

Angel and Venture Capital Investments: How to become an Angel Investor or VC

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

9:00 am ET/4:00 pm KSA

Virtual event via Zoom

Keynote Speaker Bio



Farah Foustok
CEO, Lazard Gulf Limited

Farah Foustok is the Chief Executive Officer of Lazard Gulf Ltd. based in Dubai. She began working in the investment field in 1994. Prior to joining Lazard in 2014, she was Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of ING Investment Management Middle East from 2008. Previously, she was the Head of Asset Management at NBD Investment Bank. Farah was a senior fund manager at EFG-Hermes prior to NBD IB, responsible for managing GCC and MENA funds and portfolios. Farah spent five years at Deutsche Bank in London, in Equity Strategy. She has also worked at Morgan Stanley within Equity Sales, followed by three years in commercial real estate advisory in Europe. Farah also has Private Equity exposure through a private venture in Argentina and an internet start-up in the UK. In 2012 Farah was elected as the chairperson of the board for the UAE Financial Services Association. In 2013, Farah co-founded the first non-profit female mentoring program in the DIFC, Dubai; Reach. In 2015 Farah co-founded and chaired the Steering Committee for the MENA chapter of the 30% club to develop & promote female leadership in the region. In 2019, Farah was awarded International Investment Woman of the Year by Women in Investment Awards, London. Farah is a Finance Leaders Fellow of the Aspen Institute. In January 2020, Farah launched TARA, speed mentoring NGO platform to connect the Education sector to the corporate world and develop future female leaders. Farah holds an MBA from Imperial College London and a BSc Hons in Mathematics from King's College, London.

Speaker Bios



Tala Al Jabri
General Partner, HOF Capital

Tala Al Jabri is a General Partner at HOF Capital, a global technology fund investing in next-gen technology companies that supports ambitious entrepreneurs from around the world build massive businesses. She focuses on global opportunities, particularly in financial technology. Tala is a founding member of Saudi Arabia's angel investment fund and is a member of its investment committee. She is a strategic advisor to Turmeric Capital, a premier PE firm focused on luxury and consumer brands in Asia and is a Board Member at Women In FinTech Bahrain. Prior to her current roles, Tala was an investor at SoftBank Vision Fund where she focused on investment opportunities in Africa and the Middle East and supported portfolio companies in their expansion strategies into emerging markets. Her work and original writing has been featured in Financial Times, Forbes, Entrepreneur Magazine, Asia Times and other widely-read publications. Tala holds an MBA from The Wharton School, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Finance & Women Studies from McGill University.



Mohammed Almeshekah

Founding Partner, Outliers Venture Capital

Mohammed is an entrepreneur, Kauffman Fellow and a technologist. He has previously founded and exited a Cybersecurity company, worked as a software engineer at Google and Mozilla and is an angel investor in several companies. He also advised a number of public and private organization in MENA leading a number of multi-billion dollar initiatives. He is a recognized cybersecurity thought-leader; previously winning the prestigious ACSAC award in its 31st year. He holds a PhD in Computer Science from Purdue focused on the intersection of Cybersecurity, Machine Learning and Cognitive Psychology.



Faris AlRashed

Founder & Chairman of the Board of Trustees, OQAL Angel Investors Network

Faris AlRashed is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of OQAL Angel Investors network, the first angel investors network in the Saudi Arabia. He is also the Founder and Chairman of the Fund Board at Derayah. Faris co-founded and chaired the Youth Businessmen Forum in Riyadh's Chamber of Commerce for three years. He is a founding partner of number of startups in Saudi including Careem, Dopravo, Halalah and others.

Faris is currently a board member of Dallah HealthCare Company, Derayah Financial, Shaker Company, Saudi HoamLoans Co., and others. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from King Saud University graduated from the EDP Program at MIT's Sloan School of Management and also the SOAMPLP Programme at Oxford University's Said Business School.



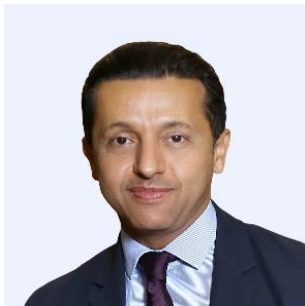
Liz Leahy

Founding Partner, Purple Sage Ventures

Liz Leahy is an early-stage investor, start-up advisor, and entrepreneur with 20 years of experience leading companies to achievement. With proven success developing digital platform solutions and building brand and marketing strategies, Liz uses her skills to harness the power of discovery, creativity and innovation. Entrepreneurial education sits at the nexus of her passion for creating opportunities for young companies to grow and thrive through her deep relationships with her alma maters, Columbia University and Georgetown University. She sits on the

Board of the Columbia Business School Lang Center for Entrepreneurship and is the current Board Chair of the Georgetown University Angel Investor Network (GAIN). Liz is also an enthusiastic coach and mentor to student and alumni entrepreneurs. She guest-lectures and holds office hours at Columbia Business School and is currently the "Pitch Coach in Residence" at the Columbia University Startup Lab. Liz is also a champion for equality in funding. She is a CBS Women's Circle Founder, a group that serves to celebrate and elevate female business leaders. She recently launched Purple Sage Ventures, an early-stage fund focused on underrepresented founders who are undervalued and underfunded.

Moderator Bios



Amjad Ahmad

Director and Resident Senior Fellow, empowerME, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Atlantic Council

Amjad Ahmad is director and resident senior fellow of empowerME at the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. He focuses on shaping innovative investments to empower entrepreneurs, women, and youth in the Middle East. He develops strategies and policies to drive sustainable prosperity through the creation of dynamic entrepreneurial economies, the economic participation of women, and educational transformation. Amjad is also managing partner of the venture capital firm Precinct Partners and serves on the boards of Eyewa, Tapal Tea, RSA Global, Mumzworld, Mr. Usta and The Luxury Closet. Based in the United Arab Emirates for fifteen years prior to moving to Washington, DC, Amjad has collaborated with business leaders and entrepreneurs to build leading companies in the Middle East. Through his work as a venture capital and growth investor, Amjad established two investment firms in the region that provided over \$1 billion in funding to over fifty companies in sectors ranging from technology and education to healthcare and finance. During the past five years, Amjad has focused his investments on entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology. Amjad holds a master's degree in international affairs with a concentration in international finance and economics from Columbia University and is a graduate of the general management program at Harvard Business School.



Nadereh Chamlou

Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Nadereh Chamlou is a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's empowerME initiative and an international development advisor. Previously, she was a senior advisor at the World Bank, where over a 30+ years career, she held managerial, technical, coordination, and advisory positions in such fields as economic management, corporate governance, private sector development, financial markets, environment, infrastructure, and gender. Her work has focused on private sector and entrepreneurship development, particularly on issues related to promoting growth and competitiveness through better utilization of the talent pool and benefiting from diversity and inclusion. She co-authored the World Bank flagship report on "Corporate Governance: A Framework for Implementation," which led to the founding of the World Bank/OECD-sponsored Global Corporate Governance Forum; and, headed its Secretariat from 1998-2000. Other publications include "Gender and Development in the MENA Region – Women in the Public Sphere"; "The Environment for Women's Entrepreneurship in the MENA Region"; and "Women, Work, Welfare in the MENA Region". Additionally, she served as an Adjunct Professor at New York University's Wagner School for Public Policy, as a Member of the scientific committee of the Dutch Gender Task Force (2009), and was the Founding Member of the World Bank-sponsored Gender Economic Research and Policy Analysis (GERPA) for the MENA Region and a member of its Steering and Advisory Committees (2006-2013). Presently, Mrs. Chamlou is actively involved with several premier international organizations focusing on women's empowerment, innovation, and entrepreneurship, such as Member of the Board of iBridges initiative for IT entrepreneurship; Member of the International Advisory Committee of Nyenrode Business Universiteit in The Netherlands; Advisor to the Center for International Private Enterprise; Member of the Board of the International Iranian Economic Association; ex-Member of the Board of the World Bank Retiree Association and Chair of its Pension Group; Member of the Board of Advisors of the National Iranian-American Council; Advisor to the Board of the Tunis-based Center for Arab Women's Training and Research; Member of the Board of the Arab International Women's Forum; and co-Founder of The Billion

Dollar Fund for Women. Besides continuing her research work and publications, she is a frequent speaker at international conferences, and an oft-invited commentator on current issues related to the Middle East and women's empowerment. She was educated at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and its Graduate School of Economics, and received The Global Alliance for Women's 2015 "Making a Difference" Award.



Jaime Stansbury

Co-Chair, Women in Business Committee, American Chamber of Commerce in Saudi Arabia

Jaime Stansbury has been based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for over a decade. She first came to Saudi Arabia as a strategy and operations consultant in Deloitte Consulting's Federal Practice in Washington D.C. For two years, she led operations to set-up a bilateral program management office for the U.S Embassy in Riyadh. After launching her own consulting practice six years ago, Ms. Stansbury has been advising leading government ministries, higher education institutions, and multinational firms. Her insights into the local culture and ability to communicate in Arabic brings clarity to projects and helps create strong connections built on trust. Currently as a consultant to the Institute of International Education in the Gulf, Ms. Stansbury leads the effort to develop programs and partnerships for international exchange and workforce development with government entities, higher education institutions, foundations and the private sector. For over a century, IIE has been the global leader in international education and annually designs and manages over 200 programs with more than 27,000 participants from 180 countries including ExxonMobil, Chevron, Cargill and Adobe Foundation, GE, Baker Hughes, and Google. Ms. Stansbury currently chairs the Women in Business Committee for the American Chamber of Commerce Saudi Arabia and is spearheading efforts to increase and support the growing number of American and Saudi businesswomen and industry professionals working in Saudi Arabia. A graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service with a Master of Arts in Arab Studies program, Ms. Stansbury concentrated in economics and education in the Arab World. She is currently pursuing her MBA at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.