

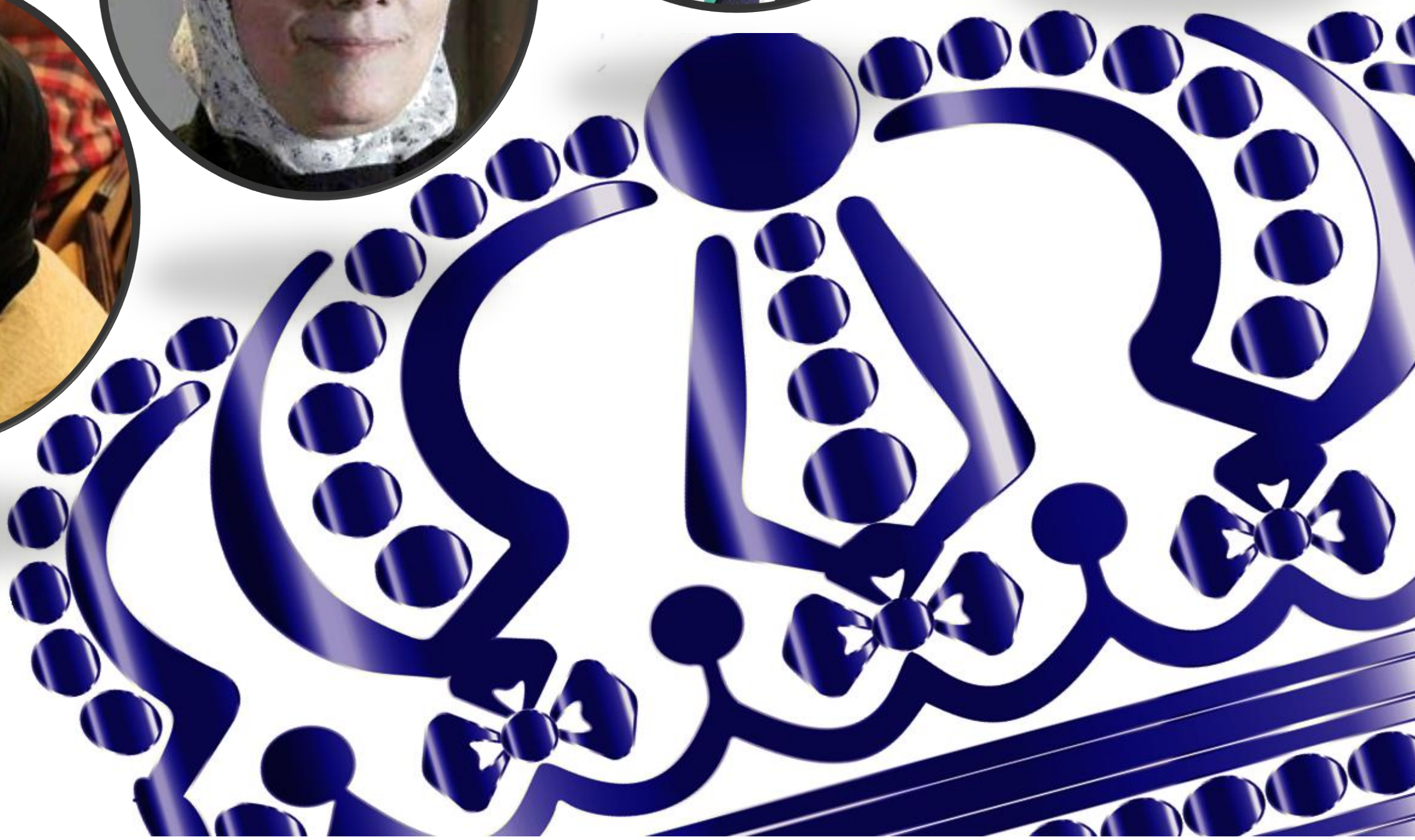
ELITE

VOLUME NO. 1, ISSUE NO. 5, MARCH 2019

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Ramy Magdy Ahmed

ELITE

FEPS, Where elites are made..

Vol. 1 Issue .5 March 2019

Designed By: Ramy Magdy Ahmed



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

Former Int. Cooperation Minister, Economics Prof. Dr. Naglaa Elahwany in An Exclusive Interview with ELITE :

Our Economy Financial Indicators Improved, But Our Real Economy Not Yet



Our Editors (from left): Caroline Kamal, Farah Ezzeldin (beside Prof.Naglaa) and Ramy Magdy

JAN25 wasn't a plot, it was true, later got hijacked, but still it is true

Our human capital main challenge is providing adequate education and training for a huge number of students annually



Giza : Ramy Magdy, Caroline Kamal, Farah Ezzeldin

In her office at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, the former minister of international cooperation hosted us. Prof.Dr. Naglaa Al Ahwany, the former prime minister's economic advisor and the incumbent professor of economics, gave us a portion of her hectic time to meet us. She started her discussion by referring to how she joined the faculty in 1969 and graduated in 1973. There were two main reasons encouraged her to join this faculty, first was to be open to the world since her French school did not provide her with that opportunity. FEPS was unique in its ability to teach students more about the world; Second, her success for being the best student on the secondary level in Egypt. Mrs. Al Ahwany told us about the strong ties that were between professors due to the low number of students and the availability of the courses to learn more about world issues.

When we asked her about situations she remembers as a student, she said that the difficult situation was the challenge of keeping her excellence every year, because of her desire to join the faculty staff. She referred also to many nice memories as a result of the constructive interaction between the students and their professors, noting her happiness to join the handball team of the university.

Al-Ahwany expressed her gratitude to many professors at FEPS, Prof.Dr(s) Hanaa Khair elddin, Mohamed Abdel Fadel, Amr Mohiellidin and many others who left a distinctive mark in her educational and professional background.

She talked about her experience in the cabinet as an economic advisor in the first government after the revolution of January 25, 2011. It was not one of her objectives to get involved in public affairs, since she focused on her work as an academic. When Dr. Essam Sharaf wanted to form an advisory council of various disciplines, he nominated her as an economic consultant. She did not hesitate to accept the post because she felt some national call and a deep patriotic impulse towards the country at that critical time. Later on, he also did not hesitate in accepting the position of international cooperation minister in the government of Ibrahim Mehleb, after the revolution of June 30, because her position as an economic advisor in the government of Essam Sharaf gave her the sufficient experience to take over the ministry.

Al-Ahwany has a distinguished international career in the field of international organizations like Solidaire, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ESCWA, the ILO office in Cairo, as well as the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. Al-Ahwany pointed out to the experience she got from dealing with experts from different cultures and how she learnt more about the work process in these organizations. This work has served to deepen the knowledge of her field of interest, the economics of labor and human development in Latin America and Asia and helped her gaining important skills for the working environment.

We later focused on her experience as Minister of International Cooperation in the first government of President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi after being an economic advisor for first government after JAN25 revolution. Al Ahwany said that the work as an economic advisor in the government of Essam Sharaf gave her the experience of working in the "political kitchen" which encouraged her to accept the post. She was also enthusiastic to work with Dr. Ibrahim Mahlab who was known for his desire to provide a working environment that encourages everyone to cooperate and work seriously and commitment.

She also referred to the great role played by Dr. Ashraf AlAraby in his assistance, who served as the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation before separating the International cooperation from Planning ministry to be as a separated ministry.

She also emphasized how knowledge of foreign languages facilitated her communication with the world. She was also assisted by the cooperation of members of the ministry's office, which included many young graduates of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science.

As for the difficulties in that experience, she talked about continuing travel among States. She also referred to her pleasure in organizing the 2015 Economic Conference, which she considered a milestone in her life and in the Ministry of International Cooperation. Transferring the correct picture of the June 30 events to the outside world was the biggest challenge for the Ministry of International Cooperation to improve Egypt's image to the world. The logistics issue was also the biggest challenge in organizing the conference. In addition to the importance of this conference in highlighting the recognition of the legitimacy of the political system in Egypt, where it was considered a second election for President Abdel Fattah Sisi. Al-Ahwany considered it an experiment that refuted many misconceptions about Egyptians like the inability to work in a team. The conference revealed the sense of cooperation between ministries and various bodies. Even the ministries who are not part were concerned and gave help like the Minister of Youth and Sports who provided a large group of young volunteers to usher conference guests. The misconception of the private sector's lack of cooperation in a large events organized by the government sector was also refuted as many businessmen participated in organizing and sponsoring the conference. This conference also emphasized the spirit of belonging and patriotism among the Egyptian youth. Al-Ahwany believes that this experience was very wonderful and benefited everyone who participated in organizing it.

Also, Dr. Naglaa Al-Ahwany talked about her role in the committee of economics and political science in the supreme council of universities, and explained that committee is being formed every three years. Dr. Gouda Abd-Elkhalek was the head of the committee in the last period, however, he had some medical issues, and he didn't continue his last year. Thus, Dr. Naglaa was assigned to be responsible for the committee affairs that year. December 2018, when was the last formation for the committee, Al-Ahwany became the head of the committee for another three years. She added that the committee is under the supervision of the supreme council of universities which form all the committees, as every faculty of economics and political science in Egypt is included in the committee. The committee has two major functions. The first is to develop the courses according to the government plan and what makes the graduates unique in their fields, as they will have good education and skills. The second is when a university want to establish a faculty for economics and political science, or add a master or PHD program, thus it must have a license from the committee.

She added that the main aim for the committee is to improve the education process and the scientific research. She explained that lately for the committee, focus was on giving equivalent certificates and agreements to the universities which want to establish faculties for economics and political science, and the faculties that want to add master degrees and or PhDs. Besides, when the committee was formed in 2018, its target was to develop and improve the education process in Egypt. Al-Ahwany pointed that the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Supreme Council of Universities were encouraging the committee to be their main hand in developing the education process in Egypt. The committee began to collect all the curriculums which are taught in the faculties of economics and political science in the Egyptian universities to evaluate it and know to which degree it keeps up with the foreign universities, especially when most of the universities in Egypt have partnership with foreign colleges. On 9th February 2019, in the Supreme Council of Universities, the committee made a workshop that included lots of important personalities who represent the entities which recruit the graduates of faculties of economics and political science. The goal of this workshop is to know what are the students lacking, and making a comparison between the graduates of public and private universities. She added that the faculty in the meantime has professional masters which made the faculty unique

, also the professional masters make the academic masters not necessary for the students as there is a replacement. She hopes that the committee success in the developing process as it will make extreme difference.

Taking the opportunity of being with an excellent economic expert, we didn't miss asking Dr. Naglaa Al-Ahwany about her evaluation for the economic situation nowadays, the chances and the challenges it poses. She answered that if we talk about the economic situation in absolute, we still face a lot of great challenges in terms of financial aspect and real economic aspect. Sometimes the financial indexes are improving, while real economy is means of production and we still face many challenges. Thus, when we talk about economics we must differ between the perfect economic situation and the situation we were on from few years. If we made a comparison between the economic situation in Egypt from five years and the economic situation nowadays, we will find that there is enormous improvement in the economic growth that since five years ago the rate of economic growth was nearly equal to zero. The rate of economic growth now is nearly 5%, and there is great improvement in the other indexes as the inflation rate, unemployment, and the size of foreign currency reserve that we have. She added that there are great developments in infrastructure sector as the roads, transportation, and the constructional renewals. All of the previous have a relation with the ability of the investment and production. She explained that we still have many great challenges and we have budget deficit, we also want to increase the rate of economic growth to create jobs for everybody. There is some fields that contribute effectively in the economic growth rate, but it don't employ great number of employees as the petroleum field. As the fields that contribute in the economic growth rate must employ great number of employees. The second challenge is the foreign currency reserve as great part of it is from loans, and the reserve must come from the country's production not from the loans. She added that the country's production apparatus and the economic and industrial sectors must develop as the real estate sector became the dominant sector. Although the real estate sector is very important for the creating a lot of job opportunities and it relate to many fields, the industrial and agricultural fields became substandard. She added that the main challenge is offering better education and training.

When we asked her about the challenges which face people in Egypt, she said that the great challenge is in the educational system and in training, that there is a great number of people who graduate and don't have good and real education. The education system from the primary levels till the high education need to be developed beside offering adequate training. She stressed that professional and technical training is the thing which joins education with work, and it's very important for the student to get a job after his graduation, however, we lost it from 50 years. Al-Ahwany said that if there is professional training in Egypt, there won't be high rate of unemployment. She added that everyone has the right for the high education. She pointed that the society need to change his perspective about the graduates of technical education which is easy if the graduates of that system found good opportunities. She added that she is afraid that the future generation will not good education. We live now on the fruits of previous generations efforts who had great education which the new generation doesn't have. Good education nowadays might be international schools or in some foreign countries, not in the private or public schools. Thus, only a minority get good education which is an enormous threat for Egypt's future.

When we asked her as a post-january politician about her testimony for that period until now, Al-Ahwany said the period after 25 January revolution was one of the most complicated periods in Egypt's history, as it included many upheavals. She stressed that she is not with who says that 25 January isn't a revolution and was a conspiracy. She added that it was a true revolution even if there was a lot of external factors, the revolution was based on political and economic movement against the attempt to the inheriting power. One of the main problems of the revolution was that there was no leader for it. She proceeded saying there was an attempt to hijack the revolution by the Muslim Brotherhood, many were afraid about Egypt's future, she believed that the situation was a temporary one, as Egyptians won't accept any change in their identity, but she didn't predict that their resistance will come so fast. She fears that in the long run there won't be real leaders as there is no political activity nowadays.

FEPS IN ALEX.

Special Coverage for FEPS Visit to Bibliotheca Alexandrina and The Roman Stage



Alexandria : Ramy Magdy, Silvana Sobhy, Lina Hesham, Yasmin Gamal, Farah Haitham, Hanaa Zakareyya, Abdelrahman Osama and Habiba Atef

This trip was also a great chance for the students to hear from the Alumni their experiences and advises. There were several interviews conducted with the ambassadors and graduates that the students thought to be very helpful and guiding.

The Graduates Association headed by the ambassador **Dr. Adel El Melegy** organized a one day trip to the city of Alexandria under the supervision of the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, **Dr. Mahmoud ElSaid** on Wednesday 06/02/2019. The delegation was not only limited to the Alumni, it further included the editors of "Elite" newsletter and the Chief of the Editorial Board, **Rami Magdy** as well as a group of other students from the Students Union and the ushering of **Prof. Dr. Khaled Gharib**, Head of Greek and Roman Antiquities Department, Faculty of Archeology, Cairo University. Prof. Gharib made an introduction in the bus about the history of the city starting with Alexander the Great who entered Egypt in 332 BC. M, who did not explicitly decide to build Alexandria, but wanted to establish in the cities he entered a banner bearing his name.

Dr. Zekry Ramzi Abdul Shahid, the former ambassador and one of the Alumni who graduated in 1964 and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Graduates and Secretary of the Insurance Fund for the diplomatic members. He expressed his enthusiasm to visit the Library of Alexandria and said that he is keen on attending the conferences and seminars organized by the College as well as cooperating with Dr. Mahmoud Al-Said, the faculty dean for the management of the Association of Graduates.



Amira Abdulrahman, a graduate of the Department of Economics in 1973 and the Director General of Arab and Islamic Organizations in the Ministry of International Cooperation, pointed out the importance of attending the seminars held in the faculty by the Statistics Department, and conferences held in the Institute of Statistical Sciences in cooperation with the faculty.



The first stop of the delegation was at the Roman Theater where the speaker described in full details the structure of the theatre, which consists of 16 columns and shows a group of buildings of red brick, which is a group of baths for the people of Alexandria. He then confirmed that the Roman theater lacks the most important element of any theater, which is the stage even though it carries the shape of the theater and is a half circle. For this, some people consider it the first legislative council established in Alexandria during the Roman era by the Emperor Septimius, who wanted to unify the Egyptians.

Hala Ismail, a former ambassador and a graduate of the Department of Economics in 1969, expressed her great happiness for witnessing the convergence of past and present generations throughout the trip and that throughout the previous years while she attended many activities organized by the faculty.



The next stop of the delegation was at Bibliotheca Alexandrina, which was restored in 2002 with the cooperation of the United Nations and a new library has been built close to the location of the original one. It is important to note that the library is headed by one of the Alumni of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, **Dr. Mostafa el Feqy** who showed great hospitality to the delegation. The delegation was first greeted by Dr. Mostafa El Feqy who also invited the Egyptian Ambassador in Austria to greet the students and the Alumni. After visiting Dr. El Feqy, the delegation was taken on an informative tour around the library which consists of the main library and six specialized sub-libraries. The tour started by visiting the study room "the main library" to see how it was specially customized to facilitate the studying process to whoever comes to the library. Then, the delegation moved to the Arts and Multimedia Sub-library, the Taha Hussein Sub-library, the Children's Sub-library, the Microforms Sub-library, and the Rare Books and Special Collections Sub-library. It should also be mentioned efforts exerted by the library team to develop a new website for the library that contains a detailed description of the library along with its mission, vision, and all the information related to the activities of the library.

Dr. Amaal El-Ghonemy a graduate of Economics Department (class of 1979) and the Secretary of the Graduate Association Fund. For her, the faculty represents her life as she still attends most of the majority of events and conferences organized by the faculty. She was affected by lots of the professors especially Dr. Gouda Abdelkhalak.



Dr. Ashraf Badr, the first agent of the support and statistics, who has majored economics and graduated in the year 1965 believes that college is history. For his passion for the field Economics, he left the Faculty of Medicine. The former ambassador, **Abdelfattah EzzEldin** who is a graduate of class 1972 advised us to appreciate the diversity in politics and to have a strategic look at everything. He adds that we should balance between our social and academic lives. "In Egypt, we have lots of thinking tanks that we should learn from such as Dr. Botros Ghaly. **Dr. Tarek Emera** the professor of statistics advised us not to let the social media and technology take over our lives and to appreciate other aspects of life. **Dr. Zeinab Youssef** the professor of statistics is a graduate of class 1978, advised the students to set specific goals for their selves that would make their journey meaningful. Finally, at the end of the visit, the ambassador **Adel El Meligy**, the Chairman of the Graduates Association of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science concluded by giving advice to the accompanying students to exert more effort, research; and expressed his readiness to communicate with the faculty for any activities held there.





Social Justice is a Matter of Policies not Numbers

Dr. Reem AbdelHalim

Author of A-B Social Justice (2019)
Economist- FEPS CLASS 1999

Social justice might seem to have a very clear meaning. However, if you asked anyone about its definition, even a specialist in social sciences or Economics, he would be clueless. There is no scientific definition of it. It might be the feeling of satisfaction you have when you see that what you get is fair enough. Maybe because it is equal to your skills, but what if you wondered how you formed your own skills? Did you get a fair chance to form them? Is having a fair chance to form them is also a fair chance to exploit it? Does your homeland or your ethnic, religious beliefs hold you back? They are all questions that trigger a discussion about the concept of social justice without a clear definition and perhaps without the need, as much as the need to revise the mechanism whereby policies are received, evaluated and tested to measure exactly how you become the person you are. This is all that you need to know about social justice.

Far from figures that we know very well that they prove the absence of social justice in Egypt whether it is about wealth concentration or the very simple measures like Gini Coefficient or the availability of services or the concentration of investments geographically, the measurement of justice is associated with the perception of policies that make us better off and with the extent to which it is achieved. At least, it could be summarized in justice components of distributing public services, in other words, using functions to measure the gaps of needs when customizing public investments geographically. It is difficult to believe that it is applied in Egypt's case not only because there is no evidence that supports the geographical distribution of services between rural and urban areas but also because there is no declared basis for the investment nor the budget plan to evaluate.

Moreover, there is no system of accountability for the citizen in the first place. The capability of producing by accessing production resources, including finance, land, and marketing through a fair market is also important. However, it is not possible to believe it is applied in Egypt's case because there are no clear policies to support and stimulate the participatory access to resources or marketing through cooperatives.

The other part centers on refuting the claim for the absence of social justice, which state that wages, whose share of GDP in Egypt declined significantly since the 1980s, is linked to the decline in productivity. This claim cannot be accepted because the share of wages declines even during the period of growth in GDP. Furthermore, linking wage to productivity in Egypt's case is not reasonable as long as there is no real system that protects workers' rights or even measures this productivity in light of an economy where informal sector prevails. As for the crisis, there isn't an integrated protection system to protect the weakest or the poorest. In contrast, those who are better off could compensate for the loss by increasing returns on savings by interest rate, while the available programs to compensate the poor are really fragile, except for the successful Takafol and Karama program that covers 3.2 million families.

In brief, to debate social justice using mere 'numbers' is not acceptable because numbers can be used both ways. Instead, it is better to review the policies that generates social injustice .this could be the valid way for success.



The Relation Between Reading Theory and Reading Reality

Prof. Dr. Nadia Mostafa
Professor of Political Science

Everyone, in varying degrees and in different ways, strives to understand the facts and events that surround them, whether political, social, economic, sporting or cultural. Then, they are in a different ways try to comment in their meetings in cafes, clubs, and houses etc... This may lead to Debates or controversies, consensus or compromise or lead to conflict and bickering .

This is way of the layman, the street man or other "scientific" titles distinguishing hiis from the way of "elites" or "specialists" or intellegentia or scholars. Scientifically , it is presumed that the difference between these and those in interacting with ambient reality is an aspect known as "theory "; therefore, it is assumed that the political science student must differ from others in looking at the reality, and in the methods of understanding and interpreting it. Why?

This is because the political science student not only examines "The art of practicing politics", or the practice of "state ", its authority over the "Servants of God", but also studies the science needed to understand (monitor, describe, diagnose, analyze and interpret) reality so as to comprehend this reality\ Politics-in its broadest sense.

Thus, theory — in general, simple and without the complexities of multiple definitions of multischool (descriptive, explanatory or analytical theory, a normative, a major theory (perspective) -here means two things: first; the glasses worn by the student or

researcher that determine what he sees in the "reality " and form it. Of course, Everyone's glasses do not correspond, , so they differ in looking at reality and then in its resonation

Second; is a compass that helps to heed the destination despite the complexities of the road, such is the reality of politics in its broadest sense: what can we describe? how? And why?

Put simply: "Theoretical study" performs an important function for a good reading of reality. Also reality itself is an important input in building and development of theories. Therefore, the student of political science should be aware of the usefulness of "the theoretical" not only in scientific research and thought, but in life generally. Theory is not a decoration irrelevant to reality, or a pedantry in the name of science.

The student should be aware that he is studying political science, not "stories and tales" about politics and he should also understand that an adequate capture of politics and an accurate facilitation of discussions and scientific\intellectual dialogues depend on and adequate understanding of theory . This adequacy of understanding has conditions and rules for writing, teaching or in "self-education " ... So what are they? ... To be continued.....

Prof.Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin Appointed as 'Distinguished Professor' of Sustainable Development at Yonsei University



Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Professor in the Economics Department and Senior Vice President of the World Bank has been appointed in Yonsei Korean University as a universally distinguished sustainable development professor by the Institute For Global Engagement And Improvement.

Yonsei University is considered one of the top three universities in South Korea. Dr.Mohieldin was appointed on the 14th of February of this year. The Faculty of Economics and Political Science is congratulating him for this success and wishing him the best of luck.



Can We Consider Yousef Zidane's Guantanamo a novel?

This novel for the writer Youssef Zidane revolves around arresting journalist by mistake to put him with the terrorist groups in an American prison in Cuba. Then the novel tells us about the injustice, torture, and pressure that practiced on the journalist to make him confess crimes and events that he didn't commit because Americans believed that he was Abu Belal close to Osama bin Laden.

You as a reader will feel confused during the story from believing the journalist or the American evidence that he is terrorist? But the main question that will come into your mind: if the novel has any main events? No.Does its ending differ from its beginning? Still, the answer is no. So how can we call this literature work as a novel if it doesn't have the features of any story from influential heroes to main events to different places and plot twists?

That's what I felt from reading the novel that there is no story but it rather about one-sided person remembering moments in his life and expressing his opinions in religious and political issues that fundamentally express the writer's opinion even if the novel is representing the injustice of American towards Arabs in prisons, this won't enrich the reader with anything new as it's obvious information. What will I gain from knowing the injustice practiced in American prisons towards Arabs?

Their contradiction between declaring what they believe in human rights and at the same time making violations towards the simplest principles that they believe in? We don't need symbols in any novel to describe what we see every day, for example, what made Naguib Mahfouz novels so unique that he used symbols to represent new ideas and a new way of understanding events that we didn't reach in the past and till now.

In addition to this, what makes any novel unique is conflict of ideas that the writer believes in versus what he doesn't believe, in order to create new ideas and changes in the reader and story; to make the reader rethink again about issues and that's what I hadn't felt at all, despite that the writer expressed his opinions in religious and political issues but he was talking with one-sided voice and there was no discussion Or any criticizing towards these opinions. This novel wasn't the best for the writer but this doesn't mean that he doesn't have inspirational works.

Nourhan Elmenyawy
Third Level Political Science Student





Cairene Margins

Nada Knani

German Tunisian Student at FEPS



My name is Nada, I'm 20 years old, I'm from Germany and I'm studying Political Science at the University of Hamburg in the last year. I studied at the FEPS in the fall semester 2018/2019 because it was very important for me to get to know a new university, a new city, a new country, new people and actually a new world through a semester abroad.

Especially as a student of political science, it is very important to get to know with other paradigms, other learning methods and, above all, another epistemology. This became very clear to me, after which I studied postcolonial studies and the western dominance of knowledge generation. Especially the book "Provincializing Europe" by Dipesh Chakrabarty made me questioning the western tradition of knowledge and its aggressive occur.

It was also very clear to me at the beginning that I wanted to do the semester abroad in the Arab world. One reason for my great interest in the Arab world are my roots: Although I was born in Germany, my family is from Tunisia.

And which city is more suitable for a semester abroad than the heart of the Arab world: Cairo? Without ever having been to Egypt, let alone being in Cairo, I applied for the Wafedin Program of the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and thank God: My application was successful. Arriving in Cairo in September, I was able to get a taste of the courses at the beginning of the semester, which was urgently needed, because the FEPS offers a very wide range of courses in the English, French and Arabic sections. I was very pleased with the range of courses offered, covering a great many spectra: Comparative Politics, Current Political Issues, Government Studies,

Security Studies, and Regional and International Relations. I noticed at the beginning that the workload of the courses of the FEPS surpasses the workload I am used to at my university in Hamburg: The courses took place twice a week, in some cases there was also a section and there was a lot to do and quizzes, individual and group assignments, presentations and more. Above all, the mid-term exams were very new to me, since I am used to only one exam for each course at my university. Also, I have noticed the difference that in Egyptian universities much value is placed on participation, which is usually not the case at my home university. There usually only counts, simply to be present. I found it very good that the professors did present their presentations in the lectures, but nevertheless most of them insisted on having a discussion in the course. I was very impressed by the constant connection to the Arab world, the Arab League, the Arab political situation and Egypt's position in this region. I noticed that here many topics were dealt with above all from the perspective of security policy and the perspective of (neo-) realism and I often noticed a connection of the topics of a course to other courses.

The semester at the FEPS has been able to offer me a lot and open my door to a new way to learn political science and I am very thankful for this experience. I am especially grateful to have met to many ambitious and kind-hearted classmates who have always been at your side. I was very happy to have met such a welded together student community, which I know less in Germany.



Men Secret Club Movie : Has Karim Abdelaziz Lost His Comic Sense ?

Amr Hussein

Cinema Reviewer at Cinematgy—FEPS CLASS2013



The majority of Karim Abdel Aziz's fans were wondering, along with the launching campaign of the new movie "Nadi Al Regal Al Serry - The Secret Men Club", "does Karim Abdel Aziz still Hold his old comic sense?"

Perhaps the main reason behind this debate is the return of the Egyptian celebrity to be starred in a comedy movie after more than 12 years. Many changes happened since "Fi Mahatet Masr - At Egypt Station" in 2007, these changes started with Karim Abdul Aziz himself, who transformed from a funny handsome boy to mature man, on the other hand the rules of success have been changed, especially after those tremendous events in Egypt after 2011, which changed the way audience interact with content they watch.

During this period, Karim Abdel Aziz presented unstable performances in his acting career, between dazzling and bad. The most revealing example of this was his role in the movie "Al Feil Al Azraq - The Blue Elephant" which had a great impact on both the box office and critics. Then he presented two series with a bad to medium performance in "Wesh Tany - another face" and "Al Zebaqa - The Mercury". But, despite this fluctuation, the audience was always eager to know his next step, on the other hand he didn't lose his charisma and attendance at all. Finally he decided to return to the cinema again, accompanied by his old mate, who has become one of the most important stars of cinema and drama in Egypt now, Maged Alkadwani, to recreate the wonderful

comedy duo, who collaborated in "Haramia Fi KJ2 Thieves in KG2" and "Haramia Fi Thailand - Thieves in Thailand". In the new movie, Karim collaborates with the director Khaled Halafawi and the writer Ayman Al Wattar, who belong to the new film-making generation.

In his new movie "Nadi Al Regal Al Serry", Karim Abdel Aziz re-appeared in a comedy film, but he no longer has his old sense of humor, despite the fact that the movie itself is good and funny, and it doesn't seem like a coincidence. It was clear that Abdel Aziz lost his usual **comic charisma** we used to love, and the reason behind this was the movie intention to focus on the other comedians in the supporting roles in the first place, like Baiomi Fouad and Motaaz Al Toni.

Also, the movie depended on the special appearance of many stars, creating the most used success formula in the majority of the Egyptian movies. And those stars "Hamdy Al Marghany, Hesham Maged, Akram Hosny, Ahmed Amin, and Ayman Al Wattar" won the best scenes in the whole movie.

So, "Nadi Al Regal Al Serry" is a really good comedy film, with a good idea, script, direction, and a good overall form, but its leading star, Karim Abdel Aziz, wasn't really the game changer in this movie.

Investing in Stability Summit

Ramy Magdy

Editor in Chief



One of the few things that grabbed my attention in the recently concluded LAS-EU Summit 2019 is the slogan it raised 'Investing in Stability'. Of course one cannot infer answers from such a slogan. What this slogan provokes is rather 'questions' not answers. Does this slogan entail -after the huge period of upheavals since 2011- that the EU concluded that his role with the grey League of Arab States should focus on stability not change? Does this open a new chapter in the EU vision for the region that is based on keeping a stable status quo and disregarding democratization? Does this means that what is next is a decade of security not democracy? This need not to bear negative connotations as the word 'stability' always invite, but for a continent -deeply immersed in the progress fantasy like Europe- to choose instead the slogan of 'stability' must mean some radical changes in vision underway. One can only hope that our fates may come better through these changes. I don't know.



To The Generous soul that left us, to the soul of Mrs. Eman Anwar we dedicate our fifth issue

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