

# New This Year & Executive Education

## VISITING SCHOLAR

The Middle East Initiative welcomed Professor Ellis Goldberg to Harvard Kennedy School in January 2013 as the first Kuwait Foundation Visiting Scholar. Professor Goldberg joined MEI for the spring semester from the University of Washington to teach “Politics of the Arab Spring,” a course that examined the causes, actors and consequences of political activity in the region since 2011. He also spoke on numerous occasions at HKS and throughout Harvard on the Egyptian revolution, rule of law in Egypt, and democracy and religion in the Arab World.

## SYRIA WORKING GROUP

The Middle East Initiative brought together research fellows, faculty and students in October 2012 to form the Syria Working Group at Harvard. The group met throughout the year to share insights into the situation in Syria and understand the implications of the conflict. Their work culminated in a public panel discussion in May: “Syria’s ‘Endless’ Nightmare: Humanitarian and Political Consequences.”

## SUMMER INTERNSHIP FUNDING

The Middle East Initiative was pleased to offer funding for student summer internships in the Middle East/North Africa or internships that focused on the region. MEI awarded grants to five HKS students. Check the MEI website to learn more about their internship experiences!

## CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP

The Middle East Initiative supported a workshop on civil society in the Arab World hosted by Professors Tony Saich, Tarek Masoud, and Steven Lawry, Senior Fellow of the Hauser Center. The workshop was funded by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and brought leading academics and practitioners from the Arab world together with scholars of civil society in other regions to explore the role of associational life in democratization processes around the world.

## STUDENT DEGREE FELLOWSHIPS

The Middle East Initiative awarded Kuwait Foundation Fellowships for Outstanding Emerging Leaders to two incoming students to the Mason Program at Harvard Kennedy School. These fellowships, the newest component of the Kuwait Program at Harvard Kennedy School, are designed for students who have demonstrated leadership potential and a passion for public policy issues and concerns in the Arab World.



Prof. Nicholas Burns speaks with Prince Turki Al-Faisal of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before his seminar on April 25, 2013.

## EXECUTIVE EDUCATION FELLOWSHIPS

The Middle East Initiative and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences awarded 27½ fellowships to individuals from Kuwait and the Arab World to participate in Executive Education programs at Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School. The participants had demonstrated expertise in the private, government and civil society sectors in their home countries.

## CUSTOMIZED EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Middle East Initiative worked with Executive Education to offer the week-long customized program “Negotiation Opportunities and Challenges” to 26 professionals from Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman in May, 2013. Led by faculty chair Professor Kessely Hong, the program was filled with a series of role-play exercises, lectures, case studies and other activities for the participants to build their negotiation skills.



**HARVARD Kennedy School**  
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FOR SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
*Middle East Initiative*

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# MOSAIC

2013-2014

“Deepening Harvard Kennedy School’s relationship with the governments, universities, and peoples of the Middle East.”

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## MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs  
Harvard Kennedy School  
Harvard University  
79 John F. Kennedy Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617.496.4190

[hks.harvard.edu/middleeast](http://hks.harvard.edu/middleeast)



Wael Ghonim discusses the Egyptian revolution at a 2012 JFK Jr. Forum event.

We are excited to report on the many activities and accomplishments of the Middle East Initiative (MEI) during the 2012-13 academic year.

‘Transformation’ continued to be our watchword during the past year as the unfolding events related to countries in the Middle East gave us much to study and learn. MEI focused its work on serving four constituents – the Harvard student body, Harvard faculty, the general public, and partners in the Middle East. Through working with these groups we developed a range of new programs and projects. Among the highlights of new programming for 2012–13: we convened the Syria working group; expanded our internship database for student opportunities in the region; increased support for student research and travel to the region; and held a workshop on civil society in the Arab region at the Radcliffe Institute. Our many events also brought the larger Boston based community to our campus.

Through our renewed Kuwait program we welcomed our first Visiting Scholar Ellis Goldberg during the spring semester, re-launched our faculty research grants, and awarded our first degree fellowships to two incoming students from the region. In addition, executive education programs continued to be a staple of the Kuwait programming and were well attended by diverse and distinguished participants.

We thank all of you who participated in our programming and the supporters who make our work possible. We welcome newcomers and returning students and hope you will engage with us and our work.

– **HILARY RANTISI**, DIRECTOR, MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE



# Events at a Glance

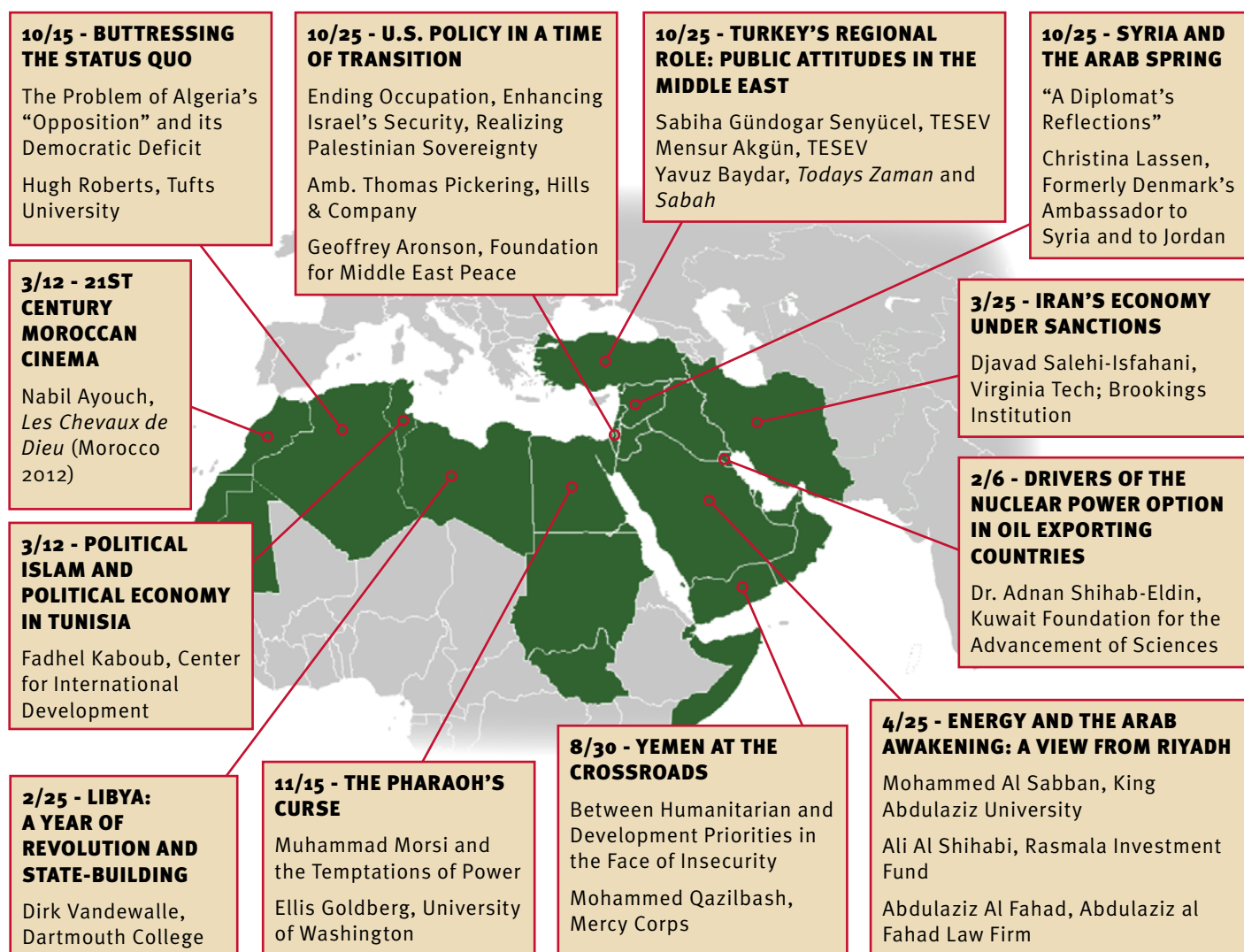
The Middle East Initiative (MEI) hosts events on the Harvard campus with the dual objective of familiarizing the community with topics concerning the Middle East and creating the space for conversations about those topics. This year MEI held 43 events and conferences, many of which focused on the ongoing transitions in the region. The map below highlights some of our events this year. A full list can be found at [www.hks.harvard.edu/middleeast](http://www.hks.harvard.edu/middleeast)



Rashid Khalidi signs a copy of his new book, *Brokers of Deceit: How the U.S. Has Undermined Peace in the Middle East*, following an MEI event on April 10, 2013.



## Highlights



## Research

The Middle East Initiative supported research for post-doctoral fellows and for students to travel to the region this year. Some of the featured projects include:

- **Youssef Chaitani** (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) is exploring the political model in **Lebanon** and the factors that render the country more resilient to adverse shocks.
- **Hamouda Chekir** (MPA/ID '13) researched why the Modernization Program in the Prime Minister's Office of **Tunisia** has failed to reduce the mismatch between job demands and offers and increase competitiveness in the economy.
- **Manoah Koletty** (MPA/ID '14) measured how the poor save for consumer goods purchases in **Jordan** to research household savings trends for a new startup, Bluelight.
- **Patrick Johnson** (MPP '13) conducted research with the International Crisis Group to collect data on the conflict and violence in **Syria**, using this to determine the best allocation of peacekeeping resources.
- **Adam Levy** (MPP '13) worked with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (Mediation Support Unit) to evaluate how mediators in high stake international negotiations can improve the likelihood of reaching sustainable negotiated settlements.
- **Ben Pittman** (MPP '14) conducted health assessments for Syrian refugees in **Jordan** for a project with Dr. Laurence Ronan (Harvard Medical School) to gather data on the Syrian refugee crisis.
- **Avery Schmidt** (MPP '14) researched Egyptian political parties with the Project on Middle East Democracy and the Egyptian Democratic Academy in **Egypt**.
- **Asma Jaber** (MPP '14) completed an internship with the Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG) to research methods to provide affordable sewage tankers to Al-Walaja residents in **Palestine**.
- **Jieun Baek** (MPP '14) completed an internship with the Ministry of Treasury in Ankara, **Turkey**, crafting policy memos while studying Turkish.
- **Rana El Hattab** (MPP '13) developed a robust methodology and a sustainable model for a public opinion provider in **Egypt**.



Esraa Abdel Fattah, vice-chairman of the Egyptian Democratic Academy presents at a panel discussion following a MEI screening of the documentary "A Whisper to a Roar," about democracy activists.

The Middle East Initiative also supported four faculty research proposals as part of the Kuwait Program Research Fund.

- The Science, Technology and Innovation Gap in the Gulf: Revamping University Education & Innovation in Sustainable Technologies  
*Professor Venkatesh Narayanamurti, Harvard Kennedy School*
- Sustainability and Environmental Health Initiatives for Kuwait Places of Higher Education  
*Professor John Spengler, Harvard School of Public Health*
- A Critical Review of the Literature on the Economic Challenges of the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council  
*Professor Ishac Diwan, Harvard Kennedy School*
- Global Crossroads: Immigration to Kuwait and the GCC in International Perspective  
*Professor Bart Bonikowski, Department of Sociology, and Professor Justin Gest, Department of Government, Harvard University.*

## PEOPLE AT MEI

MEI welcomed Professor Juliette Kayyem, Lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, as our newest faculty affiliate.

We were sad to see our program coordinator of two and a half years, Noelle Janka, leave her position in February to explore other career interests. We thank her for her tremendous and innovative contributions to our work at the Middle East Initiative and wish her all the best in her new pursuits.

In her place we welcomed Krysten Hartman as our new program coordinator. Krysten joined MEI after returning to the U.S. from a year in Kuwait on a Fulbright Fellowship. While there, she conducted research in the field of special education, advocating for increased access to education and better oversight within the government schools.