Urban Library 13 Details

**Advancing Happiness, Culture, and Sustainable Urbanisation in MENA**

This event will launch our book, Positive Psychology in the Middle East and North Africa Region, which features different authors and scholars who will serve as panellists. After brief opening introducing key concepts in cities and happiness (how happy are YOU today?), authors will pose questions to other panellists and attendees. The discussion will be informal, interactive, and will provide unique perspectives to city leaders and advocates on the diverse impact of culture.

**Organization Details**

**United World Infrastructure** Operating globally, United World Infrastructure (UWI) invests in the acquisition, development, and management of real-estate and infrastructure assets to stimulate economic growth, technology transfer, and foreign direct investment. Committed to people-centric communities, UWI transforms underutilized land into real-estate assets that attract development catalysts such as theme parks, hospitals, and schools. Its infrastructure assets for new cities include: road networks, water and drainage systems, sewage systems, electricity, telecom networks, and systems for renewable energy and recycling to ensure environmental sustainability. UWI’s financial products, including yield-driven development models and infrastructure and commercial concessions, optimize returns to city investors. Recently, UWI began offering advisory services to governments and government-linked entities to advance the development of happier cities through measurement and targeted policy, infrastructure, and service recommendations.

**Organization Country:** United Arab Emirates

**Summary**

In their recently published book, Positive Psychology in the Middle East/North Africa: Research, Policy, and Practise (Springer, 2019), Positive Psychologists, Dr. Louise Lambert and Dr. Nausheen Pasha-Zaidi Zaidi, explored the latest research within the various fields of positive psychology – positive health, positive education, positive clinical psychology, and positive community development as well as the emerging subthemes vital to urban development: building and infrastructure, big data, Islamic identity, national policy development, and aspects of youth employment.

During this lively and highly interactive panel, Dr. Lambert and other authors from the book will consider the role of culture and its critical role in supporting inclusion and innovation in cities.

The book contributors / panellists will include:

Mr. Aziz Mulay-Shah, Managing Director of Global Communications Agency in Dubai, is contributor to the chapter, Commercial Life, which considers the role the private sector plays in generating greater individual, organizational, community and national wellbeing.

Ms. Muna Odeh, a graduate of American University of Sharjah, is a contributor to the chapter, The Life of PII, Developing a Positive Islamic Identity, which explores how to help young people see themselves as contributing, worthy individuals when they are faced with many negative stereotypes in the media.

Ms. Aubrilyn Reeder, Associate Director at United World Infrastructure, is a contributor for the chapter, Happiness and the Built Environment which describes ways cities can be physically designed to support better physical and mental health and social connection.
Dr. Mansoor Habib, Head of Happiness & Tolerance at Du, is a contributor for the chapter Positivity at Work: It’s Not a Contradiction!, which explores the workplace health and wellness initiatives which he has helped implement within Du, one of Dubai’s largest telecommunications providers.

**Other Organization name**

**Middle East Journal of Positive Psychology (MEJPP)** MEJPP has the primary aim of developing an indigenous positive psychology in the Middle East/North Africa region, with particular although not exclusive, attention to the Arab world. The MEJPP is interested in happiness and well-being, as well as positive education, positive media, positive psychology clinical interventions, positive community development, positive health, positive cultural and social development, as well as positive organizational and workplace development.

**Prospective moderator, speaker(s) or panelist(s)**

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<th>First Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Dr. Louise</td>
<td>Lambert</td>
<td>Moderator</td>
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<td>2 Aziz</td>
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