

Inaugural Fouad Ajami Fellows Selected at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

*Two accomplished JHU graduate students receive \$5000 each to study in the Middle East this summer
June 22, 2015*

The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) announced that Ms. Lena Abdin and Mr. Geoffrey King were selected as recipients of the inaugural Fouad Ajami fellowship. This newly created fellowship will provide two graduate students with a \$5,000 stipend to conduct research and/or study Arabic in the Middle East each year and was established to honor the accomplishments and legacy of the late Dr. Fouad Ajami.

Dr. Ajami served as the director of Middle East Studies at Johns Hopkins SAIS from 1980 to 2011 and was the recipient of a MacArthur Prize Fellowship, among many other awards of distinction. He also authored *The Arab Predicament*, *Dream Palace of the Arabs: A Generation's Odyssey*, and other landmark books that shaped the field of Middle East Studies.

Dr. Ajami was beloved by his students for his wit, erudition, and willingness to go the extra mile to help them navigate their studies and future career opportunities. He profoundly believed that for his students to understand the Arab World, they had to know its people and speak their language. Each summer he funded his Middle East students to study Arabic somewhere in the region. The Fouad Ajami Fellowship was launched earlier this year by his former students, colleagues, and friends – with the support of Dr. Ajami's family – to carry on that inspiring tradition.

This year's fellows will spend their summer in Lebanon, the UAE, and Egypt. Ms. Abdin will study the Syrian refugee crises in Lebanon and Mr. King will explore the entrepreneurship and investment landscape in the Levant and the Gulf, while studying Arabic. In the fall, the two Ajami Fellows will present their research at public forum at Johns Hopkins SAIS' Washington, D.C. campus.

About the Fouad Ajami Fellowship

The Fouad Ajami Fellowship at SAIS honors the life, legacy, and vision of Professor Ajami, who passed away on June 22, 2014. It is a fellowship that has been endowed by his friends and former students. We encourage students who embody the values and beliefs of positive change that Professor Ajami held dear to apply to this Fellowship.

For more information about the Fouad Ajami Fellowship, please contact Sanam Vakil at svakil1@jhu.edu or [+447460099009](tel:+14105164600) or Lindsey Waldrop at lwaldrop@jhu.edu or [202-650-6005](tel:2026506005)