



Yale Arab Conference

a m a l n a

Paving the Road Ahead
20th-21st April 2018



Presents



Paving the Road Ahead
20th-21st April 2018

Yale Arab Conference

أملنا

نشاط
activity

لعبة
toy

أخوة
brotherhood

إيمان
faith

نسيج
fabric

ليمون
lemon

منارة
lighthouse

أزرق
blue

أبواب
doors

إتحاد
union

نضال
struggle

نعمي
yes

مفتوح
open

مساحة
area

مثالي
ideal

أغاني
songs

اختيار
choice

إثراء
enrichment

نظامي
system

ناسي
people

لا
no

مطر
rain

مدهش
fantastic

آفاق
horizons

إمتنان
gratefulness

إصرار
persistence

نقاشي
argument

نفس
self

ليل
night

موعد
date

موهبة
talent

مستقبل
future

أمنيته
wish

إنتصار
victory

نغمات
melodies

نافذة
window

لقاء
meeting

مكان
place

مرحباً
welcome

ممكن
possible

أهل
family

إستمرار
continuation

نهر
river

نجاح
success

لهفة
excitement

متاح
available

مزدهر
flourishing

موارد
resources

أحببت
dear

إنتعاش
excitement

نور
light

نجوم
stars

لوحة
painting

مسرد
bright

مرآة
mirror

ماء
water

أرض
ground

ألفة
familiarity

Let us celebrate the richness of the Arabic language and showcase its unique aesthetics.
Above are words of hope that begin with the four letters which make up the word amalna: ا م ل ن



Contents

- Welcome Letter from the Directors and the Team_____ 4
- Sponsors_____ 6
- About the Arab Students Association _____ 7
- About the Yale Arab Conference_____ 8
- Campus Map _____ 9
- Building Directory and Campus Information_____ 10
- Conference Schedule_____ 11
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Salam Fayyad_____ 13
- Panel 1: **Women’s Rights – Beyond the Stereotyped Arab Woman**
Description and Speaker Biographies_____ 15
- Panel 2: **America’s Role in the Middle East**
Description and Speaker Biographies_____ 19
- Panel 3: **Refugees – Paths for Engagement**
Description and Speaker Biographies_____ 22
- Activities_____ 27





Dear Esteemed Guest,

Welcome to the inaugural **2018 Yale Arab Conference (YAC) – Amalna: Paving the Road Ahead**. We are extremely excited to be sharing this experience with you.

We started this project 15 months ago with the goal of creating a more accessible platform at Yale, that provides a holistic, multi-faceted discussion of the Arab world today with its social and educational realities, needs, and potential future trajectories. The Arab Students Association (ASA) is very grateful that you have chosen to give us your time for the largest event Yale has hosted on the Middle East to date.

This package will provide you with information on the weekend's schedule, the location of events, and information regarding speakers joining us from around the world. We encourage you to take part in as many events as you wish, and we hope you have a wonderful time during the conference. We would love to hear any feedback you have regarding the events of this conference.

Thank you once again for choosing to attend this inaugural conference. We hope that we will be able to meet your expectations and shed more light on very timely discussions on the future of the region.

We look forward to having you with us soon in New Haven and please feel free to reach out to us through any of the emails listed below for any questions, comments or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Shady M. Qubaty
Co-Director
Yale College 2020
shady.qubaty@yale.edu

Malak Nasr
Co-Director
Yale College 2019
malak.nasr@yale.edu



Yale Arab Students Association
جمعية الطلاب العرب في جامعة ييل

amalna

Paving the Road Ahead
20th-21st April 2018

[A warm welcome from the inaugural Yale Arab Conference Team!](#)



Shady M. Qubaty
Malak Nasr
Marwan Safar Jalani
Hussein Mohsen
Karim Khalifeh
Baher Iskander
Seif Labib
Dina Taha
Mohamed Karabtek
Yasmin Alamdeen
Rachel Jaber Chehayeb
Mohammed Hussari
Razieh Armin
Amer el-Hiyasat
Anthony Sarkiss
Marah Maayah

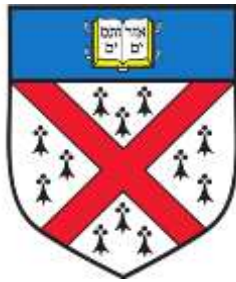


Yale Arab Students Association
جمعية الطلاب العرب في جامعة ييل



Sponsors

The 2018 Yale Arab Conference would not have been able to go forward without the invaluable support of our sponsors.



Yale College
Dean's Discretionary Fund



Yale College Council

Yale | Office of the Secretary
& Vice President for Student Life

Yale OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Yale MACMILLAN CENTER

**Yale JACKSON INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS**





About the Arab Students Association (ASA)

The Yale Arab Students Association (ASA) is an undergraduate organization and an important part of the Yale community. We aim to spread awareness about the Arab world, its culture, and contemporary issues in the region. We also work in an effort to bridge the various cultural gaps between the Arab World and the United States, in the hopes of promoting a mutual and firm understanding. The ASA creates a sense of community for all Arabs and Arab Americans on campus, as well as creating a network between the Yale Arab community and the New Haven Arab community. At Yale, the ASA has close ties with the Modern Middle East Studies Department, the Near East Languages and Civilizations Department and the Council on Middle East Studies. The ASA is officially a member group of two cultural houses on campus; the Asian American Cultural Center and the African American Cultural House. We collaborate with these various departments and groups to host events and make ties with broader sectors of the Yale community. The ASA was established more than two decades ago with the vision of connecting and engaging its global membership to advance Yale-Arab relations and stimulate dialogue on issues of importance to the Middle East. The organization serves as a primary link between Yale University and the Arab Middle East. An eleven-person Executive Board administers the organization.

Since its inception, the ASA has organized more than two-dozen events across seven countries and counting. In 2003, we organized a local conference titled 'Thinking In and Out of Crisis' and in 2010, we organized a conference on Yale's campus titled 'Arab Women as Agents of Change'. Past events have also included speaker events, major concerts, luncheons, and dinners with featured guests as prominent scholars, policy experts, world-renowned architects, government advisors, and civil society entrepreneurs as well as a number of Yale professors and administrators. Through our close ties with our alumni association, the ASA functions as a global, digital network and also a collection of local communities. Our alumni association have also held successful conferences; the first in 2009: 'Transnational Tides and the Future of the Arab City' hosted in Beirut and the second in 2013: 'Navigating the Tides: Urban Transformations in the Arab World' hosted in Doha.

The ASA also coordinates recruitment of students and facilitates exchange opportunities between the university and the Arab Middle East by providing undergraduate and graduate students with opportunities generated by the ASA network. To learn more about ASA, please visit our website: www.yaleasa.com.





About the Yale Arab Conference (YAC)

'Amalna: Paving the Road Ahead' will be an unprecedented, international conference on the Middle East which will take place at Yale University April 20th - 21st 2018.

With limited media coverage, many students on campus are unsure about what exactly happens in the Middle East; unfortunately, many events are seen as “more of the same” or “normal developments.” We want to clarify some misconceptions about Arabs, complicating simple narratives to show that in spite of challenges, we remain hopeful about the future of our beloved region.

The conference will primarily revolve around a keynote address by Dr. Salam Fayyad and three panels: Women’s Rights: Beyond the Stereotyped Arab Woman, America’s Role in the Middle East, and Refugees: Paths for Engagement.

We aim to promote a positive outlook on the future for the Arab world — to show our hope (Amalna) for a region that can thrive despite the violence and destruction so often associated with it. The primary objective of the conference is to enhance the ASA’s role as a campus and offer a platform for engagement between Yale and the Arab world. The multidisciplinary conference will feature experts, decision-makers and leaders from the fields of foreign policy, higher education, migration, innovation, youth empowerment, culture, public policy, public health and women’s rights – transnational leaders who are harnessing the potential of the Arab metropolitan network to ensure a sustainable, integrated bright future for the region.

In addition to the panels, we have numerous planned activities including an Exclusive Contemporary Arab Film Screening of Soufra along with a virtual Q&A with the director, Thomas Morgan; a Multicultural Festival; a lunch speakers series, Afikra Talks, and many more exciting events.

Thank you once again for joining us today, and for bringing us closer to our vision!



amalna

Paving the Road Ahead
20th-21st April 2018

Campus Map



For an interactive map, kindly visit <https://map.yale.edu>



Yale Arab Students Association
جمعية الطلاب العرب في جامعة ييل



Building Directory and Campus Information

WLH: **William L. Harkness Hall**, 100 Wall St., New Haven CT 06511

SSS: **Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall**, 1 Prospect St., New Haven CT 06511

Lunch on Saturday 21st April:

- Lunch swipes for participants coming from outside of Yale and for anyone not on a Yale meal plan will be handed out **only** at the registration desk on Friday 20th April from 2-5:30pm at WLH 116.
- Lunch on Saturday will take place between 12pm-1:15pm and will be available at all of the following residential college dining halls (highlighted names are closest to SSS):
 - Benjamin Franklin College – 90 Prospect St.
 - **Berkeley College – 205 Elm St.**
 - Branford College – 74 High St.
 - Davenport College – 248 York St.
 - Ezra Stiles College – 302 York St.
 - **Grace Hopper College – 189 Elm St.**
 - Jonathan Edwards College – 68 High St.
 - Morse College – 304 York St.
 - Pauli Murray College – 130 Prospect St.
 - Pierson College – 261 Park St.
 - Saybrook College – 242 Elm St.
 - **Silliman College – 505 College St.**
 - **Timothy Dwight College – 345 Temple St.**
 - Trumbull College – 241 Elm St.

All meals throughout the duration of the conference will be provided **free of charge**. However, the following are a few nearby restaurants and coffee shops:

- Blue State Coffee – 84 Wall St. (1-minute walk from SSS)
- Claire's Corner Copia – 1000 Chapel St. (9-minute walk from SSS)
- Junzi Kitchen – 21 Broadway (9-minute walk from SSS)
- Maison Mathis – 304 Elm St. (10-minute walk from SSS)
- Yorkside Pizza and Restaurant – 288 York St. (7-minute walk from SSS)





Conference Schedule

Friday April 20th

Time	Location	Event
2pm-5:30pm	WLH 116	Registration (Snacks will be available)
6pm-6:10pm	SSS 114	Opening Remarks by Shady Qubaty '20, <i>Conference Co-Director</i> .
6:10pm-7:10pm	SSS 114	Opening Keynote Address Dr. Salam Fayyad, <i>Former Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority</i> . Followed by a discussion with Ms. Jenifer Fenton, <i>Poynter (Journalism) Fellow-in-Residence at Yale</i> .
7:10pm-7:50pm	SSS 114	Dinner Followed by desserts and a presentation on Sanctuary Kitchen.
7:50pm-10pm	SSS 114	Exclusive Contemporary Arab Film Screening: Soufra A film that made it to Berlinale'18 and is going to be screened at Yale before Cannes! Followed by a virtual Q&A with the director, Mr. Thomas Morgan.

Saturday April 21st

Time	Location	Event
9am-10am	SSS 114	Breakfast with the Innovator Talk with Ali Chehade, founder and CEO of The Dream Matcher. Breakfast reception.
10:15am-11:45am	SSS 114	Panel 1: Women's Rights – Beyond the Stereotyped Arab Woman <i>Speakers: Maya Alkateb-Chami, Mona El-Naggat and Rima Maktabi.</i> <i>Moderated by Professor Eda Pepi.</i>



amalna

Paving the Road Ahead
20th-21st April 2018

12pm-1:15pm	Residential College Dining Halls	Lunch <i>Speaker Lunch Series:</i> guests who have signed up beforehand for this special series (first come, first serve) will have lunch with speakers in the private dining rooms of residential college dining halls.
1:15pm-3:30pm	Old Campus	Multicultural Festival <i>In collaboration with Refugee and Immigrant Student Education (RISE)</i> There will be a variety of dance and music performers as well as a fashion show. Food stalls will be available for refreshments and snacks free of charge . Booths at the festival will offer attendees the chance to try henna, calligraphy, paper lantern making and glass painting.
2:30pm-3:30pm	WLH 007	Arab Student Associations Leadership Forum* Creating a common platform for Arab Student Associations across the country to communicate together more effectively. <i>*Event for representatives from ASAs.</i>
3:45pm-5:15pm	SSS 114	Panel 2: America's Role in the Middle East <i>Speakers: Nancy Youssef, Robert S. Ford, Ryan Crocker.</i> <i>Moderated by Professor Emma Sky.</i>
5:15pm-6:30pm	SSS 114	Pizza Dinner
6:30pm-6:50pm	SSS 114	Refugee Initiatives by Students at Yale Presentations by representatives of Refugee and Immigrant Student Education (RISE), Yale Refugee Project (YRP), Yale Rotaract and No Lost Generation (NLG).
6:50pm-8:20pm	SSS 114	Panel 3: Refugees – Paths for Engagement <i>Speakers: Ahmed Badr, Chris George, Lorna Solis, Mohamed Hafez, Professor Rana Dajani.</i> <i>Moderated by Professor Catherine Panter-Brick.</i>
8:30pm-9:45pm	SSS 114	Afikra Talks Two 30-minute afikra عفكرة talks will be given by <i>Mikey Muhanna</i> , afikra Founder & Executive Director and <i>Todd Fine</i> , President of the Washington Street Historical Society. An Arab tea and coffee break will be in between.
9:45pm-10pm	SSS 114	Closing Remarks by Shady Qubaty '20, Conference Co-Director.





Keynote Speaker: Dr. Salam Fayyad



Dr. Salam Fayyad is an economist and former Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority (June 2007-June 2013). Dr. Fayyad was born in Nablus, Palestine in 1952. He graduated with a BSc from the American University of Beirut in 1975 and went on to receive an MBA from St. Edward's University in 1980 and a PhD (Economics) from the University of Texas at Austin in 1986.

Fayyad held several teaching and research positions, including as a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, before joining the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 1987 to 2001, where his tenure included serving as IMF resident representative in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from 1996 to 2001. He then served as the Arab Bank's regional manager in Palestine, and, in June 2002, he was named Minister of Finance of the Palestinian National Authority. Until he resigned in December 2005, Dr. Fayyad served in that capacity on several cabinets, introducing in the process extensive financial reforms. In January 2006, he ran for elections on a slate of independents and was elected for the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), where he served as Chairman of the Finance Committee. In March 2007, Fayyad was appointed again as Minister of Finance in a national unity government, and in June 2007, he was appointed Prime Minister, a position he held until he stepped down in June 2013.

In a speech at Al-Quds University in June 2009, Fayyad rolled out the concept of an ambitious plan that subsequently was elaborated and, in August 2009, adopted as the platform of the 13th Government of the Palestinian Authority, for building the institutions of the future Palestinian state. By April 2011, a year and a half into the implementation of the program, according to reports by the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the PA had attained the standing and attributes of a functioning state in the key governance sectors. Fayyad hailed this recognition as the birth certificate of the reality of the State of Palestine.

In 2010, Fayyad was named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world list. He was also named one of Foreign Policy Magazine's Top 100 Global Thinkers in 2010





and 2011. Part of Fayyad’s state-building effort was documented in the Hollywood documentary “State 194”, produced by Participant Media. In February 2013, the Department of Economics at the University of Texas at Austin created the Salam Fayyad Excellence Fund for Economics. Fayyad had earlier been named a Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Texas (2008). In August 2013, Fayyad founded “Future for Palestine”, a non-profit development foundation. In 2014, Fayyad took part in the IMF External Advisory Group on review of Fund policy, and he served as Chairman of the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on the Middle East and North Africa.

Currently, Dr. Fayyad is a Visiting Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a Distinguished Statesman at the Atlantic Council’s Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security.





Panel 1:

Women's Rights – Beyond the Stereotyped Arab Woman

The Arab woman: Conservative. Works at home. Oppressed. Marginalized. Held back. This panel will discuss the various stereotypes frequently ascribed to Arab women, emanating from within and without the Arab world. We will explore some of the challenges that exist for women in the region and how stereotypes play to them. This panel will also explore how women are challenging the traditional customs and roles imposed by society and note the activism that is taking place beyond the borders of the region to inspire change.

Maya Alkateb-Chami



Maya Alkateb-Chami is the Managing Director of the Human Rights Institute at Columbia University Law School. The Human Rights Institute advances international human rights by bridging scholarship and activism, developing capacity within the legal community, engaging governments, and modeling new strategies for progress. Prior to that, Alkateb-Chami was the Executive Director of Jusoor, an international nonprofit organization helping Syrian youth reach their potential. Winner of the Middle East Studies Association Academic Freedom Award, Jusoor's work focuses on higher education, remedial education for refugee children, and entrepreneurship training.

Previously, Alkateb-Chami managed Al Makan Art Association, a cultural nonprofit in Syria, co-founded and led the United World Colleges' (UWC) scholarship program for Syrian adolescents, and directed admissions at UWC-USA international boarding school. She also consulted and taught in the areas of NGO capacity building and youth engagement, including for Maastricht School of Management and UNRWA. Alkateb-Chami has an MSc in Education from Indiana University, Bloomington and a BA in Political Science from Damascus University. Recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship and author of several books and articles on cultural heritage, her research on arts-based youth empowerment received the Master's Thesis Award from the U.S. Society for Education Through Art. She is a member of the UWC International Council and the UNESCO Expert Group on Syrian Cultural Heritage.



Mona Al-Naggar



Mona El-Naggar is a reporter and senior video producer at The New York Times. She evolved into a filmmaker after more than a decade covering the Middle East. She documented the growing divide between the leadership and the people that led to the Arab Spring. She quickly realized that Identity was the core driver of complex, chaotic events. So she began to focus on youth, women and religious extremism.

Mona spent a year reporting a project called Generation Faithful, a series of stories that went deep into the lives of young people in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

She worked in nearly every country in the Middle East. She was chased by stone throwing children at the funeral for the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq. She was confronted by the secret police in Libya. She reported from Gaza and spent time with Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Since turning to filmmaking she has won acclaim for her work. She was a Pulitzer finalist for her film on a young Egyptian man who transformed from a body builder into an ISIS killer. She was part of a team that produced an Emmy-nominated piece on a victim who escaped an ISIS massacre. She directed “Ladies First,” a documentary about women in Saudi Arabia. Her latest work, “The Story of Esraa,” explores social and political discontent in Egypt through the story of one woman’s quest for independence.

Mona studied political economy at Georgetown University and received a Masters in news and documentary from New York University.

Rima Maktabi



Bureau Chief in London, Al Arabiya, United Kingdom. MA in International Affairs and BA in Communication Arts, Lebanese American University in Beirut (LAU). Maktabi is a Communication professional with over 15 years' experience in television. She rejoined Al Arabiya News Channel in October 2012 as a senior anchor and senior roving reporter.

Since then, she has done extensive field coverage from Syria focusing on the political, military as well as the humanitarian aspect of the war-torn country; numerous news reports were produced by Maktabi from Aleppo, Idlib and Daraa provinces. She also did thorough coverage from the frontline of Mosul in Iraq focusing on stories about the battle with ISIS. Maktabi has interviewed top leaders and decision makers in the Arab world throughout her career in journalism including: Boris Johnson, John Kerry, William Hague, Mahmoud Abbas, Wendy Sherman, John Wilks, Angela Merkel, Manouchehr Mutaki, Amr Moussa, Fouad Sanioura, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, David Petraeus, Ahmet Davatuglo, Nasser Judeh, Mohammed Javad Zarif, Hoshyar Zibari, Mirvat Tilawi, Amin Maalouf, Franco Zeffirelli, Placido Domingo and many more politicians and opinion leaders.

Maktabi was nominated by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader in 2010. She has won some awards for her work in journalism like Mohammed Bin Rashed Al Maktoum award for her July war coverage in 2006. In 2013 Maktabi was spotted as one of the top most influential international journalists in war zones. Formerly, Maktabi worked with CNN as anchor/reporter covering major news stories across the Middle East including the Arab Spring revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Bahrain. She was also the host of CNN's renowned show Inside the Middle East. Between 2005 and 2010, Maktabi worked with Al Arabiya news channel as reporter and senior anchor hosting a daily prime time news show, 8:00 O'clock news. She covered major events in the Middle East yet the most significant was her field work in 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon and Lebanese army war with the Fateh el Islam militia in North Lebanon. Maktabi started her career in media in her home country Lebanon. In 1996, just as she joined LAU as a Communication Arts' student, Maktabi started working with Lebanese Future TV where she spent 10 years and established her career in journalism covering/anchoring news and hosting a political show for the youth in 2005.

amala

Paving the Road Ahead
20th-21st April 2018

Moderator: Professor Eda Pepi



Eda Pepi is Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and core faculty in Modern Middle East Studies at Yale University, where she works at the intersections of feminist studies, political anthropology, and the anthropology of kinship. She also holds a secondary appointment in Anthropology. Her research and publications focus broadly on the cultural and historical processes through which gender, ethnicity, citizenship, sovereignty, and the state have been forged in the Middle East and North Africa. Professor Pepi is at work on her first book, *Marital States: Ethnicity and Gendered Citizenship in Jordan*, which explores how states manage political and economic problems, like refugees and statelessness, through families. This project examines ethnographically how Jordan polices its borders by regulating the marital and reproductive lives of Jordanian women, showing that our understandings of national and geopolitical formations cannot stand separate from analyses of gender and kinship.



Panel 2: America's Role in the Middle East

The U.S. has many policy questions to answer in the Middle East. President Trump's controversial decision to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has sown distrust in America's role as an honest broker in the peace process. The Syrian Civil War enters its seventh year, with Russia and Iran only solidifying their grip in the conflict. The Saudi-led war in Yemen has entered its third year, increasing the death toll, even as KSA continues to use American weaponry. This panel will explore some of these Middle East challenges, the role of U.S. diplomacy, and the policy dilemmas that accompany them.

Nancy Youssef



Nancy Youssef is an Egyptian-American journalist currently working as a national security correspondent for Wall Street Journal. She was previously a national security correspondent for BuzzFeed News, The Daily Beast and McClatchy Newspapers. Youssef began her career in journalism at the Baltimore Sun. She then moved on to work for the Detroit Free Press, where she covered legal issues. In August 2005, Youssef joined the Washington Bureau at McClatchy. She spent four years covering the Iraq war and served as chief of the Baghdad bureau. Her work focused on the Iraqi citizens, centering on how the U.S. military strategy was influencing the social and political dynamic. After that, she served as

McClatchy's chief Pentagon correspondent, continuing her coverage of both the conflict in Iraq and in Afghanistan, traveling overseas to report on the latest developments. Youssef is also founder of the Pentagon Press Association. As Middle East bureau chief for McClatchy, Youssef covered the events of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution.

She has won several awards for her work, including the University of Virginia's Lawrence Hall Award for Distinguished Journalism covering the Middle East, the Maryland-D.C. Delaware Press Association and the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. A Washington, D.C.-area native, she earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from University of Virginia and master's degree in Security Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.



Robert S. Ford



Ambassador Robert S. Ford is a scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington and a fellow at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University where he teaches about Arab politics and diplomacy.

Ford served thirty years in the State Department and Peace Corps, finishing his career as the U.S. Ambassador to Syria from 2011 to 2014. For his leadership of the American Embassy in Damascus he received a Presidential Honor award in 2012, and for his work on Syria he received in 2014 the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award, the State Department's highest award. For his defense of human rights in Syria, he received from the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston the 2012 Profile in Courage award.

Ford also served as the U.S. Ambassador to Algeria (2006-2008) where he boosted bilateral cooperation in fields such as education and rule of law. He also served three times in Iraq between 2003 and 2010, including as the Ambassador's senior political advisor during the stand-up of the new, permanent Iraqi government 2004-2006. Later, as Deputy Ambassador in Iraq 2008-2010 he assembled a government team that devised the logistical and security plans the new Obama administration used to establish American diplomatic posts in Iraq after the withdrawal of U.S. military forces in 2010-2011.

As Deputy Ambassador in Bahrain 2001-2003 Ford led the Embassy team that helped negotiate a free trade agreement with Bahrain, the first of free trade deal with a Persian Gulf state. Ford also served in Cameroon, in Algeria 1994-1997 during the civil war there, in Egypt and Turkey and in domestic assignments at the U.S. Department of State. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco 1980-1982. He speaks fluent Arabic and French. Ford has a B.A. from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and an M.A. from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington.

Ford has appeared on CNN, NBC, PBS, MSNBC, Fox News, NPR, the BBC and on Arabic networks. He has published articles in the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Atlantic and Foreign Affairs among others. He has given guest lectures at Harvard, Tufts, UCLA, Johns Hopkins, MIT, Wesleyan, and other schools around the U.S. and Canada.

Ryan Crocker



Ryan Crocker is a Diplomat in Residence at Princeton University. He is on a leave of absence from Texas A&M where he is an executive professor and former dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service. He was a career Foreign Service Officer who served six times as an American Ambassador: Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Kuwait and Lebanon. Three of these appointments were under Republican Administrations and three under Democratic Administrations. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, in 2009. Other recent awards include the inaugural Bancroft Award, presented by the Naval Academy in 2016. Also in 2016, he was named an Honorary Fellow of the

Literary and Historical Society at University College, Dublin where he was presented the annual James Joyce Award. He is an Honorary Marine.

Moderator: Professor Emma Sky



Professor Emma Sky is Director of the Yale World Fellows and a Senior Fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute, where she teaches Middle East politics and Global Affairs. She is the author of the highly acclaimed *The Unraveling: High Hopes and Missed Opportunities in Iraq*. Professor Sky served as advisor to the Commanding General of US Forces in Iraq from 2007-2010; as advisor to the Commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan in 2006; as advisor to the US Security Co-ordinator for the

Middle East Peace Process in 2005; and as Governorate Co-ordinator of Kirkuk for the Coalition Provisional Authority, 2003-2004. Prior to that, Professor Sky worked in the Palestinian territories for a decade, managing projects to develop Palestinian institutions; and to promote co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians.



Panel 3: Refugees – Paths for Engagement

In 2014 the Syrian refugee crisis captivated the world's attention. Today, refugees who make it to the United States continue to face many hardships, not least in the fields of employment and education. This panel will address refugee issues in the United States and abroad and how local initiatives in New Haven are working towards empowering and celebrating the refugees in our midst. Come listen to activists, academics, and non-profit leaders who are passionate about elevating the role of refugees in society today through art, social entrepreneurship and educational opportunities!

Ahmed Badr



Ahmed is a writer, social entrepreneur, poet, and former refugee from Iraq. On July 25th, 2006, Ahmed's home in Baghdad was bombed by militia troops. He and his family relocated to Syria as refugees for two and a half years before receiving approval to move to the United States. Ahmed founded Narratio, a global platform for youth empowerment through creative expression. Narratio publishes works of art from all over the globe, and hosts workshops centered around the power of storytelling and creativity.

Together with the Syrian artist and architect Mohamad Hafez, Ahmed co-founded UNPACKED: Refugee Baggage, a multi-media installation that remodels the homes of refugees inside a series of suitcases in an effort to humanize and give voice to a demographic that is often viewed in the abstract.

Ahmed is a sophomore at Wesleyan University, where he is a Fellow at the Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life. This past summer, Ahmed began working with the UN Migration Agency as the host of the "A Way Home Together" podcast. With work featured by SAP, TEDxTeen, United Nations, Instagram, NPR, Global Citizen, and others, Ahmed explores the intersection between creativity, the refugee experience, and youth empowerment.



Chris George



Chris George is the Executive Director of IRIS, Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, a New Haven-based refugee resettlement agency that has welcomed more than 1000 refugees since 2014.

Chris has spent most of his professional life living in, or working on, the Middle East. Before returning to Connecticut in 2004, he worked seven years in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Chris directed a legislative strengthening project with the Palestinian Parliament and later established an emergency assistance program for Palestinian nonprofits.

From 1994 to 1996, Chris was Executive Director of Human Rights Watch – Middle East. Prior to that, he worked with Save the Children (mostly in the West Bank and Gaza) and three years with American Friends Service Committee, (mostly in Lebanon). Chris began his international career in 1977 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Muscat, Oman. Altogether, he has spent more than 16 years living in the Middle East. He speaks Arabic.

Lorna Solis



Founder & CEO of Blue Rose Compass, a nonprofit impacting conflict regions by identifying brilliant young adults –mostly living in refugee camps – and arranging scholarships for them to world-leading universities. Founder & CEO of Lynke, B-corp which engages private sector by offering tech education and employment opportunities to refugees. Previously, Director for Latin America & Africa at Institutional Investor. Worked at I.D.E.A on Wall Street, covering Latin America, and at Water & Air Research – an environmental consulting firm. Graduated from the University of Florida and

Harvard Kennedy School's Global Leadership & Public Policy Executive Program. Member of Council on Foreign Relations. 2017 Yale Greenberg World Fellow; Young Global Leader



(YGL - active) with the World Economic Forum; member of the YGL's Group advisory board, and member of the Global Future Council on the Future of the Humanitarian System (2016-present), member of the Women's Empowerment and Gender Parity (2011-2012). Organizational Partner of Global Dignity Day. UNHCR Innovation Council Board member. Advisory Board member of the Humanitarian Innovation Project at the University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre. Judge, Hult Prize Regionals. Member of the Academy, Global Teacher Prize. Figurative sculptor.

Mohamed Hafez



Mohamad Hafez is an interdisciplinary artist and architect born in Syria, raised in Saudi Arabia and educated in the Midwestern United States. A self-taught sculptor, Hafez uses his expertise as a licensed AIA architect as well as his lived experience of Damascus's rich built environment to create poetic streetscapes high in fidelity and charged in content. His sculptural compilations of paint, metal, and found objects anchor uneasy conversations, stimulating deeper audience engagement on contentious topics like torture and prisoner abuse, child starvation in Africa, or the ongoing

global refugee crisis.

Hafez studied at Damascus University and Northern Illinois University before earning his B.Arch. at Iowa State University in 2009. Hafez began practicing sculpture shortly after coming to the U.S. in 2003, out of homesickness and nostalgia provoked by prohibitive Bush-era NSEERS travel restrictions. Hafez has exhibited at UNICEF House, NYC; Orlando Museum of Art, Florida; Lanoue Gallery, Boston; and Contemporary Art Platform, Kuwait, among others. He has received national attention in the New York Times, The New Yorker, and NPR. Hafez is currently full-time with the firm Pickard Chilton and was Project Lead Designer on the 2017 50-story, 1.5 million GSF office tower 609 Main in downtown Houston, TX.



Professor Rana Dajani



Rana Dajani Ph.D. molecular cell biology, Harvard Radcliff fellow, a Fulbrighter, Eisenhower fellow, Associate Professor, former center of studies director, Hashemite University, Jordan, Yale and Cambridge visiting professor. World expert on genetics of Circassian and Chechan populations in Jordan. Established stem cell research ethics law in Jordan. Advocate for biological evolution and Islam, speaker at McGill University and MIT. Jordan team leader in studying refugee youth with Yale University and the epigenetics of trauma across generations. Higher education reform expert, member UN women Jordan

advisory council. Writer in Science and Nature, Established a women mentor network, received PEER award 2014. Organized the first gender summit for the Arab world 2017. Most influential women scientists in Islamic World, 12 among 100 most influential Arab women 2015, women in science hall of fame 2015, King Hussein Cancer Institute for cancer and biotechnology award 2009 and 2016 Global Changemaker Award IIE/Fulbright. Higher Education Reform Expert EU-TEMPUS, Jordan, founder service learning center, Hashemite University, speaker at TEDxDeadsea, World Islamic Economic Forum 2012 and World Science Forum 2015. Developed a community-based model “We love reading” to encourage children to read for pleasure received Synergos Arab world social innovators 2009, WISE Award 2014, King Hussein Medal of Honor 2014, Star Award 2015, IDEO.org best refugee education program 2015, UNESCO International Literacy Prize 2017.



Moderator: Professor Catherine Panter-Brick



Professor Catherine Panter-Brick, MA, MSc, D.Phil, is a medical anthropologist, trained in human biology and the social sciences. She directs the Program on Conflict, Resilience, and Health at the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, and the Anthropology Program on Stress and Family Resilience. She is also the Senior Editor of the journal *Social Science & Medicine*. Her current research focuses on youth in global adversity, addressing issues in contexts of poverty, disease, famine, armed conflict, and social marginalization. She has directed over 40 research and evaluation projects in countries around the world. For her work in humanitarian and conflict areas such as Niger and

Afghanistan, Professor Panter-Brick was awarded the Lucy Mair Medal by the Council of the Royal Anthropology Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. She has also been appointed a Senior Research Fellow in the Crisis Prevention & Post-Conflict Unit of Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and a Research Associate of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). She has published extensively on hope, trauma, and mental health in Afghanistan, decision-making and survival in Niger, public health interventions in Nepal, the UK and the Gambia, and markers of stress in contexts of violence and homelessness. She leads the Early Childhood Peacebuilding Consortium with other faculty at Yale and the United Nations.





Activities

Exclusive contemporary Arab film screening: *Soufra*

Followed by a virtual Q&A with the director, Thomas Morgan.

Soufra follows the unlikely and wildly inspirational story of intrepid social entrepreneur, Mariam Shaar – a generational refugee who has spent her entire life in the Burj El Barajneh refugee camp just south of Beirut, Lebanon. The film follows Mariam as she sets out against all odds to change her fate by launching a successful catering company, “Soufra,” and then expand it into a food truck business with a diverse team of fellow refugee woman who now share this camp as their home. Together, they heal the wounds of war through the unifying power of food while taking their future into their own hands through an unrelenting belief in Mariam, and in each other. In the process, Mariam is breaking barriers, pulling together Syrian, Iraqi, Palestinian and Lebanese women to work side by side and form beautiful friendships while running this thriving business.

Soufra will shine a new and revealing light on people inside of the largest refugee crisis in human history, but ultimately this film is about hope, grit, passion and the common bonds created by bringing people together around food as a bridge to overcome all barriers. Though Mariam is officially considered “stateless” she is a beacon of hope and home for thousands upon thousands of women in the most unlikely of places. Mariam and her team will be just that for thousands more once her story is told through *Soufra*.

Thomas Morgan



His films have been labeled “Filmanthropy” as he has leveraged them to create movements and a call to action. In *Storyed Streets*, Morgan captures the painful reality of homelessness in America and gracefully unearths pain and personal triumphs of those living unhoused in our country. Through the film he has protested, petitioned and pushed for laws making the violence against the homeless a hate crime, higher wages and abolishment of laws criminalizing homelessness.

With the 2013 documentary short film, *Waiting for Mamu*, he speaks to the power of one, through the story of Pushpa





Basnet, who at age 21 began helping free children from the prison floors in Nepal. The award-winning film has raised the money to build a permanent home, The Butterfly Home, in Kathmandu and assisted in supporting their education. He has added Executive Producer to his resume through his support of Silenced, a film about US government whistleblowers, and India's Daughter, an Oscar contending film about the rape and murder of a 23-year-old medical student in India.

Morgan has been a keynote speaker many times on Capitol Hill and twice before the U.S. Congress. He also spoke for the PPL forum at the 2012 Democratic National Convention and at 2013 at the United Nations. His TED Talk entitled "Put On Your Underoos It's Time To Save The World" has been seen via internet by hundreds of thousands. He has done one of the most unusual TEDx Talks from Nepal soon after the earthquake while providing relief to Pushpa Basnet and her children and was the commencement speaker at his alma mater given what has been called "One the best commencement speeches of 2015."

Breakfast with an Innovator

Ali Chehade



Ali is a media professional with a BA in Communication Arts from the Lebanese American University and an MS in Media Management from Southern Illinois University, which he got on a Fulbright scholarship.

Between 2012 and 2015, Ali was the lead startup coach at AltCity, one of Beirut's first startup incubators. Since 2011, Ali has organized tens of events, including hackathons, professional panels, training sessions, and networking events. Ali is also a motivational speaker, and a university level instructor in the topics of media, business, and entrepreneurship. He was named one of Lebanon's top 20 entrepreneurs of 2015 by Executive Magazine.

In 2013, Ali attended an intensive entrepreneurship program at Draper University in Silicon Valley, where he then volunteered as a program assistant and mentor for two program sessions. Ali is also a marketing fanatic and has led the creative marketing efforts of multiple businesses and startups.





Ali is currently a producer and a host at Future Television's "Bala Toul Sireh", a prime-time talkshow, and "Alam Al Sabah", a morning show through which he hosts a weekly segment about Social Media. He is also an experimental serial entrepreneur and the founder of The Dream Matcher, which creates and licenses platforms that help people achieve their dreams (www.dreammatcher.com). He is the host and lead organizer of The Dream Matcher Experience, Lebanon's longest running and most attended networking event, with more than 50 events, and 2500 attendees. In addition to The Dream Matcher, Ali also founded multiple startups in the fields of self-improvement, food and beverage, and technology.

Multicultural Festival

In collaboration with Refugee and Immigrant Student Education (RISE)

The Multicultural Festival taking place on Old Campus will feature professional performers, Yale student groups, local restaurants, and a cultural fashion show! The ASA, with the support of local refugees, will be running henna, Arabic calligraphy, paper lantern making and glass painting stalls. We look forward to seeing you all there to engage in this cultural exchange. This event is open to all of New Haven and is a celebration of the diversity of the city. Food and refreshments from a variety of restaurants will be available for everyone, free of charge.

The guest performers are Karim Nagi, an Egyptian cultural performer, and Ariana Brown, an Afro-Latina spoken word poet. There will also be a Fashion Show presenting the designs of local high school students.

Yale performers and student groups participating include but are not limited to: South Asian Society, Afghan Students Association, Thai Students at Yale, Japanese Students at Yale, and Yale Jashan Bhangra!

Local restaurants that will be catering the event include but are not limited to: Mamoun's, Hasna's Grill, Zaroka, Jeera Thai, Taste of Brazil, Lalibela, and Thai Ice Cream!

Afikra Talks by Mikey Muhanna and Todd Fine

afikra | عفكرة is a global organization whose mission is to cultivating curiosity in Arab history and culture. They host intimate, monthly, free salon-style events featuring members of our community giving in-depth presentations on topics related to the Arab world. Their vision is to build a global community of curious minds who are interested in promoting intellectualism and deepening our communal knowledge of the Arab region. Starting in 2014 in NYC, afikra has grown to cities all over the world, building a global network of folks interested in





communally exploring the richness and diversity of Arab history and culture. afikra is currently active in NYC, DC, Montreal, Beirut, Dubai, London, & Bahrain - and have plans to grow new chapters in Amman, Kuwait, Boston, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Los Angeles, Riyadh, Jeddah, Paris, Cairo, and San Francisco.

Mikey Muhanna



Professionally, Mikey is a trained actuary, finance quant, and educator. Over the past ten years he's worked for the following organizations: Morgan Stanley, PricewaterhouseCoopers & Teach For America. Currently, he lives in Beirut where he splits his time between helping run a regional management & actuarial consulting firm that services governments and financial institutions throughout the Middle East, and building afikra all around the world.

Todd Fine



Todd Fine is the president of the Washington Street Historical Society, a nonprofit that advocates for the physical preservation of the "Little Syria" neighborhood of Downtown Manhattan and that is advancing a public art monument project for its literary figures. In 2011, he directed Project Khalid, a campaign to celebrate the centennial year of the publication of Ameen Rihani's *The Book of Khalid* (1911), the first Arab-American novel in English. The campaign included events at the U.S. Library of Congress and the New York Public Library. He also edited a critical edition of *The Book of Khalid* that was published by Syracuse University Press in 2016. Currently, he is a PhD student of history at the

Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He holds a BA in government from Harvard University (2004) and an MA in international relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University (2007).





Yale Arab Conference

a m a l n a

Paving the Road Ahead
20th-21st April 2018

