



### **CASA Fellows 2019-2020 in Amman**

**Laura Abbott** holds an M.A in East Asian studies from Stanford University and an M.A. in strategic studies (Middle East curriculum) from the Naval Postgraduate School. She has studied Arabic in the U.S., Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco. Her academic interests include counter-terrorism, defense institution building, women's empowerment, and the refugee crisis. After CASA, she will work in the U.S. Embassy in Jordan as a Security Cooperation Officer.

**Bilal Abdelhady** graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology and Arabic and a master's degree in Near Eastern languages and cultures (Arabic) from the University of California - Los Angeles. His interests include Arabic language, Islamic studies, culture, society, law, and social change. Bilal hopes to contribute to the betterment of those fields in the near future.

**Michael Battalia** received his M.S. in Foreign Service and M.A. in History from Georgetown University, where he was a FLAS Fellow, and a bachelor's degree from the London School of Economics. He previously spent seven years living in the Middle East as a management consultant with Deloitte. Michael is particularly interested in early twentieth-century Arabic poetry, literature, and political philosophy. After CASA, he plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Middle East history.

**Tate Crossley** graduated from Brigham Young University in 2018 with a B.A. in Arabic and linguistics. After graduation, Tate interned for one year at LDS Charities in northern Jordan. His research interests are sociolinguistics and dialectology.

**Kendall Dorland** is a graduate of Georgetown University, where she majored in Arabic and anthropology, focusing on modern Arabic literature. Currently, she works on issues of urban governance and spatial injustice in Cairo and across the Middle East and North Africa.

**Neal Feldman** recently completed a master's degree in Middle Eastern & North African Studies at the University of Arizona. His research interests include the ethnography of religiosity among Palestinians and Israeli Jews in Jerusalem, as well as the effects of political tourism on the Israeli occupation.

**Ghayde Ghraawi** is a doctoral student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Yale University. He studies Arabic literary history between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Ghayde holds an M.A. in Near Eastern studies from New York University and a B.A. in English literature and Arabic from the University of Texas at Austin.

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**Minji Kim** is a student at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Republic of Korea, where she studies Arabic and English for international conferences and communication. She is interested in pursuing graduate studies in teaching Arabic as a foreign language and applied linguistics. Her research interests include topics in language pedagogy, contrastive linguistics, translation, and sociocultural backgrounds in languages.

**Shivonne Logan** graduated from Stanford University in 2019 with a B.A. in international relations, with interdisciplinary honors through the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, and a minor in Middle Eastern languages, literature, and culture. She has previously studied, worked, and lived in Morocco, Berlin, and Doha, and she is interested in women's and refugee issues in the MENA and beyond. After CASA, Shivonne hopes to work in women's empowerment and international development in the MENA region.

**Alyssa Marshall** recently graduated from New York University with a double major in international relations and Middle Eastern & Islamic studies. Her academic interests include political economy and conflict mediation, specifically in the Gulf region, and she is interested in pursuing Arabic in translation. Alyssa has lived and studied in the UAE, Israel, and Palestine.

**Nafisatou Mounkaila** completed a bachelor's degree in Arab world history and Arabic at New York University in Abu Dhabi. Her research interests include the creation of "race" and the concept of blackness in the Arab world, as well as Quranic interpretation and translation. After CASA, Nafisatou hopes to begin a doctoral program in which she utilizes her Arabic language skills.

**Sam Ricciardi** graduated from Georgetown University in 2017 with a B.A. in political economy. He worked at Bain & Company Middle East Network for two years before beginning the CASA program. After CASA, he will pursue an M.A. in international affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS.

**Nicholas Shafer** graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a B.A. with High Honors in anthropology and Arabic language and literature, and with minors in public policy and education. He recently served with the US Department of State in Algiers, Algeria, and worked as a trip leader for the Ibrahim Foundation. Nicholas also worked at the Smithsonian Institution in Summer 2019. He intends to pursue a career in diplomacy and conflict resolution, with a focus on educational, scientific, and cultural exchange. Nicholas is a Boren Scholar and a winner of the UC Berkeley Leadership Award.

**Sage Smiley** recently graduated from Brigham Young University with degrees in journalism and Arabic, and a minor in chemistry. She is interested in Arabic cinema and literature, podcasting, learning about social issues in the Arab world, and open-source investigations. Sage hopes to work as a foreign correspondent in her future career.

**Stephanie Stewart** graduated from the University of Georgia in 2019 with degrees in economics, women's studies, and international affairs, and with a minor in Arabic. Her research focuses on gender and conflict, and she hopes to explore how post-conflict economic (re)development can promote gender equity. Stephanie has studied Arabic in Oman as a Boren Scholar and at Middlebury Language Schools as a Davis Fellow for Peace.

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**Naomi L. Whitney-Hirschmann** graduated from Wellesley College in May 2019 with a major in international relations-history and a minor in Middle Eastern studies. She is interested in intercultural communication, particularly as it relates to migration, development, and relations between the Middle East and Europe. Naomi previously studied Arabic in Amman with the Middlebury School in Jordan.

**Gabriel Young** is a Ph.D. student in the joint History and Middle Eastern Studies program at New York University. His primary research interests are the history of development, urban political ecology, and critical geographies of infrastructure in the modern Middle East. While Gabriel has focused on the social history of development in postcolonial Egypt in past research projects, his prospective dissertation examines the relationship between urbanization, state formation, and transnational political economy in the twentieth-century Persian Gulf.

**Ryan Zohar** recently graduated from Columbia University with a B.A. in Middle Eastern, South Asian & African studies, and from Sciences Po Paris with a B.A. in political science. He has also studied Arabic in Egypt and Oman on FLAS Fellowships. After CASA, he will begin a Ph.D. program in anthropology at the University of Michigan.