



Research abstracts

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Ahmed Amro (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: The role of gender in shaping family communication patterns and conflict resolution

This paper explores the influence of gender on family communication patterns and conflict resolution strategies. It discusses two language styles: direct language, which is clear and straightforward, and indirect language, which is implied and subtle. These styles impact how individuals express themselves and handle conflicts within the family. The study also examines two conflict resolution strategies: conciliatory, involving compromise and empathy, and aggressive, characterized by forceful and confrontational behaviors. Understanding how gender influences the selection of these strategies provides insights into the dynamics of family communication. The findings highlight the importance of recognizing and adapting to gender differences in family communication and conflict resolution. Developing effective strategies that align with the communication styles of family members promotes healthier dynamics. Additionally, teaching conflict resolution skills to families is emphasized as a means to cultivate positive interactions, strengthen relationships, and enhance overall family well-being.

Ahmed Wael (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: Cinematic Narratives of Patriarchy in War-torn Arab Families: Analyzing power structures and dynamics in Arab families during times of conflict through a cinematic perspective.

This paper aims to analyze the stereotypical Arab family and how its patriarchal structure is impacted by war and conflict, as seen through Arab Cinema. The paper acknowledges the social and geographical complexities of establishing a stereotypical Arab family, and then attempts to define patriarchy as a trait that can characterize this family. Afterwards, the paper refers to pre-existing sociological and anthropological literature on the impact of war on Arab families and their patriarchal nature. The core of the paper is the analysis of two films, *Memory Box* (dir. Joana HadjiThomas and Khalil Joreige, 2021) and *Wedding in Galilee* (dir. Michel Khleifi, 1987) and their depiction of a changing patriarchal system during and after times of war. Finally, the paper analyzes the two films in comparison to one another and paper finds that wartime has a large impact on shifting father-centric family dynamics within an Arab family during times of war. Finally, I argue that the dilution of power structures during times of war implies the possibility of the same dilution outside of war.

Amira Gamil (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: How did social media contribute to the Saad Lamjarred rape case?

Leading up to the Egyptian Me Too Movement, Saad Lamjarred's rape case has heavily influenced the public discourse regarding sexual assault in the Middle East. In specific, social media tools and digital activism were key in amplifying this message and taking a collective stance against the Algerian star. The paper studies how digital tools such as hashtags, reposts and comments became an integral aspect in archiving history and allowing victims to come forward with their stories in confidentiality. The paper further analyzes the impact of digital activism on social change through the use of various mass communication theories.

Ammar Abdelwahab (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: Embratoreyet Meem, Conflict, and the Family

"Embratoreyet Meem" ("إمبراطورية ميم") is an Egyptian slice-of-life movie starring Faten Hamamah as Mona, a mother of six children whose names all start with an "M," hence "the kingdom of M." The movie was very popular at its release in 1972. It showed an unorthodox family structure within its runtime, focusing on the difficulty of motherhood with six children of varying ages, up to around seventeen years old. Lauded for its progressiveness, the film challenges power structures present in Arab families at the time and changes what it means to be part of a family. Its complex characters and innovative story create a work of art that forces the audience to reconsider its previous notions of women and children's roles in the family and how these roles change when the patriarch is no longer present.

Claire Shady (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: The Marketed Man: An Exploration on Gendered Marketing & Masculinity in The Egyptian Context

This paper critically analyzes Birell's and Toyota's advertisements - through discussing aspects such as language, visuals and the image of body- in order to address on how they address gender identities in order to manipulate their consumption habits. It argues that by doing so, one will be able to unravel the ways in which discourse aids in creating social and/or political oppression, thereby establishing the conditions for emancipation. The paper further argues that exclusively associating products that are supposed to be gender-neutral with a specific socially constructed identity, these limits and strips other consumer who do not identify with the marketed gender from their agency to choose the products they consume. Hence, it is recommended that companies should start adopting gender-bending approaches when marketing for their products in order to become more inclusive.

Farah Abdulrazek (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: Authority and Leadership of Women in the Islamic History

This paper analyses how women have historically been underrepresented in positions of leadership in Islamic societies and how they are often portrayed as the followers of patriarchal authorities. Although there have been prominent female figures in Islamic history, historians have given little attention to what they contributed to society. Since the ideals; the Quran, the Hadith, and the Shari'a determine the validity of leadership, various



interpretations of them have been used to suit the political agendas of the time. As a result, women are now perceived as followers rather than leaders. The paper will analyse resources that compare the ideal, historiography, and lived reality of female leaders in Islamic history and reflect on the present state of Muslim women and how the past has influenced the present. It will also reflect on the current status of Muslim women and how the past has influenced them.

Heidi Mahmoud (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: What are the problems facing women who are majoring or have majored in the STEM field in Egyptian workplace environments?

Workplace discrimination against women, including racial discrimination, sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, and gender pay gaps, has been experienced for a long time. There are companies that claim that they have overcome these forms of discriminations. Yet, we cannot differentiate those using it for marketing purposes and those genuinely developing their workspace rules and regulations to be inclusive and safe for all of their employees. The research will be conducted to get into different cases throughout the years and to study the history of women joining the workforce to be able to understand the changes that have happened over the years. The history of women entering the crew and the development of women's problems must be addressed. This paper uses secondary research to determine the workplace problems women face in the STEM fields and to examine a successful company that has worked towards overcoming these difficulties and a model to follow. This paper aims to consider the positive solutions for creating a safe and thriving workplace environment for women.

Mahitab El Helow (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: Divorce Process in Egypt's 70s and Early 80s: Analysis Through Egyptian Movies

This paper examines the reaction and perceptions of Egyptian society to women post-divorce. The social stigmatization of divorced women is evident in the Egyptian culture and causes severe mental issues to women. Some women even don't ask for divorce for the sole reason of avoiding the social pressures that come with being a divorced woman. However, there must be some factors that affect this stigmatization of divorce. And what is a better way to explore a culture than looking into its pop cultural work? Thus, this paper will compare and contrast two famous Egyptian pop cultural works to further discover how society perceptualizes divorced women and the factors that affect such perceptions. Each work is done in a totally different era; the first was produced in 1979 and the second in 2022, which will give a broad comparison of the Egyptian culture in both eras. The first work is a movie entitled No Consolation for Women, which discusses a traumatic experience of a woman after she got divorced and how cruel society treats her upon considering a new lover. On the opposite end of the spectrum comes Finding Ola. This 6-episode series depicts how divorce can be the door to new beginnings and how the main character was openly considering potential lovers. I will also look at the reforms of the personal status law in 1979, during the same year the movie was screened as well as other secondary sources that will formulate Egypt's position during both years. The paper will include a deep analysis of the sociopolitical context of Egypt in both years, the original stories behind each work and the production cast behind both. It will also include a critical comparison of different aspects of both works, such as the titles, posters, main characters, and factors behind the difference in societal reaction to divorce in both plots. In addition to considering both the audience and their reaction to both works which will disclose hidden reasons why both works are completely different giving a comprehensive comparison of both works in a critical tone.

Malak Zeerban (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: Analyzing the Ramadan TV series "Seventh Year Itch" from a Psychological Spectacle

Media can have an impeding effect on us and our society. Therefore, it is important to be aware of what is displayed to the audience and be selective of it. Egyptian TV series "Al Harsha Al Saba'a" (Seventh Year Itch) gained a huge watch rate after the very first episodes were aired. For this reason, I found it important to study the show and all the messages it conveys to its viewers. Since the show mainly revolves around relationships, I relied on scientific books explaining the psychology of love and relationships along with scholarly articles to provide a credible, knowledge-based explanation of the events of the show.

Mariam Moussa (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: His Legal Right: On the Absence of Marital Rape in Post-Revolutionary Egypt's Feminist Discourse

In recent years, Egypt oversaw the drafting and implementation of several laws that pertain to gender-based violence; the country's most recent wave of feminist activism, which took place in 2020, uncovered dozens of sexual assault incidents. However, even though the wave acquired unprecedented levels of outreach, several forms of sexual violence were left unattended by legislative entities; marital rape was not addressed by the state as a focal point of its efforts in combating sexual violence, despite the fact that many of its victims came forward when the movement first emerged. This paper makes the argument that the legal and sociopolitical conditions that surround the institution of marriage enable sexual offenders to abuse their partners without being held accountable, which, in turn, affected the integration of marital rape as a core issue in the feminist discourse that resulted from the movement. Given the state's deeply rooted perception of power dynamics in marriage, I begin by providing a historical review that examines Egypt's two main sources of legislation: the Egyptian constitution, in its different versions throughout late modern Egypt, and the Sharia law. The paper provides a feminist critique in its discussion of both sources, showing that the patriarchal system that they set up does not recognize marital rape's validity as a criminal offense. It then examines the status of marital rape in different domains by dividing the term "feminist discourse" into two sections. The first one focuses on the digital activism of 2020's movement, while the other centers around the reformist actions that the state adopted as a response to the movement. All of this is utilized to explain why Egypt is still holding on to an institution in which women do not have autonomy over their bodies, even during times in which women's rights are demanded.

Maribel Ragheb (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: Exploring Unequal Gender Opportunities in Actuarial Science Studies



This discussion focuses on the gender gap in the actuarial science field. Its aim is to study the reasons why much fewer women are studying and working in actuarial science careers, bearing in mind that it is a STEM field. It also discusses the importance of having female actuaries in the workplace. After understanding and analyzing the reasons for this disparity, there will be some recommendations to try to adjust and close the existing gender gap in this field, which promotes equal opportunities and gender equity. I want to understand why in my class, we have so many females, yet the percentage of female actuaries is significantly less than male actuaries, especially in leadership and management positions, that I aim to reach in my career.

Masa Tantawy (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

**Title: Gender and Social Media: Delving into Young Adults' Daily Participation on Facebook
How Does the Social Construction of Gender Affect and is Affected by Social Media?**

With the prevalence of social networking platforms, it is crucial to study the role that gender plays in its use. This paper explores how the social construction of gender affects and is affected by social media, for gender, which is continuously shaped by society, plays a critical role in our identities and daily lives. By discussing the variation in social media usage by males compared to females and how women's freedom on social media appears to be constrained in Arab countries, it is argued that social media gives space for one to choose who they want to be and represent themselves away from the social constructs, acting as a tool for beautification, while at the same time maintaining the restrictions women face by the society on their online behaviour. The main focus of this paper is on young adults since they are the dominant age group of users and on the use of Facebook due to its popularity and multi-functionality that allows an offering of tailored user experience. It is concluded that gender differences play a significant role in how social media is used since women tend to use social media for emotional interpersonal purposes while men use them in task-oriented individual manners alongside multiple other dissimilarities. Additionally, users tend to present an edited version of themselves online due to societal pressures and norms, and particularly women in the middle-east struggle to have complete liberty in their online behaviour.

Mona Ibrahim (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: The socioeconomic effects of incarceration on the wives of Egyptian Prisoners

Through the imprisonment of their husbands, female Egyptian wives are subject to social, economic, and psychological implications of their spouse's detainment despite being legally innocent. This research paper argues that wives of prisoners in Egypt experience secondary prisonization that is exacerbated by societal gender norms. A qualitative approach was used in this study through two interviews with wives of currently imprisoned men living in Egypt, both from the upper-middle and middle class. The findings highlight the ambiguous social position of wives of prisoners, as they are expected to navigate societal expectations while coping with the hardships of having an incarcerated husband. Additionally, these women often face criticism, stigma, interference, and a loss of autonomy. The research sheds light on the complex challenges faced by the wives of Egyptian prisoners and demands for a deeper comprehension of their experiences to voice their problems and provide the appropriate support.

Moustafa Sherif (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: The 1st Wave of Ecofeminism in 21st Century Egypt: Myth or Uprising?

Ecofeminism is a term that was coined by French writer, feminist, and environmentalist Françoise d'Eauboinne in the book titled "Feminism or Death". Published in the year 1974, d'Eauboinne's book carried the overarching implication that, unless the global society uptakes the sets of values encapsulated by the term ecofeminism, the world as we know it, encroached by patriarchal destruction, would cease to exist. d'Eauboinne describes ecofeminism to be a concept explaining the link between the patriarchal subordination of women and the Earth, which, in turn, is the root of the environmental crisis and the oppression of women around the world. With this definition in mind, it is important to view ecofeminism not just as an abstract concept, instead, one must view it as a movement that has been going on during a time preceding the creation of the term itself. The Chipko Andolan movement in 1970s India serves as a great example of an ecofeminist movement which occurred in a 'developing country'. Another example following the 'official' declaration of the term was the Green Belt Movement which was pioneered by Wangari Maathai in 1977 Kenya. Not only do other examples of ecofeminism exist throughout history, movements have been more and more apparent in many different regions each with their own measurable impact. It then seems peculiar that there barely exists any literature on eco feminism in the MENA and North African region (and of course, by extension Egypt). This is despite Egypt undergoing various reforms regarding women-rights and environmental law since the start of the 21st century. Specifically, under President Abdelfattah's El Sisi's government, the country has been seen to uptake 'it's inherent role' as a developing country seeking to achieve a green, developed economy. With this pretense, Egypt has played host to a multiplicity of environment and women-rights related conferences and events of the sort. This paper takes the first step in filling a humongous gap of knowledge about whether 21st century Egypt, as a developing country under the thumb of a predominantly patriarchal regime, is/has been going through an ecofeminist movement with the aim of advancing the state of women and enhancing environmental policy.

Rawan El Ghonimi (Cohort 2) Year 2023:

Title: Clean Cinema and Egyptian Family Values

This essay examines clean cinema and how similar notions like Egyptian family values are rising and are correlated. Clean cinema refers to films that avoid explicit content and potentially offensive elements in favor of morality, family, and community-focused themes. This wave of cinema serves the "Egyptian family values". This paper looks at the notion of clean cinema, tracking its evolution from the early 20th century to the present. It also looks at how clean cinema is manifesting in new terminologies due to new technologies. Egyptian family values were introduced strongly during the rise of TikToks, especially when it came to women using Tiktok. Ultimately, this research paper highlights the drawbacks with clean cinema, and reflects on its different manifestations in Egyptian society today.



Roaa Morad (Cohort 2) Year 2023:
Title: Gender Discrimination in Rural Areas

There has always been gender discrimination in every life aspect; even in the simplest and most fundamental human rights, there are people mistreated just because of their gender. Education has been an important basic human right. Uneducated people are suffering, especially now that technology is starting to take over everything happening in life. These poor people still can not read a simple street sign, so how will they survive in the coming years? There can be many obstacles facing these people which is stopping them from getting the education they need, and these obstacles can be out of their hands to overcome, such as not having an education or school near where they live or their lifestyle does not need education such as Bedouins. However, there is a significant obstacle: even if a school is nearby and they need the education to have a future and career, their gender is their only obstacle. Both boys and girls can be discriminated against because of their gender. This is caused because of the gender roles in society. Boys must be the breadwinners when they are still young and as a result, do not have time for school; girls are obligated to stay at home to do house chores and take care of their younger siblings. Having said that, this research paper will have a narrower scope and will only focus on girls living in rural areas and how just because they are girls, society and their own families are a significant hindrance to them getting educated and having their own careers.

Salma Zaghloul (Cohort 2) Year 2023:
Title: Gendered and Economic Issues of Child Labor

The issue of child labor is a complex problem that affects millions of children around the world, particularly in developing countries. Gender and economic problems have a crucial influence on child labour experiences and outcomes. Gendered issues in child labor include the differential treatment of boys and girls in terms of their access to education, engagement in work, and exposure to various forms of mental and physical abuse. Economically, child labor is intertwined with poverty, lack of economic opportunities, and the need for household income. Recognising and addressing the gendered and financial aspects of child labour allows society to move towards a more fair and prosperous future for children, where their rights are protected and their full potential is realised. This paper investigates the relationship between gender and child labour, as well as the economic repercussions of child labour. It argues that the solution for the child labor issue is in the reform of their educational experience and the implementation of policies that secure the children's rights.

Sara Afifi (Cohort 2) Year 2023:
Title: Women in the Medieval Islamic Economic Arena

This paper sheds light on women in the economic arena in the Islamic medieval period. Questions that this paper answers are: do the Quran and Hadiths dictate women to stay at home and not work? Is the role of women in Islam to stay at home and obey their husbands? What does the Islamic jurisprudence say about women in the economic arena? To answer these questions three sections were developed: what the Quran says about women and work, what Fiqh manuals say about women and work, and lastly illustrating the lived reality of women through the different non-traditional sources. Non-traditional sources have been looked at, as they do not belong to a certain author or a particular historian, allowing direct engagement with the data of the sources. The sources looked at are from the Geniza documents and Arabic Papyri documents, as they provide the reader with an image of gender relations in these societies. First, it was concluded that the Quran did not circumscribe women from working nor are there any verses that oblige Muslim women to stay at home. Second, Fiqh rulings on women and work were extremely strict only focusing on the seclusion of women. Lastly, through non-conventional sources it was identified that medieval women indeed worked and had a presence in the economy and played an integral part in the Islamic world.

Zeina Lasheen (Cohort 2) Year 2023:
Title: Kinship among women across generations in Egyptian Society

Kinship is the relational ties of the family. From this concept emerged a new one, kin keeping. Kin keeping is a concept that explains the underlying role of women in families that is inherently theirs without any apparent reason. Depending on different cultures, this role might vary. The kin keeper is the person in between all family members that holds them all together. In some cases, this hidden job is inherited in terms of rank order. The older female in the family usually has it. Kin keeping usually also results in triangulation especially between the father and child where the mother always has a pivotal role in between them. This paper will explore the role of women across generations in the Egyptian society in accordance of the kin-keeping concept. How affected are women by such role and did it change over time?

Ahmed Amin (Cohort 2) Year 2022:
Title: Can technology help in reducing gender discrimination?

Gender discrimination is a global issue that is getting escalated day by day. It does not just impact a specific section of society, but it harms every part of it. On the one hand, technology provided women with powerful platforms and social media, where everyone can hear their voices. On the other hand, new technologies, machine learning, and Artificial intelligence significantly impact men's and women's jobs across sectors in developing and transition economies. These changes are one of the root causes of gender discrimination in many places because the economic dependence mostly remains on the male counterparts. This paper investigates the effect of women's advocacy on social media on reducing gender discrimination and the effect of new technologies on women's financial independence. It found that advocacy on social media significantly contributed to raising awareness about gender rights and steeply decreased society's support for gender equality opponents. Meanwhile, the new technologies put women at an increased risk of losing their jobs which will directly affect their financial independence.

Ahmed Wael (Cohort 2) Year 2022:



Title: Women after the World: Analyzing the Representation of Female Characters in Modern, Mainstream, Post-Apocalyptic Films

This paper aims to study female representation in modern mainstream post-apocalyptic films and assessing how feminist these representations are. In order to do this, the paper will first examine the post-apocalyptic film genre in general, in order to understand the genre's origin and popularization. Understanding the roots of the genre provides us with a better insight on the gender-based stereotypes associated with the genre, in turn allowing us to critically analyze current representations more thoroughly. The paper will then compare different modern (post-2005) mainstream post-apocalyptic films, in terms of the representation of their female characters. The representation of female characters will be studied in terms of their character profiles, autonomy within the film's story, and the 'gaze' they portrayed through, amongst other aspects. The paper asks not only how are women represented in these films, but also to what to end, and to whose benefit. In addition, I have compared these films with more arthouse or non-mainstream films that also fit into the post-apocalyptic genre. This has been done so as to have a truly diverse collection of films to benchmark modern mainstream films against. The paper has found that modern, mainstream, post-apocalyptic films vary in their representation of women from adequately progressive to problematically reductive, and analyzes the social norms that these representations either challenge or reemphasize.

Amira Gamil (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: How do gender and social norms affect educational and career achievements in Egypt?

It is no surprise that academic performance is a huge source of stress for youth all over the world. Between meeting deadlines, maintaining good grades and balancing it all with their social lives, it can affect their mental health and cause feelings of burn-out. However, one cannot overlook how these pressures differ from student to another depending on both the social and gender norms imposed on them by the societies they live in. Like (Singerman, 2008)'s discussion of Egyptian social norms where the man is expected to provide for the family, this expectation contributes to feelings of academic stress on the male students who aspire to have high-income positions to allow for being financially responsible for a family after graduation. On the other hand, women's participation in academia is often belittled due to the expectations to become the primary caregivers once they get married. In a time as critical as university where Egyptian students break-free from youth into adulthood, their need to abide by these social expectations skyrockets. Consequently, this research paper aims to answer the question of "How do gender and social norms affect educational and career achievements in Egypt?"

Farah Alaa (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: Women's Depiction in Comedy Egyptian Cinema in the 50s and 60s

Since the beginning of the movie industry in Egypt, Comedies gained ground as a vibrant mode of nudging audience to reflect upon and contemplate their daily lives. During the 50s and 60s movies were accepted by the society and the state as they were approved by the media censorship in Egypt. This paper selects three Egyptian comedy movies Miss Hanafi (1954), My Wife the Director General (1966), and For Men Only (1964), and analyzes how gender and women's issues were portrayed and depicted. The movies created confusion among the people about topics like women empowerment and gender equality in Egypt.

Mahitab Elhelow (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: Perception of Masculinity Across Different Ages and Both Genders

What does it mean to be a man? Is there a unified definition to masculinity? This paper discusses previous findings on the definition of masculinity within the past few years and the effect this have on men through previous literature review. In this study, a survey was distributed to participants of 4 different age groups (18-29, 30-49- 50-59, 60+ years old) to analyze whether there is a difference in their perception of masculinity. 54% of the participants were females and 100% were Egyptians. I found that there was no significant association between neither age nor gender with perception of masculinity in Egypt. It must be noted that there was a discrepancy between number of responses in the different age groups as one group had 70 responses and another had only 23 which might have caused the insignificance. However, results could also imply that the surrounding society affect our perception of masculinity regardless of one's age or gender.

Malak Zeerban (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: A study of the impact of the case of ABZ in Egypt

Ever since forever, sexual harassment has been a parasite flourishing in communities that choose to adopt a patriarchal mindset glorifying its men yet demeaning its women, but it is time for this exasperating reality to change. Upon the exposure of the horrifying crimes of one of the worst rapists of all time, former AUC student Ahmed Bassam Zaki's case scarred the Egyptian community for life. Even though everyone was rattled upon discovering the endless trail of victims he gruesomely raped, his case specifically acted as a catalyst of change and encouraged the Egyptian community to put an end to whoever considers touching a woman without her consent. In this research paper, I focus on studying how this case affected the community of the American University in Cairo, which was where Zaki was nurtured. A case this big to the extent that it resonated worldwide certainly affected the Egyptian community. For this reason, I also invested my time researching the effect of this case on Egypt through three different lenses: media, religion, and the state. Overall, I found out that the gender dynamics in Egypt are going through a revolution of change. We already witnessed many empowering campaigns and movements tailored to support any victim of sexual harassment with a promise to punish any harasser. Even though this case was in 2020, up to this day people are not settling and will not settle until they ensure that no woman in Egypt is in the threat of getting raped. Despite the efforts the community puts to combat this crisis, unfortunately, many women are still falling under the list of victims of sexual harassment, and more criminals are falling under the list of inhumane villains.

Mariam Moussa (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: Gendered Mobilization and Digital Activism: A Critical Review of Feminist Organizing in Post-Revolutionary Egypt



In 2020, a feminist wave of collective action emerged in Egypt when a series of social media posts circulated digital platforms to expose sexual predators, acquiring unparalleled levels of outreach and recognition on both national and international scales. Analysts noticed that two factors could characterize this wave of feminist collective action: the class identity of its founders and state intervention. This paper examines these arguments and integrates them in a broader context, in which the impact of digitalization on feminist organizing is assessed. In doing so, it raises the following question: how did the digitalization of feminist activism intersect with the factors of class and state intervention to shape how this wave unfolded? To provide a thorough review of this wave using these two factors, in-depth interviews were conducted with four Egyptian feminists who were proactive when the movement took place. The findings of the interviews were then compared to existing literature on digital activism and feminist organizing pertaining to Egypt, using content analysis. The discussion of the findings demonstrated how the imposed limitations of a highly stratified society and an authoritarian regime are hindering sustainable collective political organizing from emerging, indicating that feminist organizing and gender politics are restricted by many social and political constraints that are found in post-revolutionary Egypt.

Masa Tantawy (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: Who shapes masculinity amongst men?

This paper examines the role of friends, family members, and romantic partners in shaping masculinity. It was found that peers have the greatest impact on manhood, from childhood until adulthood. The techniques used to ensure obedience to stereotypical masculine norms are verbal reprimanding, ridicule, ostracism, or even physical aggression. Hence, a man's friends can be obstacles that prevent him from changing his attitudes, in fear of not being viewed as a real man. As for family members, the roles of the father and the mother were inconsistent in past research. Some studies proved that fathers do not impact their sons' gender norms, but others elucidate that the father is a role model, so he can reduce hegemonic masculinity or continue to reinforce stereotypical manhood behaviours which leads to insecurity issues. While some believe that the mother-son relationship is what creates hegemonic masculinity and inability of the sons to be independent, others elucidate that mothers have a positive influence on gender identity, for she teaches her son the appropriate masculine norms, discusses the actions of other men with him, and expresses her disapproval in various ways when he does not conform to the expected behaviours. The brother-sister relationship is also an essential part of gender socialization. Lastly, romantic partners' support is a critical part of the masculine trajectory; wives who showcase their husband's dominance uphold his masculine standing.

Mohamed Farag (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: Effects of migration on men's mental health

People migrate for multiple reasons, which include but are not limited to escaping conflict, seeking financial stability, and pursuing education. Men dominate the number of migrants, but little research focuses on those migrating men. Usually, research is conducted on how the family dynamics change when the breadwinner out-migrates and the mental health of the family left behind. This paper focuses on individuals that migrate looking for better economic opportunities. Using the intersectionality approach, this research will study the men that migrate and leave their families behind and the effects on the migrating men's mental health.

Mona Ibrahim (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: Where are the Women? Factors behind the discrepancy of Arab women in STEM education and STEM job fields.

Women economic participation is a key factor in countries' economies and the absence of women in the job market poses an economic threat on the country where less women participation occurs. Focusing on Arab countries in the MENA region, this paper observes the discrepancy in the participation of women in STEM occupations and their attainment of higher education STEM degrees. Two important causes for such discrepancy are analyzed, the lack of awareness of what STEM job fields entail and the cultural expectations.

Moustafa Sherif (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: Gender & Environmental Literacy in 20th Century Egyptian Public News

Gender and the environment have, for a long time, been viewed as two separate concepts. It was only with time and effort that humanity recently identified that the correlation between them is one that is not just strong, but could even be described as interdependent. For Egypt, a country governed by a patriarchal, authoritative state, it is hypothesized that concepts as new as gender and environmental literacy would not have been introduced to public news outlets until the late 20th century. The aim of this paper was to know when 1) gender and 2) environmental literacy, as concepts, were introduced to the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram and finally to 3) examine the relationship, if any, between the time periods upon which each concept was introduced to the newspaper. Using words related to gender and other words related to environmental literacy a 'word search' was carried out via Al-Ahram's Digital Archive. Being one of Egypt's oldest, state-owned newspapers, Al-Ahram articles are considered one of the most accurate sources that could be used in reference to the Egyptian record from a government point of view. Findings indicated that there was a common trend between terms related to environmental literacy and other terms related to gender in terms of frequency of occurrence in Arabic articles and the progression of time throughout the 20th century. Further examination of news articles indicated that, despite counting only one occurrence where gender and EL related terms were used together, the rising number of occurrences in both categories (separately) could be indicative of how 20th century Egypt could be seen as the starting point to what seems to be a long, ongoing journey towards environmental and gender wellbeing.

Roaa Morad (Cohort 2) Year 2022:

Title: Masculinity and Femininity in Arab Societies as Represented in the Cinema: A Case Study of Taymour wa Shafiq and The Silences of the Palace



This research paper addresses the masculinity and femininity beliefs in Arab societies through the cinema by a case study of the Egyptian movie *Taymour wa Shafiq* and the Tunisian movie *The Silences of the Palace* which is analyzed with a gender case review along with scholar papers. Finding out that men in Arab societies are privileged while women are oppressed.

Salma Zaghloul (Cohort 2) Year 2022:
Title: Gender Roles in Mental Health Stigma

Mental health is currently one of the most discussed topics in the Arab world and worldwide. Young people have taken it upon themselves to raise awareness about the importance of seeking help when it comes to mental illness. However, part of raising awareness is to draw people's attention to the adverse effects of mental health stigma. Thus, this paper discusses the relationship between mental health stigma and gender, education, socio-economic class, and culture in Egyptian society. This study argues that Egyptian men with mental health issues are more stigmatized, and women suffer more from self-stigma. Additionally, education and socio-economic class have an inverse relationship with stigma, such that the lower the socio-economic class and education, the higher the stigma levels in society. Finally, culture has a direct effect on mental health stigma. Results are based on the analysis of 15 research papers studying mental health stigma worldwide and in Arab and Egyptian Societies.

Rawan El Ghonimi (Cohort 2) Year 2022:
Title: Exploiting the Star Hollywood, Stars and Agendas.

Since its debut on September 16, 2022, the Andrew Dominik film *Blonde* has provoked a number of discussions. According to the film's description, it is "a look at the rise to fame and the epic demise of actress Marilyn Monroe, one of the biggest stars in the world" This is a direct quotation from the film's description on Google. *Blonde* does in fact depict the rise of fame, and in doing so it tries to expose the exploitation of Hollywood stars. However, it ignores so many other aspects of Marilyn Monroe, such as her brilliance and wit, and instead emphasize agony, hysteria, and sex. The decisions made for this film have been found controversial, starting with the casting of Anna De Armas, who, like Marilyn, has been overly sexualized by Hollywood. This research paper goes on an in-depth analysis on the decisions made in the film, and contrast it with other biopics. This is accomplished by exploring other writings on Marilyn Monroe, analyzing the film *Blonde* and tracking the agendas it presents, and finally contrasting it with another biopic on Judy Garland, an American actress and singer, who also was a Hollywood icon.

Zeina Lasheen (Cohort 2) Year 2022:
Title: Questioning Crime: Fictional Women Prisoners' Experiences in Woman at Point Zero and The Golden Chariot

This paper looks at two novels by Egyptian women writers: *Woman at Point Zero* (1973) by Nawal Elsaadawi and *The Golden Chariot* (1995) by Salwa Bakr. This paper combines the analysis of the two texts with personal reflections on Egyptian women's lives under patriarchy, in terms of gender, sexuality, and class. The focus is on the oppression of women in relation to crime within Egyptian society. The questions around gender are sparked all along in the novels discussed in this paper. These are Egyptian women writing to intrigue their society about the existent imbalance. They write in their mother tongue for each woman who's interested in liberating herself from society's cage. This paper addresses two main aspects of prison Egyptian women's experiences as portrayed in Elsaadawi's and Bakr's novels; namely sexuality and crime. Elsaadawi dives into how gender put the main character at a disadvantage which made her use sexuality as an empowerment tool because of how unequal and unjust her life was. Bakr, on the other hand, highlighted how being a woman of a working class ultimately puts these people in an unjust social construct.

Hana Dawoud (Cohort 1) Year 2022:
Title: Gender Differences in Relation to Divorce in the Middle East: A Comparison Between Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia

This paper tackles the changing divorce trends with a focus on how a divorced women are viewed based on the stigmatization enforced by certain cultures, which is one of the divorce challenges that women face. In addition, a comparison between divorce effects on men versus women is drawn in the paper by looking at the economic, social, and psychological outcome of divorce. The aim of the paper extends to digging deeper into looking at how the law has been changing towards a more favorable terms for women to ensure their rights in divorce. It is also worth mentioning how the changing gender roles is playing a role in impacting marriage stability and divorce rates.

Ram Habib (Cohort 1) Year 2022:
Title: How does the mode of education impact the upbringing of children into society?

Several studies in the education field aim to unlock the maximum potential for our children, community, and future. However, there will always be debates about the most effective mode of education for future generations whether that is single sex schooling or co-educational. The segregation or integration of girls and boys in school is a vital component of this paper and the goal of this research is to contrast and compare between both modes of education from different perspectives. This was conducted through exploratory research of the gender stereotypes that initially impact such a choice of segregating boys and girls or bringing them together in the same educational sphere as well as discovering the inequalities that arise from both scenarios. Studies have found that such inequalities are the result of unequal power relations, gender violence and discrimination, real life interactions and academic aspirations in relation to each gender. The education systems were examined from each gender's perspective and the overall benefit or detriment to the community. While this research mainly focuses on the positives and negatives of each mode of education, it does not leave the question of which is more effective unanswered as it aims to propose a different and fresh perspective on the wellbeing of our students.

Zeina Shalaby (Cohort 1) Year 2022:
Title: Religious Females in Contrasting Environments: An AUC-based Sociocultural Study



Islamism was a research focus in Egypt even before the revolution, as the fight for power between religious groups like the Brotherhood and Salafis shaped mainstream conservatism (Rock-Singer 2019). While conservatism is more prevalent in middle-classes, liberals are considered mostly upper-class and are usually accused of westernization (Rocky-Singer 2019, Dunne and Radwan 2013). While they both shared the same vision for political liberalism during the revolution, they did not see eye to eye on other social issues, especially in regards to gender equality (Dunne and Radwan 2013). Given the polarization, women who grow up in between the two can find themselves stranded between conflicting ideologies. While sociologists studied the experiences of Muslims living in Western countries abroad, no attention was paid to religious individuals who opt for private colleges and universities in the Middle East region despite being incompatible with their values. This brings up the following research question: how do Islamically religious female students self-identify and socially engage in AUC's diverse environment?

Zeina Osman (Cohort 1) Year 2022:

Title: Working women in film through Nasser and Mubarak's eras

This paper aims to analyze two films done in two different eras about women in labor, in aims to relate them to their political and societal environment. As well as to understand the factors which led to the constant shift in women's participation among the labor force in Egypt. This will be done through analyzing the policies of Nasser, El Sadat, and Mubarak's political systems and relating them to the plots of the two films.

Hana Dawoud (Cohort 1) Year 2021:

Title: Japanese Women in the Labor Force of a Patriarchal Society

This research paper tackles that despite the male dominance in the Japanese patriarchal society, there is a desperate need for women's contribution to the workforce for a promising future for the Japanese economy. Being one of the most developed countries, Japan is making people wonder how it lags behind when it comes to gender equality and women's rights. The aim of this research is to assess whether Womenomics was implemented for the sake of empowering women and providing them with their rights in the workplace, or rather it was just for increasing the labor participation rate to boost the economy. In addition, the research discusses several implications such as Matahara and Hikikomori that aroused due to the implementation of Womenomics. It is crucial to mention the cultural context in which Womenomics is operating in since that the patriarchal culture remains a threat to Japanese women regardless of the Prime Minister's efforts in implementing a policy that recognizes women as a crucial power to influence the performance of the economy.

Nour El Captan (Cohort 1) Year 2021:

Title: Narrating Egyptian Women's Prison Experiences: Saadawi and Bakr

The research attempts to discover what Egyptian women prisoners' experience was like in the 1980s and 90s through studying two major texts which fall under the genre of prison literature: *Twelve Women in a Cell* by Nawal El Saadawi and *The Golden Chariot* by Salwa Bakr. Through a thorough reading and analysis of the works, similar tropes and different attitudes can be found in the texts. No research exists which attempts to compare and contrast these two pieces of literature. Both works discussed class, comradeship, and the patriarchy but differences exist when it comes to their different portrayals of prison.

Tamer Osman (Cohort 1) Year 2021:

Title: Children's Perceptions of Themselves as Gendered Beings in the Middle East

This paper examines cultural artefacts from Egypt and Saudi Arabia in order to better understand children's perceptions of themselves as gendered beings in the Middle East. Analysis showed that both males and females adhere to different social norms due to both nature and nurture. Children's media and cartoons encourage traditional gender interests such as doll houses for girls and vehicles for boys. Furthermore, familial and societal imitation strengthens stereotypes and plays a big role in influencing children's behaviours. On the nature side, research has revealed that biological sex does influence both genders' self-perceptions and actions. As a result, youngsters see themselves as gendered beings, in accordance with both their surroundings and biological distinctions. Female youngsters in the Middle East are likely to face gender norms that are restrictive. Some people try to redefine what is acceptable and defy the rules, while the majority of people follow the established social dynamics. Even though distinctions in notions of masculinity are apparent in different children, adhering to traditional masculine ideals receives great acclaim from society in support of attributes like magnanimity and gallantry for boys in the Middle East. Girls, on the other hand, are expected to be obedient, shy, and pious. In general, youngsters are aware of their gendered identity within the societal framework. They opt to avoid these expectations at times. Other times, they follow it and reinforce it by receiving acclaim from their society in the process.

Ram Habib (Cohort 1) Year 2021:

Title: Gender Portrayal in Advertisements & The Impact On Society

This research attempts to analyze the inner workings of the advertising content promotes stereotypes by encompassing negative gender portrayals. The goal of this research is to reach a correlation between gender stereotypes and advertising strategies and to study the potential impact the future may hold based on the current initiatives. This was conducted through exploratory research of the gender stereotypes relating to both men and women and studying the impact that today's advertising strategies yield towards them, whether it reinforces the stereotypes or not. The stereotypes that were put to study were the occupation/location setting, familial and non familial roles, and responsibilities associated with each gender. The advertisements were analyzed through the products displayed, the setting, the main visual figure and the background. The common belief that women are more prone to damage, either psychological, physical or both while men are immune to such impact is also investigated and assessed in order to understand that the impact aforementioned stereotypes imply are not associated to a specific gender. While this research focuses on the impacts such advertising strategies imply, it also offers a briefing into the trajectory currently in place by marketers and international corporations to steer away from the stereotypical convictions



Zeina Shalaby (Cohort 1) Year 2021:

Title: The Applicability of the Grameen Model in Upper Egypt: Short and Long term effects on Women Empowerment

Many people suffer from poverty globally, and economic tools used to combat it have varied from one country to another with some enacting noticeable change. Recently, the topic of women's poverty attracted attention after the Grameen Bank's microfinance model was recognized for decreasing poverty in rural Bangladesh by loaning women almost exclusively. This paper attempts to explore if the Grameen model can accomplish similar results in Upper Egypt. To research its applicability, I first analyzed data of rural Bangladesh right before the application of the Grameen model (around the end of the 1990s) to evaluate the obstacles faced by Bangladeshi women at the time. To check the model's success rate, I turned to studies comparing Grameen loaners with control groups directly after the expansion of Grameen banks in rural Bangladesh (timed in early 2000s). I then compared obstacles of Bangladeshi women with those of rural Egyptian women by looking into UN's reports on Egypt of the last 5 years. Referring to the reports, I also compared their socioeconomic environments to decide if women of upper Egypt can be vulnerable to the same risks experienced by Bangladeshi women due to the model. Since findings show that women of rural Bangladesh and Upper Egypt face almost the same economic obstacles and share similar socioeconomic environments, I was able to infer that the Grameen microfinance model can be an effective tool to eradicate women's poverty in Upper Egypt but can disempower women in the long run by confining them to the informal sector.

Zeina Osman (Cohort 1) Year 2021:

Title: Social Media and Thinness Idealization in Women

With the rise of the internet over the past ten years, the rates of eating disorders and body image problems have increased dramatically in young adult women. Psychologists and media experts have been conducting numerous researches to understand the relationship between social media and body image. While the majority of scholars believe that social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook open room for unhealthy social comparisons and the promotion of unrealistic thin body ideals, other believe that this is not necessarily the case as virtual media mirrors people's behaviors rather than initiating them. Another similar opinion states that social media can have a positive influence on body satisfaction and self-confidence. This essay explores the different arguments of this ongoing debate, and relating these arguments to Festinger's Social Comparison Theory, in an attempt to critically analyze the true impact of social media and modern day technology on the phenomenon of thinness idealization.