



IFI NEWSLETTER

March - April 2025

NEWS



IFI AND IRIS SIGN MOU

IFI and the Institute of Regional and International Studies (IRIS) at the American University of Beirut signed a MoU aimed at fostering joint research, public policy dialogue, and regional cooperation.

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BEIRUT SECURITY DEBATES 2025

Read our X thread for highlights from the 3rd Edition of the IFI-FES Beirut Security Debates (BSD) titled: "A New Era? Scenarios for the Middle East," held on April 8-9, 2025.

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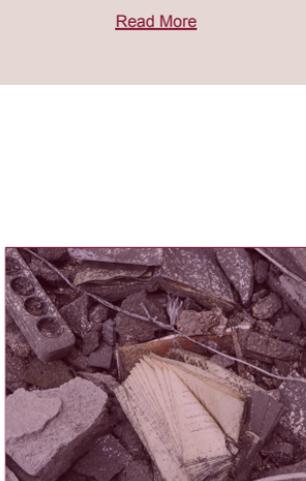


EXPERT OPINION SERIES

Read the latest in our Snapshot Expert Opinion series, from IFI Fellows: [Ishac Diwan](#), [Camille Ammoun](#), [Sumnu Altug](#), [Sami Geadah](#), [Ali Abboud](#), [Hesham Youssef](#), [Karma Ekmekji](#), and [Adnan El Amine](#).

Visit our social media platforms regularly to read the latest in the series.

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SWANA SUB-AWARDEES: ARI AND ICARDA

Our Institute is thrilled to announce that the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI) and ICARDA have been selected by our SWANA Future of Work Hub as sub-awardees for this year's research cycle. We are proud to support their work as they lead bold, solutions-driven projects across the SWANA region.

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PUBLICATIONS



THE IMPACT OF DISPLACEMENT AND WAR THREATENS LEBANON'S ALREADY FRAGILE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC

SIBYLLE RIZK



MASS DISPLACEMENT IN LEBANON: ACCESS TO RIGHTS AMIDST WAR AND MULTILEVELLED CRISES

ELIAS DAHROUGE



CIVIL SOCIETY'S LIMITATIONS IN LEVERAGING COHERENT & EFFICIENT STATE PUBLIC POLICIES ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

KARIM EL MUFTI



PUBLICATIONS

[FOR ALL OUR PUBLICATIONS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

POLICY BLOG



Does Lebanon need a fiscal rule?

"A fiscal rule in Lebanon would go a long way in limiting the detrimental effects of weak governance on economic policies and in strengthening credibility in macroeconomic policies."

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A New Agreement with the IMF?

"Progress on reforms need not be delayed until there is a formal agreement on IMF financial support."

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GCC Commitments to Women, Peace, and Security: Reflections on 25 Years of Progress

"The GCC member states made significant progress towards positioning women in the context of peace and security, where historical path dependence has been challenged as a hindrance to societal progress."

[Read More](#)



Women After War: At the Helm of Rebuilding and Recovery in Gaza

"The Israeli occupation has, for Palestine, imposed directly and indirectly difficulties on Palestinian women. War and siege for years have kept Gaza in a chronic crisis state, exacerbating GBV, economic marginalization, and decision-making exclusion."

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Pioneers of Progress: Tunisian Women Leading the Fight for Equality and Democracy Throughout the Years

"Since the 2011 revolution, Tunisia has made more and more significant strides in advancing women's rights, yet challenges such as gender-based violence (GBV) and unequal representation in the workforce persist."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



INTERNSHIP TRAINING SERIES

Our Institute finalized a series of five training sessions for our Spring Interns, covering: research proposal development, a practical session on how to respond to current affairs through Research, research ethics, communications at a policy, and how to translate research to think tank.

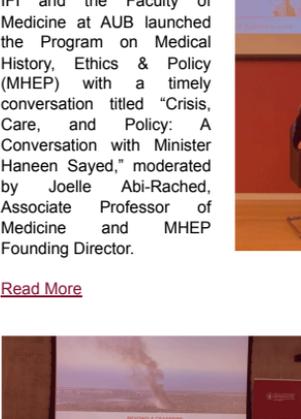
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INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SUMMER COHORT NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

To all university students interested in public policy and international affairs: spread the word and make sure you apply to our Institute's Summer 2025 Internship Program! Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2025.

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MEET OUR REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CLUSTER COORDINATOR

Our Institute is excited to announce Yeghia Tashjian as its Regional and International Affairs Cluster Coordinator. Tashjian holds a master's degree in Public Policy and International Affairs from AUB and completed the "Strategic Leadership in Global Societal Security Program" at the Swedish Defense University in 2022.



MEET OUR SUSTAINABILITY & INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER COORDINATOR

Our Institute is excited to announce Alexander Haddad as its Sustainability and Inclusive Development Cluster Coordinator. Haddad holds Master's Degree in Agronomy Engineering and in Sustainable Development Economics, AgroParisTech.

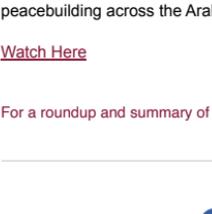
EVENTS



BOOK REFLECTION WITH GHASSAN SALAMÉ

As part of the 2025 Beirut Security Debates (BSD), IFI and FES held a Book Reflection on "The Temptation of Mars: War and Peace in the 21st Century," with H.E. Minister of Culture Ghassan Salamé, moderated by Institute Director Joseph Bahout. The discussion used the book as a basis for a wider debate about today's world fractures and trends, with a special focus on the Middle East.

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CRISIS, CARE, AND POLICY: A CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER HANEEN SAYED

IFI and the Faculty of Medicine at AUB launched the Program on Medical History, Ethics & Policy (MHEP) with a timely conversation titled "Crisis, Care, and Policy: A Conversation with Minister Haneen Sayed," moderated by Joelle Abi-Rached, Associate Professor of Medicine and MHEP Founding Director.

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DISCUSSION ON: "BEYOND A CEASEFIRE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON UNSCR 1701"

IFI hosted a closed discussion on UNSC Resolution 1701 and the 2024 ceasefire agreement, IFI University Fellow Karim Makdissi, and UNSCOL Chief of Staff and Principal Political Advisor Neeraj Singh. The event took IFI's comparative analysis of UNSCR 1701 and the ceasefire agreement - co-authored by IFI Director Joseph Bahout and IFI Regional & International Affairs Cluster Coordinator Yeghia Tashjian - as a basis for the discussion.

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DISCUSSION ON "INEQUALITY, GLOBALIZATION AND DEMOCRACY"

Our Institute, the Department of Economics, and the Institute of Financial Economics (IFE) at the American University of Beirut, hosted a discussion on "Inequality, Globalization and Democracy" with Branko Milanovic, a leading expert on global inequality, and Ishac Diwan, Professor of Economics at AUB and IFI Associate Fellow.

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"BETWEEN OBSTACLES & IMPACT: 25 YEARS OF WOMEN, ARMED CONFLICT & PEACE IN THE MENA REGION"

Our Institute co-organized the high-level discussion held at UN Women HQ in New York, titled "Between Obstacles & Impact: 25 Years of Women, Armed Conflict & Peace in the MENA Region." The event, moderated by IFI Assistant Director Yara Mourad, highlighted the critical role of women in fostering peace & stability and their transformative impact on peacebuilding across the Arab region.

[Watch Here](#)

"SHIFTING DYNAMICS OF MIGRATION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: EXAMINING THE ROLE OF EGYPT AS A RECEIVING SITE FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES"

The IDRC Chair in Forced Displacement Program at the American University of Beirut, in collaboration with our Institute, held a webinar on "Shifting Dynamics of Migration in the Global South: Examining the role of Egypt as a receiving site for migrants and refugees" with Dr. Amira Ahmed, moderated by Dr. Sawsan Abdulrahim.

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For a roundup and summary of the Institute's events, visit [Events at IFI](#).