About the Conference

At a time of youthful activism and profound change, the Arab cultural traditions of giving and social solidarity are at the heart of Arab people’s aspirations for a better future. The pace and scope of change caught most analysts off guard. However, expressions of citizen engagement and new forms of philanthropy have been flowering for several years in Arab countries and their communities in the Diaspora. Until recently there was a dearth of theoretical and applied research, and most scholars and professionals worked in relative isolation.

The First Annual Takaful Conference is jointly organized by the Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC) and the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at the American University in Cairo. It aims to stimulate both scholarly dialogue and sharing of grounded experience. The Conference will be held at CUMERC in Amman, Jordan from April 16 to 17, 2011.

The conference gathers researchers, policy professionals and civil society practitioners to engage in stock-taking and intellectual exchange. Takaful also aims to advance best practices in the region and data-based policy making. In addition to research presentations and keynote addresses, roundtable sessions are planned to focus on challenges and needs as expressed by professionals in the philanthropy field. The conference proceedings will be circulated widely and papers will be published in a special journal issue.

Conference Location

Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC)
Address: 5 Moh’d Al Sa’d Al-Batayneh Street-King Hussein Park

Travel and Hotel Arrangements

Please send your full paper by March 15, 2011 if you intend to utilize conference funding sources for your travel and by March 27, 2011 if you have your own source of funding. For speakers attending from outside of Jordan, a single room at the Kempinski Hotel Amman will be reserved for three nights, from April 15th to April 17th. Please find below the hotel address and details:

Kempinski Hotel Amman
Abdul Hamid Shoman Street – Shmeisani
Tel: +962 6 5200 200
If you wish to make a personal booking you will be able to take advantage of the conference rate of JOD 86 for a single room and JOD 99 for a double room on bed and breakfast basis. In this case please be sure to informs us a head of time so we can make the required hotel arrangements.

For travel arrangements please contact our designated travel agent: Moayad Ramahi at takaful@traders.com.jo by March 15, 2011. Below is the flight booking form. Please fill it and send it along with the travel-arrangement request to Mr. Ramahi. The form also includes optional trip and sightseeing excursion.

**Emergency Contacts**

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**Accepted and Participating Conference Papers and Authors**

Mouna AbdelSamad-Assistant Professor/ Sandiego State University
Mahi Khallaf-consultant on civil society/ Cairo, Egypt
Samah Hamad-Paltel Group Foundation for Community Devpt
Nicholas Terpstra-Professor/ University of Toronto
Omar Bortolazzi- University of Bologna History Department
Shawn Flanigan-Assistant Professor/ San Diego State University
Sherine El Traboulsi-Assistant Professor/ San Diego State University
Mariam Waheed-Post Graduate Student/ Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University
Molly Schultz Hafid-Fellow/ Gerhart Center, AUC
Moustafa Khalil-University of Manchester
Dr Hani Horani - Director General/ Al-Urdun Al-Jadid Research Center (UJRC)
Loay Assaf - Community Empowerment Program Grants Manager / CBOs Support Manager
Jordan River Foundation
Caroline Blayney - Master candidate/ SOAS 2011
Maha Freij - Deputy Executive Director and CFO/ ACCESS-Dearborn
Nadia Roumani - Molly-Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy
Hafid, and Archana Saghal-(AAPIP) with support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Ayesha Bakali - Fulbright Researcher/ Fulbright, Kuwait
Nora Derbal - Graduate Student/ Free University Berlin
Riham Khafagy - PHD candidate/ Cairo University
Anjum Haque - Executive Director/ Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy
Dalia Abbas and Sarah El Masry - Student/ AUC
Atallah Kuttab - Welfare Association and Arab Foundations Forum
Lulwa Saffarini - Welfare Association
Dr. Alaa Naseif - Trainer, Youth Development Consultant, Social Change Agent and Mr. Ali R. Al-Banawi - Marketing and PR manager of the Society of Majid Bin Abdulaziz
Jawad Fatayer - Deputy to the President/ An-Najah National University- Palestine
Nesreen Akhtarkhavari and Marco Tavanti - DePaul University
Paula Johnson - Vice President of The Philanthropic Initiative, Inc. (TPI) and Director of its Center for Global Philanthropy

**Keynote Speaker**

Confirmed keynote speakers to date include Princess Banderi AR Al-Faisal, President of the King Khaled Foundation, Saudi Arabia

**Agenda**

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**Full Papers**

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**Organizers**

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