

Researchers Awarded Three Grants On The Structure Of The Arab Family

Doha, Qatar, July 2 2017: Three research proposals designed to address emerging issues affecting the well-being of the Arab family have been awarded grants through OSRA, a program launched by the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), in collaboration with the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF).

OSRA, which means “family” in Arabic, is a DIFI-QNRF joint initiative that unites researchers to study the challenges presently facing Arab families across the region. It is designed to encourage research that can be used to develop a knowledge base of the Arab family.

In this second cycle of the grant, DIFI and QNRF, a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development, aim to encourage research that contributes to the development of evidence-based policies and programs on families, marriage, parenting, parenthood and divorce.

The call for proposals, launched in December 2016, saw strong interest from both local and regional academic research institutions, with 17 proposals submitted as part of the highly competitive review process. Priority was given to those proposals focused on researching the effects of wars and conflict on parent-child relationships within Arab families. The three awarded proposals came from the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar University and the American University of Beirut.

DIFI’s Executive Director, Noor Al-Malki Al-Jehani, said, “By building on the success of the first OSRA cycle, we are creating a combination where the practice of these advanced research theories will offer us a thought-provoking, firsthand look into solving some of the family issues we see in the region today.”

Commenting on the OSRA grants, Dr. Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, QNRF’s Executive Director, said, “QNRF’s collaboration with DIFI continues to address the challenges facing families in the Arab world and, by expanding our skill set in this area, we are creating future-focused professionals who gain advanced critical-thinking skills. The evidence-based research from these projects will then supply policy-makers with new, in-depth perspectives and assist in the formation of policies designed to promote families’ well-being.”

Elaborating further on the benefits of OSRA awarded proposals, Al Jehani added, “The OSRA grants clearly demonstrate how research is an essential tool in addressing and solving societal challenges. Researchers from across the region can collaborate to study societal issues that affect our families while offering the opportunity to introduce greater coherence into policies and practices.”

For more information about the OSRA research grant and other QNRF programs, please visit www.qnrf.org

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Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), was established in 2006. The Institute works to strengthen the family through the development and dissemination of high quality research on Arab families, encouraging knowledge exchange on issues relevant to the family and making the family a priority to policy makers through advocacy and outreach at the national, regional and international levels. Among the Institute's most important initiatives are the Annual Conference on the Family; and the OSRA Research Grant in collaboration with the Qatar National Research Fund, an annual research grant which encourages research related to the Arab family and family policy. The Institute has special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)

Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) is charged with the Qatar National Research Strategy, dedicated to making Qatar a leading center for research and development excellence and innovation. QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research Fund, a leading scientific research funding organization, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.

For more information, please visit www.qfrd.org

About Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)

Driven by the aim of fostering a culture of research in Qatar, QNRF was established in 2006 to advance knowledge and education by acting as a support system for researchers.

QNRF, part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development, administers funding for original, competitively selected research and furthers collaborations within academia, the public, private, governmental and non-governmental sectors through effective, mutually beneficial partnerships. While QNRF actively seeks internationally-recognized researchers, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar. For more information, visit: www.qnrf.org

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