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# FALL 2022 SEMESTER NEWSLETTER

 **FLETCHER**  
FARES CENTER FOR EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES



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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This has been a vibrant semester for the Fares Center. Being fully back in-person has helped fill the center with dozens of students every week and we have also been able to host a few speakers in-person for the first time in a few years. We brought much needed analysis and nuance to better understand some of the current affairs in the Middle East as well as opportunities for students to learn more about the culture and languages of the region.

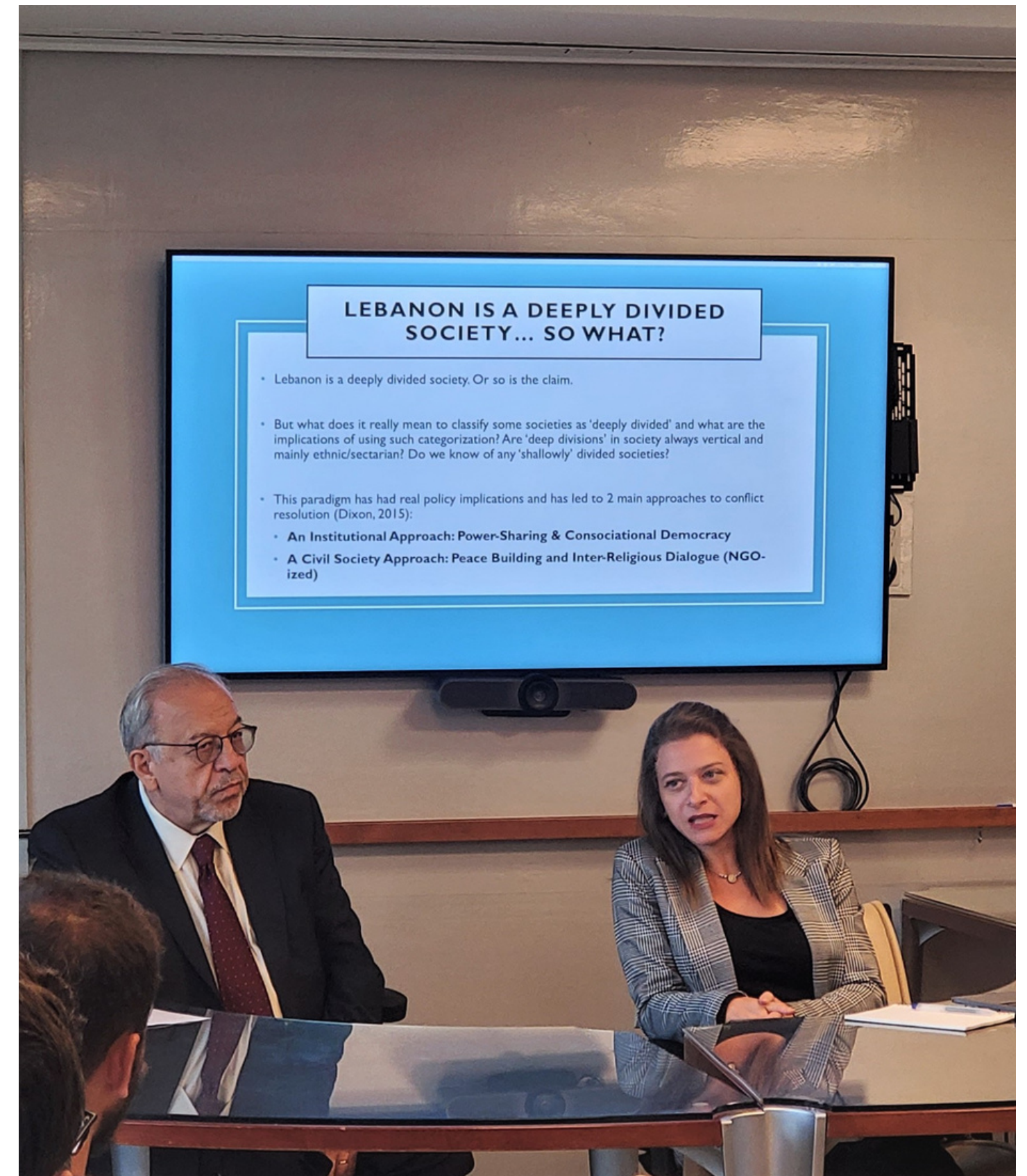


The Fares Center Seminar on the Middle East  
September 20, 2022



# Lebanon: Fracture & Fragmentation

The Fares Center welcomed Professor Rima Majed from American University of Beirut to discuss the political fragmentation of Lebanon and future of the country. During her talk, titled "What is So Deep About Deeply Divided Societies? Dealing with Lebanon's Sectarian System", Prof. Majed provided an overview of the main social and political divisions in the country as well as a critique of the "sectarian approach" to analyze Lebanon. One of her main arguments was that, "Social differences don't lead to war, political differences do."

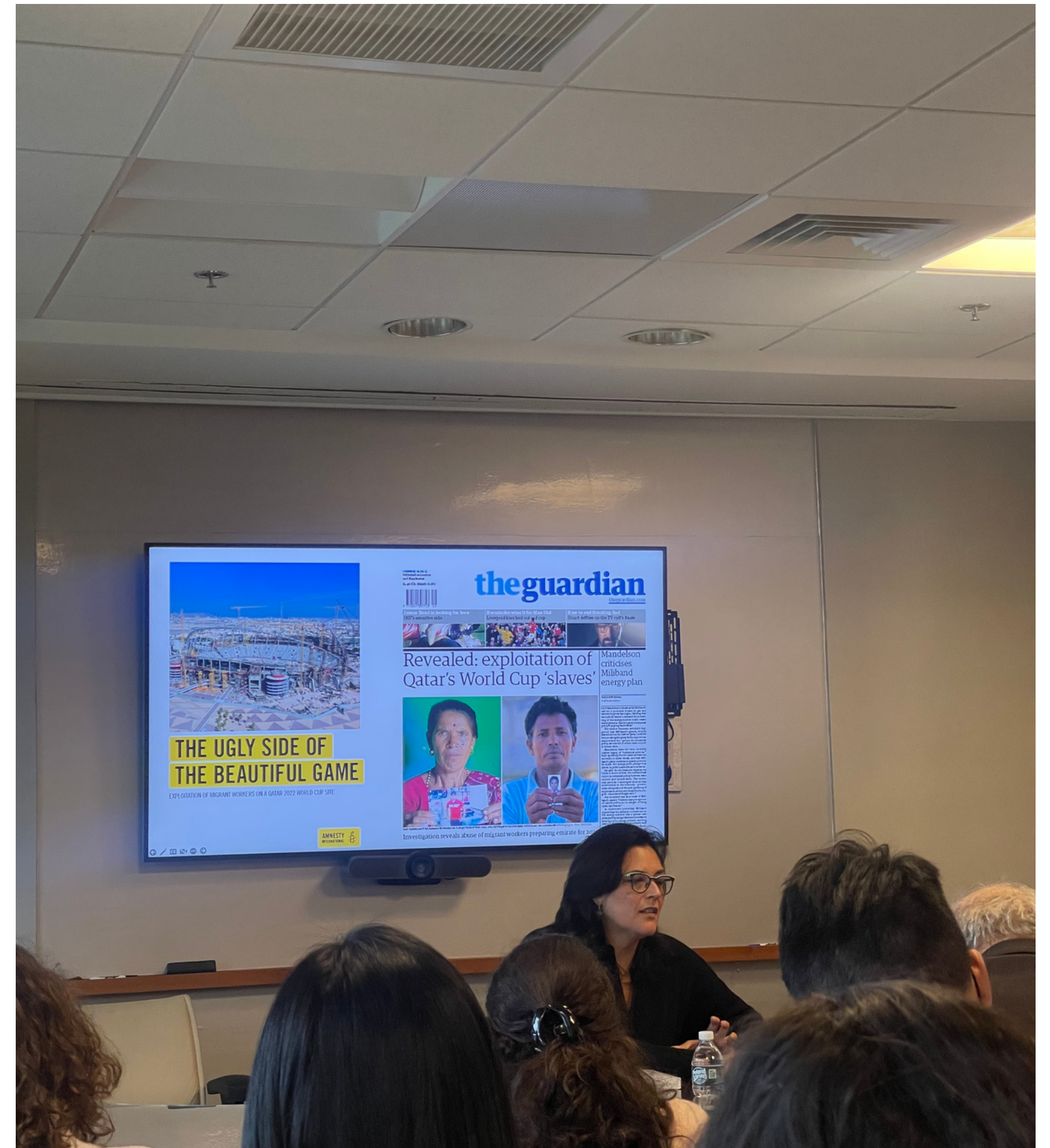


The Fares Center Seminar on the Middle East  
October 4, 2022



# Qatar, World Cup & Migrant Workers

The Fares Center hosted NYU Professor Natasha Iskander to discuss her latest book, “Does Skill Make Us Human? Migrant Workers in 21st-Century Qatar and Beyond with.” The event was jointly organized with the Leir Institute. Professor Iskander provided an overview of Qatar’s booming construction industry in the lead-up to the 2022 World Cup, explaining that skill functions as a marker of social difference powerful enough to structure all aspects of social and economic life.



The Fares Center Seminar on the Middle East  
October 18, 2022



# Iran Uprisings

The Fares Center hosted Boston College Professor Ali Banuazizi to discuss the Iranian uprisings and the future of the Islamic republic. Prof. Banuazizi provided much needed context to the uprising that was taking place in Iran at the moment and shared his views about its potential outcome. The seminar also discussed the implications of the uprising for Iran's regional status and similar movements in the Middle East.



The Fares Center Seminar on the Middle East  
November 1, 2022



# Saudi-U.S. Relations

Following the trends of covering current affairs in the region, the Fares Center invited Dr. Karen Young, Senior Research Scholar at the Columbia University Center on Global Energy Policy to discuss the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia in the midst of a deglobalized economy. She discussed the latest crisis in the relationship between the two countries as well as the potential implications of the ongoing international energy crisis both for Saudi and the United States.



The Fares Center Seminar on the Middle East  
November 15, 2022



# Israel's Elections

Israel held elections in early November. In order to discuss the results and future of the country, the Fares Center hosted a conversation with Carolina Landsman, senior columnist at Haaretz, Professors As'ad Ghanem from Haifa University and Professor Ami Pedahzur from University of Texas at Austin. They talked extensively about the increased influence of the far-right in Israeli politics and the changes in policy their role in government might bring.





The Fares Center Seminar on the Middle East  
December 13, 2022



# World Cup Perspectives

Given the widespread criticism directed at Qatar's hosting of the World Cup, the Fares Center hosted Professors Chidi Odinkalu and Carlos Alvarado Quesada, and Fletcher student Dana Duffis, providing an important platform for critical non-Western views on this issue. The speakers discussed the positive and negative aspects of the Qatar-hosted World Cup, questions of economic sovereignty, and the importance of football - and sports more generally - for questions of national identity, pride and even diplomacy.



Co-Sponsored Events  
October 6, 2022



# Tunisian President Marzouki

Former Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki was invited to give a lecture at the Fletcher School. He was hosted by the Dean of the Fletcher School, Rachel Kyte, and the Fares Center, represented by its Director, Professor Nadim Rouhana, who chaired the event. Marzouki, the first democratically-elected President of Tunisia after its uprising in 2011, offered personal reflections on the Arab Spring to an audience of students and faculty. He spoke about the events that took place in Tunisia, his presidency, and the state of affairs in the country at the moment. President Marzouki was also hosted for lunch at the Murrow Room of the Fletcher Center, alongside other faculty members.



Fall 2022 Semester Newsletter

# Photos of President Marzouki's Visit



Co-Sponsored Events  
October 27, 2022



# Voices from the Woman of Iran Panel

The Fares Center co-sponsored a student-organized panel on the Iranian uprising. The event was put together by the Women in International Security student group, who invited Northeastern Professor Valentine Moghadam, PhD candidate Satgin Hamrah and Fletcher student Ciara Moezidis. These Iranian women discussed the context of protests and what Fletcher students should know about where we go from here and how we can support the people of Iran. The panel was chaired by Fletcher Professor Ayesha Jalal.

**VOICES FROM THE  
WOMEN OF IRAN**

PLEASE JOIN WIIS FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION ON  
WOMEN AND THE PROTESTS IN IRAN

 **PROF. VALENTINE M. MOGHADAM**  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

 **SATGIN HAMRAH**  
PHD CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
TUFTS UNIVERSITY SAS

 **CIARA MOEZIDIS**  
MALD STUDENT AT THE FLETCHER SCHOOL

MODERATED BY  
**PROF. AYESHA JALAL**  
THE FLETCHER SCHOOL 

WHERE?  
**ASEAN  
AUDITORIUM**  
THE FLETCHER  
SCHOOL

**THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 27TH  
5:30 P.M.**

**SIGN UP HERE!**



Cultural Events  
October 5, 2022



## "Costa Brava" Screening (Lebanon, 2021)

The first cultural event of the semester was the screening of Lebanese film "Costa Brava," directed by Mounia Akl. The film focuses on the lives of a couple who decide to leave the toxic pollution of their home city of Beirut, hoping to build a utopian existence in a pristine home in the mountains.



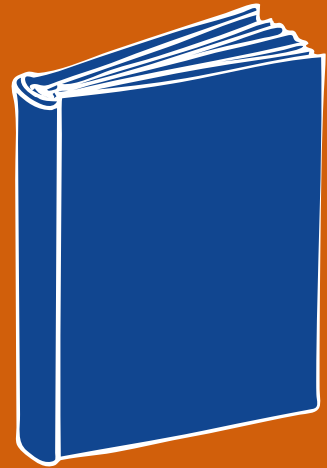
Cultural Events



# "Til Kingdom Come" Screening

The Fares Center joined the Religion, Law and Diplomacy student group to organize the screening of "Til Kingdom Come." The documentary provides an in-depth look into the unique bond between Evangelical Christianity and the Jewish State. It gives an overview of American rural communities' connection to Israel and the funding channels in U.S. lobbying





# Library Project

The Center is curating a small library that will be launch in the coming months. This addition will strengthen the position of the Fares Center as one of the main reference points for Middle Eastern Studies in the Greater Boston Area. In December, the Center hosted a book giveaway event for Fletcher faculty, students and staff.



# Academic Activities



# Language Tables

The Fares Center has run five language tables this semester. Three Arabic tables, two beginners and one advanced; one beginner Hebrew table; and two Turkish tables, one beginner and one advanced.



# Academic Activities - Research Support



## Research Assistant Initiative

The Research Assistants Initiative pairs Fletcher faculty with qualified Fletcher students who assist them with conducting research on a topic related to the Middle East. Many students have expressed their desire to work more closely with faculty, and last year's RAs indicated that being a Fares Research Assistant increased their interaction with professors and was overall a significant benefit to their Fletcher experience.

The Fares Center is currently supporting the research of five faculty members at the Fletcher School through this initiative by providing support to seven students. Some of the students have had the opportunity to publish through their RA work.



## Student Working Groups

These groups will be focused on a country, area, or theme related to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and may engage in several academic activities, including but not limited to conducting research, organizing speaker events, preparing publications, and creating a podcast. The Fares Center is currently supporting two student working groups, one focusing on student activism in different Arab countries and another focusing on the political developments of the Sudan.

# Some of Our Students



**Alex Kochenburger**  
MALD '23



**Leen Hayek**  
MALD '24



**Ciara Moezidis**  
MALD '24/MTS '24



**Yvonne Silva**  
MALD '23



**Kate Hibbert**  
MALD '24

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# Alex Kochenburger

Language Table & Working Group Participant

Alex is a second-year MALD student originally from Storrs, Connecticut. He received his B.A. in International Studies from the College of the Holy Cross. Before attending Fletcher, Alex was an employee of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program with AMIDEAST in Washington, D.C. and also studied Arabic with the Center for Arabic Study Abroad program. His primary interests lie in international education, youth engagement, and conflict resolution.



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# Leen Hayek

## Research Assistant

Leen is a first-year MALD student from Jordan, interested in the intersection of technology, innovation, energy, and global business. Leen has a B.S. in Engineering Sciences with a focus on renewable energy. Leen worked as an advisor in the international development sector across multiple projects focusing on labor market reform, refugee capacity building, and promoting private-public partnership models in the renewable energy and ICT sectors in Jordan. She is one of the Research Assistants funded by the Fares Center to support faculty focusing on the Middle East.



# Yvonne Silva

## Center Assistant

Yvonne is a second-year MALD student focusing on International Security Studies, International Business, and International Organization & Global Governance. She received her bachelor's degree from University of Oregon, studied Arabic at Princess Sumaya University for Technology in Amman, Jordan and studied Spanish Universidad de Oviedo in Oviedo, Spain. Prior to joining Fletcher, she worked for several years in civil litigation firms in the Pacific Northwest and worked for the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport in Madrid, Spain. She volunteers her time in helping immigrant families in their visa application process, interpreting services, and providing resources.



# Kate Hibbert

## Center Assistant

Kate is a first-year MALD student focusing on negotiation and conflict resolution and Middle East studies. Prior to Fletcher, she managed major fundraising campaigns and events and coordinated data projects across departments at a nonprofit tuition-free middle school dedicated to serving newcomer refugee girls in Decatur, Georgia, U.S. She holds a bachelor's degree in World Languages with a minor in TESOL from Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana, during which she studied in France, Argentina, and Jordan to learn French, Spanish, and Arabic. Kate hopes to strengthen diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), peacebuilding, and conflict resolution efforts in her career in international relations and public service.



# Ciara Moezidis

## Social Media Coordinator

Ciara is a first-year MALD student also pursuing a dual degree at Harvard Divinity School. She focuses on human rights issues of ethnoreligious persecution, apartheid, and genocide in the Middle East and North Africa. She is also passionate about bringing a more human-rights-centered and religiously-literate approach to U.S. foreign policy. Born and raised in California, Ciara attended Santa Clara University, where she served as student body president and held internships on Capitol Hill, at the Project on Middle East Democracy, and for the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. She spent the past summer in Palestine/Israel and speaks Spanish, Farsi and dabbles in Levantine Arabic.

"Fares has become a home away from home for me because of the community of friends and mentors I have found."

-MALD '24 Student

"The events at Fares covering the various cultures and contexts of the MENA region necessarily reinforce the idea that this region is not a monolith, and as future practitioners we should not treat it as such."

-MALD '23 Student

# Thoughts on Fares from Our Students







## New Fares Logo

Following The Fletcher School's rebranding and logo change, the Fares Center has a new logo. The logo merges the Fares Center's name with The Fletcher School's.

For Spring 2023, the Fares Center is planning numerous events and lectures. In addition to our own seminar series, we remain committed to supporting relevant events organized by the student body or other Centers at the school. Language tables will continue and we are planning to expand the student working group project. This semester will also include two important cultural events in addition to our regular film screenings. Keep an eye out for announcements!

