



FaresNews

The latest news about The Fares Center activities

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The Fares Center

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THE FLETCHER
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Throughout Academic Year 2020–2021, the Fares Center worked to reestablish its role as a leading research center in Middle Eastern Studies. We sought to reactivate past activities, establish new initiatives, and rebrand and visibilize the Center and its activities and expand its outreach. Taking into consideration the health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center aimed to be a source of support and stability for Fletcher students, faculty, and Middle East scholars in general.

Completion of Academic Year 2020-21 Activities

Events

Throughout the year, the Fares Center organized and sponsored a total of 9 public lectures, conferences, and roundtables with 15 different speakers. Fares utilized the talents and knowledge of Fletcher and Tufts students as well as the diversity of the international Middle Eastern communities to promote rigorous interdisciplinary analysis and open dialogue on issues related to the Middle Eastern, North African, and Eastern Mediterranean regions.

RAs

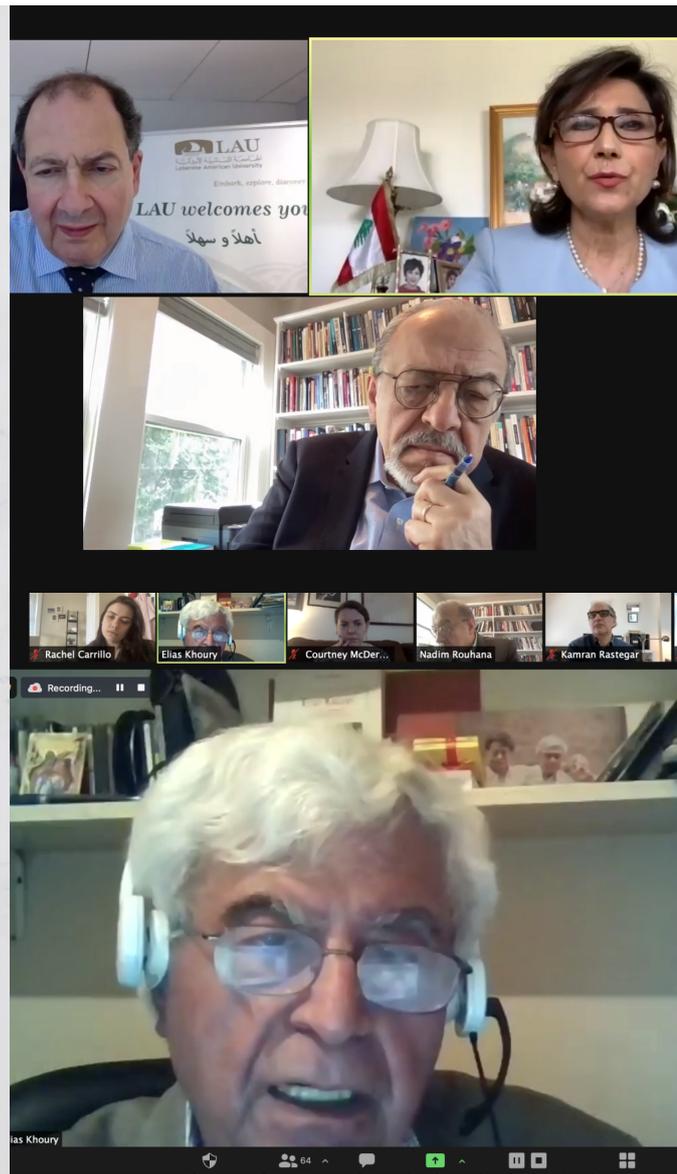
In AY 2020–21, the Fares Center launched a Research Assistant initiative that paired seven Fletcher faculty conducting research related to the Middle East with eight qualified Fletcher students. Many students have expressed their interest to work more closely with faculty, and last year’s RAs have indicated that being a Fares Research Assistant increased their interaction with professors, and was overall a significant benefit to their Fletcher experience. The Center will offer this opportunity again in 2021–2022.

Fletcher Student Working Groups

In Spring Semester 2021, The Fares Center introduced an opportunity to students to form “Student Working Groups” based at the Center. These groups are focused on a country, area, or theme related to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and may engage in a number of academic activities, including but not limited to conducting research, organizing speaker events, preparing publications, creating a podcast, etc. This year, the Fares Center accepted and is currently funding four groups, with the intention to add more in Academic Year 2021–2022.

Language Tables

In Spring 2021, The Fares Center announced the introduction of Fares Language Tables (FLT). Fares Language Tables facilitate language learning and aptitude in the Center affiliated languages of Arabic and Turkish, with Hebrew and Farsi being added for 2021-2022. These language tables are led by native speakers and met weekly via Zoom for Spring 2021, with the hopes to move to an in-person format in the fall. All language table leaders are employed as student-workers of the Fares Center.



Announcements and Achievements



Launch of series on:

Arab Diplomacy at the United Nations

New Approaches to Regional and Global Challenges

Tuesday, April 20th, 2021
1:00 - 2:15 pm ET



H.E. Dr. Amal Mudallali

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations



In collaboration with Lebanese American University (LAU), the Fares Center launched a new seminar series: Arab Diplomacy at the United Nations. LAU and Fares welcomed Ambassador Amal Mudallali in April, and the series will continue this fall. In addition to Lebanon, the initiative will focus on different Arab nations' approaches to regional challenges, with plans to welcome the Permanent Representative to Morocco, Oman, and Jordan. The project is designed by Nadim Rouhana, Director of the Fares Center, and Nadim Shehadi, Executive Director of LAU's Academic Center.

Center Affiliate Publications



Founding Director of the Fares Center, Leila Fawaz, was one of three recipients of the 2020 Harvard Medal in recognition for her extraordinary service to Harvard University. The Harvard Medal recognizes extraordinary service to the University in a variety of areas, such as teaching, fundraising, leadership, and innovation.



In January 2021, Director Rouhana published a new book entitled “When Politics are Sacralized: Comparative Perspectives on Religious Claims and Nationalism”. The work interdisciplinarily and comparatively examines the fusion between religious claims and nationalism and studies its political manifestations. Director Rouhana co-edited *When Politics are Sacralized* with his colleague Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, Professor at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Queen Mary University of London.



**When Politics
Are Sacralized**
Comparative Perspectives on
Religious Claims and Nationalism
Edited by Nadim N. Rouhana and
Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian

Over the years, there have been increasing intersections between religious claims and nationalism and their power to frame and govern world politics. *When Politics Are Sacralized* interdisciplinarily and comparatively examines the fusion between religious claims and nationalism and studies its political manifestations. State and world politics, when determined or framed by nationalism fused with religious claims, can provoke protracted conflict, infuse explicit religious beliefs into politics, and legitimize violence against racialized groups. This volume investigates how, through hegemonic nationalism, states invoke religious claims in domestic and international politics, sacralizing the political. Studying Israel, India, the Palestinian National Movement and Hamas, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Iran, and Northern Ireland, the fourteen chapters engage with the visibility, performativity, role, and political legitimization of religion and nationalism. The authors analyze how and why sacralization affects political behaviors apparent in national and international politics, produces state-sponsored violence, and shapes conflict.

Nadim N. Rouhana is Professor of International Affairs and Conflict Studies and Director of the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. His most recent (edited) volume is *Israel and its Palestinian Citizens: Ethnic Privileges in the Jewish State* (Cambridge, 2017).

Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian is the Lawrence D. Biele Chair in Law at the Faculty of Law-Institute of Criminology and School of Social Work and Social Welfare at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Global Chair in Law at Queen Mary University of London. Her latest book is *Incarcerated Childhood and the Politics of Unchilding* (Cambridge, 2019).

Cover image: John Martin, *Jehovah Commanding the Sun to Stand Still upon Gibeon*, 1816. Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington

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Center Affiliate Professor Christine Bustany has recently edited a report in collaboration with Boston University Law School's International Human Rights Clinic, and Clinic Director Professor Susan Akram.

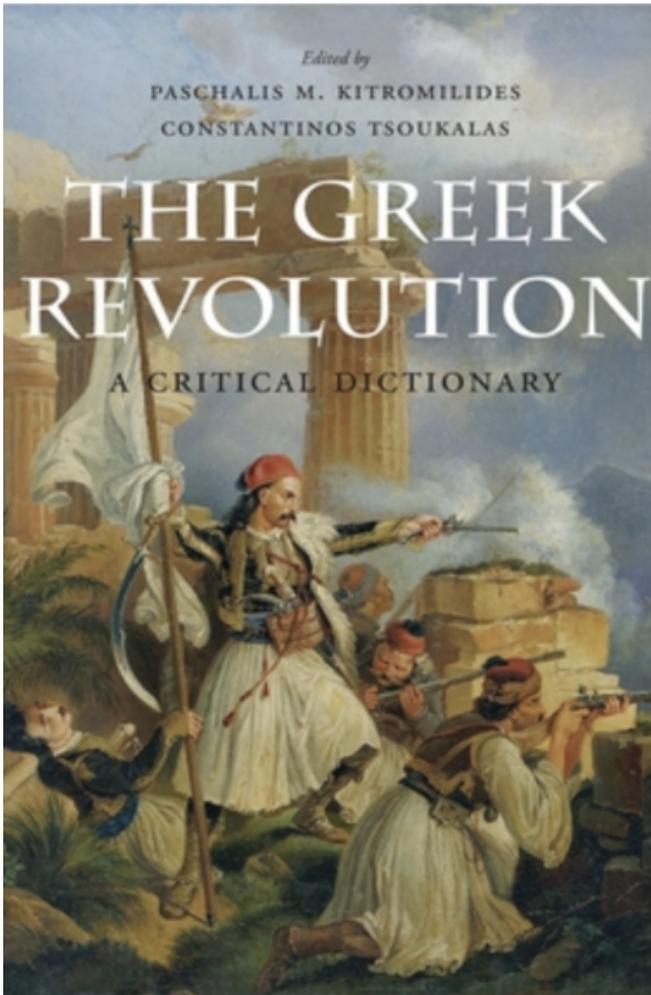


Boston University School of Law



The report maps the issue of statelessness in Jordan. Please see Fares website for access to the full report

Based on research and fieldwork conducted over the course of a year and a half, this Report provides the domestic, international, and regional laws relevant to statelessness in Jordan. The research identifies gaps in the laws and in their implementation that are perpetuating statelessness, discusses the major consequences of statelessness, and highlights the work and strategies of various stakeholders and their achievements thus far in Jordan. The Report concludes with recommendations aimed at reducing barriers to legal status that would significantly mitigate statelessness in Jordan. The Report's analysis seeks to contribute to deeper understanding of the issues faced in Jordan specifically, and to set out proposals for reform that also relate more broadly to statelessness across the region.



Center Affiliate Yannis Evrigenis wrote a new chapter

Fares Center Affiliate and Tufts University Professor Yannis Evrigenis' chapter "American Philhellenism" was published in the *The Greek Revolution: A Critical Dictionary*, ed. Paschalis M. Kitromilides & Constantinos Tsoukalas (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2021).

Center Affiliate Professor Richard Jankowsy, Associate Professor and Chair of Music at Tufts University, recently published a new book

Ambient Sufism: Ritual Niches and the Social Work of Musical Form (University of Chicago Press, 2021), which illuminates the virtually undocumented role of women and underrepresented minorities in shaping the ritual musical healing practices of North Africa. A companion site was developed in collaboration with Anna Kijas, head of Lilly Music Library, and is accessible in the Tufts Digital Library. An interview with Prof. Jankowsky on the new book is also now available on the New Books Network.

