In Memorium

The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice regrets the loss this year of our benefactor, Mrs. Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst, who passed away peacefully at the age of 90 on September 10th in New York City.

Mrs. Bobst was born in Tripoli, Lebanon in 1925. She received her B.A. in 1947 from American University of Beirut. She soon moved to Libya to be an advisor to the Libyan government on public health issues, focusing on developing the public health system in that country. After some time working with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), she was appointed by Lebanese then-Prime Minister Rashid Abdul Karami to be a Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, before meeting and marrying Elmer H. Bobst in 1961. Over the next fifty years, she and her husband would donate extensively in the areas of social justice, public health, animal welfare, and education.

In 2000, Mrs. Bobst gave a gift of great significance to Princeton University, $10 million to establish the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice. With the purpose of advancing the cause of peace, mutual understanding and respect for all ethnic traditions and religious faiths, and justice, both within countries and across national borders, the Center opened in 2001. Mrs. Bobst was laid to rest with her family in Lebanon. A remembrance of her life can be found in the New York Times at this link: http://nyti.ms/1OJNrmv View to story of the Bobst center here: http://bobstcenter.princeton.edu/mission-and-history

It is my profound hope that the young people who study at the center and participate in its programs will lead the way, whether as leaders in different parts of the world or as teachers and thinkers who bring new insights to age-old social and political problems.

– Mamdouha S. Bobst
public health expert and philanthropist

Message from the Director, Amaney A. Jamal, Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics

I am once again very happy to share our exciting news and accomplishments with our friends on campus and across the world. This year, we continued with our tradition of directly working with the Department of Politics, the Woodrow Wilson School, the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies as well as the broader university community in our programmatic initiatives. We also have continued sponsoring the research of our faculty and graduate students in the Department of Politics. This year, the Bobst Center, as part of our ongoing collaborative relationship with the American University of Beirut, hosted an international conference on the Politics of the Arab Spring which attracted close to 40 scholars from across the world!

I am also pleased to announce that Professor Rafaela Dancygier will assume the Directorship of the Race, Ethnicity and Identity Program which will bring continued scholarly engagement on themes linked to the politics of Race, Ethnicity and Identity.

Our dynamic programs and initiatives would not have been possible without the generous donation and support of Mrs. Mamdouha El-Sayed Bobst. Though Mrs. Bobst passed away this year, she leaves behind a legacy of commitment to and nurturing for causes linked to peace and justice. Her tremendous goodwill and charity will always be with us in remembrance; and the inspiration and dedication of her vision for peace and justice lives on in the Center’s everyday mission and activities.

Our programming for FY 2017 will bring many new and exciting programs. Thanks for your interest in the Bobst Center! 
The main directive of the Bobst Center executive committee is to advise and support the Director and the Center’s mission.

MARK BEISSINGER, Henry W. Putnam Professor of Politics, Director, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS). Mark R. Beissinger’s main fields of interest are social movements, revolutions, nationalism, state-building, and imperialism, with special reference to the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet states. His work has received multiple awards, including APSA’s Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award presented for the best book published in the United States in the field of government, politics, or international affairs, and the Mattei Dogan Award presented by the Society for Comparative Research for the best book published in the field of comparative research. Professor Beissinger was also the founding director of the University of Wisconsin’s Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia.

CARLES BOIX, Robert Garrett Professor in Politics, Professor of Politics and Public Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School. Carles Boix writes and teaches on comparative political economy and comparative politics. He has received the William Riker award for the best book on political economy twice, the Mattei Dogan award for best book published in the field of comparative research and the Heinz Eulau award for best article published in the American Political Science Review twice as well. He is the Founder and Director of the Institute of Political Economy and Governance in Barcelona. Professor Boix is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

RAFAELA DANCYGIER, Associate Professor of Politics and Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School. Rafaela Dancygier’s first term on the Bobst Center Executive Board begins July 1, 2016. She specializes in comparative politics, with a focus on the implications of ethnic diversity in advanced democracies. Her work has examined the domestic consequences of international immigration, the political incorporation and electoral representation of immigrant-origin minorities, and the determinants of ethnic conflict. Her work has received the Best Book Award by the European Politics and Society Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA), and one of her books was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title. Her articles on related topics have been awarded Best Paper Prizes by APSA’s Sections on Comparative Politics; Migration and Citizenship; and European Politics and Society.

NOLAN MCCARTY, Susan Dod Brown Professor of Politics and Public Affairs, Chair, Department of Politics. Nolan McCarty’s research interests include U.S. politics, democratic political institutions, and political game theory. He is currently Chair of the Department of Politics and former vice dean of the Woodrow Wilson School. He is the recipient of the Robert Eckles Swain National Fellowship from the Hoover Institution and the John M. Olin Fellowship in Political Economy. Professor McCarty is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

HELEN MILNER, B.C. Forbes Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Director, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance. Helen V. Milner was the chair of the Department of Politics from 2005 to 2011. She was president of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) from 2012-14. She has written extensively on issues related to international and comparative political economy, the connections between domestic politics and foreign policy, globalization and regionalism, and the relationship between democracy and trade policy. She is currently working on issues related to globalization and development, such as the political economy of foreign aid, the “digital divide” and the global diffusion of the internet, and the relationship between globalization and democracy.

GRIGORE POP-ELECHES, Associate Professor of Politics and Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School. Grigore Pop-Eleches’ main research interests lie at the intersection between political economy and comparative political behavior, with a particular interest in Eastern Europe and Latin America. He has worked on the politics of IMF programs in Eastern Europe and Latin America, the rise of unorthodox parties in East Europe, and on the role of historical legacies in post-communist regime change. His research has been supported by grants from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. Professor Pop-Eleches is an associate editor of World Politics.

JENNIFER WIDNER, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School. Director, Innovations for Successful Societies. Jennifer Widner runs a research program on institution building and institutional reform called Innovations for Successful Societies, an initiative formerly of the Bobst Center and now of the Woodrow Wilson School. Her current research focuses on the political economy of institutional reform, government accountability, and service delivery. She also remains interested in constitution writing, constitutional design, and fair dealing—topics of earlier research. Widner is a recipient of the Bellagio Scholar Award and the LS&A Award for Excellence in Research. Professor Widner’s term on the Bobst Center’s Executive Committee concludes effective July 1, 2016.
Bobst Faculty Grant Program

The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice is honored to be able to offer support to some of the finest scholars in the field of political science, the members of the Department of Politics at Princeton University. Faculty members of all ranks and subfields whose work aligns with the core mission of the Bobst Center have received annual grants of up to $15,000 to further research linked to the study of peace and justice.

FAISAL Z. AHMED, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICS. Faisal Ahmed received a faculty research award from the Bobst Center to support his project “Geopolitics and State Capacity” which will examine how major powers affect state fragility. Understanding the causes and consequences associated with fragile states is related to international concerns over civil conflict, terrorism, repression, poverty, bad governance, epidemics, and refugees.

GARY J. BASS, PROFESSOR OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL. A recent faculty research grant from the Bobst Center is supporting Gary Bass in his research on the Tokyo war crimes tribunal, studying that event as a lens through which to understand how the historical legacy of World War II has introduced risk in the regional order in East Asia.

RORY TRUEx, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL. Rory Truex has received a Bobst Center faculty award this year for his research into “Implicit Attitudes Toward an Authoritarian Regime,” specifically focused on citizen attitudes toward government leaders in Egypt.

KEREN YARHI-MILO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL. RALPH O. GLENDINNING UNIVERSITY PRECEPTOR. Keren Yarhi-Milo will be using her faculty grant from the Bobst Center to fund the completion of two national representative survey experiments in the United States and one in Israel, designed to examine attitudes toward the use of covert military force between separate democracies and issues that impact those attitudes.

Mission and History

The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice was the creation of the late Mrs. Mamdouha S. Bobst, widow of Elmer Holmes Bobst, who together with her husband promoted philanthropy in the areas of education, health research and human rights. The Center’s mission is “to advance the cause of peace, mutual understanding and respect for all ethnic traditions and religious faiths, and justice, both within countries and across national borders.” The activities of the Bobst Center therefore focus on the study of peace and justice. The Center sponsors and co-sponsors panel discussions, conferences, seminars and workshops on themes like sources of conflict and reconciliation, implications of cultural and religious conflicts, nationalism, regime stability and change, pathways for political self-expression, and more.

The Center also serves as a gathering place for scholars and policymakers to exchange ideas and interact with one another in ways relating to policy formation, and to foster mutual respect and cooperation. A special feature of the Bobst Center for Peace and Justice is its collaboration with the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, which provides fertile ground for faculty and graduate exchanges and research on the roles of social justice and political life in the Arab World.

Stay informed about the Bobst Center or receive invitations to the Workshop on Arab Political Development public lectures by signing up for our list serves! Email wendyb@princeton.edu
Graduate Research Support

The Bobst Center provides funding for Department of Politics doctoral student research through travel grants, field grants, and competitive dissertation award. The generous support of the Bobst Center has facilitated graduate research in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, United States, South and Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. Bobst is proud to be supporting the excellent work of our graduate students (featured below).

KILLIAN B. CLARKE conducted research during summer 2015 on political and social mobilization among Syrian refugees in the Middle East. He traveled to refugee camps and settlements in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan and conducted interviews with members of refugee communities, aid and UN organizations, and government representatives. His project seeks to explain why Syrians in Jordan’s Za’atari refugee camp have developed strong political organizations whereas the refugees in Lebanon’s informal settlements and Turkey’s refugee camps have remained demobilized.

CASSANDRA EMMONS is a second year PhD student in the Department of Politics studying international relations, international and comparative constitutional law, and mixed methods. With the support of the Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, she traveled to the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in January 2016 to present her ongoing, co-authored study of the qualitative methods curricula for political science doctoral students across 25 top American universities. While this research finds graduate-level qualitative methods training to be in a state of crisis, it also shows that there is broad agreement on course content and pedagogical best practices. By illustrating these shared disciplinary standards, the paper offers remedying suggestions for enhancing qualitative methods curricula.

ROMAIN FERRALI’s dissertation investigates how to leverage social networks and organizational structure to reduce corruption. In the summer of 2015, he conducted a lab experiment with 520 participants in Mohammedia, Morocco to evaluate the impact of organizational structure on corruption.

PETER JOHANNESEN says, “The Bobst Center’s support has been instrumental in my ongoing research on public participation in health care governance in Brazil. Specifically, it has supported my project looking at the causes and consequences of variation in the performance of Brazil’s municipal health councils. The Bobst Center’s support has been useful for a number of parts of the project: So far, I have worked with a team of research assistants in Brazil to create a data set with information about the organizations that participate in the councils, conducted interviews with health council participants, and observed eleven council meetings in the greater São Paulo metropolitan area. I am currently building on this work by collecting meeting minutes and conducting a survey of health council participants.”

A MUNICIPAL HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING IN BRAZIL

A home in Jordan’s Za’atari refugee camp with a map of Syria; in Arabic it says “we will return.”

Mural painted by the residents of the Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan.

In this photo, participants used cards to play a behavioral game representing a corrupt situation in an office setting. The experiment manipulated the organization of the office. The experiment showed that more isolated individuals are more likely to behave in a corrupt manner, and that changing the organizational structure may substitute for tougher enforcement in reducing corruption.

A Municipal Health Council meeting in Brazil

MARCUS JOHNSON’s scholarly interests center on the electoral politics of ethno-racial identity groups. He says, “In my dissertation, Racial-ized Democracy: The Electoral Politics of Race in Panama, I explore the significance of race to electoral politics in Latin America. I argue that Afro-Latin voters with strong racial consciousness can coordinate their interests and vote choice. However, where these voters are disproportionately poor and elections are corrupt, their distinctive phenotypic characteristics make them particularly vulnerable to electoral bribery, reducing their ability to use elections to demand representation. The empirical analysis draws on a range of survey, experimental and interview based data gathered over a year of fieldwork in Panama.”
KEVIN MAZUR reports “My research investigates the role of ethnic identity boundaries in the 2011 Syrian uprising. I conducted my research in Lebanon and Kurdistan Regional Governorate — Iraq, carrying out interviews of participants in the uprising, government officials and experts. During my fieldwork, I also constructed a large database of local economic, social and political indicators to statistically test my theoretical claims.”

JOAN RICART-HUGUET. Recent literature has documented the economic and political consequences of colonial institutions, investments and practices, but we know much less about their origins. I present evidence that colonial public investments in a set of British and French colonies in Africa were very unequally distributed within colonies, even when adjusted for population. This highly unequal distribution applies to the three main types of investments in each empire: infrastructure, education and health. These disparities do not diminish during the colonial period. How did colonial powers allocate their investments? I show that observable geographic features — locational Fundamentals — led some locations to be centers of pre-colonial trade, which in turn explains the later colonial investments. Given severe colonial budget constraints, those locations remained centers of economic activity and benefited from complementarities between investments in infrastructure, education and health, consistent with a logic of increasing returns. The micro foundations for these patterns may lie in deficient coordination among colonial administrators, which I term uncoordinated persistence and which may also provide a mechanism of continuity for recent research linking deep historical causes to current economic and political development.

YANG-YANG ZHOU’s research examines how refugees affect local, host communities in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically with regards to host citizens’ national identity, demand for state-provided public goods, and preferences for immigrant exclusion. By physically crossing national borders, refugees may compel citizens to seek out other forms of national boundaries, legal and symbolic, such as increased restrictions on immigration law. The exogenous shock of forced migration may also have other unintended consequences for nationalism and nation-building in the host country; as outsiders, refugees may strengthen nearby native citizens’ national solidarity and feelings of nationalism.

SANATA SY-SAHANDE requested a Bobst summer research grant to conduct preliminary dissertation fieldwork on local tax collectors in Benin. She says, “I proposed plans for staging interviews with tax officials, collecting local tax revenue data, and conducting a small pilot survey of tax collectors. Overall, I was able to achieve most of my objectives. I conducted 14 interviews with high- and mid-level tax officials, and two separate focus groups with tax collectors and their supervisors. I also conducted a pilot of 58 tax collectors across three municipalities that confirmed some of my hypotheses and will serve as a valuable source for further theory-building. Finally, I was also able to collect tax revenue data at the municipal level for all 77 communes in Benin. I used the information gathered from my interviews and the pilot survey to design plans for a large-scale data collection project on tax collection activities across neighborhoods in six municipalities. The Bobst award I received funded the implementation of the pilot survey and numerous trips to survey and interview sites.”

DURING BOBST-SUPPORTED FIELDWORK CONDUCTED IN TANZANIA IN 2015, YANG-YANG CONDUCTED SEMI-STRUCTURED FOCUS GROUPS AND PILOTED A SURVEY EXPERIMENT IN NINE RANDOMLY CHOSEN VILLAGES ACROSS THE FOUR DISTRICTS IN TANZANIA THAT HOST REFUGEES. SHE ALSO INTERVIEWED IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, LOCAL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND REFUGEE AID WORKERS AS WELL AS VISITED THE NYARUGUSU REFUGEE CAMP.

This photo is of a local market in Ouidah, Benin, one of Sanata’s field research sites, taken July 29, 2015.
Bobst Workshops

Book Workshop
The Bobst Center and Workshop on Arab Political Development with the Project on Middle East Political Science at George Washington University cosponsored the Junior Scholars manuscript development workshop in November with the goal of providing critical feedback and support on submission to an appropriate press for junior scholarly publications. Scholars from different academic institutions submitted manuscripts which were critically assessed by senior scholars from Princeton, NYU, American University, University of North Carolina, Hunter College, University of Michigan, Harvard University, and George Washington University.

Race, Ethnicity and Identity Workshops
The Bobst Center for Peace and Justice is celebrating the second year of the Race, Ethnicity and Identity Workshop, an invitation-only forum for faculty to present their research. The workshop convenes several times during the year allowing faculty to engage one another about work over dinner in the comfortable setting of the Bobst Hall East Room. This year’s conversations included: how the racial identities of judges influence judicial decision making; why some ethnic movements are more likely to turn violent in some multiethnic countries than in others; how ethnic movements shape group inequality and the risk of civil conflict in multiethnic societies; and why ethnic subaltern-led parties crowd out armed violence.

Workshop on Arab Political Development
The Workshop on Arab Political Development is sponsored by the Bobst Center for Peace and Justice in conjunction with Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS). This workshop has a two-pronged approach to the study of the politics of the contemporary Arab world.

The first part is a regular gathering of graduate students who use this arena to discuss their research. The second part of the Workshop on Arab Political Development program is a series of guest lectures featuring both nationally and internationally known scholars who address some of the critical issues of our time. In the past year, Bobst and PIIRS have hosted numerous events, including College of New Jersey Professor of Comparative and Middle East Politics Miriam Lowi, who spoke on the role of the foreigner in the Gulf oil monarchies; Zaid Al-Ali, Senior Advisor on Constitution-Building for the Arab Region at International IDEA and current visiting research scholar in the Program in Law and Public Affairs, who spoke on the causes, consequences and prospects of the ISIS movement in Iraq; and Emmy-Award winning journalist Anisa Mehdi, who discussed the media and issues with general public perception of Islam and Muslims in the United States.

Qualitative Methods Workshop
The Bobst Center provided funding for a Qualitative Methods Workshop organized by Innovations for Successful Societies, involving the participation of senior faculty from Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, and Georgetown Universities, among others. The development policy community uses case studies as analytical tools. This workshop focused on case selection, within case process tracing, and issues of generalizability across cases.

PRESS Experiments Workshop
In cooperation with the Center for Democratic Politics and the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, the Bobst Center sponsors the Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science program, founded by Politics faculty members LaFleur Stephens, Ali A. Valenzuela, and Omar Wasow. This two-part program organizes practical skill-building seminars on matters related to the implementation of lab, field and survey experiments. PRESS also organizes workshops for faculty and students to present research designs-in-progress for discussion and brainstorming before data has been collected.

Winter Experimental Social Sciences Institute (WESSI) Alumni Workshop
The Bobst Center and the Workshop on Arab Political Development in conjunction with the Social Science Experimental Laboratory (SSEL) at New York University Abu Dhabi cosponsored the Winter Experimental Social Sciences Institute (WESSI) Alumni Workshop in Florence, Italy in September 2015. This event gave social science PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior Assistant Professors opportunity to present their research designs or work in progress and receive critical feedback from noted scholars in the field. Particular emphasis was placed on the participation of junior scholars planning or in the process of doing research in the Middle East region.

Conversations About Peace Lecture Series
This year saw the inception of a lecture series cosponsored with the Woodrow Wilson School that is dedicated to bringing together students, scholars, visiting practitioners and the community to discuss the possibilities of Peace between Israel and Palestine. Speakers this year included:

- Dr. Husam Zomlot, Roving Ambassador for the Palestinian Authority and adjunct professor of public policy at Birzeit University. In the inaugural lecture, Dr. Zomlot discussed Palestinian past and future political strategy.
- Ambassador Robert H. Serry, former United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, who posited the reality of the future of single Israeli-Palestinian state.
- Mr. Tal Becker, principal deputy legal advisor to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senior Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Mr. Becker spoke on the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations.
- Ambassador Maen R. Areikat, Chief Representative of the Palestinian Delegation to the United States, who discussed issues surrounding the possibility of Palestinian statehood.
In addition to our support of faculty and graduate research initiatives, the Bobst Center fosters mutual understanding, appreciation and justice for diverse groups and traditions among the undergraduate population on campus in two ways.

First, undergraduate student groups with goals that align with the Bobst mission are encouraged to apply for event funding throughout the academic year. In this way, the Bobst Center enriches campus life and increases awareness of the need for tolerance and understanding for all Princeton students.

Gabriel Meyer Halevy “The Human Project” Concert for Syrian Refugees Cosponsored with the Center for Jewish Life and the Muslim Life Program, peace activist and musician Gabriel Meyer Halevy lectures and performs using many languages including English, Spanish, Arabic, Hebrew, Urdu and Sanskrit to provide a culture-bridging message of celebration of the human spirit. CJL and MLP social justice students collected donations during this event to benefit Syrian refugees.

“Define American” Jose Antonio Vargas Latinx public lecture Cosponsored with PULPO, Campus Conversations on Identities Public Programming Series, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, LGBT Center, Princeton DREAM Team, Program in Latin American Studies, Program in Latino Studies, and the USG Projects Board. Jose Antonio Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker, and media publisher whose work centers on the changing American identity. He is the founder of Define American, a non-profit media and culture organization that seeks to elevate the conversation around immigration and citizenship in America; and the founder and editor of #EmergingUS, a digital platform that lives at the intersection of race, immigration, and identity in a multi-cultural America.

Dream Team bridge-building event — Futuro Conference An annual one-day event designed to build bridges between high-achieving first-generation students of color and immigrant background with Princeton students for purposes of communication, understanding, and possible mentorship.

Students for Prison Education and Reform (SPEAR) 2016 Annual Conference "Identity in the Age of Mass Incarceration.” Open to the public, this conference was focused on a discussion of the criminalization of identity: how marginalized populations, including racial minorities, undocumented immigrants, and the LGBTQ community are persecuted by our penal system on the basis of those identities. A diverse array of speakers and panelists were brought to campus with funds provided by Bobst, DREAM, MASJID, AASA, and the BJL.

Searching for a Homeland: Songs of Exile and Displacement Cosponsored with the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies, the Orange Pan-Hellenic Association, the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies, the Council of the Humanities, the USG Projects Board, the Davis International Center, and PHRS, this event featured music of Greece, Turkey, the U.S. and Western Europe performed by Princeton, Boston, and New York musicians. Donations were collected to benefit the International Rescue Committee’s Syrian Refugee Relief.

Futuro: Elevating Undocumented & Migrant Student’s Narratives and Voices Panel discussion to examine the migrant and undocumented experience, highlighting the work of immigrant, migrant or undocumented students and include them in the discussion of immigration policy as it is impacted by issues of race and citizenship.

Second, Bobst funds summer internships (typically eight weeks long) for select individual undergraduates to provide them with experiences in areas related to social activism. This past year the Bobst Center has granted internships for the following students:

Furman Haynes has received Bobst funding for an internship at the White House in the National Economic Council. Furman will attend a weekly speaker series with senior staffers and receive instruction on the variety of different policy jurisdictions that relate to the President’s economic agenda.

Louly Saney will use her funding from Bobst for her internship in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, working in the Technology and Innovation Division.

Princeton Students for North Korean Human Rights “Insights on North Korea” Cosponsored with the National Student’s Council of NKHR, and Princeton North Korean Human Rights, this event provided testimony regarding discrimination and women’s rights from Jiyoung Lee, a former female soldier in North Korea who defected in 2011 and is currently a college student.

Princeton Against Sex-Trafficking Documentary Screening “Rape for Profit” provided the personal testimonies of survivors as well as in-depth analysis of the relationship between childhood trauma and prostitution and pornography, prostitution as modern day slavery, and issues of criminal justice policy.

Spring 2016
American University in Beirut Collaborative Partnership Program

One of the most exciting programs is the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center’s collaboration with the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs of the American University in Beirut. A four year initiative that began with an agreement in September 2013, this collaboration seeks to leverage both institution’s intellectual capital, interdisciplinary exchanges and mutual interests to raise awareness and heighten understanding of peace and respect for different ethnic traditions and religious faiths both within and between the institutions’ regions. The two primary topics that the Bobst Center and AUB are focusing on collectively are social justice and economic development as related to the two regions, by studying the manifold challenges that confront Arab societies as they attempt to attain or regain social justice and move their countries along a comprehensive economic reform trajectory. As part of this collaboration, Bobst fosters conferences as well as graduate student research and research-related travel to Lebanon and its surrounding region.

As part of the program this year, the Bobst Center and AUB IFI along with PIIRS WAPD, the Project on Middle East Political Science at George Washington University, and the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs hosted a two-day academic conference called "After the Uprisings: The Arab World in Freefall, Fragmentation or Reconfiguration?" Bringing thirty-five speakers from the Middle East, Europe and the US together on nine panels, this two day conference covered a wide range of topics flowing from the upheaval in the Middle East since the spring uprisings. Keynote speakers were Dr. Tarek Mitri, current director of the Issam Fares Institute and past holder of many positions in the Lebanese government; and Dr. Fawwaz Traboulsi, longtime journalist, activist and academic in Lebanon. Opening remarks were provided by Professors Amaney Jamal, Rami Khouri and Marc Lynch (Director of the Project on Middle East Political Science).

Conference panels were:
1. The Ongoing Civil Wars in Syria and Iraq
2. Labor, Unions and their Mobilizational Capacity
3. Public Opinion Transformations
4. Authoritarian Retrenchment
5. Arab Barometer Panel
6. Urban, Local and Protest Politics
7. The “New” Sectarianism?
8. International and Regional Influences
9. Youth, Social Media and Social Justice

Next year, the American University of Beirut and Princeton University will begin their faculty exchange program which will consist of faculty spending a week at the other’s institutions where they will engage colleagues and students.

Orange represents focal areas for recent Bobst-funded research:
Angola • Benin • Brazil • Chile • China • Colombia • Egypt • France • Germany • India • Indonesia • Iraq • Israel • Italy • Japan • Jordan • Lebanon • Libya • Mexico • Morocco • Panama • Philippines • Russia • Saudi Arabia • Syria • Taiwan • Tanzania • Tunisia • Turkey • Uganda • UK • Ukraine • USA