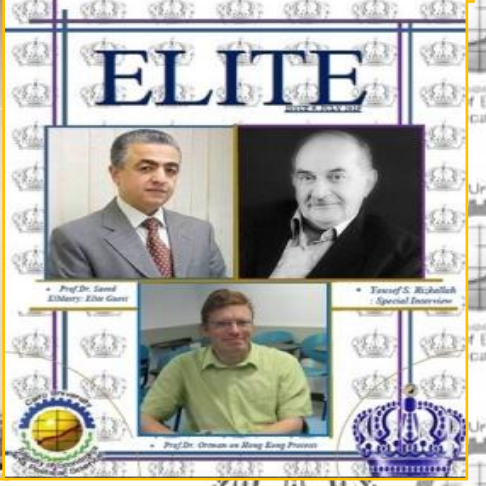
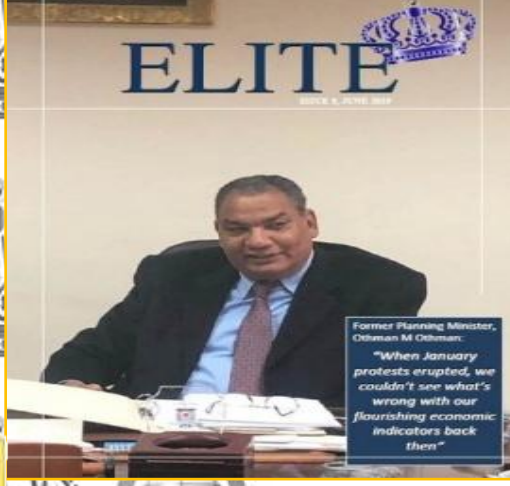
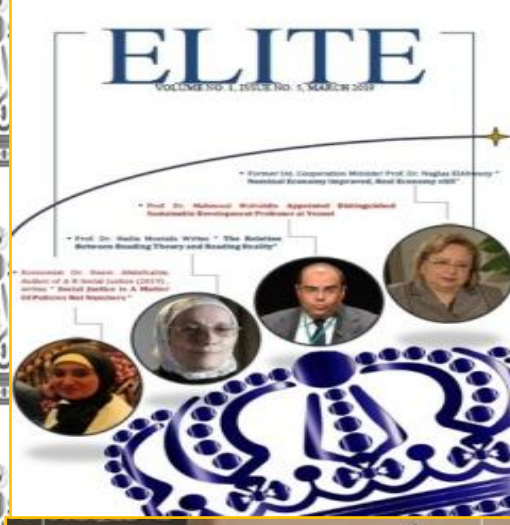
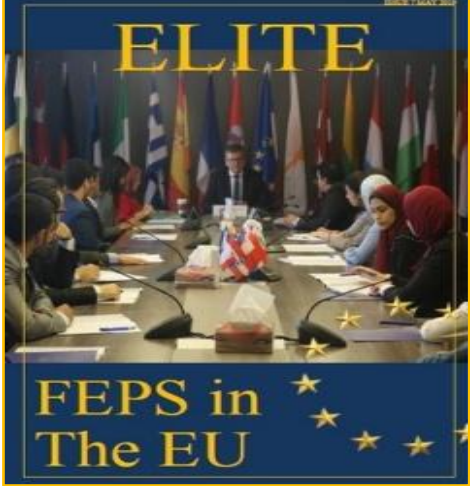




# ELITE

VOL. 1 , ISSUE 12, OCTOBER 2019



# Year TOGETHER



Board Chairman:  
Prof. Dr. Mahmoud El Said  
Editor in Chief:  
Ramy Magdy Ahmed

Issued by the Faculty of  
Economics and Political  
Science, Cairo University

# ELITE

FEPS, where elites are made..

Volume 1 Issue 12 October 2019

Designed by Ramy Magdy Ahmed in October 2018



Celebrating  
Our First  
Anniversary



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Ambassador Amir Kamal Dessouky, the diplomat, the academic and the republican order of merit laureate  
in a Special Interview with ELITE:

# In The Heedless World of Trump Extremists Took Over in Power



▪ **Big and medium powers seek partnerships everywhere in the globe, so Egypt has to utilize its capacities in building its own partnerships**

**Cairo : Caroline Sherif, Farah Ezzeldin, Dina Ehab and Mostafa Sayed , written by : Nermine Tawfik and Translated by Youmna Sayyed.**

An interesting interview that gathered ELITE's team with the diplomat and the academic, Ambassador Dr. Amir Kamal Dessouky, one of the faculty's outstanding graduates, from the batches of pioneers. He has served as an Ambassador and a General Consul for Egypt in many countries including India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Palestine and Sudan. We talked with him about his memories in the Faculty, his work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his opinion on the current events. In addition, he presented a brief about his experiences for the Faculty's students to benefit from them.

In the beginning, we talked about the reasons behind his enrolment in the Faculty, he said that he had enrolled in the faculty in 1969 and graduated in 1973 from the Political Science Department. He was taught by major Political Science Professors in Egypt like; Dr. Khairy Eissa, Dr. Abdelmalek Ouda and Dr. Houreya Megahed. At that time, Dr. Ahmed Youssef Ahmed and Dr. Kamal El Menoufy were his Teaching Assistants. His relationship with them was excellent and parental. He mentioned that this period was so rich.

He added that when he was in the period of General Secondary Education, he was enrolled in the literary section. Dr. Amir's father was a Professor in Zagazig University, he advised Dr. Amir to excel in the literary section better than failing in the science section. From the beginning, Dr. Amir was pursuing to enroll in the Faculty of Economics and Political Science because the Faculty is for the outstanding students, the high scores and the elite students, but he did not like mathematics, so he preferred the Political Science section to the Economics and Statistics sections. Dr. Amir assured that there was a very strong reason that made him take his decision and enroll in the Faculty; which was Gamal Abd El Nasser's daughter; Hoda Abd El Nasser and her enrolment in the Faculty which resulted in his admiration for the Faculty.

After that, Dr. Amir spoke about the period when he graduated explaining that he was enrolled in the Armed Forces in time of war as a Reserve Officer, then he received the Ministry of Manpower's letter in 1975 to work as an Economic Researcher in the Egyptian Commercial Service. He received his job after finishing his period in the Armed Forces in 1977. Then, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced its need for a group of diplomats, Dr. Amir succeeded in the Ministry's exam and from that time, he worked in the diplomatic sector. Also, he preserved on the academic path, so he took his master's degree and then, received a PhD.

**For his work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,** Dr. Amir said that his first mission was in India in which he was available for four years since 1980 and finished his work there in 1985 after a short period from the famous event related to the assassination of Indira Gandhi in October 1984, specially that there were some disturbances in India. After that, Dr. Amir worked as an Ambassador for Egypt in Sri Lanka and Australia and he had a role in activating the commercial representation between Egypt and those countries, exploiting his experience in this field. He served in many important countries; one of which is Palestine where he worked for the Egyptian Commercial Service in Palestine during President Yasser Arafat's (Abu Ammar) presidency period in an accurate stage from the Palestinian history.

Dr. Amir worked with supreme diplomats and benefited from them pointing to Amr Moussa, Nabil El Araby and Mostafa El Feky demonstrating that serving in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs needs persistence, perseverance, endurance and patience. Besides, he recommended learning languages for those who want to enroll in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirming that there are no challenges that do not have a solution, but the issue depends on the skills of the diplomat.

**ELITE's team asked him about his relationship with his wife and family,** he replied that his wife is an Academic in Zagazig University and specialized in methodologies of teaching the English language--

# The Palestinian reconciliation is no longer a luxury but the only solution for the Palestinians' misery

adding that she was his father's student, then she received a scholarship in Nehru University in the Department of Linguistics during her stay with Dr. Amir in India. At that period, it was a good thing as; many students were seeking to take scholarships in Europe, so it opened a new path between Egypt and India, thanking his wife for helping him in all stages of his life, adding that he has three girls and all of them now are doctors, assuring that he taught them to rely on themselves and respecting their family.

For his opinion about the differences in the society since he was a student and now, he said that: time had changed and it was more different than right now, nowadays there is a lot of pressure and the economic conditions represent a huge obstacle facing the youth's dreams. It is also not preferable that the girl excels in her career more than caring about building her family. At the same time, the guys do not want to take responsibility, nor do they support their wives' self-actualization and that resulted to an increase in the disintegration of the family. Consequently, Dr. Amir warns each family that does not teach their sons to bear responsibility. In addition, it is very annoying that the poor general social behavior is spreading in the community.

ELITE's team asked Dr. Amir about his feelings after receiving Order of Merit from the fourth degree from the Ex-President Mubarak in 1983, Dr. Amir pointed out that in the same year, his father received the Order of Merit for finishing his work as a Vice President in Zagazig University. It was mixed feelings between astonishment and having a normal feeling, but the most important thing was his happiness because he was awarded for his efforts that were made in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As for combining between the diplomatic and academic fields, Dr. Amir replied that he has a career path and an academic path. He started in an early time to continue his graduate studies, he took his masters degree, then he received his PhD from the Institute of African Research and Studies, whose name has changed recently to Faculty of African Postgraduate Studies. After finishing his work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Amir was enrolled to teach in Nasser Military Academy.

Right now, Dr. Amir is one of the professors who are participating in discussing master's degrees and PhDs, confirming that it is an important experience for him. Dr. Amir demonstrated that he is so grateful for his father, mother, professors and whoever helped him during his work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and on top of them are Minister Amr Moussa and Nabil El Araby.

For his evaluation of the current international political position, Dr. Amir illustrated that the world is bumpy and the religious nature is the dominant character in the majority of the countries. People are not optimistic about Trump's administration, as Trump is taking away rights; Trump has moved the American embassy to Occupied Jerusalem and agreed with Israel on the capture of the Syrian Golan. All those situations have encouraged Netanyahu to announce recently that if he succeeded in the next elections, he would impose Israel's sovereignty on some areas of the Jordan Valley.

Dr. Amir confirmed that the Palestinian case is urgent and critical and it is almost finished on the hands of Hamas, consequently the one who is responsible now for handling the Palestinian case before Israel is Hamas because without internal unity, the Palestinian case will not be solved and Israel will still be the one who is benefiting, pointing out that Hamas has learnt building tunnels from the Jews.

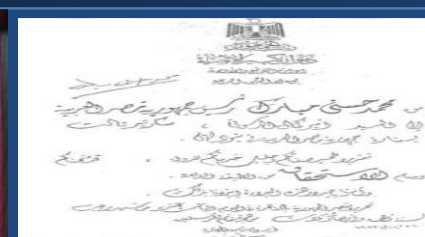
He followed that the general picture is foggy and it is not known on what it will settle on, there is no area in the world that its issues are moving smoothly. The radical politicians are reigning in more than a country and that is what we see in India. There is a rise of a Buddhist fanatic and the issue of Kashmir is still provoking the political and sectarian conflict between India and Pakistan.

On the other hand, Dr. Amir said that the big and medium powers are searching for partnerships and that is what we see happening between Russia, India, China and Japan. It is recommended that Egypt should benefit from its regional location and, also, expand its partnerships.

Then, he talked about Egypt's internal situations demonstrating that the malicious campaigns facing Egypt aim to destabilize the confidence in the state, whoever supports them are the ones who could not continue their rule. The reason behind the strong attack from a person like Erdogan against Egypt is his failure in achieving his plan in the area by his allies from the Muslim Brotherhood. Also, he asked the officials to care about the Egyptian citizen's needs because the citizens had suffered a lot during the previous period. There are dangerous issues facing Egypt now like the stumble of the negotiations for the Renaissance Dam and Ethiopia's attempt to enforce de facto rule. Dr. Amir has assured that the security of the Red Sea area is an essential issue for Egypt's safety.

Dr. Amir ended his interview with us with an advice to the Faculty's students assuring that excellence is indispensable and whoever wants to continue his career in the diplomatic sector, or the commercial representation has to prepare himself well. Dr. Amir says, "Determine your goal, continue patiently, pursue for all aspects, be loyal whatever the hatred of the other parties, work hard, love each other and preserve your relationships with each other and with your Faculty even if after finishing your studies."

## The ambassador's memories



His Republican Order of Merit



President Mubarak's Visit to his post in India during the NAM summit 1983



With PLO's late President Yasser Arafat

Special Article in 'Al-Eza'ahWal Television' Magazine on ELITE Unique Experience

## The columnist, playwright, and the deputy editor in chief of 'Radio & Television' Magazine Mr. Ayman Elhakim gives us an interview on his admiration of ELITE, and explores the challenges to Theatre and Culture

Cairo :RamyMagdy, IssraaAwwad and Mohamed Fawzi

In the balloon theater and before the play he wrote titled (seerethob ,lit. biography of a love) starts, Mr. Ayman al-Hakim, playwright and editor-in-chief of Cinema Magazine, deputy editor of Radio and Television Magazine and author of the article "Elite", which is celebrated by the newspaper in its first anniversary, gives ELITE editor in chief Ramy Magdy a special interview. In the lines below, we are transferring for you the details of that conversation.

**First, we would like to understand the relation that connects you with the faculty of economics and political science, how did this relation start, and when?**

I'm actually connected psychologically with the faculty and this is because I was a scholar from the last batch, belonging to the faculty of mass communication, who studied in the faculty's building. I belonged to the batch of 91s where I spent 4 entire academic years and thus we weren't guests to this building.

**Can you please take us through your experience in journalism and playwriting? In regards to journalism, I'm a graduate of journalism section in Mass communication. I was supposed to continue my postgraduate studies because I had an overall grade of very good with honors. However, I didn't enroll to be an academic professor. Actually, I wanted to be a journalist and I started my journey from Dar el Helal. I'm currently Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Radio and Television and Editor-in-Chief of Cinema Magazine. The magazine is launched by the syndicate of cinematographers and it's considered as the only magazine of the cinema in Egypt. I have another experience that illustrates how does journalism resembles life for me; I was Editor-in-Chief of Cairo newspaper for 6 years.**

In regards to playwriting, thanks to the great producer and the dear friend Mr. Galal El Sharkawy. He told me after January's revolution and he ruling of Muslim brotherhood, "I'm creating a play and the writer should be a journalist". He wanted to make a theatrical work on the year where the Muslim brotherhood ruled and he said that I possess the features of playwriting. Therefore, I wrote a comedy political play called "World My Love" that kept being shown for more than one year and I wrote "Biography of love" later on.

**Do the challenges encountered by the Egyptian theater affect theatrical student activity?**

First, theater in Egypt is facing major problems due to many reasons including the hard economic affairs of the audience whom in turn consider the theater as "useless luxury". Another reason is the "weakness of the text" where the so-called administrative theater was present. It was close to being a cabaret and it was notorious.

**But there are many theatrical experiments that still have the potential to attract audiences and can be broadcasted on television?**

Yes, this is true but I don't consider them as theatrical work but rather as sketches. Let me add, the theater needs stars where it's no longer attractive to them. This is because of the humble rate of pay and massive efforts compared to the dramatic works.

**Does this mean that theater is a retreating educational weapon, or is it only overlooked but remains important and effective?**

Yes, the role of the theater is neglected compared to the sixties where there was a big interest in it. There was the political, comedy, and global theater however currently there's no awareness of the importance of theater as in the past.

**How does this affect the theatrical work of students? The theatrical student activity will certainly be affected. This is because of the role of the university in producing many stars such as Adel Emam, Salah El Saadany, and several others.**



شامد ومشاوود

### النخبة

وسط حالة الإحباط العام التي تعيشها مهنة الصحافة تأتي هذه التجربة لتعطي الأمل وتثبت أنها مهنة باقية ما دامت الحياة. عشت وقتاً سعيداً وممتعاً مع الأعداد العشرة التي صدرت من مجلة (النخبة)، وهي دورية شهرية تصدر عن كلية الاقتصاد والعلوم السياسية بجامعة القاهرة. ربما تتوقف عند الإمكانيات المتواضعة للمجلة في طباعتها وأوراقها، ولكنك سريعا ستجاوزها إلى المحتوى المبهر، والذي يناقش أعرق الدوريات السياسية.

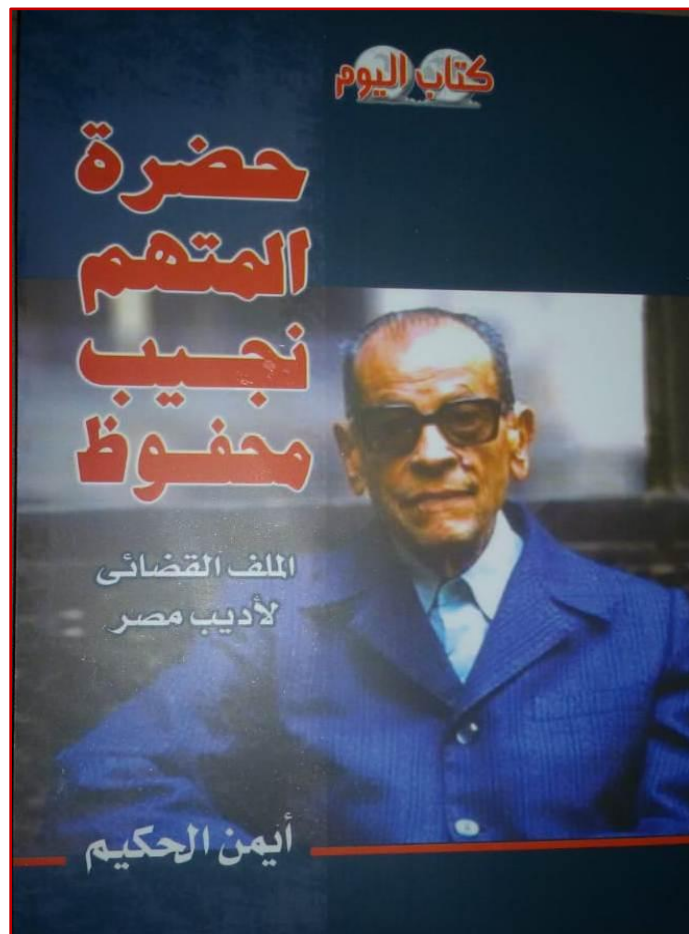
وتنفرد (النخبة) بميزة خاصة، وهي تلك النخبة الفعلية من خريجي الكلية والذين احتلوا مواقع مهمة ومناصب مرموقة، وكلهم - رغم شهرتهم ومكانتهم - لديهم ضعف خاص تجاه كليتهم، ففتحوا بيوتهم وقلوبهم لمجلتها وخصوصها بالكثير من التصريحات المهمة التي تستحق أن تنقلها عنها كبريات المجلات والصحف، فقد توقفت مثلا عند حوار مهم مع وزير التخطيط في عهد مبارك د. عثمان محمد عثمان يكشف فيه أسراراً جديدة عن ثورة يناير وكان قريبا من مطبخ الأحداث ومركز صناعة القرار.. وبنفس الأهمية يمكنك أن تقرأ حوارات وشهادات مع قامات بوزن على الدين هلال ومشيرة خطاب وميرفت التلاوي وأسامة الغزالي حرب ومينر فخرى عبد النور مع حفظ الألقاب.

بتلك الإمكانيات المتواضعة انفردت المجلة بحوارات وموضوعات في غاية الأهمية، كحوارها مع السفيرة جيلان غلام أول امرأة تتولى تمثيل مصر في الأمم المتحدة، ومع ماريا سيبينوزا رئيس الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة التي حلت ضيفا على الكلية ومجلتها. المجلة التي تشرف عليها د. حنان محمد على وكيل الكلية لشئون التعليم والطلاب وتحظى بدعم لا محدود من عميد الكلية الشاب د. محمود السعيد ويزأس تحريرها رامى مجدى تجربة تستحق التحية والإعجاب، وتؤكد أن الإرادة قادرة دوما على النجاح مهما كانت العقبات والإحباطات.. على الذين أشاعوا مؤخرا أن (خبيننا في نخبتنا) أن يعتذروا عن تلك المقولة السخيفة وأن يقرأوا (النخبة).

« أيمن الحكيم »

61 العدد: 4408





One of Mr. Ayman Elhakim's work

This is because there was interest in the university theater where Abdelmoneim Madbouly was in charge during one of the periods. Nowadays, the person in charge is an employee who has a limited budget and this is what affects the theatrical work. Although I know there are many young talents whom I've seen their work during university festivals. They possess a great talent and can enrich the Egyptian theater.

**But there are theatrical experiences such as "Masrah Masr" and others that have large audiences, how do you see these experiences?**

The truth is that they are not theatrical works as there is no text but rather improvisations. Though, it makes audience laugh where laughter has become something precious nowadays. However, I see other wonderful works such as King Lear play for the big actor Yahia El Fakhrany. This is why theater in Egypt needs more spotlight and because of the contribution of the Egyptian art in the advancement of Egypt. At one point, Egypt was on the throne of Arab art, but this role has now receded.

**What should be done to bring back the theater?**

It's a national project where the nation should pay art and be a partner rather than leaving it to producers with no supervision. Art in the past received big interest aging from Abdelnasser's days where he was a friend of Om Kalthum, Abdelhalim, and many others. He was following the cinema and this definitely had a major contribution to the flourishing of the Egyptian art which is considered as Egypt's real wealth.

**We have already talked with one of the trustees of the Supreme Council for Culture or you can say we asked him about one of the problems of culture. He said the main problem is that the intellectuals have become isolated from the community and busy with their own projects. Do you think this is a true?**

Yes, this is the reality, but those who only care about personal glory are not really intellectuals, but they are semi-intellectuals. A real intellectual is the one who leads nation not the person who chases prizes.

**When you first read Elite, how was your first impression?**

The main observation is that it's isolated from the public. Apart from that, it's characterized by simplification of political concepts. In addition to, you have very important feature which is having the real elite, university professors. They include Dr AleyEldinHelal and many other important names. I'd also like to appraise the fact that you grant, youth from the faculty the opportunity to write. They really have a linguistic talent and can write. This is not common in young people of this generation as most of them do not know classical Arabic.

**What should we do to develop it?**

You have to increase the number of papers of the magazine by adding more subjects. This definitely requires great capabilities. However, you are presenting the best in light of your current capabilities.

**Apart from the magazine space, what else do we need?**

You need publicity outside the college in research centers perhaps and elsewhere.

**At the end, what would you like to say to the faculty of economics and political science?**

The Faculty of Economics and Political Science is a university within the university. It is one of the oldest political colleges in the Middle East where several political figures have graduated from it. Thus, it has to provide more seminars and this will benefit students a lot as science is not limited to books.



Our editors Ramy Magdy and Sarah Nasr at The Balloon theatre Entrance



Audience of Secret Hob Play written by Mr. Ayman Elhakim



Our Editor in Chief Ramy with Mr. Ayman in The Theatre Hall

# Our Student Founding Editors Celebrate

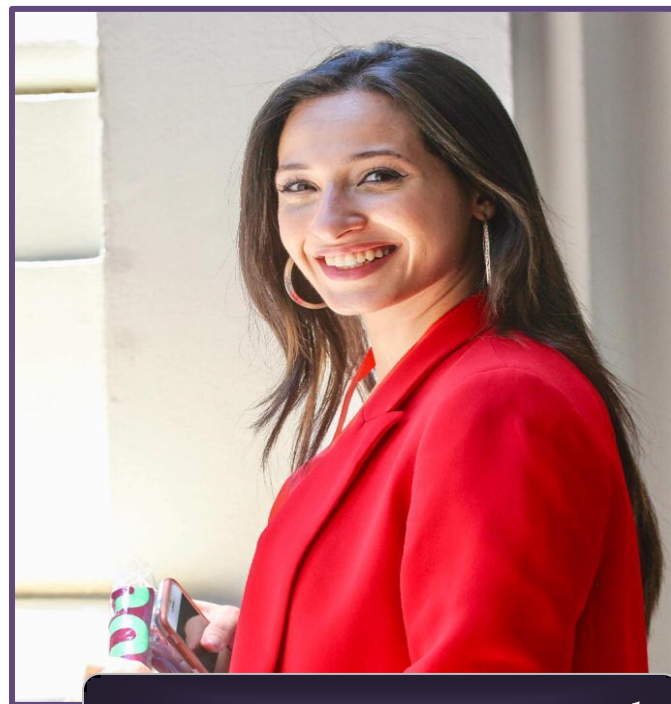
ELITE first batch undergraduate editors narrate their experiences with ELITE



Nouran Husam

The deepest thing that might touch someone from the inside and make a difference is the change. What if this change is going constantly in a loop that does not stand? So was my experience with Elite. A shade of change has tinged me and I felt that it was a situation that comprised everyone who have passed by and asked about it, which has not stopped at one of them but moved and still in a motion like a phenomenon that inspires everyone who has heard of it to read or participate. Some of them have joined us with support, some have contributed actively and timely, with some of them have been impressed, and all that was enough for us.

It started with an idea and confidence within each other and drained a deluge of time and flux of ideas in several consecutive meetings until the first electronic version of the Elite came out. Perhaps, we will not remember the difficulties we faced to feel the first success in the history of the Elite with the publication of its first issue, but we will certainly be alert that a year has passed since this unique experience. That experience has been rooted in the belief that change is an idea, that our current reality was an idea and that the impact inevitably remains. The hours, days and months that have passed have left us with a dignified mark that will not leave us with anyboredom in a long way to go and we will only seek to keep the trace to be followed by everyone who has passed.



Essraa Yaccoub

Do you remember when your tiny hands were taught how to hold a pen? Do you remember when you wrote your first word wondering what does a word even mean?

I do remember!

I remember when I was fascinated of the smell of a new brand notebook. I remember how I loved the feeling of holding a book and surfing its papers. I remember how I was deeply watching my mother's writings wondering from where she got these exquisite words and how she was inspired.

Why do we even write?

A puzzle that I couldn't solve. Do I write because I'm not brave enough to spell these written words out? Do I write out of my belief that the one who writes never die and that writing is like the ranks of eternity? Maybe I write for all of these reasons. I write because it's how I release my pain and break my silence.

Under the love spell of the press, I knocked every door to start practicing it, to be the carrier of every truth, the voice for every weak and the illumination for every darkness. When ELITE answered my call, I opened a door to dozens of interviews. I've written op-eds, and political analysis. Despite my imperfections, Elite has given me a golden chance to truly discover this profession and to let my scattered letters and my imprisoned words find a path to the light.

# Our Student Founding Editors Celebrate 2

ELITE first batch undergraduate editors narrate their experiences with ELITE



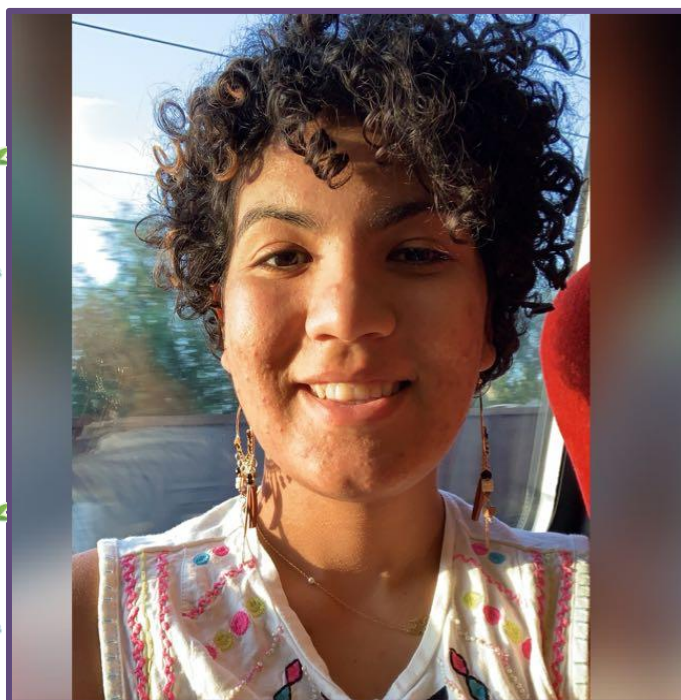
**Abdelrahman Elhadidi**

### "Ambition, commitment and integration"

Those are the values which editors of Elite magazine and FEPS website share. Passion led us to develop our performance in work beyond expectations. Elite magazine is considered a platform for students to express their views in various economic, political, social and artistic aspects. I was one of those students who firstly shared their views on the above topics, .

I conducted two interviews with two former ministers. The first was Minister and MP Mohamed El-Orabi. This interview was held at the Nile Ritz Carlton Hotel. His interview was very beneficial and full of the experience of His Excellency, whether as Egypt's ambassador to Germany or as a former foreign affairs minister and finally as a member of parliament. The second interview was held at the National Institute of Planning with the former minister of Planning, Dr. Osman Mohammed Osman, and we enjoyed his great analytical ability to describe the current Egyptian economic situation and provide solutions to the current crises and how to address them. Last but not least, joining Elite magazine is the best event happened to me since joining Faculty of Economics and Political Science. This is why I especially thank the college's management for supporting the magazine since its foundation.

Also, I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Ramy Magdy, the editor-in-chief of the magazine, for his constant support to me and my colleagues and his great efforts to improve the level of work professionally in the magazine. In conclusion, I advise college students to join this great entity in order to see how much benefit they will receive.



**Fareeda Khalifa**

One full year has passed since the establishment of ELITE, and it has truly been a year full of new experiences and discoveries for the newsletter and for me as an editor. From the very beginning, I joined to learn more and be more involved in my faculty, but throughout this year, I have challenged myself and overtaken many tasks that I never thought I could.

I started my journey as an editor and a translator, but as time went by, I excelled and rose to be the assistant editor in chief. This has been an amazing learning experience, I read articles that I never thought would interest me, I have worked within a bigger framework, and I even went out of my comfort zone and published one of my poems.

ELITE has given me a unique chance and I am ready to take on any new challenges and work for a better FEPS and a better me.



# Our Dean Celebrates with Us

*Translated by: Sherry Asaad*

## ELITE Chairman & FEPS Dean Prof.Dr. Mahmoud Elsaid Tells His Thoughts and Dreams For ELITE Future



This month the magazine of our beloved FEPS “Elite Magazine” celebrates its first anniversary since its establishment. On this happy occasion, I would like to say, on the account of many, that the magazine succeeded in becoming an important platform for the students of the faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, despite its shortage of human and material resources.

In addition to that, the editorial board of the magazine has succeeded in making it an important source of knowledge that all the students, staff, alumni and admirers of this esteemed faculty are keen on following up with, and I assure since i am the chairman of this magazine that we’ve presented a big worth of professional, transparent and constructive media.

The most notable thing about the first year of Elite is discovering a lot of hidden media talents in the students of our deep-rooted faculty and we still aspire to discover even more talents as we keep our doors open for all of our students.

At the end, I would like to express my utmost gratitude and respect to everyone who contributed in the establishment of this valuable platform, especially Dr. Hanan Hassan, Vice Dean for student affairs, who initiated this project, and Mr. Ramy Magdy, the Assistant lecturer in the department of Political Science and the Editor-in-chief of the Magazine, the one who without his sincere efforts, and the will of god, this magazine wouldn’t have come out to light the way it is now.

Last but not least, it was surely my utmost pleasure throughout this past year presiding over the high board magazine and its staff, and I was very much keen on achieving the goals of this magazine to earn the hearts and minds of its readers from the students of our faculty. Also I promise those who still see (ELITE) needs efforts to meet their expectations that we will double our efforts in the future to guarantee that the ELITE will be in a much better form.

**Happy Anniversary ELITE..**

# ELITE's Godmother

*Translated by: Sama Mamdouh*

**ELITE supervisor and High Board Member Prof. Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali Narrates How the ELITE Dream began**



It was a mere idea that has been beautifully reflected into reality, it was born gloriously and still affirming its position in the court of exalted majesty. It has been a year since Elite magazine-FEPS media outlet- first came out.

I still recall the meeting that I held with a group of assistant lecturers, teaching assistants in addition to faculty's students for the launching of the new faculty website. And after the distribution of tasks, a student has suggested adding a periodical review on the website, at this specific moment I recalled the Caravan newspaper of the American University, I also remembered my fondness of journalism ever since I can remember, and how my father used to urge me to read articles and investigative journalism in different daily newspapers and discuss it with him.

Here, I suggested that it would be a monthly newspaper in which teaching staff, students and graduates write about topics that range from economics, politics, art and literature. Afterwards, I offered them my perception and it was well received. So, I had to choose a president and an editorial board, and I entrusted the faculty students headed by Mr. RamyMagdy to take this responsibility due to my trust in their capabilities. And they have achieved success beyond my expectations, I'd find that each issue of the newspaper is better than the one before and I felt the happiness of the team alongside the students because of this fruitful experience.

So, congratulations to the newspaper team for publishing 12 issues considered as information treasure, and my wishes for more excellence and brilliance.

**Happy Anniversary ELITE..**

# Glory to The Students!

**ELITE editor in chief Ramy Magdy Celebrates His Exceptionally Creative Team of Editors**



A year passed since my best "non-teaching" experience started. A year passed on ELITE, the entity that taught us to go together, to be better, stronger, and more glamorous. We enjoyed working for FEPS without order or condition and without reluctance. We loved to innovate seriously and to do things with love and not out of duty.

ELITE, the place where you find the professor writes next to the student and both express his idea innovatively, fluently and freely. That entity where you find the dean of FEPS thinks with his academics and students. He gave us the space to do, to try and meet the world. He allowed us to make mistakes so we can dream.

If thanks are to be extended, then great thanks to Dr. Mahmoud ElSaid for his support for us as academics and students, because he let us try and dream so that we can improve ourselves until we became the media platform of FEPS. Our sincere thanks goes also to Prof. Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali who took every step with us, in support of us, defending our dreams and enriching our ideas with her thoughts. She is our god mother; she is the eye and the spirit of ELITE. My gratitude as well goes to my fellow faculty members who shared with me the journey and contributed to the pace of development, creativity and regularity of ELITE.

However, ELITE is the students. They are the ones who dreamed with me, encouraged me, innovated, suggested, and build the experiences we made at ELITE. They gave ELITE its momentum, vitality and creativity. Glory to the students!

**Happy Anniversary ELITE..**

# A Totally Different Politics: Families and Politics in The Egyptian Village



**\*Laila Galal**

Political Communication Officer at 'Support Egypt' Coalition. FEPS graduate –Class2018 .

Translated by:  
Jasmine Nabil

“Politics”, upon hearing this term the reader can instantly formulate some mental images and create certain conceptions. Such conceptions may include: the way a state manages its internal affairs and its relationship with its citizen, the electoral and voting processes alongside the active political parties, and the regulating laws and constitutions. The reader may also be reminded of some important principles such as: freedom, justice, equality, security, and stability and order. One’s mind may even take a step deeper towards what is beyond the internal arena to include interrelations among states, what developments such relations may induce as: alliance, convergence, tension, as well as escalation and rupture of relations, these images, among others, are the most likely to be formulated in the reader’s mind when they read the word “politics,” nonetheless, all these represent and express formal relations and interactions between official parties governed by certain rules and regulations.

Here, it is worth mentioning that the definition of politics as I learnt from my first Political Science class is “who gets what, when and how.” Thus, it is a far-reaching science that includes both formal and informal parties. It deals with the issue of scarcity of resources and aims to find the different ways of allocating them. Thereby, I admit the existence of parallel politics, unofficial per se, does not require an official structure but exists wherever there are interests among parties or resources that need to be allocated. Accordingly, no group of people can exist without politics determining who gets what is scarce and how they get it.

A salient example for this can be the parliamentary elections in rural villages. It is a complex process, not as simple as the months of the year or merely the number of votes determined by the electoral campaigns and the extent of their effect on the electoral bulk. It is rather a whole world dinnning with unofficial conflicts and interactions which are run by families to determine who gets the constituency seats. The one worthy of the seat may possibly be the strongest, while the winning candidate is the one most supported by his family. In such constituencies, true vengeance is created and conflicts –violent and even armed- turn to heritage that does not fade away by time. This is similar to what has been referred to in Ibn Khaldun’s theory of Solidarity (Asabiyah). Where, the individuals’ sense of belongingness to their family creates within them a tendency to assimilate themselves into the group so that they serve the family, believe in its ideals, see things through its perspective and seek to achieve its purposes, creating an extreme, absolute and unjustified sense of loyalty generating blind familial fanaticism. Growing up listening to the stories told by my grandfather and family members is what has driven me to write this article. Stories about the horrors of the conflicts between my family and the family of the candidate competing against my grandfather during the parliamentary elections, to which, I can still see traces during each of my visits to the village. Upon entering the village, you cannot help but notice the significant amount of old posters despite the passage of time which shouts that there was once a vicious electoral war. Trying to see what is left, you see a symbol, the candidate’s picture and his family name, then; you get an instant feeling as if the people purposely meant to leave these posters as a reminder of the past that the present contradicts.

You can also notice traces of the familial conflicts and the demographic polarization of the locals, as such; each part of the village as well as a number of its streets is controlled by a certain family to the extent that it becomes known by the family’s name. Each time you encounter one of the old villagers you would find them taking you to a trip down the memory lane reciting the events and the perils of the electoral war, a trip to a time of fear and horror, of sadness due to the loss of family members because of the cycle of vengeance, and of ruptured relations with loved ones and friends from the opposing families.

I still remember tales told about this; an instance about a woman who had to cut ties with her uncles because they belonged to the family opposing her father’s family, another that lost a father and a sister in the war of vengeance, and another who lost a limb and became disabled. I can still picture the events of this era in the faces of the people as if I have lived through them all.

What is bewildering about those people that, despite suffering from a war they are not a party of, they have a true sense of loyalty and pride towards their families, that the more they suffer, the more this loyalty strengthens. Especially because, the electoral candidate is looked up to as the dean of the family, its head, symbol and representative; He becomes their arbiter in disagreements, the one who holds the meetings and periodic gatherings, seeks to include and share them in all events, and pursues their interests, in return, he guarantees their support.

That is why the success of the candidate in such constituencies is highly dependent on his ability to gain the trust of his family members as well as the ability to form alliances with the heads of other families to guarantee the votes of these families as well. As such, the electoral process turns into a battle for families and the winner is the one who allies with the greatest number of families or the families with greater popular density, so that it becomes like the American elections where candidates from both political parties struggle for the support of states with the biggest electoral weight in the electoral college.

Despite the simplicity of such villages, they are real political arenas to be reckoned with. They witness politics with all the meaning the word has to offer, with bargains, negotiations, exchange of interests, family affiliations that parallels party affiliation or even exceeds its in its strength and organization, competitiveness and multiplicity of candidates, large scaled campaigns, and a citizen; who despite being uncivilized, is an active political actor, one who fully understands his interests and chooses his candidate purposefully. All this occurs behind the curtains and not known except to those who have lived through it and have been influenced by it. I was lucky to see and witness these interactions which affected my perception on Political Science, made me sure that politics is closely tied to all that surrounds us, and made me realize that politics does not have to solely exist in a city or an urban society.



## Plato's Thoughts on Pleasure and Truth

**Ramez Ibrahim**  
Political Science Assistant lecturer

In his endeavor to define justice, Plato, the revered thinker and the pioneer of Ancient Greek political theory, noticed a close relationship between *estislah-al-nafs* (self-improvement) and political reform. Plato lived hard times owing to the execution of his tutor, Socrates, and the humiliating defeat of Athens received at the hands of Sparta.

Plato distinguished between genuine and fake pleasures. Real pleasures are pure and not followed by pain (e.g. logical thinking and having an active smelling sense). Fake pleasures, on the other hand, such as excessive sex and food, lead to self-indulgence, bad calculations and hasty decisions.

To achieve political reform, education must be given high priority to mold citizens' souls. In Plato's utopia, every individual is primarily pre-occupied with his own affairs. The Stoics echoed the same meaning several decades later. Our great thinker helped in shedding the light on the role of psychological factors in molding citizens' souls and achieving political reform. According to Plato, despotism, one of the central themes in his theory, is divided into two dimensions. The despot's soul is not stable because he's chased almost all the time by nightmares and obsessed with controlling others.

This personality type, if given the opportunity to govern the city-state, will tarnish peoples' morale. Demagoguery, an art used for political agitation, is practiced to manipulate emotions and leads to costly wars. Thanks to Harold Laswell, the psychological tradition was revived in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Laswell's ideas should be put in the wider political context in which he has lived.



## Kendakah & Nubian Women

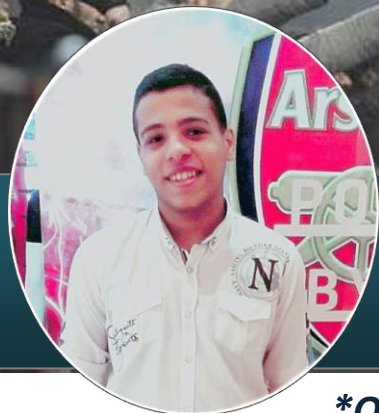
**Hadeer Hassan**  
Political Science Teaching Assistant

"Kendakah" refers to the Nubian ladies in general, to denote respect, sophistication and reverence. In this article, we will refer to the cultural specificity of the Nubian woman, which appeared in her clothes, jewelry, and crafts that decorate her home. Nubian House is characterized by beauty, cleanliness, bright colors and inscriptions that symbolize the Egyptian civilization in all its ages. When you enter any house from the inside, you will find the touches of Nubian women there. Intense hygiene is the first address in all homes, followed by attention to some of the heritage details that appeared in wicker baskets, beads works, and mats of wool, which adorn the floors in very creative colors, along with mural paintings on the wall to embody the Nubians' daily lives.

The most distinctive feature of Nubian women is their fashion, which reflects a deep Nubian culture. The beginning will be with (**Gergar**) one of the most important heritage of Nubian women. (*ger-Jo-R*), is the origin of Gergar as a word, which means what appears through it, "transparent". This name was a Nubian translation of an older word, *Sha-eve-nu*, which meant the same meaning as "transparent" in ancient Egypt. The (**Gergar**) is a long simple dress in the form of long-sleeved wide beyond the hands ends with frilly tips and up to the ankles from the front and length increases from the back until it touches the ground. It is said that it was designed in this way to observe the footprints of a woman as she walks, to prevent anyone from following her, and to indicate the modesty.

In addition, There is a (**Shojah**) which was similar to the uniforms of Roman emperors, as the tie is held over the left shoulder, Its length is more than 11 meters which is of course excessive but there is wisdom behind it. As one of the common customs among Nubian women is the participation of others in their special occasions whether weddings or deaths, this sometimes requires travel long distances, which may cause death. So, *Shouja* is used "as a shroud." Jewelry is of great importance in the life of Nubian women. It isn't just pieces of gold or silver, but pieces tell the history of development and creativity. In this context, we will refer to some kinds of these pieces.

There is a (**Shawshaw**) ornament, which is made of silver to hang on the sides of the head. also, there is a (**Silver Rahman**), a gold ornament for the head, worn with another head ornament called (**Alrasan**), which is a chain hanging by 12 small conical units resembling a lotus flower, and at the bottom two adjacent crescent, each topped by a small star. Although Nubian women retain the authentic qualities of Egyptian women, we find that Nubian culture has refined it with many of its own qualities, which enabled it to play an active role in Nubian society, contrary to what many believe to be marginalized by adherence to Nubian customs and traditions.



## Chants and Bananas: Racism in European Football

**\*Omar Khaled, Fourth Year, Economics**

*Revised and Translated By: Sherry Asaad*

In football, we live different moments and feelings with our favorite team, happiness, sadness, passion, and fear. As we live those moments, the players also live through these exact moments, but sometimes players face more difficulties and go through harsher moments when they are forced to play while listening to racist comments on their color or religion. Some players stand against these comments while others collapse in front of them and don't continue inside the field. This is racism, the worst phenomenon that could face the players in the playfield.

On the one hand, this phenomenon does not happen in our Arab stadiums because we do not have genuine fans in the true sense of the word, but from the other hand, in Europe, this phenomenon can be found inside every stadium. As such, some players faced racism like the Egyptian player "Mohamed Salah", where in 2017 Westham's fans described him as a "Terrorist" just because he is Muslim. Nevertheless, Salah managed to overcome this situation and made such a great performance and scored three goals. Even more, the most prominent manifestations of racism are towards people of color. As there were many manifestations of racism either by chanting or throwing banana peels on some players, that's what happened with the Arsenal player "Aubameyang" in 2018, but he was able to carry on and had a good performance in the Derby. In addition, there are more crucial scenes, just like what happened with the Senegalese Giant "Koulibaly" Napoli defender who was sent off last year during the game against Inter Milan upon losing his emotions as a result of the racist cheers of the fans, that described him as a monkey.

Nevertheless, there were supporters of inside the stadium supported Koulibaly including his coach Ancelotti who asked the referee to stop the match until these chants stop. Koulibaly's crisis has not only resonated in sports, but also Politicians also talked about it that the mayor of Milan demanded that the captain's badge of Inter Milan's football's club is to be given to the player "Asamoah" and also closed the Giuseppe Meazza stadium. In addition to that, "Matteo Salvini," the interior minister, denounced what happened in that match and called an emergency meeting to discuss what has happened. The victim numbers are still on the rise. Another incident of racism took place when the Ghanaian "Muntari" was described as a monkey, he could not continue the match and when he asked the referee to call off the game for not tolerating these insults, the referee kicked him out crying. At the end, "Muntari" left his team and

stopped playing in Italy. This issue never closes and the last incident was before the international halt when the Inter Milan striker Lukaku was subjected to racist chants in the Cagliari match. This phenomenon is clearly very common in Italian stadiums. Strangely, however, this time the Curva Nord – the Inter Milan fans' association- released a statement commenting on Lukaku's incident and their response was as follows:

"Hello Romello.. We are writing to you on behalf of the Curva Nord, we are sorry that you thought that what happened in Cagliari was a racist event. Please accept this behavior from the Italian fans as a sign of respect and intimidation from you and from the goals that you can score against them and not because they are racists. True racism is a very different story and all Italian club fans know this thing, when you state that racism is a problem that must be fought in Italy, helps repression against the Italian masses, including us, and contributes to creating a problem that does not really exist." The association's response was to justify these chants as a means of pressuring the opponent and not with the aim of racism, but even if it was to encourage and get the opponent out of focus, what about his feelings? What about how he feels getting kicked off the stadium, crying like Muntari? No matter how one names it, racism is a heinous action, whether it be about religion, color, or anything else.

You may be subjected to racism from the opposing fans, but what if *your* fans are racist towards your color even before you play for them? That's what happened with the Brazilian player Malcom when he moved to the Russian team Zenit, and only a few days later, the Zenit fan association reacted to his joining the team in a statement where they announced that they refuse to have play a dark skinned player in their team, to maintain the tradition of the team that all players are white skinned. The question is, what are these traditions that would make anyone racist towards the player's skin color? How can it be damaging for any team to have a black player?

In conclusion, This phenomenon has led the European Union in 2017 to launch the campaign "No to racism" in all European games and the signing of heavy fines on clubs, and depriving some teams from their fans for several matches, but it is clear that these sanctions are not deterring, where this issue is still persists in terms of the increase of racist fans and the increase in numbers of their victims. This phenomenon is also still present the European Union, which will make it hard to eliminate it completely from the European stadiums.



## Wage Gender Gap in The US.

Salma Bayoumi, 2nd Level, Economics

One of the massive problems that face the middle class in the United States, which forms nearly half of the American society, is the wage gender gap. For example, if there is a man and a woman working at the same establishment for the same hours and doing the same job, so if the man gets one dollar the woman will get only 80 cents. In average she gets 80% of a man wage; however the gap is wider for women of color.

Men are afraid of being fired and replaced with women because there is no doubt that the owners of companies want to reduce expenses, although 72 million of the American women and their families are suffering as they can't afford their children's expenses, or even their own expenses, because there are many women who depend on themselves and they are completely independent.

Now we have to ask ourselves a question, is this discrimination legal? Definitely not. In 1963, the American Congress passed The Equal Pay Act and it was the first step to solve this problem as it provides paying equal wages for both men and women who are in the same position at the same company. This act was not only solving women's problem but also it was the key of financial security of many American families.

Unfortunately, this act couldn't solve the problem as it lacked tools that women could use if they are facing this problem, and also lacked tools the executive authority could use to intervene. This crisis continued until the American Congress passed the Paycheck Fairness Act in March 2019. This act was made to strengthen the Equal Pay Act as it provides women with tools that they can use to take their rights.

Surprisingly while voting on this bill in the Senate; only 7 Republicans were in favor of this bill but 187 of them weren't, however all of the Democratic senators voted ay and supported the bill until it became a law. How could a senator representing the American people who believe in equality between men and women be against a law that supports this equality! However people are happy after this law passed, there is no evidence of the resolution of this problem, all they have is such promises.



## On The Decision to Lower The Interest Rate

\*Mohamed Fawzi, 3<sup>rd</sup> Level, Economics

Interest rate is defined as the cost of borrowing expressed as percentage of the principal amount. From a consumer's perspective, an individual may have excess of a certain amount and would be willing to lend it to take a rate of return. From a producer's perspective, a producer might want capital to start a business, expansion, or introduce a new product. This capital would be financed by borrowing and the producer would be charged an interest to serve as the cost of borrowing. Therefore, investors or producers are looking for low interest rates. This is exactly what happened in Egypt in July where the interest rate plummeted to 14.25%. According to economics, this is something good where the cost of borrowing to investors will be less.

Low interest rates definitely, would mean a lower cost of borrowing for investors certainly. However, it's worth noting that since the interest rate in Egypt was high so foreign investors and even local find that investment in government bonds and bills to be more attractive than investments in production or manufacturing. According one of the members of the council of the central bank of Egypt during a conversation with Al Arabiya news agency, the current total amount of investments from hot money sum up to a total amount of 19 billion dollars out of the total investments in Egypt's GDP 2019. By lowering the interest rate, foreigners will no longer find the Egyptian market attractive for investment and thus at the closest chance, foreigners might stop investing in Egypt and invest in other emerging markets. Furthermore, Egyptian consumers will no longer find the certificates of deposits to be satisfactory enough and they might rather choose to invest their money in purchasing gold, real estate, or even might cause the dollarization to come back. It was always a problem in Egypt, that citizens find the most suitable investment is purchasing US dollars and this might lead to the re-creation of black markets again. This will depreciate the value of the Egyptian pound. I believe that the governor of the central bank Mr. Tarek Amer took a long time before taking the decision to lower the interest rate because of the above reasons.

Comparison between some interest rates of Egypt compared to world

Egypt	Turkey	Argentina
14.25%	19.75%	58%

Source: Bloomberg

I've chosen Turkey and Argentina since they are emerging markets just like Egypt. According to Bloomberg, Turkey's interest rate is 19.75% and Argentina's 58%. Argentina's government might be intending to raise it more which makes Argentina currently one of the most attractive markets in the world. I've even witnessed some investment banks in Egypt that are planning to purchase government bonds and treasury bills in Turkey and Argentina rather than investing in Egypt. To sum up, I don't think that we should decrease the interest rate further in Egypt.



# FEPS Summer School: A Week on Sustainable Development

By: Mohamed Abdelazim

Translated by :Sama Mamdouh

Faculty of Economics and Political Science has launched its summer school under the title "Sustainable Development - the optimal solution". This year's summer school took place from 8 to 11 September and was organized by FEPS' student union in collaboration with the faculty. The event which kicked off five years ago comes in line with the faculty's efforts to support student activities.

The theme "sustainable development - the optimal solution" was chosen in order to discuss the sustainable development issue which is the overriding concern in our collapsing world. This issue is mainly concerned with the rights of present and future generations. It was noted that the majority of the attendees were first year students. The activities of the first day started with an opening speech of the College Dean, Prof. Dr. Mahmoud El-Said, in which he welcomed the new students, gave a brief on the various departments in the college and presented some honorable models of the college graduates, including Dr. Hala Al-Said, Minister of Planning, and Administrative Reform, as well as distinguished journalist Ahmed Al-Muslimani

In the same context, the three faculty dubieties have attended the opening session, stressing the role of the faculty administration in providing the proper educational environment to achieve the faculty's desired goal. Afterwards, a number of the faculty's students and graduates, including "Sherine Maher" and "Mahmoud Abu Hosh", addressed the different departments of the college, and then tackled the importance of summer training as well as the role of student activities in shaping the students' mentality and helping them acquire life skills. The second session continued with prof. Mustafa Amara who addressed the importance of presentation skills in order to integrate students in the process and guarantee an interactive educational system. The focus of the third session was education and health within the framework of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In the same manner, Mr. Karim Belal, The General Coordinator of "By us" initiative at the ministry of Solidarity, stressed the significance of education and health as objectives of sustainable development.

On the second day, the topic of gender equality was approached within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the significance of women's role in society. Youssef Manie, a FEPS graduate and one of the summer school founders examined this subject within the framework of the United Nations and in a realistic view that pinpoints to progress on the ground. Participants also discussed the problems facing both sexes in the eyes of the opposite sex. In a following session that day, another FEPS graduate, Ms. Mai Yasser, has shed a light on the definition of refugee and the refugee issue around the world.

She has also referred to the distinction between many terms such as the difference between political asylum and other forms of asylum. Additionally, she clarified how the United Nations dealt with the situation of refugees in many countries using actual indicators and figures. She concluded her speech by stressing the importance of societies' peace and avoiding any inclination towards civil wars which leave displaced people, refugees and political conflicts. On the third day, the faculty hosted Ambassador Mohamed El-Orabi, the pioneer of Egyptian-German relations, former Egyptian foreign minister and one of the most prominent Egyptian diplomats. He discussed his remarkable career and how to access the diplomatic service, dispelling all rumors that nepotism is required to join the diplomatic field. He also emphasized the importance of diligence, hard work and continuous learning as the means of excellence and sophistication. It is also worth mentioning that Ambassador El-Orabi joined the political, diplomatic and parliamentary work, thus setting a distinct example of Egyptian talents in recent decades.

Moreover, student Yosra Mohamed Faraghal displayed several video clips about the college and its history. Later in the day, a student in the faculty of mass communication Heba Wasel, presented illustrative videos showing the various problems facing the world. She explained how sustainable development could be an effective solution to overcome these obstacles. A talent program has been held where students Mirna Ahmed and Yasmine Ahmed showcased some of their outstanding art work as well as the amazing singers Nourhan Osama and Farida Mohammed. Those distinguished artists were honored during the program. At the closing ceremony of the fourth day, the prominent journalist Rami Radwan was hosted in a seminar to talk about the role of youth in building the country as well as the importance of striving and diligence as key to success.

The Egyptian famed economist, Dr. Hani Tawfiq, presented an exceptional session in the last day. He talked about financial markets, as well as the importance of ambition in bringing up generations that would be capable of enhancing the effectiveness of the economy. Lastly, he distinguished between many terms that cause confusion to many students. Dr. Tawfiq's speech has been an outstanding one that all attendees wished if it could be repeated. Finally, the students were awarded certificates of appreciation for their commitment and active participation. Likewise, the best students in terms of participation, effectiveness and commitment, namely, student Islam Jubbah and student Asmaa Adel were honored.

We wish all participants and organizers more success.



# FEPS INCUBATOR CERTIFIED!



## Missouri University's IBDL Accredits FEPS Incubator in a Protocol with FEPS

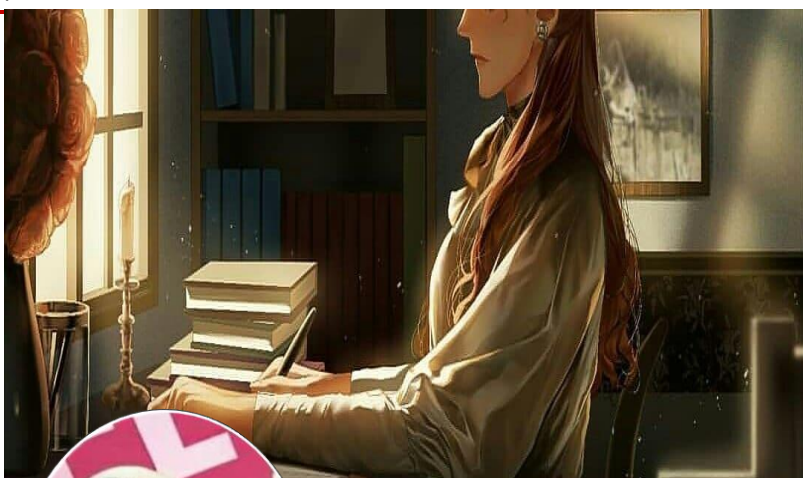
Photos (Up from the left) FEPS Incubator Head Heba M. Zaki, FEPS Dean Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Elsaid and IBDL CEO Khaled E. Khalaf holding the cooperation protocol and its certificate. (Next to it) a photo of both Khallaf and Prof. Elsaid Signing the protocol. (Down on the left) acopy of the certificate awarded to the Incubator and .(on the right) a photo of the energetic head of the incubator Heba Zaki.

**Cairo: Habiba DaaEldin and Ramy Magdy**

The Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science Prof.Dr. Mahmoud Elsaid, On behalf of Prof.Dr.Mohamed Othman Alkhosht the president of Cairo University, signed with Dr. Khalid Ezzat Khallaf, the chief executive officer of the organization of International Business of Driving License (IBDL) a cooperation protocol between the organization and the faculty. The protocol included a license for the IBDL organization for giving training programs and accredited certifications from the Institute of management development in Missouri's state University.

The Trainees will be given, after passing the exam, an internationally accredited certificate which is "The international license for diving business" from IBDL organization at Missouri's state University. Both sides agreed on considering FEPS business incubator as a center and a strategic partner for the IBDL organization in Egypt. That all the training programs and tests would be run inside its headquarters with the supervision of the organization on the quality of the training programs through inspection visits in addition to offering technical support.

The head of FEPS business incubator, Dr. Heba Medhat Zaki, expressed on her Facebook page her extreme happiness and pride in the certifying the incubator, the entity which started with her and developed on her hands and still offers more to FEPS and entrepreneurs in Egypt. Which proves the tireless and creative effort offered b Prof. Zaki is in the incubator.



## Silenced Moments

*Hadeer Ashraf, Fourth Year, Economics*

We have always reached this stage of repeated silence, without focusing of the time, stopping the mobility and wondering, what is all of these collapse? Do we have a choice like surrender? At those moments you will remember a few words passing, those which you have heard many times until you are bored, but now you are fully aware of them.

Life may not give us a moment for feeling those things, but we all go through them. Those moments of great gratitude to someone might be relative, friend, or even a stranger, but they have left a very important mark on you, which support you in moments that you feel broken, tell you that you are still alive, and their voice becomes more vigorous than the sound of your soul that your ability to hear it have been distorted inside of you.

So they were support you and their voice chasing you against your will was a necessity, so you feel helpless and wondering repeatedly what they want, they see that you have the right to keep silent and stay away when you want to, but you have no right to abandon them for longer, after attaching them with you, whether you are afraid of them or against them, they are the ones who awaken you from your inattention to your grief, as if they are grab you from the black hole inside you, hopping you will return to them, and here you are felling gratitude for them that is mixed with inability of return the favor, They just want you to rise again the old one of you, probably it's a torch inside you, they have felt the responsibility towards you and still believe in you in that time when you even can't do that.

Perhaps there is no need to explain that feeling from them, but it is a genuine sense and a reflection of what you were before. You may be unable to thank them, but you have the burden of fulfil their hopes – although I refuse to surrender to the right of yourself - some people have the burden of not surrender to the right of these individuals, you should reach to what you were wished one day. If it is not for yourself then for them, you should not make them feel failure they have the right to be thanked in a proper way so there is no need for you to be far all this time, the world wouldn't change by your silence and will never stand in a solace for your sadness. So you now know what you must do and the most proper way to return their favor.



## Our Old Notes

*Mayar Tarek, Fourth Level, Political Science*

And I keep looking through my old notebooks wishing to restore at least a tiny part of that past which refuses to come back, that past I still remember details of it as if it happened yesterday, and even remembering them more than my present. Actually I can't tell, is it growing up which makes us run away to hide behind our childhood again, or cruelty of life?

But in my old notebooks there are thousand stories that I wish to live now at least one of them, I wish to get that chance to turn time back; to keep those details and be able to live them. But I don't know if this is really going to happen? Maybe because I realized the thing, I'll try to fix what messed up, and I'll try to make use of what I let go and made it fade away with my own will. Maybe because I didn't know then that this was going to happen, I didn't make use of every single moment as if it was the last.

But what I found out after growing up as they call is that we don't know that this is the time and we'll never know; we'll never know unless all these details pass through our hands, and time passes also to find ourselves grown up like decades. Then we'll look through our old notebooks trying to restore what we lost, trying to go back in a road that has no return at all. There are still details at the present waiting for us to live, there are still pictures waiting for us to take, and there is still a live waiting for us to live. But it's life; it'll keep taking us back to that quiet corner at which we keep all our old memories. And we'll keep refuge to it from time to time; we'll refuge to it when life becomes cruel on us to remember that it wasn't so before, and we'll refuge to it when the ones we love leave us to remember that they never did so before, and we'll refuge to it when we face harshness and sleeping refuses to come closer to our eyes for days to remember how life was quiet and sleeping never left our side..

We'll still refuge to this quiet corner to restore our childhood strength; the one from which we always ran away when we were young because we wanted to grow up so fast. And we never knew that this would be growing up, and that a day will come in which our memories will be the place from which we restore our strength to continue. And this'll still be our quiet corner which gives us comfort. And we'll always go back to look through our old notebooks from time to time to have another chance to live their details; in an old picture, or maybe a letter the time decided to fade its writer's ink away..