

SUJA R. SAWAFTA

EDUCATION

-
- University of Oxford** 2014-2021
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
 - 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
- Visiting Lecturer of Arabic Language & Literature, UVA, Charlottesville, VA** August 2018- December 2019
 - **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
- 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.
 - Courses: **Arabic 101, 102, 203, 204 & HSS 217:** Exile/Return in Arabic Literature
 - Affiliated scholar, UNCG Islamic Studies Research Network.
- Adjunct Lecturer of French and Francophone Studies, UNC-G, Greensboro, NC** Fall 2017
 - Co-instructor of **FRE 455/693:** “Introduction to Francophone Caribbean Literature.”
 - Literary content focused on the Negritude movement, Haitian history, exile, the post-colonial condition, and the formation of indigenous literary movements in the Caribbean.
- Tutorial Instructor, Stanford University in Oxford, Oxford, UK** Spring 2016
 - Taught “Geopolitical shock and Identity in the Levant,” a weekly tutorial for Stanford students in Oxford
- Interlink Language Centers/ Technical and Vocational College, Jeddah, KSA** August 2013 – July 2014
 - Taught Saudi Arabian women English as a foreign language 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

Instructor of Record, taught in collaboration:

- French 101 and French 102

PUBLICATIONS

In preparation, Migrations of a Native Son: Richard Wright and Tayib Salih on Blackness & Othering.”

In preparation, “Alien” at Home: Narrating Dystopia in *The Secret Life of Saeed & Frankenstein in Baghdad*.”

“The Arabic Poetry Issue: Revolution & Rebellion,” Guest-Editor, *The International Poetry Review*. (Forthcoming, Spring 2021)

LITERARY TRANSLATIONS

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)

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 17th, 2019, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190617-the-comeback-of-rapper-poet-omar-offendum/>

Book Review, “Uma mulher não é nenhum homem,” *Monitor do Oriente*, April 13th, 2019. <https://www.monitordo Oriente.com/20190413-uma-mulher-nao-e-nenhum-homem/>

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

Opinion Piece, « De Munif a Khashoggi : El Precio de disentir en la neuva era saudí, » *Monitor de Oriente*, October 24, 2018, <https://www.monitordo Oriente.com/20181024-de-munif-a-khashoggi-el-precio-de-disentir-en-la-nueva-era-saudi/>

Opinion Piece, “Munif to Khashoggi: the cost of dissent in the new Saudi Age,” *Middle East Monitor*, October 20th, 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 8th, 2018. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180208-from-the-balfour-to-the-balfron-47-soul-proves-theres-passion-in-the-exodus/>

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (SELECT)

Panelist, ISGH Inspire & Innovate Webinar Series: Inspiring Women Series, 2021

Judge, Annual Ghassan Kanafani Resistance Arts Scholarship, 2020.

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 Zabra*,” The Jefferson Literary & Debate Society, University of Virginia, November 15th, 2018.

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

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

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

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

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"To Stand Accused: Abdulrahman Munif's Negotiation of an Arab Exile in Amman," The Arab World as *Ghurba* Conference, University of Warwick, June 21st, 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 6-7th, 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 28th, 2019.

Keynote Address, UNC-Greensboro University Marshall Induction Ceremony, April 7th, 2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SERVICE

Undergraduate Affairs Committee

Lectures Committee

Assisting the Director of Arabic Studies in Program Development

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

UVA, MESALC Departmental Research Award

November 2019

UVA MESALC Departmental Research Award

August 2018

UNCG 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

CERTIFICATIONS & ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

Accelerated Turkish Language Program, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford University October 2015-June 2017
Preparation for Learning and Teaching in Oxford (PLTO), Humanities Division January 2017
TESOL/TESL/TFL Certification, Oxford Seminars July 2013

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

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