

NYU ABU DHABI  
INSTITUTE

2022  
2023

YEAR IN REVIEW



جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي  
NYU ABU DHABI

INSTITUTE

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# YEAR IN REVIEW 2022-23



Her Excellency Shamma bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui, Minister of Community Development

## LETTER OF WELCOME

As we reflect upon this year's NYU Abu Dhabi Institute programs, we celebrate the return to a full year of in-person programming both in Abu Dhabi and at 19 Washington Square North, NYUAD's home in New York. Throughout the year, the Institute curated an exceptional line-up of lectures, discussions, and workshops, spanning a diverse array of topics with local and global significance. From the realms of physics and heritage to history, politics, and architecture, programs catered to the curiosity of our community.

The season kicked off with a talk on *Understanding Our Universe From 2km Underground* by Nobel Laureate in Physics Art McDonald, and one on *The Evolution of Architecture in the UAE* by Rashad Bukhash, Chairman of the International Council of Museums-UAE. In New York, the Fall semester featured a talk on artificial intelligence by Yann LeCun, VP and Chief AI Scientist of Meta (FAIR), and a panel discussion on cities and our environmental future, timed to coincide with the release of the book *Global Sustainable Cities* (NYU Press, 2023), a collaborative effort of NYU's faculty in New York and Abu Dhabi. The Institute also introduced a series on Al Andalus and another on the Environment and the Middle East. In addition, the Institute supported the Vice Chancellor's Strategic Philanthropy Initiative (SPI) through a lecture series that featured experiences and expertise from around the world and generated conversations on philanthropy with a special focus on regional relevance.

In the Spring, the second edition of *Ramadanīyyat* brought together the University's three public-facing institutions, the Institute, the Art Gallery, and the Arts Center, to celebrate Andalusian poetry and classical music. Poet Mahdi Mansour, musician Faraj Abyad, and poet, critic, and media expert Barween Habib discussed contemporary poetry and music and explored the profound impact of Andalusian Maqamat on modern Arabic poetry.

The Institute hosted conferences with local, regional, and international scholars and experts to foster scholarly discussions and facilitate collaborations in groundbreaking and innovative research, notably: a conference on the impact of colorism and biracial identities within the U.S.; a conference that gathered sociologists and demographers from the various NYU campuses to discuss inequalities; and a conference on the recent advances in genomics, proteomics, and computational biology that brought together international experts and renowned scientists from the UAE to present their latest findings on discovering new targets and drugs for human diseases.

Our commitment to societal engagement grew stronger through the development of several partnerships. Firstly, in collaboration with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Impactiv, and the Authority of Social Contribution – Ma'an, the Institute organized a panel discussion on *Knowledge Development and Industrialization: A Catalyst to Circular Economy*. In addition to looking back and offering insights on the achievements that have been made, the conversation also shed light on how the younger generation can continue this legacy and contribute further to a sustainable economy. Secondly, in partnership with the 50U team, the Institute curated a series of talks that showcased the UAE 50th anniversary book and provided valuable insights and learning opportunities for the younger generation of the UAE community. And thirdly, together with the Special Olympics team, the Institute organized Research Collaborative sessions, which convened researchers and regional practitioners to discuss their findings on best practices for sustaining and expanding Unified Champion Schools programming across the globe, with a focus on the UAE. We strive to increase our community and social engagement and to expand our partnerships and collaborations locally, regionally, and globally.

Please stay connected by visiting us at [nyuad.nyu.edu/institute](http://nyuad.nyu.edu/institute) for updates on upcoming programs and videos of past programs, and by following us on social media @NYUADInstitute.

*N.M. El Cheikh*

**Nadia El Cheikh**, Vice Provost for Cultural and Research Engagement  
Professor of History  
NYU Abu Dhabi



**PUBLIC  
PROGRAMS**

# PUBLIC PROGRAMS

## SEPTEMBER

- 8 Understanding Our Universe From 2 KM Underground
- 12 Everyday Life in the “Glitzy” City: Making Home in Dubai
- 14 Between Skylines and Deserts: Space in Photography Series by Ammar Al Attar and Hussain AlMoosawi
- 20 The Future of Humans and AI
- 22 The Evolution of Architecture in the UAE
- 26 ‘50U’: An Intimate Portrait of the UAE
- 28 No Choice but to Keep Creating Futures: The Frontier of Climate Change

## OCTOBER

- 6 Prophet Muhammad’s Timeless Gifts to Humanity
- 10 Legacies of Violence
- 11 An Ugly Word: Rethinking “Race” In Italy—and Worldwide
- 12 Knowledge Development and Industrialization: A Catalyst to Circular Economy
- 17 How the Muslims of Canton Saved China in 1582
- 20 Design Works: A Decade of In-House Design at NYU Abu Dhabi
- 24 Tenth Anniversary of the Higgs Boson Discovery
- 26 Plagued Legacies: Rethinking Black Death Narratives
- 27 Mahira Khan: Redefining Stardom and Trailblazing South Asian Storytelling
- 31 The Legacy of Al-Andalus: Material and Textual Sources

## NOVEMBER

- 2 BAM... and Then It Hit Me: A Conversation with Karen Hopkins
- 7 Making Decisions in a World of Uncertainty
- 9 Extremism: A Philosophical Analysis
- 10 A Talk by Yann LeCun: From Machine Learning to Autonomous Intelligence
- 14 Speaking English: Staging the Dialectics of Identity, Culture and Survival
- 21 Photography as a Visual Record: Past, Present, Future
- 23 The (Impossible) Decolonization of the Western Museum

## DECEMBER

- 5 The Future Lies in Women’s Memory
- 7 The Torrijos Ceiling in the Victoria and Albert Museum
- 7 Woman, Life, Liberty: What does Iran’s Movement Mean for Global Democracy?
- 12 Love’s Grammar

## JANUARY

- 10 Uncovering the Underlying Structure of the Universe
- 20 Black Hole Survival Guide
- 23 Global Sustainable Cities: Cities and Our Environmental Future
- 26 How Does the Bilingual Brain Process Language?

## FEBRUARY

- 1 The Arrival of Late Modernism in Dubai
- 6 Waste Siege: The Life of Infrastructure in Palestine
- 8 MXenes: 2D Materials for the Future
- 13 What Should 6G Be?
- 15 Narratives of the Moriscos’ Expulsion in Spanish and Arab Thought
- 20 The Voyage of the Crooked: A Connected History of the Gulf and Indian Ocean
- 22 Can We Cure Aging?
- 27 Grit & Grace: The Fight for the American Dream
- 27 The Cairo Genizah as a Treasury of Arabic Literature

## MARCH

- 1 Decoding Mars with the “Hope” Probe: Uncovering the Red Planet’s Secrets of Life
- 2 Urban Modernity in the Contemporary Gulf: Obsolescence and Opportunities
- 7 Loss, Longing, Belonging: Shahzia Sikander’s Khorfakkan Series
- 7 The Intellectual Crossroads of Al-Andalus: How Andalusí Scholars Shaped the Global Islamic Culture
- 13 Crystals in Health and Disease
- 21 The Science Fiction of Santiago Ramón y Cajal & Early Film Experiments
- 27 The Wolf King: Ibn Mardanişh and the Construction of Power in al-Andalus

## APRIL

- 3 Exploration of Biological Diversity
- 3 On Poetry and Music with Barween Habib, Mahdi Mansour, and Faraj Abyad
- 4 Reflections on “The Dawn of Everything”
- 20 Life Worlds of Middle Eastern Oil
- 25 First Art: Gardens of Eden and the Human Condition

## MAY

- 1 COP28 and Beyond: NYUAD Research to Achieve Net Zero
- 1 The Power of Sport: Building and Empowering Communities
- 3 The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the Ottoman Period
- 4 Custom 3D-Printed Triply Periodic Minimal Surface-Based Bone Implants
- 8 The Way We Move: Can Information and Technology Change It?
- 10 Surviving the Heat: The Struggle of Marine Turtles Against Climate Change
- 18 An Overview of High Performance Computing and Future Requirements

## JUNE

- 7 Wolves, Gorillas, a Jerboa & More! Animals and the Library of Arabic Literature

## UNDERSTANDING OUR UNIVERSE FROM 2 KM UNDERGROUND

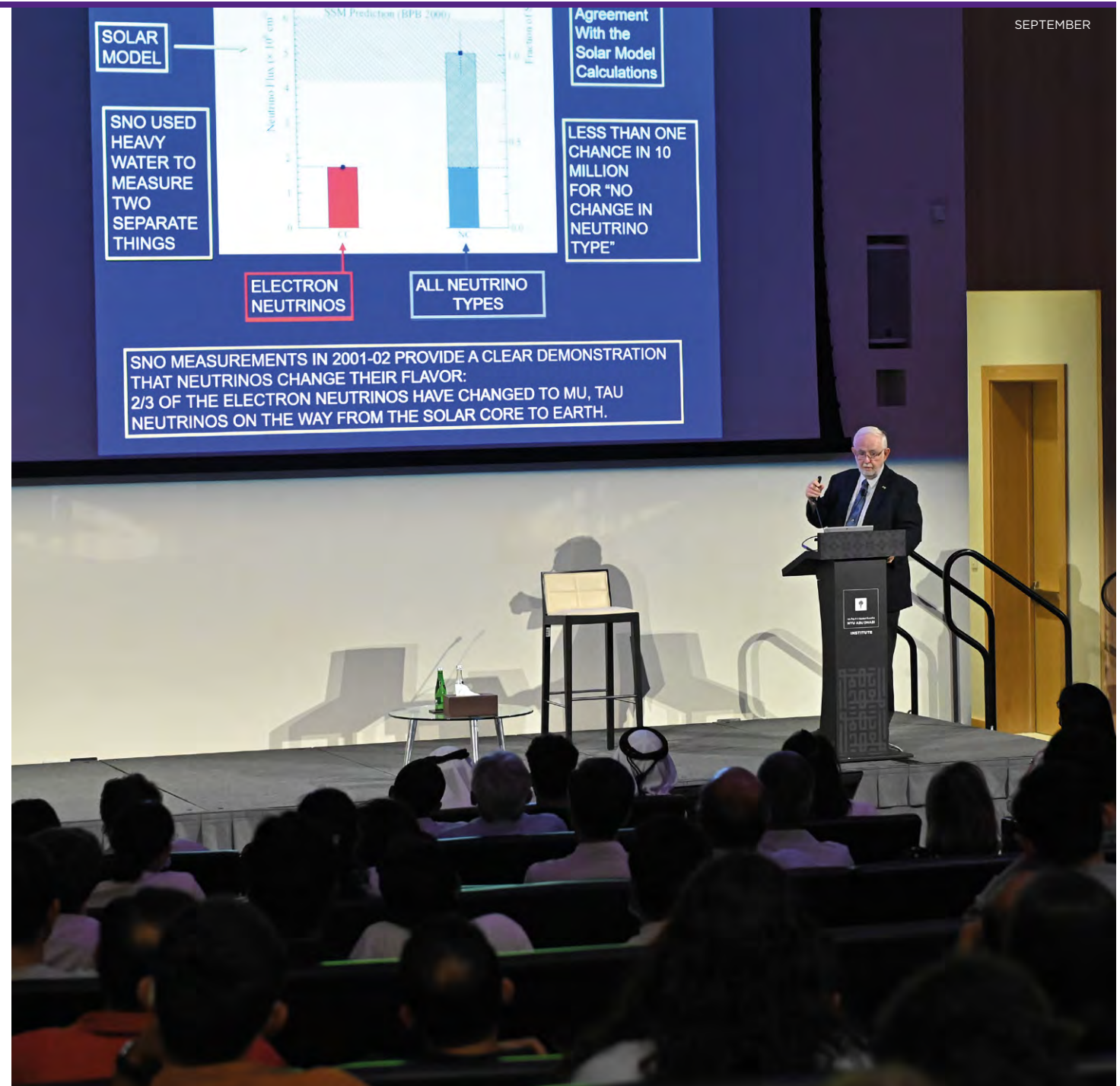
By going deep underground and creating ultra-clean conditions, it is possible to produce the lowest radioactivity laboratory in the world. There we can address very fundamental questions about our Universe: How does the Sun burn? What are the abundant dark matter particles in the spaces between the stars? What are the properties of neutrinos, elusive particles that are one of the fundamental building blocks of nature? How do these particles influence how our Universe evolves? This talk describes experiments that take place at underground labs internationally and address these questions.

“

But it also proved what we observed that neutrinos are not the dark matter that we'll talk about in a moment that fills the spaces between the stars when you look out on a starry night. Dark matter particles behave differently than any other particles that have ever been observed in the laboratory, neutrinos included, they're much heavier than we think.

SPEAKER

**Art McDonald**, Nobel Laureate in Physics; Gray Chair, Emeritus, Queen's University



TALK  
NEW YORK

12  
SEP



### EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE “GLITZY” CITY: MAKING HOME IN DUBAI

The book is an urban ethnography that reveals how middle class-citizens and long-time residents of Dubai interact with the city’s spectacular and so-called “superficial” spaces to create meaningful social lives. It argues that residents adapt themselves to imposed spectacular structures, such as big shopping malls and new developments, while also making these same structures serve their own evolving social needs. By offering an alternative to the discourse of authenticity, elucidating the dynamics of ambivalent belonging, and theorizing adaptive agency, this book belies popular and scholarly stereotypes that portray Dubai’s developments as “inauthentic,” objectively alienating, and inherently disempowering.

SPEAKER  
**Rana Al Mutawa**, Assistant Professor Emerging Scholar of Social Research and Public Policy, NYUAD

PANEL DISCUSSION

14  
SEP



### BETWEEN SKYLINES AND DESERTS: SPACE IN PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES BY AMMAR AL ATTAR AND HUSSAIN ALMOOSAWI

The UAE is often reduced to images of urban skylines or desert oases. A narrative of rapid development erases everything in between. This discussion brings together Ammar Al Attar and Hussain AlMoosawi, whose photographic series engage prompt discussions on how spaces have physically changed. AlMoosawi’s series assemble design as a way to interpret the social history of local adaptation of international design trends on the exterior of buildings. And in Al Attar’s most recent series, he wears the white kandura of national dress in outdoor spaces, as he performs routine and monotonous movements that many Emiratis make inside offices. Both artists offer photography series that help us understand spaces around us.

SPEAKERS  
**Hussain AlMoosawi**, Photographer  
**Ammar Al Attar**, Photographer

MODERATED BY  
**Dale Hudson**, Associate Teaching Professor of Film and New Media and Curator of Film and New Media, NYUAD

TALK

20  
SEP



### THE FUTURE OF HUMANS AND AI

Current advances in AI are phenomenal. However, we are still in the beginning of the AI “Industrial Revolution.” We are creating the steam engines of AI that will become the airplanes of the future. Natural Language Processing has become indistinguishable from human speech, art creation has surpassed some of the most advanced artists, protein folding, a 50-year-old problem, has been solved, winning games against the smartest humans and many more achievements in AI indicate which way the arrow of progress is pointing towards. What will the future AI look like? How will humans live alongside more powerful intelligences than their own? Is the future bleak or bright?

“  
I’m going to give you a positive thing maybe, 85 million jobs will be lost but 92 million jobs will be created in the future, that’s what they say.”

SPEAKER  
**Mohamed Qasem**, Assistant Professor of Electronics Engineering, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET)

TALK

22  
SEP



### THE EVOLUTION OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE UAE

This talk explores the evolution of architecture in the UAE starting with very early architectural and archaeological sites from 6000 B.C.E. and continuing on to traditional architecture from 1700-1960, modern heritage from 1960-1980, and then 1980 to the present. The presentation compares these architectural periods and also analyzes the country’s early Islamic sites as well as the Portuguese forts.

“  
If we look at the architecture of UAE sites from Bronze Age 3200- 1300 B.C, it’s not an easy kind of architecture. This is something very delicate. How they put the stones together, the carving of the deers and monkeys on the building, so it is a very nice and sophisticated way of architecture, which means that they were very civilized people at that time.”

SPEAKER  
**Rashad M. Bukhash**, Chairman, Architectural Heritage Society, UAE; Chairman, ICOM, UAE

IN COLLABORATION WITH







“

To me, the “Kajooja” is very special because it holds a cultural element and touch, which is in my personality, I see myself through it. And it’s very colorful because it gives me that hope, that light, that ... you can create whatever you want in this country, and it’s kind of united and ongoing, you can’t stop unless you want to cut it, that’s when you stop. Otherwise, you just continue.

Khawla Bin Khediya

## ‘50U’: AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT OF THE UAE

Published in the year of the 50th anniversary of the confederation of the United Arab Emirates, *50U* paints an intimate picture of life in the Emirates through the memories, hopes, and ambitions of its inhabitants. Factual accounts of the UAE’s history are told alongside human stories that are the result of extensive interviews with the young nation’s residents and visitors. In this conversation, the team who is behind this book shares their deeper insight on the book and its disseminating journey. The book is the brainchild of local UAE businessman Yasser Bin Khediya who commissioned Dutch graphic designer and specialist bookmaker Irma Boom.

### OPENING REMARKS

**H.E Mubarak Al Nakhi**, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and Youth, UAE

### SPEAKERS

**Francesco Degl’Innocenti**, Managing Editor of *50U* (Archis, 2022)

**Anna Seaman**, Editor of *50U*

**Khawla Bin Khediya**, Project Director of *50U*

### MODERATED BY

**Shatha Al Mulla**, Assistant Undersecretary for the Arts and Heritage Sector, Ministry of Culture and Youth, UAE

Part of *50U* Series

## NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP CREATING FUTURES: THE FRONTIER OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is here—but it looks nothing like in the movies. Across the planet, the people most affected by natural disasters are somehow still living their lives, experiencing joy while undergoing hardship, thinking up new solutions for our warming world. In Lebanon, an unprecedented economic collapse is wreaking tragedy upon the country, but also bringing around a fervent enthusiasm to innovate, to reinvent, to rebuild our home differently. What does it mean to be human in an age of extreme changes? How do we dance on the boundaries of adaptation? Drawing from experiences out of Lebanon, this talk reflects on how we create hope when the rug has been pulled from under our feet.

### SPEAKER

**Najat Saliba**, Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry, Co-executive Director of Khaddit Beirut, and Director of Environment Academy, American University of Beirut

Part of the *Environment and the Middle East Series*



“

So starting with academia, should academia be a closed environment? No. The universities play a major role in reaching out to communities, and I was learning from Nahed today that this institution started by engaging the community and inviting them to become part of this institution. And this institution is extremely important. Universities should also be reaching out to local governments and to the private sector. And definitely, all of these three stakeholders should communicate with international organizations. Because without international treaties we cannot really put a comprehensive approach.



## PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S TIMELESS GIFTS TO HUMANITY

Prophet Muhammad has made a prodigious impact on the history of the world and continues to impact the contemporary world. How exactly did he manage to make a difference, and why are his enlightening teachings still germane today? In answering these questions, this talk counteracts the centuries-long Christian polemics demonizing the prophet. It offers a rare sociological overview of his life and enduring legacy and makes the case for Prophet Muhammad's role as a "liberator" of human beings who ultimately opened the door to a society built upon civic nation building, civil rights, cross-cultural navigation, religious pluralism, and racial equality.

“

The UAE government gave 50 million dollars to the people of Mosul to rebuild these historic churches that were destroyed by ISIS... can you imagine what that would mean to the people of Mosul? So Muhammad's spirit, his teachings, his legacy are not dead. We know that. And we know that through acts like the UAE government providing all of these funds to reviving the spirit of Mosul.

### SPEAKER

**Craig Considine**, Senior Lecturer, Rice University;  
Author of *The Humanity of Muhammad* –  
*A Christian View* (Blue Dome Press 2020)

## LEGACIES OF VIOLENCE

Recent research in the social sciences suggests that families' past experiences of violence –notably, war and displacement – shape descendants' preferences and behaviors for generations and influence economic, political, and social decisions within these families over decades and, at times, centuries. This talk provides an overview of the cutting-edge research on the legacies of violence and describes what we know about the intergenerational effects of violence and the social processes by which family trauma is inherited. To illustrate the argument, the talk draws in part on fieldwork among victims and their descendants in Ukraine, Catalonia, Cambodia, and Guatemala.

“

The legacy of violence is such that the people who feel that they have been victimized maintain this victim identity over time and have grievances against the perpetrator. And this might have a tendency to persist these vicious cycles of grievances and victimization. And one of the most important policy questions that arises out of agenda is, how do we get out of these cycles, these vicious cycles of victimhood, and how do we transition to a peaceful process of post-conflict reconciliation?

### SPEAKER

**Leonid Peisakhin**, Associate Professor of Political Science, NYUAD

Part of *NYUAD Research Public Talks Series*





## AN UGLY WORD: RETHINKING “RACE” IN ITALY— AND WORLDWIDE

Although race is a familiar, everyday topic in the US, that is hardly the case everywhere. In Italy, sociologists Ann Morning (NYU) and Marcello Maneri (University of Milan-Bicocca) found, just the mention of it regularly elicited the reaction, “Che brutta parola! What an ugly word!” This panel explores the findings from their new book, *An Ugly Word*, which compares discourse and beliefs about difference in Italy and the US, and proposes a new framework for studying concepts of difference across national borders.

### SPEAKERS

**Ann Morning**, Author, *An Ugly Word: Rethinking Race in Italy and the United States* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2022); Professor of Sociology, NYU

**Clifton Boyd**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music, NYU

**Duncan Yoon**, Assistant Professor, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, NYU

## KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION: A CATALYST TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY

“He who does not know his past cannot make the best of his present and future, for it is from the past that we learn,” said Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan. This panel tells the story of the UAE Pioneers and major international industry vehicle ADNOC’s contribution to the country’s circular economy while also working to preserve its heritage, national identity, and culture in an era of globalization. In addition to looking back and offering insights on the achievements that have been made, the conversation also looks forward and asks: how can the younger generation carry this torch forward?

“

If you don’t have resilience, we cannot achieve our strategic objectives and initiatives and development in general. Over the 50 years, how could we have achieved all of that? That is why we always had to be resilient. We always had to be flexible and to have future foresights and development in the way that is expansive to global progress in general.

Mr. Rashed Saud Al Shamsi

## تطوير المعرفة والتصنيع: محفز للاقتصاد الدائري

استلهاماً لمقولة المغفور له بإذن الله الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان، طيب الله ثراه: «من لا يعرف ماضيه لا يستطيع أن يعيش حاضره ومستقبله، فنحن نتعلم من الماضي». تسلط هذه الندوة الحوارية الضوء على قصة الرواد في مرحلة تأسيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، وإسهام كبريات المؤسسات والشركات الصناعية العالمية مثل أدنوك في الاقتصاد الدائري الذي يميز استدامة التنمية في الدولة مع الحفاظ على التراث والهوية الوطنية والثقافة الإماراتية في عصر العولمة. وتقدم الندوة نظرة عميقة على ما يساهم في بناء وتعزيز أسس الاقتصاد الدائري، وكيف يمكن لجيل الشباب حمل هذه الشعلة إلى الأمام.

المحدثون

راشد سعود الشامسي، رواد أدنوك  
د. محمد عبد الله المنصوري، رواد أدنوك

تدير الحوار

د. هدى الخزيمي، مدير مركز الأمن السيبراني،  
الأستاذ المساعد في هندسة الكمبيوتر، جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي

## SPEAKERS

**Mr. Rashed Saud Al Shamsi**, ADNOC Pioneer

**Dr. Mohamad Abdullah AlMansoori**, ADNOC Pioneer

## MODERATED BY

**Hoda Al Khzaimi**, Director of Center for Cyber Security and Research Assistant Professor of Computer Engineering, NYUAD

## IN COLLABORATION WITH



impactiv

هيئة المساهمة المجتمعية - معا  
Authority of Social Contribution - Ma'an



TALK

17  
OCT

## HOW THE MUSLIMS OF CANTON SAVED CHINA IN 1582

Traveling from Canton to Lisbon and back via Aden and Jiddah, Hormuz and the Straights of Malaka, this talk connects China, India, and the Philippines and the 16th century Indian Ocean in a tale of espionage, adventure, war and religion.

“

Arab merchants settled down and traded with the Chinese, and over the years became part of the Chinese population. They have adapted. Some of them even intermarried, they have adopted the Chinese material culture, they have lost the Persian or the Arabic ethnic markers, and they basically became Chinese but kept their faith.

SPEAKER

**Zvi Ben-Dor Benite**, Professor of History, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, NYU

PANEL DISCUSSION  
NEW YORK20  
OCT

## DESIGN WORKS: A DECADE OF IN-HOUSE DESIGN AT NYU ABU DHABI

As NYUAD has grown into a leading liberal arts institution, student-led visual design has played a major role in the evolution of NYUAD's identity, community and global reputation. Students and faculty have done professional-level projects both for NYUAD's own research and events and for international organizations such as WWF UAE, the Xenon Lab and ArabWIC. Every design project has engaged questions of identity, accessibility, empowerment and culture in new ways. On the occasion of the opening of the Design Works exhibit, this panel explores how those conversations have developed over the past decade and sets a course for the future of design education at NYUAD.

SPEAKERS

**Erin Collins**, Instructor of the Arts in Design and Alumna, NYUAD

**Mara Mills**, Associate Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, NYU

**Marianne Petit**, Arts Professor and Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Network Academic Planning, NYU

**Goffredo Puccetti**, Designer and Assistant Professor of Practice of Visual Arts, NYUAD

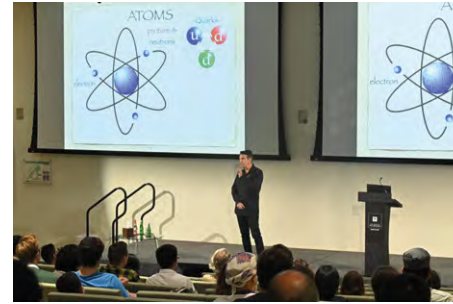
MODERATED BY

**Kerry Barrett**, Associate Dean of Global Programs, NYU

IN COLLABORATION WITH



TALK

24  
OCT

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HIGGS BOSON DISCOVERY

July 4, 2012 marked the discovery of the Higgs Boson (also known as the “God Particle”) after its prediction almost 50 years prior. With a ten-year retrospective, this talk tells the inside story of one of the most significant discoveries made by humanity ever. What is the Higgs Boson, and what is its role in our existence? How do we search for the smallest particle with a giant machine? And where do we go from here?

“

They say to me, “Was it worth it to invest 9 Billion dollars in search for the Higgs? What can we do with it?” What application can we do with it? Can we actually control the mass and become thinner and things like that? And, my answer, which actually irritates a lot of people, is that I don't care because we do basic science, and basic science, we do, because we are curious. Basic science is about curiosity-driven science.

SPEAKER

**Eilam Gross**, Professor of Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science

TALK

26  
OCT

## PLAGUED LEGACIES: RETHINKING BLACK DEATH NARRATIVES

This talk addresses the lasting legacies of past plagues, in particular the Black Death, because they continue to shape the way we think about new pandemics. We must recognize pandemics as long-term processes and shift our focus beyond epidemic episodes of disruption to better understand how past societies learned to live with diseases. The talk also highlights persistent problems related to pandemics, such as European exceptionalism, triumphalism, and epidemiological orientalism that are not only ubiquitous in the historical scholarship, but also staples of public opinion about pandemics, past and present.

SPEAKER

**Nükhet Varlık**, Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University–Newark

Part of *Environment and the Middle East Series*

## MAHIRA KHAN: REDEFINING STARDOM AND TRAILBLAZING SOUTH ASIAN STORYTELLING

Mahira Khan is one of Pakistan's leading actors, whose work across television and cinema, in projects such as *Bol*, *Humsafar*, *Verna*, and the Bollywood blockbuster *Raees*, among several other projects, has garnered both popular appeal and critical acclaim. This conversation with the UNHCR National Goodwill Ambassador touches on navigating the complex terrain of pop culture, cinema and television in South Asia, what stardom means in a Pakistani context, her experience of working across the border in the Indian film industry, traversing parenting and professional roles, and what the future of female voices of color, in global storytelling, might hold.

“

I realize it now, I had more faith in myself than I do right now actually, which is really sad. But at that point, you couldn't shake my faith in myself. And that's a very good place to be... that's a very good feeling to have; that kind of faith in your own self. What you think you can achieve. The limits you set for yourself. I was a big dreamer. Big big dreamer.

## SPEAKER

**Mahira Khan**, Pakistani Actress; UNHCR National Goodwill Ambassador for Pakistan

## IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Saba Khan**, Author, *Skyfall* (Bloomsbury, 2020); Instructor of Social Science, NYUAD







## THE LEGACY OF AL-ANDALUS: MATERIAL AND TEXTUAL SOURCES

For almost eight centuries the Arabs dominated much of the territory of the Iberian Peninsula (711-1492 C.E.). They called that region al-Andalus and, although its territorial extension varied over the years, Arabic was its predominant language and Islam its majoritarian religion. Until the beginning of the 17th century, numerous Muslims or people of Muslim origin continued to reside in Spain. Likewise, material and textual legacy still remain and its knowledge is essential to writing the history of al-Andalus today.

### SPEAKER

**Cristina de la Puente**, Scientific Researcher, Department of Islamic and Jewish Studies, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

Part of *Al-Andalus Series*



The history of Al-andalus may be said to be marked by two idealizations. On one hand, that of the Spanish themselves, who consider it to be part of their past and on the other, and of no less importance, that of the Arabs who also see it as part of their glorious past.



## BAM... AND THEN IT HIT ME: A CONVERSATION WITH KAREN HOPKINS

In conversation with Mariët Westermann, Karen Hopkins discusses her latest book *BAM... and Then It Hit Me*. The book takes the reader on a funny, sentimental, and informative journey encompassing the author's 36-year career running the Brooklyn Academy of Music, America's oldest performing arts center. The book is packed with color photos and stories of celebrities, artists, and leaders whose creative energy transformed BAM's historic venues into one of the most provocative and powerful arts organizations in the world.

### SPEAKER

**Karen Brooks Hopkins**, President Emerita, Brooklyn Academy of Music; Author of *BAM... and Then It Hit Me* (powerHouse Books, 2022)

IN CONVERSATION WITH  
**Mariët Westermann**,  
Vice Chancellor, NYUAD

Part of *Vice Chancellor Philanthropy Series*



## MAKING DECISIONS IN A WORLD OF UNCERTAINTY

Pandemic, war, rising oil prices, food shortages, ... there is no uncertainty about how uncertain these times are. Yet, we have to make decisions at all scales—from individuals trying to decide how to financially invest to policy-makers trying to curb epidemics with sound public health interventions. Faced with many decision-making complexities, we look to technology with its promise of data-driven insights and artificial intelligence to come to our aid. This talk examines how prescriptive analytics can help with these challenges but also discusses their limitations and what the landscape of computational decision-making looks like.

### SPEAKER

**Azza Abouzied**, Associate Professor of Computer Science, NYUAD

Part of *NYUAD Research Public Talks Series*

“

We're not interested necessarily in thinking about the moral aspects or the good aspects or how to assess decisions. Rather, we are interested in the strategy and can we take the strategy, if we think it's reasonable, and make it computational?



## EXTREMISM: A PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS

We live in a world in which extremism is said to be on the rise. The 20th century was scarred by extremist movements and ideologies, and extremism continues to be a problem in the 21st century. But what exactly is extremism, and what is wrong with it? Martin Luther King Jr. famously asked whether we will be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice. Is there such a thing as “good” extremism or is extremism always a bad thing?

### SPEAKER

**Quassim Cassam**, Professor of Philosophy, University of Warwick

“

Something else that I think is characteristic of extremism is that they just don't really care about the consequences of their actions, so they'll plant a bomb in a public place, people will get killed and their attitude is 'well, you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs.



TALK  
NEW YORK

10  
NOV

## A TALK BY YANN LECUN: FROM MACHINE LEARNING TO AUTONOMOUS INTELLIGENCE

How can machines learn as efficiently as humans and animals? How can machines learn to reason and plan? How can machines learn representations of percepts and action plans at multiple levels of abstraction, enabling them to reason, predict, and plan at multiple time horizons? Known as one of the “Godfathers of Artificial Intelligence,” Yann LeCun discusses the future of artificial intelligence and a possible path towards autonomous intelligent agents.

SPEAKER

**Yann LeCun**, VP and Chief AI Scientist, Meta (FAIR); Silver Professor of Computer Science, Data Science, Neural Science, and Electrical and Computer Engineering, NYU

IN COLLABORATION WITH

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي  
NYU ABU DHABI  
19 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH

## SPEAKING ENGLISH: STAGING THE DIALECTICS OF IDENTITY, CULTURE AND SURVIVAL

The wildly successful world premiere of Iranian-American Sanaz Toossi's award-winning play and production *English* (2022) captivated audiences who had never before seen their story captured in live performance. Set in a TOEFL classroom in Karaj, Iran in 2008, *English* occurs during a period of political transformation resulting in travel restrictions and family separations. The play focuses on the many personal, cultural and political questions raised by "foreign" language acquisition that are both specific and expansive upon its Iranian context. In conversation about this theatrical work, the award-winning *English* creative team discusses these topics and the process from script to production.

“

*English* (2022) is about foreign language acquisition and what it means to leave your mother tongue behind and also to leave your culture behind. And how language and identity are intertwined and how we can lose ourselves in the process of immigration and the process of acquiring a language and losing another one.

Sanaz Toossi

### SPEAKERS

**Knud Adams**, Director, *English* (2022)

**Sanaz Toossi**, Iranian-American Playwright, *English* (2022)

### MODERATED BY

**Robert H Vorlicky**, Visiting Professor of Theater, NYUAD

**Marsha Ginsberg**, Scenic Designer, *English* (2022); Associate Arts Professor of Theater, NYUAD





## PHOTOGRAPHY AS A VISUAL RECORD: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Published on the occasion of the UAE's 50th anniversary, 50U tells the story of the UAE in 50 portraits of people, plants and places. Acclaimed royal photographer Ramesh Shukla, who took some of the most iconic photographs of the union of the seven emirates in the 1970s, and contemporary photographer Charlie Koolhaas, who was commissioned to shoot a photo essay for 50U, discuss the role of photography as a visual record, especially in the context of this book which straddles past, present and future.

### SPEAKER

**Ramesh Shukla**, Photographer  
**Charlie Koolhaas**, Visual Artist

### MODERATED BY

**Goffredo Puccetti**, Associate Professor of Practice  
of Visual Arts

Part of 50U Series

## THE (IMPOSSIBLE) DECOLONIZATION OF THE WESTERN MUSEUM

For decades now, the “universal museum,” an institution invented in Western Europe, has been challenged, and its decolonization has become a subject of debate within the institution itself. Yet, Françoise Vergès argues that the decolonization of the Western museum is impossible if we adopt Frantz Fanon’s remark that “Decolonization is a program of absolute disorder” (1961). In this conversation, Vergès retraces the connection between collecting and colonialism, explores the capacity of neoliberalism to commodify critiques, and presents the project of a “museum without objects” and different decolonial practices of the arts.

“

An institution cannot be decolonized if the entire society is not decolonized. I don’t see how the museum could be a fortress of decolonization if around the economy, the notion of private property, and the notion of gender, all these notions that enter the museum are not decolonized.

SPEAKER

**Françoise Vergès**, Political Scientist, Historian and Curator; Author of *A Feminist Theory of Violence: A Decolonial Perspective* (Pluto Press, 2022)

IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Katia Arfara**, Curator; Assistant Professor of Theater, Performance Studies, NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH





## THE FUTURE LIES IN WOMEN'S MEMORY

This talk focuses on Syrian women refugees, scattered in countries around Syria as well as in Europe. Women's voices have historically been silenced in Syria and other parts of the Middle East. They need to be heard. Their memories need to be saved from oblivion, as women hold our society together, and memory is the fabric with which the future is made. As Samar Yazbek explains, recording memory is an act of resistance, and through it, we will be able to deconstruct this war and identify the true sources of what we need to call "evil."

## المُستقبل يكمن في ذاكرة النساء

تسلط هذه المحاضرة الضوء على اللاجئات السوريات المنتشرات في بلدان حول سوريا، وفي أوروبا. وعبر التاريخ أسكتت أصوات النساء في سوريا وأجزاء أخرى من الشرق الأوسط، ولذلك فإننا اليوم بحاجة لأن نسمعهن، حيث يجب حفظ ذكرياتهن من النسيان، باعتبار أن النساء هن من يحمين المجتمعات من التفكك، والذاكرة هي النسيج الذي يُحاك به المستقبل. ويعد تسجيل الذاكرة بمثابة عمل مقاومة، ستساعدنا على تفكيك هذه الحرب وتحديد المنابع الحقيقية لما وجب تسميته «بالشر». تعتمد هذه المحاضرة على البحث الذي أجرته المحاضرة لكتاب تسع عشرة امرأة - سوريات يروين، وكذلك البحث الذي تجريه حالياً لكتابها القادم، إضافة لتجربتها الشخصية الغنية مع المنظمة غير الحكومية النساء الآن، والتي تم إنشاؤها في عام 2012.

### SPEAKER

**Samar Yazbek**, Syrian Journalist, Author of *The Crossing: My Journey to the Shattered Heart of Syria* (Ebury Press, 2016)

### المتحدثة

سمو يزبك، صحفية سورية، مؤلفة كتاب «المعبر: رحلتي إلى قلب سوريا المحطم» (إيبيري برس، 2016)



## THE TORRIJOS CEILING IN THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Among the rich collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London is a little-known wooden ceiling, created at the end of the 15th century for a palace in central Spain that no longer exists. Made using Islamic aesthetics and craftsmanship, it was commissioned by a Castilian courtly couple who were at the same time involved in the conquest of Granada from the Nasrid sultanate. This lecture revisits the story of the Torrijos ceiling, which will soon be redisplayed in East London at V&A East, in the context of medieval Spain's cultural diversity.

### SPEAKER

**Mariam Rosser-Owen**, Curator, Middle East, Asian Department, Victoria and Albert Museum

Part of *Al Andalus Series*



## WOMAN, LIFE, LIBERTY: WHAT DOES IRAN'S MOVEMENT MEAN FOR GLOBAL DEMOCRACY?

In 1979, the Iranian people were chanting in the streets "Death to America." Today, they're chanting "Death to the dictator" and demanding democracy. At the forefront of this historic movement are the women of Iran who have consistently resisted the regime's tyranny from the start. They don't object to the hijab itself; they object to not having the right to choose whether to wear it. Iranians need the support of the international community and the US, but the democratic world, too, needs Iranians to succeed to bolster the cause of democracy everywhere.

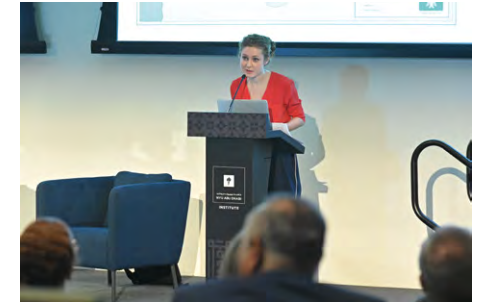
### SPEAKER

**Roya Hakakian**, Writer; Senior Fellow, American Purpose

### IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Tunku Varadarajan**, Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Fellow, Classical Liberal Institute, NYU School of Law

### IN COLLABORATION WITH



## LOVE'S GRAMMAR

Yasmine Seale presents *The Dove's Necklace*, a fascinating text on the nature of love from 11th-century Cordoba, and reads from her translation in progress. A masterpiece of Arabic prose and poetry, a jewel of observation, and a window into the intimate life of Muslim Spain, *The Dove's Necklace* was composed by the young Ibn Hazm before he became the towering jurist and theologian we know today. Though he later renounced the work, it was to have a deep and lasting influence on the literature of courtly love.

### SPEAKER

**Yasmine Seale**, Writer and Translator

### IN COLLABORATION WITH





## UNCOVERING THE UNDERLYING STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE

The apparent order of the universe from microscopic sizes to the cosmic distances relies on an intricate internal structure that often defies common intuition. Despite its complexity, this structure is highly constrained by physical principles formulated by physicists during the past few hundred years. This talk highlights how physicists have reached our current understanding of the universe, all the way from the idea that everything is composed of tiny vibrating strings, to how black holes defy space and time to preserve information, and to the profound reasons for why the universe around us is incredibly huge.

“

One of the really wonderful things about fundamental physics is that we ask incredibly simple questions about the universe around us and if we ask these questions and we keep asking why over and over again, we inevitably run into the very frontiers of our understanding of the laws of nature today with deep mysteries surrounding us in all possible directions.

Nima Arkani-Hamed

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Her Excellency Sarah Bint Yousif Al Amiri**, Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology

SPEAKERS

**Cumrun Vafa**, Hollis Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, Harvard University

**Nima Arkani-Hamed**, Professor at the School of Natural Sciences, Institute for Advanced Study

**Juan Maldacena**, Carl P. Feinberg Professor at the School of Natural Sciences, Institute for Advanced Study

IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Ahmed Almheiri**, Assistant Professor of Physics, NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH

وكالة الإمارات للفضاء  
UAE SPACE AGENCY



SCIENCE  
NYU ABU DHABI





## BLACK HOLE SURVIVAL GUIDE

Astrophysicist and author Janna Levin discusses her latest book *Black Hole Survival Guide*, a wholly accessible, fascinating guide to black holes. Perhaps the most intriguing inhabitants of the universe, black holes provide the terrain on which the laws of nature are explored. Levin explains the ways in which black holes have changed our most basic understanding of the galaxy, the universe, the whole expanse of reality that we inhabit.

This book is complemented by more than twenty original paintings by the artist Lia Halloran.

### SPEAKER

**Janna Levin**, Author of *Black Hole Survival Guide* (Knopf Publishing Group, 2020); Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Barnard College

IN COLLABORATION WITH



## GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE CITIES: CITIES AND OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE

Over half of the world's population now lives in cities, and this share is expected to increase in the coming decades. With growing urbanization, cities and their residents face substantial environmental challenges such as higher temperatures, droughts, wildfires, and increased flooding. In response to these pressing challenges, some cities have begun to develop local environmental regulations that supplement national and environmental laws. Experts from around the globe take stock of the policies that leading cities in the global north and south are taking to lessen the impacts of climate change and secure a more sustainable urban future.

### SPEAKERS

**John Coughlin**, Global Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies and Law, NYUAD

**Harry den Hartog**, Professor, Tongji University, Shanghai

**Elena De Nictolis**, Post-Doctoral Global Fellow, NYU School of Law

**Hu Tao**, Director, Lakestone Institute for Sustainable Development

**Wolfram von Heynitz**, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany New York

**Dan Zarrilli**, Special Advisor on Climate and Sustainability Issues, Columbia University; former Chief Climate Policy Advisor to Mayor Bill de Blasio

### MODERATED BY

**Danielle Spiegel-Feld**, Executive Director and Adjunct Professor of Law, Guarini Center on Environmental, Energy & Land Use Law, NYU School of Law

**Katrina Wyman**, Wilf Family Professor of Property Law, NYU School of Law

### IN COLLABORATION WITH





## HOW DOES THE BILINGUAL BRAIN PROCESS LANGUAGE?

The majority of the world can communicate in multiple languages. How do people manage to speak in just one language when they have to, but can easily go back and forth between them when the situation allows them to? What are the neural mechanisms that allow them to do this effortlessly? Through a series of neuroimaging studies that tested multilingual individuals, including Arabic-English bilinguals from the UAE, this talk discusses how the brain achieves this fit.

SPEAKER  
**Esti Blanco-Elorrieta**,  
Post-Doctoral Researcher, Harvard  
University

IN COLLABORATION WITH



## THE ARRIVAL OF LATE MODERNISM IN DUBAI

“Old” and “new” Dubai represent the city’s dual cosmopolitan context. The almost drastic stylistic evolution from “old” Dubai’s *areesh*, coral stone, and palm frond houses to “new” clean-cut whitewashed modernist buildings highlights a significant polar shift from tradition to modernism, not only as a mode of building, but also as a way of life. To understand architecture in Dubai in relation to the International Modern Movement, reflections on the context are essential: why was modernism introduced in Dubai? How was it applied to its architecture? This talk explores these questions, hoping to contribute to the preservation of the city’s heritage, both traditional and modern.

SPEAKER  
**Maryam M. Ahli**, Architect &  
Architectural Historian

Part of *50U Series*



I have come to the conclusion that although modernism as a stylistic movement arrived to Dubai late, it adapted itself to become more of a regional response rather than an international one. It was expressing local culture and values through modern design, a style that responded to Dubai’s need to become a modern city and also respected its transitional period from traditional to modern and built form. It became almost a hybrid of several styles.



## WASTE SIEGE: THE LIFE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN PALESTINE

Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins traces Palestinians' experiences of waste to explore what their improvisations for mitigating the effects of what she calls a "waste siege" can tell us about Palestinians' approaches to time and collectivity today. She describes a series of conditions: from smelling wastes to negotiating military infrastructures, from biopolitical forms of colonial rule to experiences of governmental abandonment, from obvious targets of resistance to confusion over responsibility for the burdensome objects of daily life. Waste siege not only describes a stateless Palestine; it also becomes a metaphor for our besieged planet.

### SPEAKER

**Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins**, Director of Anthropology Program and Associate Professor of Anthropology, Bard College

Part of the *Environment and the Middle East Series*



## MXENES: 2D MATERIALS FOR THE FUTURE

Materials define the progress of humanity. In the Silicon Age, electronic and computer technologies greatly accelerated technical progress and changed our lives. What's next? The age of nanomaterials. Assembly from nanoparticles will allow integration of electronics, energy harvesting, and storage in the same device, at the same time minimizing the waste during manufacturing. In particular, 2D transition metal carbides and nitrides (MXenes) have been expanding rapidly. MXenes have shown electronic, optical, mechanical, and electrochemical properties that differentiate them from other materials. Moreover, these properties are tunable by design and can be modulated during use, leading to breakthroughs in fields from optoelectronics and communication to energy storage and medicine.

### SPEAKER

**Yury Gogotsi**, Distinguished University and Charles T. and Ruth M. Bach Professor and Director, A.J. Drexel Nanomaterials Institute, Drexel University

### IN COLLABORATION WITH



## WHAT SHOULD 6G BE

The role of Internet and Communication Technology (ICT) in bringing about a revolution in almost all aspects of human life needs no introduction. It is indeed a well-known fact that the transmission of the information at a rapid pace has transformed all spheres of human life such as economy, education, and health to name a few. In this context, this talk aims to: provide an envisioned picture of 6G; serve as a research guideline in the beyond-5G era; and review some of the recently-proposed green technologies that would offer high-speed connectivity not only in urban environments but also in under-covered areas.

### SPEAKER

**Mohamed-Slim Alouini**, Distinguished Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

### “

We tend to forget, especially if we live in very well-connected environments that about now, one-third of the world's population, we are now roughly at 2 billion people are either not connected or endo-connected. By endo-connected, we mean that people are still connected on a 2G connection. And with 2G, you are not really taking advantage of the benefits that come with the internet.



## NARRATIVES OF THE MORISCOS' EXPULSION IN SPANISH AND ARAB THOUGHT

This talk analyzes the different representations of the Moriscos' history in Spanish and Arab thought from the early modern era to today. First, it examines the evolution of the presence of this history in the literature and historic texts of the Spanish golden age (XVIe-XVIIe centuries). Secondly, it studies Spanish and Arab treatment of the subject in the XVIIIe and XIXe centuries, which means through the newspapers, writings of a historical nature, travel literature, novels, plays, etc. Thirdly, the talk explores the contemporary Arab literature and historic representations of the Moriscos' history, and considers: how did it evolve quantitatively and qualitatively. Simultaneous English interpretation will be provided.

SPEAKER

**Housseem E. Chachia**, Assistant Professor of Early Modern History, University of Tunis

Part of *Al-Andalus* Series

## سرديات طرد الموريسكيين في الفكر الإسباني والعربي

نحاول من خلال هذه المحاضرة تحليل مختلف التمثيلات الإسبانية والعربية للتاريخ الموريسكي منذ بداية الفترة الحديثة إلى اليوم. بدايةً، سنحاول البحث في تطور حضور هذا التاريخ في النصوص الأدبية والإخبارية الإسبانية للعصر الذهبي (القرنين 16 و 17). ثانياً، سندرس التناول الإسباني والعربي للمسألة في القرنين الثامن عشر والتاسع عشر، أي من خلال النصوص ذات الطبيعة التاريخية، الجرائد، أدب الرحلة، الروايات والمسرحيات. ثالثاً، سنبحث في التمثل العربي التاريخي والأدبي المعاصر للتاريخ الموريسكي وكيف تطور كماً ونوعاً.

المُحاضر

**حسام الدين شاشية**، أستاذ مساعد في كلية العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية، جامعة تونس



## THE VOYAGE OF THE CROOKED: A CONNECTED HISTORY OF THE GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN

This talk charts out an oceanic microhistory, grounded in the voyages of the dhow called The Crooked from the port of Kuwait, captained by the Nakhoda 'Abdulmajeed Al-Failakawi. It anchors itself in Al-Failakawi's logbook and looks out from the deck of the dhow onto a world of texts, letters, accounts, and other writings by Nakhodas. From these writings we can gather histories that have been scattered along the coasts of Arabia, South Asia, and East Africa, and we can gain a sharper sense of how actors understood this world of circulation and inscribed it into their voyages.

SPEAKER

**Fahad Bishara**, Associate Professor of History and Arabian Peninsula and Gulf Studies, University of Virginia

“

These gulf merchants would establish relationships with local associates and brokers in Gujarat and Goa and Mangolar, Kochi and they'd weave them all together into a trans-regional commercial society. These were all business partners. These were all relatives actually, they married into one another's families, they wrote to one another.



## CAN WE CURE AGING?

Recent research has yielded a much better understanding of how aging happens and how it leads to the ills of old age. There is now a lot of interest in tackling human aging to prevent, delay, or compress the unhealthy period at the end of life. In laboratory animals it turns out to be possible to target aging with diet and with existing drugs to promote better health in late life. So, what if getting old did not mean getting frail and ill?

“

These are just some of the things that have been shown already, so big improvement on skeletal mass, physical activity, improvement in the blood system, immune function, the brain was better, less iron accumulation, less loss of nerve cells. They got less diabetes, less cancer, and less cardiovascular diseases, the three big ones. So it's an impressive study. These are almost 40 years, so it is a really heroic bit of work.

SPEAKER

**Professor Dame Linda Partridge** DBE, FRS, FRSE, FMedSci, Professorial Research Fellow, University College London

IN COLLABORATION WITH



## GRIT & GRACE: THE FIGHT FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM

*Grit & Grace: The Fight for the American Dream* is a groundbreaking documentary-style film produced by the 117th Congress's House Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth. Narrated by Emmy® award-winning actress Sarah Jessica Parker, this first-of-its-kind movie features three true stories from across the country of what it means to find economic security in America, as well as the diverse paths people are taking to get there.

The screening is followed by a conversation on some of the film's borderless themes—economic disparity, hope, action, representation, and interconnectedness—seen through a global lens.

### SPEAKER

**Oscar Guerra**, Emmy® Award-Winning Director, *Grit & Grace: The Fight for the American Dream*; Producer, PBS FRONTLINE; Associate Professor of Film and Video, University of Connecticut

### IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Lisa Coleman**, Senior Vice President, Global Inclusion and Strategic Innovation, NYU

### IN COLLABORATION WITH







## THE CAIRO GENIZAH AS A TREASURY OF ARABIC LITERATURE

The Cairo Genizah is a collection of Jewish manuscripts from the Middle Ages found in an ancient synagogue in Al-Fustat, Egypt. It is a valuable resource for understanding the history, culture, and everyday life of Jews in the medieval Islamic world. Recently, it has been recognized for its significance in the study of Arabic literature and culture, as Jews in the Genizah also wrote and copied poetry in Arabic for both sacred and leisurely purposes. This panel discusses the Genizah Collection's role in helping us understand medieval culture, and highlights the collection's Arabic poetic literature, showcasing the enduring role of poetry in communal life.

SPEAKER

**Mohamed Ahmed**, Al Maktoum Associate Professor, Near & Middle Eastern Studies, Trinity College Dublin  
**Benjamin Outhwaite**, Head of Genizah Research Unit, Cambridge University Library

IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Nathaniel Miller**, Humanities Research Fellow for the Study of the Arab World, NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH



“

So when a holy book can no longer be used, you don't burn it, you don't throw it away, you have to put it carefully away, so somebody can't take it and misuse it. And that is what the Genizah chamber is. It's for storing the holy books. And all religions have storerooms for holy books like this, but in Judaism, they seem to take it very very seriously in Fustat because they continued storing away their holy books for a thousand years.

Benjamin Outhwaite

## DECODING MARS WITH THE “HOPE” PROBE: UNCOVERING THE RED PLANET’S SECRETS OF LIFE

This talk will examine the question of whether life existed on Mars and its transformation from a warm, wet planet to a cold, dry desert world. The speaker will discuss the Emirates Mars Mission, also known as the “Hope” probe, which is providing insight into the surface and atmospheric processes of Mars. The Mars research group at NYU Abu Dhabi’s Center for Space Science is analyzing data from the probe to uncover answers to questions about Mars and its potential for life. The speaker will present their latest findings, ongoing research, and outreach projects.

### SPEAKER

**Dimitra Atri**, Group Leader, Mars Research Group,  
NYUAD Center for Space Science

IN COLLABORATION WITH



Part of NYUAD Research Public Talks Series





## URBAN MODERNITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY GULF: OBSOLESCENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES

This panel delves into the 20th century architectural production in the modernization era of the Arabian Gulf and its impact on the notions of locality, cosmopolitanism, and modernity. The speakers will examine the initiatives that have re-engaged with the ville moderne and reflect on the role of the urban fabric in narrating social growth, East–West dynamics, and citizens’ memories. The panel will explore the concept of modern heritage in the context of the contemporary city, interrogate the value of modern architecture in the non-West, and discuss the expanding academic research on Gulf urbanism.

“

Urban modernity in Contemporary Gulf’s intention revolves around the four terms in the title which are in apparent opposition: modernity, contemporality, obsolescence, and opportunity. We wanted to read the legacy of the modernisation project in today’s gulf cities and also we wanted to read the potential of these obsolete structures for the future of urban fabric in the region.

Roberto Fabbri

SPEAKER

**Roberto Fabbri**, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Creative Enterprises, Zayed University  
**Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi**, Founder of Barjeel Art Foundation

IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Nelida Fuccaro**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Professor of Middle Eastern History, NYUAD



## LOSS, LONGING, BELONGING: SHAHZIA SIKANDER'S KHORFAKKAN SERIES

On the occasion of the opening of her exhibition, renowned Pakistani-American artist Shahzia Sikander is in conversation with Professor Gayatri Gopinath. Sikander's photographs, initially taken in 2012, depict the ruin and desolation of a South Asian movie theater and its sole caretaker in Khorfakkan, Sharjah, and speak poignantly to the questions of home, displacement, belonging, and unbelonging that touch the lives of many South Asian migrants in the UAE.

SPEAKER  
**Shahzia Sikander**, Visual Artist

IN CONVERSATION WITH  
**Gayatri Gopinath**, Professor,  
Department of Social and Cultural  
Analysis and Director,  
Center for the Study of Gender  
and Sexuality, NYU

IN COLLABORATION WITH

BEYOND A BOUNDARY:  
Intersectional  
Feminist/Queer  
Studies Collective at  
NYU



GREYARTNYU  
GALLERY



## THE INTELLECTUAL CROSSROADS OF AL-ANDALUS: HOW ANDALUSI SCHOLARS SHAPED THE GLOBAL ISLAMIC CULTURE

Living in a land situated in one of the edges of the Islamic world, the inhabitants of al-Andalus saw themselves as somewhat isolated, an island surrounded both by the sea and the Christians. Their scholars exerted themselves to keep contact with the central lands of Islam by performing the travel of study (rihla fi talab al-'ilm), bringing back books and ideas produced elsewhere. The traveling of knowledge, however, was not unidirectional: from very early on, Andalusī scholars made important contributions to the "global" Islamic culture. This talk discusses these contributions and the reasons for their success.

SPEAKER  
**Maribel Fierro**, Research Professor, High Council  
for Scientific Research in Madrid

IN COLLABORATION WITH



Part of *Al-Andalus* Series



## CRYSTALS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

This talk explores the fascinating world of crystals and their role in biology and medicine. Crystals have always been admired for their beauty and value, and many believe they have powerful, magic properties. They play critical roles in various biological processes, such as supporting bones, grinding food, protecting shells, and more. However, crystals can also lead to diseases like kidney stones, atherosclerosis, and gout. The speaker will explain the study of crystal formation, assembly, and their impact on health and disease.

SPEAKER  
**Lia Addadi**, Professor of Structural Biology,  
The Weizmann Institute of Science

IN COLLABORATION WITH





## THE SCIENCE FICTION OF SANTIAGO RAMÓN Y CAJAL & EARLY FILM EXPERIMENTS

Over a hundred years ago, Spanish neurobiologist Santiago Ramón y Cajal made groundbreaking discoveries about the structure of the brain. Using the Golgi silver staining technique, he identified a specialized cell type—the neuron—that binds all the matter together. His surreal hand-drawn paintings illustrated how electrical signals were received and transmitted across cerebral time and space. Drawing from his short stories, this talk presents early film experiments to craft a Cajal biopic. Under the working title of “The Kiss,” Cajal on screen is a time traveler that reminisces about his past and invokes the future through his dreams and fictions.

SPEAKER  
**Alexis Gambis**, Assistant Professor of Biology, Film & New Media, NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
**Kanbar Institute of Film & Television, NYU**



## THE WOLF KING: IBN MARDANĪSH AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF POWER IN AL-ANDALUS

Al-Andalus is often depicted as a site of particular religious tolerance, and the twelfth century as its denouement, with foreign interlopers locked in holy war. Ibn Mardanīsh (r. 1147-72), known as the Wolf King, complicates narratives of religious enmity and of al-Andalus’ distinct culture. This talk, based on the recently published book *The Wolf King: Ibn Mardanīsh and the Construction of Power in al-Andalus*, explores Ibn Mardanīsh’s brief rule. It then considers how the memory of this ruler has been distorted in the time since his death, as racial and religious hierarchies have promoted the idea of al-Andalus as particularly exceptional for its position in Europe.

SPEAKER  
**Abigail Krasner Balbale**, Author, *The Wolf King: Ibn Mardanīsh and the Construction of Power in al-Andalus* (Cornell UP, 2023); Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies and History, NYU

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
**Premodern Islamicate World Lecture Series, NYU**



Part of the *Al-Andalus* Series

## EXPLORATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Many powerful molecular biology tools have their origin in nature, and, often, microbial life. From restriction enzymes to CRISPR-Cas9, microbes utilize a diverse array of systems to get ahead evolutionarily. This talk explores this natural diversity through bioinformatics, biochemical, and molecular work to better understand the fundamental ways in which living organisms sense and respond to their environment and ultimately to harness these systems to improve human health.

### SPEAKER

**Feng Zhang**, Core Institute Member, Broad Institute; Investigator, McGovern Institute for Brain Research and James and Patricia Poitras Professor of Neuroscience, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator

Part of *Luminaries of Science* Series





## ON POETRY AND MUSIC WITH BARWEEN HABIB, MAHDI MANSOUR, AND FARAJ ABYAD

On this Ramadan evening, poet Mahdi Mansour and musician Faraj Abyad are in conversation with the poet, critic, and media expert Barween Habib about the interwoven relationship between poetry, philosophy, and music. Beginning with Andalusian poetry and classical music, they delve deeper into contemporary poetry and music, exploring the profound impact the Andalusian Maqamat have had on the present-day Arabic poem structure and its musical Maqamat. Simultaneous English Interpretation will be provided.

## عن الشعر والموسيقى في حضرة برون حبيب، مهدي منصور وفرج أبيض

في هذه الأمسية الرمضانية المميزة، نستضيف الشاعر مهدي منصور والموسيقي فرج أبيض، تحاورهما عبر رحلة شتقة الأديبة والإعلامية برون حبيب. يسلطون الضوء خلالها على العلاقة الوثيقة والممتدة بين الشعر، الفلسفة، والموسيقى، ومراحل تألقها بدءاً من الشعر والطرب الأندلسي، وصولاً إلى الشعر والموسيقى المعاصرة. وتناقش الأمسية الأثر العميق للمقامات الأندلسية على بنية القصيدة العربية ومقاماتها الموسيقية على عصرنا الحاضر.

”

نحن لا نُرهِّب اللغة بقدر أننا خائفين على اللغة العربية. نحن في اتجاه قلق حقيقي مع اللغة. أعتقد الدراما، السينما، الغناء حتى الشعر باتجاه أنه يُلجَّن. كل هذه الأشياء ترمي إلى تحصين اللغة العربية.

د. برون حبيب

### SPEAKERS

**Faraj Abyad**, Artist  
**Mahdi Mansour**, Poet

### IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Barween Habib**, Poet, Critic, and Media Expert

### IN COLLABORATION WITH

مركز الفنون  
THE ARTS  
CENTER

RAMADANIYYAT  
رمضانيات

المتحدثون  
فرج أبيض، فنان  
مهدي منصور، شاعر

تحاورهما  
د. برون حبيب، أديبة وإعلامية

TALK  
NEW YORK

4  
APR



## REFLECTIONS ON “THE DAWN OF EVERYTHING”

Once upon a time, archaeology and anthropology were closely related fields of research. Today, they have drifted apart. This talk is a reflection on David Wengrow’s book, co-authored with David Graeber: *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*, which is an attempt to see what happens when you put them back together again, after a period of mutual estrangement. The results are surprising and suggest they have significant implications across the social sciences.

SPEAKER

**David Wengrow**, Co-Author, *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity* (Picador, 2023); Professor of Comparative Archaeology, UCL Institute of Archaeology

CONVERSATION  
WITH AUTHOR  
NEW YORK

20  
APR



## LIFE WORLDS OF MIDDLE EASTERN OIL

Starting from a discussion of the main themes that inspired the recent volume *Life Worlds of Middle Eastern Oil: Histories and Ethnographies of Black Gold*, edited by Nelida Fuccaro and Mandana Limbert, this conversation brings to the table alternative historical experiences of oil in the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf before the 1970s. Drawing on some of Professor Fuccaro’s recent work, it reflects on issues of oil’s visibility, invisibility, and mediation, and on the power of petroleum’s novel material cultures—magazines, photographs, cars, and technical and urban infrastructure—to create social, cultural, and political imaginaries, as well as visual and artistic practices.

SPEAKER

**Nelida Fuccaro**, Co-Editor, *Life Worlds of Middle Eastern Oil: Histories and Ethnographies of Black Gold*; (Edinburgh University Press, 2023); Professor of Middle Eastern History and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, NYUAD

IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Arang Keshavarzian**, Associate Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies and Department Chair, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, NYU

IN COLLABORATION WITH



TALK  
NEW YORK

25  
APR



## FIRST ART: GARDENS OF EDEN AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

The Garden of Eden is the most famous work of horticulture in history, but it is better known for what happened there than for being a garden. If the Garden of Eden existed, it would have been in the Middle East. As a work of imagination, it was grounded in the cultural life of the region, and its meanings evolved as successive faith communities incorporated it into their theology, literature, art, and gardens. This talk explores how the garden God planted in Eden has shaped horticultural thought and art in the cultures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and how this paradise still holds significance for our challenged earth.

SPEAKER

**Mariët Westermann**, Vice Chancellor and Professor of Arts and Humanities, NYUAD



## COP28 AND BEYOND: NYUAD RESEARCH TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO

This talk focuses on the role of research in promoting environmental sustainability, particularly in meeting the demands of a growing population for better living conditions while minimizing the impact on the environment. It showcases the diverse and multidisciplinary fields of research at NYU Abu Dhabi, ranging from nanoscale to megaprojects, and features research projects aimed at developing energy-efficient structures, low-emission transportation methods, clean water techniques, desalination processes, conservation practices and policies. The panel of experts will offer insights on the current state and future direction of research in achieving net-zero emissions and promoting a sustainable future.

### PANELISTS

**Monica Menendez**, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs; Director of the Research Center for Interacting Urban Networks (CITIES); Professor of Civil and Urban Engineering, NYUAD

**John Burt**, Associate Professor of Biology, NYUAD

**Raed Hashaikeh**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, NYUAD

**Kemal Celik**, Assistant Professor of Civil and Urban Engineering, NYUAD

### MODERATED BY

**Samer Madanat**, Dean of Engineering; Program Head of Urbanization, NYUAD; Global Network Professor of Civil and Urban Engineering, NYU

### IN COLLABORATION WITH

**Office of Sustainability and Stewardship, NYUAD**



## THE POWER OF SPORT: BUILDING AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Sports play a pivotal role in building healthier, stronger, and more empowered communities around the globe. The NBA's mission is to connect and inspire people everywhere through the power of basketball. Through business and community partnerships, like the one launched last year with the Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi and NYU, the NBA engages with experts in fields including education, sustainability, youth development, and health and wellness to address challenges across society. This panel explores the ways in which sport and these partnerships can make a positive impact globally.

### PANELISTS

**Lee Igel**, Clinical Professor, Preston Robert Tisch Institute for Global Sport, NYU School of Professional Studies

**Taj McWilliams-Franklin**, Former WNBA Player; Player Relations & Development Manager, Women's National Basketball Association

**Joakim Noah**, Former NBA Player and International Advocate, National Basketball Association

**Todd Jacobson**, Senior Vice President and Head of Social Responsibility, National Basketball Association

### MODERATED BY

**Pete Dicce**, Athletic Director, Success Academy Charter Schools; Former Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Athletics, NYUAD

### IN COLLABORATION WITH



Preston Robert Tisch Institute  
for Global Sport





## THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS IN THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

By 1535, the Ottoman Empire gained control of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers from mountain to sea. This talk discusses the ramifications of this drastic political transition in the history of the longest rivers in West Asia. Above all, the unification of the Tigris and Euphrates allowed the Ottomans to rebalance a deep natural resource disparity along their eastern frontier, enabling them to move grain, metal, and timber from upstream areas of surplus in Anatolia to downstream areas of need in Iraq. This imperial system of waterborne communication, the talk argues, anchored the Ottoman presence in the river basin.

### SPEAKER

**Faisal Husain**, Assistant Professor of History, Penn State University

Part of the *Environment and the Middle East Series*



The Ottoman Government was obsessed with coordinating how the Tigris and Euphrates were controlled for navigation. For the Ottoman state this was the top priority way more important than irrigation, agriculture, and other purposes. The Ottoman was devoted to the Twin Rivers' uses for navigation purposes.



## CUSTOM 3D-PRINTED TRIPLY PERIODIC MINIMAL SURFACE-BASED BONE IMPLANTS

Orthopedic implants are commonly utilized to support or replace damaged or injured bones in an effort to restore form and function. There are several challenges associated with the current metallic bone implants, such as lack of biomimicry and stress-shielding. Given the limited selection of implant materials, a difficulty arises in designing and fabricating a biomimetic, functionally graded, light-weight bone structure to overcome the mentioned challenges. This talk presents a proof-of-concept study on design and 3D-printing of lattice-based structures for patient-defect-specific orthopedic implants with improved biomimicry that would mitigate stress-shielding.

### SPEAKERS

**Vijayavenkataraman Sanjairaj**, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Bioengineering, NYUAD; Global Network Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Tandon School of Engineering, NYU

**Lukasz Witek**, Assistant Professor, Biomaterials Division and Director of Dental Academic Research Experience Program, NYU College of Dentistry; Department of Biomedical Engineering, NYU Tandon School of Engineering; Hansjörg Wyss Department of Plastic Surgery, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

IN COLLABORATION WITH



## THE WAY WE MOVE: CAN INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY CHANGE IT?

This talk focuses on the issue of urban mobility and the associated traffic congestion that is a concern in cities worldwide. With the increasing urban population and motorization rates, it is expected that congestion levels will continue to rise, along with negative externalities. The talk explores whether it is possible to predict how congestion spreads in a city, to develop proactive mitigation strategies, and to alleviate congestion by promoting more sustainable transportation modes. The talk also discusses how technology and information can be used to understand current mobility patterns and propose more sustainable alternatives for the future.

### SPEAKER

**Monica Menendez**, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs; Director of the Research Center for Interacting Urban Networks (CITIES); Professor of Civil and Urban Engineering, NYUAD

Part of the *NYUAD Research Public Talks Series*



## **SURVIVING THE HEAT: THE STRUGGLE OF MARINE TURTLES AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**

The life of a marine turtle is a struggle for survival from the day they hatch, facing obstacles, natural predators, and various anthropogenic threats. Climate change exposes marine turtles to even more significant existential threats. Our warming climate may be driving marine turtles into extinction. But what does this mean for turtles along the warmest sea in the world? This talk will provide insight into marine turtle conservation in Abu Dhabi and their latest findings assessing climate change-associated impacts on marine turtles.

SPEAKER

**Dr. Hind Al Ameri**, Marine Conservation Scientist,  
Sea Turtle Biologist, Environment Agency -  
Abu Dhabi (EAD)



## AN OVERVIEW OF HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

This talk examines how high-performance computing has changed over the last ten years and looks toward the future in terms of trends. These changes have had and will continue to impact our numerical scientific software significantly. A new generation of software libraries and algorithms is needed for the effective and reliable use of (wide area) dynamic, distributed, and parallel environments. Some of the software and algorithm challenges have already been encountered, such as the management of communication and memory hierarchies through a combination of compile-time and run-time techniques, but the increased scale of computation, depth of memory hierarchies, range of latencies, and increased run-time environment variability will make these problems much harder.

### SPEAKER

**Jack Dongarra**, Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department, University of Tennessee

### IN COLLABORATION WITH

**ADIA : Lab**

**SCIENCE**  
NYU ABU DHABI



## WOLVES, GORILLAS, A JERBOA & MORE! ANIMALS AND THE LIBRARY OF ARABIC LITERATURE

Long before the animal/nonhuman turn in the humanities in the 21st century, poets and writers in Arabic have turned to the animal world for companionship, rivalry, wisdom, life lessons, motivation, and inspiration. Often the animal and the nonhuman decenter human subjectivity and offer alternate channels for understanding the world and accounting for experience. This event features readings of selected animal episodes from books published by the Library of Arabic Literature, presented by board members in both Arabic and English, and followed by commentaries and open discussion.

### SPEAKERS

**The Editors of The Library of Arabic Literature**

### MODERATED BY

**Huda Fakhreddine**, Associate Professor of Arabic Literature, University of Pennsylvania  
**Maurice A. Pomerantz**, Associate Professor of Literature, NYUAD

### IN COLLABORATION WITH



# CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

# CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

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## SEPTEMBER

26-28 The Anti- Refugee Machine

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## OCTOBER

21 Principles of Visual Communication for Science

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## NOVEMBER

1-2 IEEE 6G Training School

14-15 Language Matters: Teaching Content Across Languages

21-23 The Third Middle-Eastern Materials Science Conference (MEMS 2022)

22 The 6th NYUAD Transportation Symposium

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## DECEMBER

6-7 Conflict Archives and Sexual Violence

6-7 Exiles, Migrants, and Refugees from Syria

10-15 Library of Arabic Literature Workshop

19-22 Inverse Problems in the Desert

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## JANUARY

8-12 Abu Dhabi Meeting on Theoretical Physics

9-10 NYU AI in Healthcare Research and Ideation

16-18 Normativity and Reasoning IX

23-27 Towards a Globally Unified Education System

27 Perspectives on Multilingualism: An Interdisciplinary Roundtable

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## FEBRUARY

6-8 Drug Discovery and Therapeutics

16-19 Stepping Forward: Performance Research and Practice, Here

22-24 Center for Genomics and Systems Biology Symposium XI

24 Economic Development and Policy Research

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## MARCH

13-14 Inequalities: Research from the 3 NYUs

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## APRIL

20-21 Theory in Methods

21 Generative AI and Teaching Quality

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## MAY

9-11 Northeastern Arabia Reef Monitoring Network Workshop

15-16 Colorism Across Global Lines

18-19 Frontiers of Network Science

22-23 Negotiating Self and Modernity: The Many Journeys of Ahmad Zaki Abu Shadi

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## JUNE

6-7 Library of Arabic Literature

12-13 Developing and Validating Parent-Child Relationship

29-30 Symposium on Perception and Cognition



## THE ANTI-REFUGEE MACHINE

How and why do interventions that purport to target the ‘root causes’ of migration exacerbate conditions that create displacement while making it harder for migrants to achieve political asylum? This workshop theorizes how the ‘Anti-Refugee Machine’ operates to recast asylum seekers as economic migrants, empowers governments who collaborate in detaining and deporting migrants, encourages trafficking, inflames anti-migrant sentiment, and pre-empts the political basis of claims to legal recognition. What are the consequences for migrants, for migration policy and law, and for humanitarianism and human rights at a time when both refuge and rights are under assault?

CONVENED BY

**Nathalie Peutz**, Associate Professor of Arab Crossroads Studies and Anthropology, NYUAD

**Tricia Hepner**, Associate Professor of Anthropology & Director, MA Program in Social Justice and Human Rights, Arizona State University

**Magnus Treiber**, Professor of Anthropology, LMU Munich



## PRINCIPLES OF VISUAL COMMUNICATION FOR SCIENCE

Scientific research is only relevant when it is shared, understood, and applied. Can the choice of typeface or background color affect the impact of scientific data? Researchers need to understand how to employ visual tools to communicate effectively to all kinds of audiences. In this practical workshop, Goffredo Puccetti and Erin Collins demonstrate how to use principles of graphic design to create graphics that engage and inspire. Participants learn the fundamentals of graphic excellence, typography essentials (it’s not every day that you announce the discovery of the Higgs boson in Comic Sans!), and have the opportunity to improve their own graphics.

CONVENED BY

**Goffredo Puccetti**, Designer and Assistant Professor of Practice of Visual Arts, NYUAD

**Erin Collins**, Instructor of the Arts in Design and Alumna, NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي

NYU ABU DHABI

19 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH





## IEEE 6G TRAINING SCHOOL

The sixth generation of wireless networks, 6G, is envisioned to revolutionize the world around us by going beyond traditional improvements in communication to a world where everything is not just connected, but also intelligent and aware. With high data rates, low latency and artificial intelligence, we anticipate a new era of services that will radically change the way our current world works. Internationally renowned researchers from both academia and industry present the latest advances in 6G and pave the way for further innovation.

CONVENED BY  
**Konpal Ali**, Post-Doctoral Associate, NYUAD  
**Roberto Bomfin**, Post-Doctoral Associate, NYUAD  
**Ahmad Bazzi**, Research Associate, NYUAD  
**Marwa Chafii**, Associate Professor, NYUAD & NYU WIRELESS



## LANGUAGE MATTERS: TEACHING CONTENT ACROSS LANGUAGES

With a focus on expanding content-based instruction (CBI) in multiple languages at NYUAD and beyond, this symposium brings participants together to explore current theoretical approaches to content and language integration; to workshop content-based courses in languages other than English; and to learn strategies for incorporating target-language content into pre-existing English-medium courses. Scholars with expertise in Chinese, Arabic, French, and English-medium pedagogy join faculty from NYU's global network to share insights into language and content integration in multilingual settings, including tips for innovative course design and lesson planning.

CONVENED BY  
**Madeleine Wolf**, Visiting Assistant Professor of French Studies, NYUAD  
**Jing Chai**, Affiliated Senior Lecturer of Chinese Language, NYUAD & NYUSH  
**Corinne Stokes**, Senior Lecturer of Arabic, NYUAD



## THE THIRD MIDDLE-EASTERN MATERIALS SCIENCE CONFERENCE (MEMS 2022)

The Third Middle-Eastern Materials Science Conference brings together research experts who work at the forefront of materials science in the UAE, the region, and internationally. The Conference promotes new research venues and cross-disciplinary perspectives within NYU's Global Network University network and fosters interactions with leading academics, experts and editors from the international research community. The meeting focuses on the key role of chemistry, physics and engineering in the discovery and development of new advanced materials, explores new methods for synthesis and characterization of materials, and highlights the applications and impact of materials science on society.

CONVENED BY  
**Panče Naumov**, Professor of Chemistry, NYUAD

## THE 6TH NYUAD TRANSPORTATION SYMPOSIUM

Large-scale disruptions to everyday life due to the pandemic have had a substantial impact on transportation systems and supply chains worldwide. The changes in travel behavior will persist as the world resumes pre-pandemic operations. In tandem, digital and physical technologies that have a direct impact on transportation systems have continued to grow. The 6th NYUAD Transportation Symposium will provide a forum for learning about recent developments in transport economics, travel behavior, and transport technologies, with the aim of addressing the challenges resulting from major disruptions, as well as the emergence of new technologies and data sources.

### CONVENED BY

**Samer Madanat**, Dean of Engineering, NYUAD  
**Monica Menendez**, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs; Director of the Research Center for Interacting Urban Networks (CITIES); Professor of Civil and Urban Engineering, NYUAD  
**Saif Jabari**, Assistant Professor of Civil and Urban Engineering, NYUAD





## CONFLICT ARCHIVES AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Public concern about the prevalence and dynamics of sexual violence in war is global. The pioneering scholarship that drove this awareness now inspires researchers to revisit the silences of victims of sexual violence in “conflict archives.” This interdisciplinary workshop brings together leading scholars working with testimonies of conflict-related sexual violence in archives across many periods and four continents. Their exchanges explore the role of sexual violence in campaigns of terror, past and present. Within this conversation, scholars reflect upon how survivor’s testimony is instrumentalized in later political and legal investigations that create “conflict archives.”

CONVENED BY  
**Rosemary Byrne**, Professor of Legal Studies, NYUAD



## EXILES, MIGRANTS, AND REFUGEES FROM SYRIA

The workshop brings together researchers, policy makers and practitioners from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to examine how the Global Compact on Refugees addresses the concerns and aspirations of those displaced from Syria. It examines how policy makers and practitioners alongside academic researchers situate themselves in relation to the Global Compact on Refugees and other critical humanitarian issues, thus bringing an interdisciplinary focus on to the Global Compact on Refugees (2018) and the forced displacement of more than 6 million Syrians since 2011.

CONVENED BY  
**Dawn Chatty**, Professor of Anthropology and Forced Migration, Oxford University



## LIBRARY OF ARABIC LITERATURE WORKSHOP

The Library of Arabic Literature makes available Arabic editions and English translations of significant works of Arabic literature. This workshop convenes scholars from around the world to explore the parameters and methodologies for establishing a parallel text translation series of classical and pre-modern Arabic literature.

CONVENED BY  
**Lucie Taylor**, Associate Editor of Arabic Literature, NYU Press  
**Shawkat Toorawa**, Executive Editor, Yale University  
**Philip Kennedy**, General Editor, The Library of Arabic Literature  
**James Montgomery**, Executive Editor, University of Cambridge  
**Chip Rossetti**, Editorial Director, NYU Press

IN COLLABORATION WITH



## INVERSE PROBLEMS IN THE DESERT

Inverse problems arise whenever one tries to detect causes based on observations of their effect and have relevance in many fields like medical imaging, nondestructive testing of materials, and seismology to mention but a few. The advancement of the mathematical theory of inverse problems coupled with the development of artificial intelligence, allows nowadays to bridge the gap between theory and practice which represents a breakthrough in applications. The purpose of this four-day workshop is to bring together leading experts in the field to discuss recent results and to open opportunities for collaboration among participants.

CONVENED BY  
**Elena Beretta**, Clinical Professor of Mathematics, NYUAD



## ABU DHABI MEETING ON THEORETICAL PHYSICS

The recent research effort in theoretical physics has somewhat fragmented into several focus areas with diminishing levels of crosstalk between them. These areas include:

- The study of the mathematical structure of scattering amplitudes
- The holographic duality between quantum gravity and strongly coupled field theories
- Connections between random matrix theory and the gravity path integral
- The conformal bootstrap
- The swampland program

Overlapping between these areas opens questions, including; the factorization problem imposed by spacetime wormholes; the weak gravity conjecture that requires the existence of particles with a large enough charge to mass ratio; finding gravitational solutions to the conformal bootstrap, and many more. This conference will bring together world leading experts in the various subfields of theoretical physics to discuss these open problems. It will lead to fruitful collaborations across subfields, and potentially result in important publications representing significant advances in our understanding of fundamental physics.

CONVENED BY

**Ahmed Almheiri**, Assistant Professor of Physics,  
NYUAD

**Matthew Kleban**, Professor of Physics;  
Chair of the Department of Physics, NYU

IN COLLABORATION WITH

وكالة الإمارات للفضاء  
UAE SPACE AGENCY



**SCIENCE**  
NYU ABU DHABI



## NYU AI IN HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND IDEATION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) research is rapidly developing in healthcare, due to its promise in improving patient diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. The objective of this workshop is three-fold: present, discuss, and raise awareness about the state-of-the-art within prominent research themes. Together, leading experts identify challenges and new research directions and pursue collaborative opportunities within Abu Dhabi for the global research community.

CONVENED BY

**Carlos Fernandez-Granda**, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Data Science, Courant Institute, NYU

**Narges Razavian**, Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health, NYU Langone Health

**Krzysztof Geras**, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, NYU Langone Health

**Farah Shamout**, Assistant Professor of Computer Engineering, NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH



## NORMATIVITY AND REASONING IX

Reasoning seems to be a uniquely human activity; it is therefore of great philosophical significance. Yet it is not at all clear how individuals do it. This workshop explores the capacity to reason by focusing on the fact that reasoning is governed by norms; it can go well or badly. What are these norms? How might they be discovered, and how do they guide us? What, if anything, ultimately underwrites their authority?

CONVENED BY

**Matthew Silverstein**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, NYUAD

**Sarah Paul**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, NYUAD

## TOWARDS A GLOBALLY UNIFIED EDUCATION SYSTEM

This conference convenes the Special Olympics Global Center for Inclusion in Education, the Center’s Research Collaborative, Special Olympics International Regional Staff, and Special Olympics Program staff to discuss a Global Unified Education System. Researchers showcase their findings after having implemented socially inclusive activities in 17 nations and jurisdictions worldwide. Program and Regional staff discuss best practices for sustaining and expanding Unified Champion Schools programming across the globe. The Center welcomes distinguished partners, Harvard University EASEL Lab, and FGS Global to the convening.

CONVENED BY  
Special Olympics Regional, Program,  
and Headquarters Staff  
Special Olympics Global Center for Inclusion  
in Education

IN COLLABORATION WITH





## PERSPECTIVES ON MULTILINGUALISM: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY ROUNDTABLE

It is estimated that less than half of the world's population self-identifies as monolingual; most of humanity speaks and understands more than a single language. Despite this fact, research on language across humanities, engineering, biology and the social and psychological sciences has historically prioritized the study of monolingual speakers and communities. In recent years, language researchers have begun to recognize that multilingualism is a fundamental human characteristic that can inform both the nature of language and the general human ability to adapt to variation. This workshop explores the implications of multilingualism in a cross-disciplinary discussion of what it means to be human in a world of ubiquitous linguistic variety.

CONVENED BY  
**Lisa Davidson**, Professor of Linguistics, NYU  
**Alec Marantz**, Silver Professor of Linguistics and Psychology, NYU; Co-Principal Investigator of the Neuroscience of Language Laboratory, NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH



## DRUG DISCOVERY AND THERAPEUTICS

Recent advances in genomics, proteomics, and computational biology are allowing scientists to define coding genes and disease-causing mutations more precisely. Conference participants described their cutting-edge research and approaches to identifying and characterizing drug targets, and how drugs are being developed for such targets. The conference brings to NYUAD, international and UAE renowned scientists to present their work on finding new targets and drugs for human diseases.

CONVENED BY  
**Piergiorgio Percipalle**, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs; Program Head of Biology; Professor of Biology, NYUAD  
**Jean-Claude Twizere**, Senior Research Scientist, NYUAD  
**Wael Rabeih**, Associate Professor of Chemistry, NYUAD  
**Mazin Magzoub**, Associate Professor of Biology, NYUAD  
**Kourosh Salehi-Ashtiani**, Associate Professor of Biology; Global Network Associate Professor of Biology, NYUAD



## STEPPING FORWARD: PERFORMANCE RESEARCH AND PRACTICE, HERE

This conference brings together artists, curators, academics, and practitioners to consider critical questions around performance practice across the MENASA region. The symposium features a public program of talks, panel discussions, workshops, and performances that unpack, extend, and liberate contemporary performance practice towards frameworks that better serve our contexts and concerns. This program is conceived, produced, and presented collaboratively by 421, Alserkal Arts Foundation and Arts and Humanities at NYU Abu Dhabi.

CONVENED BY

**Joanna Settle**, Associate Dean,  
Faculty Affairs and Social Impact,  
and Arts Professor of Theater,  
NYUAD

**Mays Albaik**, Program Manager,  
Warehouse421

**Nada Raza**, Director, Alserkal Arts  
Foundation

IN COLLABORATION WITH



## CENTER FOR GENOMICS AND SYSTEMS BIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM XI

System biology aims to identify and understand the mechanisms that transform genomic information into cellular and organismal behavior using a holistic perspective. In their own research programs, the organizers of this symposium apply cutting-edge genomic technology and systems-level approaches to areas including Environmental Adaptation and Sustainability, and Biomedicine and Health. The internationally distinguished speakers invited for this year's symposium reflect the diverse research areas. This is the eleventh NYUAD Center for Genomics and Systems Biology's Symposium and one of the region's leading symposia on modern biology.

ORGANIZED BY

**Stéphane Boissinot**, Professor  
of Biology; Global Network  
Professor of Biology, Faculty of Arts  
and Science, NYU and Director  
of the Center for Genomics  
and Systems Biology, NYUAD

**Kristin Gunsalus**, Professor  
of Biology, Center for Genomics  
and Systems Biology, NYU  
New York; Faculty Director of  
Bioinformatics, and co-director  
of Center for Genomics and Systems  
Biology, NYUAD

**Claude Desplan**, Silver Professor;  
Professor of Biology and  
Neuroscience, NYU, and co-director  
of Center for Genomics and Systems  
Biology, NYUAD

**Enas Qudeimat**, Head of CGSB  
Administration and Outreach,  
NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH







CONFERENCE

24  
FEB

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY RESEARCH

This conference addresses the most pressing questions of economic development from academics, policy institutions, and industry leaders, and provides policymakers and researchers with an opportunity to present novel research, as well as discuss current challenges and opportunities, with a focus on the UAE and global economy.

CONVENED BY

**Yaw Nyarko**, Professor of Economics, NYUAD; Director of NYU Africa House, the Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED), and Co-Director of the Development Research Institute (DRI), NYU

IN COLLABORATION WITH





## INEQUALITIES: RESEARCH FROM THE 3 NYUS

The first conference gathering sociologists and demographers from NYU Abu Dhabi, NYU New York, and NYU Shanghai features research presentations about multiple types of inequalities. Topics include reducing wealth disparities, employment discrimination, class identification, assessing change in occupations' prestige with machine learning, pay differences by education within occupations, skill and the evolution of jobs, class and race differences in forming families via cohabitation or birth, fertility intentions, text analyses to tap class differences in parenting, marital homogamy and intermarriage, and cohort approaches to causal inference.

CONVENED BY  
**Paula England**, Dean of Social Science, Professor of Social Research and Public Policy, NYUAD; Professor of Sociology, Silver Professor of Arts and Science, NYU



## THEORY IN METHODS

Recent scholarship in political science highlights the value of theory and models in various aspects of empirical research from measurement to estimation. Theoretical models help political scientists define quantities of interest, identify causal estimates, understand mechanisms, and evaluate counterfactuals; and are thus indispensable for empirical political science, and more broadly social science research. This workshop brings together academics from different subfields of political science whose work bridge the gap between theory and methodology.

CONVENED BY  
**Korhan Kocak**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, NYUAD

## GENERATIVE AI AND TEACHING QUALITY

The objective of this brainstorming roundtable is to explore innovative ways of using ChatGPT and generative AI to improve the teaching quality at NYUAD. The session focuses on identifying best practices and ideas for training faculty and students while adhering to accreditation standards and incorporating IDBE and sustainability into the curriculum. Additionally, the session aims to identify new ways to reach faculty and promote the use of ChatGPT and generative AI in higher education, and considers ways in which NYUAD can be a useful test ground for innovations that other schools within the global NYU network could try.

CONVENED BY

**Nancy Gleason**, Director, Hilary Ballon Center for Teaching and Learning and Associate Professor of Practice, Political Science, NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH



HILARY BALLON  
CENTER FOR TEACHING  
AND LEARNING





## NORTHEASTERN ARABIA REEF MONITORING NETWORK WORKSHOP

Coral reefs of northeastern Arabia including the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman are the most biodiverse and economically important regional ecosystems, but are increasingly threatened by climate change and population pressures. There is a need for a cohesive, standardized region-wide reef monitoring program to help understand the status and trends of reef health to guide ecosystem-based management. This workshop brings together regional reef specialists to exchange past survey data, and establish a standardized reef monitoring and data archival approach to implement going forward. The objective is to strengthen regional collaboration and survey data interoperability.

CONVENED BY  
**John Burt**, Associate Professor  
of Biology, NYUAD



## COLORISM ACROSS GLOBAL LINES

This global symposium on colorism brings together prominent scholars conducting research on the implications of skin color and its intersections with structural and systemic discrimination. This meeting addresses the impact of colorism – a subject often overlooked and centered around bi-racial identities within the U.S. American context – and its manifestations in different parts of the world such as Africa, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean

CONVENED BY  
**Rogaia M. Abusharaf**, Professor  
of Anthropology, Georgetown  
University Qatar  
**Awam Amkpa**, Dean of Arts  
and Humanities, NYUAD  
and Global Network Professor  
of Drama, Social and Cultural  
Analysis, NYU  
**Renee Blake**, Associate Professor  
of Linguistics and Social & Cultural  
Analysis, NYU  
**Lisa Coleman**, Senior Vice  
President, Global Inclusion  
and Strategic Innovation, NYU  
**Sara MUSAIFER**, Postdoctoral  
Research Associate in Social  
Science Division, NYUAD  
**Fatihah Touray**, Executive Director  
of Inclusion and Equity, NYUAD



## FRONTIERS OF NETWORK SCIENCE

The Workshop on the Frontiers of Network Science Discover brings together experts from a wide range of disciplines to share their recent work, discuss the latest techniques and technologies, and gain a deeper understanding of how network science is being used to solve real-world problems.

CONVENED BY  
**Kinga Makovi**, Assistant Professor  
of Social Research and Public  
Policy, NYUAD



## NEGOTIATING SELF AND MODERNITY: THE MANY JOURNEYS OF AHMAD ZAKI ABU SHADI

Aḥmad Zakī Abū Shādī embodied many of the seemingly contradictory facets of modern Arab intellectual traditions of the early 20th century. As a poet, publisher, and scientist, at home as much in England and the United States as he was as his native Egypt, his work crossed many geographical and intellectual borders. The acquisition of his personal archive by the NYU Abu Dhabi Library presents a wonderful opportunity to re-examine his life, work, and cultural and historical context, which this interdisciplinary gathering of scholars undertakes.

CONVENED BY  
**Muhamed Al-Khalil**, Associate  
Professor of Practice of Arabic  
Language, NYUAD  
**Brad Bauer**, Head of Archives  
and Special Collections  
and Academic Librarian, NYUAD

WORKSHOP  
NEW YORK

6-7  
JUNE

JUNE



## LIBRARY OF ARABIC LITERATURE

This workshop convenes a board of international scholars to discuss the ongoing work of the Library of Arabic Literature series, which publishes editions and translation of significant works of Arabic literature.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



WORKSHOP  
NEW YORK

12-13  
JUN



## DEVELOPING AND VALIDATING PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

This workshop brings together world-renowned developmental psychologists to discuss pressing issues related to measuring and understanding the impacts of parent-child relationships during childhood. Leading scholars present preliminary work on the impacts of parenting on healthy child functioning during childhood and focus on developing and validating novel measurement tools for assessing parent-child relationship quality to be used across the globe.

CONVENED BY

**Theo Waters**, Assistant Professor of Psychology,  
NYUAD

WORKSHOP  
NEW YORK

29-30  
JUN



## SYMPOSIUM ON PERCEPTION AND COGNITION

The question of how we perceive our world is at the center of biology, psychology, and philosophy. Experiments that probe human behavior while simultaneously measuring neural activity provide particular opportunities to query the neural basis of perception and cognition. Despite a tremendous amount of data collected and substantial advances in specific research areas, many important questions remain to be answered. Building on themes of previous Perception and Cognition symposia, this convening brings together experts from neuroscience, psychology, neurology, and philosophy across NYU's Global Network University to discuss theoretical insights, methodological advances, and best approaches to understanding the neural basis of perception and cognition.

CONVENED BY

**Bas Rokers**, Associate Professor  
of Psychology and Global Network  
Associate Professor of Psychology,  
NYUAD

**Kartik Sreenivasan**, Assistant  
Professor of Psychology, NYUAD

IN COLLABORATION WITH

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي

NYU ABU DHABI

19 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH

# EXHIBITIONS



## DESIGN WORKS: A DECADE OF IN-HOUSE DESIGN AT NYU ABU DHABI

As NYUAD has grown into a leading liberal arts institution, student-led visual design has played a major role in the evolution of NYUAD's identity, community and global reputation. Students and faculty have done professional-level projects both for NYUAD's own research and events and for international organizations such as WWF UAE, the Xenon Lab and ArabWIC. Every design project has engaged questions of identity, accessibility, empowerment and culture in new ways.

CURATED BY  
**Erin Collins**, Instructor of the Arts in Design, NYUAD  
**Goffredo Puccetti**, Designer and Assistant Professor  
of Practice of Visual Arts, NYUAD



## NARRATIVES OF DISPLACEMENT

Millions of people feeling war and persecution from civil unrest and war in Iraq and Syria have found refuge in neighboring countries in the Middle East and in Europe. This artwork exhibition presents art produced by Iraqi and Syrian refugees in Jordan, Germany and the United Kingdom. The art was produced by the refugees themselves in collaboration with the renowned artist Rachel Gadsden. We used the body-mapping technique which is an artistic technique for creating life-sized images that traces the contours of one's own body on canvas. Refugees have used body-mapping to share their experiences of escaping war and settling into new countries. We have also used the augmented-reality platform, Artivive, to allow viewers to gain deeper insights into lived experiences of refugees. The exhibition is part of the ongoing project Negotiating Relationships and Redefining Traditions led by Prof Yafa Shanneik and hosted at the University of Birmingham and funded by the British Academy.



CURATED BY  
**Yafa Shanneik**, Visiting Professor of Islamic Studies,  
University of Birmingham



## LOSS, LONGING, BELONGING: SHAHZIA SIKANDER'S KHORFAKKAN SERIES

Sikander's photographs, initially taken in 2012, depict the ruin and desolation of a South Asian movie theater and its sole caretaker in Khorfakkan, Sharjah, and speak poignantly to the questions of home, displacement, belonging, and unbelonging that touch the lives of many South Asian migrants in the UAE.

### ARTIST

**Shahzia Sikander**, Visual Artist

### CURATED BY

**Gayatri Gopinath**, Professor, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University

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 NYU ABU DHABI  
 19 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH



Sep 8 | Understanding Our Universe From 2 KM Underground



Oct 12 | Knowledge Development and Industrialization A Catalyst to Circular Economy



Sep 26 | '50U' An Intimate Portrait of the UAE



Nov 21 | Photography as a Visual Record Past, Present, Future



Jan 10 | Uncovering the Underlying Structure of the Universe



Mar 2 | Urban Modernity in the Contemporary Gulf: Obsolescence and Opportunities



Apr 3 | On Poetry and Music with Barween Habib, Mahdi Mansour, and Faraj Abyad



INSTITUTE

<b>Nadia El Cheikh</b>	Vice Provost for Cultural and Research Engagement; Professor of History
<b>Antoine Jean El Khayat</b>	Director for Institute Events
<b>Sharon Hakakian Bergman</b>	Director of Academic and Research Programs
<b>Gila Bessarar Waels</b>	Associate Director of Academic Programs
<b>Nahed Ahmed</b>	Assistant Director, Institute Public Programs
<b>Nora Yousif</b>	Assistant Director, Administration and Operations
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<b>Noora Bamatraf</b>	Institute Administrative Assistant
<b>Kyle Ketzer</b>	Institute Multimedia Designer

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