

Beyond Neoliberalism, Academic Capitalism, and (Neo-) Patriarchy: Redefining the Public and Private Roles of Academics in the Arab Region

The academic enterprise has been rife with problems in the 21st century - from underfunded institutions, to the undermining of social science fields, to overworked and underpaid faculty members, to the massification of higher education leading to quality issues in academia, to counterproductive and patriarchal structures that undermine the ideal of education. The role of the academic has never been more important nor overstretched. In this lecture, we intend to unpack some of the systems hindering academics, and think about new ways in which academics can have greater impact and shift the system from the bottom-up.

Issam Khoury Bio

To empower and uplift. This has been Issam's motto since entering university and in his professional career. Issam cares deeply about finding root causes of issues and working to help future generations be fully engaged in rediscovering the humanity of their work and to work toward a more humane world. As a diasporic Palestinian, Issam's commitment to bettering the Arab world is steadfast as is his commitment to engaging the region's students as they embark on their own personal and professional journeys. Issam has lived in the Middle East, Europe, and the U.S., and obtained his degrees from Virginia Tech, Ohio State, and Penn State Universities (all in the U.S.). He currently works at the Arab Council for the Social Sciences, a Beirut-based organization that supports social science researchers in the Arab world.