C4I News & Events

C4I Visiting Faculty Colloquium

2022 University Interdisciplinary Colloquium with Dr. Melinda Fagan
"Low-Effort Interdisciplinarity: A Proposal"
April 29th, 2022
4:00 - 5:30 PM EDT via Zoom
Zoom Link: https://msu.zoom.us/j/93682576780
Meeting ID: 936 8257 6780
Passcode: 672426

Interdisciplinary research is challenging and resource-intensive. But it can be made easier with interventions. I propose a conceptual intervention that may facilitate interdisciplinary projects involving very disparate fields, where accomplishing goals requires combining different explanatory models. I present these projects in terms of a general taxonomy of model-model relations, then propose requirements for their success. These requirements, though not trivial, are demanding: they provide conditions for successful explanation of novel phenomena under conditions of high heterogeneity, as well as under novel and uncertain conditions, as a testbed for building stronger interdisciplinary ties.

C4I Seed Grant Feature:
This week we are featuring "Unsettling Startup Ecosystems: Geographies, Mobilities, and Transnational Practices in the Palestinian and Israeli Startup Ecosystems," which is led by Professor Steven Fraiberg (Writing, Rhetoric, & American Cultures).

Majd Mashharawi (GRC Staff, 2018) is a founder and CEO of Gaza startup, Green Cake, that designs bricks made of ash and rubble from local buildings destroyed by war. An inexpensive alternative to cement, the technology is helping to rebuild Gaza and create opportunities for female entrepreneurs.

Unsettling Startup Ecosystems: Geographies, Mobilities, and Transnational Practices in the Palestinian and Israeli Startup Ecosystems

This transnational project, conducted by Dr. Steven Fraiberg (MSU), Arees Bishara (Tel Aviv University), and Aseel Khatib (Independent Scholar), focuses on Palestinian entrepreneurs in an emerging high-tech ecosystem located in the occupied Palestinian territory. This area consists of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with approximately 4.5 million Palestinians. Despite or perhaps in response to the current political situation, there is a move by the local population to reach a global marketplace that extends beyond the area's deeply contested borders. Core to these efforts is the development of a startup ecosystem comprising a growing list of venture capitalists, incubators, accelerators, coworking spaces, and meetups. Despite this emerging infrastructure, the industry is still seeking its first major exit or success story. Moreover, the dream of startup success is linked to a wider national narrative and the struggle for Palestinian statehood, liberation, and independence. This study looks more closely at this state of affairs and ways these issues are deeply entangled.

To capture the complexity of the issues, this project traces the trajectories of Palestinian entrepreneurs living in a region that has been fragmented and balkanized by series of checkpoints, policies, other structures that sharply restrict mobility. This study is intended to trace how Palestinian entrepreneurs negotiate these contested spaces. Notably, a contingent of these startup entrepreneurs is further connected to the Israeli startup ecosystem (e.g., outsourcing), which is one of the largest innovation systems in the world. This project maps the historical and political forces shaping this networked interplay.

A transnational and multilingual team has been assembled to accomplish these aims. The team includes the perspectives of the principal investigator and co-investigator, as well as the perspectives of the co-investigators.

Rinkus Featured on Community Possibilities Podcast

TDI Center Associate Director, Dr. Marisa Rinkus, spoke with Dr. Ann Price about the power of communication and collaboration through her work with the Toolbox Dialogue Initiative for the podcast Community Possibilities. You can listen to the full episode here:

Our email address is:
c4i@msu.edu
Want to change how you receive these emails?
you can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

MSU Center for Interdisciplinarity · 503 S. Kedzie Hall · Michigan State University · East Lansing, Mi 48824 · USA
Subscribe
Past Issues
RSS
Translate