

# SUJA R. SAWAFTA

## EDUCATION

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- University of Oxford** 2014- January 2021  
**DPhil (PhD)**, Oriental Studies, Modern Arabic Literature  
**Dissertation Title:** “The Dialectic of the Sea and the Desert: Exile, Environment, and Politics in the novels of Abdulrahman Munif,” under the supervision of Prof. Mohamed-Salah Omri.
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** 2011-2013  
**M.A.**, Romance Languages and Literatures, Concentration: Franco-Arab Studies  
**Thesis Title:** “Mapping the Middle East: From Bonaparte’s Egypt to Chateaubriand’s Palestine”
- Duke University** 2011-2013  
**Graduate Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies**, The Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro** 2006-2010  
**B.A.**, International Studies, French and Francophone Language & Literature  
**Awarded with honors**, Lloyd International Honors College  
▪ Minors: Political Science, History  
**Honors Thesis Title:** “Land as Cultural Symbol in Contemporary Levantine Literature and Film”

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

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- Assistant Professor of Arabic Studies, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL** August 2020 – Present
- Visiting Researcher, MESALC, UVA, Charlottesville, VA** Spring 2020
- Visiting Lecturer of Arabic Language & Literature, UVA, Charlottesville, VA** August 2018- December 2019
- Coordinator & Lecturer of Arabic Studies, UNC-G, Greensboro, NC** August 2017- May 2018  
▪ Built a course sequence for beginners to intermediate language courses in Arabic.  
▪ Affiliated scholar, UNCG Islamic Studies Research Network.
- Adjunct Lecturer of French and Francophone Studies, UNC-G, Greensboro, NC** Fall 2017
- Tutorial Instructor, Stanford University in Oxford, Oxford, UK** Spring 2016
- Interlink Language Centers/ Technical and Vocational College, Jeddah, KSA** August 2013 – July 2014  
▪ Taught Saudi Arabian women English as a foreign language at TVTC English Gate Academy.  
▪ Courses taught include communication, language module workshops, reading, and writing.
- The Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, UNC Chapel-Hill** August 2011-May 2013  
Graduate Teaching Fellowship

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book Manuscripts in Progress:

*The Dialectic of the Sea and the Desert: Exile, Commitment, and Dissent in the Novels of Abdulrahman Munif*, Book proposal in progress.

*Collective Volume on Jabra Ibrahim Jabra* (Currently Untitled), co-edited with Khalid Lyamlahy (University of Chicago), Manuscript in Progress.

## Peer-reviewed Articles:

“Cinematic Life-Writing In *An Iraqi in Paris*,” co-written with Samhita Sunya, in Print Plus cluster on Global South Cinemas, *Modernism/modernity* (In Press)

“Ghurba and Language in Abdulrahman Munif and Edward Said’s Life Writing,” *Journal of Palestine Studies* (Under Review)

“Migrations of a Native Son: Richard Wright and Tayib Salih on Blackness and Othering” (In Preparation)

“Alien at Home: Narrating Dystopia in *Frankenstein in Baghdad* and *The Secret Life of Saeed*” (In Preparation)

## Non-Refereed Essays and Book Chapters:

Book Chapter, “New Palestinian Writing: A Case Study for a Decolonial Practice of Translation,” in *Is it Possible to Decolonize Translation?*, Tilted Axis Press. (In Press)

“Palestine, Proust, and Praxis,” in *Decades of Fire: A Special Issue on the Middle East and North Africa*, *Michigan Quarterly Review* (Under Review).

## LITERARY TRANSLATIONS

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Hlehel, Ala’. Trans. Suja Sawafta, (Ed.) Nathalie Handal. “The City and the Writer: In Qadita with Ala’ Hlehel,” *Words Without Borders*, 2016 (Also published in “Palestinians and the City,” a project run by the Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia University, commissioned).

Badr, Liana. Trans. Suja Sawafta, (Ed.) Nathalie Handal. “The City and the Writer: In Jerusalem with Liana Badr,” *Words Without Borders*, 2016 (Also published in “Palestinians and the City,” a project run by the Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia University, commissioned).

## PUBLIC WRITING (SELECT)

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Poem, “Chasing the Lights of Ajloun,” in the Home Issue, *Jaffat El Aqlam*, Issue 4, August 2019.

Interview, “The comeback of rapper-poet Omar Offendum,” *Middle East Monitor*, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190617-the-comeback-of-rapper-poet-omar-offendum/>

Book Review, “A Woman is No Man,” *Middle East Monitor*, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190402-a-woman-is-no-man/>

Opinion Piece, “Munif to Khashoggi: the cost of dissent in the new Saudi Age,” *Middle East Monitor*, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20181020-from-munif-to-khashoggi-the-cost-of-dissent-in-the-new-saudi-age/>

Album Review, “From the Balfour to the Balfron: 47Soul proves there’s passion in the Exodus,” *Middle East Monitor*, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180208-from-the-balfour-to-the-balfron-47-soul-proves-theres-passion-in-the-exodus/>

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (SELECT)

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Curator, Core Planning Group, DC Palestinian Film and Arts Festival (DCPFAF), 2021- Present

Sawafta et al., “Assistant Professor of Arabic Studies Suja Sawafta [afikra Conversations],” The afikra Podcast, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Moderator, Returning Home: A Tribute to Mourid Barghouti, Palestinian Youth Movement Land Day Event, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Panelist, ISGH Inspire & Innovate Webinar Series: Inspiring Women Series, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Judge, Annual Ghassan Kanafani Resistance Arts Scholarship, 2020-2021.

Sawafta et al., "The Environmental Politics of Abdulrahman Munif," Ottoman History Podcast, Episode 414. June 15, 2019.

Guest Moderator, "Selected Readings from Hanan Al-Shaykh's *Story of Zabara*," The Jefferson Literary & Debate Society, University of Virginia, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Moderator, "Panel Discussion: Building Community: Refugees + Immigrants in the Triad," Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

Guest, "The Afterlives of 9/11 and its Impact on Community," Woke Wednesdays, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Discussant, "And They Said Refugee," Film Premiere, Exeter College, University of Oxford, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Guest, "Goolsby Defends Potential Racial Justice Act," *The State of Things*, with Frank Statio, NPR. April 5, 2013.

### **INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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"Woman at Point Zero: The Feminist Legacy of Nawal El Saadawi," GSS Colloquium, University of Miami, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

"To Stand Accused: Abdulrahman Munif's Negotiation of an Arab Exile in Amman," The Arab World as *Ghurba* Conference, University of Warwick, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

"A Novel for the People: The Use of a 'Middle Language' in the Works of Abdulrahman Munif," Languages of Legitimation: Cambridge Graduate Middle East Conference, University of Cambridge, June 6-7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

"The Dialectic of the Sea and the Desert: Exile, Commitment, and Dissent in the Novels of Abdulrahman Munif," MESALC Interdisciplinary Forum, University of Virginia, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Keynote Address, UNC-Greensboro University Marshall Induction Ceremony, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

"A Brief History of Orientalist Images in the Ottoman Levant," Interfaith-Peace Builders Webinar, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (invited talk)

Convener, "Crossings: Negotiating Borders and Boundaries in the Eastern Mediterranean," University of Oxford, April 29-30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

"Navigating Space and Place in Israel/Palestine," Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (invited talk)

"Between Art and Resistance: Graffiti from Berlin to Bethlehem," Department of Geography, University of North Carolina, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (invited talk)

"The Use of Language and Art in the Arab Spring," CHICLE Language Institute, Carrboro, NC, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

"Othering Jerusalem: The Politics of Imperial Representation," Duke-UNC Islam in the Global Context Series, The University of North Carolina, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

"Islamophobia and the Politics of Othering Post-9/11," The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, November 2010 & March 2011 (invited talk)

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

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UMiami DaVinci Scholars Program Course Proposal	October 2021
UVA, MESALC Departmental Research Award	November 2019
UVA MESALC Departmental Research Award	August 2018
UNCG LLC Departmental Research Award	August 2017
Grant, The Antonian Fund STAR Grant, Oxford University	March 2017
Grant, The Antonian Fund STAR Grant, Oxford University	January 2017
Grant, AHRC-TORCH Graduate Fund, Oxford University	December 2016
Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Department of Romance Languages, UNC	August 2011 – May 2013
René Hadré Scholarship for French Studies, UNCG	May 2010-May 2011
Fellow, Abraham's Vision Conflict Resolution Fellowship	June 2009 – March 2010
Lloyd International Honors College Study Abroad Scholarship, UNCG	December 2008

## COURSES & TEACHING

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### University of Miami:

- **ARB 315/207/GSS 360:** Writers and Rebels: The Female Renegades of Arabic Lit & Film
- **ARB 310/FRE 310/MLL 325:** Franco-Arab Cinema/World Cinema
- **ARB 201:** Intermediate Arabic I
- **ARB 202:** Intermediate Arabic II
- **ARB 203:** Advanced Arabic I
- **ARB 591:** Directed Readings (Undergraduate Independent Study)
- **ARB 792:** Directed Readings (Graduate Independent Study)
- **French 202:** Intermediate French II

### University of Virginia:

- **ARAB 4210/7210:** Introduction to Arabic Drama (taught in MSA for Advanced Arabic Students)
- **ARTR 3290/5290:** Exile/Return in Arabic literature (In translation)
- **ARAB 3810/5810:** Modern Arabic Fiction (taught in MSA for Advanced Arabic Students)
- **ARTR 3350/5350:** Writing Rebellion: an introduction to the female renegades in Arabic literature & film (In translation)
- **ARAB 4890/8890:** Bedouins, Indigeneity & Environment

### University of North Carolina at Greensboro:

- **ARB 101:** Elementary Arabic I
- **ARB 102:** Elementary Arabic II
- **ARB 203:** Intermediate Arabic I
- **ARB 204:** Intermediate Arabic II
- **HSS 217:** Exile/Return in Arabic Literature
- **Co-Instructor: FRE 455/693:** "Introduction to Francophone Caribbean Literature."

### Stanford University in Oxford:

- **Tutorial:** "Geopolitical Shock and Identity in the Levant"

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

- **French 101:** Elementary French I (Instructor of Record, Taught in Collaboration)
- **French 102:** Elementary French II (Instructor of Record, Taught in Collaboration)

## SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

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Member of Lectures Committee (2020 – Present)

Judge, Student Award for Outstanding Writing in Islamic Studies, Department of Religious Studies, Spring 2021.

Member of Undergraduate Affairs Committee (2020-2021)

Assisting the Director of Arabic Studies in Program Development (2020-2021)

## **CERTIFICATIONS & ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING**

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Accelerated Turkish Language Program, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford University  
Preparation for Learning and Teaching in Oxford (PLTO), Humanities Division  
TESOL/TESL/TFL Certification, Oxford Seminars

October 2015-June 2017  
January 2017  
July 2013

## **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

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English: Native or Bilingual Fluency  
Arabic: Native or Bilingual Fluency  
French: Bilingual Fluency  
Spanish: Intermediate Fluency  
Reading languages: Turkish, Italian, Maltese