

Shereen Abou el-Naga



Shereen Abou el-Naga is Associate Professor of English Literature at Cairo University. She took her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from the Cairo University. Her doctoral thesis treated the development of Wordsworth's poetry. She has taught in the American University of Cairo and the Free University of Berlin, and held a fellowship of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. She is the author of numerous publications in English and Arabic treating literature and gender, with particular interest in Arab women's studies. She has presented papers in major international conferences in Europe, North America and the Middle East.

She is co-founder of Egyptians against Religious Discrimination (MARED), a board member of The Egyptian Association of Comparative Literature, and a member of the Supreme Council for Culture in Egypt.

Walter Armbrust



Walter Armbrust is the Albert Hourani Fellow of Modern Middle East Studies at St. Antony's College, and University Lecturer at Oxford University. He is the author of *Mass Culture and Modernism in Egypt* (Cambridge, 1996), and editor of *Mass Mediations: New Approaches to Popular Culture in the Middle East and Beyond* (University of California, 2000). He is currently Senior Editor of the e-journal Arab Media and Society (formerly Transnational Broadcasting Studies: <http://www.tbsjournal.com/>). His research interests focus on mass media and popular culture in the Arab world.

Randa Habib



Randa Habib is the Director of the Jordan Bureau for the Agence France Presse. She was born in Beirut to a diplomatic family. She took her Baccalaurat from the Lycée Franco-Brazilero in Rio de Janeiro, and returned to Beirut to study administrative and political science at the Université Saint Joseph.

In 1980 she joined the French wire service, Agence France-Presse, and worked as a correspondent for Radio Monte Carlo (Middle East) from 1988 to 2005. She gained international recognition for her coverage of Jordan under King Hussein, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the Iraqi uprisings of 1991, and the succession from Hussein to Abdullah II in Jordan. She was awarded the French Labour Medal (2000) and was named Chevalier de l'Ordre Nationale du Merite by the French President in 2001.

Rima Khalaf Hunaidi



Rima Khalaf Hunaidi is the chairperson of the Advisory Board of the *Arab Human Development Report* (AHDR) and the principal architect of the series. She also chairs the UN Global Democracy Fund Advisory Board.

She took her B.A. in economics from the American University of Beirut, where she now serves as a Trustee, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Systems Science from Portland State University.

Before joining the UNDP, she was Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan where, as head of the ministerial economic team, she promoted the drive for economic reform in Jordan while simultaneously working on a package for building human capabilities, alleviating human poverty and strengthening social safety nets. She also served as Minister of Planning and Minister of Industry and Trade; she was also a Senator in the Upper House of the Jordanian Parliament.

Between September 2000 and February 2006, she served as Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS), at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Under her leadership, the Regional Bureau launched the AHDR series, the first issue of which, entitled "Creating Opportunities for Future Generations", appeared in July 2002 and received the 2003 Prince Claus Award in "recognition of exceptional achievements in the field of culture and development". The second report, on "Building A Knowledge Society", came out in October 2003 and the third, "Towards Freedom in the Arab World", was published in April 2005. The latter received the prestigious King Hussein Leadership Prize, which annually recognizes individuals, groups and institutions that have "demonstrated exceptional leadership in their efforts to advocate for and promote sustainable development, equity, human rights, tolerance and cross-cultural understanding, and peace".

In 2005, the League of Arab States honoured her with its award for "the Most Distinguished Arab Woman in the Field of International Organizations".

Serra Kirdar-Meliti



Serra Kirdar-Meliti is Director of the Muthabara Foundation in Dubai. Having received her schooling in London at St Paul's Girls School, she took her B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Oxford, where she also completed her M.Sc. in Comparative and International Education. She received her D.Phil. at St Antony's College, Oxford in 2004, for her thesis, 'Gender and Cross-Cultural Experience with Reference to Elite Arab Women'. She held a post doctoral fellowship at the Department of Education and the Center for Middle East Studies at Harvard University. In 2005 she was elected to a Foundation Fellowship of St Antony's College.

A founding member of the New Leaders Group for the Institute for International Education (IIE), she established the Initiative for Innovative Teaching (INTEACH) under the IIE and Oxford's Middle East Centre. INTEACH aims to develop tailor-made, locally geared professional training programs for public sector teachers in the Arab world to enhance pedagogical capacity in the region.

In 2006 she established the Muthabara Foundation, in partnership with the Middle East Centre and the Centre for Applied HR Research, Oxford, for the empowerment of Arab women in the professions and private sector management. The Dubai-based Foundation works to improve the education and career opportunities of undergraduate and graduate level local women. Furthermore, Muthabara offers practical guides and recommendations to local women and international companies as well as support and guidance to accelerate the advancement of Arab women to leadership responsibilities.

Nawal El Moutawakel



Nawal El Moutawakel is a Member of the International Olympic Committee, and serves on the Coordination Commission for the 2012 Olympic Games. She is also a member of the FIFA Commission for Women's Football, a Council Member of the International Association of Athletics Federations, of the African Athletic Confederation, of the International Committee of Mediterranean Games, and other international sporting organizations.

After completing her Baccalaurat in Casablanca in 1983, she took her B.S. from the Iowa State University of Science and Technology (1988).

In the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, she became the first Arab woman to win an Olympic gold medal for her performance in the 400m

hurdles. She subsequently took gold in the African Championships (1985), the Mediterranean Games (1987), and the University Games (1987). Her international successes made her a role model for women athletes in the Arab, African and Muslim worlds alike. In 2000 she was elected 'Arab Sportswoman of the 20th Century' by the Al-Jazeera television network, and was inducted into the Women's Sport Foundation's Hall of Fame in the United States (2006).

She served as Inspector in the Moroccan Ministry of Sport and Youth (1989-1998), and subsequently as Secretary of State for Sport and Youth (1997-1998). She was Executive Director of the BMCE Bank Foundation for Education and Environment in Morocco, and was Director of the Sahara Sports Academy in Amby Valley, India.

Nabeela Al-Mulla



Nabeela Al-Mulla is the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Ambassador-designate to the European Union and to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

She took her B.A. in political science and her M.A. in international relations, with honours, from the American University of Beirut.

She returned to her native Kuwait to enter the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 1977 and 1994 she served in the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations in New York.

She was named Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of Zimbabwe (1994-95) and South Africa (1996-1999), as well as the states of Namibia, Mauritius and Botswana on a non-residency basis. She became Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Austria in 2000, with responsibility for the Republics of Hungary, Slovenia, and the Slovak Republic on a non-residency basis.

In 2003 she returned to the UN as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to be the first Arab woman Ambassador to the UN. She also represented her country in Mexico, Cuba and the Bahamas. Nabeela Al-Mulla was the first woman from the Middle East and South Asia region to chair the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (2002-03). She has represented her government at OPEC Extraordinary Ministerial meetings (2002-03). She has also served as Kuwait's representative to the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

In 2004, Ambassador Al-Mulla was presented with the Austrian Grand Golden Decoration of Honour for First Class Merit ("*Grosse*

Goldene Ehrenzeichen Am Bande Für Verdienste um Die Republik Österreich")

In 2005, she was nominated by "the Association 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize" to be part of 1000 Peace Women Across the Globe. Her nomination was in recognition of her work within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) during the Korean and Iranian crises.

Nada Al-Nashif



Nada Al-Nashif is Regional Director of the International Labour Office's Regional Office for Arab States in Beirut.

Born in Kuwait, she took her B.A. from Balliol College Oxford in PPE in 1987, and her Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in 1991. She started her professional career as an Economic Analyst with the National Bank of Kuwait. She went on to work at the United Nations Development Programme in 1991, serving in New York, Libya and Lebanon. Before taking up her post at the ILO in January 2007, she was Chief of the UNDP's Regional Programme Division for the Regional Bureau for Arab States.

Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi



Upon her appointment as Minister of Economy in November, 2004, Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi became the first women in her country's history to assume a cabinet position, over the newly-merged economy and planning portfolio.

She took her B.S. from California State University, Chico, and the Executive M.B.A. from the American University of Sharjah.

Sheikha Lubna has built her career between government and business, with more than twenty years experience in information technology and management. She began her career as Dubai branch manager for the General information Authority, the organization responsible for automating the federal government of the United Arab Emirates. She was then named Senior manager of the information systems at the Dubai Ports Authority, a position she held for over seven years. In 1999 she was named the "Distinguished Government Employee" and appointed Chief Executive Officer of Tejari, the Middle East's premier electronic business-to-business marketplace (2000). She has served her country as head of the Dubai e-government executive team responsible for instituting e-government initiatives throughout the public sector (2001).

Sheikha Lubna was recognized by Forbes Magazine as one of the women to watch in the Middle East, and in May 2005 was named by Women News in New York as one of the 21 leaders in the Twenty-First Century. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her work in politics, the economy and information technology from the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the Middle East.

Eugene Rogan



Eugene Rogan is Director of the Middle East Centre, St Antony's College and University Lecturer in the Modern History of the Middle East in the University of Oxford, where he has taught since 1991.

He took his B.A. in economics from Columbia University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Middle Eastern studies from Harvard.

He is author of numerous books on the modern history of the Middle East, including *Frontiers of the State in the Late Ottoman Empire*, for which he received the Albert Hourani Prize, and *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948* (with Avi Shlaim).

An authority on the modern history of the Middle East, he is frequently interviewed by the international media. He served on the advisory readers' group for the Fourth Arab Human Development Report.

Moufida Tlatli



Moufida Tlatli is an internationally-celebrated film director.

Born in Tunisia, Ms Tlatli moved to Paris in 1965 to study in the screenplay/editing department of the Institut des Hautes Etudes Cinématographiques. Upon completing her studies, she worked for the French National Television (ORTF) as script girl and head of production.

She returned to Tunisia in 1972 and worked as a film editor on some of the most important Arab films of the 70s, 80s, and 90s, including Ferid Boughedir's *Halfaouine* (Child of the Terraces).

In 1993, she directed her first film, *Samt al-Qusur* (The Silences of the Palace), which was selected for the Directors' Fortnight in Cannes in 1994, where she won the SICAE Award and the Golden Camera. The film also won the International Critics' Award in Toronto, and Best Film in Chicago, London, Istanbul, Galway, Milan and Johannesburg. Arab critics also honored the film, which was awarded the Tanit d'Or and Best Actress in Carthage, Tunisia in 1994, and

swept the Arab Critics award, the Best Actress and the Jury's Prize in Damascus in 1995.

She returned to Cannes in 2000 with her film *La Saison des Hommes* (The Season of Men). The film was shown in film festivals in North America, Europe and the Middle East and went on to win the IMA (Institut du Monde Arabe) Grand Prix in Paris and prizes at Namur, Valencia, Turin and Stuttgart festivals.

Moufida Tlatli is a member of the jury for leading international film festivals in Cannes, Carthage, Rotterdam, Paris, Valencia, Montpellier, the Institut du Monde Arabe, and Rome. She has received the Tunisian Presidential Prize for Film-making (1995), the Chevalier des Lettres et des Arts in Cannes (1996), and the Tahar Haddad Prize in Tunisia (2000).