



The American  
University in Cairo

School of Business

John D. Gerhart Center for  
Philanthropy, Civic Engagement  
and Responsible Business

# The John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business

*Annual Report 2020/2021*



## Vision

A leading platform of interdisciplinary comparative research, youth leadership programs, and capacity building to enhance the culture & effectiveness of philanthropy, civic engagement & responsible business practices in the Arab region and Africa.

## John D. Gerhart Center

## Mission

Serve as a regional incubator for knowledge, responsible business practices, civic leadership, and capacity building to promote effective social responsibility.





**RESPECT**

**TRANSPARENCY**

**PROACTIVITY**



**Compassion,  
Empathy and  
Giving**

**Inclusion and  
Participatory  
Engagement**

**Our Values**





## ADVISORY BOARD

- **Muna AbuSulayman**, Social Impact Leader
- **Richard Dictus**, UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Egypt
- **Hashem El Dandarawy**, Chairman, Team 4 Security, Egypt
- **John Elkington**, Founder and Chief Pollinator at Volans
- **Alan Fowler**, Honorary Professor of African Philanthropy, Wits Business School, Johannesburg and Emeritus Professor, International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University, The Netherlands
- **Laila Iskandar**, Co-Founder CID CONSULTING and Former Minister of State in the Government of Egypt
- **Beethoven Tayel**, Active Angel Impact Investor, Founder, and Managing Director, B2LS Consulting



## Programs and Services



### Capacity Development Program

Our Capacity Development program aims to consolidate social impact through building leadership capacity and providing tailored peer learning and support services.

### Research Program

The program's main essence focuses on eliminating the obstacles facing this segment by picking diverse voices and creating an intensive, fine research in the area of social responsibility. This is how the program has created a stiff groundwork that can be built upon.





## Youth Empowerment Program

The program seeks to turn the youth into real social change-makers to be beneficial to themselves and their communities as well. All activities and youth empowerment programs offered by the center are based on the experiential learning approach and social constructivism pedagogy which includes the following: Internships/ Fellowships, University Based Civic Engagement Competitions, Alumni and volunteering activities, Ma'an Alliance of Arab Universities for Civic Engagement, Youth Community Based Civic Engagement Initiatives, and Bootcamps.



# Activities and Events

## The Gerhart Center-Lazord Foundation Tenth Anniversary

Year 2020 marks the 10th Anniversary of the partnership between Gerhart Center and the Lazord Foundation, the fellowship is a significant milestone in the history of Gerhart Center. The Lazord Fellowship is a highly competitive fellowship the program offered by the Gerhart Center in partnership with the Lazrod Foundation to bright young fellows in Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia, this yearlong the program seeks to empower fellows to develop a critical understanding of civic engagement, and to improve their leadership and technical skills for their future careers in all sectors.





## Partnership with the Eastern European Network for Civic Education (EENCE) and Civic Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (CENESA)

The Gerhart Center, as a representative of Networking Arab Civic Education (NACE), launched the "Common Platform for Civic Education Networks" project in partnership with Eastern European Network for Civic Education (EENCE) and Civic Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (CENESA). The German Federal Foreign Office funded project, aims to create and develop a common platform that includes a database of civic education organizations and individuals (trainers, experts, and/or practitioners) operating in the three regions. The platform functions as an online database to share best practices and exchange ideas globally as well as to facilitate access to organizations, practitioners, and experts in the field of civic education across different regions for potential cooperation, consultation, gaining information and accessing contacts for a joint dialogue.





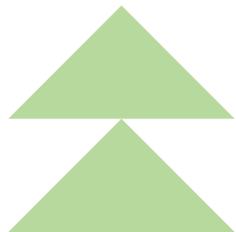
## Gerhart Center launches Strengthening Egypt's Family Planning Program Youth Competition

Under the patronage of the National Population Council, The John D. Gerhart Center at AUC Youth Competition 2021/2020 School of Business and John Snow, Inc. jointly implemented the activity. This activity is part of the USAID Strengthening Egypt's Family Planning Program (SEFPP) and encourages young people to put forth innovative ideas to increase awareness among their peers about family planning and reproductive health issues and services. Fifteen teams comprising students from public and private universities across Egypt participated in the competition to 64 create the best family planning and reproductive health awareness campaigns.



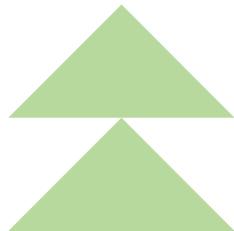
## Will Impact Investing Help or Harm the World?

Morgan Simon joined us for a feature public lecture titled, “Will Impact Investing Help or Harm the World?” Morgan Simon has close to two decades of experience making finance a tool for social justice. Her book, “Real Impact: The New Economics of Social Change” has been featured everywhere from Harvard Business School to the United Nations. She is a regular voice in media and an active investor as a Founding Partner of Candide Group, a Registered Investment Advisor.



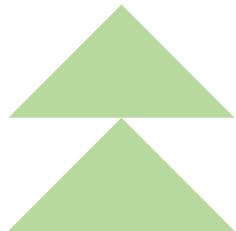
## Gerhart Center Launches New Research Series, "Giving for Social Impact" Cases from the Arab World

The John D. Gerhart Center organized a launching event for its new research initiative "Giving for Social Impact" Cases from the Arab World. The event featured Samah Hammad, General Manager of Paltel Group Foundation, Palestine and the author of the first edition titled "The Role of Private Capital in Youth and Women Evolvment". The paper includes an introductory approach to the reasons why the private sector should be involved in philanthropy work and the involvement of the Palestinian private sector.



## **Intensive Capacity Building Program for Arab Youth**

Gerhart Center joined forces with Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program at the American University in Cairo, to conduct an eight months intensive capacity building program. Throughout the program, Gerhart Center's capacity building team trained fourteen outstanding youth with leadership potential from different countries in the Arab World, namely Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Tunis, and Syria, on civic leadership topics and equipped them with the necessary skills to implement social initiatives in their home countries.



## Gerhart Center Celebrates the Ninth Lazord Graduating Cohort

In collaboration with the Lazord Foundation, Gerhart Center celebrated the graduation of the ninth cohort of the GC/Lazord Fellowship. The ceremony was a celebration of the efforts and achievements of the students throughout the year. The fellowship offers a one-year placement at a nonprofit organization, as well as, capacity building and mentoring programs. The ceremony included keynote speeches from Rania Salah, Founder of Gebraa, Mohamed Wahdan, Founder of Al Qalam and Heba Shema, Lazord Alumni.

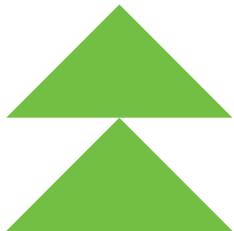




## The John D. Gerhart Center Launches “The Aftermath of COVID-19: The New Social Impact Ecosystem” Webinar Series

Gerhart Center launched “The Aftermath of the COVID-19: The New Social Impact Ecosystem” with the aim of discussing concepts that are currently not main stream and may (or perhaps should) become mainstream in the aftermath of COVID-19.

The series features distinguished speakers on a variety of topics across development and related fields.



## The GC/Lazord Fellows Regional Talks

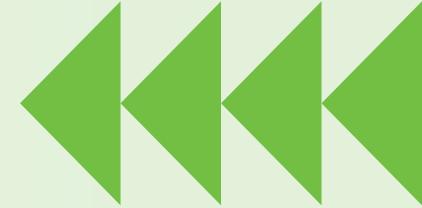
In cooperation with the Lazord Foundation, Gerhart Center's civic engagement team organized a virtual talk for the Lazord fellows. The main objective of the virtual event was to connect all fellows from the three-chapter partners of the Lazord Foundation. The event created a networking opportunity on the regional level to share knowledge, experiences and best practices between fellows.



## Online Youth Talks

The John D. Gerhart Center is hosting a new online series of talks by professionals and experts in different fields of development. The series aim to discuss the new circumstances and its impact on these fields, as well as sharing best practices and exchanging innovative ideas to cope with the current situation, as well as mitigate its drawbacks. The series facilitates knowledge exchange and provides youth with a platform where they can raise their questions and concerns to development experts.





## Virtual Networking Event for the GC/Lazord Fellowship Alumni Network

In collaboration with Collective Routes, Gerhart Center's Civic Engagement team organized an online event for the Lazord Alumni Network in Egypt, titled "Community of Practice for Development Practitioners." The main objective of the event was to create a collective learning space and a support network where Lazord fellows and alumni can share best practices, enhance their knowledge and brainstorm new ideas that could be implemented collectively. The first session was moderated by Lazord Alumni, where participants shared their concerns and thoughts towards the impact of COVID-19 on civil society in Egypt.





## Lazord Egypt Research Competition 2020

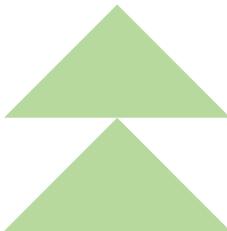
The Annual Lazord National Research Competition took place virtually this year to provide graduating fellows an opportunity to present their research findings. The goal was to give fellows a place to discuss their research with experts in their field and to help them sharpen their research and communication skills, as well as choose the best research that will represent the Egyptian chapter and compete with the Tunisian and Jordanian chapter partners in the regional competition. All projects represented a wide range of topics, including civil society's role in combating the children bullying phenomenon in Egypt; environmental education in the TVET sector, and the perceived value of mentoring early-stage startups in the accelerators in Egypt. The competition demonstrated the innovative critical thinking and hands-on learning that Lazord fellows are engaged in. The winning research project focused on entrepreneurship, where the action research project assessed and analyzed the perceived value of mentoring on early-stage startups in the accelerators in Egypt .





## The Lazord 2020 Annual Conference

Gerhart Center, in partnership with the Lazord Foundation, organized a weeklong conference in AinSokhna. The event accommodated 24 Lazord fellows (12 new and 12 graduating) to wrap up and reflect on the graduating fellows learning journey throughout the year, as well as help orient new fellows on what to expect throughout the coming year. The conference is designed and conducted by the program's facilitators, chapters, and the fellows themselves, and includes learning circles, presentations on civil society, and responsible leadership, as well as a regional research panel. AUC President Ricciardone gave the closing speech of the Lazord Fellowship Annual Conference.





## **Talioires Network Leaders Conference (TNLC2021)**

Gerhart Center hosted representatives from ten Egyptian Universities to attend and participate in the Talloriiies Network Leaders Conference (TNLC2021) at AUC Tahrir Campus.

TNLC2021 movement-building event that provides opportunities to critically reflect on the power and responsibility of engaged universities to work together to sustainably and equitably address global challenges. Participants shared ideas and built collaborations for action on important and interrelated issues, including Pandemic Recovery and Resilience, Conflict and Inequality, Climate Justice, Assessing Engagement, and Civic Engagement Futures. The conference opened with welcoming remarks from Tufts University President Anthony P. Monaco, Harvard University President Lawrence Bacow, and President Nieves Segovia of the Universidad Camilo José Cela (Spain).





## The 2021 Annual Lazord Conference

The 2021 Lazord Annual Conference was back stronger than ever. The Conference is organized on an annual basis by the Lazord Foundation in partnership with its three-chapter partners: from Egypt, the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business, From Jordan, INJAZ and UTIL from Tunisia. It brings together the graduating and incoming fellows of the Lazord Fellowship; for graduating fellows to reflect on their year and look ahead with advice and help from the Lazord family and distinguished guests, to introduce the incoming fellows to the program, and to allow for cultural and knowledge exchange between the countries. Gerhart Center's team led and organized the conference in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt. The conference was held on a hybrid basis with in-person workshops for the fellows in Egypt, and online workshops gathering the three cohorts of the Lazord fellowship from the three-chapter partners.





## Lazord Egyptian Chapter represented by Gerhart Center wins regional research competition

For the first time, The Lazord Egyptian Chapter represented by Gerhart Center wins the Lazord Annual Conference regional research competition. The research project is one of the main components of the Lazord Fellowship and aims to develop the quality of our youth civic practitioners' critical thinking and research skills, as well as contribute to and strengthen the practice of evidence-based development interventions. This year, fellows Doaa Alaa, Mariam Dahab, and Youssef Hesham won first place for their research project titled "Combating vocational skills' gap through VET programs leading to sustained income-generating activities for youth in Egypt" in the regional competition which took place from September 19 to 25. The team connected their case study with Hayat Karima Foundation as well as presented their recommendation to the Employment Promotion Project (EPP) team at GIZ Egypt.





## **Strengthening Egypt's Family Planning Program Youth Competition Closing Ceremony**

A closing ceremony for Strengthening Egypt's Family Planning Program (SEFPP) Youth Competition was organized by the center at AUC Tahrir Square in coordination with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and John Snow Inc. (JSI). The project aims to empower Egypt's family planning system and to raise awareness on the issue through innovative ideas. The guest speakers who helped lead the ceremony included H. E Hala El Saeid: Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Margaret Sancho: Mission Director, USAID/Egypt, Dr. Tarek Tawfik: Deputy Minister of Health for Population Affairs, Professor Ali Awni, Director of the Gerhart Center AUC, and Alaa-Eldin Adris, Associate Provost for Research, Innovation, and Creativity.



## **Project Management for Development Practitioners Online Course for African Universities**

In line with the Gerhart Center efforts to promote social change in the African and Middle Eastern countries and in order to build a culture of effective giving, corporate social responsibility, and civic responsibility, we are proud to announce that the Center is now offering a Project Management for Development Practitioners online course for African Universities through the “Talloires Network of Engaged Universities”. The course aims to build capacity for future leaders who aim to develop innovative, sustainable projects and have a career path in the development sector. This first round of the PMDP course for African Universities was delivered by Mohamed Moamen.



## Gerhart Center Launches "Philanthropy in the Arab World" Research Series

The GC Research team has recently published an impressive publication commissioned by the Ford Foundation titled "Philanthropy in the Arab World: Venture Philanthropy and Social Investment: Are Arab Philanthropists and Conventional Investors Converging on the Impact Continuum?" This high-level research aims to enhance our citation record and strengthen our presence in the relevant intellectual and research platforms.

## Philanthropy in the Arab World

### *Venture Philanthropy and Social Investment*

*Are Arab Philanthropists and Conventional Investors  
Converging on the Impact Continuum?*

### Clare Woodcraft



Executive Director  
of the Centre for Strategic  
Philanthropy (CSP)  
the University of Cambridge,  
Judge Business School

### *An internationally recognised leader in social investment*

She works with leading philanthropic organisations to achieve measurable social impact, most recently as CEO of Emirates Foundation (the national foundation of the UAE) taking it from a grant-making body to an operational foundation and building long-term corporate partnerships with some of the world's largest energy companies whose CEOs served as trustees.





## Community of Practice for Development Practitioners

In line with the Center's efforts in establishing a strong alumni engagement network, we are thrilled to announce that our civic engagement team launched a new initiative for the Lazord Alumni Network in Egypt titled "Community of Practice for Development Practitioners" in collaboration with Collective Routes. The main objective of the initiative is to create a collective learning space and a support network where Lazord fellows and alumni can share best practices, enhance their knowledge and brainstorm new ideas that could be implemented collectively. Quarterly planning meetings are held between our civic engagement team and the Collectives Routes team to align goals and in order to have a clear execution plan. Our alumni network plays the lead role in coordinating the various activities organized during each quarter; the first quarter was successfully run by Salma karem and Mohamed Ghaith (GC/Lazord Alumni 18/19). A variety of activities were organized by our alumni network during the first quarter.



## Gerhart Center Social Talk: The New Civil Society Law for NGOs

Gerhart Center hosted a virtual event to discuss the new civil society law for NGO's in Egypt. The session was moderated by moderated by Issam Adawi, Social Development Specialist and featured Assem El Khouly, legal advisor for civil society organizations.



The image shows a virtual event slide with Arabic text and a video feed of Assem El Khouly. The slide content is as follows:

باسم الشعب  
رئيس الجمهورية  
قرر مجلس النواب القانون الأتي نصه و قد اصدرناه:::

**\* نص المادة الأولى: ( نطاق سريان القانون )**

" بمراعاة ما ورد بنظم الجمعيات المنشأة بقانون أو استناداً إلى اتفاقيات دولية أبرمتها جمهورية مصر العربية، ومع عدم الإخلال بأحكام القانون رقم ٩١ لسنة ١٩٧١ والقانون رقم ١٠ لسنة ٢٠٠٩ و القوانين المنظمة للأنشطة المالية غير المصرفية، يعمل بأحكام القانون المرافق في شأن تنظيم ممارسة العمل الأهلي.

بجعل وزارة التربية هي الجهة الإدارية بالنسبة الى جمعية المحاربين القدماء وضحايا الحرب والتفويض باختصاصات وزير الشؤون الاجتماعية

مجموعة الحولى القانونية  
العنوان الرئيسي: ١٠٠٧٧٤٥٥٤ & ٣٧٨١٠٠٤٥ & ٠١١١٧٧٤٥٥٢  
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THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO  
School of Business  
John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic and Responsible Business  
2021-01-24 17:00

Assem Elkholy



## Gerhart Center represents Africa and the Middle East on UNEP Civil Society Advisory Body

The Gerhart Center has been selected to represent Africa and the Middle East on the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) Financial Institutions (FI) Principles of Responsible Banking (PRB) Civil Society Advisory Body. The Gerhart Center's role is to engage and consult with relevant organizations in Africa and the Middle East to ensure that the diverse views of wider civil society are taken into account. The Civil Society Advisory Body of the Principles for Responsible Banking is a unique forum for meaningful and constructive engagement between wider civil society and the +200 signatories to the Principles for Responsible Banking. Composed of twelve leading organizations, the body offers constructive and meaningful engagement between wider civil society and the community of signatory banks. Its role is to ensure the principles maintain ongoing relevance with societal needs and ensure the over 200 signatory banks deliver on their commitments with ambition and transparency.

