

RUW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COUNCIL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



EVENTS:

April 18-19, 2018

**RUW 2nd Conference on Women and Society:
Empowering Women Through Higher Education**



Under the Patronage of
H.E. Dr. Majid bin Ali Al-Naimi, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Higher Education Council

WOMEN AND SOCIETY
EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION
18-19 April 2018
Kingdom of Bahrain

HIGHLIGHTS:

RUW Scientific Research Council recommends worthy reads related to Women's Studies:

- 1) *Empowering Women after the Arab Spring (Comparative Feminist Studies)* by Marwa Shalaby, and Valentine M. Moghadam, Published by: Palgrave Macmillan, November 2016
- 2) *Beyond Veiled Clichés: The Real Lives of Arab Women* by Amal Awad, Published by: Penguin Random House Australia, May 2017

RUW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COUNCIL NEWS

Gender Responsive Budgeting Session:

On Sunday, March 4th 2018, Supreme Council for Women delegate, Mrs. Ranya Al-Jurf, Director of the Gender Balance Center, visited Royal University for Women and delivered a lecture based session on Gender Responsive Budgeting from 11:30 – 1:30. She was assisted by Ms. Hend Ameen and Ms. Hanaa Naif. There were 34 attendees on record, consisting of RUW students and faculty who actively participated in the session and subsequent discussions with Mrs. Ranya. Mrs. Ranya defined Gender Responsive Budgeting and provided examples of how it is implemented within the Kingdom of Bahrain. Towards the end of the session a case study was distributed for the attendees to analyse. The session stimulated meaningful discussion amongst the attendees and presenters. Furthermore, the session was incorporated into two RUW courses: Women Across Cultures and Business Management; students will integrate the knowledge gained from the session into their studies. The session highlighted the initiatives taken by the Supreme Council for Women to promote women's equality within the Kingdom.

Supreme Council for Women Research Corner in RUW Library

RUW has set up a corner showcasing the publications from the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) in the library. The materials include: books, journals, and yearly reports about developing Bahraini women. Some topics covered are: Her Royal Highness Shaika Sabeeka's accomplishments regarding improvements for Bahraini women, activities of Bahraini Women's Day, Bahraini women in banking and finance sectors, and Bahraini women in the Bahrain Military.

RUW RESEARCH FORUM AND MORE

Presented on 20/03/2018:

Women's rights and protection of women from domestic violence in Muslim countries, within and beyond the Council of Europe: the legislation in Turkey and Bahrain as a case study

(p.223-246) In "Reconsidering gender based-violence and other forms of violence against women: A Comparative analysis in the light of the Istanbul Convention", Libellula University Press, Lecce, 2017. ISBN: 9788867352814.



*Dr. Pasquale Borea,
Dean of College of
Law*

The study constitutes an analysis of the development of the normative provisions protecting women against domestic violence undertaken in Muslim countries within and beyond the Council of Europe. In particular, the research focuses on the analysis of the implementation of women's rights through domestic provisions against domestic violence according to the principles set by the Istanbul Convention. The research explores two case studies which refer to the legislation on protection from domestic violence in Turkey, a state member of the Council of Europe and ratifying member of the Istanbul Convention, and in the Kingdom of Bahrain, non-member of the Council of Europe nor of the Istanbul Convention.

The research, through the analysis of national legislative provisions, illustrates the steps undertaken in Turkey, particularly in the light of the European Court of Human Rights' jurisprudence on the topic. Furthermore, following a comparative methodology, the research underscores the advanced normative provisions undertaken by the Kingdom of Bahrain through the Bahraini Law n. 17/2015 on domestic violence which constitute an extremely advanced effort in implementing national a normative framework aiming at the protection from domestic violence in a non-member State of the Istanbul Convention.

eScienta Research Webinar:

"Tips to Write a Research Paper" and "How to Select the Right Journal"

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 the RUW Scientific Research Council collaborated with eScienta to host a research based webinar. The webinar explored two topics: "Tips to Write a Research Paper" and "How to Select the Right Journal." 19 faculty members were in attendance as an interactive audience with eScienta Research manager and presenter, Gaelle Evrard. Those in attendance found the seminar to be rewarding, especially the portion regarding research journals, which provided unknown facts and provoked consideration for choosing journals. While the portion regarding writing research served as a genuine refresher for the guidelines of scientific research. eScienta's PowerPoint presentation was circulated to all faculty members for review after the event, and to forward to students who would benefit.



STUDENT RESEARCH

Masters' Thesis:

Master of Design Management, 2016

The Role of Sustainable Management in the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises with Reference to Interior Design Firms in The Kingdom of Bahrain.

By: Amna Hasan

Abstract:

As small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) grow and expand, certain issues and social demands arise with this growth including the firms' responsibility towards ethical and social benefits, environmental issues and economic prosperity. SMEs face these challenges while they experience financing difficulties and profitability priorities.

The literature review, both internationally and locally, shows insufficient knowledge and information in relation to the implementation of sustainable management in SMEs. The basic attention was directed towards the production of sustainable products, but not the sustainable management of these firms; hence, the latter being the general problem area of the research.

The research began, exploring the availability of sustainable management practices in the Kingdom of Bahrain (KOB). Furthermore, the research checked for reports or studies done about sustainable management. Through the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) it was clearly stated by a representative that SMEs play a huge role in the KOB since 99% of registered businesses in the KOB are SMEs, which drove the Ministry to develop an SME toolkit reassuring the importance of starting SMEs in the KOB and moving towards developing a business.

The research finally focused on the practices of sustainable management in the KOB. The aim of this study was to investigate and assess the implementation and effectiveness of sustainable management of SMEs in the KOB.

The flow of research was then derived into six chapters. The first Chapter consists of: introduction of research discussing a preliminary literature review, hypotheses, problem statement, research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study, organization of the study, intended objective and methodology. The second chapter then discusses sustainable management, the history and evolution of the term sustainable management. The third chapter, terminology, SMEs, definitions are discussed globally, regionally and in the KOB. Moreover, efforts done by the government of the KOB were assessed. The fourth chapter focuses on case studies of sustainable management analysis, which included cases from various fields of products such as Balancing Customer Expectations with Supply Chain Realities, Valuing Sustainability while Desiring Growth, Balancing Strategy and Environmental Sustainability and Transforming the Global Fishing Industry. Other cases are specifically chosen to study sustainable management in interior design SMEs to understand techniques used for building a model based on the KOB. The fifth chapter discusses the data collection process explaining how and why the sample size was selected which was narrowed down to interior design SMEs due to several reasons, a model was created and to test the hypotheses. Finally, the research is wrapped up with conclusions and recommendations based on the findings.

The study used quantitative methodologies in collecting data about the sustainability integration in managerial operation (management procedures) interior design SMEs in the KOB. It employed a survey and interview as qualitative tools to be conducted with the SMEs owners, entrepreneurs and managers. It concludes with a proposed model which would hopefully contribute to more effective integration of sustainability practices into the management of interior design SMEs in the KOB.

Research in Progress – Graduation Projects

College of Art & Design

Noora AlBoainain, senior fashion design student is in the final stages of her project, titled: "Isis" under the theme, Ancient Egypt, dresses with bold accessories, advised by Dr. Nessreen Elmelegy. In semester one, Noora researched and gathered information to choose the basis of her design topic, then she presented sketches and a mood board, upon approval she brings her ideas to life in semester two. The research portion of her project concentrated on learning about the life of Cleopatra as a queen of Egypt and old ancient Egypt. Noora stated she loved the "drama" of Cleopatra's life, her extreme desire to hold the throne to the extent of marrying her brother to be queen. Noora used her researching time to collect ideas for jewelry and fabrics to resemble this time period. Overall, the designs express a combination between Roman and Egyptian fashion. The final dress, presented by Noora on March 29th to the College of Art and Design consist of a heavy, long, intricately detailed, bold gold dress with a sheer underlay, and a long white skirt with a gold cut-out at the top. Noora's designs will be presented at the end of the year College of Art and Design fashion show and exhibition Moda Mist 2018.

College of Business and Financial Sciences

Hend Bucheery, Esraa Haji and Fatima Al Muhana, senior Human Resources students, are in progress of research titled, "The Effect of the Applied Performance Appraisal System on Employee Commitment in the Public Sector in Bahrain: The case of Ministry of Education" advised by Dr. Matthias Bode. The research questions if there is a significant relationship between employee commitment and highly functioning appraisal systems. The project objective emphasizes this linkage and carries on to discover how employee commitment can be strengthened in organisations with adequate performance appraisal systems in place. They focus specifically on the appraisal system within the Ministry of Education. Their methodology is primarily quantitative through a questionnaire with a population of 100 people within the Ministry of Education. Data is analysed with SPSS.

College of Law

Aysa Bukhawa, senior law student is in process of completing research titled: "GCC: Current Cooperation and Future Prospects" advised by Dr. Pasquale Borea. Her research focuses on economic integration within the GCC. Divided into three chapters, the first analyses current GCC cooperation on almost every aspect: economic, security, and politics, this is to explain the relationship background of the GCC. The second chapter discusses how the GCC can further develop integration through economic policy, specifically looking at the VAT (tax) framework and understanding how the GCC is approaching economic integration in a fiscal sense rather than a monetary one, using the EU model as not a comparison, but a base for example of contrast. Chapter three interprets the economic challenges of the current GCC model with implementation of fiscal or monetary integrations as the conclusion.

IN THE REGION

Women Power Summit

Bahrain is hosting the “Women Power Summit,” the largest summit for women leaders in the MENA region sponsored by Imtiaz for Her. It will be held on May 6th and 7th at Shaikh Isa Cultural Center, featuring 100 international, regional and local influential women speakers, and is expected to attract 500 female guests, local and regional. The aims are “to showcase new opportunities for investments, partnerships and collaborations created by inspiring female entrepreneurs and investors. The vision is to “connect and empower women by providing them with access to a network and knowledge that can allow them to be innovative and succeed, as well as to unleash their power to create positive change.” The programme is designed to “inspire action and fuel creative fires” under the themes of leadership, entrepreneurship and innovation. In collaboration with the summit, A Women Power Summit 5 km run has been confirmed with Boost Bahrain and will take place in April 2018.

Registration is open, please visit: <http://www.womenpower-summit.com/>

18th Bahrain International Book Fair

March 28 – April 6, 2018 at Muharraq – Arad Fort

DAILY: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 4:00 PM - 9:30 PM

FRIDAY: 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Free entrance

Guest of Honor: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The 18th Bahrain International Book Fair is a biennial event showcasing publishers and booksellers from all subject areas under one roof. The book fair has built a sound reputation and has fostered the participation of Arab and foreign publishing houses. The event aims to encourage readers of all levels, interests and ages to experience the joy of reading. Books from different publishers are available for sale

www.bookfair.bh or <http://springofculture.org/events/18th-bahrain-international-book-fair>

Conference Call for Papers Announcement:

2nd International Research Conference 2018, American University in the Emirates

Sustainable Development and Social Responsibility
November 13-15, 2018, American University in the Emirates, Dubai Intl. Academic City, Dubai, UAE

Important dates: Abstract Submission – April 30, 2018; Acceptance Notification – May 15, 2018; Final Paper Submission – July 31, 2018

For details on Topics of Interest and Conference Proceedings visit website: aueirc.aue.ae

Kuwait Joins Ring the Bell Initiative

Kuwait is the first GCC country to join the 2018 “Ring the Bell for Gender Equality” Initiative, a global collaboration of over 59 stock exchanges. The events are a partnership between Women in ETFs, UN Global Compact, UN Women Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Initiative, IFC and the World Federation of Exchanges. The objective is to raise awareness about the business case of women’s economic empowerment, and expand opportunities the private sector has to advance gender equality and sustainable development. Participants are encouraged to commit to gender equality within their markets by signing the Women’s Empowerment Principles, employing diversity in senior management and boards of directors, and developing and improving upon more gender-friendly policies and practices. Kuwait shows dedication to building opportunities for women in the private sector and in making effective implementations towards the UN 2030 goal of achieving women empowerment. Dr. Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, was quoted by Albawaba Business saying, “We honour this initiative as a symbol of the integration of women into the national economy, recognizing this partnership in word and deed and as an affirmation of the policies of the National Development Plan and its pillars to promote socioeconomic integration in the economic and political components.



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Royal University for Women Presents

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