Stephen Hirtenstein has been studying and researching the writings of Ibn 'Arabi for nearly 30 years, since first coming across them at Cambridge University. He is Editor of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society's Journal (published biennially), which since its inception in 1984 has established itself as the leading journal of its kind. Stephen has lectured at conferences throughout the world on the teachings of Ibn 'Arabi, and has been one of the key figures in making Ibn 'Arabi's work accessible in the modern world.

His first book, The Unlimited Mercifier, on the spiritual life and thought of Ibn 'Arabi, was ground-breaking in its approach to the study of mysticism: it shows how the outer and inner life of such a spiritual genius are inextricably linked and can only be understood together. At the same time it presents Ibn 'Arabi's teachings for the first time in a very direct and accessible manner. His most recent work which will be available in October 2000 is a translation of Ibn 'Arabi's prayers for the week, a remarkable rendering of a unique spiritual masterpiece into English for the first time.

Dr. Abdalla, an internationally recognized expert on human rights, child labor, and democratization, is founder and director of the Al-Jeel Center in Ain El Sera, Cairo, a social research foundation and youth center dedicated to the “partial care for working children.” He speaks frequently in international human rights forums, and he was featured in a recent documentary, Shackled Children, produced by the International Labor Organization, as well as a recent issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education.