

Ezzedine Choukri Fishere

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Introduction

Ezzedine C. Fishere is an Egyptian writer, academic and a diplomat.

Currently, he is a Visiting Professor at Dartmouth College, NH, away from his home post at the American University in Cairo, where he has been teaching, since 2008, International Relations, Foreign Policy, Arab-American Relations and Arab-Israeli Conflict.

Fishere published seven novels between 1995 and 2017. One of his novels, “Embrace on Brooklyn Bridge”, which was short-listed for the “Arabic Booker Prize”, [was released in English April 2017](#). He also writes opinion pieces for Arab and international press and comments on public affairs in the media.

Fishere is a career diplomat at the rank of Ambassador. He worked for UN political and peacekeeping missions in the Middle East and in Sudan. He also advised two Egyptian foreign ministers, and contributed to several diplomatic initiatives in the region. In September 2007, Fishere left the Foreign Service and worked as director of the Arab-Israeli Conflict Project at the “International Crisis Group” until Fall 2008 when he started teaching at AUC. Between 2012 and 2014, he served as rapporteur for the Independent Panel on Restructuring the Arab League (known as Brahimi Commission) and drafted its report.

Like many Egyptians, Ezzedine Fishere was drawn to Egypt’s **transition politics** since January 2011. In April 2011, he was appointed by the first Transitional Government as Secretary-General of the “Supreme Council for Culture”, where he led a consultative process aimed at democratizing culture policy-making. He also advised pro-democracy youth groups and presidential candidates. In 2013, he served as an independent member on a government committee charged with monitoring democratic transition.

Ezzedine C. Fishere is a graduate of Cairo University (B.Sc.1987), École nationale d’administration (ENA, 1992), University of Ottawa, (M.A, 1995), and l’université de Montréal (Ph.D., 1998).

1. Current occupation

Currently, Fishere is a Visiting Professor at Dartmouth College, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures

- Teach courses on Middle East politics, Arab-Israeli conflict, foreign policies of Middle Eastern states, politics and culture in the Arab World.

1. Professional Experience

- 1.1 Associate professor
Political Science Department, American University in Cairo
 September 2008- September 2017
- Teach graduate and undergraduate students, courses include: International Relations Theory, Foreign Policy Theory and Practice, Arab-American Relations, Arab-Israeli Conflict.
 - Advise and supervise graduate students' thesis
 - Served as Director of Graduate Studies programs twice
- 1.2. **Secretary-General**
Egyptian Supreme Council for Culture
 April – August 2011
- First deputy of the Minister of Culture in the Transitional government
 - Direct the SCC and its subsidiaries in support of Arts, Literature and Social Sciences
 - Restructure the SCC and its subsidiaries to enhance its independence
- 1.3 **Director, Arab-Israeli Project**
International Crisis Group (ICG), Brussels – Amman – Jerusalem – Cairo
 November 2007 – November 2008
- Coordinate the work of the Arab-Israeli conflict team, located in Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan and Cairo.
 - Build a research agenda for the team, supervise its research and drafting, and review its reports on Arab-Israeli conflict
 - Advocate ICG positions with decision-makers, opinion-makers and the general public.
- 1.4 **Counselor to the Egyptian Foreign Minister**
Cabinet of Egypt's Foreign Minister
 August 2005 – August 2008
- Formulate policy options regarding - and advise the Egyptian Foreign Minister on matters related to - Israel, Palestine and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict resolution, including security arrangements in the Middle East
 - Conduct consultations and diplomatic contacts with the members of the Quartet, as well as other players, related to the implementation of Egyptian policy on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)
- 1.5 **Special Advisor**
United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNAMIS/UNMIS)
 August 2004 – August 2005
- As special advisor to the Principal Deputy for Political Affairs, contributed to the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Sudan, including the structuring of the mission, its mandate, its staffing and budget
 - As senior political advisor to the Secretary-General's Envoy to Sudan, provided political analysis and reporting to UN Headquarters on Darfur political process, and represented the UN in the Abuja negotiations between the Sudanese government and rebel movements

- 1.6 **Senior Political Advisor**
UN Fact-Finding Mission Regarding the Assassination of Former PM Hariri
 February/March 2005
- Developed the operational plan for the mission in Lebanon, prepared and conducted interviews with representatives of political factions and government bodies, and provided political guidance for the police work of the mission
 - Drafted the final report of the Fact-Finding Mission, which was then submitted to the Security Council (the Fitzgerald Report)
- 1.7 **Political Affairs Officer/Senior Political Advisor**
UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO)
 December 2001 – August 2004
- Provided political analysis and reporting to both UNSCO and UN HQ; developed UNSCO's diplomatic outreach in the Arab world; drafted briefings to the Security Council and other major UN forums
 - Formulate policy options, draft statements and propose interventions to the UN leadership regarding its involvement in the Quartet activities
- 1.8 **Head of Political Section**
Embassy of Egypt in Israel
 August 1999 – December 2001
- Coordinated the work of the Embassy's political team in Israel and the Occupied Territories
 - Gather information, prepare assessments and formulate policy options for the Egyptian government regarding the situation in Israel.
- 1.9 **Chief of staff**
Institute of Diplomatic Studies (IDS), Cairo
 August 1997- August 1999
- Designed and implemented a restructuring plan of the IDS in order to more effectively link officials of the Foreign Service with civil society organizations and research institutions
 - Coordinated policy-oriented research and training programs for cadets and other diplomats at different stages of their career.
 - Led the IDS administrative body.
- 1.10 **Diplomatic attaché**
Cabinet of Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
 August 1989-August 1990
- Handled the Minister's involvement in policy-making towards the countries of the Nile basin
 - Was in charge of media relations, including drafting press statements, preparing interviews, drafting op eds., etc.

2. Previous Teaching experience

- 2.1 Visiting Professor, American University in Cairo (1998-1999)**
- 2.2 Visiting Professor, University of Cairo (1998-1999)**
- 2.3 Teaching Assistant, University of Montreal (1993-1997)**
- 2.4 Teaching Assistant, University of Ottawa (1992-1995)**

3. Education

Ph.D. in International Relations

Université de Montréal, Département de science politique, Montréal, Canada, 1993-1998.

- Dissertation on “Modernité et gouvernance mondiale”.
- Awarded the ‘Excellence Scholarship’ of the University of Montreal for the maximum allowed of three years (1993-1996). Awarded a full scholarship by the Canadian government’s Francophonie Program (by CIDA) to finance the Ph.D. program (1993-1998).
- Represented the Department of Political Science in a number of international symposiums and conferences on international politics, including: the annual social sciences conference of Quebec (ACFAS) of 1993, 1994, 1996; the annual Canadian Learned Societies’ conference (Montreal 1994), **York University**’s seminar on global governance, and; **ACUNS** seminar on global governance at **Yale University**, July 1998.

M.A. in Political Science

University of Ottawa, Political Science Department, Ottawa, Canada, 1992-1995

- M.A. dissertation on “The Concept of World Hegemony and the Understanding of International Regulation and Cooperation”.
- Awarded a full scholarship by the Canadian government Francophonie program to finance the MA program. Chosen by the Department of political science as a teaching assistant for the entire period of study.

Diplôme international d'administration publique

École National d'Administration (ENA), Paris, France, 1990-1992

- Selected to receive admission and full scholarship to France’s elite graduate school for civil servants.
- The program seeks to enhance the managerial capabilities of senior bureaucrats, including their public speaking abilities and interpersonal skills.

B.Sc. in Political Science

University of Cairo, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Egypt, 1983-1987

4 . Publications

1. Novels
 - a. *Embrace on Brooklyn Bridge*, American University in Cairo Press, Cairo, 2017.
 - b. *Kul Hazal Hora’a* (All that nonsense), Al-Karma, Cairo, 2017.
 - c. *Bab El-Kheroug* (Exit), Dar El-Shorouk, 2012.
 - d. *Enak end Gisir Brooklyn*, (Embrace at Brooklyn Bridge), Dar El Ein, 2011.

- e. *AbuOmar ElMasry*, Dar El Shorouk, 2010.
 - f. *Ghurfat AlEnaya AlMorakkaza*, (Intensive Care Unit), Sharqyat, 2008.
 - g. *Asfar Al Farayeen*, (Pharaohs Journeys), Merit, 1999.
 - h. *Maqtal Fakhredine*, (The Killing of Fakhr-Edine), Al Dar Al Masrya Allubnanya, 1995.
2. Tens of opinion pieces in Arab and International media, such as:
- a. [A weekly column in Al-Masry Al-youm](#) (in Arabic), since 2014
 - b. [“Es ging nicht anders”](#), *Die Zeit*, August 29, 2013
 - c. [“Egyptians will no longer put up with authoritarians”](#), *The Financial Times*, August 20, 2013.
 - d. [“Morsi cannot ignore Egypt’s new majority”](#), *The Financial Times*, January 29, 2013
 - e. [“Mazel Tov Egypt!”](#), *Foreign Policy*, February 18, 2011
 - a. [“All Arabs Will Hear My Street Corner Chatter”](#), *The Financial Times*, February 5, 2011.
 - b. [“The Myth of Defensible Borders: How A Regional Security Initiative Can Promote Middle East Peace”](#), with Omar Dajani, *Foreign Affairs*, January 5, 2011.
 - c. [“The Arab World Tipping Point”](#), *Al-Ahram Weekly*, December 31, 2010.
 - d. [“Crumbling Arab World?”](#), *The Daily News Egypt*, August 23, 2010.
 - e. [“Tackling the Mideast Nuclear Conundrum”](#), *Foreign Policy*, April 21, 2010.
 - f. [“How Europe Could Alter the Arab-Israeli Political Calculus”](#), *Europe’s World*, Spring 2010, pp. 156-159.
 - g. [“Let 'occupation tax' make the settlers pay”](#), *The Japan Times*, March 21, 2010.
 - h. [“See you later Mr. President: a letter to President Obama”](#), *Al-Ahram Weekly*, February 4, 2010.
 - i. [“Sex, Marriage, and Middle East Peacemaking”](#), *Al-Ahram Weekly*, August 13, 2009.
 - j. [“Echte Freunde”](#), *Die Zeit*, April 12, 2009.
 - k. [“A Security Regime for the Middle East”](#), *Al-Ahram Weekly*, April 2, 2009.
 - l. [“U.S. Should Take Lead in Middle East Peace Process”](#), with Omar Dajani, *Houston Chronicle*, November 8, 2008.
3. Non-fiction writings
- a. “Egypt: Mainstreaming Radicalism” in: *Islamist Radicalisation in Europe and the Middle East* (George Joffu, ed., London: I. B. Tauris, 2013)
 - b. *Fi Ayn Al-Asifa* (In the Eye of the Storm: Egypt’s unfolding revolution), Bloomsbury-Qatar Foundation, 2012.
 - c. “Le nationalisme arabe”, par Olivier Carrée, *Revue Canadienne de Science Politique*, vol. XXX, no 2, juin 1997.
 - d. *La crise de l’hégémonie mondiale*, (Globe, Montréal: 1994).

5. Commentary

Numerous interviews and comments to Egyptian and international media, such as:

- a. Revolution or Coup? An interview with the Norwegian Radio on Egypt’s current turmoil, NRK TV 04.07.2013 ([click here to watch](#))
- b. Tens of interviews – in Arabic - on Egypt’s transformations since January 2011 ([click here to watch samples](#))

6. Guest Lecturer

Tens of public lectures, such as:

- a. [“State Fragility and Collapse in the Arab Region”](#), Yale University, March 31, 2017.
- b. [“Protecting our Democracy: lessons from Egypt and Tunisia”](#), The Fletcher School, Tufts University, March 13, 2017.
- c. [“Debating the Whirlwind: Senior Diplomats from Egypt and Israel Consider a Middle East in Turmoil”](#), Dartmouth College, February 21, 2017
- d. [“Quo Vadis Aegyptus: Where is Egypt going?”](#), American University in Cairo’s Provost lecture, Cairo, February 16, 2014
- e. “Remembering, Recognizing, and Recovering: How to Help Arabs Out of Victimhood”, University of Tokyo, September 2011
- f. “Egypt’ Strategic Reorientation”, IISS Global Strategic review, Geneva, September 2011
- g. “A Social Theory on Conflicts in the Middle East”, Workshop on the Conflicts and Development, the World Bank, Beirut, July 2010.
- h. “Regional Stability Post-Annapolis”, PSE Conference on the Middle East peace Process, European Parliament, Brussels, 1-3 July 2008.
- i. “After Gaza: How to salvage the two-state solution”, Distinguished Speaker Series, Lowy Institute, Sydney, 9 July 2007 ([click here](#))
- j. “The Middle East: A Clash of Civilizations?”, University of Canberra, July 2007.
- k. "Neoliberalism and Global Governance: the experience of environmental NGOs", Department of Political Science, University of Ottawa, March 1997.
- l. "The Reshaping of Security Agenda in the Mediterranean", Chair Jean Monet for European Studies, Montréal, Canada, December 1996.

7. Languages

Arabic: Native.

English and French: fluent - written and oral.

8. Other activities

1. Rapporteur, Committee on Safeguarding Democratic Transition, Prime Minister’s Office, September-November 2013.
2. Rapporteur, Independent Panel on Reforming and Developing the League of Arab States (Chaired by Lakhdar Brahimi), Cairo, September 2012-March 2014.