





By The Riyad Al Ghussein Education Fund 2019/2020



## صندوق رياض الغصين التعليمي

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The Riyad AI Ghussein Education fund

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**REPORT 2019** 

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

LETTER FROM RIYAD AL GHUSSEIN FUND ADMINISTRATION	5
ABOUT RIYAD AL GHUSSEIN EDUCATION FUND	6
RIYAD AL GHUSSEIN EDUCATION FUND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2019-2022	7
RIYAD AL GHUSSEIN EDUCATION FUND BY NUMBERS	8
FUND ALLOCATION DETAILS OF 1.6 MILLION USD	9
PROGRESS MADE DURING REPORTING PERIOD (2011-2018)	10
1- RIYAD AL GHUSSEIN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATES	10
2- THE AL-QUDS RIYAD AL-GHUSSEIN POSTGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS TRACK	11
i) THE AL-QUDS RIYAD AL-GHUSSEIN M.A. FELLOWSHIPS TRACK	11
ii) THE AL-QUDS RIYAD AL-GHUSSEIN FELLOWSHIPS	13
3- THE AL-QUDS RIYAD AL-GHUSSEIN STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME	20
4- THE RIYAD AL GHUSSEIN ACADEMIC FELLOW AT AL QUDS	23
5- WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES	26



5

LETTER FROM RIVAD AL GHUSSEIN FUND ADMINISTRATION
Image: Colored and Colo



Each year we bring you stories that highlight the work we do in promoting education in Palestine. This year, we are especially proud to share our accomplishments through eight years of generous donation. We are pleased to announce that we have updated our Strategic Plan for the 2019/2020 academic year, the culmination of years of continued support across Al Quds University education programs and students. In this update, we maintain our focus on female students, exposure of students to foreign cultures and the encouragement of studies in the humanities.

The Education Strategic Plan also gives us a unifying framework in which to track and report progress. We begin by sharing these accomplishments with you, presented for the first time under the umbrella of our new Strategic Goals.

From now onwards, the Administration of the Riyad Al Ghussein Education Fund shall conduct, develop, support, promote, and coordinate educational programmes at all levels for Palestinian students, with special focus on Jerusalemites, to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Fund programmes.

Palestinians in general place great importance on education, which is highly valued among families across the State of Palestine. Thus, the Fund's support has never been more important. Ultimately, we hope that the people we reach become effective and influential people in society. To Mr. Tarek Riyad Al Ghussein, we are grateful for the work that you do.

In this report, we highlight top stories and examples from across our work in Riyad Al Ghussein's programmes, that illustrate the myriad ways in which the Fund supported education through eight years.

#### **ABOUT RIYAD AL GHUSSEIN EDUCATION FUND**

Riyad Al Ghussein Education Fund was founded in 2011 after a brief visit to the campus of al-Quds University by Mr. Tarek Riyad Al Ghussein in honor of his father, Engineer Riyad Al Ghussein, in the belief that opportunity is everywhere, and that education is one of the best investments that anyone can make in their lives.

The Fund aims to benefit Palestinian students from low-income families, believing that providing scholarships is about providing opportunities which offer students avenues to attain higher education qualifications that will equip them with essential knowledge to obtain employment upon completion of their studies. Mindful of the larger social context, the Fund also focuses on supporting female education, studies in the humanities and arts, as well as student and academic exchanges with the outside world.

Since its inception, the Fund has presented over 200 scholarships to deserving youths to allow them to pursue their higher education studies.

To date, and in just over 8 years, 1.6 million dollars were invested in education. The Fund was divided each year into four main programs, and one subsidiary Programe. These are:

1. the **Riyad Al Ghussein Scholarships**, for needy and exceptional undergraduate students.

2. the Al-Quds Riyad Al-Ghussein postgraduate Fellowships Track, designed mainly to supplement the fellowship program administered by the university for Palestinian faculty development in PhD and Master programs at foreign institutions, as well as to support students wishing to enroll in the university's Masters degree in Islamic Philosophy.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**REPORT 2019** 

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- 3. the **Al-Quds Riyad Al-Ghussein Student Exchange Programme** to support exceptional Palestinian students in unique educational opportunities at foreign universities abroad, where they can spend one semester in those institutions.
- 4. the **Riyad Al Ghussein Academic Fellow at Al Quds**, designed to attract top quality professors to teach in the College of Music and Philosophy Departments.
- 5. Workshops, Seminars and other activities, where the Fund supported the convening of specialized seminars and workshops to which international scholars were invited, as well as the publication of a 'quarterly' in which proceedings from those workshops in addition to special Jerusalem-focused articles were published.



7

## RIYAD AL GHUSSEIN EDUCATION FUND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2019-2022:

While maintaining its commitment to its aforesaid programs but mindful also of the larger and pressing needs of the Jerusalem community, the Fund Committee developed its strategic plan for the next phase so as to increase its support for PhD scholarships abroad as well as to address a more elementary educational problem concerning the youth both in high schools as well as in the more informal context of the social media. PhD scholarships ensure that promising graduates will be able to achieve higher qualifications that can feed back into the overall educational process at the local level, while an intervention at the school and social media levels will ensure that incoming university students are well-equipped for an education that relies on critical and analytical thinking rather than on rote or 'copy-paste' learning.

This developed strategy will still be informed by the framework of the new global trends formulated by the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the SDG4, which stipulates to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

#### The following goals were adopted for 2019-2022:

Goal 1: Increase student's enrolments and encourage student's success.

Through offering scholarships opportunities to disadvantaged students, especially Jerusalemites students.

Providing pocket money for needy students to cover their daily needs.

**Goal 2:** Provide access to innovative and distinct programs and courses that strengthen graduate employment.

Through providing soft skills training.

**Goal 3:** Support initiatives that enhance community engagement.

Through funding projects that serve the needs of the Palestinian local community.

- **Goal 4:** Expand and diversify Palestinian student enrolments in exchange programs and prestigious universities around the world.
- **Goal 5:** The Fund will continue to support needy Jerusalem students studying at Palestinian universities outside Jerusalem.

#### **RIYAD AL GHUSSEIN EDUCATION FUND BY NUMBERS**

As part of the Strategic Plan, we developed evidence of progress to help demonstrate the value of Riyad Al Ghussein Education Fund's work in education **through 8 years**. The Fund's common measures are part of this evidence of progress.

- Nearly 75 full scholarships for bachelor's degrees were awarded to Al Quds University students in different disciplines. To date, 35 of these have already graduated, while the rest are still pursuing their studies at the university.
- Around 76 fellowships for graduate studies were awarded, of whom 38 studied in the in-house Master degree of Philosophy in Islam program at the university, while 38 students and faculty members from Al Quds University applied to pursue their Masters and PhD degrees at foreign universities. Of the latter, 32 students have already graduated and returned to pursue their careers at the university
- Around 70 Al Quds University's students were supported in special one-semester exchange programs with European universities. The Fund covered these students' accommodation, living and travel expenses.
- Two conferences were conducted thanks to the support of the Fund:

 "Human Rights and the Palestinian Situation" conference held by the Philosophy Department at Al Quds University.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**REPORT 2019** 

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- 2. "Production of Inequalities: Realities and Prospects for Change" conference held by the Centre for Jerusalem Studies, in partnership with the Philosophy, Political Science, and Architecture departments at Al Quds University.
- The Riyad Al Ghussein Fund sponsored the third edition of Ya Quds Academic Cultural Newsletter, which is devoted primarily to the conference: "Production of Inequalities: Realities and Prospects for Change in Jerusalem".
- Nine top quality international professors were brought to teach at Al Quds University in the College of Music and Philosophy Department.



## **FUND ALLOCATION DETAILS OF 1.6 MILLION USD**

Here we present the Fund distribution of the 1.6 million USD over eight years of generous contribution based on the programmes of the Riyad Al Ghussein Education Fund:

- Around 301,945 USD were allocated to the Riyad Al Ghussein undergraduate Scholarships.
- Around 354,534 USD were allocated to Al-Quds Riyad Al-Ghussein postgraduate Fellowships abroad.
- Around 154,749 USD were allocated to Al Quds Riyad Al Ghussein in-house M.A. Fellowships Track.
- Around 377,016 USD were allocated to Al-Quds Riyad Al-Ghussein Student Exchange Program.

- Around **51,187 USD** were allocated to the Riyad Al Ghussein Academic Fellow.
- Around 34,937 USD were allocated to Workshops, Seminars and other activities.
- Around **307,629 USD** were allocated to Al-Quds University College of Music.
- Around 18,000 USD covered Administrative Cost.



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### **PROGRESS MADE DURING REPORTING PERIOD (2011-2018)**

#### 1) Riyad Al Ghussein Scholarships for Undergraduates

Financial assistance is a necessity for many college students. This is especially true for Palestinian students. The Riyad Al Ghussein Education Fund tries to address this need, bearing in mind the larger social picture where certain important factors are taken into account, such as gender, exposure of students to foreign cultures and the encouragement of studies in the humanities. The Fund was also originally set up at al Quds University in order to cater especially for the needs of Jerusalem's Palestinians.

Under this program, the Fund covers tuition fees of undergraduate students studying at al Quds University who fulfilled the Fund's requirements. A general focus on students from East Jerusalem was adhered to, and academic disciplines covered were those in the Arts, Social Work, Education, Philosophy, Engineering and History.

The majority of the selected students each year were females. There is still a cultural divide in education between males and females in Palestinian society, and the Committee found it appropriate to select female candidates who may find themselves at even more of a disadvantage in finding support for their education.

Rula Odeh, one of our students who received a scholarship in 2015/2016. She is currently a 5th year Electronics Engineering

student, a co-founder of the Global Shapers at the World Economic Forum, a marketing communications coordinator at Tedx AlQuds University, and an Ambassador at TEDx BZU. She also got the Golden Women Award for the Golden Student for 2018.



Rula Odeh letter to the donor:

"I feel extremely honored and appreciative for receiving this significant award which boosts my confidence and inspiration to realizemy dreams in developing innovative, creative society where individuals stand the chance to become global players. In line with this, I am very thankful for the award which definitely helps to alleviate my financial burden needed to complete my bachelor degree at Al Quds University. "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" has always been my life philosophy in pursing my dreams to better myself in order to contribute to society and feel good about myself.

#### 2) **The Al-Quds Riyad Al-Ghussein postgraduate Fellowships Track**

#### A- The Al-Quds Riyad Al-Ghussein M.A. Fellowships Track

Al Quds University is the first and only university in Palestine to organize and introduce the teaching of (Islamic) philosophy as an M.A. program.

The program allows for Bachelor's degree holders in (primarily) the humanitarian disciplines and law to develop their analytical skills in their fields, in addition to exposing them to the rich philosophical tradition in the Arabic/Islamic culture. Further tracks and support were made available for the students to pursue their graduate studies at the Free University of Berlin and other universities in related fields.

The programme aims to graduate qualified specialists who are:

- 1. Familiar with the history and principles of (Islamic) Philosophy.
- 2. Able to think logically and evaluate evidence and arguments.
- 3. Comfortable with entertaining and dialouging with diverse traditions and ideas.

Five years have passed since the launching of this unique program. Observing student progress and output, we can conclude that the program achieved the abovementioned targets: Students' measurable critical and dialouge abilities were improved, and new opportunities were opened to graduated students to pursue their education and dreams.



Ms. Wala' Abu Libdeh:

One of the graduate students, Wala' Abu Libdeh, a science teacher at one of the primary schools in the Jericho district, shortly after her graduation won the distinguished award of "Best school instructor in the Jericho district" for her initiative named "the Palestinian Education"; which is a book that presents topics about their homeland in a funny and unsystematic manner for children.





#### **Mr. Hussein Jammous:**

Another exceptional student, Mr. Hussein Jammous, also a teacher at a secondary school and who graduated from the program with an honor in 2015/2016, went on to pursue his education by enrolling in a PhD program in Islamic Creed and Philosophy at the World Islamic Sciences and Education University (WISE) in Jordan. His ambition and persistence led him

to an opportunity to gain a Tuition Waiver from his Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Mohammad Fund- the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of WISE. The Riyad Al Ghussein Fund decided to support him financially due to his financial limitations to cover his weekly travel expenses from Palestine to Jordan (and vice versa). Now, he is at the third and final year of the PhD programme.



#### **B- The Al-Quds Riyad Al-Ghussein Fellowships**

Al Quds University has long had a PhD and Master fellowship program in place, in order to encourage its faculty and students to pursue research and further study and thereby to ensure that its undergraduate students have access to the best teachers. This program benefits three categories in the educational pyramid: current faculty who register to be PhD students, current undergraduates who expect to pursue a higher degree after their graduation, and current and future undergraduates.

#### Dania Abu Al Haj

Dania Abu Al Haj enrolled in the LLM international law (one-year program) in the school of law at the University of Edinburgh. She had graduated with a Bachelor degree in Law from Al Quds University and was an excellent student. In 2017, she graduated from the LLM international law program; her dissertation topic was "Cyber-Attacks in International Armed Conflicts", which is an increasingly important topic around the world and especially in the Palestinian territories. Now, she is working at a Law Office in Ramallah, as well as, in Al Quds University as an assistant for students who were chosen to participate in Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2017/2018. The Fund covered her tuition fees and living expenses during her stay in the school of law at the university of Edinburgh.



In 2016/2017, the Riyad Al Ghussein Education Fund decided to support the perusal of a PhD degree in Jerusalem Studies at Lancaster University, U.K., of Adel Ruished, who had been working as Government Relations Director at al-Quds University and was in charge of dealing with the university's legal status under Israeli law. It is hoped that once he completes his degree program, he will be better equipped to serve the university and other Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem which face difficulties as a result of Israeli jurisdiction over the city. The Riyad Al Ghussein Fund Committee approved to award him a fellowship to cover the tuition fees and living expenses during his stay at Lancaster University. In Sep. 2016, Lancaster University decided to offer him fee-waiver studentship for his three years PhD study. The Committee agreed to re-allocate the tuition fees into living expenses.







#### **Mariana Zarur**

"By the end of this month of March 2019, I finish my trip of hard work doing the Master and the internship at King's College London. It was such a nice and eye opening experience, that taught me a lot!

I want to ask you Please to extend my thanks and sincere gratitude to the donor and Prof. Sari Nusseibeh for the partial scholarship I have received and it was of course helpful."

marianazarour@yahoo.com MSc in Clinical Pharmacology at King's College London

#### Jamal Abu Aischa

Since I left Palestine to study in London, more than a year ago, I have achieved a

lot on the academic and professional levels. I successfully obtained my Master's degree in Human Rights from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), with a Merit grade. I focused in my degree on international law, as I studied for example 'international law and the use of force', 'terrorism and the rule of law', and 'international law and internally displaced persons'. I tried to make the best use of those courses to help in my master's thesis, which I wrote about Bedouins living in Israel, and specifically the issue of their citizenships being revoked. My main argument was even bedouins who do not see their citizenships being revoked cannot be considered as citizens of the state because of the discriminatory policies of the state towards them.

During my year at LSE, I also participated on a research project, titled 'Palestinian everyday life', with the Middle East Centre of my university. the project aimed at understanding what are the multiple frameworks that Palestinians are confronted to in their everyday life and how do they react to them, as well as the ways in which those frameworks shape everyday life in Palestine.

Since I finished my studies, I have been looking for internships and jobs in London. In January, I started an internship as



a research and advocacy intern at the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC). The PRC is an NGO with a consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council. My role there is to conduct research and collect material for reports that the Centre will submit to the UN Human Rights Council. I also draft briefings and questions for British Members of Parliament, as the Centre tries to raise the issue of Palestine and Palestinian refugees in the British parliament. In two weeks from now, I am going to Geneva to attend the Human Rights Council annual session, with the Centre, where we will have the opportunity to meet with other delegates and representatives to discuss issues related to Palestine.

I am still looking for stable jobs as this only a temporary internship, and at the same time I am looking at different opportunities for a

PhD as I would like to continue my academic career at some point.

The Al Ghussein scholarship was very helpful as it covered a large portion of my living expenses, and allowed me to focus more on my academics instead of economic situation. It was also honouring to be granted a scholarship by the Fund as it meant that the donors were confident in me, what gave me an additional motivation to give my best during my studies. I am very grateful for the Al Ghussein Fund for their support and I hope they can continue to support other students.

#### Jamal Abu Aischa,

#### jamal-abu-eisheh@hotmail.fr

MA in Human Rights and International Politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science

#### Kifah Zibn



First of all, I would like to send my deep thanks to the Foundation "The Riyad Ghussein Education Fund".

I would like to mention that I am still studying in the school of nursing at the University of Jordan till now.

On the other, the financial grant was given to me from Riyad Ghussein facilitated my study in the doctoral program to achieve the Ph.D. degree and facilitated transportation such as tickets of traveling from Palestine to Jordan and fees for hotels.

Finally, I want to mention the doctoral

of nursing is one of the most needed specializations in Palestine, also, al Quds University one of the institutions that needed for doctoral of nursing, the doctoral of nursing will contribute to raising the scientific level of nursing staff in the Faculty of Health Professions and also contributes to the graduation of students with high scientific competence. Moreover, can enhance the research methodology at the level of al-Quds University.

#### Kifah Zibn

Al Quds University kefah\_zaben@yahoo.com

#### **Riham Rayyan**



As a recipient for your generous donation (Al Ghussein Fund), I am so grateful for your help.

This financial support gave me the hope and offer me the opportunity to be in an ideal academic environment to be able to complete my dissertation. this grant gives me the chance to work in a specialized linguistic laboratory, and to profit from all the advantage that this laboratory presented for their Ph.D. students. This includes the participant in the scientific arguments or atelier, that the members organized every month to discuss a number of problematic issues in this domain, or some topics presented by their Ph.D. student.

My existence in this lab gave me the chance to use the references and biography which exist in this laboratory, or in any other university in Europe, which is important for my research, especially, that my new professor made a new and a serious modification in my plan, which requires a specific type of information in order to analyze the data and to continue my work.

on the other hand, my existence in France makes my contact with my professor easier, which is so important in this phase of my research, and gave me the possibility to contact with other professors in this domain.

This generous grant was like a miracle for me, it covered all the living expenses, including, accommodation, insurance, health insurance, travel expenses, transport.

I hope that at the end of this semester I will finish the majority of my dissertation, and I will return to my country.

I really appreciate your help,

Al Quds University rrayyan@staff.alquds.edu



19





As part of its outreach to the wider world, al Quds University has been engaged in partnerships with foreign universities, often receiving visiting students from abroad, and encouraging its own students to join programs at foreign universities. Given that students cannot often afford the additional expenses incurred for travel and other expenses, the Fund began being engaged in this sector of activities with the program at the Center for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS) in London, when four law students were given financial aid to help them in their studies. Starting the year 2013/2014, the Fund positively responded to a decision by the University committee to expand the benefits of this program and to accommodate a larger number of students in a wider variety of study abroad programs.

In 2011, Al Quds University was offered the opportunity to become the first Arab and Middle Eastern participant institution in the prestigious Centre for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS) in London, established by Georgetown University.



I was an exchange student at Sciences Po Paris, Menton Campus. For sure it was an amazing experience, and I'm thankful for Al-Quds University and Al-Gussein Fund for giving me this great opportunity. Menton is a very beautiful city, calm, safe and people there treated us really good. Being part of the exchange program helped in shaping part of my character, as well it will help me in my career in the future. I got to visit many places in France and explore it, as well as getting to know the culture, food, lifestyle, and people, I made some really good friends from all around the world, and I hope to keep up with them. On the academic part, Menton campus is focusing on the Middle Eastern studies, which helped me understand more about the politics here, also got the chance to study with known international Professors, one of them was a Judge in the International Court of Justice, and had the chance to talk with him about the Palestinian case. Moreover, I participated in the Mediterranean Model United Nations (MEDMUN), that was held in March 2017, for three days, hosted by Sciences Po, I was representing an African Arab State. This event added more to my experience, as I met more international students and got the chance to know them better and exchange our ideas.





#### **Reem Dweik:**

She studied one semester in Jaen University.

This photo was taken in Sagrada Familia -Barcelona

#### Rana Sanduka

One of the success stories for Al Ghussein Fund through this exceptional exchange program was that of Rana Sanduka and Diana Khlef. They were our selected students for CTLS programme in 2014. Now, they have graduated with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree at Georgetown University.



Rana Sanduka in the right during her graduation ceremony

#### 4) Riyad Al Ghussein Academic Fellow at Al Quds

The Riyad Al Ghussein Academic Fellowship aims to bring at least one top quality international scholar to Al Quds for one academic semester or year. The general guidelines for this component are to focus on graduates from top-ranked universities in the West (Ivy League, Oxford Cambridge, etc.), with a preference for scholars of Palestinian and then Arab origin, ceteris paribus, in certain disciplines set by University priorities, and currently: Music, Fine Art, Philosophy, Engineering, History and Political Science. Although the Committee would normally prefer to advertise for the Fellowship in top international publications, the University's immediate requirements, and the costs that would otherwise have been incurred in doing so, meant that a "headhunting" approach was used.



One of Riyad Al Ghussein Academic Fellows for 2012-2013 was:



#### Édua Amarilla Zádory

Édua Amarilla Zádory, which means "glistening moonrise", was born in Hungary. At the early age of seven, Édua's outstanding talent became evident. Taking part in a competition, Édua wowed the judges with her exceptional performance and was offered a scholarship at the prestigious Swiss Institute of Music. She studied under star violinists like Habib Kayaleh, Tibor Varga and Yehudi Menuhin. Concerts around the world contributed to her international career, as well as prizes in international competitions. Numerous worldwide TV and radio performances as well as CD productions followed. Hundreds of music lovers were recently fascinated by Édua's solo performances in Europe, Morocco, Iran and Southern America. In 2011 she became professor at the Kunstuniversität Graz, prior to joining the Al Quds University College of Music.

Professor Edua Zadory, Professor of Violin, Al Quds University College of Music.

For the year 2013/2014, Committee decided to award the Fellowship to the distinguished professor Conrad Muck, to contribute to the Al Quds University College of Music as professor for violin from October 2013 to July 2014.

Conrad Muck performs as soloist and chamber musician in major concert halls like the Berlin Philharmonie, the Munich Herkulessaal, the Wigmore Hall London, etc.

He has released several award-winning recordings (Grand Prix de l'academie Charles Gros, Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik, Gramophone Editor's Choice, Choc de

l'année du Monde de la Musique, ECHO-Klassik). Conrad Muck is regularly invited to give master classes a.o. at the University of Music in Zurich, the Royal College of Music in London as well as the Universities of Berkeley (CA), Logan (UT), Ann Arbor (MI) and Toronto (Ontario). He is on the jury of international music competitions, such as the Premio Paolo Borciani international competition for string quartets in Reggio Emilia, the chamber music competition Vittorio Gui in Florence, and the Premio di Trieste.

#### **Conrad Muck**







#### **Professor Thomas Pogge:**

In June 2015, the Philosophy Department at Al-Quds University hosted Professor Thomas Pogge, the Leitner Professor at Yale University to lead a talk about the Health Policy and Pharmaceutical Industries, at the Main Theatre at Engineering College.

In this lecture, Professor Pogge wanted to ensure that medications get to those who need it most. He has published on a wide range of subjects such as global justice and human rights. It's worth mentioning that Professor Pogge is originally from Germany, and received his PhD in philosophy from Harvard in 1983, since then, he has taught philosophy, political science, and ethics at universities around the world. His 2002 book, World Poverty and Human Rights, offers proposals on how to achieve global economic quality.

In addition, in 2008, Professor Pogge co-authored The Health Impact Fund, which lays out the plan to make life –saving medicines accessible for everyone. He is currently Leitner professor of philosophy and International Affairs at Yale University.

#### 5) Workshops and Seminars and other activities

Over the past years, it became evident to the Committee that another category of academic support would provide a large and important impact, namely short-term visits by academics or seminars and workshops involving international scholars.

#### Human Rights and the Palestinian Situation Conference

The Philosophy Department at Al-Quds University organized two days (14-15th Jan, 2016) International conference on "Human Rights and the Palestinian Situation".

Renowned Professors of philosophy and international law from Palestinian universities and international universities in Europe, U.S. and Canada participated in this workshop.



#### "Production of Inequalities: Realities and Prospects for Change" Conference

After the successful conclusion of the Conference "Human Rights and the Palestinian Situation" last year held by the Philosophy Department at Al-Quds University, the Committee decided to fund another Conference held by the Centre for Jerusalem Studies, in partnership with the Philosophy, Political Science, and Architecture departments.

## The Conference was held under the title of "Production of Inequalities: Realities and Prospects for Change".

The aim of the conference was to raise awareness about the extent to which inequality permeates the urban, political, social, economic, cultural, philosophical, and historical spheres, whether globally, regionally or locally.

The conference was attended by more than 100 professionals from the West Bank, Jerusalem and around the world who met with members of Al Quds University.

The Conference took place on December 3-5, 2016 (Saturday-Monday) at AQU Main Campus in Abu Dies. The opening session was held in Jerusalem on Saturday afternoon as a Tour to the Old City and Silwan, and the subsequent conference days (Sunday and Monday) were held on the AQU Main Campus in Abu Dies.





Moreover, the Riyad Al Ghussein Fund covered the third edition of **Ya Quds Academic Cultural Newsletter,** which is devoted primarily to the conference: "Production of Inequalities: Realities and Prospects for Change in Jerusalem"







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