

# Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Higher Education King Saud University Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Chair for Hisorical and Civilization Studies of The Arabian Peninsula



## The First Symposium of Saudi Scientific Chair and Centers Abroad 2013/1/6-4 King Saud University, Riyadh



كرسي الأوير سلوان بن عبدالعزيز للدراسات التاريخية والحضارية للجزيرة العربية

Prince Salman bin Abdullaziz al-Saud's chair for historical and civilization studies of Arabain Peninsula

#### Acknowledgement

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Praise be to Allah, and peace be upon our prophet Mohammed, the Seal of all Prophets and Messengers, and upon all his family and companions.

For a long period of time, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has endeavoured to develop its own scientific research industry, and to support the diversification of scientific studies through various channels, on top of these is the establishment of scientific research chairs at overseas universities. These overseas universities have generous financial support received from government of Saudi Arabia. These chairs have expanded to include multifarious specialties in many various programs, countries, and which achieving multiple objectives such as building bridges of communication between Saudi researchers and their peers in these overseas universities.

Within the context of its new scientific programs, The Saudi Ministry of Higher Education is taking a great interest in such chairs, and has conducted a number of survey studies in order to draft a clear scientific vision concerning co-operation between these chairs and the Saudi universities. Organizing the first symposium on the overseas Saudi scientific chairs falls within the scope of the programs of the Ministry, especially in consideration of the fact that this symposium is organized by one of the most important chairs of the Saudi universities, namely, Prince Salman

bin Abdulaziz's Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies of the Arabian Peninsula, King Saud University. This symposium comes to achieve a key goal, that is, to benefit from the chairs that have been funded by the government of Saudi Arabia and by the Saudi individuals, particularly, through maintaining various forms of scientific co-operation and collaboration in such a meaningful way to the Saudi specialists and students alike. Therefore, student-exchange programs, visiting-professor programs, co-authored scientific publication, and training are some of the main topics of this symposium.

I would like to thank King Saud University, represented by its Rector, his excellence Dr. Badran bin Abdulruhman Al-Omar, and his excellence, Dr. Abdullah bin Naser Al-Subai', the Director of Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz's Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies of the Arabian Peninsula for their relentless efforts and for organizing this symposium. Finally, I hope that this will be a successful and exciting event to everyone of you.

Minister of Higher Education

Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Angari

#### Introduction

Scientific chairs represent them most prominent scientific research centers at the international level. Western universities encouraged the establishment of scientific research chairs through donations and government support in line with a tradition that goes back to the Renaissance period. During the modern and contemporary times increased interest was given to the establishment and expansion of scientific research centers and chairs at universities where their number reached thousands in some countries, such as the USA, Canada, Japan.

By the end of the 20th century, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia adopted the establishment of external scientific research centers and chairs with the aim of fostering Islamic and Arabic studies at the international level, especially in the USA and the European universities. During the first decade of 21st century, Saudi universities were permitted to establish research chairs in all research and scientific specializations and to receive grants and donations from individuals. As a result of this approval, scientific research chairs have witnessed a quantum leap represented in the emergence of approximately one hundred and thirty two research chairs at King Saud University, apart from other Saudi universities.

One of the recently established scientific chairs includes Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz's Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies of the Arabian Peninsula in 2010, which took on its shoulders the service of the history and culture of the Arabian Peninsula. On the basis of this, the Chair endeavored to

promote its message through adopting a number of scientific programs, such as allocating prizes for distinguished scientific research and publishing, organizing symposia, workshops and lectures as well as communicating with relevant stakeholders in as far as the activities of the Chair are concerned.

Moreover, on the basis of its message of promoting scientific communication with its peer scientific research centers and chairs, the Chair decided to strengthen its ties with its peer Saudi Chairs and Centers abroad, which have interest in the historical and cultural studies of the Arabian Peninsula. Therefore, the Chair decided to organize a scientific symposium that aims to invite the Directors of these Centers and Chairs in order to benefit from their long and vast experiences in a way that these chairs and centers can achieve the objectives for which the Chairs were established.

#### **Objectives of the Symposium**

Scientific symposia offer a great opportunity for exchanging ideas, for achieving many scientific objectives in different research fields. and promoting scientific partnership with peer scientific chairs and centers abroad. Based on this, Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz's Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies of the Arabian Peninsula aims at achieving a number objectives, the most important of which include the following:

- Introducing Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz's Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies of the Arabian Peninsula and its activities.
- Benefiting from the experiences of overseas Saudi Scientific Chairs.
- Promoting cooperation with the overseas Saudi Scientific Chairs.
- Opening new venues for more engagement and collaboration with overseas Saudi Centers and chairs.
- To be familiar with the various activities and areas of concentration of overseas Saudi chairs.
- To be cognizant of the difficulties facing the overseas Saudi Centers and chairs and benefiting from their experiences.
- Establishing links between overseas Saudi Centers and chairs with their peer scientific Chairs at the Saudi universities.

#### **Topics of the Symposium:**

The first symposium on the Overseas Saudi Scientific Chairs aims to put forward a number of proposals that include the discussion of several issues related to the various fields of scientific research. In this context, we should stress the importance of this symposium, which comes to consolidate the bonds between these Centers and Chairs and the Saudi Chairs in a manner that all these chairs and centers will be able achieve the objectives for which they were established. These objectives can be exemplified by the promotion of cooperation and opening up the channels of dialogue at the academic level. Therefore, it is proposed that the objectives of the symposium should be of a general nature, with a focus on handling those topics pertinent to strengthening cooperation with the Overseas Saudi Centers and Chairs. The topics of the symposium include the following:

## First Topic: Experiences and Expertise of Scientific Chairs

- a) An overview on overseas centers and chairs.
- b) Programs and activities of centers and chairs.
- c) The role of chairs in university and community service.
- d) Co-operation frameworks between chairs and to develop

them

e) Difficulties facing chairs and their solutions.

# Second Topic: Student Exchange Programs & Faculty

- Areas of student exchange and summer programs and their requirements.
- Mechanisms for executing student exchange programs
- Visiting Faculty Programs.
- Attracting and recruiting Faculty staff members for specialist scientific chairs.

#### Third Topic: Areas of Scientific Research Collaboration

- o Joint scientific research projects between chairs.
- Organizing joint periodical symposia and conferences.
- Utilizing scientific chairs in the exchange of information.
- o Discussing issues relevant to scientific chairs.

# **Overseas Research Chairs and Research Centers Participating in this Symposium**

Since its inception which was about a year ago, Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Chair's for Historical and Civilization Studies of the Arabian Peninsula has sought to get in touch with the Directors of the overseas scientific centers and chairs in order to establish the fact whether or not it is possible for them to take part in a symposium that brings them together. The results were positive as 15 Directors agreed to participate in the first symposium which will concentrates on the ways and means of co-operation and exchange of experience. The chairs whose Directors agreed to participate in the symposium are the following:

No.	Name of the Center/Program/Chair	Director
1	King Faisal's Chair for Islamic Thought and Culture, University of South California, USA.	Stherherman Jackson
2	King Fahd's Center for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arkansas, Westville, USA.	Joel Gordon
3	King Abdulaziz bin Saud's Chair for Islamic Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA.	Stephen Humphreys
4	King Fahd's Chair for Islamic Shari'a Studies, Harvard University, USA.	Nazim Ali
5	Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Islamic Studies Program, Harvard University, USA.	Ali Asani
6	King Fahd's Chair for Islamic Studies, University of London, U.K.	Mohammed Abdul-Haleem
7	King Abdulaziz's Center for Islamic Sciences, Bologna University, Italy.	Ana Trombetti

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8	Prince Naif bin Abdulaziz's Department for Islamic and Arab Studies, Moscow University, Russia	Dimitry Frolorv
9	Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Center for Islamic – Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, USA.	John L. Esposito
10	Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal's Center for Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge. UK.	Jack Lubek
11	Director of the International Studies Center, University of South Georgia	Yasir Suleiman
12	Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal's Center for American Studies and Research, American University of Cairo, Egypt.	Magda Shahin
13	Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal's Center for American Studies and Research, American University of Beirut, Lebanon.	Alexander Lubin
14	Mohammed Said Al-Farisi's Chair for Islamic Peace, The American University, Washington D.C., USA.	Abdul Aziz Sa'eed
15	Abdul Lateef Jameel's Center for Poverty Alleviation and Development, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA	Abhajit Banrgi

#### Research Chairs and Research Centers from inside the Kingdom Participating in the Symposium

In addition to the overseas Saudi chairs and centers, a number of scientific chairs at King Saud University and other Saudi universities, the people concerned from the Ministry of Higher Education and some prominent personalities from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the Diplomatic Institute have been invited as to participate in this symposium. These local chairs include:

Chair	Director
Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz's	
Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies of the	Prof. Abdullah N. Al-Subaiy
Arabian Paninsula	
King Abdulaziz's Chair for	Prof. Omer Al'amri
Historical Studies of the Kingdom	1 Tor. Omer 7 trainir
Engineer Abdul-Muhsin Bin	
Mohammed Addirees's Chair for	Prof. Adil Ali Ashiddi
the Biography of the Prophet and	
its Contemporary Studies	
Assistant Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research	
and Director of the Scientific	Prof. Mohammed Alwad'an
Chairs at King Saud University	
King Khalid's Chair for Scientific	
Research, King Khalid	Prof. Hassan Al-Shoukani
University.	Tron trassan in Shounan
Prince Khalid Al-Faisal`s Chair	
for Consolidating Saudi	Prof. Saeed Misfir Al-
Moderation Approach, King	Zhrani
Khalid University	

Al Rajhi's Chair for Saudi Women Research and Her Role in Community Development, King	Dr.Norah bint Abdullah ledw'an
Saud University	
Sheik Abdullah S. Bahamdan's	
Chair for Evidence- Based and	Dr. Lubna A. Al-Ansary
Applied Research in Health Care,	Di. Lubiia A. Al-Alisary
King Saud University	

**Avenue:** Ministry of Higher Education and King Saud University

**Period:** 22 - 24/2/1434 corresponding to 4 - 6/1/2013

**Language of Symposium:** Arabic and English plus simultaneous interpreting service is provided.

### **Program of the Symposium**

Arrival to Riyadh
Friday 4/1/2013
InterContinental Hotel, Riyadh
Saturday 5/1/2013
Opening Session (9:00-10:00 am)
Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz Hall
Ministry of Higher Education
Break
Saturday 5/1/2013
First Session: (10:30 am -12:30 pm)
Chair and Center Experiences
Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz Hall,
Ministry of Higher Education
Lunch (1:00-2:00 pm)
Desert Trip
(3:00-8:00 pm)
Sunday 6/1/2013
Second Session: (9:30-11:30 am)
<b>Exchange of Students &amp; Faculty</b>
Ceremonial Hall,
King Saud University
Break
Sunday 6/1/2013
Third Session: (12:30-2:30 pm)
Areas of Scientific Collaboration
Ceremonial Hall,
King Saud University
Visit to Masmak & City Center
(5:30-8:00 pm)
Mobday 7/1/2013
Departure from Riyadh
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#### **The Supervisory Committee**

The supervisory committee consists of the following members:

- His Excellency the Rector of KSU Chair
- KSU Vice Rector for Postgraduate
   Studies and Scientific Research
   Member
- The Director of Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz's
   Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies of Arabian
   Peninsula
   Member
- KSU Assistant Vice Rector for Postgraduate
   Studies and Scientific Research & the General Director of KSU Scientific Research Chairs

  Member

#### The Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee consists of the following members:

- Prof. Abdullah Nasser Alsubaiy Chair
- Prof. Mohammed Abdulaziz Al'ouhali Member
- Prof. Mohammed Abdulaziz Alhaizan Member
- Prof. Abdullah Abdurrahman Alabduljabbar

#### **Member**

- Prof. Mohammed Ahmad Alwad'an Member
- Mr. Khalid Bin Juwa'id Al-Ajami Member

#### **Research Chairs Participating in the Symposium**

## Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz's Chair for Historical and Civilization Studies of Arabian Peninsula

The idea of establishing the Chair stemmed from an initiative taken by the Department of History that was submitted to his Royal Highness, Prince Salman Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, who welcomed the idea and adopted it right away. In accordance with Article 18/20 of the System of Higher Education and Universities, and based on the approval of the Council of King Saud University, which held its session on research chairs programs on 01/04/1428, the Chair was established.

On the basis of this, the official signing to establishing the Chair of his Royal Highness, Prince Salman Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud for Historical and Civilization Studies of the Arabian Peninsula was done on 04/01/1431 in a special ceremony that was sponsored and attended by his Royal Highness Prince Salman Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

Objectives of the Chair:

- Publishing the research and books addressing the history and civilization of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Organizing specialist and scientific symposia on the history and civilization of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Building research partnership with those interested departments of history and scientific research centers and chairs.

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#### King Faisal's Chair for Islamic Thought and Culture, University of Southern California, U.S.A.

This Chair is the oldest Saudi Chair in the USA, as it was established in 1976, with the aim of disseminating Islamic though and culture, hosting specialist scholars in Islamic studies and international relations from the American academic institutions, and serving the Muslim community in its surroundings. A financial endowment of one million dollars was allocated by the Saudi government to the Chair.

The Chair witnessed instability as there were many bodies that took charge of it. The International Relations School was the first to take charge of the Chair, as Prof. World Belling was the first to work as a research chair director. The most significant activity of the Chair at the beginning of its establishment was the organization of a conference on the modernization policies of the late King Faisal in May 1978. Sooner, the Chair was transferred to the Theology School, which constituted a crucial turning point in the history and life of the Chair.

There was another shift, as the Chair moved to the Department of Economic at the university in 1993, and Prof. Timor, a specialist in economics, was appointed as the director of the Chair. This continued until 2011. Once again the Chair was affiliated to the College of Theology and its Dean, and Prof. Sherman Jackson was appointed as the Director of the Chair.

Accordingly, it is obvious that despite the fact that the Chair was established 36 years ago and despite the fact that three people took charge of it, the Chair has not achieved the objectives for which it was established. As a result, the university was pushed to recruit Prof. Sherman Jackson, whose specialty falls within the scope of the chair in order to stimulate the Chair.

Director	Prof. Sherman A Jackson
e-mail	sajackso@usc.edu
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Address	USC Dornsife

# King Fahd's Center for Middle East & Islamic Studies, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, U.S.A.

King Fahd's Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies is an interdisciplinary program in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. The Center specializes studying the modern Middle East and the geo-cultural area in which Islamic civilization prospered, and which continued to shape the history of the world.

Faculty members associated with the Center work in scientific degree-granting departments in Fulbright College and the University of Arkansas in general. The Center specializes in history, politics, literature, popular culture, religious and secular practices and exegeses, in addition to the human engagement with the environment and the ecosystems in the past and in the contemporary time. The Center works through diverse media which includes: poetry and fiction, public archives, film and music, television, guidance in curricular, cartography, the detritus of the past, and studying the, classical, popular, and artistic aspects of the present-day cultural production.

The Center offers joint university scientific degrees relevant to the regional language study and financial support is given the distinguished students through scholarships. Many of our undergraduate students have been able to pursue their graduate studies in the program's areas of concentration and related professional work in public and private sectors. At the graduate level, the Center financially supports students who specialize in the key disciplines towards the MA and PhD degrees. Our graduate students have received highly competitive fellowships as to support their research and the foreign language study.

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	University of Arkansas
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## King Abdulaziz's Chair for Islamic Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, U.S.A.

King Abdulaziz's Chair for Islamic Studies at the University of California. Santa Barbara, was established in 1985 by depending on a financial endowment of one million dollars. Four sons of King Fahd bin Abdulaziz who studied at this university donated this endowment. The most prominent name is prince Mohammed bin Fahd. This endowment is managed by the University of California's Foundation, Santa Barbara. The value of the endowment was further enhanced by the fact that the university is committed to paying the salary of the director of the Chair from its own account. The objective behind the establishment of the Chair is to support the academic studies related to Islam and the Arab World.

Despite the fact that the Chair was established in 1985, it did not function before1990 when Prof. Stephen Humphreys was selected as the Director of the Chair. At the beginning, the idea behind establishing the Chair was to have multidisciplinary programs with the participation of more than one department in the university. Therefore, many departments rivaled to host King Abdulaziz's Chair for Islamic Studies. As a result, the Department of History won the competition and hosted the Chair in 1988, which made the university to take the decision of restricting the Chair to one area of concentration.

Currently, the Chair's director is Prof. Stephen Humphreys, who specializes in the history of the Middle East.

Director	Prof. Stephen Humphreys
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Address	University of California Santa Barbara History Department HSSB 4259

## King Fahd's Chair for Islamic Shari'a Studies, Harvard University, U.S.A.

The Chair of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, i.e., King Fahd's Chair for Islamic Shari'a Studies was established in 1993 through a grant of five million dollars that was offered by King Fahd bin Abdulaziz to support studies and research in the field of Islamic Shari'a. Prof. Frank Fugel was the first Director of the Chair, until his retirement in 2005, when he was succeeded by Prof. Baber Janssen, whose position title became "The Director of Islamic Jurisprudence Studies Program" at the College of Law.

The grant, which was donated to Harvard University, was deposited in an endowment that stipulates to appoint a full professor to direct the Chair and to establish a headquarter of its own. Three million dollars were allocated for this purpose and two million dollars were allocated for the support of the Islamic Shari'a programs at the university. The endowment was deposited in the university endowment account provided that 5% of its investment revenues, i.e. approximately 150,000 dollars should be allocated for the Chair and 100,000 dollars to support the program.

The Islamic Jurisprudence Studies Program at the College of Law, Harvard University, recruits visiting professors for the Chair to teach courses in the field of the Chair.

Prof. Nazim Ali, who is currently the Director of the Chair, gives special attention to the programs of Islamic Jurisprudence Studies, as these concentrates on Islamic, Economic and Law studies, through seminars, the recruitment of participants and prints.

Director	Prof. S. Nazim Ali
e-mail	nazimali@law.harvard.edu
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Address	Harvard Law School's Islamic Legal Studies Program Holyoke Center, Rm. 347

#### Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Islamic Studies Program, Harvard University, U.S.A

Alwaleed Program at Harvard University was established through a generous donation from Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia, who is known for a wide range of philanthropic activities around the globe. He seeks to promote change through mutual cultural understanding. Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University is dedicated to furthering the scholarly study of Islam and the Muslim world in a broadly interdisciplinary context.

Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program offers a series of lectures, conferences, workshops, arts exhibitions and other events in order to enhance a better understanding of the broader Islamic world in its global and transnational context and in order to advance comparative interdisciplinary studies. The Program also seeks to promote the diffusion of Islamic studies, the exchange of opinion and the discussion of a massive body of relevant research, and the encouragement of interaction among academics—at Harvard and beyond—from various traditions of learning. Central to its academic and scholarly objectives, Alwaleed Program seeks to bridge gaps in understanding between the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds.

Currently, the Chair's Director is Prof. Ali Asani.

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e-mail	aliasani@fas.harvard.edu
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Address	Tel: +1(617) 495-5755
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## King Fahd's Chair for Islamic Studies, University of London, U.K.

King Fahd's Chair for Islamic Studies was established in 1995 at the College of Oriental and African Studies, The University of London, following the donation made by the late King Fahd of one million pounds sterling. The donation was deposited in the university endowments where the salary and allowances of the Director of the Chair are spent from its revenues.

The Center also aims at familiarizing people with the Islamic thought and culture as well as offering the opportunity for those who are interested in knowing more about the domains of Islamic thought and its contribution to the human civilization. The Chair collaborates with its peer chairs and centers existing in the British universities, with the view of fostering Arab and Islamic Studies in its surroundings.

The most significant activities carried out by the Chair include the organization of a symposium in 1997 under the title "The Judicial Criminal Procedures in the Islamic Shari'a", and the organization of a conference in 1998 under the title "The Hadith: Text and History" as well as the hosting of a number of conferences and symposia in its field of specialization, which largely focus on the Islamic Shari'a.

Since its establishment and up to now, the Chair is directed by Prof. Mohammed Abdul-Haleem

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## King Abdulaziz's Center for Islamic Studies, Bologna University, Italy

The Center was inaugurated in Bologna on January 17th, 2000, with a generous financial support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Initially, the Center was named after the founder of Saudi Arabia as "King Abdulaziz's Center for Islamic Sciences". At the beginning the Center was directed by Prof. Roversi Monaco, the former Dean of the Bologna University. The mission of the Center is to promote Islamic research and studies in collaboration with the leading Italian and foreign universities. Presently, the name of the center has become "The Interdepartmental Center for Islamic Sciences".

The Center is currently directed by Prof. Anna Trombetti.

Director	Prof. Anna Trombetti
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## Prince Naif bin Abdulaziz's Department for Islamic and Arabic studies, Moscow University, Russia

Prince Naif bin Abdulaziz's Department for Islamic and Arabic Studies was established in 1995, and in 2005, his son Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz signed an agreement for the expansion in the activities of the Chair to become the Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz's Department for Islamic and Arabic Studies at Moscow University.

Over the years the Department has offered curricula for students who wish to study Islam, the Holy Qur'an, and the Arabic language. The department also offers courses to students from the schools of arts, history, journalism, social sciences, foreign languages, and translation.

A total of 427 Russian students have enrolled in 2011 at the department to study the Holy Qur'an, the Prophet's Traditions and Monotheism. Among the courses taught are Introduction to the Holy Qur'an, Arabic Language, Ethics and Arabic and Islamic Culture. Over the last 12 years, the department was able to graduate over 2000 students at the level of various courses. The department is currently preparing a group of researches in Islamic studies.

The department aims to provide non-native speakers of Arabic with the skills they need to read and understand the Holy Qur'an. It has published several books including the exegeses of some chapters of the Holy Qur'an. The department has a professor from the Academy of Russian Sciences, three full professors, eight assistant professors and five instructors.

Professor Dimitry Frolov has been the Director of the department since its inception.

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#### Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, U.S.A

The Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding was founded in 1993 by an agreement between the Fondation pour L'Entente entre Chretiens et Musulmans, Geneva and Georgetown University in order to consolidate understanding between the Muslim world and the West as well as between Islam and Christianity. The Center's mission is to improve relations between the Muslim world and the West and to enhance understanding between Muslims and the West. The geographic scope of the center includes the entire Muslim world, from North Africa to Southeast Asia, as well as Europe and America. Since its foundation, it has become an internationally recognized Center insofar as it is as a leader in the field of Muslim-Christian relations.

In December 2005, the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (CMCU) received a \$20 million dollar grant from HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, in order to support and expand the Center. The Center was re-named to be Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU). This endowed fund was the second largest financial grant in the history of Georgetown University.

Currently, Prof. John L. Esposito is the director of the Center.

Director	Prof. John L. Esposito	
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	Washington, DC 20057	

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#### Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Center of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge, U.K

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Center of Islamic Studies is at the forefront of research and public engagement insofar as the role of Islam in wider society is concerned. Working with partners across the University of Cambridge and beyond, i.e., from academic institutes to civil society organizations and the government, the Center has developed a reputation for enriching public debate and knowledge through high-profile and innovative research projects about Islam in the UK, Europe and across the word.

The Center's commitment to high-quality research and public outreach builds on a well-established foundation at Cambridge. It was established in 2008 as the successor to the Center of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, which was founded in 1960 by Professor Arthur Arberry. The Center fostered an interest in the Middle East and in Islam among generations of Cambridge scholars, students and the broader public.

The Center of Islamic Studies is deeply rooted in this twin tradition of research and public engagement. Supported by a generous donation from the Alwaleed bin Talal charitable foundation, it is committed to translating its research into high-quality, informative, outreach initiatives to policy makers and the public, and makes all of its publications available for free downloading from Internet.

Indeed, the Center of Islamic Studies has developed a global network through its activities and partnerships, particularly in Cambridge. This initiative disseminates the results of its research projects and explores new prospects on Islamic studies through a series of joint events with international universities around the world. The Center also boasts having an international fellowship of world-class scholars.

Currently, Prof. Yasir Suleiman is the director of the Center

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#### Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Center for American Studies and Research, American University of Cairo, Egypt

The mission of the Center is to further mutual understanding between the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the United States by producing academic research on MENA-US cultural and political interactions, and by promoting superior education on MENA-US relations for American University students. The Center also facilitates dialogue on issues involving Egypt, the MENA region, the United States, and the world.

The Center contributes to having a more sophisticated understanding of American history and culture through the contribution of scholars working in the MENA region represented in producing detailed and judicious studies and through being familiar with the American cultural motives and historical themes, with a special focus on those significant topics and issues relevant to students' specializations such as history, arts, finance, marketing, economics, English Language, journalism, sociology, and anthropology.

Currently, Prof. Magda Shahin is the Director of the Center.

Director	Prof. Magda Shahin
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#### Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Center for American Studies and Research, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

The Center was established in 2003 as result of a \$5.2 million endowment from His Royal Highness Prince Waleed bin Talal, which gave the driving force for how to set up and operate the center.

In the Summer of 2003, a steering committee from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences was formed to develop the program. The committee was initially chaired by Yahya Sadowski, the Associate Professor of Political Studies. However, in January 2004, the committee was jointly chaired by Marjorie Henningsen, the Assistant Professor of Education, and David Koistinen, the Assistant Professor of History. In September 2004, Prof. Patrick McGreevy was appointed as the Center's first director.

The Center sponsors conferences, seminars, research fellowships pertinent to core issues in the American studies. The Center also assist in co-ordinating the courses related to the American studies at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Currently, Prof. Alexander Lubin is the Director of the Center.

Director	Prof. Alexander Lubin
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## Abdul Latif Jameel's Center of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

Abdul Latif Jameel's Center of Poverty Alleviation and Development was established in 2003, as a research center at the Economics Department/ The Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Financial donation was made by Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel in his capacity as an alumnus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he requested to name the Center after his father, Abdul Latif Jameel. Mohammed has financially supported the Center through three major endowments in 2003, 2005, and in 2009, totaling 5 million dollars.

Currently, Prof. Abhijit Banerjee is the Director of the Center.

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#### Mohammed Said Al-Farsi's Chair for Islamic Peace, The American University, Washington D.C., USA.

In 1996, Mohammed Said Al-Farsi's Chair for Islamic Peace was established through an initiative taken by Dr. Mohammed Said Al-Farsi, who offered The American University, Washington D.C., a gift of 2.6. Million dollars. The gift was deposited in the university's endowment account and he stipulated to spend, from Chair's revenues, on the its activities as well as the salary and allowances of its director, which will help the chair achieve its objectives

Historically speaking, Mohammed Said Al-Farsi's Chair for Islamic Peace is the first of its kind in an American university, as it concentrates on introducing Islam as the religion of peace and tolerance. The Chair collaborates with The International Peace Studies Center at the university as well as it organizes symposia and seminars that address the contemporary international issues from an Islamic perspective.

Since its inception, Professor Abdul Aziz Said has been the Director of the Chair.

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