



ELITE

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*The Month
of Glory*





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ELITE

FEPS, WHERE ELITES ARE MADE
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OUR
STUDENTS'
EXPERIENCES
OF THE
SHORTEST
SEMESTER



Special File

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Prof. Mona Elgarf ,Former Chairwoman of Egyptian Competition Authority :

OUR STATE DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE REQUIRES MORE JUSTICE BETWEEN THE STATE COMPANIES AND PRIVATE ONES

Cairo : Nermine Tawfik, Mariam Hefny and Hanya Bahaa

Classified amongst Forbes' 100 most powerful and influential women for the year 2016, alongside being the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Competition Protection Authority for the period between 2012 to 2018, Dr Mona El Garf is a renowned economist and one of the most prominent specialists in the field in Egypt. She is also amongst the esteemed teaching staff in the Faculty of Economics and Political Science. We, as the editors of Elite, had the honor to meet the one and only Dr Mona to get up close and personal with her about her remarkable journey.

We kicked off our interview by asking **how did her relationship with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science begin, or in other words, why did she pick it?** We found out that it was no coincidence, and that Dr Mona in fact was keen to join the faculty because she was passionate about it. Her passion and desires had been built over the years, after closely watching her father, who is a Law professor; Dr Mona watched him as he always discussed Egypt's political and economic affairs in each an every chance he got, thus began her fascination with analyzing these affairs as well. Accordingly, she did her outmost during highs school and saved herself a spot amongst the few lucky students of Cairo University's Faculty of Economics and Political Science. She said that her entry to the Faculty of Economics and Political Science. It was her childhood dream, and she couldn't be happier that she made it happen.

Moving on, we asked Dr Mona about her relationships with her professors, and the faculty in general. She described herself as an engaging student who was always determined to participate in student activities, but not as engaging when it came to student unions; she had never joined one. She also added: "I was keen to follow up and attend the activities without being active in them". As for her relationship with her professors, she believes that it was built on mutual respect, but in a few cases touched with fears, one that it's tinged with respect as well. Adding up, she also believes that each professor has left their unique imprint on her, which contributed in building her into the intellectual person she is in today. Furthermore, as per her say: "I feel super proud knowing that I was one of the few lucky students that were taught by academic legends, including Dr. Refaat al-Mahjoub, Dr. Abdel-Fattah Qandil, Dr. Amr Mohieldin, Ahmed Al-Ghandour and many others", adding that all her professors at the time were very keen to pass their experiences and knowledge to their students, not only thr academic base, but also the social life basis; she recalled all the wise life lessons she had leaned from Dr. Gouda Abdel Khaleq, ones that she now implement in manifold life situations.

We were eager to know to **whom is Dr. Mona is Grateful for?** The question took Dr. Mona by surprise, as she began thinking and relaised that she owes her successful journey to many different people, starting off



"The knowledge I acquired at FEPS empowered my professional experience with depth and a sense of methodology"

with her parents; she believes that she wouldn't be able to achieve it all if weren't for them, Her husband is also another family member that she is entirely grateful for their constant support, explaining that he motivated her during the toughest times, for instance, whilst completing her masters and PHD. His siblings and children played a huge role in shaping her into the icon she is today, with their constant support.

On the other hand, when it comes to college connections, she regarded each and everybody around her as a blessing in disguise, sent from God. During each academic stage, she had people that took her hand and guided her, facilitating the complex steps along her way; this was through the provided advices and opportunities from her professors and colleagues, or simply through listening and learning from their experiences. On the top of her head, she mentioned Dr. Alia Al-Mahdi, Dr. Heba Nassar, Dr. Samiha Fawzy, Dr. Laila Al-Khawaja, as those to whom she really appreciates their efforts with her and owes them the utmost respect.

Following up, when asked about **the difference between switching from a student's seat to a professor's seat and its effect on a personal level**, Dr Mona explained that the main difference lies within the accumulated experience gained in the field. She also believes that the a professor must always specify what he aims to reach and be, in order to build a firm personality according to it; and thus, a strong personality backed up with floods of knowledge, will combine in creating an icon in the field, and that is what any professor should work towards; a decent and remarkable autobiography.

We had to seize the opportunity to discuss with Dr. Mona about working as the chairman of the Competition Protection Authority, thus, **we asked her what are the main challenges to achieving acceptable competition in the Egyptian market?** In the beginning, she clarified the overlap between her academic and professional life was useful in achieving what she wanted, highlighting working in the Authority for Competition Protection and Antitrust Practices as a very important, more of turning point on her career. She was then appointed as the chairman of the Board of Directors for the period between 2012, up until 2018. During this period she implemented all the economic approaches she had studied, and she faced numerous challenges. According to Dr. Mona, the most unforgettable challenge was that of the introduction of the newly developed law of Competition Protection Authority; Dr. Mona and her team has worked hard on raising awareness round competition protection, and they still have a long way ahead of them.

This experience also allowed her to apply what she studied in economics on ground, as well as learning about the Egyptian market and its competition mechanisms, and create some e- corrections and adjustments related to the status of competition protection in the market, and it allowed her to study any market and obtain and examine any data, alongside integrating academic and professional aspects and transferring them to all parties in the market and in business and in social communication.



"COVID crisis did not create monopolies in Egypt , it only intensified its existent trends"

Dr Mona further explained the situation as follows; it can be said that the Egyptian market still has a lot to do to absorb the competition protection law and prevent monopolistic practices, and this will eventually help the growth of the Egyptian economy and create more job opportunities and reassure investors, whether Egyptian or foreign investors, that it can work in the Egyptian market where there is fairness and transparency in standards and competition, and that the state does not favor one investor over the other.

Crises have always been an opportunity for market manipulation and monopoly, and speaking of the crises, the closest and most widespread crisis nowadays is Covid-19, at the local and international levels. **We asked Dr. Mona for her opinion on the ongoing crisis, and the challenges imposed by the it on the freedom of the market and the adequacy of competition.**

Dr. Mona started off by explaining that crises, in general, are an opportunity for some weak-minded people to carry out monopolistic practices, and the state has sought to provide goods and aid to the private sector in production, especially in the areas of food, detergents, and hospital needs. However, when it comes to Covid-19's crisis, its problem is that it caused a disaster in the supply and demand market. Yet, that doesn't mean that this crisis was the original cause of the monopolistic practices, because they existed before way before Covid-19 and will continue after it; but it's still safe to say that the monopoly crisis was more violent under Covid-19.

The greatest impact on competition was with the economic reform program and the state's tendency to replace the private sector in some activities, and it may be good in some areas for some time to solve some crises, but the method of its application

and the extent and scope of application may affect competition negatively if left unchecked, like what happened In the media sector and the control of the United Company over the media, and this is what the state is trying to re-solve recently to restore competition between the media production sectors, and thus the state's intervention method, the duration for which it lasts, and the approach it follows, all of this affects the management of the competition process.

Moving on, the state bears the responsibility for implementing and managing huge national projects (especially in the real estate sector), which is an important driver for achieving development, but it undoubtedly imposes major challenges on the freedom of the market and the role of the private sector. Therefore, we had to ask Dr. Mona **how can the negative impact of these challenges be reduced?** She stated that there must be rules for the state's practice of economic activity, with transparency in information and fairness in the opportunities available to it and the private sector, and there should be no advantages for government companies over the private sector; as this will negatively affect competition, and sometimes the state may have the purpose of interfering in a specific sector for a while, such as the real estate sector, to work on providing housing units for people with limited income and this is acceptable, but this is a specific role, so the longer the period and the circumstances and the varying conditions, the greater the damage to private sector companies; hence, it causes losses to the private sector if it cannot compete with state companies.



"We are living a golden age for women"

As for her opinion as a university professor, she sees that there is no trust and confidence between the state and the private sector, and the both must make an effort to gain confidence from each other, in order to have well functioning economic activities. There is no strong economy without both a state and a private sector, both parties are needed. The private sector should committed to the rules of competition, and shouldn't violate the laws, and that there should be transparency in its data and transactions; the same goes for the state, it must abide by competition laws and deal with the same rules. At the end of the day, it's all for the sake for the Egyptian citizens and markets, because as result of this competition, there will be a boost in production and job opportunities, providing the needs of the local market, and exporting abroad. Recently, following a period of security stability, the state began to reconsider the importance of the private sector partnership in economic activity.

One of the fundamentals in competition is the availability of correct information about the market situation. In the contemporary context, traditional and new media play an important role in influencing the economy. We asked Dr. Mona, as a former member of the Supreme Council for Media Regulation, **what does she think about the performance of media institutions?** she made it clear that she stayed the Supreme Council for Media Regulation for a short period as a representative for the Competition Protection Authority in the Council, thus, she responded to this question in the name of a regular media audience; she believes that the state must work

on promoting a lot more necessary values through the media, alongside a proper representation of the great Egyptian culture.

As someone who was classified amongst the 100 most powerful women in the region in 2016 by Forbes, we had to ask Dr. Mona about **what she believes are the biggest challenges women still face today?** Dr. Mona first explained that she was selected by Forbes based upon her great capability in evolving in her field, She then responded by assuring that we currently live a golden age for the Egyptian women; she believes that women are now given opportunities like never before. However, according to Dr. Mona, the biggest challenge facing women nowadays is the discrimination they experience by their families, when it comes to treating their sons and daughters. Dr. Mona added that it is necessary to provide the females with full and equal-to-males opportunities in various fields, including education and sports for instance. She further explained her point by stating that education, for example, is not just about providing the female a chance to go to school, but also about by providing protection, through safe transportation and the safe road, "I ask girls to take advantage of the opportunities which are available to them and not to be wasted", is what she would like to say to each and every female around her. She stressed on the fact that women has proved their supremacy and greatness in numerous fields, and that they should continue to do so; that's the right track towards solving the gender issue we have.

Finally, we concluded our interview with Dr. Mona by asking her to give an advice to FEPS' younger generations. Concerning undergrads, Dr. Mona expressed her sincere sadness regarding having to study during a drastic global pandemic and the current learning conditions, but she assures everyone that success is doable and easy with digital revaluation, that has aided in facilitating the ongoing learning process. She also emphasized on the importance of investing your free time in developing yourself, your knowledge and your skills, alongside participating in as much internships as possible, in order to get a glimpse of what the market and the practical filed is really like. As for FEPS' graduates, she advises them to never stop working on a better version of themselves, because the market's requirements evolve day after day, and you must always be prepared, nay stay one step ahead.



Our Faculty Certified by ISO

In confirmation of its usual superiority and distinguished leadership, on June 2, 2021, our faculty obtained two international (ISO) quality certificates.

ISO 9001:2015 certification

And ISO 21001:2018

The faculty's obtaining these two international certificates is an expression of its commitment to international standards in providing educational and research services. Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Alsaid, Dean of the Faculty, said that obtaining these two international certificates required diligent work for nearly a year and a half under difficult circumstances facing Egypt and the whole world. In turn, Prof. Alsaid extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to all the faculty team who participated in preparing the files for obtaining this important accreditation and preparing the faculty to obtain these important international certificates. He thanked all the teams in the faculty who are in charge of the quality of the educational process, as well as the heads of departments, directors of units and programs -and the vice deans for their keenness in implementing the requirements for obtaining the two certificates.

The accreditation of the faculty by the ISO is an appreciation to the active efforts undertaken by the current administration of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, headed by Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Alsaid and his efficient work teams, who managed to obtain- before the ISO-the Local accreditation and membership of the European Foundation for Administrative Development. After announcing that the faculty had obtained two ISO certificates, Prof. Alsaid confirmed that this important appreciation is a step towards accreditation of the faculty at the international level and its classification among the most prestigious educational institutions in the world.



The Most Recipient of State Awards: FEPS, Cairo University.

Yasmin Tarek, Economics, 4th level

This year, the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, won many awards from the Academy of Scientific Research and the Ministry of Culture. Dr. Heba Nassar, Professor of Economics, received the Women's Appreciation Award in the Social Sciences. Dr. Marwa Mohamed Shebl, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, also received the same award. Dr. Ahmed Youssef Ahmed, Professor of Political Science, was awarded the State Appreciation Award in Social Sciences. The State Prize for Excellence in Social Sciences was awarded to Dr. Alia Al-Mahdi, Professor of Economics, and Dr. Mohamed Salman, Professor of Political Science. Finally, Dr. Hala Al-Rashidi, Professor of Political Science and International Law in the Department of Political Science, and Dr. Esraa Adel, Assistant Professor of the Department of Economics, received the State Incentive Award.



FEPS BI QUALIFIES FOR ICSB COMPETITION FINALS

The Business Incubator of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University (FEPS BI) succeeded in qualifying for the finals of ICSB , after fierce competition this year between 57 entrepreneurship centers from different countries of the world, and only 7 centers were nominated for the finals, and the final results will be announced within The annual conference of the International Council of Small Business in Paris Thursday 15 July at the IPAG Business School.

Dr. Mahmoud Alsaid, Dean of FEPS and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the incubator, said that the college business incubator's arrival at this global level reflects the college's excellence in all educational, research and societal fields, pointing out that the college was able in just one week to win a large number of state awards, making it the most awarded college this year, in addition to obtaining two international ISO certificates in appreciation of the college's distinguished experience in achieving international quality standards in the administrative and educational system.

The Dean added that the faculty is happy to qualify for the finals of this prestigious international award, anticipating its results that will advance the incubator's position during the coming period, expressing his appreciation for all the efforts made by Cairo University, headed by Prof.EIKhosht that ensure that its services, ideas, initiatives and projects reach the largest number of

entrepreneurs and youth, and thus contribute to achieving the incubator's strategic goal of spreading and promoting the culture of entrepreneurship.

In this context, Dr. Heba Medhat Zaki, Executive Director of the incubator, expressed her great pleasure at the incubator's qualification for the finals of this global competition, which indicates the extent to which incubators and centers can influence the lives of entrepreneurs and encourage them to more innovation, creativity and adventure to transform their ideas into projects capable of implementation.

Dr. Heba said that the establishment of this award came to honor the centers of entrepreneurship serving as a space for entrepreneurs to innovate and develop support networks, and the committee considered that our college business incubator deserves to qualify for the finals of this award due to its ability to create a measurable impact on society .

And Dr. Zaki continued, "Our participation focused on the services provided by the incubator to emerging projects and support for innovation, and the jury said in its speech to us that the incubator is a unique model that has the ability to change the lives of millions around the world."

In conclusion, she confirmed that qualifying for the finals of this award could not have happened without the support and belief of state institutions in the importance of the pivotal role that business incubators can play to qualify young entrepreneurs to bring their projects to light and work efficiently in the local, regional and international market, which enhances the contribution to achieving sustainable development goals in accordance with Egypt's 2030 vision.



FEPS Agreement with the IOM to create Migration Research Unit

Yasmin Tarek, Economics, 4thlevel

On the first of June 2021, The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Egypt, in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cairo University's Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS) within the Centre for Economic and Financial Research and Studies (CEFRS), to establish a unit for migration studies with the goal of improving communication among migration experts and expanding knowledge, analysis, and data on all aspects of migration.

The MRU's (Migration Research Unit) creation is a great opportunity to improve migration research, which coincides with Egypt's efforts to improve implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 10 "Reduced Inequalities" and target 10.7 on fostering safe, orderly, and responsible migration and human mobility, as well as SDG 17, on developing partnerships to achieve SDGs 10 and 17.

FEPS is an outstanding opportunity to create an educational and practical environment that enhances and increases the coordinated production of migration research in Egypt, as it is a highly regarded and distinguished center in the fields of education and scientific research. Especially since the expansion of knowledge and theories connected to immigration. and work is a unique expertise in the economic sphere, encompassing political, statistical, and administrative research.

CEFRS will host a series of educational seminars and workshops to learn about migration concerns and their economic and social consequences in Egyptian society. To benefit from remittances from foreign workers as one of the aspects of the balance of payments and components of foreign revenue, and their impact on the national product, work, and investment, as well as to keep track of the benefits and drawbacks of this topic and the reasons for it. Moreover, the MSU will be aided by the construction of an electronic library of IOM online resources, which will comprise a large number of migration-related scholarly publications



Visit of the President of the Francophone Organization to the FEPS

Yasmin Tarek, Economics, 4thlevel

On Monday, May 31, 2021, a high-level delegation from the Francophone University Agency (AUF) headed by Dr. Salim Khalbous, President of the Agency, visited the headquarters of the Business Incubator at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science. This visit came on the sidelines of their visit to Egypt, to sign framework partnership agreements between the African Union of Francophonie and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Higher Education and Scientific Research (Minister Khaled Abdel Ghaffar and Deputy Minister Ayman Ashour). The delegation held several work and discussion meetings with the deans of AUF member universities, such as Cairo University and Alexandria University, the Egyptian-Japanese University, the French University in Egypt, Senghor University in Alexandria, Al-Azhar University, Helwan University and El Alamein University. In addition to the campus visits, the delegation visited many cultural places, they took a guided tour to the new National Museum of Egyptian Civilization and Al-Azhar Mosque.

The AUF (Union of Francophone Universities) is a global network of French-speaking higher education and research institutions. It was founded in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in 1961, as the Association of Universities partly or wholly for the French language. It is a multilateral institution that supports cooperation and solidarity between universities and francophone institutions. It operates in francophone and non-speaking countries in Africa, the Arab world, Southeast Asia, North and South America, the Caribbean, and Central, Eastern and Western Europe. In 2020, it has 1,007 members (public and private universities, institutes of higher education, research centers and institutions, institutional networks, networks of university administrators) distributed throughout French-speaking countries on six continents. The agency is active in 119 countries and is represented by regional offices and information centers in universities and institutes.



Visit of the President of John Garang University

Yasmin Tarek, Economics, 4thlevel

On Tuesday, June 1, 2021, Dr. Abraham Matuk, President of John Garang University in South Sudan, with a delegation from the Sudanese University, visit Faculty of Economics and Political Science, within the framework of his visit to Cairo University, and this visit comes among the successive visits between Cairo and Khartoum to emphasize the depth of the strategic cooperation between Egypt and Sudan, which included various aspects of Bilateral cooperation. Egypt and Sudan possess many economic components that allow them to increase the rate of inter-trade and increase investments between the two countries to achieve economic development for both countries. The relationship between both Egypt and Sudan is characterized by a historical depth and overlapping relations that fused the two peoples for thousands of years.

The Egyptian government is making unremitting efforts to strengthen its

relationship with Sudan at all levels. On the military level, in the areas of transportation, irrigation, the extension of the electrical network to northern Sudan, in the field of health, even in the field of technology, in trade, infrastructure, finance, and investment, support for Sudan's economic reform plans, cooperation in the field of energy and mining, support for pharmaceutical industries, education and many other fields. To take advantage of the economic components between the two countries to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

A new stage in the development of strategic relations between the two brotherly countries at a very important time. The regional and international situations are surrounded by many dangers and crises extending from Libya to Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, the Gulf region, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon to Afghanistan and most of Central Asia. The African continent is also witnessing a remarkable activity of terrorist groups in The Sahel and Sahara region, Nigeria and Congo, and these challenges require us to be on a high degree of vigilance and alertness and to extend the hands of the brothers to join hands together in the face of any dangers.



Semiannual Membership Report of the IMF

Written by: **Walid Wael**
4th Year, Political Science

Mahmoud Mohieldin, the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, said that, after the corona virus crisis, many states face many economic dangers if they weren't able to quickly recover and become resilient. The Office of the Executive Director of the IMF seeks to include all countries in the policy discussions and protect their economy from falling. The semiannual membership report of the IMF that was issued in November 2020 came to discuss specific economic issues like sustainability, digitalization, debt management, general special drawing rights allocation, and the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) debt relief initiative and applying it on Sudan. The report turned to the statement made in the IMFC that was held in 2021. It was also mentioned some details regarding the several meetings including those concerned with the middle east and African countries. The report mentioned some Arab states in details to track the spending of the funds provided to them, including the countries of the Gulf. The report then concluded by discussing some issues related to economy like globalization.

There was a call for action regarding the climate change. For it to be effective, it should be considered as one of the sustainable development goals of the UN. In addition, the crisis of COVID-19 added more problems and delayed many plans to face problems like food insecurity and environmental degradation. Many poor countries were not able to face all this which led to more crises.

However, the pandemic led to speeding up the digital transformation. Countries that have well-developed digital infrastructure were the winners during this crisis as they benefitted from having the new e-commerce, e-banking and developed ICT that helps economy greatly. The IMF has a great role in assisting countries to develop their digital infrastructure in order to resist the casualties of the pandemic.

From another perspective, the IMF's executive office is emphasizing the major role of the organization in managing the debt issues of the developing countries which were exacerbated as a result of the Corona Crisis. The G-20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative had a role in helping low-income countries pass the crisis. The initiative provided several billions to help these countries. The board of the IMF convened to assess public debt sustainability in market-access countries and had a multi-dimensional approach to tackle debt vulnerabilities. The board of the IMF also approved a general allocation of 650 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which was encouraged so much, and it is expected to take place next August.



The World Bank and the IMF announced that Sudan could be qualified for a debt relief that is expected to raise economic conditions and standards of living. This is the embodiment of the joint efforts of the World Bank and the African Development Bank to support African countries and reduce poverty. The process of reducing the debts of Sudan is currently underway. It is expected that the parties that are owed by Sudan to have a share in this debt relief.

Obaid Bin Humaid Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, issued a statement, describing the policy responses towards the middle-east after the COVID 19 crisis as he saw that the policy responses of the organization were rapid and effective, which led to high economic recovery and increased resilience, even though it was not evenly distributed among countries of the region and among different sectors, and he also called for more efforts to the financial needs of the region. Al-Tayer also called the resumption of monitoring the activities in the area until all countries become safe from this crisis and the focus of the weak countries and those engulfed in conflicts.

Statement by H.E. Obaid Bin Humaid Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, United Arab Emirates, at the International Monetary and Financial Committee



In their conventions, the IMF and the World bank discussed the African case and how can it exit the crisis caused by the pandemic. This needed domestic policies along with the organizations' support, as the crisis is expected to be long0lasting. They saw that the northern part of Africa is expected to grow faster as a result of oil exports and vaccination plans. On the other hand, they also discussed the middle east case, which includes Afghanistan and Pakistan. They focused on supporting the region to get out of this crisis. Egypt participated in the intergovernmental G24 meetings, where the purpose was to discuss the priorities for protecting economies from the pandemic repercussions. The G24 called for the World Band and the IMF's support. The convention also emphasized the important of co-operation to pass through the crisis.

The Executive Board of the IMF were tracking the usage of the funds in a number of Arab states. In Bahrain, they appreciated the coordinated policy that addressed the effects of the pandemic, and welcomed the structural changes in the agenda of Bahrain. They also saw that Egypt handled the pandemic well and adopted proactive measures to the pandemic. However, the situation of Iraq worsened as a result of the accompanying decline in oil revenues along with the pandemic, but they also welcomed the fiscal reforms outline. The IMF commended the strong reform progress made by Jordan, Qatar, Oman, UAE, The Maldives, and Kuwait and their quick response to the pandemic. However, Yemen and Lebanon are suffering from persisting crises beside the crisis of the pandemic itself.



Finally, there were some revisions on past events regarding the future of globalization during the current pandemic and how to sustain development and finance it during the pandemic, as their application may be changed and affected as a result of the pandemic.

The report of the IMF was comprehensive of many economic issues relating to the middle east, north Africa, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The goals of the report were to have a comprehensive view on the effect of the pandemic on the economic plans dedicated for the MENA region and how these countries handled their economic issues during the pandemic. The IMF had a considerably great role in assisting these countries to endure the repercussions of the pandemic and reduce the negative effects of the latter as much as possible.



Life After Graduation

Carolyn Sherif, Adham Nasreldein, Hanya Bahaa, Reem Omran, Mariam Hefny, and Mariam Elsafty.

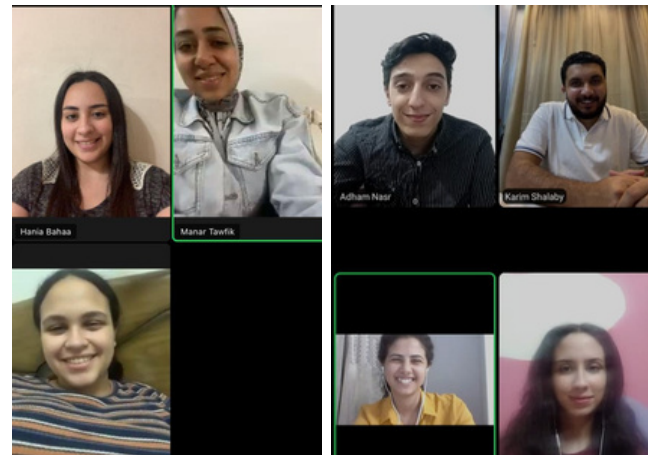
Each and every graduate has at some point admitted that despite the difficulties they faced throughout their entire academic timeline, especially the university stage, it was still their favorite phase, even though it was filled with nothing but high stress levels. Our role as Elite Magazine was not only to deliver the various events happening to our readers, but to also represent the reality of our esteemed faculty; which is why, throughout this issue, you will see that we took part in a brief research project to identify the difference between life before and after school. We did this by contacting a large group of college graduates, from the three departments: Political Science, Economics and Statistics. We were provided with a lot of interesting conclusions that we believe will give students advice and guidance, which is why we sought out to present this today in our report.

As mentioned before, we got in touch with

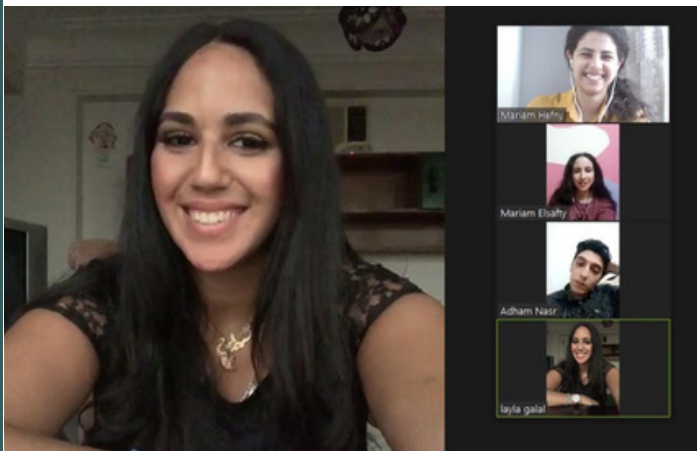
graduates from FEP's different majors. Firstly, we interviewed "Laila Amr Galal" who graduated in 2018 from the Political Science department - within the English section, she is now working as a specialist in crisis of management in the Ministry of Media. We also spoke with "Jasmine Hanna", another political science major, who graduated in 2020, and is now working in the South Korean embassy in Egypt. Regarding the economics department, we spoke with "Freddy Morees" and "Manar Tawfik", who both graduated in 2018, and Freddy is now working as the Head of Investment at "Mobica", and Manar is working as a financial analyst. "Karim Shalaby" graduated from the statistics department in 2015, who had past experiences working in El-Baseera Center for Statistics, and is currently working for a credit information company.



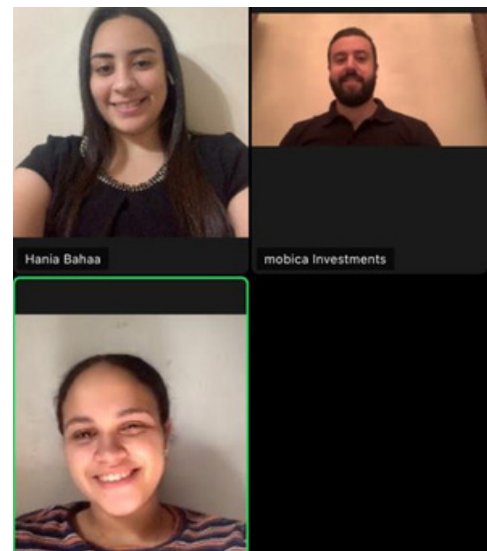
The dialogue we shared within the interview was really enjoyable, given that they were all incredibly friendly, and were also surprisingly relatable. They were all hoping to convey their shared experiences on all our students, and to showcase how everyone goes through this hard stage. We realized a similar pattern within their answers when they were asked **if there is a difference in life between university and after it**; they all stressed on the fact that university life was filled with pressure, however that regardless of the number of assignments you have, or how much you have to study, in the end it all pays off, and you get a vacation, especially one like summer vacation. They also all emphasized on the troubling post-university stage, when graduates are searching for the ideal job, and are completely imbalanced.



opted for mentioning how they miss having a summer vacation, and how they also miss faculty members, who they had good relationships with. Overall, we could conclude that they were all missing the presences of university in their lives, and how they were definitely attached to that phase in their lives. When we asked them what they would do differently, we also received different answers. Freddy was fully satisfied with his university experience, as he got the chance to travel, learn, make friends, enroll in various student experiences and most importantly have fun. However this was not the same for Manar for example, who wished she had participated more in student activities, learned how to be more sociable with her peers, and expand her



Following up, the graduates were asked were asked about **their most memorable moments in university, what they miss the most and what they wish they had did but didn't do**, we found several differences in their answers. Obviously, a lot of them mentioned their friends and all their outings, which made us glad because we love to see the connection between students of the economics and the political science, and to simply reminisce on their old friends. Others



knowledge. The other recipient's wished they had realized the importance of developing their personal skills, as well as partake in training sessions that could have prepared them more for the labor market.

Moving on, we asked our participants **whether or not they had benefited from university, and how**; we ended up gathering pretty much identical responses. They all stressed on the fact that after they graduated, they were introduced to a completely different culture that they had been in before. Luckily, the faculty had changed the way they think, and had broadened their thoughts and perspectives; thus, they were able to adapt and mature rapidly in the new world around them. In other words, they had a complete switch in their personalities. Also, they discussed how important all the subjects they took were, and how they learned to deal with things in their work lives, by basing of their past experiences and taking their professors and somewhat of mentors.

We believe that one of the most important questions we asked were regarding **how easy it was to find a job, and did their job meet their expectations or not**. They discussed how the period of hesitation and lost feeling that comes after graduation is just a minor part of everyone's life. They also made it clear that finding a job is not as hard and complicated as people make it out to be, and was definitely within reach. There were a few contradicting answers regarding the fact if this was actually their dream or not. Layla gave as an emotional and very inspiring backstory as to how her

dream job when she was just a child was to represent Egypt, and is now able to do exactly that.

We ended our interviews by offering our esteemed graduates a chance to give and advice to FEPS's younger generations of students, in which they all responded with they believe is the key word to a successful academic journey; "Balance". They advise everyone to learn to balance between leisure time and the studying load, enjoy your time, work hard, not to fear the future and to know that you can get whatever job you want as long as you work hard for it. To conclude, we, the editors of Elite, wish them all the best, and thank them so much for taking the time to participate with us.





We sincerely thank everyone who helped produce this report:

Laila Amr Jalal - from the Graduate Class of 2018, Department of Political Science in English, and now working as a crisis management specialist at the Ministry of Information - and Jasmine Hanna - from the Graduate Class of 2020, the Department of Political Science in English and now working at the Korean Embassy in Egypt - and Freddy Morris - From the Graduate Class of 2018, the Department of Economics in English, and now working as the Head of the Investment Tool at Mobica Furniture Company - and Manar Tawfiq- from the Graduate Class of 2018, the Department of Economics in English and she is now working as a financial analyst - and finally "Karim Shalaby - from the Graduate Class of 2015, the statistics department in English and now working in the credit bureau after working for years at the Baseera Statistics Center



FEPS Theatre : A Journey Behind the Scenes

Farah Mahmoud Elmelegy, Second Level, Economic
Mariam Ahmed, Second Level, Political Science



As the achievements of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science extend beyond academics and into all human and artistic aspects, Elite's Family would like to extend its deepest thanks to all the members of the Theatre team - former and current ones - for their effort and time in representing the college's name in both national and international festivals.

Egypt has always had the lion's share in all types of arts, as many pioneers of arts are of Egyptian origins. Om Kalthom and Abdel-Haleem Hafez in the music industry, Naguib Mahfouz and Youssef Idris in literature, and many others who took the initiative in Egyptian arts. In terms of performing arts or "Theatre", the Egyptian civilization was at the forefront of this style of art, beginning with religious personification plays conducted in the presence of kings at Pharaonic festivities, continuing through the entry of the French Campaign to Egypt and the founding of the "Comedy Francais" group, up to the establishment of the French Opera House and the Comedy Theatre in 1869 during the reign of Khedive Ismail as a culmination of the opening of the Suez Canal.

In Cairo, the artist Yaqoub Sanu – the Egyptian Molière, as he was called by the Khedive - started to simulate the European theatre by translating some projects of world literature and performing them in many theatres with great encouragement from the Khedive, which prompted him to establish his own cast and compose his plays, but like the rest of the artists, he couldn't stop himself from condemning the ruling class which led to his banishment.

With its pioneers Sayed Darwish and Beyram ElTunsy, the art of theatre flourished in Alexandria, so theatrical performances continued throughout the year in both private and public sector groups, as well as the university theatre, with artists such as Mahmoud Abdel Aziz, Waheed Seif, and many others. Youssef Wahbi, the dean of Arab theatre, who has presented more than 300 theatrical works, is the founder of the first Egyptian theatre with international standards, "Ramses Theater," as well as his cast of the same name, which was the cornerstone of the formation of the National Theater Cast.

And because art, by definition, always mimics people's realities, many artists were active during the British occupation of Egypt to voice their rejection of colonialism and urge the construction of a national theatre, so it was founded by 1921 with four plays as a start, then at a rate of two days for each performance.

Theatrical art is still recognized as the pioneer of the arts, and present generations continue to value it, with university Theatre being one of the oldest student activities in Egyptian universities. Each Faculty has an independent Theatre team that participates in presenting at annual university-sponsored festivals in front of prestigious jury committees.

To learn more about theatrical activity among college students, we interviewed Soad Taha, a student in the fourth level of the Department of Economics and a member of the theatre team, as well as Youssef Mostafa

Sheta, a 2020 Economics Department graduate and the former head of the theatre team.

Cast members spoke to us about how the world of online we have today has affected Theatre seekers in a bad way. In previous on-campus days, reaching out to old members was as hard as it is as the Theatre doesn't have as much recognition as other activities, so it was only discoverable during the ushering days of the first semester. And now with those days gone due to Covid-19 precautionary measures, reaching out to the group is even harder, however, the official Facebook Page "فريق مسرح كلية الاقتصاد و العلوم السياسية" came to be of a lot of help as now students can contact the team leader and members directly through the virtual platform.

When asked about who could join the cast, members insisted that talent is not on the list of requirements but passion and and commitment are. No previous skills or even an audition is required to be able to join. More importantly, Theatre is not only about acting but it also encompasses singing, performing and many other theatrical activities. Speaking from past experience, Sheta told us how agonizing the first days were, being his shy young-self still not knowing if he has it in him or not to be on the team, however, as days passed, not only did he get over his timideness, but he also became one of the most recognized faces of the cast in the last 4 years. Moreover, it was greatly insisted upon by cast members about how their mere college-bounded relationship became one much like a family; as from the fundamentals of the Theatre are unconditional trust and support between members.

And it doesn't stop there. One might assume that the Theatre's effect is limited to improving one's to social skills , and despite that being true and how people's personalities change by being extensively exposed to different emotions, views, mindsets and experiences,

such an activity also has a great effect on the academic side. Past and present cast members all agreed upon that like any other activity, time management and commitment are the keys to solving such formula, where -for some- being part of the cast greatly boosted their academic performance. This is somehow explained by the Theatre's role in getting out the negative energy and stress accumulated during school days, thus making one's mind clear again ready to conquer the world. With the consistent workshops in acting, performing and even meditation which are provided by the old team members, it goes without saying that Theatre is more of a self-discovery journey where you learn more about your abilities, points of strengths and weaknesses and channeling your emotion by providing a healthy outlet.



As for the fun part, members spoke to us about how the play's production process is done. From the early days, old and new members are provided with different workshops about acting, vocals and pronunciation, performing, standing positions and movements on stage, how to build the character's history and more. Then the script is handed to all members and each take turns trying out different characters until the director settles on the roles distribution. From this point, the cast starts building the whole production with daily rehearsals. This is where everyone's personality and creativity really shows; they reasonably noted on how two actors may perform the same character differently which always leaves room for getting the overall performance closer to perfect. All of this is synchronized with many clothes-fitting, makeup, décor-choosing, sound and lighting rehearsals.

Now coming to the magical day, cast members shared with us how that as much as nerve-wrecking this day is,



the sound of applause by the end of the play makes up for all the stress and tiredness. From meeting early before the curtains open, non-performing cast members go on providing mental and physical support to the team from providing them with drinks and snacks to making sure all their on-stage tools are in place. At the same time, a quick run-through of the play takes place and then all performing actors settle down for a meditation session in order to get into their characters.



Sharing with us the hardest role they played, Soad mentioned that despite that the play was not completed due to Covid-19 precautionary measures, her role in the play *Katyn* – a play set in the time of WW2 during which the *Katyn* massacre took place by the hands of the Soviet Union- where she played the role of an imprisoned blind doctor, left a great impact on her, as it really challenged her inner emotions and she also received good feedback day by day in the rehearsals. As for Sheta, he mentioned how the role of Lallo that he played in the award-winning play of the Faculty *Leylet EL Katala* – based on the play by José Triana-

is one of his most favorite. There was a huge similarity between Sheta's real character and Lallo, so trying to find a fine-line difference between how the two characters acted was a huge challenge for him.

It is also important to mention that the FEPS Theatre Cast has been nominated and won several awards domestically and also in international festivals. The aforementioned play *Leylet El Katala*, directed by Mohamed Zaki, received the 3rd place award in the Cairo University Festival for Long Theatrical Performances, in addition to over 23 Certificates of Excellence, and many other production related awards. The play was also performed in El Sawy Cultural Wheel Theatrical Festival receiving 1st place award, besides being performed in the Cairo National Theatre Festival in the attendance of the renowned veteran actor Dr Yehia ElFakharany, also collecting multiple awards. Another huge achievement was that *El Safha 13* play, directed by Osama Atef, was aired on TEN TV channel while also collecting several awards in the university's festival. On the international side, the play *ElGhorfa* was nominated to join in the Tangier International Festival of University Theatre. It is also worth mentioning that all the previous plays and even more are available on the YouTube Channel *SeyasaToon* for everyone to watch.

Lastly, both Soad and Sheta forwarded their huge gratitude for being part of the FEPS Theatre Cast, for it being one of the most life-changing events they experienced in the 4-year long college journey. Their common advice for any FEPSian student is to attend at least one theatrical rehearsal as it is where they found themselves, their lifetime friendships and a passion that shall never fade away.





Have the Palestinians Sold their Land?

Mariam Elsafty, Freshman.

We have witnessed the inhumane crisis that hit Gaza in the previous days, with the rise of the number of children, women, elderly people, and youthful guys being killed. We were all moved so much that we wanted to help them in any way possible. Not to mention that Egypt is the number one supporter for the Palestinians. But sometimes we witness that category of people who are characterized by getting angry and criticizing anything good that happens even if that thing was a merciful feeling towards innocents living in the world. I'm sure you have heard someone, who is probably from that category I've mentioned, sitting silently the whole debate and then remembers that he should leave his mark. He will probably interrupt whoever is talking to say with his nose in the sky as an ancient philosopher "but those Palestinians you're defending deserve what has been happening to them" he will complete saying: "haha they were the ones who have sold their land" and probably he won't say anything after. Will, let me explain to you what has actually happened. We all know that in the British history, they used to appoint the High British Commissioner to every country they colonize, and Palestine then was under the supervision of the Jewish High British Commissioner Herbert Samuel in 1914. Herbert Samuel was the first British minister to adopt the Zionist Ideology who as soon as he came out of the first Zionist conference told Theodor Herzl: "I can't promise you that within 5 years from now there would be an ethnic homeland for the Jews in Palestine, but I can promise you that by 50 years from now, there would be an ethnic homeland for the Jews in Palestine." On a side note, the conference was held in 1898 and the announcement for Israel to be the homeland of the Jews was on 1948. Herbert Samuel, as the upper hand for Britain in Palestine, started the displacement of the Palestinians by force, that it reached sometimes killing those who oppose, and under that time when the Arab nation was not that strong with Herbert ruling in Palestine, the land started to be stolen gradually.

After three years of Herbert Samuel being appointed, Balfour Declaration appeared, historically known as a promise of those who didn't possess the one who was not worthy, and the flow to Palestine began to occur from that time until it reached its climax during World War 2 as a result of the Jews' fear of Hitler. The story begins here: The Sursock, a Lebanese family known as Arab Rochelle, and who also have European origins with Lebanese nationality, and known to be super rich who have many owned huge lands in Palestine. When the Jews' flight to Palestine, and according to the people of the case, the Sursock family has sold more than 120,000 acres of Palestinian land to the Jews, and of course, they only cared about the profit and didn't care about the issue. And the picture seemed to remain somewhat complete. What happened was a conspiracy that began in 1897 and ended in 1948, a conspiracy that included all kinds of violating prohibitions. And at the end, there is no evidence that the Palestinians have sold their land, and that this land will always be for Palestinians.





Palestine is Occupied

Jomana Khaled Freshman

Palestine is a land known as the holy land, as it contains hallowing sites for three of the world's major religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

Throughout history, Palestine has been ruled by numerous groups, including the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Fatimid, Seljuk Turks, Crusaders, Egyptians, and Mamelukes.

From about 1517 to 1917, the Ottoman Empire ruled much of the region, where Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived peacefully.

When World War I ended in 1918, the British took control of Palestine. The famous Balfour Declaration which is famous for the statement of "a promise from who doesn't own to who doesn't deserve" took place.

The Balfour Declaration stated that there will be a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. Jews were immigrating to Palestine, as prior to the foundation of the State of Israel, the Jewish presence in Palestine fluctuated over time, with distinct communities emerging and leaving.

This agreement was voiced by Lord Balfour, with the caveat that "... nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine..." The Balfour Declaration established a legal framework for Jewish immigration, so promoting it.

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.



The United Nations offered a plan in 1947, after more than two decades of British control, to divide Palestine into two sections: an independent Jewish state and an autonomous Arab state. Jerusalem was to be an international area with special status, as both Jews and Palestinian Arabs claimed it as their capital.

All of that didn't make any sense and is considered a war crime. Just because Palestine accepted Jews and immigrants as they were kicked out of Britain doesn't mean that their land can be taken!

However, the map of Palestine kept changing, which is not reliable, like how can a map of some country just change?



According to international law, Palestine owned the west bank and the Gaza Strip. In 1967 Israel took full control over the Palestinian land, and also it's the same year when Israel allowed Israelis to move to the west bank which is 100% Palestinian land currently and then.

This was and still, illegal cause Israelis don't have the right to enter Palestinian land, as Israel broke so many rules stated by the UN and the UN hasn't moved yet.

lately, we've been hearing about sheik-Jarrah. So, there's a neighborhood called sheik-Jarrah in the occupied east Jerusalem, sheik-Jarrah is legally supposed to be Palestinian land. As a result of claims by Israeli settlers' organizations, courts decided that 6 Palestinian families in sheik-Jarrah should leave their home by May and 7 other families should leave by August.

May came and of course, Palestinians won't leave their homes for the Israeli settlers.

Thus, Israeli settlers which are supported by the Israeli army started attacking Palestinians who are just living in peace in their homes on their lands.

They started the violence against them while they're praying and breaking their fast. Israelis even broke into the Al-Aqsa mosque and attacked Palestinians while they were praying and all of that because Palestinians don't want to leave their homes, and be homeless.





The Superpower of Social Media

Mary Samer , Political science, third level

Have you ever thought about the “superpower” of social media? I am not talking about its effective connection services and the fact that it connects the North and the South and so forth. I am talking about its superpower in being an effective player in the important cases or issues either on domestic level or on an international level. The surprising thing is that sometimes social media plays this heroic role without even having the intention to. Have you guessed what I am talking about? The role social media played in supporting the Placentian case.

We have always known social media for being powerful in spreading important news , encouraging or discouraging people from a certain situation but, it is relatively new to see it playing this influential role in such an important case. It is not the first time , many cases and issues were passed through social media but most of these events were mainly domestic , on the level of Egypt only such as helping spread the news of a harassment accident to help the victim get his/her rights. The new thing in this case was that the social media-unintentionally- supported a case that is on opposing terms with the superpowers behind all these social media platforms.

Take for example the hashtags that were highly trending during the past couple of weeks at the peak of the crises.

You will find hashtags such as :#savesheikhjarra #GazaUnderAttack#GazaUnderFire ,#WeStandWithGaza#FreePalastine, #PalestineUnderAttack , #PalestiniansLivesMatter .

All these hashtags and more were used both on Facebook and Instagram to help spread the word about the case and get support for it. This was really very helpful and the social warfare that took place between the two sides of the conflict was effective and showed that people can be very supportive of any case even from their own homes.

It is very interesting as well to know that Facebook and Instagram started removing posts of this type as they were against the American-Israeli interests and we all know that these social media platforms are American companies. However, the social media users did not lose hope and they started using many tricky ways to deliver the content they wanted without facing the Facebook deleting their posts.

Finally, I need you to know that the social media has always been and will always be very effective weapon in our lives not only in supporting a certain case but, in many other usages so, please be very wise when you use it and try to make good use of it for the good of your community.

"The great thing about social media was how it gave a voice to voiceless people."-Jon Ranson

I N F L U E N C E R



INFLUENCERS: From a Skill to a Job Title

Malak Ashraf, Second Level, Economics Major

If you were asked who an “**influencer**” is, what would come to your mind?

“A person who has the ability to affect people’s actions, choices, opinions...etc.” or “A person with many followers on social media that promotes something they have considerable knowledge about (usually a product)”. Well, we can’t be sure which will be your answer now. However, decades ago it would have definitely been the first one. Not because the idea of “influencer-marketing” (the term used to refer to this type of marketing) didn’t exist – in fact many sources argue that its appearance can be dated back to centuries ago- but rather because what shed light on it and even created the idea of it as a separate career was the growing importance of **social media** throughout the last decade.

So, starting off with the meaning of “influencer”, how is it actually defined?

Just like the answer to the previously posed question, the official definition of the word in dictionaries evolved by time as well. The word “influencer” used to be defined as:

“*Someone who affects or changes the way that other people behave*” (Cambridge Dictionary)

“*One who exerts influence: a person who inspires or guides the actions of others*” (Merriam-Webster)

However, the definition of “influencer” as a career made it to dictionaries no earlier than mid-late 2010s implying a late official acknowledgment yet the rising attention this word was gaining in reference to social media made using it in its definition a necessity. Thus, we see dictionaries defining it now as:

“*A person or thing that influences somebody/something, especially a person with the ability to influence potential buyers of a product or service by recommending it on social media.*” (Oxford dictionary)

“*A person who is able to generate interest in something (such as a consumer product) by posting about it on social media.*” (Merriam- Webster, 2019)

A Job Title Created From An Abstract Meaning

So, it’s clear that we witnessed the development of the **abstract meaning** of having influence over other people in a certain field to a **job**, one that is currently having an influx of candidates especially young people. In fact, when influencer-marketing first appeared, it used to depend on celebrities with already wide popularity that attracted brands to promoting their products/services in campaigns featuring these celebrities, whether actors/actresses, fashion icons,

people in high positions...etc. However, influencer-marketing through social media **quantified** the concept of influence. So today, the influencers and the brands collaborating with them use **social media metrics** to detect the success of their collaborations and their accounts in general. Thus, it is very likely that you hear of or even use terms as: **reach, impressions, engagement, leads** and others that refer to metrics used in the field of digital marketing. So, the measure of influence was converted from **observed rising trends, copied styles of famous people or public opinion** -which would take time to detect- to on the spot calculated numbers. Adding to that, the switch in the way influencers interact with and influence people; Previously they had to make public appearance, interviews and ad campaigns, but now in a much easier way: **Posts** on social media can do the job.

Is The Growing Influencer-Marketing Industry Beneficial?

Whether social media influencers are actually affecting us in a positive or negative way is still a debate depending on your perspective, yet speaking in terms of facts, this industry is yielding profits to some groups:

-Businesses/Brands found a new **highly revenue-generating marketing channel** -which some even devote a separate budget for- and these rising sales are mainly driven by the trust of consumers in the influencer promoting this business/brand and thus increasing **brand awareness** and boosting its reputation. In addition they are now able to better reach their **target group** by choosing an influencer in a field relevant to their services/products. Thus, they guarantee that their campaign would be seen by people who are already interested in them giving higher probability of sales.

-A growing stream of **platforms and agencies** are making use of the already established relationship between businesses/brands and influencers, acting as **mediators** and developing in this process as well the usual form of agencies to social media-oriented one that fits the new context.

- The influencer marketing industry is considerably **profitable** for influencers. Even if not at the beginning, in some cases it can even turn these influencers into celebrities (highest level of influencers).

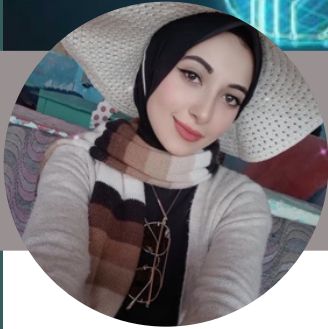
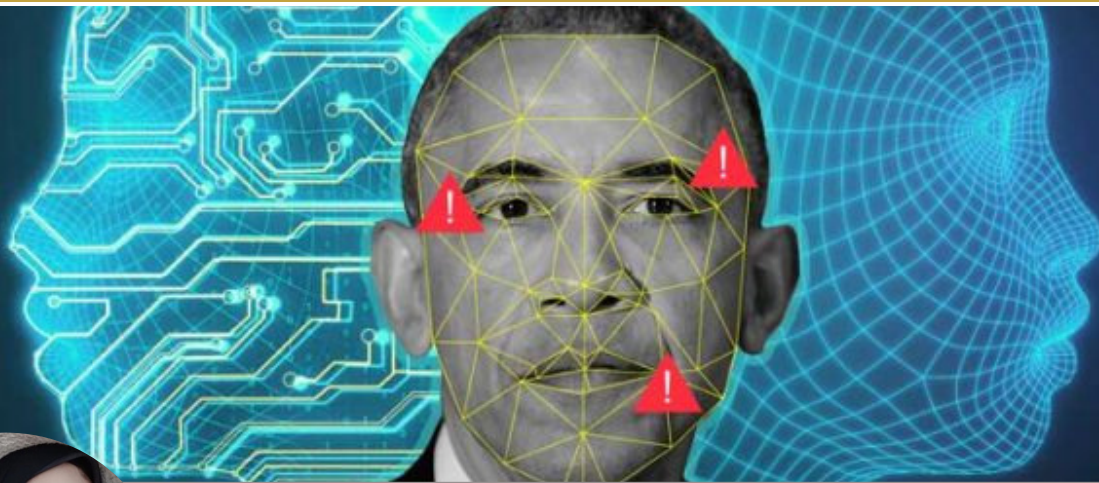
However, it's the **social implications** that mostly cause the contradiction in opinions about its benefits for all the involved parties. For example:

-The **extent of influence** that any of these influencers can have can be risky; a negative review can cost a business a lot, a bad recommendation can cost influencers their whole career. And as for consumers, some campaigns can be really misleading.

-Another downside is the involvement of **personal life** in this industry. In most cases, establishing a high level of trust can develop an interest in personal life, opinions, and activities. This has been already made clear by the fact that these accounts are personal ones based on the personal identity of such influencer. So an unfavorable personal opinion that costs the influencer their popularity -even if not forever- can still be more difficult to recover from since they can't just rebrand or re-establish a new identity unlike what any brand would do in a similar case.

Finally, the ones with a large number of followers are sometimes pressured by them to make a stance towards pressing issues (political, social...etc.) because for people: **"They gained the power to INFLUENCE."**





Deepfake technology and politics

Mayar Saber, Second Level, Political Science

Not a long time from now, it wasn't an easy mission to design a fake video or picture as it took a long time and a big effort and needed a high technology and advanced programs. But now, in the modern world we can even go further than all these in only a press of a button and without any professional skills, in addition that it is available for everyone without restrictions or permissions. One of those and the most complicated one is "DeepFake" technology.

What is Deepake technology?

It is a modern technology that uses machine learning to analyze the unique style of a person's speech and movement, or what researchers call a "soft biometric signature." This technology produces a video clip in which a person who may be a politician, a player or a famous actor appears naturally speaking and performing

his usual movements without much difference, but in fact the matter is that this person is not the person behind this artificial video, but rather that deepfake technology has changed face expressions of the one in the main video and make it exactly the same as a famous wanted person, so that he can broadcast or introduce any news or speech to the recipients as if he is the famous actor or politician or a decision maker but actually he has been simulated using machine learning.

And from this point the problem arises, Misleading press news, fake accounts on social media and others have all weakened the real political news and the political speeches. Nowadays, many politicians are extremely concerned with the ability of some unreliable parties to use those technical means to spread misleading

information, such as what happened in the 2020 US presidential elections. We also see many fake videos of Donald Trump, Barack Obama, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Hillary Clinton, using generative adversarial networks (GANs), which are special structures that include two deep neural networks that compete each others to identify the unique way of moving head face and mouth that identifies the real person and simulate his emotions and the way he say words.

The effect of deep fake technology on political speeches:

With the emergence of this technology and the fall of many politicians as victims of it, such as Putin, Michelle Obama and Donald Trump, all politicians started to be afraid that such technology would negatively affect the results and progress of the election process.

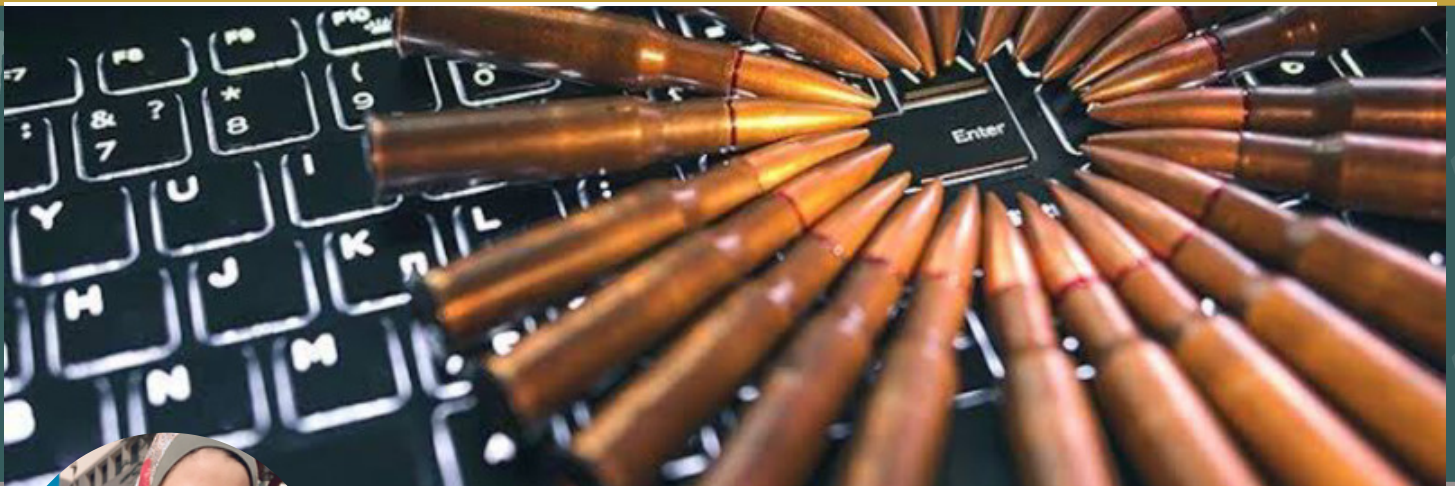
Deepfake technology was the core of discussion of United States Senate Select Committee of inelegance (SSCI) to discuss the security risks on national and electoral security in the United States, warning of its bad effect on the 2020 elections.

This technology reached politicians in the European Union as well, when several global news agencies reported that a number of European politicians had been deceived by a Russian conspiracy where a group of parliamentarians met in United Kingdom, Estonia and Lithuania, and during their meeting they received a

video call from a person claiming to be the Russian politician Leonid Volkov, a famous member in opposition movement of Putin and an assistant to the leader of the Russian opposition, Alexei Navalny, who was imprisoned by the Russian government, and after discussions with the European Union countries and other political institutions, it was found out that these are nothing but deceivers who used techniques of deepfake technology . They have a long history from deceiving celebrities and politicians.

Hence, deepfake techniques and media manipulated by artificial intelligence are used as a tool for political disinformation and experts have warned against the so-called "information world", where the quality and availability of deepfakes makes it impossible for the public to distinguish between Truth and fiction. And while politics has already been hit by deception in recent years, incidents always happen in videos and photos modified in an old-fashioned way. However, the fear of deepfake still haunts politics and politicians.





Cyber Power

Esraa Magdy, 3rd year, Economics

The last decade has been characterized by rapid developments in the field of computing and information technology, which have led to far-reaching changes in almost all areas of life, especially in the security and military fields, which have witnessed many changes related to the method of combat and the method of building the power of armies, developments in strategic thinking patterns and the development of a combat doctrine commensurate with the changing reality in which Israel is a major player

Israel has been looking forward to the characteristics of the threat posed by the development of cyber war

technology and has embarked on the changes required in building its power, where the close link between the way the Cyber threat is addressed and state security is addressed.

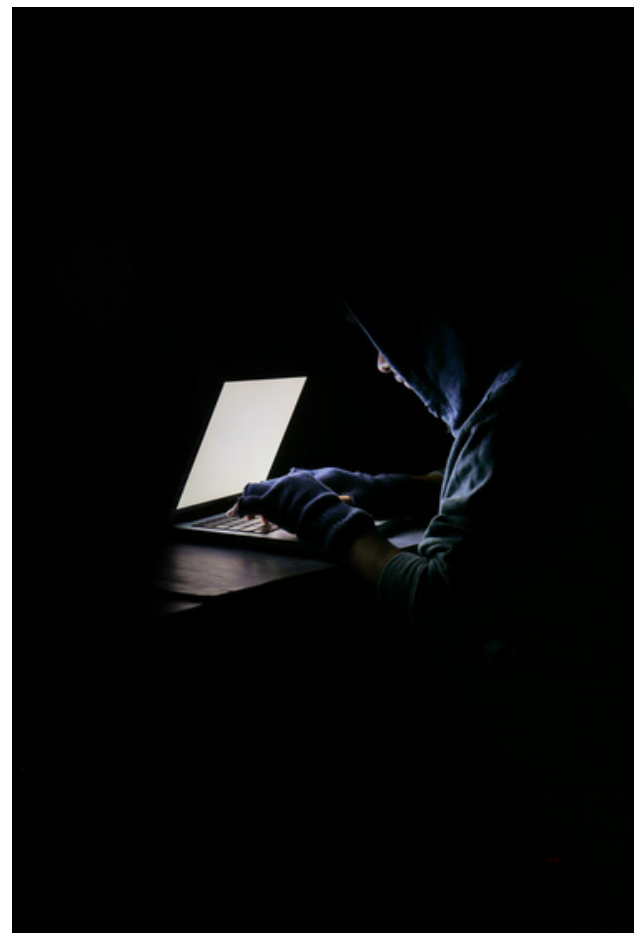
Two of the world's most scientific research spending countries, South Korea and Israel, until 2016, South Korea spent more than Israel in scientific research about 4% of total output, but in 2017 Israel has begun to increase spending on South Korea, where its spending rate has reached 4.25% of the country's gross domestic product and most of the spending on scientific research is directed at cyber security and information security research. All of them came out of Israel, the security of information and

cyber security is the feature of the era in all aspects of life, whether we like it or not, is part of Israel's strategy of this century. At the famous conference (cyber tech) held annually in Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: When you think of cyber, think of Israel))

In order to make the picture clear, here are the most important cyber-attacks carried out by Israel.

Israel's disruption of Iran's nuclear reactor in Boucher in 2010 through (stux net) virus through unit 8,200 with a button click managed to do so, but the seriousness of it does not and will never depend on it where it can make viruses More complicated in destroying infrastructure such as penetrating desalination plants and increasing the proportion of toxic chemicals destroyed in water, in addition to controlling the entire modern car operating system and other experiments that control everything that literally surrounds us, it still stops. On war and military attacks, but threatening the lives of human beings with the simplest sorrow and at the click of a button, millions of people die without wasting resources in any conventional wars.

At the end of my article to you, I explain that it is not easy at all, because it is extremely dangerous and my writings were never to review the power of any party as much as it is spreading awareness of what is the future and to realize the efforts of your enemy and his idea. It is a message to us to deal seriously and care about scientific research and education in the first place and in all possible ways. We have bright minds and we have time to do so, so before it is too late....





The Challenges of Implementing Population Control Policies

Noor Khaled, Freshman

Overpopulation is not surprising in countries that believe in the sacredness and joy of having children. All the cheer and pride of having kids disappear instantly once we realize that these same children might end up living a rough life in the future as uncontrolled overpopulation creates pressure on the country's scarce resources, increases pollution levels, hinders economic growth, and raises living costs. The employment and economic needs of an uncontrollably multiplying population are incredibly challenging to meet. A sharp increase in population calls for setting population control policies, and that's what Egypt's National Strategy for Population Control, or "Two is Enough" project, tackles. While these policies are necessary, we need to understand some of the challenges implementing them may entail.

We begin with addressing arguably the significant policies, namely, raising awareness, educating the public on the threat of overpopulation, and empowering women. Two main challenges come with these policies: social and financial obstacles. A country like Egypt with a mostly rural, conservative population would find that breaking any hard-set values and beliefs on bearing children and its benefits would be extremely difficult. We might even go as far as to say that people might find any discussion regarding topics of limiting the number of children or preventing conception taboo or immoral.

Implementing mass media campaigns raise another challenge: how much would it cost to get this information to reach every nook and cranny? As stated before, a country with a large rural demographic would find it difficult to gauge how far the information traveled to reach the people. One solution would be teaching teenagers about family planning early on in schools in an objective and comprehensive manner. The campaigns and projects meant to empower women also play a massive role in normalizing this topic and curbing fertility rates. As women realize more important roles in society, they will dedicate more time towards achieving their dreams instead of raising kids for the rest of their lives. Training and hiring teachers, making sure resources are available, and investing in new projects for women would not only be expensive, but it will also be time-consuming as we need to make sure that everyone is aware of the seriousness of the situation.

Another policy is access to family planning methods, which carries some obstacles. While Dar Al-Ifta, Egypt's premier Islamic Research Institute, announced that using contraceptives is permissible in Islam, we know that not everyone would easily change their deep-rooted religious beliefs and positively respond to this. Furthermore, it would be imposing on people's religious and personal freedom if the government was to be stricter about using contraceptives.

It is important to note that most of the hesitancy surrounding forms of birth control come from external pressures or social stigmas rather than religious obligations. In some cases, wives are subservient to their spouses, meaning that they would be reluctant to take any form of birth control if their partners oppose it. In other cases, we will find that pressures from family members, friends, and even the public can make people shy away from purchasing or using any form of family planning. If you are married and keep putting off having kids, you will get asked something along the lines of “Is something is wrong with you or your spouse?” Once you let them know you are not ready to have children or do not want to have more (code words for using forms of birth control), you might end up hearing words like, “Some people aren’t lucky enough to be able to have a child, and here you are refusing God’s gift,” which usually stem from ignorance. Suppose you are patient enough to ignore these remarks; the public raises another obstacle. Regardless of your gender, if you’re young and attempt to purchase a contraceptive, you’ll find yourself many a time the target of scornful gazes and unnecessary remarks, even if you’re married.



Moreover, there is some misinformation surrounding contraceptive use. Some people have misconceptions about the safety of these drugs and procedures – oftentimes assuming that they might result in complications in future pregnancies and even infertility. The biggest challenge here lies in the fact that attempts at denouncing these apprehensions will take a long time. For example, according to a University of Maryland survey, around 50% of Egyptians are hesitant/ unwilling to get the COVID-19 vaccines. Regardless of the amount of available information that shows that the vaccine’s benefits outweigh its costs, we can see that breaking misconceptions that revolve around one’s wellbeing is a grueling task. If access to birth control is hindered by

these fears and stigmas, the policy would not be as effective as planned. In this situation, the best that we can do, aside from making sure everyone knows the social and economic implications of having too many children, is to educate them about the different forms of birth control and provide a discrete way for people to access them whenever and wherever they may need them.

One more challenge arises with digitizing government services such as marriage registries and birth certificates. This policy is meant to make it easier to keep track of how many children each family has. While most of the population is up to date with necessary legal paperwork, a minority will still find it easy to slip in the shadows and avoid registering their marriages or creating birth certificates for their children. Although this might be a hard pill to swallow, some communities live off the radar. They get married, but fail to register their marriage, have kids, yet don’t register their birth, and earn their wages through legal but off-the-charts means. When do we find out that they had 7, 8, or even 9 kids? When these same children begin to emerge in the “real world,” where they find it difficult to survive without forms of identification. To combat this very problem, before China’s one-child policy was abolished in 2016, there were “family planning officials” who reported unregistered children.

Whether we like it or not, people may never understand how dangerous overpopulation is until it is too late. The key to the success of these policies comes with the general support of the people: as long as people are willing to listen and take action to protect themselves and their country, the policies are deemed effective; otherwise, hopes of managing the uncontrolled overpopulation severely decline. To be sure, the only way these policies can make an impact is through continuity, but we need to be cautious lest these policies work too well. We have witnessed the effects of family planning and population control policies in China and South Korea; yes, they managed to control the population growth, but at what cost. Youths of this generation are less willing to get married, much less have children. Interestingly, the South Korean government is giving incentives to encourage couples to have children. We came off to a great start; however, if future policymakers do not show as much dedication to solving this problem, we can kiss any real chance at overcoming this grave problem goodbye.



New Sham:

A nucleus of an Arab federation?

Yasmin Tarek, 4th level, Economics

In light of the geopolitical changes that the Middle East has witnessed during the last decade, there are new political and regional alliances that Egypt has launched and others are looking forward to inaugurating them, to diversify the sources of foreign relations with the aim of facing difficult developments and challenges, depending on the state of competition based on resources and natural wealth, as well as regional influence. Egypt currently has proved its strong return to the world arena and the restoration of regional and international influence.

Among these alliances is the new Levant (Al-Sham) Agreement between Egypt, Jordan and Iraq. The three countries launched a cooperation mechanism, which started from the Egyptian capital, Cairo in March 2019, and announced at the time a project to build an oil pipeline from the port of Basra in southern Iraq, all the way to the port of Aqaba in Jordan and then Egypt. Accordingly, both Jordan and Egypt can obtain Iraqi oil, at discounts of about \$16 per barrel - which represents almost a third of its global price. In exchange Iraq will export electricity from Egypt through Jordan as a first stage,

as Iraq suffers from a severe shortage of electricity and it imports electricity from Iran to satisfy its needs, and then this line may reach the Gulf countries, especially since Egypt is characterized by the presence of a large surplus of electricity as a result of the giant projects it has recently undertaken - gas fuel stations and clean energy stations; Egypt owns the largest solar power plant in the world in Benban, Aswan, and the largest wind power plant in El-Zayt mountain on the Red Sea. After extending the oil pipeline to Egypt, it can be extended to Europe, making Egypt a center for exporting oil to Europe. In addition to the flow and increase of investments to Iraq, where it is expected that the gross domestic product of Iraq, Egypt and Jordan combined will reach about \$500 billion. Other agreements were signed to enhance cooperation, such as the establishment of an entity to transport passengers by land between the three countries and the reconstruction agreement for oil. Egypt also announced its readiness to assist Iraq in building its security institutions and other agreements in preparation for this major project.

The New Al-Sham project aims to restore the region's leading role by making the most of the enormous economic returns of Iraq's oil wealth (the second largest reserve in the world), and then strengthening the investment and commercial aspects and activating diplomatic mechanisms to resolve regional crises. And investing the capabilities of the three countries, with the aim of achieving economic integration, as Egypt will pump its enormous human capital and provide its large industrial sectors to support the gigantic economic project, while Iraq will present its oil potential, while Jordan will present its important strategic location to reach the best results from the project on the ground.

In fact, the beginning of the project was a study prepared by the World Bank in 2014 to establish a major economic zone in the Middle East. This study also included Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. It was also mentioned in the report that if these countries were this economic entity, they would be an economic bloc similar to The European entity: as the total area is 2.5 million square kilometres, and it contains a human reservoir of more than a quarter of a billion people. It contains great trade, tourism and economic capacities. In addition to the presence of common historical and cultural denominators that bring together the peoples of the region that will facilitate the alliance.



The EU began with the Rome Agreement between only 6 countries as an economic alliance and was called the European Coal and Steel Community. It was aimed at regulating the industrial production of its members and this was the nucleus of the European economic bloc and after the success of the experiment other European countries began to join until it turned after that to the EU in its current form and to protect it The military alliance NATO was established. This is why some analysts predict that the project will not stop at the three countries only or economic cooperation only, but will expand to include other countries. Finally, what distinguishes this project from others is that it will achieve immediate economic and political interests for the participating countries once the project is started on an actual economic level, for example, it will achieve the long-term economic partnership of the three countries and will open the door to more economic cooperation for the companies of the three countries.





"The departure of the most prominent militant of the 20th century"

Ramez El-Shishy

Every century has its heroes and characters, and these people who are in this century may be politicians, artists, doctors, philosophers, and even militants. In fact, times of adversity are the revealing true minerals of men, as they say, Omar al-Mukhtar in Libya, Ernesto Chi Guevara in Latin America, and Hafez Salama in Egypt, who fought tirelessly in defending the valiant city of Suez, his hometown against the Israelis. However, before addressing his militant life, we must know who Hafez Salama that has always been a symbol of the century.

Sheikh Hafez Ali Ahmed Salama was born in Suez on December 6, 1925, during the English occupation of Egypt, and was the fourth son of his father, who worked in the textile business. Hafez began his life in al-Katatib, then al-Azhar primary education, educated himself in Islamic sciences and public culture, studied many religious sciences, then worked at Al-Azhar and was a preacher, until he became sheikh of Al-Azhar for Al-Azhar institutes until 1978. One of the symbols of popular resistance in Egypt, especially after his prominent role in the war of attrition and the steadfastness of Suez 100 days, was one of the reasons why the valiant city of Suez did not surrender following the gap in the October 1973 war and the city's steadfastness in the face of the blockade.

Hafez coordinated with President Sadat during the Israeli siege of the valiant city, prompting Sadat to order the opening of the third army field weapons depots to provide Hafez and the guerrillas with weapons and other general mobilization to participate in the resistance of the enemy.

Grandfather of Suez's people has participated in many charities in Suez, and his social and political role continued in the revolutions of the Arab Spring, and his statements his remained important during the political unrest that the Egyptian state went through, simply because he is a symbol of the century and for his struggles that were similar and reached the point of conformity between him and other great militants such as Omar al-Mukhtar, Ernesto Chi Guevara and others.

Hafez's illness in the early spring of 2021 following his infection with the virus Covid-19, according to sources confirmed this, and was transferred to Al-Demirdash Hospital in Cairo to leave our world at the age of 95, but in any case, despite his departure his history of struggle for his homeland remains recorded in history and in the minds of his lovers, has always given him the necessary audacity and outstanding struggles the way to face the inevitability of crises.



We Can Change the World

Esraa Magdy Bakr, 3rd level, Political science

At first, I should remind you that we can change the world, and I almost expect to hear the voice of an article reader..... What is this? Am I the one who's going to change this whole world? Is this world dependent on my existence? Yes, dear reader, your presence is important, influential and intense, God never created you in vain, and you have to be fully convinced of that, because from being a human being (the finest beings created by God on Earth) there is no room to think about otherwise, because your presence in itself is impressive but how is the most important thing lies here... Please focus. The record... Yes, the record is not just a number; it is a way to understand your position from the world. Our first goal here is to create a conscious, psychologically balanced human being, but the pinnacle of psychological balance. First, you have to believe in your abilities and that the outcome of your abilities is never less than others, so the abilities of each of them can vary, but the result is the same because God is the only one who has achieved what he wished, but it can be to two important factors, each of which contributes to solving the problem by a certain percentage: first, you are the dear reader, the biggest aspect of solving this lies in you, you must realize your value and that it is in yourself and within you and should never be derived From people or external things, the source of your faith must extend your trust in God and then yourself and your abilities, and I almost assure you, my dear, that at that moment you will reach the summit of psychological peace, the pinnacle of creativity and the pinnacle of success and excellence

Secondly, society and the surrounding environment have a role not a little bit in discovering and developing your abilities, it has a big role in helping you, but if society has a role, the biggest and first role is you, and then you have to yourself, dear

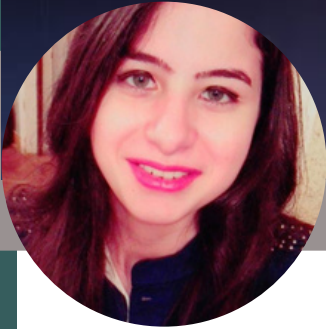
So we should not agree that you are special and you can change the world around you but how??????

You are not normal, the normal for the weak and you are not weak at all, God loves you strong and being a much better force for God than to see you weak broken, we do not ask you to be the miracle superhero, dear we know very well that who is mentioned by history as a great influential person is a very small percentage of the population of the world, so I do not ask you to do this and just quickly and hard and hard and strongly dear and do not give up if you cannot at the level of your country and if you do not You can at the level of your city, and if you can't at the level of your family, my dear, which I can almost confirm is that you are undoubtedly, no matter what the circumstances, that you should be great at the level of your family at the level of your own first, dear, and at that moment I am almost certain that it has changed our world together and that we have made it spring together

Ethics, morals, your values and principles are what determine your value, if you find morality, values, psychological balance, I found everything yours, my dear, if morals are lost, everything is lost You have to fix yourself, my dear, so that you become a great honorable example to follow one day.



It by



THE WORLD SHADOWS

Yossra Mohamed, FEPS graduate, Economics Department.

I grew up and I'm no longer concerned with the world anymore, with all its ideas and beliefs, with all the absolute belief in the things that only led to the defeat of humanity, I grew up and I stop waiting for tomorrow and childhood dreams no longer haunted me, but rather they become an imagination swimming in the sea of the sky that would never meet with the earth. The world becomes smaller in my eyes and despite the abundance of its sounds, it doesn't add anything to my ears. I look forward to knowing how the world can be more burdensome for a person like me, a person with a mind that does not leave anything without submerging it to the tiniest point, a mind that takes most of its time trying to find out its deeply rooted roots in the history of the universe, I interact with the surrounding although it does not enrich me and does not resemble me in any way, I grew up and things begin to change, I try to overcome difficulties by convincing myself that everything will pass, that loss is natural, and that change is the system of the world that does not hold mistakes, but all of that does not change from what I feel, from what encompasses my senses and my memory, and from what I dream for myself. . I grow up and all things begin to take their natural place, I stand on the borders of friendship lest I be betrayed from those I get familiar with, and on the boundaries of relationships for fear that an unworthy person exploits my heart that is open to all people, and on the boundaries of the things that I love for fear of being captured by it and getting lost in its whirlpool, and on the boundaries of life for fear of being immersed in it and forgetting the purpose of the entire existence. I stand on the boundaries of things because they

..will forget me when I leave them, and when I depart from them to more mature things, but I will not forget them and they will remain a spectrum that accompanies me, I grow and my feeling grow that the world will not stand for my sorrow, and that the earth will be flooded with the sun every day, and that the moon will not diminish for the sake of my affliction, I grow and my feeling grow with me that life must be lived as it is, and not to give things more than their size and not to think of the inevitability of continuity for anyone or anything, and that change is the constant law of life without exception, and that the shadows of the world surround those who care about everything.

I grew up and my vision to the world, to nature, and to the goal of all of that changes, but my heart refuses to change; it prompts me to adhere to the last spirit of childhood and to the best of my qualities in order not to lose myself from scrutinizing the vocabulary of the world scattered around me, I grow up and my soul continue in resisting the change that is infiltrating it and surrounding its principles in an attempt to recruiting it to the circumstances of the new surroundings. I grow up and my biggest wish remains, not to grow, not to stop dreaming, and to keep my inner child supporting me and reminding me of my reality before the world changes me, before it puts its sinister effects on my heart.

Scientists

The scourge of vanity and delusion

Mohamed Elsayy, Second Level, Economics



A boy from the Arabs met the poet Abu Ala Al-Maari, and said to him: Who are you, Sheikh ?!

He said: Abu Al-Alaa is your well-known poet.

Then the boy said: Welcome to the poet stallion, are you the one who said in your poetry:

For if I was the last of his time .. to do what the first ones could not?

Abu Al-Alaa said: Yes, I am the one who said this, and why?

The boy said: A good saying, self-confidence, and a proud of competence and ability, but the leaders put twenty-eight letters for the spelling, so can you add one letter to it?

The Almighty said in the Holy Quran: {And mankind have not been given of knowledge except a little} [Al-Israa-85], All that a person has produced of knowledge, God willing, is a small amount, and all that a person acquires is a little bit of a little, as if he ascends a ladder to the sky and thinks that his sight is the end of the stairs, or as if it is between two areas of attraction and turn! Whenever he is freed from ignorance, knowledge is repelled, and what he thinks is the end point is nothing but a new starting point, and if it is permissible to say that knowledge is something that increases, it decreases! Whenever you know something, you will know that things have been missing from you! Then what you have acquired from knowledge that is closer to analogy than that of ignorance, the world is estimated only by the extent of its distance from the point of ignorance rather than its approach to the point of knowledge.

The problem, then, is that whoever thinks that he has approached but has reached the point of knowledge, then he has reached only the point of vanity, and he is deceived but lost, so vanity is still the scourge of knowledge. You find that every genius - or he thinks himself as well - makes his genius the only barometer of genius! For example, someone who was a genius in mathematics thinks that those without it are stupid, or someone who has a degree in science thinks that all people are ignorant until they learn his science. The problem, then, is that whoever thinks that he has approached but has reached the point of knowledge, then he has reached only the point of vanity, and he is deceived but lost, so vanity is still the scourge of knowledge. You find that every genius - or he thinks himself as well - makes his genius the only barometer of genius! For example, someone who was a genius in mathematics thinks that those without it are stupid, or someone who has a degree in science thinks that all people are ignorant until they learn his science.

In addition to the scourge of vanity, the scourge of delusion, for this little knowledge that blinds the sight and the mind is either for what was created for it. An argument for God against the servant, or for a wrong argument to use as evidence against God! Allah says: { Allah witnesses that there is no deity except Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - [that He is] maintaining [creation] in justice. There is no deity except Him, the Exalted in Might, the Wise.} [Al-i-Imran – 18], And : { Who remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], "Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire} [Al-i-Imran – 191],

Glory to you, you did not create the heavens and the earth in vain, and you did not create inanimate objects, trees, jinn, mankind and animals in vain, And you have not created is a celestial body that is millions of light-years away from us as void, and you have not created an atom that cannot be seen as void, and no microscopic creature created in the deepest Ocean is void, and all of these are nothing but the power of the wise Allah, He misleads many thereby and guides many thereby, So exalted is Allah when you reach the evening and when you reach the morning.

No one, with his knowledge, protested against religion, So he was already lost in his knowledge before his religion, walking in a wrong path and to an unknown destination, which he does other than his work and devotes it to other than his purpose. Al-Aleem told us about the scholars of Israel in the Almighty saying: { The example of those who were entrusted with the Torah and then did not take it on is like that of a donkey who carries volumes [of books]. Wretched is the example of the people who deny the signs of Allah. And Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people} [Al-Gomaa – 5], Those who were accused by God the Torah, and they preserved it verbally, and they did not understand it and did not work with it. Rather, they left and distorted it, and they were worse than the donkey that carries the books as a sensual lamb that cannot change its words.

Then you will find a scientist who saw in the universe of elaborate complexity and absolute order that does not exceed his belief except that all beings created them by chance, which is also from the foundations !, and you see one of them worshiping an idol he made in a blacksmith workshop praying to him and pleading with him, and another worshiping an animal approaching and calling it, and others not They worship and do not hope, praise be to God, Lord of the worlds. Science is an individual duty but all sciences are collective duty. Every individual is required to learn, not deceived by his knowledge nor astray from his intention, and with his knowledge he must also specialize but he does not have to study all sciences, so if he takes upon himself to study all sciences, it will not suffice for him over his age, even if he takes a sufficient amount to benefit or benefit from it, but the correct one is required.

Every science specialist should take a small amount of other sciences, what he gain capacity and knowledge and refine his aptitude, as well as what helps him to master his specialization, or what would remove him from a crisis or help him in an emergency matter, otherwise you may find an excellent doctor who will fall victim to a fraud Because he is not familiar with the law, or a skilled engineer, a member of his family was injured and could not help him, or an elite group of scientists drowned because they did not know how to swim.





OUR STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES OF THE SHORTEST SEMESTER

Undergrad non-ELITE
students' articles





LEARNING CHALLENGES UNDER EMERGING CIRCUMSTANCES

Bassant Mohammed, freshman

In light of the circumstances surrounding the new Coronavirus, many decisions have been made in all administrative systems, including, of course, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, many decisions have been made during this period that would try to preserve the health of students and certainly try to make students adapt to these conditions in order to continue their studies. We have seen many decisions in this period of the Coronavirus. One of these decisions is stipulating the application of the hybrid system, which is a mixture between distance learning and attendance, And now we are in the process of a new decision stating the completion of the second semester in July... And here we are, witnessing the educational system's smallest semester.

With all of these unexpected decisions, the majority of students, if not all of them, were at a loss in trying to adapt to all of these circumstances, whether health or academic conditions, especially trying to adapt to distance learning, as some of us had difficulty dealing with the platforms.

Others didn't understand how there is a person talking to him from behind those portable devices, and not just talking to him, but trying to make him understand the scientific material in various ways,

as if something important was lost in all of that, which is the visual communication between the student and the professor who lectures for that subject, as well as the body language because all of that would aid in communicating information to students in a simple and straightforward manner. We are now in a state of dispersion and pressure because all of the deadlines for submitting assignments and projects have also progressed with the progress of the exams, and we are still in another attempt to coexist with that as well as an attempt to learn and acquire some skills, such as working under pressure and accelerating performance, and in my opinion, Some decisions may not be satisfy for everyone, but we must always look for the positives to overcomes those hard time. For example, if we did not live in such circumstances, we may never consider distance learning. Although I do not agree with it completely, I cannot deny that it was the best decision under the circumstances. However, I am concerned about the continuation of distance learning without going to campus, which will harm the student's mental health.



Achievement Marathon

Mohamed Abdelmohsen, Freshman

Fifty days is the estimated period for the students to spend in the second semester, of which thirty blessed days were spent on distance learning for all subjects, and for the various study groups, after which it may be decided to complete the study remotely, until the end of the lectures on May 31 next.

Distance learning challenges:

Distance learning comes with many challenges, which can be mentioned in the following points:

- 1- Decreased ability for effective communication between students and the course professor.
- 2- Lack of belief in the importance of distance learning on the part of a large segment of students.
- 3- Difficulty applying distance learning in practical education.

These are the most prominent challenges of distance learning, from my point of view,

and the reader may have other additions that are no less important than what I have presented.

Challenges of research delivery, assignment and examination performance:

Not only what distinguished the second semester of this year is its short duration, but it is the sum of the tasks that were asked of the students in this short period, which constituted pressure for most of the students, if not all of them. In spite of all this, this season was filled with many joyful and joyful days, which were exemplified by the feasts celebrated by the people of Egypt.



Exam preparation experience in a short time:

The exams were never an obstacle, but rather a bridge through which the crossing is made. The biggest obstacle is anxiety that crosses the natural limits and fear of taking the exam, despite the possibility of good performance in answering it. Effort must be exerted and trust in God and then in the soul, and the utmost effort that the individual can exert, so that he moves away from the image of the negligent in front of the mirror of his family and himself.

The study in light of the pressures of the Corona crisis:

Certainly, the Corona crisis will be a great obstacle if it affects a student or a family member, and the pressure that will be on this student will be completely different from the pressure that exists on the rest of the students, as the first case is their psychological state is more likely to be affected by the decisions that are made.



Challenges of communicating with the faculty and college administration in light of the Corona crisis:

Perhaps communication is the biggest challenge that distance learning must strive to overcome by developing plans by psychologists, in order to enhance effective communication between the course professor and his students, as well as the challenge that students face with the college's administrative apparatus is the lack of immediate response to students and the response after several hours pass, and in fact, the immediate response is difficult to achieve with all students, as it needs more workers.

If distance learning comes with challenges, then regular learning also comes with challenges, and the effort exerted remains the measure of real learning.





The Journey of the Shortest Academic Semester

Mohamed AlSayed, Second Level, Political Science

It is the twelfth of the evening on Thursday the sixth of May of 2021, quiet prevails in the room, and everyone in the house went to his bed, and this university student only stayed awake, thinking about the lecture that he did not attend and the task that he did not finish preparing, and guesses the scenarios for the results of the special ministerial meeting To regulate the progress of the educational process.

Before he fell asleep, he decided to take out his phone to look at one of the college's WhatsApp groups, and as soon as he opened the group, he found it full of discussions and conversations, to move from the quietness of his room to the noise of the virtual world that he hates but is forced to live with. He turned off his phone and fell asleep

Our friend woke up excited and looked at his watch. But past his first lecture, he didn't care much. Where the professor is supposed to download the registration on the platform provided by the university as one of the tools for the distance learning process. While he was busy with the events of his day, he was shocked by the decision to take final exams until the beginning of next July,

and then it was judged as the shortest period in the course of his academic life.

This person, a student at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University, now feels that he is in a race against time. In addition to the pressures posed by distance education, some of them are represented in the weakness of the Internet and thus difficulty in accessing educational content, and others in the difficulty of direct interaction and communication between students and their teachers, and some of the difficulties that the college tries to overcome. The advance of the examination date added to this pressure. After there was sufficient time to complete the required tasks - which are not commensurate with the available time - a double effort is now required to complete them in less time and with high efficiency so that the grades are not lost, and despite the disadvantages of applying this system, it showed several positive points, the most important of which is that it became the basis on which We build on it later for the digital transformation in education.