

Building Oral History Collections through Collaborations between Archives and Scholars at the American University in Cairo

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Community Idea Exchange



This presentation will demonstrate how the AUC Archives has **partnered with academics and expert scholars** in various fields to **build oral history collections**, and help attendees of the session learn how they can use similar strategies to develop collections for use by students, faculty, and other researchers via digital platforms. One strategy to be covered is partnering with an expert or project focused on a particular topic, by **combining their subject knowledge and contacts with training (or trained staff), equipment, description expertise, and digital platforms provided by the archives**, to build an oral history collection centered on a particular population of interviewees. AUC Archives' experience with an oral history project with **relocated villagers near Luxor, Egypt** (a collaboration with a local documentarian) and a grant project for **interviewing Egyptian Islamists** (a partnership with an AUC law research unit) will be described, and recommendations and lessons learned offered. Another strategy to be addressed is arranging with scholars for the **donation of oral histories** those experts conducted, which would be described and housed by the archives. AUC's experiences with building collections in this way (about the **Egyptian 2011 revolution**, the country's **Jewish community**, and **neighborhood life** in Cairo) will also be outlined.



American University in Cairo Campus, Then and Now

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University on the Square: Documenting Egypt's 21st Century Revolution Project - Interviewees located through special contacts: refugees

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Qurna Hillside Oral History Project

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THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة

Rare Books & Special Collections Library

مكتبة الكتب النادرة و المجموعات الخاصة



مشروع التاريخ الشفهي لهضبة الجرنه (Qurna Hillside Oral History Project)

You are invited you to take part in a project to record the memories of the people who lived on the Qurna hillside, to preserve the stories of their way of life, beliefs, and traditions. This project seeks to make a voice recording “oral history interview” with you about your everyday life experiences before leaving the hillside, because as a former resident of Old Qurna your memories of that place are important to save. Our effort is a collaboration between the Qurna History Project, led by Mrs. Caroline Simpson, and the Rare Books and Special Collections Library of the American University in Cairo. The questions and answers below provide more information about our project and why we would like you to participate.

Who is organising the project and how?

Mrs. Caroline Simpson has been documenting the history of Qurna's people and buildings for over 20 years through the Qurna History Project, and she will be at Qurna from April 14 to 26 to arrange for people to be interviewed. She will be working with local residents Abdu Daramalli and Ahmed elTayib. Interviewers will be trained graduate students and library staff at the American University in Cairo.

Qurna Hillside Oral History Project

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THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO
School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

Law and Society
Research Unit



Mostafa Shaat

Researcher in the Law and Society
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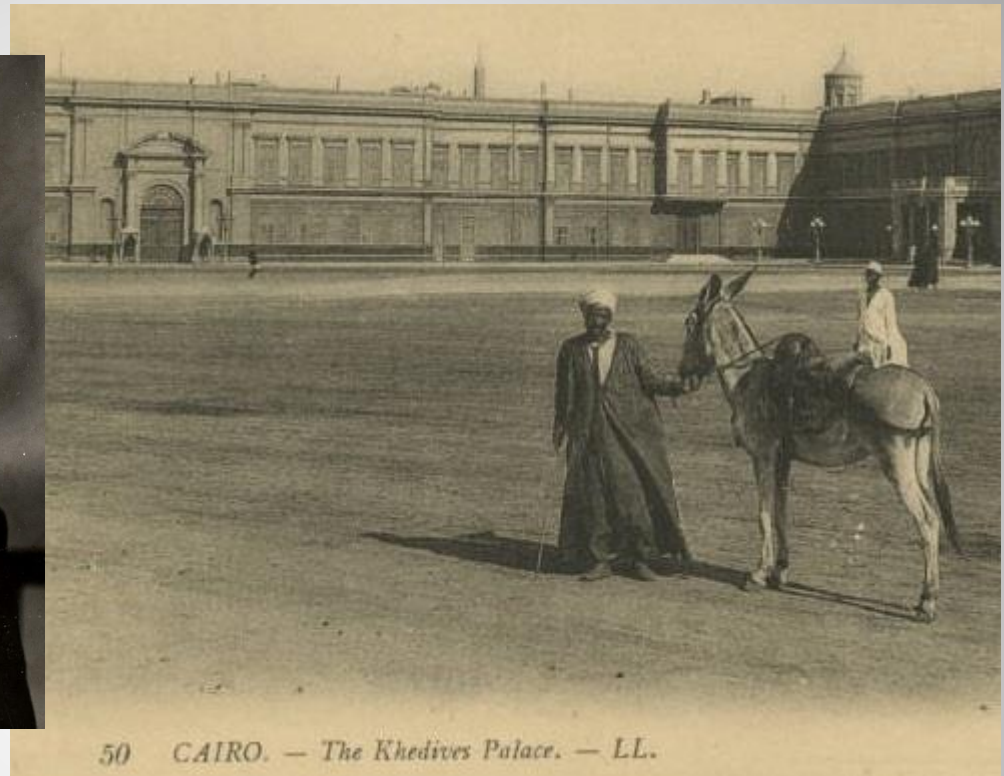
Law and Society Research Unit Islamist Oral History Project

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**Jewish Oral Histories: Contacts made
through collaboration with community**

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50 CAIRO. — The Khedives Palace. — LL.

Oral History Collections Built through donated interviews

From Son of Royal Translator

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