There are many who say it’s better to keep justice and love separate. For me, these two issues are one. If one loves and respects his fellow humans, then he will wish for them whatever he wishes for himself. One could say that the work I do with the Duke Islamic Studies Center is about these discussions of justice and love and how to unite the two. — Omid Safi, Duke University

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DUKE IN THE WORLD

Duke is home to literary critics, archaeologists, historians, diplomats and hundreds of other scholars whose studies and research related to North Africa and the Middle East range from Islamic feminism to representational politics to the modernization of the Middle East.

EDUCATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Duke’s partners in the Middle East and North Africa come from universities, research institutes and other organizations across the region. Current partnerships explore research collaborations and academic exchange opportunities focusing on law, business and management studies, and other academic disciplines.

The Duke Law School partners with Tel Aviv University to provide Duke students with an opportunity to study in Israel and to gain exposure to the Israeli culture and legal environment. In this program, students connect with peers from Israel and around the world. Law courses at Tel Aviv University cover everything from comparative U.S. and Israeli law to international law. Students from Tel Aviv University also study at Duke each fall semester.

The Fuqua School of Business also has an exchange program with Tel Aviv University for graduate students.

It also collaborates with Koç University Graduate School of Business in Istanbul, Turkey for a semester-long graduate student exchange program. A shared commitment to training global leaders who create value for society makes Koç and Duke University fitting partners for student exchange.
In addition to working with partners in the region, Duke collaborates with nearby University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill for the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies. The consortium encourages collaboration and cooperation in all aspects of Middle Eastern studies across the two campuses, provides research and training opportunities for faculty and students, and stimulates institutional and public awareness of the importance and richness of Middle Eastern people and cultures.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In addition to the above partnerships, several of which send students to countries across the region to work with and learn from Middle Eastern partners, Duke sponsors a number of trips for students to experience the cultures and customs of North Africa and the Middle East.

DukeEngage Jordan allows students to examine crucial issues in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, an Arab state coming to terms with political and social change and the effects of regional conflict.

DukeEngage Lebanon students work with the Unite Lebanon Youth Project, a local organization that counsels high school students and leads them to a path of higher education.

DukeEngage Turkey students spend six weeks in Morocco, where they improve their Arabic language skills and study religious citizenship and Moroccan Culture.

In the DukeEngage Turkey program, students work with a local organization focused on conservation and rehabilitation of sea turtles.
The Global Education Office for Undergraduates coordinates a student program called Duke in the Arab World based in Morocco. This program provides students with the opportunity to explore the socio-political development and intricacies of the Arab world while gaining real life experiences through interaction, observation, field visits and homestays.

Duke Immerse, a program in which all courses are built on a single theme, offers a program called Uprooted/Rerouted: The Ethical Challenges of Displacement. As part of the program, Duke students and faculty collaborate with NGOs and travel abroad to conduct life story interviews in refugee communities. Past cohorts have visited Syrian refugee camps in Jordan and Nepal and have worked with Iraqi refugees once resettled in Durham.

The Duke Immerse program is part of a larger Refugee Resettlement Project, which, along with a Duke Bass Connections project on displacement, focuses on building refugee narratives and studying the resettlement of the Bhutanese, Iraqi and Syrian refugee communities, among others.

RESEARCH

Duke faculty members conduct research in or related to 16 North African and Middle Eastern countries. This research spans eight of Duke’s ten schools and many of its institutes and centers.
Among Duke’s researchers exploring topics related to North Africa and the Middle East are:

- **Negar Mottahedeh**—on the history of revolution and the uses of social media in protests in Iran
- **miriam cooke**—on the intersection of gender and war in modern Arabic literature and the literary constructions of Islamic feminism
- **Mustafa Tuna**—on social and cultural change among the Muslim communities of Central Eurasia
- **Omid Safi**—on Islam and social justice, gender equality and religious and ethnic pluralism
- **Frances Hasso**—on the intersections between states, social movements and individual identities in the Arab world
- **Timur Kuran**—on markets and Islamic law, and the economic roots of political underdevelopment in the Middle East

Graduate and undergraduate students are also involved in research in the region. **Bass Connections** team members with the **Kenan Institute for Ethics** take part in ongoing fieldwork in Nepal and Egypt displacement issues and the well-being of refugees. As part of this research, students work with local NGOs including the Azraq Catch-Up School for refugees and the Mercy Corps humanitarian organization in Jordan.

To find more Duke experts, visit [global.duke.edu/regions](http://global.duke.edu/regions) and search our Global Activities Map by school and country of interest.
MENA AT DUKE

The MENA region is represented at Duke through a number of nationally recognized centers and programs, including the Duke Middle East Studies Center. The center:

- Builds connections between academic departments and disciplines
- Supports research, education and outreach on Middle East studies
- Takes a transregional and interdisciplinary approach to the study of Middle Eastern countries and cultures

The Duke Islamic Studies Center is one of the leading institutions in North America for the study of Islam and Muslims. Its comparative, cross-cultural approach to Islamic studies fosters new interpretations of Islam and encourages creative solutions to the economic, political and social challenges involving Muslims.

The Duke Africa Initiative not only highlights the work of Sub-Saharan and Atlantic Africanist scholars, but also encompasses many faculty members with expertise on North African topics, including the Arab Spring and the politics of climate change adaptation in the region.

Duke students also run organizations focused on this part of the world, including the Student Organization for Legal Issues in the Middle East and North Africa (SOLIMENA). SOLIMENA provides educational,
research and professional development opportunities for students with an interest in the region. SOLIMENA has grown into a network of faculty members, students and administrators that analyze its peoples, and the legal, political, economic and cultural complexities of the region.

These initiatives help students build upon knowledge gained in more than 200 MENA-related courses offered at Duke. These courses come from:

- Duke Arabic Program
- Turkish culture and language minor
- International Comparative Studies: Middle East track
- Jewish studies major
- Hebrew minor
- Certificate program in Jewish Studies
- The Middle East & Islam in Global Context FOCUS Program
- Duke-UNC Middle East Studies Certificate
MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Togetherness: Duke and Durham

In Iraq, SuWA means “togetherness.” At Duke, it also stands for Supporting Women’s Action, a student-organized effort to empower refugee women in Durham through education, small business development and community building.

Since 2013, the partnership has grown into a community of women from Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, Yemen and Morocco. SuWA strives to create a space where women can discuss their challenges and work toward shared solutions.

Middle East Refugee Awareness Week

Each year Duke hosts Middle East Refugee Awareness Week, which highlights refugee stories, includes lectures from activists and features input from visiting scholars and refugees living in Durham.

In 2015, the week of events included presentations from students in a course called Refugee Lives, which pairs Duke undergraduates with refugee families and individuals living in the local area.

“People know there’s a Durham outside Duke, but they might not know that there’s such a large Sudanese or Iraqi population here,” said student Lydia Thurmond. “Facilitating those relationships between groups that wouldn’t otherwise talk is something we hope to achieve.”

Portraits from Amman

Students in the DukeEngage Jordan program spend their summers working with local organizations focused on educational, environmental, economic, health and social issues. Kelsey Graywill, who participated in DukeEngage Jordan 2016, found that the best way to understand the intricacies of life in Jordan was through portraiture. Through drawings of her homestay family, Graywill learned to approach her time abroad as an observer.

To read more global news, visit global.duke.edu/news.