



**NYU**

Global TIES  
for Children

INSIDE THE

# Arab Classroom

POWERED BY:

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afikra**

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## **Introducing "Inside the Arab Classroom": A New Podcast Series Exploring the Dynamic Landscape of Education in the Arab World**

New York University's [Global TIES for Children](#) and [afikra](#) are pleased to announce the launch of "Inside the Arab Classroom," a new podcast series that explores education traditions and innovations within Arabic-speaking nations. The series tells stories from inside Arab classrooms - from how Arabic literacy is taught to who decides what constitutes 'good citizens' - and aims to provoke curiosity among learners of all ages and in all contexts about the challenges to and opportunities for learning and thriving in Arab classrooms.

"What sets "Inside the Arab Classroom" apart is its unwavering authenticity," notes Joyce Rafla, a Senior Research Scientist at NYU Global TIES for Children and co-host of the series. "We are guided by Arab guests who intimately comprehend the intricacies of the educational landscape, ensuring that the podcast resonates as a true mirror of the educational journey in the Arab world."

The series is comprised of six engaging episodes, each of which tells a story in and of itself and together paint a picture of dynamic education systems in the Arab world. At the heart of the series, guests discuss and debate two foundational goals of the Arab classroom: the teaching and learning of Arabic language and literacy and citizenship skills. This provides a platform across the episodes to explore wide-ranging themes shaping education in Arab countries, including historical transformations, linguistic preservation, global development influences, technological advancements, and the role of data and research in reformation. This scaffolded narrative approach fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose as hosts and speakers pursue quality education in their contexts - with global implications.

"As researchers, our day-to-day bread and butter is data. But we need to provide space to hear the stories that situate, nuance, and challenge the data," said Dr Carly Tubbs Dolan, Deputy Director for Primary Education and Learning in Emergencies at NYU Global TIES for Children. "These stories must be told by the people - the teachers, the entrepreneurs, the policymakers, the researchers - who have lived them."

We invite you to join us on this educational journey as we explore these themes, offering a platform for meaningful discussions and fostering a deeper understanding of education's role in the Middle East and North Africa.

## Episode Highlights

The inaugural episode paints a vivid picture of historical reforms and the current state of education across Arabic-speaking countries through an engaging conversation with Ms. Joyce Rafla. Listeners will gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and triumphs that have sculpted the region's educational landscape.

The second episode, starring Dr Hanada Taha and Dr Reem Khamis, delves into the pivotal role of Arabic literacy in preserving cultural heritage along with the opportunities for and challenges to teaching Arabic. This episode offers an eye-opening perspective on the importance of language in identity and education.

Entrepreneur Rama Kayali takes center stage in the third episode, unveiling the transformative potential of education technology for Arabic literacy inside and outside the Arab classroom. The episode demonstrates how technology can elevate the learning experience, fostering engagement and innovation within educational settings.

In the fourth episode, we turn with Dr Muhammad Faour to explore a second and related goal of the Arab classroom: promoting civic engagement. Listeners will be inspired to recognize the role of education in nurturing responsible and active citizens who contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Next, we hear from Dr Wafa Kotob about a systems-change initiative in Lebanon that is designed to address these two fundamental goals of the Arab classroom: Arabic literacy and the social and emotional skills that promote citizenship. The episode explores the dynamic relationship between international development and education, offering a glimpse into the complexities of implementing educational initiatives on a national scale.

The series concludes with Dr Adnan el Amine's episode, where practical insights into the application of education research within school systems offer educators actionable strategies for enhancing teaching practices.

The premiere episode of "Inside the Arab Classroom" is scheduled to air on [September 12th, 2023](#) and will be accessible on major podcast platforms, including: Spotify, Apple Music, Soundcloud, and Youtube.

- Ep#1 - Sep 12 - [The State of The Arab Classroom with Joyce Rafla](#)
- Ep#2 - Sept 19 - [How We Teach Arabic Literacy with Dr. Hanada Taha + Dr. Reem Khamis](#)
- Ep#3 - Sep 26 - [Ed-Tech & Arabic Literacy with Rama Kayyali](#)
- Ep#4 - Oct 3 - [Citizenship Education with Dr. Muhammad Faour](#)
- Ep#5 - Oct 10 - [International Development's Role in Education with Dr. Wafa Kotob](#)
- Ep#6 - Oct 17 - [Education Research In Arabic-Speaking Countries with Dr. Adnan el Amine](#)

Afikra has always been driven by the mission to inspire intellectual curiosity about the Arab world's histories and cultures, says Mikey Muhanna Founder & Executive Director at Afikra. The 'Inside the Arab Classroom' podcast series brings you insights and stories from researchers, educators, and entrepreneurs who are working to improve learning outcomes and opportunities for students in the region. "At Afikra, we aim to provide our audience with a platform to explore and appreciate the intricate tapestry of education's role in shaping societies and fostering connections. We believe this series will not only broaden perspectives but also ignite conversations that resonate deeply with Afikra's community, fostering a greater appreciation for the power of education and its impact on the Arab world's future."

Join the Conversation:

As we pave the way for a transformative journey through education, the podcast series not only provides a platform for profound discussions but also invites listeners to immerse themselves, exchange insights, and actively contribute to enlightening educational dialogues.

Tune in to hear for an exclusive sneak peek, don't miss the "en avant première" [Inside The Arab Classroom Trailer](#) – it'll give you a taste of the exciting journey ahead.

Engage with fellow listeners using the hashtag [#InsideArabClassroom](#) and share your thoughts on the transformative power of education in the Arab world.

For Press Inquiries, Interviews, or Further Information, Please Contact: Douha Boulares [db2636@nyu.edu](mailto:db2636@nyu.edu)

### **About "Inside the Arab Classroom"**

"Inside the Arab Classroom" is an enthralling podcast series that provides an unprecedented window into the diverse and ever-evolving landscape of education in the Arab world. The series comprises six engaging episodes, each tackling a crucial aspect of education in the region. From the history of education reform to the state of Arabic literacy, the role of international development to the potential of ed-tech, and from the relationship between education, citizenship, and civic engagement to the latest research findings, the podcast series "transcend boundaries by contributing to a global dialogue on education that enriches broader conversation about learning practices, challenges, and aspirations worldwide.

### **About NYU Global TIES for Children**

NYU Global TIES for Children (NYU-TIES) is an international research center based at NYU Steinhardt. Since our launch in 2014, NYU-TIES has pursued the vision of a world in which all children have equitable access to quality resources and opportunities that enable them, their caregivers, and teachers to thrive. As a university-based research center, we pursue a particular mission in the service of this vision: namely, to contribute to a robust and culturally grounded science for program and policy action that promotes children's holistic learning and development in low- and middle-income and crisis-affected contexts. Learn more at [globaltiesforchildren.nyu.edu](http://globaltiesforchildren.nyu.edu) and follow NYU-TIES on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

### **About afikra:**

**afikra | عفكرة** - a global education and media organization focused on shifting what we think the Arab world was, is and can be in the future. We are building a grassroots movement to convert passive interest in the Arab world's histories & cultures into an active intellectual curiosity.

afikra is made up of approximately 100,000 members across 30 chapters globally. We have worked with educational and cultural institutions like Barjeel Foundation, Google Arts & Culture, Twitter, Netflix, University of Chicago, NYU Abu Dhabi, British Council, Columbia University Global Centers, Alserkal Advisory, Qatar Museums, Qatar Foundation International, TED, VCUarts Qatar, The Arab American National Museum (AANM), Zayed University, and the UAE Ministry of Culture and Youth .