and Director of the Middle East Institute

**Amale Andraos**, Associate Professor and Dean, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

**Peter Bearman**, Jonathan R. Cole Professor of the Social Sciences, Department of Sociology

**Carol Becker**, Professor and Dean, School of the Arts

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

**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; Professor of Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences; and Director of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs

**Brinkley Messick**, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Anthropology and Department of Middle Eastern, South African, and African Studies

**Ibrahim Odeh**, Adjunct Assistant Professor and Associate Research Scientist, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

**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 | Middle East:

**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** is a Nobel laureate and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and was named one of Columbia University's three inaugural Global Fellows in 2009.

**Jean Magnano Bollinger** is a practicing artist with an academic background in education; she received her master's degree in education from Columbia University's Teachers College.

**His Excellency Amr Dabbagh** is 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** founded one of Turkey's leading Internet investment companies and also serves as Deputy Chairman of Doğan Gazetecilik, a leading Turkish media company.

**Professor Meyer Feldberg** is a Senior Advisor at Morgan Stanley and Professor and Dean Emeritus of Columbia Business School.

**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).

**Arif Naqvi** is the Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer of Dubai-based Abraaj Capital, which ranks among the world's 50-biggest private equity groups.

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

**Her Excellency Mary Robinson** served as the first woman President of Ireland and was the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**Isam Salfiti** is Chairman of Bank al Etihad, as well as Chairman of the Board of Etihad Land Development Company and Jordan Hotels and Tourism Company.

**Savio Tung** is Chief Investment Officer at Investcorp, and a 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.

**Majdi Yasin** received his master's degree from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in 1997, and runs the Jordan-based investment company Yasin Investment Group.

## TEAM

The 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 conjunction with Columbia University schools; the administration team, which manages finances and human resources; the communications team, which leads communications, media and outreach efforts and develops alumni relations; in addition to the operations team that handles event management, information technology, as well as support for logistical and maintenance-related tasks. The Center also houses Studio-X Amman Lab, which investigates a wide range of issues in urban planning, historic preservation, and advanced architectural design in Jordan and the region. In total, the Center employs 32 staff members.



Team at the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East

In early 2014, Amal Ghandour, a writer, blogger and communications strategist, based in Beirut, was appointed Special Advisor to the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East. 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.



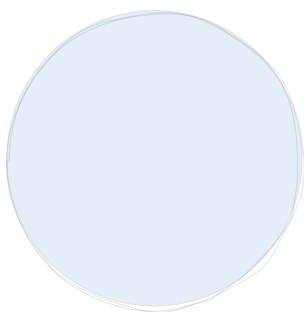


# RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT



The Center continues to make significant progress in launching major research initiatives, strengthening ties among research centers in the region, and deepening its research base. By promoting research opportunities and providing academic support, the Center not only helps build local capacity, but also offers a plethora of opportunities for Columbia students, faculty, and partners.

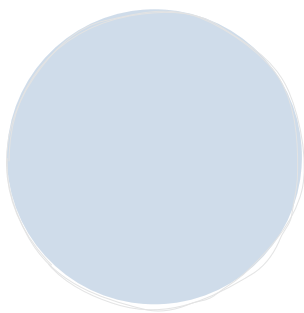
## VISITING SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS PROGRAM



The Center's Visiting Scholars and Fellows Program hosts local, regional and international academics and researchers to pursue independent projects and contribute to the intellectual vitality of the Middle East Center by hosting conferences, discussions, and seminars. The Center helps support the visiting scholars and fellows by providing them with office space and administrative assistance, and connecting them with resources, universities, and research centers in the region and beyond. Although the Program welcomes all research areas, it is particularly interested in research focusing on issues of priority for Jordan and the region. Research undertaken is quite varied and covers disciplines ranging from law, to economics, to social sciences and the humanities.



In 2013 and 2014, the Center hosted a distinguished group of visiting scholars and fellows:



Name	Affiliation	Discipline	Project Focus
Basim Al-Janabi	Institute of International Education/ Scholar Rescue Fund	Political Science	Jordan's membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council
Siham Al-Jumaili	Institute of International Education/ Scholar Rescue Fund	Economics and Agricultural Sciences	Economic analysis of rehabilitation projects
Sami Al Kaisi	Institute of International Education/ Scholar Rescue Fund	Political Science	Iraqi policy towards Palestine from 1936-1958
Bénédicte Coestier	---	Economics	Law, policy making and economic development in Jordan
Sandra Nasser El-Dine	PhD student, University of Tempere	Social Sciences and Humanities	Conflicting Expectations - Arab Youth Experience of Courtship and Marriage





*“Conducting research and capacity building with a partner in the region supports cultural congruence and access to local resources to expedite implementation. The physical presence of a Columbia global center in Amman provides an impressive foundation from which to launch collaborative projects.”*

**Timothy Hunt**

Investigator and Director of Training and Capacity Building  
Social Intervention Group, Columbia University School of Social Work



# INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Institute for Sustainable Development was launched by the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East in December 2010 in conjunction with the Earth Institute (EI) at Columbia University. The Institute also works with a number of partners including Columbia University School of Social Work (CUSSW), Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, as well as a number of faculty members from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

The Institute aims to accelerate joint learning and advance problem solving on issues pertaining to sustainable development and the advancement of communities in the region. It engages faculty from various expertise and schools at Columbia University and delves into various inquiries and disciplines, both specialized and interdisciplinary. Through its partners, the Institute explores issues pertaining to food security, climate change, economic growth, public health, and social development, among others.

Collaborating with a regional network of scholars, the Institute aims to promote a robust and wide-ranging exchange of perspectives, while channeling knowledge and research between scholars and practitioners from the region with those at Columbia. Equipped with these networks, and with close collaborations with partner institutions in the region, as well as a pool of expertise from campus and across the global centers, the Institute is increasingly working on a variety of relevant and central projects.

## **Development Practice**

The Institute is committed to the education of and investment in development practitioners in Jordan and the region. To this end, it has trained close to 600 practitioners since inception, through capacity building activities amounting to more than 80 days of training. Trained practitioners represent over 35 local and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Institute for Sustainable Development also holds training courses developed to advance capacity in addressing sustainable development challenges, with the objective of bridging the gap between executive training outcomes and practical experience, as well as to disseminate lessons learned from various development programs.

Among the specialized workshops and training courses held during 2013-2014 are:

- The Big Picture Behind Monitoring and Evaluation: Methods to Create and Improve Programs Targeted for Jordanian Development
- More than Crunching Numbers: Better Evaluations Grounded in Theory and Literature
- Community Engagement Tools

## **Masters in Development Practice**

The Center is committed to helping build the capacity of local universities in the area of development practice. As such, it has worked with the Earth Institute at Columbia University to support the University of Jordan in the development of a Master in Development Practice (MDP) program. The MDP program intends to contribute to human capacity building in the area of sustainable development, and to provide technical support and policy guidance to public and development institutions at both the national and regional levels. The Institute is working with the MDP program faculty and administrators at the University of Jordan to provide curriculum support, offer blended courses in partnership with the Global MDP Secretariat, and help create innovative internship placements for students enrolled in the program.

## **Climate Change**

The Institute was awarded a grant by Family Health International, through the Regional Partnership for Culture Development Program, to conduct a research study “Impact of Population Growth and Climate Change in Lebanon and Egypt on Water Scarcity, Agricultural Output and Food Security.” The study looked into the changes in water availability and agriculture production as a result of the changes in climate change and population growth in selected areas in Egypt and Lebanon. The report was produced in collaboration with the Center, the Desert Development Center at the American University in Cairo (AUC), and the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science with the Climate Change and Environment Program in the Arab World at the Issam Faris Institute (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

The comparative study examined how communities and countries are affected by growing environmental and human-caused threats, how they are responding, and ideas for how they can improve their adaptation strategies. With the invaluable benefit of being able to draw from an in-depth literature review, expert consultation and findings from case studies in disparate conditions in multiple sites across two countries, the team was able to identify, detail and explore these critical issues in great breadth and depth. The report is available on the Center’s website.

In April 2014, AUB hosted a panel discussion on the impact of climate change and population growth on water and agriculture in the region. The panel also discussed the importance of the study, and its significance to the current climatic changes and water security problems the region is facing by providing recommendations towards better suited policy options.

The panelists included Richard Tutwiler, Professor and Founding Director of the Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment at AUC; Nadim Farajalla, Faculty Research Director of the Climate Change and Environment in the Arab World Program at IFI, and Diala Al-Dabbas, Manager of the Center’s Institute for Sustainable Development.

The Center will build on collaboration with AUB and AUC to develop and implement additional research programs in the region.



Panel discussion at AUB on climate change

## SOCIAL WORK

As one of the professions identified as a priority both locally and regionally, social work has continued to be an area of focus for the Center's programming. In partnership with CUSSW, the Institute for Sustainable Development continues to collaborate on a number of social work initiatives.

### **Jordan Social Work Education for Excellence Program**

The Jordan Social Work Education for Excellence Program (JSWEEP) is a collaboration involving the Amman Center, CUSSW, the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development, Jordan River Foundation, National Council for Family Affairs, and other organizations in the field of social work. JSWEEP works to support the establishment of the social work profession in Jordan, building the capacity for a 21<sup>st</sup> century model for social work education and facilitating the emergence of a cadre of social work professionals who can lead effective governmental and non-governmental social welfare organizations.

The overall vision for JSWEEP is the improvement of social conditions in Jordan through the establishment, nurturing, and utilization of academically prepared social work professionals. Through the courses, JSWEEP has trained more than 500 frontline workers and supervisors.

Since 2009, CUSSW has been developing and offering courses focused on evidence-based practice including:

- Social Work Evidence-Based Assessment and Interventions: Preventing and Treating Problematic Behaviors of Adolescence
- Foundations for Social Work Practice Session I and II
- Skill Building for Foundations for Social Work Practice
- Management for Success
- Social Work Perspectives on Family Violence
- Effective Supervision and Leadership in Social Service Settings
- Couples and Family-Based Interventions: Enhancing Communication and Problem-Solving Skills

In 2013, the Center along with CUSSW, offered—for the first time in Arabic—a course titled “Introduction to Motivational Interviewing: Enhancing Client Outcomes in Social Services.” Other courses included a supervisors’ training workshop, “Introduction to the Genogram: Enhancing Client Assessment,” and “Documentation Training of Trainers,” which was offered in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Jordan River Foundation.





Based on discussions with the Ministry of Social Development, as well as national governmental and non-governmental institutions, JSWEEP will work closely with the Ministry in 2015 to advance the role of social workers in improving mental health services in Jordan. The Center is working closely with the Ministry, and leveraging Columbia University's expertise to identify ways in which social workers can play a greater role in improving the lives of Jordanians with mental health challenges.

JSWEEP will build on efforts initiated by the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health, with direction from the Ministry of Social Development to improve mental health service provision, including the development of standardized screening and referral protocols and training on the foundations of social work practice in mental health settings.

### **Collaboration with Tomorrow's Youth Organization**

A partnership was launched among the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East, Columbia University School of Social Work, and Tomorrow's Youth Organization Palestine (TYO), a non-governmental organization in Nablus that strives to enable children, youth and parents in disadvantaged areas of the Middle East to realize their potential as healthy, active and responsible family and community members. The partnership seeks to enhance the organization's early childhood and youth service learning programs from a social work perspective, and help enhance the understanding of the impact of the TYO volunteer model program on young adults' employability.

The Institute and CUSSW have supported TYO in refining and delivering an early childhood and adolescent, pre- and after-school program based on evidence-based educational theory and social work practice. The team, led by Timothy Hunt, Director of Training and Capacity Building at the Social Intervention Group at CUSSW, reviewed the organization's existing early childhood core curriculum in Palestine and assisted in adaptations, with the goal of enhancing its effectiveness through refinement of learning objectives, activities, and use of evidence-based social work practices and relevant research.

Through a pilot study, CUSSW and the Center have examined the impact of participation in the young adult volunteer and mentoring program, and the student training and employment program, which supports employability skills through supervision, training and classroom experience.



A group photo with the team of Tomorrow's Youth Organization in Nablus

The pilot study was conducted between September and December 2014 to examine the impact of participation in the youth service learning program with 107 Palestinian young adults from TYO's volunteer applicants. The study was designed to provide evidence of the programs' impact on youth volunteer job readiness and general personal development and self-efficacy, as well as to provide relevant data to inform the design of similar programs. Additionally, this study will inform a proposal for a larger scale study and for ongoing collaboration with Tomorrow's Youth Organization.

Engaging faculty from Birzeit University for ethical review and cultural congruence, Timothy Hunt presented initial findings to 15 key stakeholders in Ramallah, including the World Health Organization, the Welfare Association, Arab Bank Palestine, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

### **Partnership with Family Development Foundation**

The Family Development Foundation (FDF), the Middle East Center, and the Columbia University School of Social Work launched a partnership in 2013 built on cooperation and exchange of experiences, ideas and best practices in areas of mutually-agreed domains to enhance the capacity of FDF to provide evidence-based social services and to build the profession of social work in Abu Dhabi.

In 2014, CUSSW and the Center's Institute for Sustainable Development conducted a needs assessment with the engagement of Zayed University's Institutional Review Board. Additionally, a team from Columbia University implemented a seven-day training course on the "Foundations of Social Work," and a three-day course on the "Introduction to Research Methods and the Logic Model: Methodological Models to Bridge Theory, Needs Assessment and Problem Definition with Program Design" to support FDF's capacity to implement research methods for need priorities and program design.

The partnership laid the foundation to support a five-year collaboration with FDF. Findings of the needs assessment, as well as mutually agreed upon objectives will be utilized to develop a long-term plan with FDF senior staff in the spring of 2015 to inform the next phase of the collaboration. Advanced courses to support evidence-based social work interventions and research methods have been identified as priorities.

### **Social Work Fellowship Program**

In conjunction with the Open Society Foundation (OSF) and CUSSW, the Center has continued to administer a Social Work Fellowship Program. The program is 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 fifteen social work fellowships were awarded, five on an annual basis, to enter and complete a two-year Master of Science in Social Work at CUSSW. The final cohort of five graduate in May 2015 and upon their return, CUSSW and the Institute will continue to work closely with the fellows to support their contributions to evidence-based practice and research in Jordan.

Several of the fellowship's graduates have been engaged at the Center, and have provided support to social work efforts and training workshops. This program is funded by OSF, Columbia University School of Social Work, King Abdullah II Fund for Development, the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and private donors. A convening of the social work fellows was organized in December 2014, during which areas of collaboration to advance their careers and the social work profession in Jordan were outlined, including collaboration with the National Association of Social Workers.



## PUBLIC HEALTH

Partnering with the Mailman School of Public Health (MSPH), the 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.

### **Confronting Non-Communicable Diseases in the Middle East and Turkey**

The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East hosted a workshop and convening on “Confronting Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the Middle East and Turkey” on January 19-20, 2014. The two-day event consisted of a workshop that brought together Columbia University faculty with practitioners and academics from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Turkey, to discuss topics related to the global burden of NCDs, research priorities, and potential training programs. The workshop was followed by a public convening attended by representatives of academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

Participating faculty members from Columbia included: Wafaa El-Sadr, University Professor and Director of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs; Richard Deckelbaum, Robert R. Williams Professor of Nutrition and Director of the Institute of Human Nutrition; Miriam Rabkin, Associate Clinical Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine; Anne Paxton, Associate Clinical Professor of Epidemiology and Population and Family Health; and Claire Wang, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management and Co-Director of the Obesity Prevention Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to foster NCD-related research partnerships with academic institutions in the region and identify opportunities for joint student training on research related to non-communicable diseases. Four panels took place with a focus on the following:

- The epidemiology of NCDs
- Selected interventions
- Innovations and best practices
- Integration of NCD prevention, care and treatment with other health services
- Training future public health leaders to confront NCDs

The workshop and convening allowed Columbia faculty members to interact and connect with NCD experts and stakeholders to build more of an understanding of the issues related to non-communicable diseases in the Middle East. This event is part of a larger project initiated by the Global Health Initiative at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health that aims to foster research partnerships with academic institutions, launch training programs, and strengthen public health research related to NCDs in the region.



University Professor Wafaa El-Sadr summarizes key outcomes of NCDs conference



A panel discussion on the Regional Epidemiology of NCDs

## Global Mental Health Research Consortium and Scholars Program

On April 6-10, 2014 the Center hosted a program on promoting women's mental health in the Arab region. The program was organized by Dr. Kathleen Pike, Executive Director and Scientific Co-Director of the Global Mental Health Program, and Associate Director of the Health and Aging Policy Fellowship Program at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. The first meeting titled "Global Mental Health Scientific Research Consortium" included the World Health Organization scientific leadership team, which convened to discuss a wide range of global research studies related to priority questions for the development of the WHO Organization ICD-11 classification of mental disorders.

The second meeting on "Arab Regional Field Studies" included the WHO scientific leadership and fifteen experts from the Arab region to address regionally specific topics and work on implementation of regional field studies related to the development of the WHO ICD-11. This meeting was organized in partnership with the American University of Beirut, headed by Brigitte Khoury, Director at the Arab Regional Center for Research, Training and Policy Making in Mental Health.

The last event was a one-day symposium entitled "Women's Mental Health in the Arab Region." The audience included professionals in the region interested in women's health, mental health, health policy, and the potential to expand their professional and research network. Topics discussed included:

- Promoting Social Justice to Address Interpersonal Violence in the Arab Region
- When There is No Going Home: The Refugee Mental Health Crisis
- Women's Sexual Health: Breaking the Taboo



Alongside this event, 10 philanthropists from the United States, who have expressed interest in women's health, education, global health and development, and human rights attended the symposium and engaged in a six-day learning journey in Jordan. They met with leaders from humanitarian aid organizations working with the refugee communities in Jordan, as well as from WHO, and government, academia and public service. Collectively, these delegates will provide a one-year stipend to fund a global mental health scholar from the Arab region. In May 2014, this project received further funding from the Presidents' Global Innovation Fund for three additional years. The project seeks to expand its research to Latin America, focusing on the interface of substance abuse and mental disorders; South Asia focusing on capacity building through models of task-sharing and adaptation of evidence supported treatments; and finally, East Asia focusing on reducing barriers to accessing mental health care.



## 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. Projects must engage at least one of Columbia's global centers and may be sited in one of the eight cities in which a center is based, or in other locations in the regions served by a global center, as long as they leverage Columbia's global network.

The first round of PGIF grant request proposals was issued in May 2013 for two types of grants: planning grants (up to \$25,000), for a period of no longer than one year; and project grants (up to \$75,000/year), for a period of up to three years. A total of 87 proposals were submitted by more than 100 faculty from 13 schools and from 12 departments in Arts and Sciences. With the help of a 15-member faculty review committee, a total of 20 proposals were selected for funding, 10 of which leveraged the Middle East Center. The following are projects that have leveraged the global center in Amman in 2013-2014:

**Middle-East/North Africa Summer Institute in Amman and Paris (*Amman and Paris Centers*):** This is a nine-week intensive summer program offering a multi-faceted introduction to the languages, culture, and history of the Maghreb; highlighting Middle Eastern and North African history and culture.

**Study of Democratic Engineering in the Middle East (*Amman and Istanbul Centers*):** This intensive three-week summer program focuses on democracy and constitutional engineering in the Middle East. The program will take place in Tunis and Istanbul and will enroll Columbia students alongside students from leading universities in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey. The substantive focus of the program will be on the concept of democracy, the challenges of democratic transitions and consolidation, and trade-offs associated with different ways of organizing democratic institutions.

**Ifriqiyya: The Indian Ocean and Trans-African Slavery Networks (*Amman and Nairobi Centers*):** The goal is to partner with the Makerere Institute of Social Research in Kampala in Uganda, to launch a new network of research drawing together scholarship on the Indian Ocean with inquiry on trans-African slaveries (trans-Saharan and trans-Indian Ocean).

**Global Mental Health Research Consortium and Scholars Program (*Amman, Beijing, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago Centers*):** This project seeks to bring together the leadership of the research network that has been established in the different centers to conduct and oversee the field studies on the classification of mental and behavioral disorders for the WHO ICD-11. The second component of the project supports regional participation at annual meetings, including a symposium, coordinated with the Columbia Global Centers, to address regional mental health priorities.

**Columbia Global Humanities Project (*Amman, Beijing, Mumbai, and Nairobi Centers*):** This project is an attempt to initiate an informed and goal-directed conversation on global humanities by assembling a group of scholars and administrators from Africa, the Arab world, South Asia, and China/Taiwan, for a two-day conference at the Columbia Global Centers | South Asia (Mumbai). The goal is to assess the state of the humanities in the different regions; share thoughts about causes and prospects; and determine whether—and if so, under what modalities—to seek funding for a larger, sustainable initiative aiming at real-world outcomes in the regions concerned.

**Confronting Non-Communicable Diseases in the Middle East and Turkey (*Amman and Istanbul Centers*):** The two-year project involves a rapid situational assessment and regional NCDs conference, fostering research partnerships with local and regional colleagues for the purpose of identifying a priority research agenda, and conducting formative research projects, seminars, and academic exchanges, supporting both knowledge generation and knowledge dissemination.

**Refugee Perceptions of International Intervention in the Syria Civil War (*Amman Center*):** The project aims to gauge the perception of Syrian refugees in terms of possible political solutions to the war. Daniel Corstange, Assistant Professor of Political Science and of International and Public Affairs, traveled to Amman in January 2014 to conduct high-level interviews and set-up a survey for Syrian refugees. During his visit, Professor Corstange conducted extensive analyses and held numerous meetings with local and international organizations working directly with Syrian refugees, facilitated through the Center.

**Global Leadership Matrix Project (*Amman and Istanbul Centers*):** The Global Leadership Matrix (GLEaM) is a unique research and education project that takes an interdisciplinary approach to developing the science of leadership, and is led by Sheena Iyengar, S.T. Lee Professor of Business, and Research Director at the Jerome A. Chazen Institute of International Business. GLEaM seeks to apply a wide range of social science methods and theories to the rapidly changing world that our leaders face. Professor Iyengar has created a sophisticated website with leadership research surveys that offer participants valuable personalized feedback based on their responses. During her visit to Amman in November 2013, Professor Iyengar presented a public lecture and met with notable stakeholders in Jordan including Arabtech Jardaneh, Aramex, Endeavor, GMS Holdings, Investbank, and Talal Abu Ghazaleh Group.

**Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments (*Amman and Istanbul Centers*):** Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments is a project that the Department of Art History and Archaeology began in Iraqi Kurdistan in 2013. The project was awarded a PGIF planning grant, which allowed a small team from Columbia to travel to the region to meet with colleagues locally and to begin fieldwork in Iraq. Spearheaded by Zainab Bahrani, Edith Porada Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archaeology, the first season of fieldwork was able to document and assess the damage of major monuments and heritage sites in Erbil, Dohuk and Suleymaniye. Professor Bahrani intends for this project to fit within the larger group of projects that first started with her colleague, Stephen Murray's Mapping Gothic France. His project established the methods and system that is now being applied to monuments in Iraq.

The first step of the project, accomplished in 2013, was to document the standing monuments and rock reliefs in the Kurdish mountains, their state of preservation and condition for historical and conservational purposes. The Middle East Center will organize a conference on cultural heritage in August 2015.

**Global Migration Network (*All global centers*):** Led by Julien Teitler, Associate Professor at Columbia University School of Social Work, the Global Migration Network project works to establish a network of scholars focused on the health consequences of migration worldwide that engages in a truly global conversation. Specifically, capitalizing on the existence of the Columbia Global Centers to create an intellectual web of migration scholars, connected through regional nodes (the global centers) to Columbia University via a virtual space. The virtual space will centralize data, information, and scholarship relevant to migration research, and will be hosted by the Columbia Population Research Center. In addition to identifying key regional migration scholars to recruit into the network and disseminating information about the activities of the network, locally, the centers will host annual network meetings and conferences on a rotating basis. This migration network will greatly impact scholarship, engage Columbia and local scholars with the global centers. The first Global Migration web conference took place in January 2014.

For the second round of grants disbursement, a total of 53 proposals were submitted by more than 100 faculty from 14 schools and from 14 departments in Arts and Sciences. With the help of a 15-member faculty review committee, a total of 13 proposals were selected for funding, six of which involved the Middle East Center:

**Fostering a Community of Practice around Drought Information Tools (*Amman, Nairobi, and Santiago Centers*):**

The project seeks to bring together researchers and practitioners working to improve the development and delivery of drought information for societal decision making in China, Kenya, and Jordan, creating opportunities for shared learning and identification of new research opportunities.

**Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments (*Amman and Istanbul Centers*):** This project was awarded a 2013 PGIF planning grant that allowed a small team from the Department of Art History and Archeology to travel to the Middle East to connect with local colleagues and begin the fieldwork in Iraq.

**Screenwriting and Creative Producing Workshops (*all global centers*):** This project aims to provide workshops on production and screenwriting at all of the global centers.

**Global Nursing Research Development Initiative (*Amman and Nairobi Centers*):** This project proposes to establish a cross-regional core convening group of nurse leaders and researchers in global health and develop a database of nurse and midwife leaders involved in regional research and program evaluation. The project will also plan a summit to identify and reach consensus on goals in knowledge and priorities for nursing research.

**Children Global Oral Health Initiative: An Adaptable Interdisciplinary Model for Chronic Health Care Management and Health Promotion (*Amman, Beijing, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago Centers*):** This telehealth project will create health initiatives focused on teledentistry (Nairobi, year one), youth smoking cessation and cancer prevention (Beijing, year two), and childhood obesity and diabetes (Amman, year three).

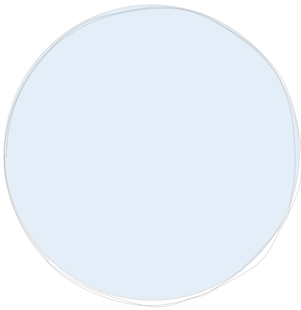
**Global Mental Health Research Consortium and Scholars Program (*Amman, Beijing, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago Centers*):** The project will continue to expand the network by engaging regional expertise, with a focus on low and middle income countries, where mental health is an emerging public health priority.



# EDUCATION

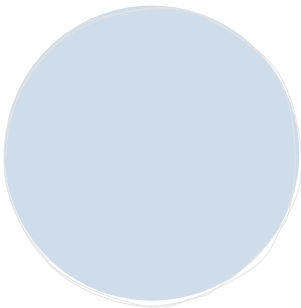


Several of the Middle East Center's most vibrant programs draw on the expertise of Columbia University faculty to develop skills, exchange knowledge, and promote learning in and about the region. The Center supports a significant expansion of opportunities for Columbia students to broaden their educational experience through regional study in the Middle East in a variety of fields. As its educational offerings continue to expand and deepen, the Center is regenerating its Institute for Education to coordinate a broad range of education-related activities and engage in policy research.



## QUEEN RANIA TEACHER ACADEMY

The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East continues to be 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 is an independent Jordanian institute committed to advancing teacher education and policy deliberation throughout the Middle East, and was established under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah and in partnership with Teachers College (TC), through its relationship with the Center. QRTA was established to improve public education in Jordan by providing high-quality professional development training programs for government school teachers and administrators.



Her Majesty Queen Rania visits QRTA to mark its 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary





*“For students, the Columbia Global Centers open up entirely new ways of engaging with the world in addition to the classic forms. Such an experience for a student in a foreign country, looking at a serious issue such as urban development or clean water, can be transformational.”*

**Lee C. Bollinger**

President of Columbia University



The unique partnership between QRTA and TC, supported and facilitated by the global center in Amman, has enabled them to create a remarkable set of professional development programs tailored to the region and address the areas that teachers are most in need of. This model leverages the knowledge of each partner—QRTA in regional contexts and Arabic language, TC in providing world-class research and pedagogical insights related to education, and the Center in its robust network throughout the region.

Funded by the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and supported by Jordan's Ministry of Education, the partnership is dedicated to improving teacher practice in classrooms, strengthening the national curricular initiative, and building capacity in schools and key institutions to support a culture of continuous instructional improvement.

Throughout 2013-2014, QRTA continued to expand its set of professional development programs through its School Networks Program, which sets it apart from other teacher training institutions. This unique program was designed and delivered after launching two additional cohorts, and piloting a new Arabic network.

Through its multiple programs and networks, QRTA in collaboration with the Center has reached more than 21,000 school teachers and educators, and continues to help reshape and advance the landscape of teaching and public education in Jordan and the region.

In February 2014, QRTA launched a program with USAID “Cultivating Inclusive and Supportive Learning Environments,” which aims to hold trainings and build the capacity of teachers from 200 public schools in Jordan. The program's target is to train 4,000 teachers, and by doing so, the reach of the program will span to benefit more than 130,000 students across the Kingdom. As of December 2014, the program reached approximately 3,000 teachers and supervisors.

QRTA has also partnered with USAID to launch the Environmental Education Network Program in “Education for Sustainable Development.” This network is designed to improve the quality of environmental education and to raise students' awareness about the country's environmental issues and concerns. In May 2014, the network's second cohort graduated, and QRTA is working to ensure the sustainability of the knowledge teachers and supervisors gained.

In June 2014, QRTA concluded its training program on “Emergency Support to Safeguard Education Quality for Syrian Students in Jordan,” organized in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The program is focused on providing education in emergency situations, and has reached over 4,000 teachers across Jordan, with an emphasis on schools with large numbers of Syrian refugee students.

The past year in particular has witnessed a notable increase in capacity at QRTA, facilitated and supported by the Center and Teachers College, such that it has become its own viable institution, as originally envisioned. QRTA has succeeded in developing, designing and delivering a myriad of professional development programs in relevant subject areas, and has packaged 15 workshops to public and private school teachers over the span of only 12 months, along with six independent subject-specific seminars. In addition to its work in Jordan, QRTA continues to expand its efforts regionally; offering various training programs in Jerusalem and the West Bank in conjunction with Madrasati Palestine, an initiative launched by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah to combat the deteriorating state of education in east Jerusalem by renovating its disadvantaged schools.





Interaction of teachers during a QRTA workshop

Due to the growing number of training programs offered, QRTA is working closely with the Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE) at Columbia University 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 to allow for any improvement of services, as well as to track the design and enactment of the school network strategy and the use of new practices and their sustainability over time.

## TEACHER TRAINING EXPANDED TO SAUDI ARABIA

In late 2014, CPRE launched a partnership with the Tatweer Company for Educational Services in Saudi Arabia, facilitated by the Middle East Center. Tatweer works with the Ministry of Education as part of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Public Education Development Project—an initiative to raise the quality of teaching and learning across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Spearheaded by Tom Corcoran, Co-Director at CPRE, and Associate Vice-President for International Affairs at Columbia University's Teachers College, and Dr. Sami Alshwaikh, Director of the English Language Teaching Development Initiative and General Manager of Business Development at Tatweer, the project began with a focus on English language instruction in public Saudi Arabian middle schools.

To launch the teacher professional development segment of the work, TC's Reading and Writing Project consultants led an intensive four-day course in writing instruction in Riyadh. Since then, 150 teachers have attended a total of three institutes with consultants from Teachers College, including Professor Lucy Calkins, Robinson Professor in Children's Literature and Director of the Literacy Specialist Program. Saudi supervisors also worked with Director Corcoran and Leena Krokfors, Visiting Scholar from the University of Helsinki, focusing on formative assessment and school leadership and supervision topics. The year culminated with a cadre of twenty Saudi Arabian teachers going to New York for the Summer Institutes for the Teaching of Writing, with several of them returning for the Coaching Institute.

In 2015, 300 new Saudi participants, including some high school teachers, will join the initial 150 and begin working with TC consultants in short courses every few months in regions around the Kingdom. CPRE will also launch a second phase of the work; to collaborate with Tatweer to support entire schools becoming hubs of English instruction excellence, creating sites in each region that host visitors eager to learn about evidence-based, high-impact practices in instruction. At the same time, CPRE will launch a study of the effectiveness of the professional development courses that have been held, as seen through the lens of Saudi students' improvements in English language proficiency since the onset of the work.



## ONSITE LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Onsite learning is strongly advocated in the mission of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East, and the facilities available allow the Center to hold numerous onsite programs, particularly over the summer. In 2013-2014, the Center held the following programs:

### SUMMER ECOSYSTEM EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES PROGRAM

In conjunction with Columbia College and the Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability (EICES), the Center offered the fourth iteration of the Summer Ecosystem Experiences for Undergraduates (SEE-U) program in May-June 2014, which brought to Jordan 17 students for five weeks of research and study on ecology, biodiversity and sustainability.

Students were accompanied by Jenna Lawrence, Adjunct Associate Research Scientist at EICES and Lecturer in Ecology and Environmental Biology, and Teaching Assistant Natalia Rossi, a graduate student in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The group visited different areas in Jordan including Amman, Aqaba, Dana, and Ajloun. 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.



Guest speakers from Yarmouk University, The University of Jordan, government, and non-profit organizations were incorporated into the SEE-U curriculum to provide a local perspective on current issues in sustainable development, including biodiversity conservation, freshwater resource management, desertification, and deforestation in Jordan. The program was held in partnership with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

### MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA SUMMER INSTITUTE IN AMMAN AND PARIS

In conjunction with Columbia's Office of Global Programs, the Center held the fifth offering of the annual Arabic language program in May-August 2014. The program, expanded and renamed the Middle East/North Africa Summer Institute, was run by Taoufik Ben-Amor, Gordon Gray Jr. Senior Lecturer in Arabic Studies; Madeleine Dobie, Associate Professor of French; and Emmanuelle Saada, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, and Director of the Center for French and Francophone Studies. The expansion of this summer's program was made possible through funding from the Presidents' Global Innovation Fund.

The nine-week intensive summer program offered a multi-faceted introduction to the languages, culture, and history of the Maghreb; highlighting Middle Eastern and North African history and culture. During the first part of the program, students spent time in Amman learning Arabic and attending seminars that examined the Maghreb through the lens of migration.



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. The program attracted 25 Columbia undergraduate and graduate students in 2014, with 13 of them traveling onto Paris for the second half of the course.

## CAPSTONE PROJECTS FOR MASTERS STUDENTS



Students learning the *dabkeh*, a traditional Levantine folk dance

In spring 2014, the Center facilitated one of the Capstone projects of Columbia University's Master of Science in Sustainability Management program. The Capstone team, led by Lisa Singleton, Lecturer in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, worked with Better Work Jordan, which is a jointly-run program developed by the International Labour Organization, World Bank, and International Finance Corporation to improve the attractiveness of investment in the textile industry in Jordan, by focusing on good labor practices.

The project was to develop a baseline evaluation for a new workers' community center in the largest industrial zone, Al Hassan, located near Irbid in northern Jordan. The report was an impact evaluation on the clients served, and the research focused on survey and focus group work. Questions for the report included their use of the new facility, satisfaction of services and additional services that were desired, interest in voluntary participation in center staffing, and any links that could be determined for increased happiness and productivity at work as a result of the center. The results were summarized in a report titled "The Workers' Center at Al-Hassan Industrial Zone: A Baseline Evaluation."

A second aspect of the Capstone was to determine the future management direction of the worker's center. This was done by interviewing key stakeholders, such as business owners that operate within the center, labor union directors, industrial zone authorities, labor rights NGO leaders, ministry of labor officials, and current Better Work staff at the center. Findings included that the center operations as originally envisioned would need to reconsider financial sustainability. Students made several suggestions that would phase in revenue streams, and determined that the mission of the worker's center, in terms of types of services offered, may require changes in the future, whether to better meet client needs, to more accurately reflect what providers are able to deliver, or to cut costs.

### Summer Program on Democracy and Constitutional Engineering in the Middle East

Beginning in summer 2015, Columbia University will offer a new intensive three-week summer program focused on democracy and constitutional engineering in the Middle East. The program is organized by Columbia Global Centers | Middle East, Columbia Global Centers | Turkey, and the Office of Global Programs. It will be held in Tunis and Istanbul, and enroll Columbia students alongside students from leading universities in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey. The substantive focus of the program will be 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 will study general issues associated with democratic politics, and will not focus exclusively on Tunisia and Turkey, these locations will provide students with meaningful exposure to the recent histories and challenges that both countries have faced.

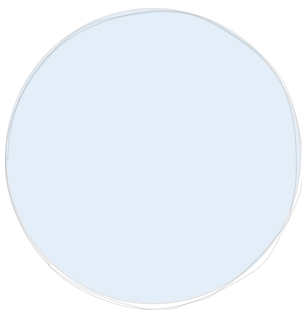
Student perspectives of the central issues in the program will also be influenced by the incorporation of students from Tunisia, Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine, where recent experiences with democratic governance have been extremely challenging and dramatically different. To enable students to think systematically about how to formulate and test arguments about democracy, the program will integrate the study of democracy with the study of quantitative research methods. The program is supported by the Lee C. and Jean Magnano Bollinger Fellowship.



# PROGRAMS



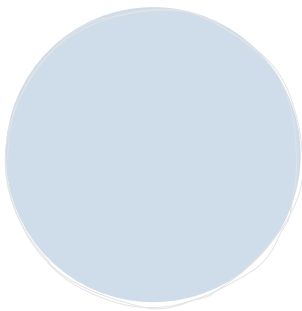
The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East is committed to creating opportunities for scholarship and study beyond libraries and classrooms. Many of the Center's programs pair Columbia students and faculty with practitioners throughout the Middle East, working in a variety of sectors, to develop hands-on projects that promote study and expand the range of academic experiences. These programs highlight the range of opportunities that the global centers can offer to members of the Columbia community. These activities also strengthen the Middle East Center's impact on its community, by allowing scholars to work in hands-on, applied settings with local experts.



## DEBATING THE "WOMAN QUESTION" IN THE NEW MIDDLE EAST



The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East held a two-day workshop on "Debating the 'Woman Question' in the New Middle East: Women's Rights, Citizenship, and Social Justice" on May 3-4, 2014 in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Social Difference (CSSD). A report summarizing key issues discussed was put together by Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Battenwieser Professor of Social Science at Columbia University, and Susanna Ferguson, PhD Student in the History Department at Columbia University.



The workshop's organizing committee was comprised of Professor Abu-Lughod; Amal Ghandour, Special Advisor to the Center; Hoda El Sadda, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Cairo University; and Professor Safwan Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University.



*“The setting and the unique support of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East were crucial in fostering the atmosphere of intense focus and collegial debate among those with both deep regional expertise and sharp commitments.”*

**Lila Abu-Lughod**

Joseph L. Battenwieser Professor of Social Science,  
and Director of the Middle East Institute, Columbia University



Participants included:

**Sarah Ababneh**, Assistant Professor at the Center for Strategic Studies, The University of Jordan

**Reem Al-Botmeh**, Legal researcher at the Institute of Law, Birzeit University

**Asef Bayat**, Professor of Sociology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Samar Dudin**, Regional Director and Head of Programs, Ruwwad

**Hodda El Sadda**, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Cairo University

**Susanna Ferguson**, PhD Student in the History Department, Columbia University

**Hala Gosheh**, Gender Expert and Development Consultant

**Nabila Hamza**, President, Foundation for the Future

**Frances Hasso**, Director of International Comparative Studies and Associate Professor in Women's Studies, Duke University

**Leila Hilal**, Director of the Middle East Task Force, New America Foundation

**Nicola Pratt**, Reader of the International Politics of the Middle East, University of Warwick

**Zakia Salime**, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, Rutgers University

**Yara Sallam**, Transnational Justice Officer, Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights

**Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian**, Director of the Gender Studies Program, Mada al-Carmel: Arab Center for Applied Social Research

**Marwa Sharafeldin**, Researcher and doctoral candidate at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford

**Ahdaf Soueif**, Author, and Chairperson and Founder, Palestinian Festival of Literature

**Meriem Yafout**, Professor and Researcher in Social Science

The workshop included a series of mediated dialogues among scholars, academics, and practitioners who work on women's rights, citizenship, and social justice in the Middle East. Participants critically examined the roles of law, religion and political economy as they relate to women's rights, against the backdrop of the changing political climate in the region.





The workshop was organized around three broad themes:

- Bread and Dignity: Political Economies and Women's Lives
- What's in a Constitution? Political and Legal Strategies for Citizenship and Social Justice
- Who's Afraid of *Shari'a*? Islamic Feminism and Islamist Governance

The two-day event culminated in a public conversation, moderated by Professor Abu-Lughod, between Asef Bayat, Professor of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, Director of the Gender Studies Program at Mada al-Carmel: Arab Center for Applied Social Research.

The workshop aimed to promote a collective critical evaluation of the situation, to consider how academic research on gender and rights relates to the work of practitioners in women's organizations, and to assess conventional arguments about what is impeding women from full entitlements of citizenship.



Debates about women in the Arab world, as well as women's activism on the ground in various countries in the region, have occurred in a context in which the international community has insistently made women's citizenship and rights a key symbol of the success or failure of the revolutions and the value of new political orders. Participants discussed how this international interest, which itself is linked to longstanding political and economic interests in the region, including alliances with the old regimes, affects the work of Arab women activists, the political projects they seek to undertake, and even the definitions of social justice with which they can work.

This discussion is part of a larger project on gender, religion and law in Muslim societies, an initiative at the Center for the Study of Social Difference at Columbia University.

## TRANSLATION OF 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 first three books in the series are *Democracies in Danger* by Alfred Stepan, *On Democracy* by Robert Dahl and *Patterns of Democracy* by Arend Lijphart.

The Center is working with IRCPL to develop distribution networks in the Arab world to reach interested scholars, students, and policy makers. The networks include professors at Arabic-language universities and professionals who work in public policy or are involved in governmental or non-governmental organizations. Hard copies of the books are available for free distribution via IRCPL, and will soon be available as digital texts on e-book websites.



# COMMUNITY-FAMILY INTEGRATION TEAMS PROGRAMS: HELPING AT-RISK CHILDREN THROUGH AN INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERSHIP

Researchers with the Columbia University School of Social Work have recently completed a multi-year United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) research collaboration with the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East and the Ministry of Social Development in Jordan to institutionalize the Community-Family Integration Teams (C-FIT) programs. The C-FIT programs are a package of evidence-based psychosocial interventions that have been adapted to serve children and adolescents in two populations: children in need of care and protection, and children in conflict with the law. The programs were designed following a comprehensive needs assessment process that included a screening study of children and adolescents who resided in institutional care homes and juvenile detention centers, and extensive collaboration with stakeholders in government, the justice system, and civil society.

For children in need of care and protection, the C-FIT program provides community-based alternatives to institutional care in what is the first formal therapeutic foster care program to be launched in the region. In this program, government behavioral observers partner with NGO based social workers to place children in foster care and to support foster families after placement. Support includes specialized training to foster parents to address the complex challenges that complicate the care of children who in many cases have experienced significant trauma, abandonment, and neglect. With the launch of the C-FIT foster care program in Zarqa in August 2012 and Amman in January 2014, the C-FIT program became the first formal foster care program in the region to provide a family-based alternative to institutional care for children in Jordan. To date, 45 children have been placed in foster care homes.

For children in conflict with the law, the C-FIT program provides a family-based diversion program for non-violent adolescent offenders who are arrested and referred to the juvenile court. Typically, such children are placed in detention centers with serious and repeat offenders where they await decisions about their cases. Like the C-FIT foster care program, the diversion program supports families with evidence-based psychosocial interventions provided by government behavioral observers and NGO-based social workers. With the launch of the C-FIT diversion program in Irbid in April 2012 and Amman in January 2014, the program expanded options for judges who wanted to ensure that adolescent needs were addressed but who felt that a detention center placement would be detrimental to non-violent offenders. To date, 34 children have been served in C-FIT diversion programs.

Among the notable achievements of the collaboration is the institutionalization of the C-FIT program within the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development in August 2014. From its inception, the C-FIT program was designed and pilot-tested with the goal of institutionalization. Toward this end, Jordanian leaders have been instrumental in the design of the program and in the design of systems to support the program once adopted by the Ministry.

A steering committee of stakeholders from the Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF, the judicial system, and leaders from civil society provided overall direction to the project. The primary administrators of the program have been Ministry of Social Development professionals who were seconded to the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East to supervise program activities, and to develop a quality assurance system for the program. Jordanian leaders have developed a training program for new generations of C-FIT behavioral observers and social workers.

Other notable achievements of the collaboration included:

- Engagement with judicial stakeholders to establish the legal frameworks for foster care and diversion
- Establishment of a public-private service model that strengthens civil society through agreements between the Ministry of Social Development and Jordan-based NGOs to provide C-FIT services
- A growing cadre of Jordanian professionals who have been trained to provide C-FIT services

From a scholarly perspective, the collaboration supported four discrete research studies. These studies included a meta-analysis of research on diversion, a screening study of psychosocial needs of institutionalized children in Jordanian care homes and detention centers, a community study of stigma attitudes toward children in need of care and protection and toward children in conflict with the law, and a pilot evaluation of the C-FIT programs. These four studies provided data to use in strategic decision making to support C-FIT program development, and have contributed 11 published articles in scholarly journals and numerous presentations at professional conferences worldwide.

The C-FIT development team was comprised of principal investigators Drs. Robin Gearing, Michael Mackenzie, and Craig Schwalbe of the Columbia University School of Social Work, and Dr. Rawan Ibrahim and Shadi Bushnaq at the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East. Ministry of Social Development managers seconded to the project included Khitam Ikhdair, Waleed Al Shatarat, and Dr. Faleh Al Husaini.

## STUDIO-X GLOBAL NETWORK: AMMAN LAB

Questions on citizenship, representation, access, and memory have been central to discussions at Studio-X Amman Lab. In recent years, the evolving landscape of Amman has reflected the intensity of the changes transforming the region. Throughout the history of the city, population growth, residential expansion and fast densification, even sudden bursts of investment, are largely the result of neighboring conflict. Migration, uprisings, and continuous renegotiations of the notion of citizenship are reshaping cities in the Arab region in a speed that makes a generation of architects and planners work in a state of constant transition and uncertainty.

The incessant patterns of migration and their traces on the city provide Amman with a unique opportunity to become a laboratory where new pluralist forms of citizenship are practiced and theorized. In this context, uncertainty becomes not an obstacle, but a driving force towards a collective making of a sustainable and equitable city.

Studio-X Amman Lab, run by Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) and the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East, has become a point of reference in the region for experimental design, programming, and research dedicated to investigating the future of cities. Amman Lab activities, which include lectures, symposia, screenings, workshops, and roundtables are today recognized occasions for architects and designers in Jordan and the region to get together for knowledge exchange with GSAPP faculty and students.

### Janet Abu Lughod Library

The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East and Studio-X Amman Lab have become the home of the Janet Abu-Lughod Library in Amman, a generous donation presented by her family to Columbia University. The content focuses on urban theory and sociology, and spatial politics. The library has become an essential resource for researchers and students, interested in the history and future of cities. In the coming months, Architect Matthew Barton will design the library space. Content will be searchable online, and become part of the Cairo Urban Resources Library network, an initiative of CLUSTER, an urbanism research platform in Cairo directed by Architect Omar Nagati and Curator and Architect, Beth Stryker.



Highlighted below is a sampling of the public events, discussions, and student workshops the Studio-X Amman Lab has organized in 2013-2014:

**Death Lab: Transience** – Karla Rothstein, Adjunct Associate Professor of Architecture at GSAPP and students in the studio “Death Lab: Transience” traveled to Amman in fall 2013 for field research. The group met with various experts, religious leaders, planners, and thinkers investigating the relationships between death, the city, and memory. Also, Studio-X Amman Lab organized a public talk on Cairo’s City of the Dead by Moataz Faissal Farid, Co-Founder of Zawia magazine, and moderated by Karla Rothstein.



Moataz Farid discusses his research on Cairo’s City of the Dead

**Collecting Architecture Territories** – Collecting Architecture Territories (CAT) is a research project that reflects on the relationship between architecture and collecting, considering architecture both as an agent that organizes, supports and informs various contemporary collecting practices, and as an object of collection in its own right. A key hypothesis of the project is that the present explosion of the museum can no longer be understood solely in museological terms, but can be productively recast by linking its relationship to the ongoing definition and redefinition of geographical, cultural, and financial territories. The CAT project expanded to the region through a summer workshop organized in



GSAPP students attend CAT Amman Minutes event

collaboration with Studio-X Amman Lab in June 2013 led by Adjunct Assistant Professors at GSAPP Mark Wasiuta, Craig Buckley, Adam Bandler, and Jordan Carver. Through this workshop, students traveled to Amman, Beirut, Sharjah, Ramallah and Jerusalem, and collaborated with experts from Darat al Funun in Amman, the American University of Beirut, and the Sharjah Art Foundation.

In March 2014, Mark Wasiuta and Adam Bandler continued to develop their research on the relationship between architecture and collecting through a design studio. Students traveled to Amman, Beirut, and Doha

as part of the Kinne travel program at GSAPP for research, field visits, as well as for the CAT Amman Minutes event, following the Athens Minutes, the Istanbul Minutes, and the New York Minutes. For the latter, 14 curators, artists, architects, critics and writers gathered from GSAPP and around the region for a full-day symposium co-curated with Darat al Funun.

**Research Fellowship Program** – This fellowship program was inaugurated in Amman in April 2014 with Saba Innab, an artist and architect whose research project consists of a non-linear mapping of the city through its topography, its temporality and growth, and through both archived and inscribed or phantom historical layers and narratives that constitute Amman. Through painting, mapping, sculpture and design, Innab’s work explores the suspended states between temporality and permanence and is concerned with the variable notions of dwelling, building, and language in architecture.

**Pop-Up Series: Studio Visits** – Studio Visits is a journey through the studios and offices of architects and spatial designers working from Amman; from emerging to established and from small studios to large teams. Through presentations, interviews and informal discussions, participants are invited into the workspace of architects to learn about their ideas, design methodologies, and driving forces. The series will culminate in a spatial analysis, recorded interviews, and other audiovisual and written material focused on further understanding the architect's workspace. The visits were launched in May 2014 at Symbiosis Designs Ltd. through a conversation with architects Khalid Nahhas and Ramiz Ayoub.



First pop-up meeting with architects Khalid Nahhas and Ramiz Ayoub

**Architecture and Representation: the Lens of Diplomacy** – In fall 2013, Amale Andraos, Dean of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University traveled to Amman with students for a studio titled “Architecture and Representation: the Lens of Diplomacy.” For this occasion, Studio-X Amman Lab organized a regional conference with leading architects and historians from Abu Dhabi, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Jerusalem, and New York, focusing on the notion of “representation” in architecture.

Participants included architects Senan Abdelqader, Principal at Senan Abdelqader Architects; Bernard Khoury, Principal at DW5; Makram El-Kadi, Principal at L.E.FT; Shahira Fahmy, Architect; Yasser Elsheshtawy, Associate Professor of Architecture at United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain.

**Conference on Architecture and Representation: the Arab City** – On November 21, 2014 the second iteration of “Architecture and Representation: the Arab City” took place at GSAPP at Columbia University, with leading architects, historians, and theorists from across the region, and the world. The conference was spearheaded by GSAPP’s Dean Amale Andraos, and Studio-X Amman Lab Curator, Nora Akawi.

The conference keynote was delivered by Timothy Mitchell, Professor and Chair of the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and Africa Studies. Opening remarks were delivered by Professor Safwan Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University.



Conference on Architecture and Representation: the Arab City, with welcome address by Dean Amale Andraos, keynote by Professor Timothy Mitchell, and introduction by Professor Safwan Masri





Speakers and respondents included:

**Ashraf Abdallah**, Doctoral Candidate at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

**Senan Abdelqader**, Principal, Senan Abdelqader Architects

**Nadia Abu El-Haj**, Professor of Anthropology at Barnard College and Co-Director of the Center for Palestine Studies, Columbia University

**Suad Amiry**, Author, architect, and Founder of Riwaq

**George Arbid**, Associate Professor of Architecture at the American University of Beirut and Founding Director, Arab Center for Architecture

**Mohamed Elshahed**, Founder and Editor, Cairoobserver.com

**Yasser Elsheshtawy**, Associate Professor of Architecture, United Arab Emirates University

**Rania Ghosn**, Assistant Professor of Architecture at the School of Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Saba Innab**, Architect, artist, and Visiting Research Fellow at Studio-X Amman Lab

**Ziad Jamaledine**, Principal, L.E.FT Architects

**Ahmed Kanna**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of the Pacific

**Bernard Khoury**, Principal, DW5

**Laura Kurgan**, Associate Professor of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Columbia University

**Adrian Lahoud**, Director of the Bartlett M.Arch Program in Urban Design, University College London

**Ali Manger**, Principal, MYAA Architects

**Reinhold Martin**, Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

**Magda Mostafa**, Associate Professor in the Construction and Architectural Engineering Department, The American University in Cairo

**Nicolai Ouroussoff**, Former Architecture Critic for The New York Times and Pulitzer Prize Nominee for Criticism

**Nasser Rabbat**, Aga Khan Professor and Director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Hashim Sarkis**, Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Felicity Scott**, Associate Professor of Architecture, Director of the PhD Program, and Co-Director of MSc. Program in Critical, Curatorial, and Conceptual Practices in Architecture at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

**Hala Warde**, Architect and Partner, Ateliers Jean Nouvel

**Mark Wasiuta**, Director of Exhibitions, and Co-Director of the MSc. Program in Critical, Curatorial, and Conceptual Practices in Architecture, Columbia University

**Eyal Weizman**, Professor of Spatial and Visual Cultures and Director of the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths, University of London

**Mabel Wilson**, Associate Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

**Gwendolyn Wright**, Professor of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Columbia University



Building on the presentations and discussions, the forthcoming book *Architecture and Representation: The Arab City* will be published by GSAPP Publications in 2015, a volume exploring the evolution of Arab cities through questions on identity, conflict, and environmental risk.

**Jerusalem and the Occupation of Memory** – Through Studio-X Amman Lab, a new research topic was introduced at GSAPP focused on the politics of preservation and memory in the context of Israel/Palestine. The studio course “Jerusalem and the Occupation of Memory” was taught by Craig Konyk, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Architecture at GSAPP. Students traveled to Amman and Jerusalem in March 2014 to analyze sites, and meet with stakeholders and academics involved in the preservation of Lifta, a Palestinian village in ruins located on the Western edge of Jerusalem.



**Echoing Borders** – The workshop “Echoing Borders: the Shelter, the Camp, the City, and the State” addresses the necessity for understanding and analyzing the evolution of ‘temporary settlements’ in relation to the place of the refugee in contemporary migration politics in the region. The Echoing Borders workshop, held in Amman and Istanbul on August 7-27, 2014, aimed at providing the necessary platform for understanding and analyzing spatial patterns within refugee flight trajectories and temporary settlement in response to war and conflict in relationship to changing migration policies in Jordan and Turkey. Through a series of conceptual spatial mappings and visualization exercises, student participants investigated the many valences of contemporary spatial politics in the region, by looking at the particular intricacies of refugee status and migration policy, tracing the trajectory of the refugee from the border to the camp or to the city, and identifying and visualizing the condition of waiting and suspension, sequences of conflicts and insecurity, and the fluctuating notions of borders and citizenship.

The summer workshop contributes to the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation’s Studio-X global research series on Security Regimes, which examines global spaces of exception. The workshop is part of a larger research initiative “Echoing Borders: The Shelter, The Camp, The City and the State” developed by Studio-X Amman Lab Curator, Nora Akawi, and Adjunct Associate Professor at GSAPP, Nina Kolowratnik, through the Studio-X Global Network. To continue building on the findings of the workshop, Professor Kolowratnik and Akawi taught an Echoing Borders fall 2014 seminar at GSAPP, in collaboration with Madeeha Merchant of GSAPP’s Spatial Information Design Lab, focusing on the shifting notions of borders and citizenship and the spatial manifestations of migration and mobility within contemporary politics in Jordan and Turkey. In addition to critical research and writing, this seminar will use visualization methods to ask how architectural and spatial formulations can affect, register, and make legible the state, the subject, and conflicts between the two.

**X-Talk Series** – In January 2014, the Amman Lab launched the X-Talk Series. Inaugurated by artist Rayyane Tabet, the first X-Talk in Amman took place at Jadal, an independent grassroots cultural space in downtown Amman. Rayyane Tabet shared a seven-year long research, design, and art project focusing on the trans-Arabian pipeline.

Other talks have included:

**Moataz Faissal Farid**, Co-Founder of Zawia magazine, and **Karla Rothstein**, Adjunct Associate Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation – *Extraordinary Coexistence: Cairo's City of the Dead* on November 4, 2013

**Myriam Ababsa**, Associate Research Fellow in Social Geography at the French Institute for the Near East – Book launch of *The Atlas of Jordan* on November 23, 2013

**George Katodrytis**, Associate Professor of Architecture at the American University of Sharjah – *Emergent Material and Performative Urbanism* on February 26, 2014

**Ameena Ahmadi**, Architecture Manager at Capital Projects Directorate, Qatar Foundation – *Constructing Education City* on June 24, 2014

**Pelin Tan**, Associate Professor and Vice Dean at the Faculty of Architecture, Mardin Artuklu University – *Transversal Instituting on Refugees, Alliances and Labor* on July 17, 2014

**Saba Innab**, Architect and Artist – *Reading the City from its Edge* on August 10, 2014

**Ahmad Barclay**, Architect and Information Designer – *Visualizing Impact: Infographics with a Cause* on August 11, 2014

**Lucas Oesch**, Post-Doctorate Fellow, Swiss National Science Foundation – *Upgrading Informality and Temporariness in Amman: the Case of Informal Settlements and Palestinian Refugee Camps* on August 14, 2014

**George Katodrytis**, Associate Professor of Architecture at the American University of Sharjah – *The Physicality of Displacement: A Place of Impossible Space* on August 15, 2014

**Josep Lluís Mateo**, Principle Architect at Mateo Arquitectura and Professor of Architecture at ETH, Zurich – *Nature, City and Matter* on October 13, 2014

Film screenings, lectures, roundtables, field visits, and workshops at Studio-X in Amman are curated to aggregate and share knowledge, build on existing research, and promote a continuity of critical feedback, communication and collaboration between GSAPP and scholars, architects, artists, designers and other active citizens and stakeholders in Amman and neighboring cities.



## INTERNSHIPS

The Center continues to host interns regularly to assist with activities and the coordination of programs. Interns tend to be undergraduates engaged in overseas study, or in the region, who have an interest in or links to Jordan. Internships at the Center are unpaid positions, six weeks long at minimum, and are available in a range of fields, including architecture, social work, communications, sustainability and research support.

In 2013-2014, the following students completed an internship program at the Center:

Name	University	Field of Study	Area of Support	Internship
Ramzi Chahin	Applied Science University	Architecture	Studio-X Amman Lab	April – August 2014
Dina Mu'ti	German Jordanian University	Architecture	Studio-X Amman Lab	April – August 2014
El Anoud Majali	McGill University	Environmental Science	Institute for Sustainable Development and Studio-X Amman Lab	June – August 2014
Qais Masri	Columbia University	Economics & Political Science	Programs and Research	June – August 2014
Aya Sharkas	Georgetown School of Foreign Service - Qatar	---	Communications and Outreach	June – August 2014

## COLUMBIA EXPERIENCE OVERSEAS PROGRAM

In addition to its regular internship program, the Center continues to hold the Columbia Experience Overseas Program (CEO), in partnership with the Center for Career Education (CCE) 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. In coordination with Jennifer Creamer, Associate Director of Experiential Education and Student Enterprises at CCE, the program was offered for the third time in Amman through the Center to 18 students in the summer of 2014.

Internship opportunities include a diverse array of fields, such as pharmaceuticals, banking, consulting, and finance. Throughout the internship, students explore a career field and develop professional skills, while gaining international 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.



In 2014, the following students completed an internship program through CEO:

Columbia Student	Internship Organization	Mentor/Relation
Chris Godshall (CC '15)	Wamda	Aya Al Kabarity (Employee at the Center)
Cordelia Long (GS '16)	King Hussein Foundation	Barbara Porter (Alumni: GF '86, GF '87, GF '01)
Doreen Mohammed (CC '15)	Bank al Etihad	Faris Gammoh (Alumni: BU '07)
Lucas Oliver (CC '15)	Arabtech Jardaneh	Lana Sakka (Friend of the Center)
Qingxiang Jia (SEAS '15)	Telephonic	Lina Hamdan (Alumni: SW '13)
Tina Garrity (CC '15)	Think Unlimited	
Meghna Mukherjee (CC '15)	The King Hussein Foundation	Nora Akawi (Employee at the Center and Alumni: GSAPP '11)
Jamil Muna (CC '15)	Oasis500	Ramzi Muna (Alumni: SEAS '81)
Allison Kammert (CC '15)	Wamda	Sara Obeidat (JN '16)
Brina Seidel (CC '15)	The King Hussein Foundation	Shadi Bushnaq (Alumni: SW '13)
Lilia Cherchari (CC '15)	Jordan Tourism Board	Taraf Abu Hamdan (Alumni: IA '12)
Mischa Beumer (GS '14)	Bank al Etihad	
Kiersten Gourlay (SEAS '15)	Hikma Pharmaceuticals	Tarik Chelali (Employee at the Center and Alumni: IA '12)
Sheiling Chia (CC '16)	Arabtech Jardaneh	
Monica Carty (CC '15)	Sustainability Excellence	Wasim Salfiti (Alumni: CC '03)
Alex Swift (CC '15)	Oasis500	Zein Jardaneh (Employee at the Center)
Jonah Richard (CC '15)	Hikma Pharmaceuticals	
Amanda Dancer (CC '15)	The King Hussein Foundation	Zena Khoury (Employee at the Center)





# OUTREACH

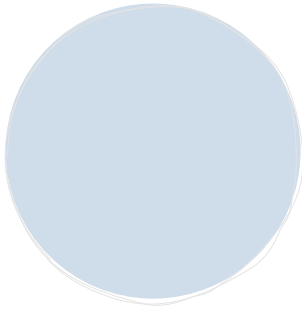
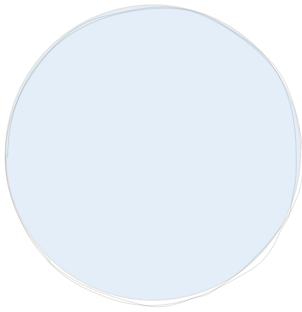


## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EVENTS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East seeks to raise awareness about the Columbia Global Centers model and about projects underway related to education, architecture and sustainable development. Professor Safwan Masri has been invited to speak and participate in numerous conferences and forums during the academic year, with a focus on education reform in the Middle East and its intersection with Arab geopolitics and society.

Highlights include:

- *10<sup>th</sup> Annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture: The Palestinian Future after Gaza* (Columbia University, New York City, October 22, 2014)
- *Abraaj Annual Forum 2014, MENA Panel* (Istanbul, September 26, 2014)
- *Abraaj Annual Forum 2014, Session on USA Economic Prospects* (Istanbul, September 25, 2014)
- *Seventeenth World Congress of the International Economic Association* (Dead Sea, June 6-10, 2014)
- *Geopolitical Perspectives on the Middle East* (Santiago, June 26, 2014)
- *Destination MENA: Unlocking the Region's Potential, Education Panel* (The Wharton School – University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 12, 2014)
- *The Failure of Education and the Current State of the Arab World* (Strathmore Business School, Nairobi, March 20, 2014)



*“The global centers are a significant part of the University’s dialogue with the world.”*

**Ipek Cem Taha**

Director of Columbia Global Centers | Turkey and Advisor for Strategic Development to EVP for Global Centers and Global Development



## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The Center continues to cooperate with partners on campus and in the region to organize conferences and seminars 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.

### ROUNDTABLE ON GEOPOLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND PRESS FREEDOMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

In collaboration with the Columbia Global Centers | Turkey, the Center co-convened a one-day roundtable in Istanbul on September 25, 2013 on press freedoms and geopolitical developments in the Middle East and Turkey, which brought together a distinguished group of over 20 regional and international scholars, analysts and researchers. The roundtable was meant to allow for a discussion on recent political events, with a focus on Syria, Egypt, and Turkey, as well as the current state of press freedoms across the region and within a global context.

The workshop featured contributions by President Lee C. Bollinger; Professor Safwan Masri; Steve Coll, Dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism; Nicholas Lemann, Professor and former dean of the Journalism School; and Ipek Cem Taha, Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Turkey. Discussions focused on Syria and Egypt, Turkey's internal politics and foreign policy, and the issue of press freedoms in the region within a global agenda.

Among the participants were: Patrick Cockburn, Middle East Correspondent and Columnist at The Independent; David Gardner, International Affairs Editor and Associate Editor at the Financial Times; Hazem Kandil, Cambridge University Lecturer in Political Sociology and Fellow of St. Catharine's College; Gilles Kepel, Professor of Political Science at Sciences Po; Nuray Mert, Columnist at Hurriyet Daily News and Professor of International Relations at Istanbul University; Ustun Erguder, Emeritus Professor at Sabanci University and Director of the Educational Reform Initiative at the Istanbul Policy Center; Roger Cohen, Columnist at The New York Times; Amal Ghandour, author and blogger; and Memduh Karakullukcu, Vice-Chairman and President of the Global Relations Forum.





## INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR ARABIC FICTION

The Center hosted the opening event of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) on February 9, 2014. IPAF is a literary prize in the Arab world, which aims to recognize excellence in contemporary Arabic creative writing, and promotes the readership of high quality Arabic literature internationally, through the translation and publication of winning and shortlisted novels in other major languages.

The opening included a talk by Yasir Suleiman, IPAF Chair of Trustees and Sultan Qaboos bin Said Professor of Modern Arabic Studies at the University of Cambridge, titled “Through the Looking Glass: Orientalism and the Translation of Arabic Literature.” The following day, the IPAF shortlist was announced at a press conference held at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. At a ceremony in Abu Dhabi in April, Ahmed Saadawi’s *Frankenstein in Baghdad* was announced as the winner of the seventh International Prize for Arabic Fiction.



Professor Yasir Suleiman at IPAF opening event



Professor Safwan Masri delivers introductory remarks

*“One of the most important ways of sharing the wealth of literary treasures in the Arab world is through translating them for the world to read.”*

**Professor Safwan M. Masri**

Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development  
Columbia University



# SEVENTEENTH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

In collaboration with the International Economic Association (IEA), the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East hosted in Jordan the IEA's Seventeenth World Congress on June 6-10, 2014 at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center in the Dead Sea. The Congress was held under the patronage of Their Majesties King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein and Queen Rania Al Abdullah, and aimed to promote the interaction of prominent economists, academics, and policy makers towards gaining a truly world perspective on economy-related issues and challenges of global importance.



Questions from audience during the Seventeenth World Congress

The IEA World Congress is organized on a triennial basis, with previous conferences having been held in cities such as Istanbul, Beijing, and Lisbon. The global center in Amman worked closely with the International Economic Association, and in particular with Joseph Stiglitz, University Professor at Columbia and President of the IEA, to spearhead the effort to bring this key event to Jordan.

With the participation of more than 650 economists, the five-day meeting provided an excellent platform for the exchange of expertise and research. More than 100 contributed sessions, 30 invited sessions, 25 policy sessions, and five plenaries were organized. Panels were held on economic cooperation, economic development and labor policies, with a special focus on the Arab world.

The Seventeenth World Congress was organized in partnership with the Economic Research Forum, Fung Global Institute, International Development Research Centre, Centre for International Governance Innovation, Institute for New Economic Thinking, African Innovation Foundation, King Abdullah II Fund for Development, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, and Japan International Cooperation Agency.



*“Jordan has proved an attractive location for this Congress. Its location has enabled strong participation from some regions of the world, including Africa and the Middle East, that have often been underrepresented in the past.”*

**Joseph Stiglitz**

University Professor at Columbia University  
and IEA President

Among the many distinguished local and regional participants were Umayya Toukan, Jordanian Minister of Finance; Ibrahim Saif, Jordanian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation; Omar Razzaz, Country Manager at the World Bank; Abdullah El-Kuwaiz, Senior Associate at the Economic Research Forum; Ziad Fariz, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; Ahmed Galal, Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum; and Tarik Yousef, Chief Executive Officer at Silatech.

Also participating in the Congress were prominent thought leaders including Adair Turner, Senior Fellow of the Institute for New Economic Thinking; Nicholas Stern, Chair of the Grantham Research Institute; Erik Berglöf, Chief Economist and Special Adviser to the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Karla Hoff, Senior Research Economist at the World Bank; Akbar Noman, Adjunct Associate Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia, Governor of the Central Bank of Japan, current and former chief economists from the World Bank, and senior leadership from the International Monetary Fund.

The Center is working with local and regional partners, including the King Abdullah II Fund for Development and the Economic Research Forum in Cairo to establish programs that advance economics policy research and support young economists. Building on its partnership with the International Economic Association and with the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University, the Center is working to help strengthen economics research in the region.



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: CAN JORDAN JOIN THE RANKS OF COMPETITIVE AND INNOVATIVE NATIONS?



The Center worked with the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the World Bank Group and the Higher Council for Science and Technology, and with the support of the Korean Development Institute policy makers, to bring together private sector leaders, academics and civil society representatives on June 15, 2014 for an International Conference, “Can Jordan Join the Ranks of Competitive and Innovative Nations?” The one day conference presented the findings of the World Bank Group’s research on Jordan’s innovation and the national investment climate of small to medium enterprises. During the conference, the Jordanian National Strategy for Innovation was also launched, while highlighting successful innovators and entrepreneurs in the country.

## TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL ACTION CONFERENCE

In conjunction with Tech Tribes and the Middle East Partnership Initiative, the Center hosted a one-day conference on August 30, 2014 on e-civic participation. The conference brought together young entrepreneurs and tech-savvy regional participants to discuss issues pertaining to the participation of youth in the online dialogue. The conference consisted of workshops, as well as a panel discussion exploring the benefits of digital advocacy tactics, youth and e-civic participation, crowd funding on the internet, crowd sourcing and mapping, and online interactive approaches to research.



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

In addition to holding programs and events in Amman and the region, the Center is working 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 2013-2014:

### 100 DAYS: EGYPT VS. PRESS FREEDOM

The Center joined forces with Columbia Journalism School, the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma and the Global Freedom of Expression and Information Project at Columbia University to co-host a symposium on April 7, 2014 on the continued imprisonment of three Al Jazeera English journalists in Cairo. The symposium was moderated by Bruce Shapiro, Executive Director at the Dart Center, and featured Al Anstey, Managing Director at Al Jazeera English; Yehia Ghanem, International Journalist in Residence at CUNY Graduate School of Journalism; Rob Mahoney, Deputy Director at Committee to Protect Journalists; and Agnès Callamard, Director of the Global Freedom of Expression and Information Project.



Symposium on 100 Days: Egypt vs. Press Freedom

### U.S. AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ MEETS WITH COLUMBIA FACULTY AND STUDENTS

In conjunction with the Saltzman Institute at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University, the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East organized a roundtable luncheon with U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Stuart Jones. The conversation was hosted at SIPA on September 16, 2014. Ambassador Jones, who is also the former U.S. Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, spoke with a group of Columbia faculty and students about his experiences in Jordan and reflections on current events, as he transitions into his new role in Baghdad. The discussion was introduced and moderated by Richard Betts, Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of War and Peace Studies and Director of the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, and Professor Safwan Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University.



Columbia faculty and students join roundtable discussion with Ambassador Stuart Jones



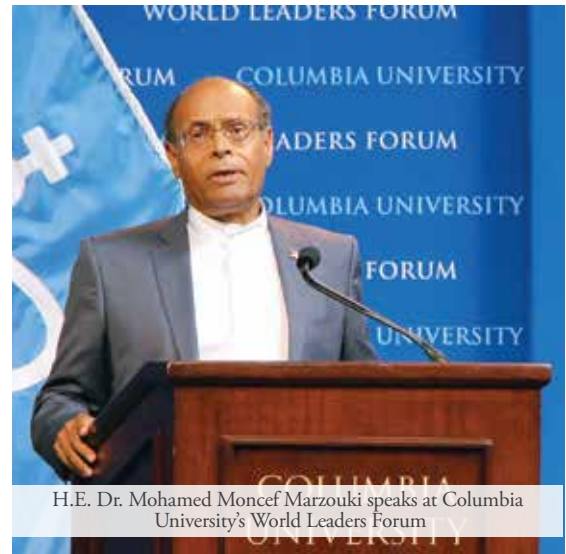


## WORLD LEADERS FORUM: ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Moncef Marzouki, President of the Republic of Tunisia, spoke at a World Leaders Forum event at Columbia University on September 22, 2014. His talk was titled “The Arab Spring and the Tunisia Initiative on Creating a Constitutional Court,” and was co-sponsored by the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East.

The World Leaders Forum was established in 2003 by Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger, and is a year-round event series aimed to advance lively, uninhibited dialogue on the large economic, political, and social questions of our time.

The Forum’s roster of past participants features many heads of state, in addition to other global thought leaders from a broad spectrum of fields and all regions of the world. Past participants include Presidents Bill Clinton, Nicolas Sarkozy of France, Vladimir Putin of Russia, Michelle Bachelet of Chile, His Majesty King Abdullah II, and the Dalai Lama.



H.E. Dr. Mohamed Moncef Marzouki speaks at Columbia University's World Leaders Forum



H.E. Amr Al-Dabbagh talks about Governpreneurship at SIPA

## A TALK BY H.E. AMR AL DABBAGH ON GOVERNPRENEURSHIP

His Excellency Amr Al-Dabbagh, Founding Chairman of the Stars Foundation and member of the Advisory Board of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East, gave a talk on September 25, 2014 at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University titled “Governpreneurship: Ten Golden Rules to Accelerate Success.”

During the talk, Al-Dabbagh reflected on his time as the Governor of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority. He also discussed the book he co-authored after leaving office titled *Governpreneurship: Establishing a Thriving Entrepreneurial Spirit in Government*. The event was co-sponsored by SIPA and the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East.

## SPEAKER SERIES

In association with multiple visits by distinguished Columbia University faculty members and international academics, the 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 gender issues, to history, to the arts. Podcasts of talks are available on the Center's website.

The following is a listing of the public lectures the Center has hosted since October 2013:

**Yezid Sayigh**, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut – *Syria: Where Next?* on October 23, 2013

**Gayatri Spivak**, University Professor at Columbia University – *How Can There Be a Feminist World?* on November 16, 2013

**Sheena Iyengar**, Inaugural S.T. Lee Professor of Business at Columbia University – *The Art of Choosing* on November 26, 2013

**Rami Khouri**, Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut and Syndicated Columnist at Agence Global Syndicate and The Daily Star – *Battleground Syria: How the Greatest Proxy War of Modern Times Will Reshape the Middle East* on December 2, 2013

**Paul Salopek**, Journalist and National Geographic Fellow – *A Walk Across the World* on December 11, 2013

**Amr Hamzawy**, Associate Professor at The American University in Cairo and Associate Professor of Political Science at Cairo University – *Why did Egypt's Democratic Transition Come to a Halt?* on January 12, 2014

**Chris Dercon**, Director at Tate Modern – *Making the Tate More Modern* on March 22, 2014

**Christine Tohme**, Founder of Ashkal Alwan – *Love at First Site* on April 21, 2014

**Hazem Kandil**, Cambridge University Lecturer in Political Sociology and Fellow of St. Catharine's College – *Unlocking the World of Muslim Brothers* on June 2, 2014

**Peter Harling**, Middle East Special Advisor at International Crisis Group – *The Islamic State: Short-term Tactics to Face a Long-term Problem* on September 29, 2014

**David Ignatius**, Associate Editor and Columnist at the Washington Post – *Back to the Future? U.S. Policy and the Middle East Crisis* on October 22, 2014

**David Gardner**, International Affairs Editor at the Financial Times – *The New War for the Middle East* on October 26, 2014

**Peter Millett**, British Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – *Britain and the Middle East* on November 10, 2014









## ALUMNI AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENT OUTREACH

The Middle East Center 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, parents, and friends of the University, and provide a foundation for ongoing alumni engagement in the region.

In 2013-2014, the Center helped organize several alumni events in the region, including:

**AMMAN** – In collaboration with the CAA, the Middle East Center organized a dinner hosted by Mughith (BUS '01) and Sara Sukhtian at their residence on October 21, 2013. The dinner brought together alumni to meet with Donna MacPhee, Vice President of Alumni Relations and President of the Columbia Alumni Association, on her first visit to Jordan. The event featured remarks by Professor Safwan Masri and VP MacPhee on the partnership between the CAA and the Columbia Global Centers.

**DUBAI** – The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East, in collaboration with the Columbia University School of Social Work and the Columbia Alumni Association, held an event in Dubai on October 23, 2013 for over 40 alumni to learn more about the work of the CAA, and new developments with the Middle East Center. Professor Safwan Masri, Donna MacPhee, and Jeanette Takamura, Dean of the Columbia University School of Social Work, spoke about developments at the Amman Center, particularly in the field of social work.

On November 26, 2014, the Center organized a dinner for approximately 25 alumni residing in Dubai, hosted by Marwan (GSAPP '02, BUS '08) and Hana Dalloul. Professor Safwan Masri attended the dinner and spoke about Columbia's global strategy and the role of the University's global network.

**TEL AVIV** – As part of VP MacPhee's visit to the region, the CAA organized an event in Tel Aviv on October 30, 2013 for over 50 alumni to learn more about the CAA and Columbia's global centers network.

**JEDDAH** – A number of alumni from various Saudi Arabian cities met in Jeddah on November 2, 2013 for a small gathering with Professor Safwan Masri.

**BEIRUT** – After a successful pre-launch gathering of the Columbia Alumni Club of Lebanon in late 2013, a gala dinner organized in collaboration with the CAA was held in Beirut on December 28, 2014 to celebrate the Club's official launch. Professor Safwan Masri attended the reception and provided an update on Columbia's expanding globalization efforts, including the Columbia Global Centers network. The event brought together around 80 Columbia alumni in Lebanon.

## 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.

There are currently nine alumni clubs in the Middle East that work to organize a series of events throughout the year that help strengthen the connection between alumni and their alma mater. In the coming year, the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East hopes to work closely with the CAA to facilitate connections among clubs in the region, and possibly organize a regional event.

Country	Club 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) Taraf Abu Hamdan (SIPA '12)
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)
Oman	Salim Al-Jahwari (SIPA '09) Fatima Muneer (JRN '12)
Saudi Arabia	Ayman Mansi (BU '08)
Turkey	Ilknur Aslan (SIPA '98)
United Arab Emirates (Dubai)	Tala Al Ramahi (JRN '10) Hannah Allawi (GSAPP '12) Ameera Horriyat (SIPA '11)

For more information on how you can stay connected or get involved, please visit:  
<http://alumni.columbia.edu/alumni-community>



FROM  
SUNDAY

3

29

AUGUST  
SUNDAY

7

JULY  
TUESDAY

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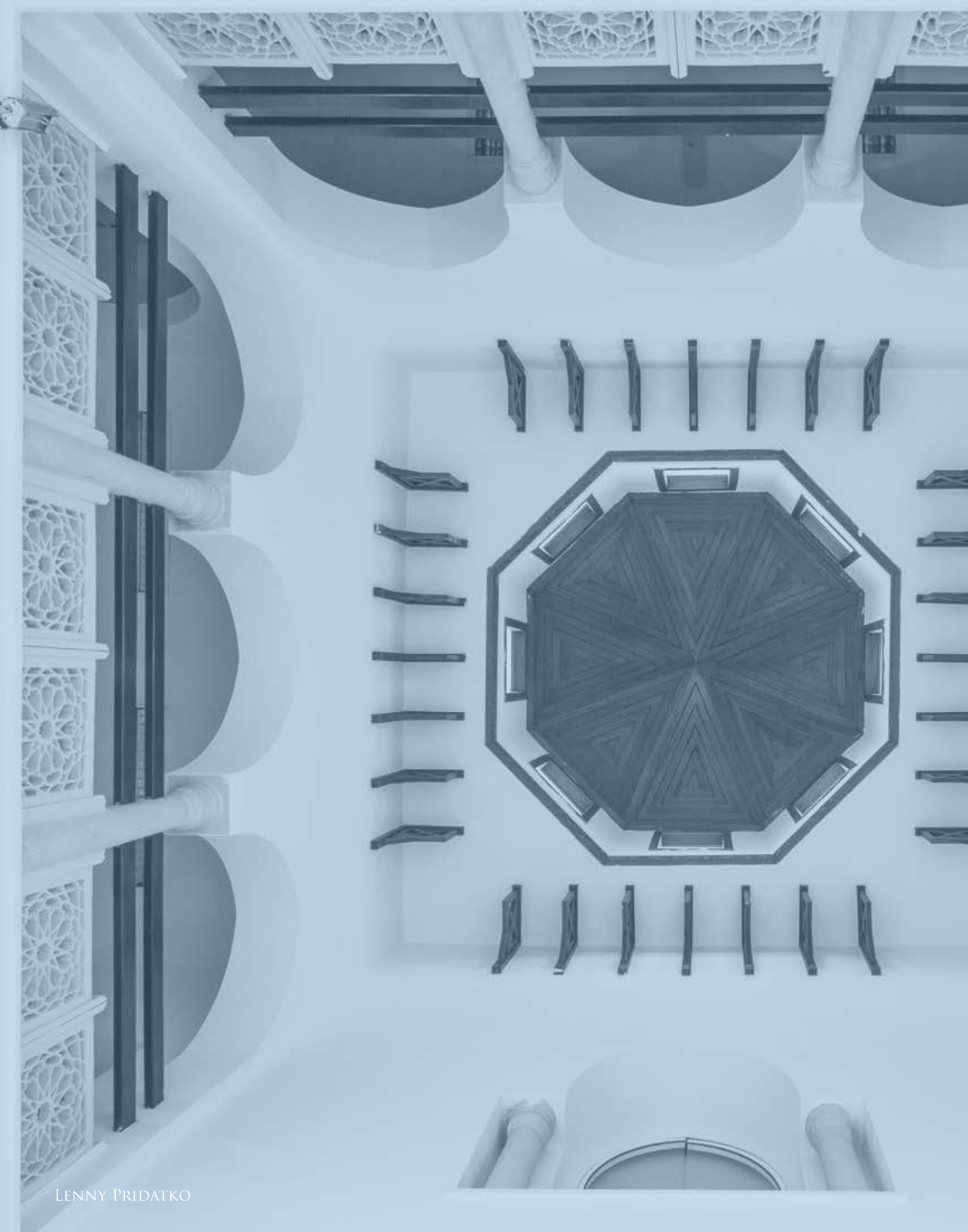
# MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS

**Politics of Memory Workshop** – In collaboration with the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University and Columbia Global Centers | Turkey, the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East will hold a workshop on the “Politics of Memory” on April 18, 2015. Led by Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor of History, the workshop is part of a collaborative research project, “The Politics of Memory in Global Context,” which seeks to address the scholarly and political aspects of the formation and management of public memory in the global context of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Now in its fifth year, workshops are held in New York, as well as at a number of Columbia Global Centers, whereby topics vary according to location and participants, and include an interdisciplinary mix and global comparisons. The workshop in Amman will follow an earlier iteration in Istanbul on April 16-17.

**Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments** – The Center is working with Zainab Bahrani, Edith Porada Professor of Art History and Archaeology, College of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University, to organize a conference on cultural heritage in August 2015. The conference will help connect a small team from Columbia’s Department of Art History and Archaeology with local and regional academics and researchers. The first step of this project, led by Professor Bahrani, was to document the standing monuments and rock reliefs in the Kurdish mountains, their state of preservation and condition for historical and conservational purposes.

**International Legal Dialogue Conference** – In collaboration with Columbia Law School and the American Society of International Law, the Middle East Center is helping plan a conference on international legal dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa in late 2015. The conference will engage the international law community in the region on themes of mutual interest. Among the topics expected to be included are international commercial and investment arbitration; environmental cooperation and compliance; families, women and children in refugee situations; other human rights and humanitarian issues, including protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict; and legal education in international law and clinical practice. The conference is initiated and led by Lori Damrosch, Henry L. Moses Professor of Law and International Organization and Hamilton Fish Professor of International Law and Diplomacy at Columbia Law School.







# THE WAY FORWARD

The Columbia 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 to learn from, and with, our partners on the ground. Since their inauguration, the centers have engaged faculty and students with partners around the world through impactful collaborations that advance learning and sharing of knowledge, and contribute to finding solutions to pressing problems facing our global society, which powerful institutions of higher learning have a responsibility to help address.

In the Middle East, our presence and programming have revolved around a number of evolving themes, including education, sustainable development, geopolitics, the arts, among others. The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East will develop and offer new programming under these themes, but will also expand its work in the areas of energy, economics, and cities. Joint programming with other global centers, Istanbul in particular given similar priorities and issues, continues to be an area of focus as synergies are identified.

For a university, steeped in the tradition of individual academic disciplines and focused on the campus experience for its students, it is challenging to develop models that require active collaboration of scholars from diverse disciplines and engagement with countries and regions beyond the main campus. Having established eight global centers across four continents, Columbia University has made a serious commitment to connect the New York campus to the rest of the world, to learn from the different regions, and to develop collaborative research and teaching programs.

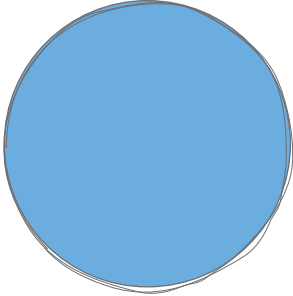
The Columbia Global Centers have served as a supportive base for hundreds of ambitious faculty and intellectually curious students eager to pursue their research interests in new and diverse settings; as conduits that have forged connections between Columbia faculty and regional experts and academics; and, as curators of important conversations and dialogues with partners around the globe.

Columbia is now building on this intellectual infrastructure and asking itself how it must continue to change and become even more global in its focus. As various initiatives are coalesced under the banner of Global Columbia, the University will foster greater collaboration across campus to increase its global impact; steps that leverage the unique strengths of our community of researchers to create innovative approaches to addressing global challenges; and steps to further utilize the tremendous convening power of Columbia to serve as an incubator for global public policy research, education, and action in the world.









 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
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