

Dean's Update

March Highlight: Month of Reading

Dear colleagues,

There have been several activities in the National Month of Reading that stimulated intellectual discussions among faculty and students.

On March 8, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences was pleased to hold a lecture by Mr. Robert Irwin, a guest author at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature. Mr. Irwin is a scholar in Middle Eastern history and culture, a teacher and author of over 20 fiction and non-fiction books. In the session, he shared his insights on translation of the Arabian Nights into English, and after the lecture, Mr. Irwin signed copies of his books.

On March 14, the College hosted the "Families, Education and Urban Land-

scapes: Multiple Spheres of Mobility Within Cities" workshop which was organized in collaboration with Marie Currie Fellow researcher, Dr. Jill Ahrens. The workshop discussed Globalisation that heightened the intensity and complexity of mobility and migration patterns. Cities, societies and nations are not bounded and self-sufficient units, instead transnational linkages across space and time are of increasing importance. The workshop, aimed to analyse the everyday lived experiences of individuals in the context of distinct, albeit interconnected, spheres of mobility within the city. The presentations part of this symposium engaged with topics such as: the care provision within Emirati households; knowledge mobilities at international universities in Dubai.

Sincerely,
Hamdy Hassan
Acting Dean



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Supervised by:
Dr. Hamdy Hassan

Student Input on Al-Maktoum Program

Away from the sun of the UAE and under the snowflakes of Scotland, I met with a big batch of people from all over the UAE, Malaysia, and Egypt to study about leadership and globalization at the Al-Maktoum College. Through this trip, I gained confidence, independence, as well as strengthened communication and leadership skills. I was also lucky to gain much knowledge about the UK which plays a significant role in the world from an anthropological approach. What I really liked the most about this program is the fact that I developed a high level of tolerance and acceptance towards people and cultures. In turn, this gave me inner peace and stability because I started being less judgmental and able to embrace differences in everything.

By: Meera Alzaabi





Gergana Alzeer Assistant Professor

Dr. Gergana Alzeer is an Assistant Professor in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Zayed University, Dubai. She has over 12 years of experience in teaching and advising female Emirati students. Gergana has an interdisciplinary background in architecture, social sciences, and education, as well as advising and capacity building. With her vivid interdisciplinary background, Gergana has worked in teaching, research and development, involving various community development projects in Palestine, Canada and the UAE. Her research interests focus on issues of space, place, gender and learning. Her current research investigates women learners' spatiality with emphasis on social theories of space and the intersectionality of space, gender and learning, including the role of space in learning and its influence on the students learning experience. Other aspects of her research include women's mobility and gendered spaces.

Gergana has been teaching and advising at ZU for over 12 years, occupying several roles in different colleges and departments. She has witnessed a lot of change and development within the institution, a change she says she is proud to be part of. Her experience at ZU can be summarised by "never having a dull movement". She describes individuals she works with as "wonderful colleagues and friends" and students as "really kind and polite".

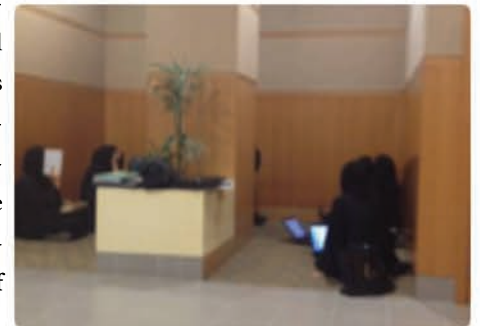
Her favourite part of the job is when she sees the huge transformation in students after they spend few semesters at ZU. Gergana can see that she is making a difference here at the university and with the students, and that has been the ongoing reward and push forward in her career at ZU.

Gergana recently moved from the University College to CHSS, and she says that "it felt like coming back home". She started as an adjunct at the same college when it had a different name (CAS) before moving to UC, and she already has many close friends and colleagues. At UC, her experience was unique and interesting while teaching general education students, and now at CHSS, she feels she can contribute and build on past experiences while teaching and advising more senior students who are already in their majors. Witnessing those students flourish and grow until they graduate is something Gergana considers one of the joys of her job.

Gergana's research reflects her vivid interdisciplinary background being an architect, social scientist and an educator. She has been always very conscious and aware of space and its influence on people. Spaces contribute to individuals' living experiences and influence the way they interact with the world. In her research, she focuses on the intersectionality of space, gender and learning in social sciences. She concentrates on the materiality of space alongside the social construction of space by its users in an educational context. She was particularly intrigued by the unique ways students unconsciously and consciously interact and appropriate campus spaces, including sitting on the cold floor when chairs exist, finding a small hole or a niche in the wall to occupy, such as the water cooler's place or under the library staircase.



In an ethnographic qualitative inquiry that lasted for one year, Gergana explored the students' spatial experiences including the role of space in learning, the students' spatial needs and how such space can contribute to the learning experience. A lot of the students' spatiality was inspired by their socio-cultural formations and unique identity. Aspects of female agency, mobility, gendered power and gendered spaces were quite evident in the students' spatiality. Gergana continues to investigate spatiality and is currently looking at how specific classroom arrangements can contribute to students' level of engagement and interaction, learning and learning experience.



Her current research findings contribute to a better understanding of students' spatial needs, preferences and spatial experiences on campus. It also reveals the different socio-cultural formations and power relations that contribute to students' spatial appropriation and utilization of space. Her work contributes practical recommendation, in terms of furniture arrangement, walls artefacts and utilization as well as ceiling and other physical aspects, to enhance the in-class and outside classroom experiences. Her work also confirms and extends several social sciences' theories on space including Lefebvre's abstract triad of perceived, conceived and lived, providing several types of spaces that emerged from her field work.

Rima Sabban

Visiting Scholarship at the London School of Economics

Dr. Rima Sabban, Assistant Dean of Research and Graduate Studies – Associate Professor, spent the second half of the fall semester at the London School of Economics as a Senior Visiting Scholar. She also was awarded a shared grant with a fellow researcher from the Middle East Center at the LSE Dr. Courtney Freer on a project entitled - Identity and heritage in the UAE: The Roles of Kinship, Family and the State.

The awarded project will address the unique set of circumstances in the UAE and examine the tension between how the state perpetuates heritage and identity and the ways in which families and tribes have historically done so. To that end, it will examine policy decisions ranging from the establishment of ministries of tolerance and happiness to the implementation of laws restricting marriages to members of other nationalities. The project will also assess whether, and how, the state's narrative about shared values, heritage, and identity have changed and are likely to continue to evolve, given that, for the first time in the Gulf, citizens are being required to pay taxes and participate in military service, as the UAE endeavors to end its reliance on hydrocarbons.

During her visit to London she gave a presentation related to her personal research on Mother and the National Service entitled: "Our Sons and Daughters at your Service: National Service, the State, and Mothers of the UAE". In this research, she talks about the military service as an extension of the modern nation-state system, and the long-established link between military service as an "obligation" of citizenship and nationality. Her study deconstructs the "motherhood" role in terms of its relation to the state, and the discourse used in the context of the national service in the UAE. It interrogates new concepts such as "mothers of the nation" and "the mother of the martyr", and what they bring forward and why. The research is based on field interviews from different parts of the UAE with national mothers of all ages and backgrounds to paint a detailed picture of how national mothers view this practice on their children. How did it shape their lives? How does it impact their sense of belonging to the modern state?



Students Participation in the Model United Nations at AUS

In February, nine students from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences participated in the 11th Model United Nations organized by the American University of Sharjah.

Around 800 students from local and international universities and schools participate in this conference annually. This is the second time that ZU students participate in this conference. Last year, they represented Morocco and Kazakhstan, and this year, they represented the Netherlands in several committees within the conference including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Labor Organization.

On the last day of the conference, AUS organized a ceremony and a gala dinner and awarded students with certificates for their hard work and commitment.

This conference allowed CHSS students to socialize and network with students from different institutions and backgrounds, learn how to formulate positions and produce resolutions on various issues and, most importantly, gain an in-depth understanding of some of the social, political, economic and cultural issues dominating the world today.

The students were grateful for this enriching experience and are already eager to apply for future MUNs, locally and internationally.





Media in Arabic Minor: Majors Day Attraction

ZU organized its Majors Day on the Dubai campus on February, and one of the successful promoted programs was the minor: “Media in Arabic”. On the day, the Department of Arabic Studies displayed details of the program, its courses and pre-requisites. Students from all majors, in addition to those who have not made the decision yet about their preferred specialty, expressed interest in the minor and were eager to register.

Dr. Elsayed Darwish, co-chair of the department, explained to booth visitors that the minor, if selected, would be of great help in the workplace, regardless of the decided major. Arabic has become the first language in all public-sector companies, and for that reason, it is essential to highlight the importance of such programs that CHSS has started to offer.

The Media in Arabic minor is designed for students who want to develop their speaking, reading and writing Arabic language skills in the fields of: public relations, public affairs, advertising, sales promotion and marketing. Students will develop writing for multi-platform Media in Arabic, such as writing for social media, writing for business communication, feature writing, writing for television, radio, online, public relations and promotional writing, as well as an understanding of the fundamentals of public speaking and persuasion.

Upon completion of this minor, students will have a wide knowledge of fundamentals of media writing: online and conventional, whilst deepening their language competency and refining their critical thinking skills. They will also be able to use the skills they gained in the workplace.

The program is comprised of six courses (total of 18 credit hours), namely: ARA240, Media Storytelling in Arabic I, ARA 340, Media Storytelling in Arabic II, ARA315, Advanced Arabic Professional Writing, ARA375, Public Speaking & Professional Presentation in Arabic, ARA380, Modern Arabic Syntax, and ARA395, Workshop in media translation. To enroll in the minor, students must have the permission of Arabic Department, their major college and advisor. They must have completed at least one semester in their approved major program of study, be in good standing at the university, and have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5

Students from Yerevan University in Armenia Visit ZU

On March 5, the Arabic Department at the Abu Dhabi campus welcomed ten students from Yerevan University in Armenia, accompanied by two supervising faculty from the university and a representative from the UAE embassy in Armenia. The purpose of this visit was to shed light on Arabic language programs at Zayed University, especially since the visiting students are enrolled in Bachelors and Masters programs in Arabic Studies.

Dr. Salah Darwasheh began the meeting with a welcome note and a presentation about the programs that the Arabic Department at Zu offers. Dr. Ahmad Al-Janadbah additionally spoke about ZU’s experience in teaching Arabic to speakers of other languages. The visitors were then taken on a tour around campus and into two Arabic languages classes, where an enlightening discussion took place between Armenian and UAE students. The visiting students expressed themselves in Modern Standard Arabic with high competence, and they portrayed exceptional passion towards this language, and this had a huge impact on ZU students.



In the end of the visit, which was coordinated Dr. Nizar Aloseoudi and Dr. Sana AlMajaidah, faculty from both universities discussed possibilities of future collaboration between Yerevan University and Zayed University, highlighting the importance of such an alliance that would enrich the experience of the students and add value to the Arabic language and its significance.

CHSS Students

Tour Sustainable City

On March 13, Dr. Tilde Rosmer and HSS students went on a field trip to the Sustainable City, Dubai, as part of their Critical Thinking 2 class on 'Sustainability, the Green Shift and the UAE'. The trip is the practical element of the case study of the status, possibilities and limitations of a sustainable life in the UAE. On the tour led by Tara Tariq, Manager of Sustainability Monitoring of Sustainable City, the students were introduced to the practical realization of approach of social, environmental and economic sustainability.

The tour was done using the electric buggy, as no cars are allowed inside the residential areas. They went inside a four-bedroom villa designed to minimize heating by facing east, thus limiting sunlight into the houses and providing a naturally shaded garden. In the kitchen, the students observed the many recycling waste bins, which are easily emptied at several waste points inside the community. On the roofs, they saw the solar panels used to heat the water and to produce electricity for the house generally. In the communal areas, the students witnessed the re-usage of grey water to water the greenery, including the bio domes where they saw fresh organic herbs and vegetables growing in a natural wind and water-cooled atmosphere. The produce is shared among the residents and some sold for profit.



The students were very impressed by the beauty and functionality of the community, as well as by its universal approach to a sustainable life-style, which includes increasing awareness among the residents and in Dubai generally.

Arabic Department Takes Part in Innovation Week

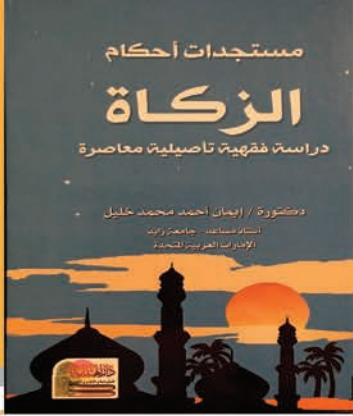
The Arabic Department in Abu Dhabi celebrated the UAE Innovation Week, with the active participation of faculty and students. Some of the sessions and activities were: Practicing Judicial (Adversary) Approach to evaluate ZU new curricula and programs as per International standards, Enhancing Multiculturalism in ZU: Establishing a new meaning of "shared power", Using hearings and sound argumentations to evaluate new programs (pros and cons), Implementing a community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program in ZU: Toward a new inclusive policy to help ZU handicapped students, ZU digital library of Emirati Cultural Heritage (ECH), and The Act of Solidarity: Toward a real partnership between ZU and students' families.



CHSS Senior Seminar Research Celebration

Senior Seminar Research Celebration was a hit this year with a large participation of students and the attendance of some faculty. The event was also catered and designed by the students. This year, the seminar welcomed special guests from outside the university including family members and friends of students.

Here are some titles of papers: Implementing Haussmannization in Abu Dhabi: Case Study of Khalifa City and Um AL Emirate Park, The Films of Yasurijo Ozu and Hirokazu Koreeda: A Study of Family in Japan, The Misinterpretation of Islam: A Textual Analysis of an ISIS Nashid and Videos, North Korean Presidential Portraits: An Analysis of Power in Oppressive Regimes, A Close Reading of Ayatullah Khomeini's 1963 and 1978 speeches: A Study in Political Persuasion, Empowering Emirati Women in the Workforce: A Case Study of Five Emirati Women in the Public Sector, Ending Child Labor in the Uttar Pradesh, Protecting Al Wathba Wetlands: A Policy Recommendation to Support Reserves, Illegalizing Euthanasia for good: Analysis the case of euthanasia by studying the examples and the cultures of the UAE, Documentary Proposal: Becoming Emirati and the Process of Citizenship, and An Analysis of Reshaping the Workforce in the UAE with Artificial Intelligence.

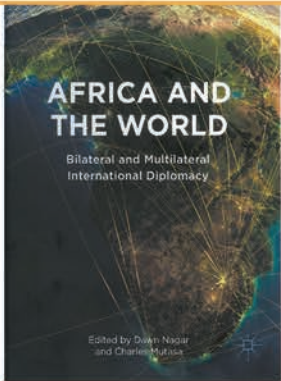


Dr. Eiman Khalil has published a new book entitled: "The provisions of Zakat and its latest developments: A contemporary scientific study."

This book is around 500 pages and deals with activating the role of Zakat as one of the tools of financial policy that stimulates investment and development, especially in this era that requires the development of production and income, and the development of individuals and societies, reviving the values of social solidarity and security which is the core of Zakat, and that promotes and sustains the preservation of human dignity. Dr. Eiman discusses the purposes of Islamic sharia (Maqasid al shraiaa) in Zakat and its relation with the Provisions of Zakat. She has added new information and new purposes such as freedom purpose and mercy purpose and also discussed the provisions of Zakat money, the traditional forms of money, and the new forms such as financial market, shares and stock, in addition to the Zakat of Intellectual property rights.

CHSS would like to congratulate Dr. Hamdy Hassan and Dr. Hala Thabet for publishing a new chapter in the newly released edited book by Palgrave on Africa and the World: Bilateral and Multilateral International Diplomacy.

This book probes key issues pertaining to Africa's relations with global actors. It provides a comprehensive trajectory of Africa's relations with key bilateral and major multilateral actors, assessing how the Cold War affected the African state systems' political policies, its economies, and its security. Taken together, the essays in this volume provide a collective understanding of Africa's drive to improve the capacity of its state of global affairs, and assess whether it is in fact able to do so.



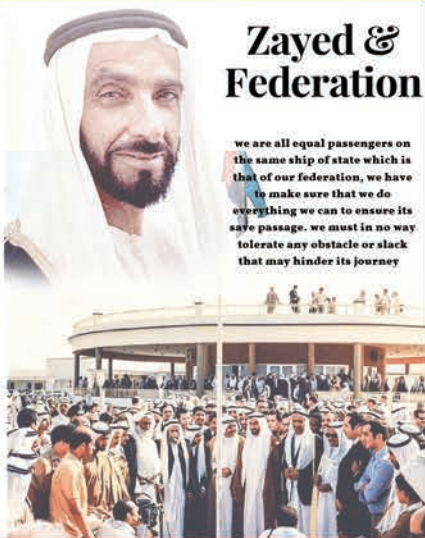
Dr. Magdalena Karolak has published a book chapter and a journal article. Details are below:

*** Book chapter**

Karolak, M. (2017). Destination Place Identity, Touristic Diversity and Diversification in the Arabian Gulf. In A. Mishrif & Y. Al Balushi a(Eds.). Economic Diversification in the GCC: Challenges and Opportunities (pp. 208-183). New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

*** Journal article**

Karolak, M. (2017). "The use of social media from revolution to democratic consolidation: the case of Tunisia". Journal of Arab and Muslim Media Research ,(2)10 18)216-199).



Zayed & Federation

we are all equal passengers on the same ship of state which is that of our federation, we have to make sure that we do everything we can to ensure its safe passage. we must in no way tolerate any obstacle or slack that may hinder its journey

"What women in the UAE have achieved in a short time, makes me reassured that what we planted yesterday has begun to bear fruit." -HH. Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan

"All the works that the Emirate Women Union did, is the result of Sheikh Zayed's encouragement for women." -HH. Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubark

Women must represent their country in women's conferences abroad to reflect the country's renaissance and to be an honorable image of us our society and our religion." -HH. Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan

SHEIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN & WOMEN ENCOURAGEMENT

CHSS Students Celebrate International Women's Day and the Legacy of Sheikh

Under the supervision of Dr. Jane Bristol-Rhys, HIS 381 students created posters to celebrate International Women's Day and for the presentation of their research on Sheikh Zayed.