

# Journal of Global Initiatives: Policy, Pedagogy, Perspective

---

Volume 10

Number 1 *Special Edition on "Understanding Transformations in the Arabian Peninsula"*

Article 10

---

2016

## About the Contributors

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jgi>

 Part of the [Islamic World and Near East History Commons](#), [Near and Middle Eastern Studies Commons](#), and the [Political History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

(2016) "About the Contributors," *Journal of Global Initiatives: Policy, Pedagogy, Perspective*: Vol. 10: No. 1, Article 10.  
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jgi/vol10/iss1/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Global Initiatives: Policy, Pedagogy, Perspective by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu).

## About the Contributors

**Mohamed M. Arafa**, an internationally recognized professor of global communication with over 25 years of experience in teaching, research and consulting, joined Kennesaw State University in 2014. Prior to arriving at KSU, Dr. Arafa had held faculty positions at several universities in the Middle East and US. He founded the Department of Communications at Qatar University in 1995, and consulted on the effort to earn it accreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in 2013. He holds a Ph.D. in Communication and Culture from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, MA in Mass Communication, and BA in Arabic Journalism from Cairo University.

**Crystal Armstrong** is a PhD candidate in International Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University. Her research interests include digital social identity development, the use of new media for extremist mobilization, and digital technology utilization in non-violent resistance movements. Her dissertation examines the online hacktivist collective Anonymous and their mobilization efforts.

**Sandra Bird** is the senior art educator within the Kennesaw State University School of Art and Design. Her areas of specialization include cross-cultural aesthetics (with emphasis on the Middle East and Africa), Islamic art history, and intercultural curriculum for university service learning projects within public schools.

**Christina M. Ferrari**, M.Ed. is a student affairs professional with expertise in leadership development, experiential learning, and moral development. She has published on high-impact study abroad and presented at national conferences on the topics of student decision-making and values exploration. Ms. Ferrari received a bachelor of arts in English from DePaul University and completed her master's degree in Higher Education at Loyola University Chicago.

**Janis B. Fine**, Ph.D. is professor emeritus at Loyola University Chicago's School of Education. After 25 years teaching leadership for social justice to school administrators, and directing the Rome Summer Program, she continues her work in study abroad as she annually leads the inter-religious week at Loyola's John Felice Rome Center engaging the 200 semester abroad students in sites and study of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim perspectives.

**Alan Kirk**, Ph.D., is a Professor of Social Work and Director the Social Work program. Dr. Kirk has written several training programs that have been implemented by federal and

state governmental organizations. He currently teaches practice and research courses at KSU.

**Timothy Mathews** is a Professor of economics at Kennesaw State University. He has a PhD in economics from Stony Brook University. His primary areas of expertise are applied game theory, public economics, and industrial organization. His academic research has been published in leading journals such as *Economic Theory*, *Journal of Economics*, *International Game Theory Review*, and *Conflict Management and Peace Science*.

**William Ochsenswald** is Emeritus Professor of History at Virginia Tech. His areas of research include the relationship between religion and politics, and national identity in the Arabian Peninsula. He is the author of two books on Saudi Arabia: *The Hijaz Railroad*, and *Religion, Society, and the State in Arabia: The Hijaz under Ottoman Control, 1840-1908*. His general textbook, *The Middle East: A History* is widely used. Ochsenswald was president of the Society for Gulf Arab Studies (1996-98) and is currently Assistant Editor for the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, and Associate Editor for *History of the Review of Middle East Studies*.

**Daniel J. Paracka** is Professor of Education in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department at Kennesaw State University, where he also coordinates the signature Annual Country Study Program for the Division of Global Affairs. His areas of scholarship center on processes of global learning and intercultural competency.

**Jennifer Riapos** is a second year graduate student in the Master of Social Work program. She is working on her degree in clinical social work and has participated in the study abroad program in her major.

**Vanessa Robinson-Dooley** is an Assistant Professor of Social Work. She is a clinician (LCSW); her research and publications include interdisciplinary practice and pedagogy to improve service delivery in healthcare, nonprofit, and social service settings and promoting cultural competency in education and practice.