

Middle East Studies Center

Title VI Impact Report



Zari and Parwana, protagonists of Alia Bano's "Parwana: They Bear All the Pain" performed at the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State on October 7, 2019.

In October 2022, faculty from 27 Ohio State departments/units – including environmental and natural resources, humanities, social sciences and other disciplines – joined community partners to discuss local/global food systems transformation at the Food Sovereignty Workshop.

Impact on Ohio

The Middle East Studies Center (MESC) fosters the intellectual growth and job-readiness of Ohio State graduates by:

- Supporting courses on the Middle East
- Facilitating interdisciplinary conversations
- Developing academic and life skills through internships
- Providing hands-on work experience
- Creating opportunities for cross-cultural interaction
- Facilitating exchanges with institutions in the Middle East
- Publishing books, a podcast and other media
- Engaging students, faculty and the general public

MESC is a catalyst for providing an innovative curriculum, preparing the next generation of expertise in national service and engaging local communities.

Creating a National Pool of Experts

The MESC helps to infuse a foreign language and area studies dimension across the disciplines by seeding positions and courses, as well as through the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships and other curriculum enhancing activities. MESC also cultivates talent and provides work experience opportunities through its internship program.

The MESC produces up-to-date materials on valid academic, private, public and non-profit career paths that are shared through its networks.

The center has been instrumental in Ohio State's programs focused on the

Middle East region and its languages through its Title VI funding in the past. The funds have seeded faculty positions in anthropology, history and the Turkish language, and supported 247 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellows, pursuing languages of the Middle East. **Since 2015, 46 graduates focusing on the Middle East from geography, gender studies, NESA and history started careers - 66% in higher education (11 tenure track positions), 15% in the private sector, 10% in non-profit, and the remainder in the public sector or working in a profession such as law.**

Engaging Communities

The MESC engages faculty, students, local community members and the region by hosting regular forums, organizing special events and publicizing courses and Middle East-related activities. The center works with the Wexner Center for the Arts, the theatre department and other units on campus to reach people through the arts.

Reaching current and potential students through its social media and podcast, *Keys to Understanding the Middle East* (1,063 downloads to date), while bringing faculty

research to a general audience. At 2,000 "likes," MESC's Facebook page is one of the top ranked pages among similar centers in the United States.

Producing an open-access textbook, *Keys to Understanding the Middle East*, which is now in use across the United States and Canada (19,800 visitors over the past year, 302,705 views since May of 2018). With 70,196 downloads, 70% originating in the United States, the MESC archives event footage and audio recordings in Ohio State's online open-access Knowledge Bank.