The King Fahd Center invites students to take part in an Undergraduate Research Conference on December 4th in the Arkansas Union. The conference will provide undergraduate students performing research on topics related to the Middle East and North Africa with a forum in which to present their work and collaborate with peers, and aims to advance undergraduate scholarship at the University of Arkansas, as well as encourage interest in the geopolitical region.

12:00 PM Welcome and Conference Opening (ARKU509)
Tom Paradise, Director of the King Fahd Center;
Lynda Coon, Dean of the Honors College

12:30 PM Lunch (ARKU510)

1:00 - 3:00 PM Israel/Palestine Project (ARKU 509)
Facilitator: Sanket Desai, History

1:00 - 2:00 PM Gender and Sexuality in Islam and Christianity (ARKU511)
Facilitator: Sarwar Alam, Middle East Studies
For the Love of Allah: Comparing Gender and Sexuality in Islam and Christianity (Kayla Cahill, University of Arkansas)

“Women, Oh Women! When Will You Learn Your Places?” (Claire Williamson, University of Arkansas)

2:00 - 3:00 PM Religion in the Middle East (ARKU511)
Facilitator: Spencer Allen, Middle East Studies
My Blood, My Brother, My Rival, My Ruin: Brotherhood in Christianity and Islam (Meagan Mosier, University of Arkansas)

A Walk in the Fires of Love: Show Love to All, Love Only One (Jacob McCrary, University of Arkansas)

Karnak & Luxor Temples and the Procession of the Opet Festival (Christopher Bryant, University of Arkansas)

3:00 - 4:00 PM Geopolitics of Afghanistan (ARKU509)
Facilitator: Sanket Desai, History
Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan (Nicholas Kahmann, University of Arkansas)

The New Great Game (Christopher Cowan, University of Arkansas)

3:00 - 4:00 PM Media and Imperialism in the Middle East (ARKU511)
Facilitator: Matt Parnell, History
Judging a Country by its Cover (Story): Examining the Framing of the Syrian Conflict in Middle Eastern and US Media Coverage (Ghada ElHaffar, Drury University)

Paper, Ink and Blood: How the Sykes-Picot Agreement Shaped the Middle East (Meg Austin, University of Arkansas)

ISIS Gaining Support from Central Asia? An Analysis of Geopolitical Power Struggle Increasingly Becoming Borderless (Joseph Largent, University of Arkansas)

4:00 - 5:00 PM Youth, Revolt and the Arab Spring (ARKU509)
Facilitator: Dan Brown, Political Science
The Young and the Restless: Egyptian Youth and the January 25th Revolution (Abigail Witty, University of Arkansas)

Students and Eslahaat in Modern Iran: A Comparative Analysis of Student Activism during the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the 2009 Green Movement (Meghan Shrewsbury, University of Arkansas)

What Sparked the Arab Spring: Unearthing Egyptians’ Motivations (Christina Faoro, Drury University)

Join the event on Facebook and support our students!

Sponsored by the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies. For more information, call 479-575-2175 or email mest@uark.edu