



AMERICAN
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OF BEIRUT

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THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EFFECTIVE TEACHING & LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Conference Theme:

**“Learning Renaissance: Innovation and AI
in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment”**

Friday, April 19, 2024

Online using WebEx

Following are the Presenters' Bios



Andrew Wagdy Farag Ghaly

Andrew is the Administrative Director of the English Language Centre at Pharos University in Alexandria. He graduated from the Faculty of Education, English department in 2010, and since then he has been working in language instruction and test production, management and research for several reputable schools and institutions. In 2016, he completed Harvard University's Data Wise course and Testing and in 2018, he successfully completed the Evaluation and Assessment course from Norwich Institute for Language Education. Andrew has a Professional Diploma and a Special Diploma in TEFL from Alexandria University. In 2022, he obtained a CPD-certified diploma in educational leadership and management. He is a Cambridge-certified speaking examiner, interlocutor and TKT trainer.



Christina Michaud

Christina Michaud is a Master Lecturer and the Director of English Language Learning in the College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program at Boston University. She studies linguistic justice, equitable approaches to assessment, and antiracist pedagogies, and she has a background in linguistics and in literature.

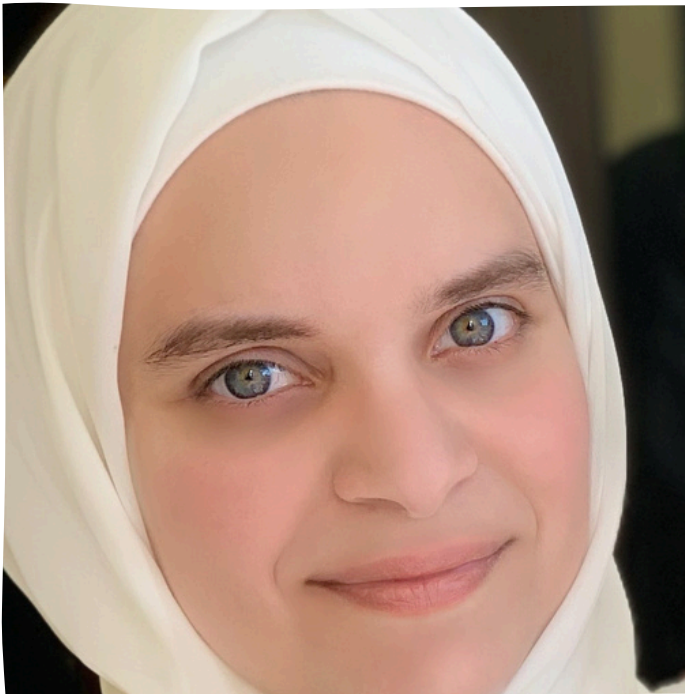




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Eman Saleh

PhD in English Language , Applied linguistics
Instructor at the Lebanese University
Accredited International Trainer , American TESOL Academy
Head of English Language at AlManafeth Educational Journal



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Farah Jabak

Background is a bachelor of nursing sciences. I had my first master degree from the Lebanese University in 2018 in healthcare management and quality accreditation. I had my second research master's degree in educational management from the Lebanese university in 2021-2022. Currently, I am a Ph.D. student at the Lebanese University of Pedagogy. I have been a nursing academic instructor for 6 years and an academic educator for 3 years. I have been a member of the committees in the Ministry of Education to study educational programs submitted for legislation.

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Fatima Al Ali

AUB graduate with a BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences, a Teaching Diploma in Secondary Science Education, a MA in Science Education, and a Graduate Diploma in Online Education. Experienced in curriculum development and innovation, digital education, and qualitative research. Currently working as a research assistant with Professor Harb specializing in maker education.



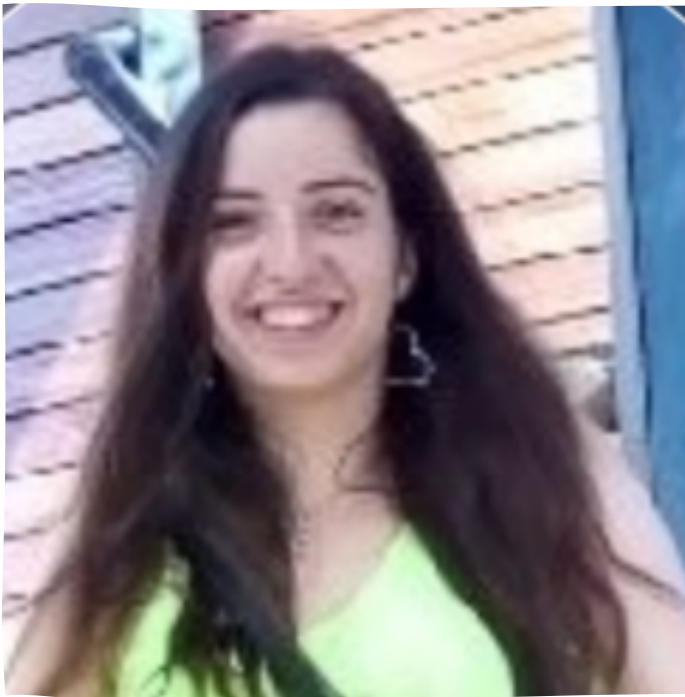
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Fatima Khalife

Lebanese educator deeply committed to fostering learning and development. My dedication led me to pursue further qualifications, including a Teaching Diploma in Education and a Master of Education in Educational Management and Leadership beside my MBA degree. Through over three years of teaching English across various grade levels, I honed my skills and embraced opportunities for professional growth. Venturing into online education, I collaborated with Oxford University Press as a content development reviewer, contributing to the creation of primary English language course materials. Concurrently, I served as an Education Content Consultant, specializing in integrating educational technology into language learning. These diverse experiences have enriched my expertise and propelled me to my current role as a education consultant and university instructor, where I am committed to inspiring and empowering students to reach their full potential.

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Gacia Danaoghlian

An instructor of English at the American University of Beirut since 2017. She teaches courses in the English Department, particularly in the Communications Skills Program. She earned her master's degree in English Literature from the American University of Beirut and is also a holder of a Teaching Diploma from Haigazian university. Gacia also teaches at the Lebanese American University and is a senior tutor at the Writing Center. She is interested in topics related to rhetoric and composition, particularly those related to writing in the disciplines, theories of writing and writing assessment, and Writing Center administration.



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Gehad Samir

A graduate of Faculty of Education, English Section. She is an Academic Coordinator and Lecturer at Pharos University in Alexandria. She is a TEFL and CELTA holder. She has experience in teaching kids, youth and adults. She presented in ILACE 2023 and NILE TESOL 2024.

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Insaf Sensri

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature with 10+ years teaching in Algeria and Iraq. Current Academic Writing Center Coordinator at the American University of Iraq-Baghdad. Published author. Expertise in cultural communication and conversation in literature and language teaching.

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Jana Massoud

A senior undergraduate English Language student. She has tutored at the AUB Writing Center, edited for Mouzakara Jandaria, AUB MEPI-TLS's digital publishing platform, and is research assistant to Dr. Maya Sfeir's SoTL-funded research project in the AUB English Department.



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Jasmina Najjar

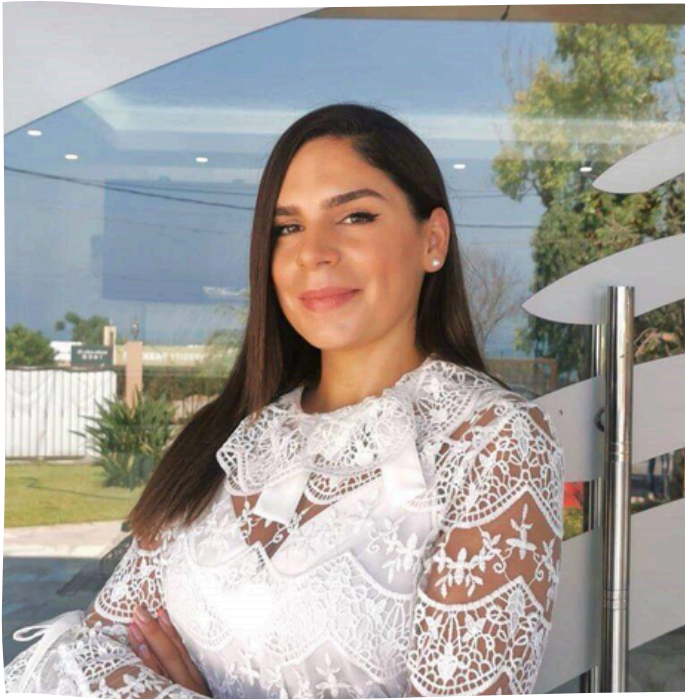
An academic, communication consultant, author, copywriter, and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. Before joining AUS, she taught academic writing, technical communication, and business communication at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and was a journalist, editor-in-chief, and senior advertising creative with major pan-Arab accounts. While at AUB, she impacted course-specific and program-wide development as a Course Coordinator and Program Coordinator. Passionate about digital pedagogy and innovation, she's received recognition for teaching excellence.



Jihad Makhoul

Professor and chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Community Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences, AUB, serving on several FHS committees for public health education and teaches in the Graduate Public Health Program at FHS. These including courses where students develop a structural sensibility, learn how to apply critical thinking, public health theory and ethics to local and global health issues, argumentative writing for public health, proposal writing, qualitative health research and community organizing for health promotion. She utilizes transformative adult learning approaches. She has co-authored over 22 publications with students through graduate fellowships or as research assistants after graduation. Her research interests include manifestations of social exclusion, applied research ethics and commercial determinants of health.





Lamya Sabbah

A currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Sciences at Saint-Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon. Previously, she served as an instructor at the Faculty of Business at Modern University for Business and Science from 2015 to 2020. Mrs. Sabbah holds a comprehensive academic background, including a Master's degree in Educational Sciences, a Teaching Diploma in Economics, a Master's degree in Business & Management, and a Bachelor's degree in Business & Management, all earned from Saint-Joseph University. Before embarking on her academic journey, she garnered valuable experience in the banking sector, contributing as a customer service agent at CSCbank, Banque-Libano-Française, and Société générale. Mrs. Sabbah's research endeavors revolve around higher education and Cultural-Historical Activity Theory, showcasing her dedication to advancing knowledge in these areas.



Maha Sourani

An accomplished Applied Linguistics and Educational Technology professor, possessing over a decade of experience in higher education at the Lebanese University. Her expertise spans various domains, including examiner for paper rank promotions in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Iraq, and Jordan, a mentor and reviewer for PhD and MA dissertations, and a coordinator and curriculum developer for undergraduate and graduate courses. Furthermore, she has contributed significantly to academia as an editor and reviewer for numerous local and international peer-reviewed journals in the USA, England, Japan, Austria, Algeria, Malaysia, Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait. Additionally, she has been a referee for international scientific conferences in Prague, Italy, Vienna, Cambridge, and Germany. Her interests lie in diverse areas such as MOOC, educational foundation and administration, artificial intelligence, curriculum and instruction, computational linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, language assessment, Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), English for Academic Purposes (EAP), and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).





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Maya Sfeir

Maya Sfeir’s research centers on using digital tools and approaches to examine patterns in textual products, including academic writing, and in writing processes. She has taught courses in corpus linguistics, digital humanities, academic writing, and writing in the disciplines. She has previously assisted in directing the AUB Writing Center and has managed the writing component of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)-Tomorrow’s Leaders Gender Scholars Program (TLS). She is the recipient of the 2023-2024 SoTL Grant.



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Milton D. Cox

PhD, Mathematics, founded the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching at Miami University where he initiated and directed the annual Original Lilly Conference on College Teaching, now in its 43rd year. In 1990 he founded the Journal on Excellence in College Teaching (JECT), serving as Editor-in-Chief for 35 years. Milton has been project director and systems convener of federal grants establishing faculty learning community (FLC) programs and has visited over 100 institutions in the U.S. and abroad presenting on issues in higher education. In 2023 these included Mainland China and Portugal with virtual conference presentations in Lebanon and Cyprus. In addition to many publications, Milton is currently contributing forewords to three new edited books about FLCs, and he is Guest Co-Editor of JECT’s special issue involving social learning spaces—Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner’s latest work on systems convening, value creation frameworks, and communities of practice.

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Mohammad Harb

Principal investigator of the smart structures laboratory, founder and director of AUB makerspaces. An experienced researcher in design, prototyping, 3D printing, sustainable and advanced materials, as well as innovative student-centered teaching. Designing cutting edge makerspaces and actively promoting the making initiative and mindset in the K12 curriculum and schools across Lebanon.



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Mona Osman

An Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, the medical director of the family medicine clinics, the coordinator of community and outreach activities, and the director of the fellowship in primary care sports medicine in the Department of Family Medicine at the American University of Beirut (AUB). She is also the Director of University Health Services and the Co-Director of the refugee health program at AUB. Dr. Osman is the Head of the Training Committee of the Scientific Council of Family Medicine at the Arab Board of Health Specializations, leading the implementation of the regional professional diploma in family medicine. She is WONCA-EMR treasurer and the President of the Lebanese Society of Family Medicine.

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Nisrine Makarem

M.D., is an instructor of clinical Family Medicine at AUBMC. She is a graduate of the American University of Beirut-Medical Center where she practices since 2013. She has completed a leadership program in Integrative Medicine at Duke University in North Carolina in March 2020 and is also a certified Integrative Health coach from Duke Integrative Medicine. Dr. Makarem has also completed a lifestyle medicine certification through the American College of Lifestyle Medicine and is a lifestyle medicine certified physician by the International Board of Lifestyle Medicine. She is a Van Dyck Medical educator and the co-director of the clinical skills course given to medical students in their first and second years.



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Rabih El Mouhayar

An Associate Professor in Mathematics Education in the Department of Education at the American University of Beirut. My research focuses on three areas: language use in teaching and learning mathematics in multilingual classrooms; students' thinking in pattern generalization, and teacher noticing of students' mathematical thinking. My research work has been published in high-quality, peer-reviewed international journals in mathematics education. I am also the Director of the Science and Mathematics Education Center, at the American University of Beirut.

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Rim El Hout

B.S. in Biology, Teaching Diploma in Elementary Education, and M.A. in Educational Psychology from the American University of Beirut. After 18 years of teaching and coordination, she was appointed to school principal from 2006 till 2016. This allowed her to lead international, national and a special needs program initiating an inclusion policy. She established and was assigned as an executive principal for two international Schools (ZIS) in Iraq- Kurdistan Region from 2016 till 2019. After that she served at Makassed Association as the director of the Educational Research and Training Center from 2019 till 2023. Currently, she is an instructor at the Education Department - AUB, Teaching Diploma Program - AUST, Center of Continuous Education Haigazian University, English Department - AOU. She is also the Academic Director of Udiversity Culinary Academy for Special needs tailoring a curriculum that enhances the vocational, social and life skills of young special needs.



Salam Sayagha

Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon for changing the world”. As I was born in a country where being safe is an everyday target, a burning land that fire refuses but to reside in, I completely believe that education is our only savior. Since then, a little seed was born inside my heart to bud later a desire for education that I realize won’t be extinguished until I attain at least my Ph.D. in Education which will be hopefully achieved soon. As a full-time High School teacher, and part-time university instructor, a mother of two, and the caregiver of my little family of four, I can’t say my life’s routine is slow. However, perseverance, action plan, and pre-set goals have been restlessly framing my future. In addition, to my interest in writing short stories, essays, and books, I believe that research is not only the best way to unfold to a better world but also a moral duty to be offered to future generations in all fields.





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Sanaa Shehayeb

A principal of a public high school and a lecturer at several universities in Lebanon. The head of the math committee for national exams at the Lebanese ministry of education. A researcher in the domain of education having several publications. She participated in national reports about TIMSS and formative assessment. She represented the Lebanese Ministry in several IEA- TIMSS meetings. As an expert in mathematics education and curriculum development, she served as a consultant at the Center for Research and Development in the Ministry of Education in Lebanon.

Recently worked on a Catch-up program with “Save the Children” implementing TaRL strategy. Recently conducted research with the ministry of education on Labor Market in Lebanon and its relation to the curriculum as well as preparing unit plans for the new curricula.

She is a community activist in many NGOs like Laes and Nafda.



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Sara Baalbaki

An instructor of English at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in the Communication Skills Program. She has taught different writing courses for freshmen and sophomore students. Sara earned her Master’s degree in English Literature from AUB. She is interested in student-centered learning, notions of failure when writing, and improving AI literacy in writing classes.

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Stephanie Farah

An instructor of English in the Department of Communication, Arts and Languages at LAU. Prior to joining LAU, she taught linguistics, rhetoric, oral communication, business English, and English language courses at several universities and institutions in Lebanon and Canada. She has also trained speakers at TEDxNDU, delivered soft skills training for companies in Lebanon, and engaged in data analysis projects in the UAE. Farah's research interests include political discourse analysis, propaganda and language manipulation, language and psychological trauma, neurolinguistics, critical thinking, independent learning, and hybrid course design, topics that she has conducted studies on and presented in conferences in Lebanon and the USA.

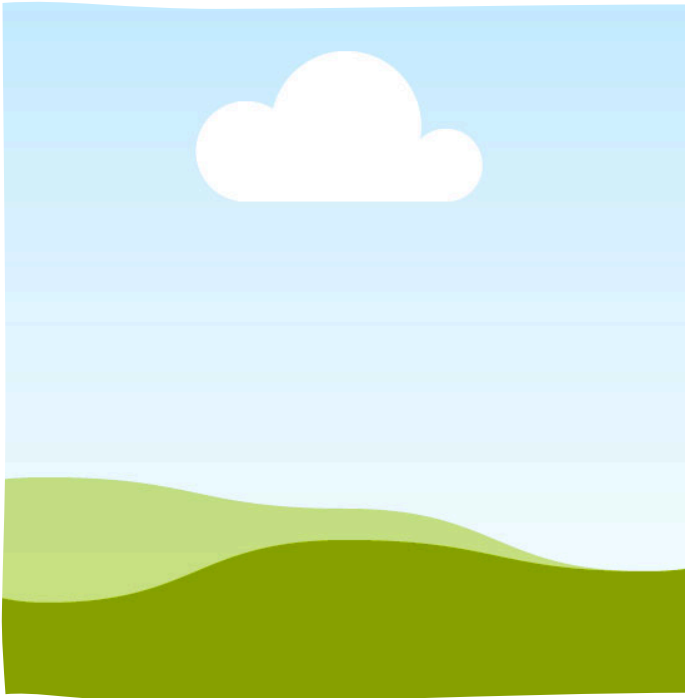
Farah was also a Fulbright scholar at North Carolina State University where she worked on devising strategies to train writing center tutors.



Wadad El Housseini

A student Affairs practitioner since 1999. Started her career as Instructor of Social sciences at Balamand University. Joined AUB as Director of student activities since 2000. An advocate of the role of student affairs in higher education institutions. In 2008 moved to Qatar University as consultant to VP of Student affairs. Member of Advisory Board of MENASA – NASPA (An international institution that promotes and advocates the role and development of student affairs staff in USA and the globe). Currently Wadad is the chair of the 2024 MENASA conference. Founding member and former Vice president of IASAS (International Association of Student Affairs & Services).





Zakia Djebbari

A distinguished researcher in the field of language education, renowned for her significant contributions to understanding and improving language learning methodologies. With a robust academic background and a passion for linguistics, she has dedicated her career to advancing the field through innovative research, impactful publications, and educational advocacy.



Zinnia Shweiry

An educator with extensive experience in teaching languages, communication skills, translation studies, and humanities in AUB and SGUB. She holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics, and degrees in Translation Studies and English Language and Literature. Her research interests include linguistic landscapes, use of L1 and L2, bilingualism, sociolinguistics, communication, language teaching, multidisciplinary, active learning and e-learning. She has served on several academic committees, reviewed articles for publication, and acted as a jury member on Master's defense.





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