



جامعة قطر  
QATAR UNIVERSITY

مكتب دعم التعلم لطلبة الدراسات العليا  
Office of Graduate Learning Support

**tadTalks**

Research Matters FOUNDED BY QATAR UNIVERSITY

جدول أعمال محادثات تاد 2021

tadTalks 2021 Event  
Proceedings and Agenda



Event ID: 121 261 2938

Password: tadtalks

<https://qu-edu.webex.com/qu-edu/j.php?MTID=e4a92fdf2e5b17e93bce7b981cbab4a61>





Welcome Message from Prof Mariam Ali Al-Maadeed,  
Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies  
Qatar University, Qatar

As part of Qatar University's vision to be a leader in and an advocate for research and graduate education, we are pleased to welcome you to tadTalks 2021. tadTalks provides an important platform for supporting graduate research by sharing international perspectives on the graduate research experience with current and prospective graduate students. The current pandemic has highlighted, more than ever, the importance of research in solving global challenges, and graduate students play a vital role in driving much of the world's cutting-edge research. Consequently, the dissemination of their strategies for success is crucial towards excellence in graduate research. This year, we are honored to be showcasing graduate researchers from world-class universities in the U.S., Canada, France, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, and Qatar. We are looking forward to the fruits of these efforts in the graduate researchers of tomorrow.



## Keynote: Dr. Gigi Do

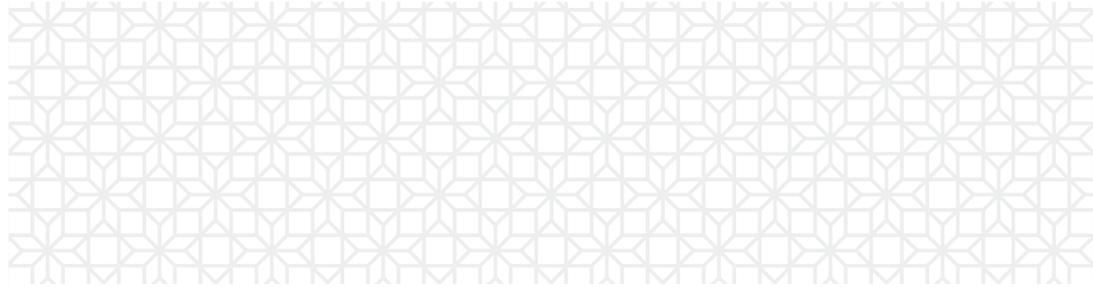
**Associate Vice President & Senior International Officer  
Global Learning and Strategy/Diplomacy Institute  
University of Houston- Clear Lake, USA**

Gigi Do, Ph.D. has served as the Associate Vice President of Global Learning & Strategy and Senior International Officer at the University of Houston – Clear Lake (UHCL) since 2019 where she oversees international partnerships, education abroad, scholar services, international student services, and most recently, the Diplomacy Institute. She is the founder of the UHCL Diplomacy Institute.

At the age of 8, Dr. Do came to the United States as a refugee from Vietnam and has called Houston home since the early nineties. She has over 25 years of work experience in international education, and her contributions to the higher education international community have been featured in NPR (National Public Radio), the New York Times and the Houston Chronicle. Additionally, she has accumulated numerous awards for her innovative efforts in higher international education including the Andrew Heiskell of the Institute of International Education (IIE) and Bellwether Awards.

Prior to arriving at UHCL, Dr. Do was Executive Director for the Office of International Programs at the University of Texas at San Antonio and the Executive Director of the Office of International Initiatives for Houston Community College (HCC). During her tenure at HCC, she played an instrumental role in establishing the first American-styled community college in Vietnam and in the State of Qatar, which had its first graduating class in 2012. She led the first American community college in Saudi Arabia in 2008 to support the Riyadh Community College to obtain their first National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Assessment (NCAAA) certification. Under her leadership and close professional relationship with the country, the University of Houston-Clear Lake was able to establish a first of its kind partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the State of Qatar with the launch of the Diplomacy Institute in 2020. UHCL's Diplomacy Institute aims to expand the range of educational services and training of diplomats and consular officials throughout the Houston area.

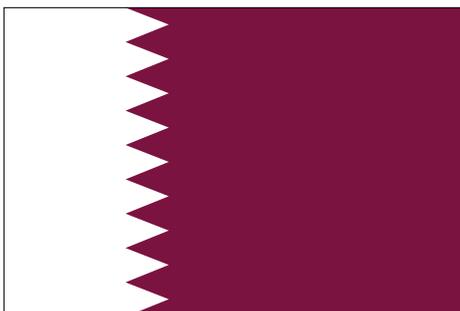
Dr. Do earned her B.A. in sociology from the University of Washington, her M.A. in sociology from the University of Houston, and her Ph.D. in higher education leadership from the University of Texas – Austin.



## Muhammad Al-Janahi

Qatar University, Qatar

Muhammad Al-Janahi is currently working as the Head of the Community Communications Department at Teach for Qatar, a local non-governmental organization that supports nation-building through the development and empowerment of Qatar's youth and its talented leaders in the classroom and the community. Muhammad has completed a Master of Arts in curriculum, instruction, and assessment from the College of Education at Qatar University where he was awarded the Outstanding Thesis Award as well as the Young Alumni Award. Muhammad is passionate about innovative approaches to teaching mathematical concepts through Arabic poetry. In fact, upon completion of his bachelor's in engineering and working as a mechanical engineer at Maersk Oil Qatar, Muhammad decided to take a drastic detour in his life to become an elementary math teacher. The engineer turned educator has given numerous talks including a lecture at the 'Inspiring Individuals' series organized by Qatar National Library and a TEDX Talk entitled "Diwan (book of poetry) of the Arabs".





## Hussein Basma

PSL-Research University, Mines Paris-Tech, France

Hussein Basma is a PhD Candidate in the field of e-mobility, energy and automotive engineering at PSL Research University in Paris, Mines Paris-Tech School of Engineering. His field of expertise covers all aspects of automotive applications from hybrid and electric passenger vehicles to fully electric buses. His ongoing thesis tackles the different challenges that face new electric bus technologies and provides technical solutions and strategies to overcome these obstacles. The scope of the research ranges from the design of bus powertrain components, air conditioning and heating units all the way to the design of the hydraulic, pneumatic and electric auxiliaries systems. Moreover, the thesis tackles the charging technologies and strategies to charge fleets of electric buses considering their costs, environmental effects and their impact on the electricity grid.

In addition, Hussein Basma holds an M.Sc. in powertrain engineering from IFP School in France where he acquired a technical background in the domain of automotive engineering and developed many projects with companies such as PSA Groupe and V-MOTECH.

Hussein Basma is a very passionate engineer and researcher in his field with a commitment to environmental causes that are driving the research chain in all energy sectors.

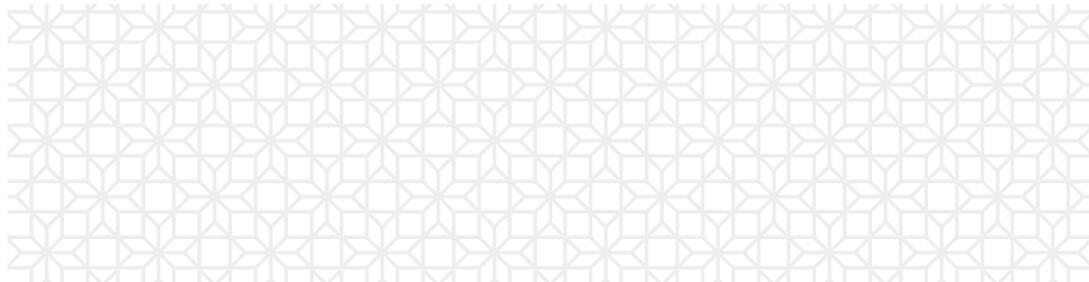




**Nurul Ruwaidah**  
**University Brunei Darussalam, Brunei**

Nurul Ruwaidah is a progressive researcher currently undertaking her PhD at University Brunei Darussalam. Her research interest is particularly in sustainable consumption where she is looking into such trends and practices among Muslim Millennials in Brunei. Her research involves assessing knowledge of, perceptions about, and consumption practices among the target population. She observes the value of the research having gained substantial knowledge in the field of environmental studies. Nurul graduated with a BA in environmental studies from Universiti Brunei Darussalam in 2015 and continued her studies at Universiti Putra Malaysia where she earned a master's degree in environmental management in 2018. Currently, her research interests are focused on islamic perspectives of consumption and the sustainability of contemporary Muslim consumption.

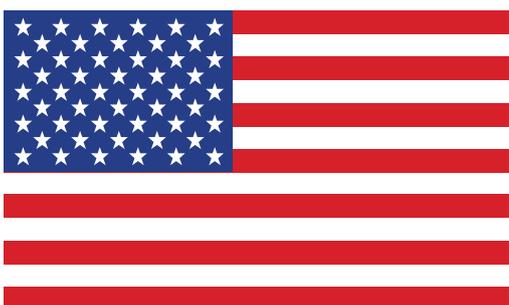


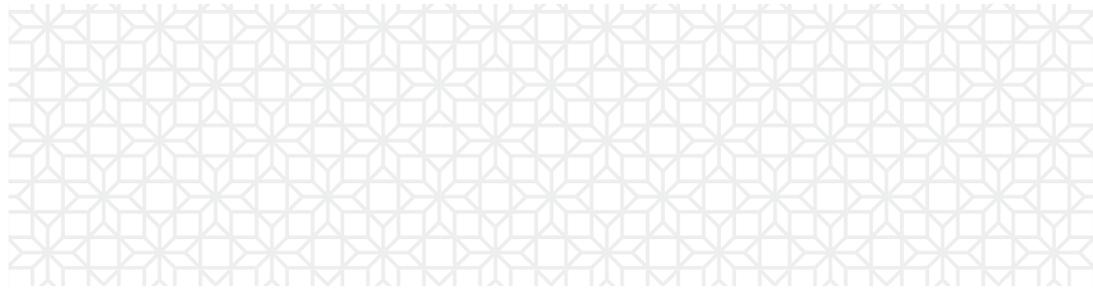


## Moustafa Zagho

University of Southern Mississippi, USA

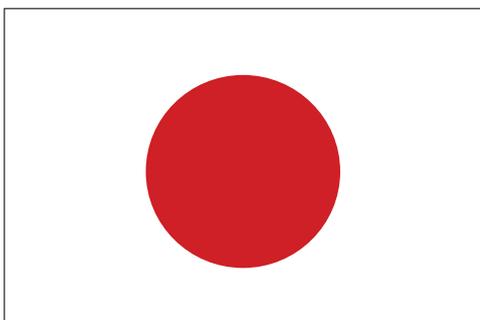
Moustafa Zagho received his master's degree in chemistry in 2015 from Alexandria University, Egypt. He worked as a Research Assistant from 2013 to 2016 and as a Lab Manager at Qatar University from 2017 to 2019 throughout his master's study in the material science program. Currently, Moustafa is a PhD student in polymer science and engineering at University of Southern Mississippi, USA, where he is investigating the assembly of advanced membranes for gas separation applications.

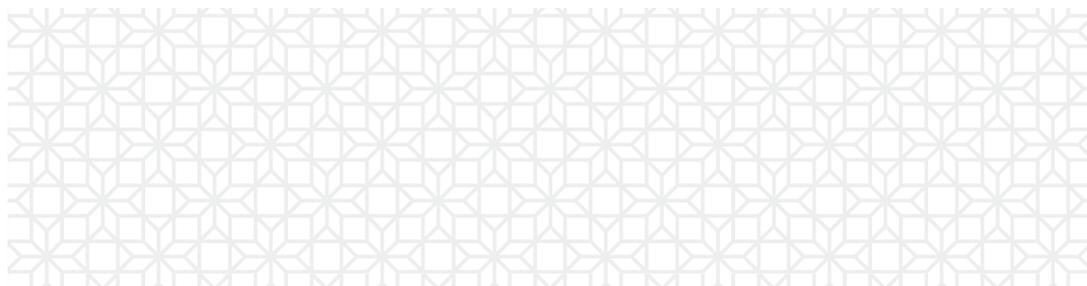




**Seishiro Sakita**  
**Nagoya University, Japan**

Seishiro Sakita is a Research Fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and a visiting researcher of National Museum of Ethnology, Japan. He has a special interest in how natural resources systems are used in local areas from a viewpoint of human geography, anthropology, political ecology and commons theory. He completed his Ph.D. degree in geography from Nagoya University in March 2019 with his doctoral thesis on the micro-scale diversity of community-based management of small-scale fisheries in coastal areas. He has a rich experience in empirical case studies in Japanese fishing villages and has skills of spatial analysis using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Since 2015, he has been conducting field surveys on small-scale fisheries in Greece to compare the situation between Japan and other countries.





## Sams Sadat

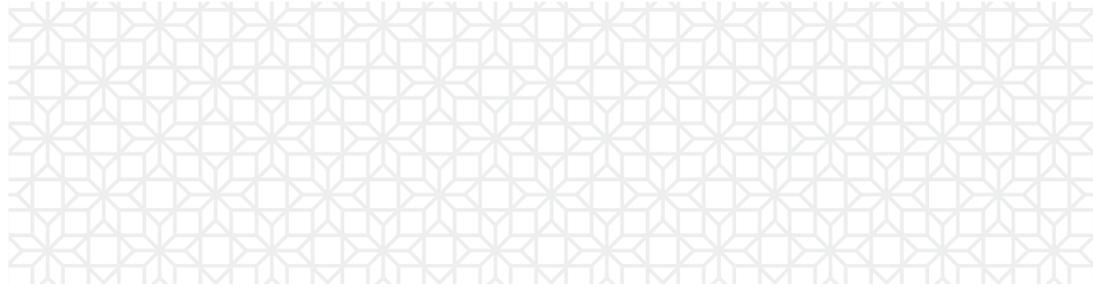
University of Alberta, Canada

Sams Sadat is currently a PhD candidate in the faculty of pharmacy & pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Alberta, Canada. His area of expertise and research interest is in pharmaceuticals, drug delivery, and experimental oncology. His doctoral research investigates the preclinical anticancer activity and mechanism of a novel synthetic lethal partnership in colorectal cancer under the facilities of Cross Cancer Institute in Alberta. He takes a multidisciplinary research approach that encompasses the fields of polymer chemistry, nanotechnology, analytical chemistry, molecular oncology, cell biology, pathology, imaging, and experimental animal models. His research has been funded by the grants of Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and Alberta Cancer Foundation (ACF).

As a researcher, he is affiliated with a number of memberships including American Association of Cancer Research (AACR), Canadian Chapter of Controlled Release Society (CC-CRS), Cancer Research Institute of Northern Alberta (CRINA), Canadian Biomaterials Society (CBS), American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), and Nanomedicines 4Innovation Network (NMIN). Sams completed his latest master's degree in pharmaceutical sciences from the College of Pharmacy & Nutrition at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada after completion of his earlier master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has experience in teaching at universities, working in FDA-approved pharmaceutical industries and research organizations including Vaccine & Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO-InterVAC) at Saskatoon, Canada.

Currently, Sams holds a number of prestigious national scholarships in Canada including Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Award (CIHR-CGS-D) and Alberta Innovates.





Zane Kheir

National University of Singapore, Singapore

Zane Kheir is a PhD Candidate in comparative Asian studies (CAS) at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He has completed his MA in Asia-Pacific studies at National Chengchi University in Taiwan and has proficient command of Chinese (Mandarin) and Japanese. Originally from the United States, Zane has pursued his undergraduate and postgraduate education entirely in Asia. He was also a Visiting Research Student at the National University of Malaysia's (UKM) Institute of Malaysian and International Studies. His research interests include higher education, migration and mobility, Southeast Asia, ethnicity, language, cosmopolitanism and institutional theory. Zane is conducting a comparative study on transnational higher education and international student mobility in public universities in Malaysia and Taiwan. Having been an international undergraduate and postgraduate student in Asia himself, Zane is interested in further investigating international students in higher education institutions. An underlying theme of his research is to contribute to a body of comparative literature in Asian studies that allows for cross-referencing, interdisciplinary analysis and focuses on inter-regional, supranational issues.

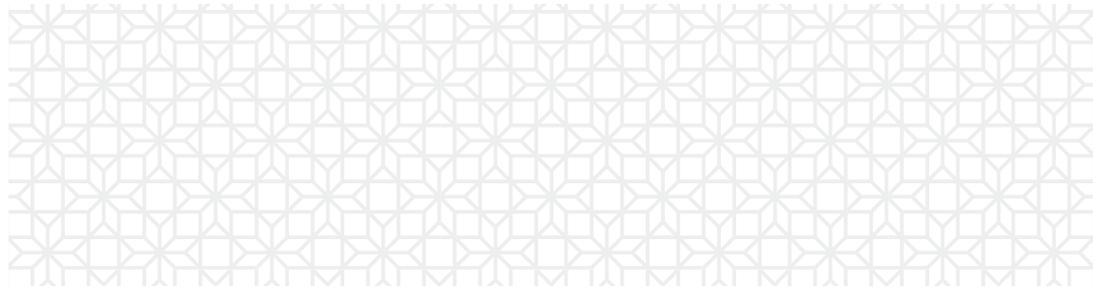




**ZoYa VysotskaYa**  
**Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia**

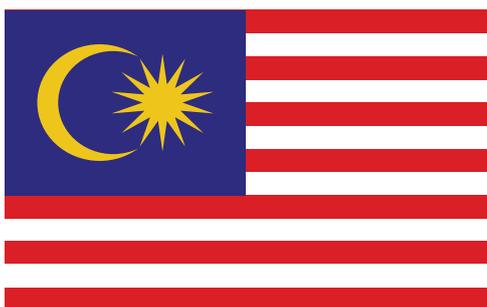
ZoYa VysotskaYa is a second-year PhD student in political science. In 2016, Zoya earned a BA in Russian regional studies at Russian Presidential Academy (RANEPA) followed by master's degree (2018) in public administration at Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU). Zoya continued her academic career by entering the PhD program at the Department of Interethnic and Confessional Relations of School of Public Administration (MSU). Active participation in research projects has developed her research interests, which are focused on political science, regional studies, and international relations. Since 2016, she has combined study with work for MSU having held the position of methodologist. As a part of her work, she hosts student extracurricular and scientific events. Also, she is a member of the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs and MSU joint working group on personal development and upgrades training for the civil servants fixated on the interethnic relation. Zoya's academic achievements have been merited by several awards.





**Syaza Shukri**  
**International Islamic University Malaysia**

Assistant Professor Dr. Syaza Shukri is a young researcher at the beginning of her career at the Department of Political Science, International Islamic University Malaysia. She has published numerous articles based on her doctoral research and other interests. Currently, her research interests are in the areas of identity politics, populism, political Islam, and party politics. Her area of specialization is in comparative politics, specifically in democratization and Middle Eastern politics. She graduated with the summa cum laude distinction for her bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, USA, with a double major in political science and history. She received her Master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, and her PhD from the International Islamic University Malaysia.





**Dr. Noora Al-Thani**  
**Director of Young Scientists Center**  
**Qatar University, Qatar**

Qatar University Young Scientists Center (YSC) is dedicated to the transformation of the national youth into resilient, intentional, critical, and engaged people. QU YSC aims to build an appreciation and understanding of the role of scientists and researchers. The center is devoted to nurturing the development of skills among Qatar's youth through scientific, hands on activities, through the building of key competencies and by nurturing skills in inquiry and problem-solving. Additionally, the center aims to support the smooth transition of high school students to university by equipping students with excellent academic and scientific research skills.



**Professor Rana Sobh**  
**Director of Core Curriculum Program**  
**Qatar University, Qatar**

The Core Curriculum Program places significant emphasis on developing students' appreciation of scientific inquiry and strives to provide them with a solid foundation in research skills. We believe that developing students' appetite and ability to conduct research should start during their freshmen year when they first begin their academic journey. We should strive to develop a research culture in which students are encouraged to think about how knowledge is developed and how to actively engage in that process. To this end, freshmen students in UNIV 100 are introduced to the research design and process through identifying and addressing a problem related to the Qatari society. This project provides them with an opportunity to get a hands-on research experience that prepares them not only for academic success in their discipline, but also for graduate school.

## Junior tadTalk

### Core-Curriculum Researchers

#### Fatima Ali Ahmad Abdurrahman

Fatima is a first-year honor's student at Qatar University (QU). Prior to joining the College of Education at QU, Fatima graduated from Aisha Bint Abi Bakr Secondary School- Qatar in 2020 with the second highest level of academic achievement out of all students in her cohort. Fatima has always tried her best to gain as much experience as possible from workshops, community service, and competitions. In 2018, she participated as a volunteer at the Health Profession Awareness Program (HMC). After joining college, she is now an active volunteer at the Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center at QU. Fatima has a curious mind, which fuels her interest in pursuing research. She has participated in different research fairs since primary school. In 2019, Fatima, along with her colleagues, participated in the 2nd research competition held by the Qatar Scientific Club and was awarded a bronze medal for their research.

After graduation, Fatima plans to pursue a career in teaching mathematics in secondary school.

#### Noora Ali Khalili

Noora Ali Khalili is an undergraduate student at Qatar University (QU). Before joining QU, Noora graduated from Newton International Academy. She has been an active member in her community and completed TICTA first aid training as part of the preparation for her Duke of Edenborough Award. She was also a designer on the set of TEDxYouth@NIA in 2019, a collaboration of TED and Newton International Academy. She was also a winning participant of the INJAZ Mubadara competition of 2020. Noora also volunteered at the annual school fair, helped assist teachers with the primary school sports day, and organized the breast cancer awareness month bake sale. Noora now aims to complete her university education and see where life takes her next.

#### Daneh Ali Khalili

Daneh Ali Khalili is an undergraduate student in the College of Arts and Sciences at Qatar university. Before joining QU, Daneh graduated from Newton International Academy after completing her IGCSE and AS level examination. Daneh has taken part in extra-curricular activities, which helped expand her knowledge in different areas. She worked hard throughout her last year of school doing her coursework and has managed to receive two certificates of excellence. She has taken part in volunteering for several school events including breast cancer awareness month, preparing for the annual school fair, and assisting teachers during the primary sports day. Daneh now aims to finish her college education with exceptionally high grades.

#### Lina Mustafa Hedaya

Lina is a first-year education student at Qatar University (QU) and an Honor's student. She graduated from high school in 2020. She attended many workshops on different topics including time management and emotional intelligence. Lina has participated in several competitions at high school, delivered many presentations, and participated in scientific research addressing the lack of awareness regarding the symbols under plastic products. She volunteered at Hamad Medical's National Center for Cancer Care and Research and Al-Thakira Girls Center, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Sports. She also participated in future compass initiative. In 2019, she started a campaign in her high school that aimed to raise awareness concerning the importance of Islamic values. She also has participated in external competitions such as the Olympiad in Physics, Mathematics, and Biology and won the first two stages. Lina would like to gain other experiences in her university life and continue to participate in research in the future.

## Aysha M. Al-Jaber

Aysha M. Al-Jaber is a junior undergraduate student at Qatar University where she is enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences. She is majoring in English literature and linguistics with a concentration in linguistics and a double minor in French and Spanish. Aysha is interested in many linguistics sub-studies such as: phonetics, psycholinguistics, language acquisition, and language change studies. She plans to graduate From Qatar University and go abroad to further her studies in the field. She plans on getting a master's degree in medical speech-language pathology and a PhD in linguistics. She believes in the words of Rita Mae Brown when she said that "language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going". Therefore, Aysha chose to major in linguistics because, in her view, language is a prominent feature of daily human life and without understanding it we would not understand the world around us. She also believes in Ludwig Wittgenstein's view that "the limits of my language mean the limits of my world". As a result, she became an avid learner of languages; she speaks four languages including Arabic, English, French and Korean. She is also currently learning Spanish and Japanese. Aysha has received five Academic Excellence Awards during her time at Qatar University. She was on the Dean's List in fall 2018 and again in spring 2019. She was also on the Vice-President and Chief Academic Officer's List in fall 2019, spring 2020, and fall 2020. In her free time, she engages in different activities as a member of the university's South Korean Club, Japanese Club and Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center. In addition, she has an interest in contemporary and traditional arts and frequents galleries whenever she is able. Recently, she has taken an interest in astronomy and would like to expand her knowledge in that discipline. Prior to entering Qatar University, she attended many workshops and seminars covering various subjects such as leadership, time management, digital illustration, among others.

## Junior tadTalk

### Young Scientists Center Researchers

## Mohammed Al-Horr

Mohammed Al-Horr is a freshman undergraduate student at Qatar University enrolled in the College of Medicine. His goal is to become an exceptional cardiologist as well as an active member and change agent in the community. Mohammed graduated from Al Maha Academy for Boys where he received the highest marks in Qatar for Edexcel IGCSE in Arabic Language, ICT and Biology. During high school, Mohammed was involved in many activities such as Head of the Student Council, participating in the Book Fair, Science Fair, and winning several awards such as the Headteacher, Class Topper and Student of the Year medals. In addition, he joined Al Bairaqa Research Program, where he was able to conduct two research studies that involved replacing obsolete digital storage devices with innovative technology. His passions are not only confined to medicine; he is also interested in public speaking and had the opportunity to participate in Planet Georgetown – Public Speaking Workshop and Northwestern Media Summer Program. Additionally, his fascination with entrepreneurship was demonstrated in his active role of starting a brand as part of INJAZ Business Program, where he was able to achieve the Best Presentation Award as well as operate a business scheme.

tadTalks WebEx Event  
 Agenda  
 Monday, 5 April, 2021

Time	Event Description
8:00 - 9:00	Technical Support and Registration
9:00 - 9:05	Opening Remarks, Professor Mariam Al-Maadeed, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, Qatar University
9:05 - 9:15	Keynote: Dr. Gigi Do, Associate Vice President and Senior International Officer Global Learning and Strategy/Diplomacy Institute 'Graduate Researchers as Global Citizens and Ambassadors of Understanding Between Nations'
	<b>tad Talks</b>
9:15 - 9:45	1st tadTalk: Muhammad Al-Janahi, Qatar University 2nd tadTalk: Hussein Basma, PSL Research University-Paris, France 3rd tadTalk: Nurul Ahamad, University of Brunei, Brunei
9:45 - 10:15	4th tadTalk: Mustafa Zagho, University of Southern Mississippi, United States 5th tadTalk: Seishiro Sakita, Nagoya University, Japan 6th tadTalk: Sams Sadat, University of Alberta, Canada
10:15 - 10:45	7th tadTalk: Zane Kheir, National University of Singapore, Singapore 8th tadTalk: Zoya Vysotskaia, University of Moscow, Russia 9th tadTalk: Syaza Shukri, International Islamic University, Malaysia
	<b>Junior tadTalks with QU's Rising Researchers</b>
10:45 - 10:55	Dr. Noora Al-Thani, Director, Young Scientists Center Dr. Rana Sobh, Director of Core Curriculum Program 'A Message for Tomorrow's Graduate Researchers'
10:55 - 11:05	1st Junior tadTalk: Core-Curriculum Researchers Fatima Ali Ahmad Abdurrahman Lina Mustafa Hedaya Aysha Mohammed Al-Jaber Daneh Ali Khalili Noora Ali Khalili
11:05 - 11:15	2nd Junior tadTalk: Young Scientists Center Researchers Mohammed Al-Horr
11:15 - 11:20	Announcement of Awardees into the tadTalks Student Grant Program and Closing Remarks