

For Immediate Release



AUB Professor Sari Hanafi wins Shoman Award for impactful research on social change and knowledge production

Beirut, Lebanon- 19/08/2015 - An AUB professor from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences has won the 2014 Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Arab Researchers, for research on the lag in knowledge production in Arab societies and its impact on social change.

Dr. Sari Hanafi, professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Media Studies at FAS, was recognized for the work he did on social change in its relation to the knowledge revolution and information and communications technology (ICTs), based on his book, *Knowledge Production in the Arab World (to be published in January 2016 by Routledge)*, which he co-authored with Rigas Arvanitis, a sociologist and senior researcher at the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD). Hanafi shared his award with Dr. Moatez Abdel Karim Al-Dabhi from the University of Jordan.

Launched in 1982, the Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Arab Researchers recognizes distinguished scientific studies, whose dissemination and publication will lead to promoting applied and scientific knowledge, increase awareness about the culture of scientific research, and contribute to solving problems of priority at the local, regional and international levels. The award aims to promote and support Arab scientific research.

Since its launch and up to the end of 2013, 370 professors and researchers have been granted this award, representing Arab universities and scientific institutes from various Arab countries.

Dr. Hanafi and his team found that Arab research is torn between achieving local relevance and internationalization, and his research explored the methodological flaws behind academic rankings and the meaning and application of key concepts such as knowledge society/economy.

“Our research uncovered the tremendous progress in research and publication in the Arab region, but it also revealed that universities are rather disconnected from the societies and economies in which they exist, and they shy away from public debate,” said Hanafi, adding that such an award gives his research the recognition and push it deserves. “In fact, while Arab countries have strived to join the globalized world of research and become a ‘knowledge economy,’ little time has been invested in the region’s fragmented scientific institutions; institutions that should provide opportunities for individuals to step out on the global stage.”

Dr. Hanafi joins Dr. Lara Nasreddine from the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Science as one of the 2014 Shoman Award recipients. Nasreddine won for her research on obesity and diet-related diseases.

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For more information please contact:

Maha Al-Azar, Director of News and Media Relations, ma110@aub.edu.lb, 01-353 228

Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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