



Almanar Consultancy www.almanarconsultancy.com

Dr Fiona Hill

Owner & Lead Consultant of Almanar Consultancy, Dr Fiona Hill is a Cultural Anthropologist, Strategic Personality Advisor, and Social Impact Coach whose professional experience includes projects in Rail - Construction - Development - Education - Oil & Gas - HR - Philanthropy - Agribusiness - Tourism – Publishing – Recycling – and Digital Health for multinational businesses, small business and entrepreneurs, NGO's, and Arab & Australian Governments in Saudi Arabia, Libya, Oman, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the UAE, Kuwait, Tunisia, and Morocco.

Dr Hill focuses on taking the mystery out of the Arab region and Islamic faith practice by demonstrating the logic of Arab-Muslim clients and customers' values, and showing her clients practical ways to operate at their best and most authentic in both business and daily social interaction.

Her first Anthropological research was conducted amongst Bedouin communities settled along the banks of the Euphrates River in north-west Syria – a group who originally arrived from Saudi Arabia via Iraq and with whom Fiona lived for extended periods annually for over 30 years. She remains a member of this tribe and closely supports her extended family in their forced migration within Syria and outside it's borders.

Fiona actively seeks out opportunities to increase English-speaking countries' awareness of, and positive engagement with the MENA countries in trade, education, and cultural heritage preservation and exchange – always and in every case to mutual benefit.

Fiona Hill was Creator and Convenor of an immensely popular public lecture programs (2004, 2005) titled ***The Sense of Islam***: history, philosophy, law, arts, aesthetic, and contemporary lived realities of Islam. Both series were generously hosted by Asia Education Foundation at University of Melbourne.

Fiona founded the **Islamic World Discovery Project (IWDP)** as a school resource for teaching and learning about Arab and Islamic histories, ideas, cultures, economies, and cultural heritage preservation.

The IWDP's first publication '*Investigating Saudi Arabia: a modern Arab nation*' appeared in ***STUDIES of Society and Environment*** March/April 2007 and was distributed free of charge to every secondary school in Australia.

Dr Fiona Hill was commissioned by the Victorian Government Curriculum & Assessment Authority (VCCA) to create the fully Annotated Bibliographies for the **Victorian Certificate in Education (VCE) in Islamic Studies**, and she reviewed and improved Intermediate Years history textbook chapters on the **Islamic World** for John Wiley & Sons Australia (Jacaranda Press).

As an Honorary Fellow of the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, at **Deakin University** Fiona Hill remains close to the latest theories and methods in anthropological research and cultural heritage preservation. As Co-Investigator in the **University of Melbourne** 'Australia-Syria Archaeological & Historical Research Collaboration Project' - more commonly known as the Qal'at Nejm Project – and an Australian National Committee Member of Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative & Network (SHIRIN), Fiona Hill is closely engaged in scholarly and practical collaboration with cultural heritage experts across Australia, the USA, Europe, Syria and the greater Arab region.

Fiona Hill's practical skills in cultural heritage and social cohesion building are such that In 2013 the UNHCR invited her to spend time with the Camp Manager and UNHCR staff at Za'atari Syrian Refugee Camp in Jordan to interview refugees, survey the camp, and provide expert guidance on camp governance including education of children and economic opportunities for women.

In the same year Fiona was appointed as the Australia & New Zealand representative by the Kuwait Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs for it's "Sela' Project: A New Role for Oriental Studies Scholars & Civilisational Dialogue Specialists" designed to promote better philosophical engagement between Muslim and non-Muslim populations.

Fiona served 10 years on the Executive Committee of the **Australia Arabic Council** – Australia's peak Arabic community advocacy group – and on the Executive of **World Conference on Religions for Peace/Australia** for which she served a term as Secretary General.

The Australian Federal Government Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade appointed Dr Hill for two terms (2002 – 2008) to serve with the **Council for Australian Arab Relations (CAAR)**.

In 2014 Fiona was awarded the prestigious **Asia Institute Graduate Community Award** to honour her 3 decades of voluntary service to the promotion and improvement of Australia-Arab and Muslim relations.

In 2016, as voluntary President of the Korumburra Scout Group in rural Victoria, Fiona Hill brokered the ***first Australian Scouts Visit to an Arab country*** with Scouts, Leaders and parents fully hosted by Oman Scouts & Guides Association under the banner of the World Organisation of Scouts Movement (WOSM) 'Messengers of Peace' initiative. One result of this visit is that the Australian Scouts all have pledged to learn Arabic language and to spread the good word about the Arab and Islamic world.

Dr Mandy Mottram

- Highly skilled and experienced scholar, peer-reviewed author, and public presenter of cultural heritage issues.
- Extensive experience in working with government and non-governmental organisations with regards development projects that are likely to impact on significant Cultural Heritage sites.
- Profoundly sensitive to the Identification and assessment of national significance of Cultural Heritage sites and experienced in drafting Statements of Significance.
- Broad cultural competence in Arab environments, including a deep academic and practical knowledge of the history, cultures and politics of the broad Arab region.
- Broad and extensive practical experience in working with local communities and government and non-government organisations in both urban and rural communities.
- Intimate knowledge and extensive experience in liaising with government organizations on fieldwork projects, cultural heritage conservation, and museum collections.

- Extensive experience in liaison with local communities and stakeholders to ensure their full comprehension of and appropriate involvement in identification and preservation of places of cultural importance.
- High capacity in identification and assessment of significance of cultural sites of ALL historical eras.
- Close familiarity with UNESCO and ICOMOS processes and experience in critical approaches to their formulation and implementation.

Mohanned Qassar

- Bilingual (Arabic-English) research, writing & translation skills.
- Fully accredited by the National Accreditation Authority of Translators & Interpreters (NAATI)
- A journalist and author widely published in Arabic and English multimedia with full membership of the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance in Australia.
- Provides Arab and Islamic cultural awareness briefings too Australian Federal Government officials and departments.
- Runs weekly Arabic language discussion groups for Australian Federal Government employees including Foreign Affairs Diplomats and Ministry of Defence staff.
- Has high level of familiarity with Arab Government tender processes
- Extensive experience in working with Arab Government outreach projects to Australia
- Close working relationship with several Arab Government Diplomats in Australia.
