MODERATOR

YOUNASSE Y. TARBOUNI, Ph.D.

Younasse Tarbouni earned his Ph.D. in Political Sociology from the Graduate School of Social Sciences in Paris, France (EHESS) in 2018. He has an academic background in Arabic Dialectology and applied linguistics. He is Teaching Professor of Arabic & Safe Asylum: Refugee Politics and Pathways - a First year Ampersand Program composed of a fall and Spring courses: Mediterranean Migration dynamics & consequences on the EU and MENA; and Migration policies and Colonialism: Refugee Resettlement and Integration. His research interests: Social movements in MENA and EU countries; Migration and multiculturalism in the EU; Arab Diaspora(s) representation in Global North. His most recent article titled THE BUSINESS OF MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION Frontex: Corruption, Xenophobia? Crime? was published on BORDIGHERA Press, 2020.

PANELISTS

ADIL IMDAD

Adil Imdad is a Geotechnical Engineer in St. Louis and has been practicing since 1996 as a professional engineer. He is also the Chairman of Social Services of the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis. He opened up the first ever Muslim Funeral Home in Missouri in 2014 and so far has performed over 800 Muslim Funerals for free. In 2015, he founded a charity organization called BAITULMAL (House of Goods) for underserved people in St. Louis, particularly the refugee community. BAITULMAL is a free charity that provides furniture, clothing, used vehicles food, and rental assistance. In 2017, he founded BAITUSALAM (House of Peace) Women’s Shelter which provides safe shelter and support services to survivors of domestic violence and their children. All services are free and confidential. Last year, with the help of a few individuals, Mr. Imdad initiated a free COVID testing site in Ferguson, MO, which tested over 1,000 people. HE is a member of the US Attorney’s Hate Crime Task Force as well as the Mayor’s appointed Commissioner on Civil Rights Enforcement in the City of St. Louis and County Police Chaplin.

JESSICA MAYO

Jessica Mayo co-founded the Migrant and Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project with a law school classmate, Nicole Cortés. Jessica works with clients from across the globe, including Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Jessica graduated first in her class from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis in May 2012 with her J.D. She is licensed to practice law in Missouri. A combination of privileges led to Jessica’s graduation from WashU Law, and she now seeks to utilize her law degree to advance justice for those who lack the privileges that led to her success.
THINH NGUYEN

Thinh Nguyen is a Community Access Worker at Bilingual International. Originally from Vietnam, Thinh moved to St. Louis in 2011 to pursue a Masters in Legal Studies from Webster University. In his current role, Thinh serves as a caseworker for immigrant families in St. Louis. As one of the only staff persons who speaks Vietnamese, he is often the main source of support for individuals and families who need assistance with everything from setting up doctor's appointments to translating documents they receive in the mail. Thinh is passionate about taking care of people, which gives him motivation to continue his work. Some of the best parts include getting to speak Vietnamese every day and the traditional Vietnamese food that he often gets as a ‘thank you’ from clients. Thinh lives with his wife and two kids in South County.

WILFORD PINKNEY, JR.

Wilford Pinkney Jr. is the Mayor’s Office Director of Children, Youth, and Families with the singular purpose of making sure St. Louis’ children have the support and resources needed to lead productive and successful lives. He has worked in the criminal justice sector promoting safety, education, policy development and training for 28+ years. He served for 20 years as a member of the New York City Police Department and is founder and CEO of Puissance Management & Consulting LLC, which helps organizations create successful strategies and plans. He was the Chairperson of the School of Criminal Justice at Monroe College where he taught public policy. Prior to joining the administration, Pinkney was a FUSE Executive Fellow leading a cross sector group of stakeholders in the development of a comprehensive pretrial reform plan in the City of St. Louis.

Pinkney holds a B.S. in Organizational Management from Mercy College, a Masters in Public Administration from New York University, and a Master of Arts in Political Science from the CUNY Graduate Center. He is currently a doctoral candidate in Political Science at the CUNY Graduate Center where he specializes in public policy and American politics.