

**~Tribute to our Dear Colleague, Dr. Laila El Baradei  
Professor of Public Administration & Policy at the American University in Cairo, Egypt~**

رحمها الله وأسكنها فسيح جناته

It is with the deepest sorrow and sadness that we, members of the ASPA-Section on African Public Administration (SAPA), pay this tribute to our departed dear colleague and friend, Dr. Laila El Baradei, who recently passed away so suddenly. Her passing has created such a huge void in our hearts and minds that we will continue to feel it for a long, long time. We have not only lost an outstanding professional colleague of stature but also a dear, caring, and compassionate person, educator and mentor. We join hands with everyone to pay this solemn tribute to her impactful work and the unparalleled legacy that she has left behind.

Many of our senior and junior colleagues at SAPA with whom we grieve and mourn for many more weeks and months to come, will remember Dr. El Baradei rightly and widely regarded as a respected scholar and researcher in a variety of fields, including public administration, public policy, and MENA studies. They do so not without reason because of her regular participation and diligent presentations at ASPA-SICA and SAPA, NASPAA, APPAM, IASIA, amongst other global public policy and administration academic networks. She will be remembered for her clearly articulated, evidence-based, and concise presentations and cutting-edge scholarship.

Together, our SAPA community mourns with, and extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Laila El Baradei's family, friends, colleagues, and students, and all who were fortunate enough to know her and work with her. We celebrate her work, life, grace, and legacy. She will be fondly remembered but sorely missed for years to come.

May Allah receive and bless her gentle soul!



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Many more will not hesitate to testify to the fact that Dr. El Baradei was among the best of the best in our professional and academic communities in every aspect. She made meaningful contributions to our understanding of governance, policy and institutional development across the Middle East and North Africa, including globally. Her scholarship was rigorous, deeply rooted in real-world contexts and cultures, thereby helping to close gaps and build bridges between theory and practice in impactful ways. Her most recent international scholar award at NASPAA 2024 is but one piece of evidence attesting to her widely recognized scholarship.

There is much more to Dr. El Baradei’s research and scholarship than meets the eye. It is the breadth and depth that stand out to us. Several colleagues from SAPA had the privilege and honor of collaborating with her and appreciating the breadth and depth of her experience, expertise, and commitment to advancing public administration and policy in her native Egypt. Her publication in the International Journal of Public Administration at the height of COVID-19 opened our eyes to the gaps between rhetoric and reality in governance. Likewise, her two book chapters in Climate Governance in International and Comparative Perspective provide critical insights into the complexities of climate policy and governance, using Egypt as a case example. If these book chapters say anything to us, it is both the challenge and the practical solution for sustainable development along the lines suggested by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Yet, Dr. El Baradei was more than a scholar. Her presence at our professional gatherings was always marked by insight, generosity, and a true collegial spirit. She asked thoughtful questions, offered encouragement freely, and was deeply committed to elevating the work of those around her. She was a friend indeed, a mentor, and a valued member of our community. Her legacy will endure in the work she has left behind and in the many lives she touched with her kindness. Together, we mourn with, and extend our heartfelt condolences to, Dr. El Baradei’s family, friends, colleagues, and students, and all who were fortunate enough to know her and work with her. We celebrate her work, life, grace, and legacy. She will be fondly remembered but sorely missed for years to come. May Allah receive and bless her gentle soul --*Peter Haruna and Aziza Zemrani*

Dr. El Baradei has been a dedicated member of the Global Council of the Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration for many years. As a global council member, she proactively and significantly contributed to organizing NASPAA's PAA annual symposium. As an educator and mentor, she has actively supported her students' participation in the Capstone Panel at the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), where several of her students received awards. She has also occasionally participated in sessions of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN CEPA), contributing valuable insights, and amplifying the voices of public administration education and research from her country and region --*Bok Gyo Jeong*

I am out of words to express my sadness, sorrow, and shock. I lost a teacher, a mentor, a dear friend, and a colleague, who have been so supportive and welcoming in every step of the way. I pray that Allah welcomes Dr. Laila El Baradei in heaven and blesses her family, friends and colleagues with the patience and wisdom to mourn and grief. What a loss. May she rest in peace --*Bakry Elmedni*

Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. May Allah's mercy be upon the departed souls. I am lost for words! -- **Atta Ceesay**

Dr. El Baradei, whose untimely passing has deeply saddened us all. Her premature departure from this life reminds us of the fragility of our earthly journey. Dr. El Baradei was not only a respected scholar but also a kind soul whose contributions enriched SAPA community. Her dedication to advancing knowledge and her spirit of collaboration will remain an enduring part of SAPA's collective memory. May Dr. El Baradei's memory continue to inspire, and may peace and comfort be granted to her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of working alongside her --**Gedeon Mudacumura**

During the last three decades, starting with our initial acquaintance through the Fulbright-funded programs I administered, Dr. El Baradei stood out for her dedication to mutual understanding, creative and significant scholarship, and tireless support to students and colleagues. She was extraordinarily gracious and relational toward those with whom she worked in the U.S. and across the globe. Her tragic passing leaves a hole in many a heart. May all with whom she collaborated make her legacy shine even brighter --**Deborah Trent**

إرحمها الله! It is with a heavy heart that I learnt the passing of our colleague and dear friend, Dr. Laila El Baradei, Professor of Public Administration at the Department of Public Policy and Administration at the AUC School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP). On behalf of ASPA-Section on African Public Administration (SAPA), I extend our heartfelt condolences to her loved ones, colleagues, and students. Her wide-reaching scholarship, student-dedicated pedagogy and humanity will be dearly missed. During SAPA's recent Symposium in Washington DC, Dr El Baradei shared insightful research on the future of public service intergenerational workforce, while reconnecting with everyone and extending warm smiles. Who knew she was saying goodbye! To her students at the American University of Cairo, she will be remembered for being a student-centered educator, a champion of student achievements and a visionary with a strong ethic of care. Egypt and the African PA community including SAPA lost a great PA scholar, colleague, and an inspirational leader. May she and her husband rest in peace and may her loved ones, colleagues and students be granted the strength to overcome her tragic loss --**Rym Kaki**.