



# AUD TOLERANCE FORUM BRIDGES TO INCLUSIVITY

Wednesday October 9, 2019  
American University in Dubai  
EMBA Building, Room 115

This forum brings together educators, students, artists, professionals, and leaders from the private sector, government and non-governmental organizations to expand our understanding of various strategies and mechanisms used to build bridges between people with diverse experiences, abilities and backgrounds. The conference sessions explore how these 'bridges' promote collaboration, dialogue, team work, and appreciation of diversity, all of which are integral to fostering innovation, creativity, global awareness, sustainable development, inclusivity, security, gender balance, and responsive and collaborative governance.

## 8:00–9:00 Registration/ Coffee

### 9:00–10:00 Welcome and Keynote Address

#### Opening Remarks/ Introduction

- Dr. Sabrina Joseph, Dean School of Arts and Sciences, AUD
- Dr. David A. Schmidt, President, AUD
- Dr. Imad Hoballah, Provost, AUD

Keynote: Mina Al-Oraibi, Editor-in-Chief, *The National*

### 10:00–11:30 Governance for Social Impact

This panel discusses the social impact of tolerance when put into action—be it through policies, changes to organizational culture, or ongoing cross-cultural or inter-religious dialogues. To do that, it utilizes governance as a heuristic to facilitate a discussion of the different ways in which various entities act – often in collaboration with each other – to encourage positive changes within society.

#### Moderator:

Dr. Elham Seyedsayamdost, Chair and Associate Professor of International and Middle Eastern Studies, AUD

#### Panelists:

- Dr. Giuliana Gemelli, Professor of European History, University of Bologna
- Mahaba Al Saleh, Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization
- HE Jorge Daccarett, Chilean Ambassador to the UAE
- Houssam Chahine, Regional Private Sector Partnerships Manager for MENA, UNHCR
- Ayla Bajwa, founder, Ampuz and board member, UNGC Local Network

### 11:30–12:00 Coffee Break

### 12:00–16:00 Exhibit: The Tolerance Museum A Building 1st Floor - Studio

Annamaria Lambri, Associate Professor of Interior Design, AUD, Chadi El Tabbah, Associate Professor of Interior Design, AUD, and Commercial Design students from AUD's School of Architecture, Art & Design.

### 12:00–13:30 Culture and the Arts

The session explores the ways film, literature, and art open up powerful imaginative potential, making us more sensitive to the attitudes and emotions of our fellow citizens. Art embraces tolerance through expression and exploration of diverse cultures.

#### Moderators:

Dr. Nadia Wardeh, Associate Professor of Middle Eastern Studies, AUD  
Annamaria Lambri, Associate Professor of Interior Design, AUD

#### Panelists:

- Sophie Boutros, filmmaker
- Dr. Roula Maria Dib, Assistant Professor of English, AUD
- Antonio Signorini, artist
- Arch. Indu Varanasi, Director I R Design Studio

### 13:30–14:30. Lunch

### 14:30–16:00 Education, Youth and Diversity

Introduction: Dr. Catherine Hill, Dean School of Education, AUD

#### **Panel: Unlimited Access, Unlimited Achievement: What Accessibility Is and How it Benefits Everyone**

Many countries have laws requiring that public spaces and education be accessible to everyone. But the vast majority of the built environment, technology, educational systems, and aspects of daily life have been created by and for people without disabilities, making the promise of accessibility largely unmet. This panel discussion explores new ways of thinking about the world we live in and the ways we think about ability.

#### Moderator:

Dr. Tabitha Kenlon, Assistant Professor of English, AUD

#### Panelists:

- Dr. Nadera Alborno, Associate Professor of Education, AUD
- Dr. Sandra Alexander, Assistant Professor of Humanities, AUD
- Kristin Lee, Chair and Associate Professor of Interior Design, AUD
- Naya Aslan, student advocate for children with developmental disabilities, AUD

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#### **Understanding Tolerance in Theory and Practice through UAE Islamic Education**

Speaker: Dr. Naved Bakali, Assistant Professor of Education, AUD