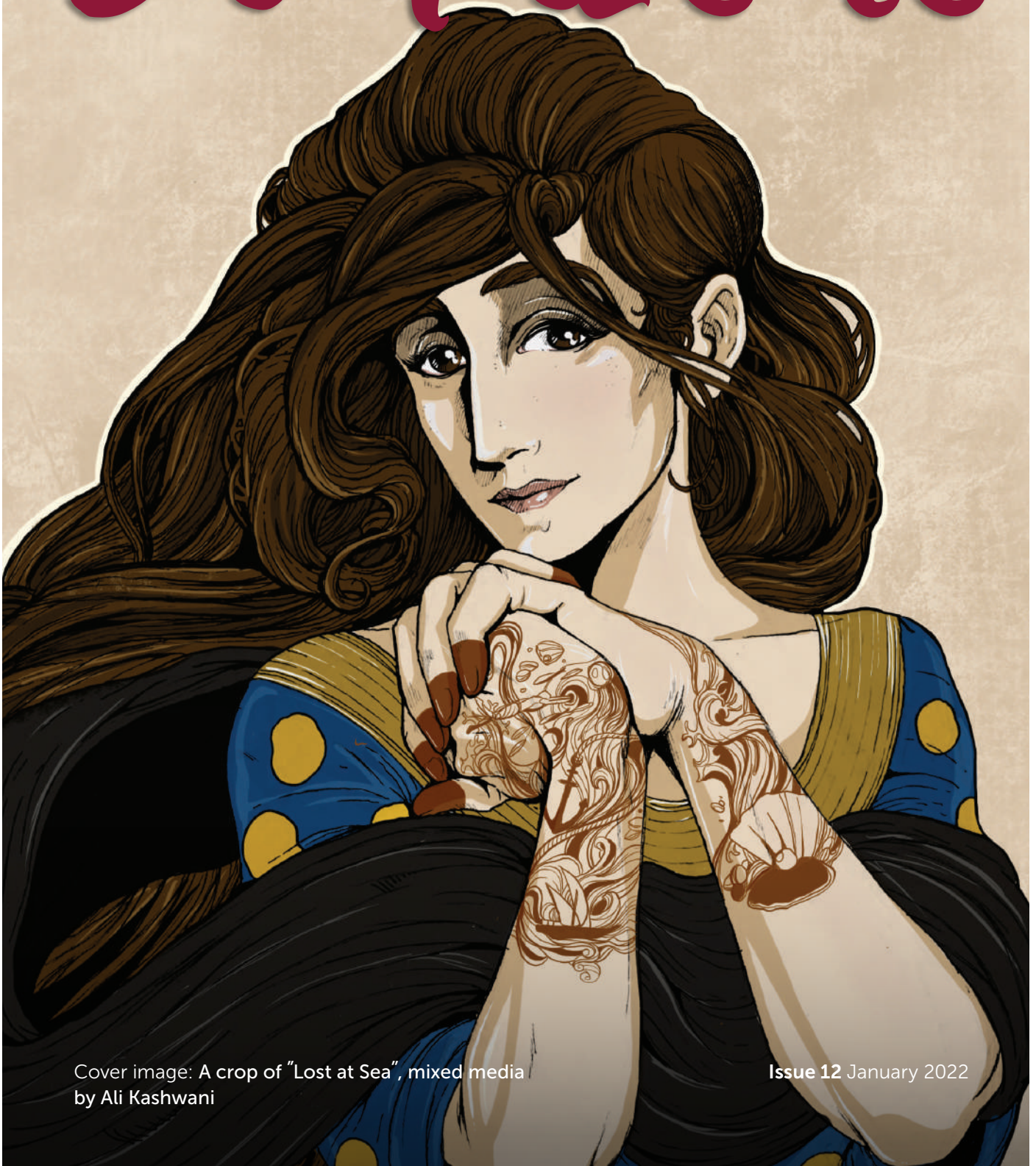


# La Gazette



Cover image: A crop of "Lost at Sea", mixed media  
by Ali Kashwani

Issue 12 January 2022

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi would like to thank  
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Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi would like to  
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# FRIENDS OF SORBONNE UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI ASSOCIATION

The Friends of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Association was established under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. It is supported by the French Ambassador to the UAE.

The Association was founded in Spring 2007 as a result of a group collaboration between Emirati and French residents in the UAE who are keen to support the development of a prestigious and ambitious project; while bringing together renowned Emirati and French companies as strategic partners in the outreach and development of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi. Members of the Association believe that education and culture are a crucial part in the economic development and the wellbeing of the community.

The Association's primary role is to seek funds to support the university's scholarships and to facilitate the transition of graduates into the professional world.

## THE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF:

### - **President**

Mrs Fairouz Villain

### - **Vice-Presidents**

HE Saeed Al Hajiri, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)

Mr Sultan Al Hajji, French Alliance Abu Dhabi

### - **General Secretary**

Mrs Asma Al Ghanem, Doctors without Borders

### - **Committee Members**

Dr Usra Soffan, National Center for Documentation and Research

Mrs Eudeline de Tinguay, Thinkers & Doers

Mrs Raphaele Francois-Poncet, Baker McKenzie/Habib Al Mulla

Mr Hussain Al Jaziri, Ja' Afar Alwan, Al Jaziri & Associates

Prof Silvia Serrano, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

### - **Members of Honour**

Prof Jean Chambaz, Sorbonne University

HE Xavier Chatel, French Embassy in the UAE

# NEW JOINERS

## NEW FACULTY



**Marie Morvan**  
Lecturer FLE  
French as a Foreign Language  
Extension: 9168



**Jeremy Hutin**  
PhD student  
Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence  
Extension: 9075



**Abdenour Hadid**  
Senior Scientist  
Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence  
Extension: 9073



**Mehluli Masuku**  
Post-doc in Records Management  
and Archival Science  
History  
Extension: 9680



**Magdalena Nowak**  
Lecturer- Climbing  
Sports  
Extension: 9364



**Nathalie Martial Braz**  
Full Professor  
Law, Economics and Management  
Extension: 9256



**Eliane Bsaibess**  
Assistant Professor  
Sciences and Engineering  
Extension: 9282



**Christophe MOULHERAT**  
Associate Professor  
History of Art and Archaeology  
Extension: 9656



**Maxence De Rochechouart**  
PhD student  
Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence  
Extension: 9074



**Liang Li**  
Assistant Professor  
Sciences & Engineering  
Extension: 9259



**Tanujit Chakraborty**  
Assistant Professor  
Sciences & Engineering  
Extension: 9280



**Forget Chaterera Zambuko**  
Assistant Professor in Records Management  
and Archival Science  
History  
Extension: 9744



**Ellenita Merle**  
Lecturer- Judo  
Sports  
Extension: 9364



**Stéphane Desruelles**  
Head of Geography and  
Planning Department  
Extension: 9201



**Karine Germoni**  
Head of French Studies Department &  
Acting head for French as a Foreign Language  
Department  
Extension: 9257



**Haifa Ben Romdhane**  
Assistant Professor  
Geography and Planning  
Extension: 9205



**Raed Abu Zitar**  
Senior Scientist/ PhD  
Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence  
Extension: 9555

# NEW STAFF



**Suhail Jabnoun**  
Officer - Strategic Planning  
Strategic Planning Office  
Extension: 9111



**Taghrid Dandachi**  
Officer- Procurement  
Procurement & General Services  
Extension: 9685



**Dada Moses Oyedji**  
Senior Officer- Health & Safety  
Procurement & General Services  
Extension: 9734



**Gweneth O'gorman**  
Head of Accreditation  
Department  
Extension: 9105



**Olga Ayoub**  
Head of Library  
Department  
Extension: 9670



**Noora Obaid**  
Head of Strategic  
Planning Office  
Extension: 9109



**Hassan Ammari**  
Section Head- Student Recruitment  
Registrar  
Extension: 9303



**Ahlam Boujaadia**  
Academic Coordinator  
Registrar  
Extension: 9555



**Mohamed Mabrouk**  
Assistant Librarian: Systems/ E-resources  
Library  
Extension: 9471



**Fady Khoury**  
Head of Registrar  
Department  
Extension: 9301



**Loay Aly**  
Senior Specialist- Digital Marketing  
Corporate Communication Office  
Extension: 9560



**Yasmin Natafji**  
Officer-Administrative Support  
Procurement & General Services  
Extension: 9039



**Saad Sayegh**  
Academic Coordinator  
Registrar  
Extension: 9412



**Helen Amhani**  
Section Head- Student Events & Culture  
Student Affairs  
Extension: 9353



**Ihab Kablawi**  
Senior Budget & Financial Analyst  
Finance  
Extension: 9403



**Akram Rashid**  
Legal Advisor  
Management  
Extension: 9103



**Sabih Uddin Khan**  
Section Head- Accounting  
Finance  
Extension: 9098



**Mais Halwani**  
Officer- Student Housing  
Student Affairs  
Extension: 9746



**Odai Shayeb**  
Senior Specialist- Graphic Design  
Corporate Communication Office  
Extension: 9676



**Anood Al Breiki**  
Officer- Student Recruitment  
Registrar  
Extension: 9397

# Rewind



A BRIDGE  
BETWEEN  
CIVILISATIONS

15 YEARS OF  
EXCELLENCE

  
SORBONNE  
UNIVERSITY  
ABU DHABI



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EXCELLENCE

  
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UNIVERSITY  
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أبوظبي

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EXCELLENCE

  
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UNIVERSITY  
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# RESEARCH NEWS & EVENTS

## **The Art Circle "When Science Meets Art" Webinar**

**4 February 2021**

The webinar was moderated by Vincent Larnicol, Art collector, and included an introduction about the university by Prof Silvia Serrano, Vice-Chancellor Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, a presentation by Dr Caroline Autret, Head of SUAD Archaeology and History of Art Department titled "Museums studies & archaeology: from discovery to valorization of heritage" and a presentation by Dr Philippe Walter, Director of the Laboratory of Molecular and Structural Archaeology at Sorbonne Université titled "Rediscovering the old masters' practices through non-destructive scientific analysis"

## **Prof Kosmas Pavlopoulos takes part in a UNESCO International Research Project**

**March 2021**

Sorbonne University became a Co-Principal Investigator of a UNESCO international research project in the UAE titled "A New Karst Modelling Approach in Different Tectonics Contacts" and is supported by UNESCO.

## **International Women in Mathematics Day 2021**

**7 June 2021**

On the occasion of the International Women in Mathematics Day 2021, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi hosted a virtual conference which was organised by Dr Lama Tarsissi, Assistant Professor- Mathematics at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and CWM Ambassador in Lebanon and in the UAE.

## **Culture Made in Arabia**

**6-8 April**

This event was organised by NYU Abu Dhabi Institute, in collaboration with Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and CEFREPA. The conference focused on the major role that the Arabian Peninsula plays on the Arab cultural scene.

## **IGCP-715 first virtual workshop**

**19 July 2021**

The first workshop of the IGCP-715 which introduced the objectives of the project and engaged university students, caver, mountaineers and nature-lovers in continuous educational and research activities around the significance of the karst geology process in karstic water.

## **Prize of "Young researcher 2021" awarded to Dr Ahmed Slimani**

**6 November 2021**

Dr Ahmed Slimani, Assistant Professor in physics at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, has been awarded the Prize of "Young researcher 2021" by the Academie Tunisienne des Sciences des Lettres et des Arts "Beit al-Hikma". It's an annual award that aims to encourage young Tunisian researchers. Dr Ahmed Slimani have submitted his CV to showcase his years of experience and have submitted 27 research papers in physics.

## **Abu Dhabi Stochastics Seminar (ongoing)**

**21 September 2021**

A collaboration between SUAD and NYUAD that brings together researchers in a wide range of topics in pure and applied probability as well as Mathematical physics and related areas.

## **Social Sciences and Humanities Student Research Conference (SSHRC)- call for proposals**

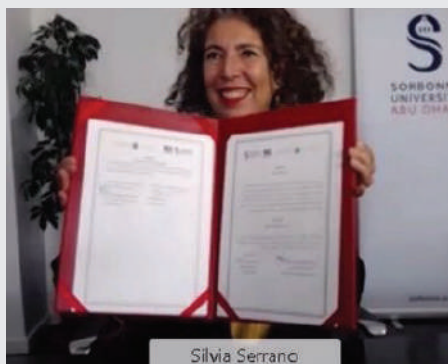
**31 October 2021**

Students and young graduates had until 31 October to submit their proposals for the annual conference that aims to promote undergraduate and postgraduate research activities in social sciences and humanities.

## **International Conference- Ethics of Tolerance: Phenomenological Perspectives on the Other**

**20-21 November 2021**

An international colloquium organised by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi in partnership with ASPIRE UAE and the French Embassy. The colloquium took place at the French pavilion at Expo 2020 and at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.



## GLOBAL PARTICIPATION

### SUAD-CEFREPA DIWAN SERIES:

A collaboration between Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and the French Research Centre for the Arabian Peninsula aiming to position Sorbonne Abu Dhabi as a regional hub for Gulf Studies. It is comprised of a series of conferences on various topics in humanities and social sciences showcasing research concerning the Arabian Peninsula:

- **Cosmopolitan Dubai: Consumption and Segregation in a Global City**  
27 January 2021
- **Life Course, City Course; local cosmopolitanism, seen by Youth in Oman**  
25 February 2021
- **The Qur'an in the Arabic graffiti from early Islam (7th – 8th c. AD)**  
4 March 2021
- **A Discussion of Kanna, Le Renard & Vora's; Beyond Exception: New Interpretations of the Arabian Peninsula**  
16 March 2021

### RAMADAN TALKS:

- **Abu Dhabi public spaces at the pace of Ramadan**  
28 April 2021
- **Ramadan fasting interpreted by the philosophers: The point of view of Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali in The Revival of Religious Sciences**  
5 May 2021
- **Ramadan TV in Covid times**  
11 May 2021
- **Gulf Novel and History**  
24 November 2021

### Prof Silvia Serrano, SUAD Vice-Chancellor, as a guest speaker in THE MENA Universities Summit

7 April 2021

THE MENA Universities Summit is a three-day virtual summit that focused on higher education teaching and research models for the MENA region. During the summit, Prof Silvia Serrano talked about the global impact and the role of universities in the societies that they serve.

## SUAD NEWS & UPDATES

### The Annual Virtual Astrolabe Career Forum

18-2 March 2021

The Career Centre at SUAD organised the Astrolabe Career Forum for the first time virtually. The Forum brought together speakers from UAE, France, UK, Morocco and Botswana, with a total of 16 presentations conducted in English and French with over 300 students attending the event.



**Prof Silvia Serrano, Vice-Chancellor, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, as a keynote speaker in the National Archives Forum**  
**9 June 2021**

In commemoration of the International Archives Day, UAE national Archives organised a virtual forum in the presence of Prof Silvia Serrano, Vice-Chancellor, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, who gave an inspiring speech about the importance of records management and archival sciences.

**Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi signed an agreement with UAEFA and CIES**  
**14 June 2021**

The signature ceremony took place in the headquarters of the UAE Football Association in Dubai and aims towards improving the calibers in the sports industry and in developing the industry as a whole by offering an Executive Diploma in Sports Management.

**SUAD offers full scholarships to students from African Countries**  
**23 June 2021**

SUAD signed an agreement with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to grant full academic scholarships to 60 students from different African countries to pursue their studies at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

**Back to campus**  
**1 September 2021**

A year and a half after the coronavirus pandemic closed campuses and imposed distance learning, students are back to campus for face-to-face learning.

**SUAD renews collaboration agreement with the Goethe-Institut in Abu Dhabi**  
**9 September 2021**

The signing ceremony took place at the university's campus and in the presence of Prof Silvia Serrano, Vice-Chancellor, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, and Mr Fareed Majari, Director of Goethe-Institut Gulf Region.

**Dr Lama Tarsissi as a keynote speaker in the Emirati Women Conference**  
**14 September 2021**

SUAD is proud of the contribution of Dr Lama Tarsissi, Assistant Professor of Maths at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and ambassador of Lebanon and UAE in the CWM, as a keynote speaker in the Emirati Women Conference organised by Liwan Culture and Art.

**SUAD celebrates the First Day of Classes for Students in the Executive Diploma in Sports Management.**  
**26 September 2021**

Prof Silvia Serrano, HE Mohammed Abdullah Hazzam Al Dhaheer, The General Secretary of the UAE Football Association, and Mr Vincent Monnier welcomed students on campus on their first day of classes.

**15 Year Anniversary**  
**October 2021**

The university marks 15 years of delivering world-class education in Abu Dhabi.

**A visit by the delegates of the leadership team from Sorbonne University in Paris**  
**4-7 October 2021**

SUAD welcomed to campus delegates of the leadership team of Sorbonne University in Paris including SU's Mr Christopher Cripps, Director of International Development at Sorbonne University, Dr Marie-Céline Daniel, Vice-President for Education & Lifelong Learning and Mr Jean-Christophe Erard, Director General of Services.

**Flag Day Celebration**  
**3 November 2021**

The UAE flag-raising ceremony was held on campus at 11:00 am and was attended by SUAD employees.

**UAE Commemoration Day**  
**30 November 2021**

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi held a minute of silence on the occasion of the UAE martyr's day, this was followed by the UAE national anthem.


**Annual Employees Retreat**  
**8 December 2021**

More than 80 SUAD faculty and staff members enjoyed the wonderful weather, great team spirit and working together on different activities in the green scenery of the Westin Abu Dhabi Golf Resort & Spa at the Annual Employees Team Building Retreat.

**Poetry Night**  
**18 December 2021**

In celebration of the international day of Arabic language, students from Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi recited poems in Arabic, English and French reflecting on their personal experiences, imagination and their desire to share beyond any borders and ages. They wrote these poems during several workshops conducted under the leadership of Charbel Elias, lecturer of French as a Foreign Language (FLE) and Dr Karine Germoni, Head of the French Studies Department. The Poetry Night is the result of a collaboration between Institut Français in the United Arab Emirates, Arabic Language Center, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, and Institut du Monde Arabe.





# GRADUATION CEREMONIES

## **Professional Certificate in Archives and Records Management Graduation Ceremony**

**5 April 2021**

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and The National Archives organised a virtual graduation ceremony for 12 graduates from the Professional Certificate in Archives and Records Management.

## **12th Graduation Ceremony**

**21 November 2021**

Around 200 SUAD students celebrated their graduation at The Regal Ballroom, St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort under the patronage of HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and in the presence of HE Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh SUAD Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Professor Alain Tallon Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sorbonne University.

## **Professional Certificate in Records Management and Archives Graduation Ceremony**

**22 November 2021**

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and The National Archives held on campus the graduation ceremony for 6<sup>th</sup> cohort of students of the Professional Certificate in Archives and Records Management.

# STUDENT RECRUITMENT EVENTS

**Undergraduate Programmes  
Virtual Open Day**  
17 March 2021

**Postgraduate Programmes  
Virtual Open Day**  
7 April 2021

**Universities Fair for Ajman  
Schools**  
27 April 2021

**Introduction to the Master in  
Applied Foreign Languages:  
Specialty Management and  
International Business**  
1 May 2021

**Introduction to the Master in  
Health Economics**  
18 May 2021

**Physics unveils the secrets of art  
by Dr Philippe Walter**  
26 May 2021

**Introduction to the Executive  
Diploma in Sports Management**  
31 May 2021

**Najah 2021 Virtual Exhibition**  
1-3 June 2021

**Introduction to the Master  
in Records Management and  
Archival Studies in collaboration  
with the National Archives**  
1 June 2021

**Introduction to the Master in  
Health Economics - L3 students**  
1 June 2021

**Introduction to the Bachelor in  
Law**  
2 June 2021

**Introduction to the Bachelor in  
Physics**  
14 June 2021

**Introduction to the Bachelor in  
History of Art and Archaeology**  
15 June 2021

**Introduction to the Master  
in Urban Planning and  
Development**  
21 June 2021

**Introduction to the Master  
in Environment: Dynamics of  
Territories and Societies**  
22 June 2021

**Secrets of Artifacts unveiled by  
physics by Dr Philippe Walter**  
22 June 2021

**Introduction to the Master in  
Applied Sociological Research**  
1 July 2021

**Introduction to the Executive  
Diploma in Sports Management**  
3 July 2021

**Introduction to the Bachelor in  
Geography and Planning**  
14 July 2021

**Introduction to the Master in  
Teaching French as a Foreign  
Language**  
24 July 2021

**International Education Show -  
Sharjah**  
19-21 October 2021

**Najah Exhibition in Abu Dhabi**  
27-29 October 2021

**Najah Exhibition in Dubai**  
31 Oct- 1 Nov 2021



# CULTURAL AND STUDENT EVENTS

## **SUAD Model United Nations**

**18-20 March 2021**

SUAD organised Sorbonne Model United Nations (MUN) virtually, which is a real life simulation of the United Nations where delegates become ambassadors of both countries and non-governmental organizations in order to discuss and resolve current humanitarian, economic, social and political crisis affecting the international community.

## **Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Art Exhibition at Al Zeina Community**

**18-24 April 2021**

In collaboration with Al Zeina Community, SUAD organised the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Art Exhibition. The exhibition presents paintings and photographs of students.

## **Winning the FIFA/CIES University Network Award 2021**

**2 April 2021**

SUAD congratulated its Executive Diploma in Sports Management graduates, Mitri Hajjar and Wadie Ibane for winning the FIFA/CIES University Network Award 2021 for their project titled "How eSports initiatives in UAE will help the introduction of eSports into the Olympic Games".

## **Student Orientation Programme**

**30 August- 1 September 2021**

SUAD held two virtual orientation events for undergraduate & postgraduate new students, hosting more than 700 students.

## **Academic visit to the National Archives**

**21 September 2021**

L2 Bachelor of Records Management and Archival Science students went on a field trip to the National Archives, whereby they gained insights on the best practices adopted in archiving and records management.

## **Academic visit to ADNOC**

**28 September & 5 October 2021**

L3 Bachelor of Records Management and Archival Science students went on a field trip to ADNOC where they gained insights on the best practices adopted in archiving and records management.

## **Calligraphy and Mug Engraving workshop**

**29 September 2021**

A workshop that took place on campus, allowing students to enjoy and practice the art of calligraphy and mug engraving.

## **A lecture by Abu Dhabi Police**

**7 October 2021**

Dr Humaid Al Shamsi, Artificial Intelligence Expert at Abu Dhabi Police, visited Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and gave a lecture to L3 Bachelor of Records Management and Archival Science students on the application of artificial intelligence in law enforcement.

## **Expo 2020 Visit**

**7 October 2021**

SUAD student council members went on a visit to Expo 2020.

## **Choix Goncourt de l'Orient**

**27 October 2021**

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi's Department of French Studies participated alongside several universities in the middle east in the French literature award "Liste Goncourt/Le Choix de l'Orient". The event was organised under the umbrella of Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie's Middle East Office and the French Institute of Lebanon.

## **Delma Island Trip**

**29-30 October 2021**

Students enjoyed the lovely weather and outdoor activities during their trip to Delma Island that was organised by SUAD Sports Department.

## **Pascal Gallet's Masterclass**

**2 November 2021**

Students enjoyed participating in a piano masterclass by the renowned French pianist Pascal Gallet.

## **Pascal Gallet's Concert**

**2 November 2021**

A magnificent musical performance by the renowned French pianist Pascal Gallet took place in the Atrium of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and was widely attended by students, employees and guests.

## **Halloween Fitness Challenge**

**2 November 2021**

SUAD employees and students enjoyed participating in the Halloween themed fitness challenge organised by SUAD Sports Department. The event consisted of five different challenges and winners of each challenge received awards.

## **Fashion Design Masterclass**

**3 November 2021**

Students enjoyed participating in a fashion design masterclass conducted by Bruno Pavlovsky, President of Fashion at CHANEL.

## **ICC YAF Seminar "Arbitration and ADR"**

**4 November 2021**

A session tailored for Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi students in the bachelor's in law programme took place and hosted by ADGM arbitration centre.

## **Masterclass About Life Underground Documentary with Hervé Cohen**

**9 November 2021**

Students attended a masterclass by the director Hervé Cohen, in which he discussed cinema around the interactive documentary "Life Underground". This documentary presented stories of people who take the metro every day.

### **UAE National Day Celebrations**

**24 November 2021**

The ceremony started with the UAE National Anthem and included various national activities and performances that shed light on UAE heritage, in addition to a distinctive poetry recitation by students.

### **Alumni soirée Dinner**

**27 November 2021**

A reunion to nearly 100 alumni who enjoyed reconnecting with their classmates at Beach Rotana Hotel.

### **CINEMANA:**

A contemporary Arab cinema series organized by the Film department in NYUAD, the NYUAD Arts Center and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi University, with the support of the Palestinian Business Council.

- Between two seas by Anas Tolba  
8 February 2021
- A series of three short films by Emirati filmmaker Abdulrahman Al Madani  
8 March 2021
- A series of Palestinian short movies  
19 April 2021
- Three films by Jocelyne Saab  
8 November 2021

### **SPORTS CONFERENCES:**

- Women's football conference:  
28 January 2021
- Crisis Communication in Sports with Mr Andreas Herren  
10 February 2021
- Sport sponsorship by Helen De Haan  
8 March 2021
- How Mega Football Clubs Sell their Commercial Rights Conference  
3 November 2021
- New Sources of Revenues for Professional Football Clubs  
23 November 2021





**ALI KASHWANI,** is a 25-year old Emirati artist from Sharjah who holds a bachelor degree in design management and is currently enrolled in Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi's Master in History of Art and Museum Studies. Since 2012, Ali conducted art workshops and he also participated in over 60 events and exhibitions nationally and has worked with several cultural institutions including Abu Dhabi Culture, Dubai Culture, Sharjah Art Foundation, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Dubai Expo 2020, Cultural Foundation, Watani Foundation , Dubai Calendar and others.

In addition, Ali Kashwani represented the UAE internationally when he was competing for the UAE in the Painting and Decoration category at the WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017. He has also won first place at Emirates Skills 2017 and the Dubai Sketch Battle 2019.

Ali Kashwani's art style is inspired by different art movements and styles throughout history such as 1920's art nouveau, post impressionism, and modern Arab art movements. Ali Kashwani's paintings often focus on people, the human experience and he gets his inspiration from his Arabian culture, environment and heritage.

A crop of "Wandering the desert",  
mixed media by Ali Kashwani



**It was mentioned in your bio that you tell stories through your artworks, what kind of stories are you interested in telling?**

When creating an artwork, I find it interesting when the artwork has a story that would take the viewer on a journey. One of my main inspirations for this approach is Arabic poetry. For centuries, our ancestors painted the most wonderful images and took their listeners on great journeys using only words. In my artworks, I try to essentially "paint poetry".

**What is the role of an artist in the society, from your point of view?**

When I enrolled in the Master of History in Art and started taking classes, I've realised that one can fully understand and appreciate past cultures through their art. Therefore, the artists' role in society is not restricted to creating meaningful works of art for the world today, but it is also to preserve the heritage of the artist's own culture for future generations.

**What's your favorite artwork and why?**

I do not have a single favorite artwork due to the fact that each artwork appeals to a different perspective of my personality. However, I am mainly inspired by early 20th century artists and art movements such as Post-Impressionism and Art Nouveau and artists such as, Gustave Klimt and Alphonse Mucha.

**Professionally, what's your goal? And what are your future goals as an artist?**

As an artist, I would like to create artworks that would be a part of the long lasting 'history of art' that could serve as a pivotal point in the history of art of our region.

**Who supported you through your journey as an artist?**

Family. The first and foremost supporters of my aspirations and ambitions as an artist were my family.

**Why did you choose to study History of Art and Museum Studies?**

Since I was young, I was always interested in art, history, and culture, and through my studies in History of Art, I had the opportunity to learn in depth about different artists, and to get a glimpse of their personality and the different challenges and triumphs they went through. This, I believe, helped me grow as a person and therefore as an artist.

*Ali Kashwani*

# FACE TO FACE

with Dr Karine Germoni

## • Tell us more about your background and studies.

First of all, I wanted to study business and I even enrolled in the prestigious preparatory year of HEC Paris after my high-school diploma. However, I've always been fond of literature and philosophy, and this is the reason behind me choosing to study French, Latin and Greek literature. After my "Agrégation" in French classic literature, I did my PhD on punctuations in Samuel Beckett's bilingual work.

## • What encouraged you to join Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi?

I have joined Sorbonne Université in Paris as an associate professor in 2014 and I was very well-welcomed. I loved working with my colleagues at the Department of French Language at the university. I personally love challenges and exploring new things, so when I had the opportunity to apply for this job in Abu Dhabi as a Head of French Studies Department and acting as Head of French as Foreign Language Department, I did not hesitate. Going to a Foreign country and working in a university where French language is the official language was something of great interest to me, especially that I also knew that I could work with various French institutions such as the French embassy, Alliance Française Abu Dhabi and Lycée Français to promote French language, French culture and literature. Relocating to another country and building a life there from scratch is not easy but it is definitely worth it.

## • How did you find living and working in Abu Dhabi so far and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi in particular?

When I first arrived to Abu Dhabi, it wasn't easy especially because of the Covid crisis. I wasn't used to the hot weather, and I had to stay in quarantine in a hotel with an electronic wristwatch. The paperwork was also difficult but this is a common situation for anyone relocating to a foreign country. What surprised me was the city's architecture, such as the various palaces and tall buildings. I was under the impression that I was in a fictional city because it's very different from the old architecture style that you find in France. I was also a bit worried to miss the vegetation, greenery scenes, and the Seine river that used to be in my surroundings. But step by step, I started discovering Abu Dhabi more and more especially the parks, and I was surprised by how green it is, despite difficult weather and environmental conditions. In addition to that, driving around was a bit of a challenge at the beginning, as I felt that all streets looked the same, but then, I realized that the city is built like an American one, in a geometrical pattern, which made it actually easier for me to navigate through. I do enjoy the weather here; it is like an eternal summer between October and April. I also appreciate the coexistence of many different communities and cultures. Although I am still new here and still exploring, yet I feel more and more positive about this every day.

## • Why did you choose teaching French language and literature?

As my PhD was about punctuations, that led me to teach French language, grammar and stylistics. I'm a stylistics researcher, who works with linguistic tools, and with high sense of literature. Researching Beckett's work, an Irish author who chose France as a home and French as a writing language, is what really motivated me to specialize in French as a foreign language. As a result, I feel I'm in the right place heading the French and French as a Foreign Language Departments.

The Bachelor in French Literature prepares students to be either teachers of French language and French literature, journalists or prepares them for other careers in communications. The programme delivers many courses not only in literature, but also in French language grammar, style and courses in communication, this allows students who have passed this programme to work in many fields beside the mainstream paths of teaching and researching. It's important to understand that students



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a bright red jacket over a patterned dress, stands in the foreground on the left. In the background, a modern building with large windows and a balcony is visible under a clear sky.

# KARINE GERMONI

Head of French Studies Department, Acting  
head of French as a Foreign Language

who study French literature will gain analytic skills that they can use in many other fields. For example, I know many of my students want to be politicians and this is where communication and the right usage of words is essential.

I like to repeat to my students "whoever master words can master the world". Communication is the main starting point and the key to all our professional and personal relationships. When words are not well understood, they lead to misperceptions, but without words, no successful communication is possible. Words are a very powerful tool, so mastering the science of words is owning a treasure and in fact, the way to get there is by studying French and foreign literature. By reading stories, whether fictional or bios, you can live many lives beside yours and discover other universes and feel various emotions. It indeed expands your empathy. Literature makes things more humane and it opens multiple doors towards the other places.

## • What is your teaching style?

When I start the class, I remind my students of several binding rules to follow for a smooth lecture. It is important to work in an environment of mutual respect and positivity as well as in a constructive way. I invite my students to speak freely, to express their doubts or disagreement, and to also propose an alternative perspective. I ask them to act as adults, and to act and react in a professional way. One must justify his or her disagreement or understanding and be able to propose an alternative perspective. Most importantly, studying in class involves learning how to learn.

Last, I ask my students to turn off their cell phones and I do the same. It's a matter of politeness and it enables students to focus during class. I always tell my students that I'm the captain of the boat and they are my sailors; a captain cannot do anything without his or her sailors and vice versa! However, the Covid crisis revealed how interactions between professors and students are precious. Delivering the courses behind a screen without knowing whether students are listening or if they are present is not an easy thing. Not knowing if students were receptive was a big worry for me, especially that students turn their cameras off. It is difficult indeed, especially that teachers are constantly concerned whether students are being attentive or not. I really hope things get back to normal as I think e-learning can be a good solution for exceptional cases only. However, e-learning can damage social links. Indeed, physical communication is very important in the different phases of the learning process.

## • What careers can students enrolled in the French as a Foreign Language Programme pursue? Do you have any advice for them?

Students enrolled in the Bachelor in French Literature and Master in Teaching French as a Foreign Language can pursue careers in various fields such as teaching and research, communications and journalism, publishing, cultural sector, government and public services, leisure and tourism, travel industry, business management and human resources.

I advise my students to do what they are passionate about, what makes one wake up in the morning! I also advise them to highlight all the skills that their degree gives them so they can transfer their skills from one sector to the other and evolve in their career throughout their life.

## • Are you working on any projects and can you tell us about it?

In connection with my research on autography and my focus on correcting autography and with the four Dictées I have organised at Sorbonne Université in Paris with my amazing colleagues, I'm planning to organise a dictée here at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi during the French language week, most probably in March. This event will be co-organised with the French school Lycée Louis Massignon (Hans Limon) and Rachid Santaki, organizer of the giant Dictée. The idea is to have a dictation with different levels of difficulty as we will include 3 to 4 categories to allow different people to participate in this competition. The aim of this dictée is to gather French language lovers, French speakers and Francophiles. Moreover, we are planning to organise the French Day with UAE University. It is very important for me that the University is embedded in the city and that it remains open to the world so that it disseminates research activities and make it understandable to the community.

As for research, I'm currently working on the republishing of Maurice Grevisse's book 'Le français correct' with the publishing house DeBoeck.

In the near future, I would also like to organise a colloquium on writing in French as a foreign and secondary language. It is important to remember that French is spoken in numerous countries but it is even more important to question why some non-French authors chose French as their writing language.

## • How do you spend your free time?

I don't have enough free time. One of my new year resolutions is to do sports as I love swimming, walking and dancing. We should never forget the Latin quote that says "Mens sana in corpore sano" which means "a healthy mind in a healthy body". One of my other resolutions is to continue discovering the UAE and other middle-eastern countries. I am passionate about travelling too.

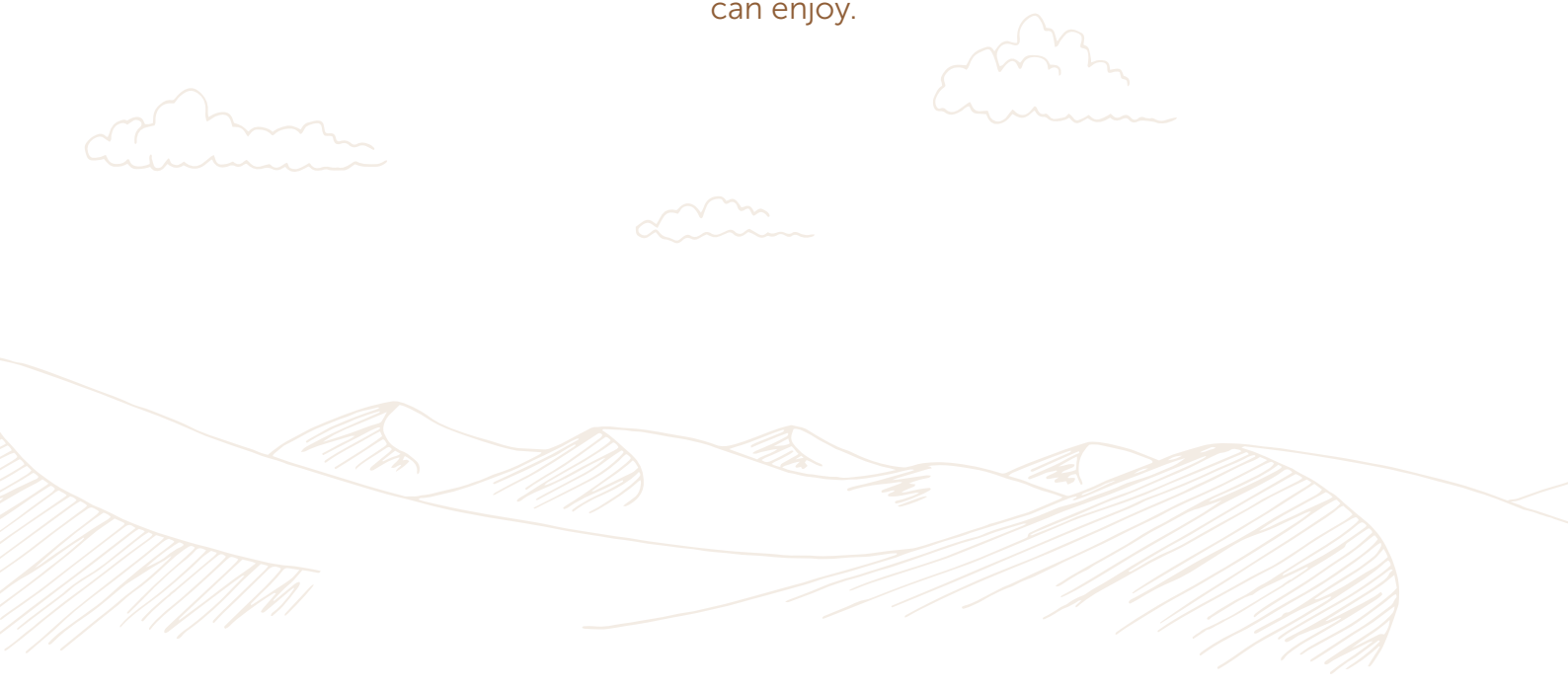


# Explore THE UAE

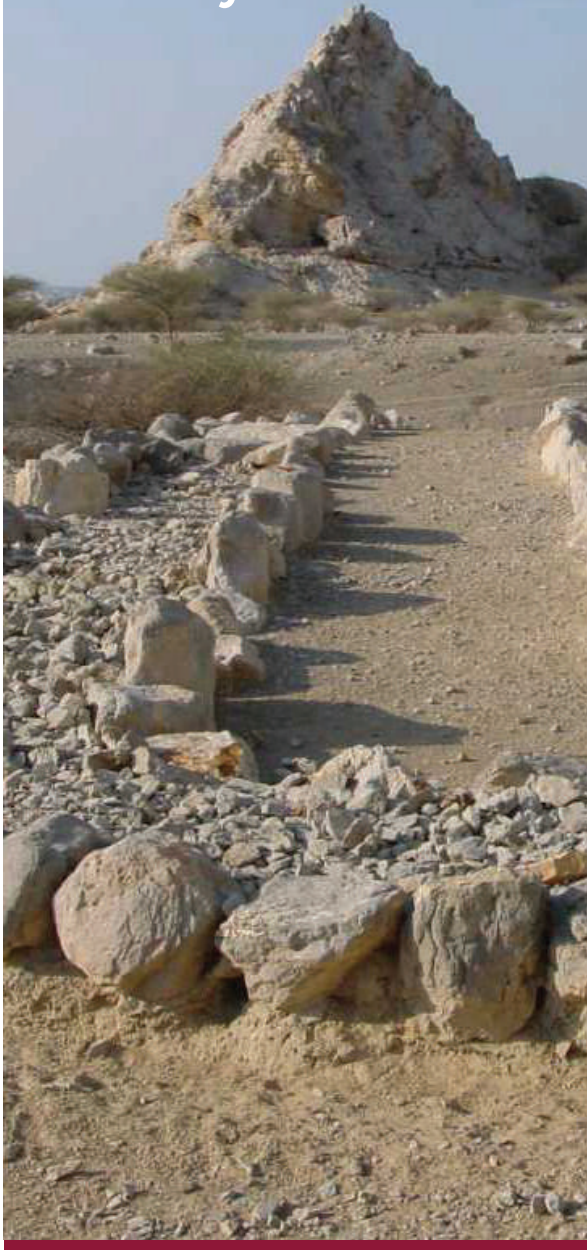
In September 2021, The Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) announced a Sustainable Tourism Destination Strategy that aims at making Ras Al Khaimah a regional leader in environmentally conscious tourism by 2025.

In this edition, we will help you explore the natural beauty of **the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah**.

Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) is one of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and is located on the northern part of UAE. Its name in English means "headland of the tent" or "head of the tent". The emirate borders Oman's exclave of Musandam and is well known for its beautiful nature. Ras Al Khaimah is also well-known for the various activities and leisure experiences that one can enjoy.



## Discover Shimal Village's Rich History



If you are a history and archeology lover then the little village of Shimal is your destination in RAK. It's a small village located at the Hajar Mountains and is the site of several hundred pre-Islamic tombs and a settlement that has been dated from 2000-1300 BC. The area is considered among the most important archaeological sites in the United Arab Emirates and it has a large circular tomb from the Umm al-Nar period.

## Enjoy the Beach Breeze



Enjoy the salty breeze on the emirate's long shoreline. RAK boasts a wide variety of pristine beaches with crystal clear azure waters, in addition to the wide range facilities available that would make your trip a memorable one.

## Visit the Ghost Town of Al Jazirah Al Hamra



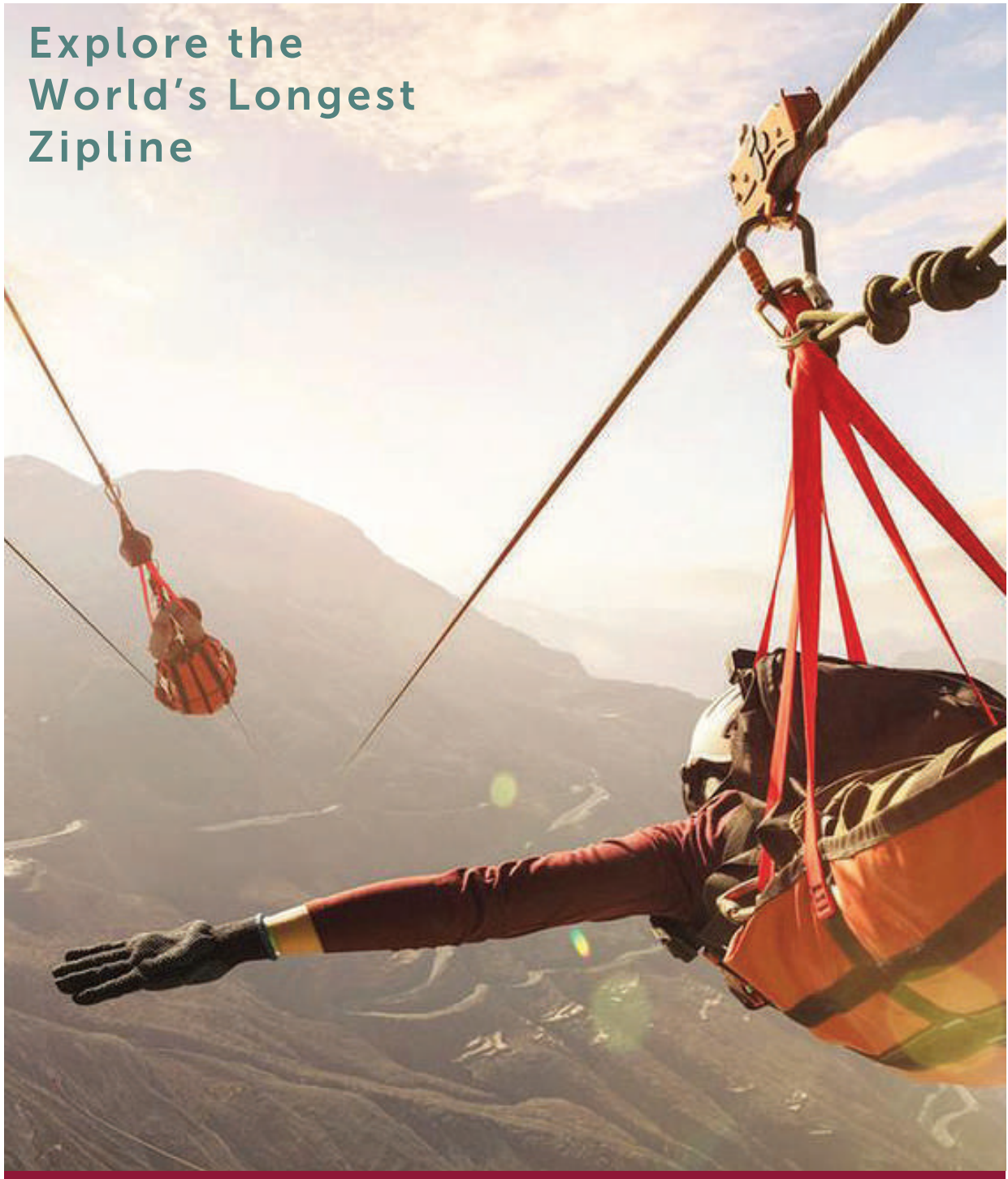
Embark on a journey back in time by visiting one of the oldest authentic sites in UAE. Al Jazirah Al Hamra which is considered to be the only historical pearling town in the gulf region. Founded in the sixteenth century and now consists of abandoned houses with seashells and corals popping out of the remaining town ruins.

## Catch the Stunning Sunset on Jebel Jais



Enjoy the picturesque views of the Jebel Jais Mountain (located north-western the Hajar Mountain Range). The mountain was formed over 70 million years ago and has viewing decks along the route to the summit to allow visitors take in the far-reaching vistas of the surrounding barren cliffs.

## Explore the World's Longest Zipline



Glide along the world's longest zipline at a height of 1,680 metres above sea level and reach breakneck speeds of almost 150 kilometers an hour at RAK's Jebel Jais's Zipline. Take a second on a suspended landing platform to reach the ground level and catch your breath after that breathtaking experience!

# OUR BOOKSHELF

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi's library collections consist of more than 110,000 printed books and 50 printed periodicals subscriptions. The Library also provides access to an extensive online collection of books and periodicals that consists of more than **350,000 resources**, all of which are accessible both on and off campus. The Library also has study facilities for about 400 users at a time, and more than 40 computers. Users can use their laptops and tablets and access the library resources through the Wi-Fi connection.

## COMMENT GOUVERNER UN PEUPLE ROI ? Traité nouveau d'art politique

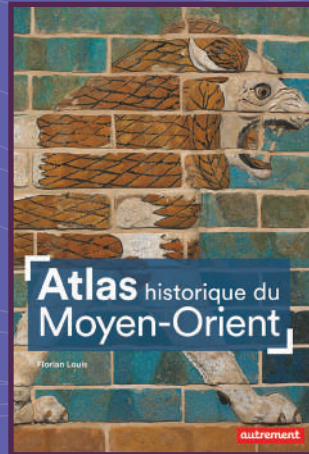


- Author: Pierre-Henri Tavoillot
- Publisher: Odile Jacob
- Date: 2021
- Shelfmark: 172 TAV

With this book on political science, Pierre-Henri Tavoillot returns to the concept of democracy at the beginning of the 21st century. He makes a solid demonstration that makes it possible to apprehend the foundations, developments and perspectives of this ideology.



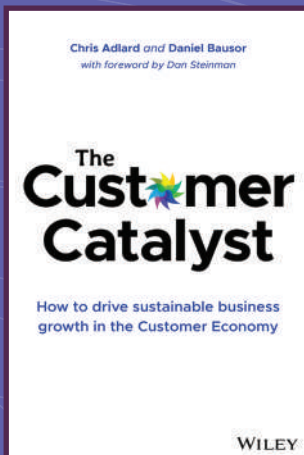
## ATLAS HISTORIQUE DU MOYEN-ORIENT



- Author: Florian Louis
- Publisher: Autrement
- Date: 2020
- Shelfmark: 956 FLO

In ancient times, the Middle East experienced several cultural revolutions such as the birth of agriculture and the birth of the city and writing. It is a land of empires and conquerors. With more than 100 maps and documents, this atlas traces the history of one of the cradles of our civilisation and highlights the plural realities of the Middle East.

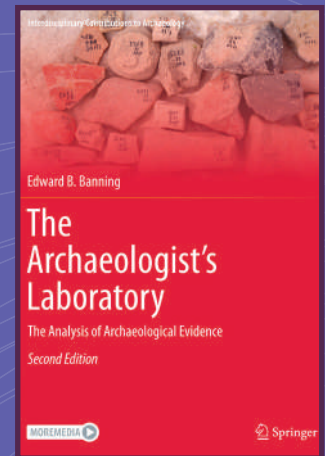
## THE CUSTOMER CATALYST: HOW TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS GROWTH IN THE CUSTOMER ECONOMY



- Authors: Chris Adlard & Daniel Bausor
- Publisher: John Wiley
- Date: 2020
- Shelfmark: 658.812 ADL

The new business landscape is driven by the digital revolution. The traditional inside-out, typical of the product-sales business model is no longer relevant. This book shows how organisations can put customers truly at the heart of all their operations and generate genuine sustainable growth.

## THE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S LABORATORY: THE ANALYSIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE; 2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION



- Author: Edward B. Banning
- Publisher: Springer
- Date: 2020
- Shelfmark: 930.1028 BAN

The book introduces many of the laboratory activities that archaeologists carry out and the ways we can present research results, including graphs and artifact illustrations.

# GO FOXES!

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi puts a great emphasis on students' well-being by offering various sports opportunities due to its physical, mental, and social benefits. Nearly 20 sporting activities are offered through dedicated structures. The university offers students several opportunities for discovery and development while participating in events and championships with local and regional universities.

Students have the option to choose whether or not to integrate sports as part of their curriculum to earn a qualification (depending on their major and on the activity).

The Sports Department also organises open days for try-outs as well as off campus weekends including desert trips, camping, hiking, outdoor rock-climbing and other activities to enrich students' lives. It also challenges its staff and students to get involved with the community in fitness challenges, promising loads of fun.

Foxes encourage volunteering for international competitions and attending sports conferences, trainings and workshops.





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING

- **The practice:** Regular attendance is required
- **Information and communication:** the list of available sports activities, timings and coach details are available at the sports department. Alternatively, email [sports@sorbonne.ae](mailto:sports@sorbonne.ae)

## STUDENTS REGISTERED IN OPTIONAL SPORTS

**Mandatory:** 12 sessions/classes per semester.  
**1 justified absence allowed.**

Signature of this card by the coach is mandatory (only one signature per week). For more details, please contact the sports department

### Assessment procedures and number of ECTS:

2 to 5 ECTS: View the rules of the university with the Sports Department and with the coordinator of your department.

### Sports facilities entry requirements:

- Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination
- Must present a Covid-19 negative PCR test results not more than 7 days
- Entry is granted as per campus entry requirements
- Exempted persons should provide an exemption certificate and present AlHosn application showing a Covid-19 negative PCR test result not more than 7 days
- A valid booking on ExtraClub Platform
- Adherence to Covid-19 safety protocols

## SPORTS ACTIVITIES

- Climbing
- Bouldering
- Stretching
- Yoga
- Judo
- Muay-thai
- Cardio-boxing
- Multi-martials arts fitness
- Fitness
- Trampo-fitness
- BeFit
- Spinning
- Circuit training
- Volleyball
- Football
- Basketball
- Futsal
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Chess
- Skiing
- Stand-up paddle boarding

**IN ADDITION TO MUCH MORE SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES.**

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has been a hub for the development of climbing in Abu Dhabi for 10 years. SUAD is playing a significant role in developing climbing in UAE, since SUAD's climbing gym is one of the best in the country.

A bouldering wall is a perfect solution for beginners, intermediate and advanced climbers to train; and it is a perfect solution to use available space in the best possible way for climbing.

SUAD through the eyes of students

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi



**AHMED ALAMEERI**

Foundation Year in Intensive French student

## MASTERCLASS ABOUT LIFE UNDERGROUND DOCUMENTARY WITH HERVÉ COHEN

**On 9 November 2021**, the film director and cinematographer Hervé Cohen presented a masterclass where he discussed cinema around the interactive documentary "Life Underground". This documentary presents experiences and stories of the people who take the metro every day.

Hervé Cohen's project highlighted stories of strangers, things that really matter and the circumstances they have faced (such as death of a loved one or the fatal accident of a father, etc.)

The documentary's soundtrack looped in the background to recall the cycle of life during the discussions of the participants in the masterclass. During this masterclass, I enjoyed listening to stories that took place in Paris, Los Angeles, Madrid, etc.

This diversity that Cohen has focused on in his mapping of the world's subways, highlights the idea that humans can have the same experiences in different parts of the world.

The masterclass around the documentary "**Life Underground**", gave me a lot of inspiration, listening to the stories of many people was a way for me to experience different universes and lives of others even in their most vulnerable circumstances.

Ahmed Alameeri, Foundation Year in Intensive French student.

# STUDENT SUCCESS & WELLBEING SECTION



## COUNSELLING OFFICE NOW AVAILABLE BOTH VIRTUALLY AND ON-CAMPUS

The Counselling Office at the Student Success and Wellbeing Section provides guidance and support to students and the campus community with their social and personal matters.

The counselling Office's team of professional psychologists and psychiatrists (known as the SUAD counsellors) are available to assist all students and staff and support them to develop the skills and confidence needed to function independently.

Now, the Counselling Office offers campus wide and virtual counselling services, and the counsellors are available three times a week to make sure that everyone is supported with their needs with utmost confidentiality and professionalism.

The Counselling Office is well aware of the fact that language is central to therapeutic and counselling work and plays a major role in a one's sense of identity, and because Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi welcomes students from different part of the world, the Counselling Office offers sessions in 4 different languages including Arabic, English, French and German.

### OUR COUNSELLORS CAN SUPPORT ALL SORBONNE UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI STUDENTS WITH:

- Manage relationships with family, professors and peers
- Manage social issues
- Assist in developing skills and confidence to function independently and effectively
- Offer information and referrals to other support agencies
- Provide support to encourage and improve learning

Give your mind some peace and know that we are here for you always, anytime and in every way, we can support you!

For further information, email the Student Success and Wellbeing Section at [success.wellbeing@sorbonne.ae](mailto:success.wellbeing@sorbonne.ae)



## PEER MENTORING PROGRAMME OF THE STUDENT SUCCESS & WELLBEING SECTION

The Peer Mentoring programme is now available, virtually and on campus, to help new students during their transition from high school to university by allocating a senior student from L1-L3 to provide the needed support.

The programme aims to integrate new students into the university's community, enrich their educational journey and help them achieve the success they aim for; by providing them with an engaging and supportive community learning experience that supports their social, academic and cultural transition to Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

### THE SERVICES AND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE PEER MENTORING PROGRAMME ARE:

- Refer students to on-campus resources and assist them in succeeding
- Offer practical advice, encouragement and support
- Provide enriching learning experience
- Identify goals and establish a sense of direction

For further information on the Peer Mentoring programme, contact the Student Success and Wellbeing team at [success.wellbeing@sorbonne.ae](mailto:success.wellbeing@sorbonne.ae)

## PEER TUTORING PROGRAMME OF THE STUDENT SUCCESS & WELLBEING SECTION

Since a new hybrid learning system has begun, many students might face difficulties. Virtual and in campus peer tutors are now available to help students.

Peer Tutoring is a programme that aims at helping students and assist them with their academic concerns by assigning high achieving senior students, known as peer tutors, who were enrolled in similar academic programme as the one that the new students are enrolled in, to support and guide them through their educational journey.

The Peer Tutoring programme is not designed to teach a student the course material from the beginning, but to strengthen their abilities in the course by giving them tricks and tips to excel further and provide a constant support.

The physical tutoring sessions take place in the library or in assigned classrooms, while using Microsoft Teams and other interactive virtual tools for the virtual lessons.

Tutoring sessions are held either in groups or individually based on the students' requirements. Each peer tutor is chosen by the Student Success and Wellbeing team based on a sound academic standing and his or her engagement with campus life. A student is also assigned to a tutor by the Student Success and Wellbeing team to ensure quality and non-biasness in the selection.

All peer tutors are multilingual, culturally aware and academically sound to provide students with the same material that they have studied and excelled in.

For further information on the Peer Tutoring programme, contact the Student Success and Wellbeing team at [success.wellbeing@sorbonne.ae](mailto:success.wellbeing@sorbonne.ae)



# Le Choix de l'Orient 2021

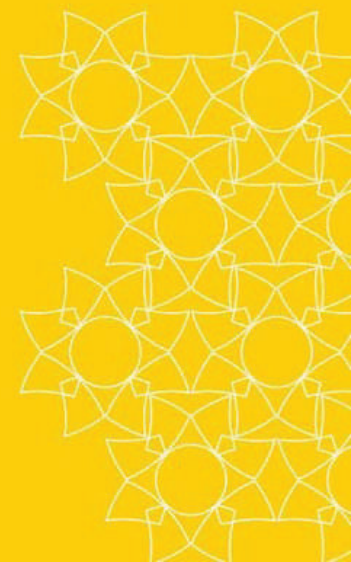
## PRIX GONCOURT: BECOME A JURY MEMBER OF THE LITERATURE AWARD

### **"Le Choix Goncourt de l'Orient" is back !**

This year again, for the 7th time, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and the Department of French studies are participating in the French literature award "[Liste Goncourt/Le Choix de l'Orient](#)", which brings together several universities in the region, the initiative is under the umbrella of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie's Middle East Office and the French Institute of Lebanon.

The rule is that a jury of students select the book which is considered as the best among those who remain after the second selection (second list) of the famous Prix Goncourt. Students who will be part of the jury of Sorbonne, will make their own choices and elect one of them as a president who will then participate in the grand jury of the Choix de l'Orient. This year, this participation, which traditionally takes place in Beirut during the Bookfair, will take place online by the beginning of January.

The aim of SUAD jury is not to guess which book will be the winner in Paris. The students, when selecting their favorite book, have to be aware that they represent SUAD and its values. Their choice really matters for the French Institute of Lebanon. This book will be translated into Arabic.



# LIST OF THE 9 SELECTED BOOKS



Christine Angot  
**LE VOYAGE DANS L'EST**  
Flammarion



Anne Berest  
**LA CARTE POSTALE**  
Grasset



Sorj Chalandon  
**ENFANT DE SALAUD**  
Grasset



Louis-Philippe Dalembert  
**MILWAUKEE BLUES**  
Sabine Wespieser



Agnès Desarthe  
**L'ÉTERNEL FIANCÉ**  
L'Olivier



Clara Dupont-Monod  
**S'ADAPTER**  
Stock



Abel Quentin  
**LE VOYANT D'ÉTAMPES**  
L'Observatoire



Tanguy Viel  
**LA FILLE QU'ON APPELLE**  
Éditions de Minuit



Mohamed Mbougar Sarr  
**LA PLUS SECRÈTE MÉMOIRE DES HOMMES**  
Philippe Rey/Jimsaan

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