

YEAR IN
REVIEW

2020
2022

مجلس الدراسات
العربية والإسلامية

ASU Council for Arabic
& Islamic Studies

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

A unit of the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Arizona State University
Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies
2020-2022 Year in Review

A unit of the [ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
with administrative support from the
[School for International Letters and Cultures](#)

Message from

Dr. Souad T. Ali, Founding Chair



A reflection of the New American University concept, the mission of the *ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies* is to advance quality research and teaching promoting multiculturalism, cross-cultural understanding, diversity, interfaith dialogue and the expansion of human civilization and cultures through Arabic, Middle Eastern, and Islamic Studies.

The 2020 - 2022 academic period witnessed the resumption of our Lecture Series featuring prominent world scholars, including Dr. Tahera Qutbuddin, Dr. Amina Wadud, Dr. Roagia Abusharaf, Dr. Scott Lucas, Ambassador Maen Rashid Areikat, Amirah Ismail among others. The Council's lectures explored critical, timely and significant topics surrounding Arabic and Islamic Studies including, "The Subtle Pleasures of hidden Treasures: Thoughts on Arabic Manuscripts in American Libraries," Half a century of Islam and Feminism," "Piety, Ethics, and Politics in the Friday Sermon of Islam," "Burning Desires: Zanzibari Women in the Throes of Concubinage and Forced Marriage," "Diversity Diplomacy, careers at the U.S. Department of State," "One World, Two Cultures," among others. Within the context of outreach and social embeddedness, the lectures generated important scholarly discussions that engaged speakers with large audiences of faculty, students and members of the greater Phoenix community.

Our Arabic Film and Poetry Series continued introducing the ASU and Arizona communities to cultural aspects of Arab and Middle Eastern society and culture through films rarely seen in the West, and a rich variety of classical, contemporary, and modern Arabic poetry followed by faculty-led scholarly discussions engaging ASU students and faculty. The new Season of the Series continued successfully and creatively featuring Classical and Contemporary/Modern Arabic Poetry; as well as several award-winning films including, "For Sama," "You Will Die at Twenty," "He Named Me Malala," "Brotherhood," "The Last Men in Aleppo," and others.

We continue our collaboration with our national and international partners, including Georgetown University, the University of Chicago, Harvard University, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiya, the American University of Kuwait, and Egyptian and Turkish Universities. Our Middle Eastern Studies Program hosted two Fulbright FLTA Fellows for Arabic and Turkish from Libya and Turkey. As Liaison of the ASU/Egyptian Cultural & Educational Bureau (ECEB) MOU, in partnership with USAID, it was my pleasure to facilitate the arrival of two scholars from Egypt, Dr. Sarah Wahba and Dr. Koloud Abdel-Raouf Bakhit whose fellowships and training programs were affiliated with the ASU Biodesign Institute, and the Tourism programs.

The Council's future activities include conferences, colloquium, panel series, workshops, faculty and student exchange programs, student teaching assistantship and internship opportunities, as well as seed-grants to enrich faculty research on the Council's mission, pending university and fundraising initiatives. Several national and international grant proposals have already been submitted. The Council has also recently been invited to submit additional grant proposals by Gulf universities as well as the Diplomatic Institute in Qatar.

It is my distinct pleasure to extend my thanks and appreciation to our sponsors, affiliates and Council friends, and to invite faculty, staff and students to continue engaging in our programs and events. Supporting the Council's fundraising program provides the opportunity to invest in its vision and mission. I am honored to be the Founding Chair of the Council at such an important transitional period in Arab and Muslim - U.S. and West relations.

Vision

Reflecting on the rich diversity of both Arabic Studies and Islamic Studies, the interdisciplinary program of the Council integrates the study of and research in Arabic and Islamic studies in diverse regions such as the Middle East, including the Arab World, Turkey and Iran, as well as Islamic Studies in regions beyond the Middle East and North Africa in countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other Muslim majority countries. The program promotes the teaching of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish as well as other languages taught in ASU's School of International Letters and Cultures including Indonesian and Hindi-Urdu, in collaboration with the study of sociology, history, politics, anthropology, and religion.

Mission

The Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies was established at Arizona State University to acknowledge the significant contributions of Arabic Studies and Islamic civilization and cultures to the world at large both historically and in the modern age. The Council's research and teaching programs seek to promote multiculturalism, diversity, inter-faith dialogue, cross-cultural understanding, and the expansion of human civilization and cultures through Arabic as well as other Middle-Eastern languages including Persian and Turkish. The Council seeks to develop constructive academic and cultural interaction and partnerships between ASU and similar groups in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Initiatives

The Council holds a variety of initiatives throughout the academic year including the annual Lecture Series, Arabic Film and Poetry Series, symposia, workshops, and events throughout the ASU and greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

ARABIC film&poetry series

Engaging night of art, culture, & faculty-led scholarly discussion

Classical Arabic Poetry
February 8, 7:30 PM

Film: YOU WILL DIE AT TWENTY
February 15, 7:30 PM

Film: Last Men in Aleppo
February 22, 7:30 PM

Contemporary & Modern Arabic Poetry
February 29, 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>

Council of Arab and Islamic Studies presents

The Subtle Pleasures of Hidden Treasures:

Thoughts on Arab Manuscripts in American Libraries

Annual Lecture Series featuring
Dr. Scott Lucas
University of Arizona

Organized and moderated by Dr. Susan T. Al, CAS Founding Chair

October 21, 2021, 6:00 PM
Virtual Zoom: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>
Link & QR code: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>

ARABIC film&poetry series

Engaging night of art, culture, & faculty-led scholarly discussion

November 15, 7:30 PM

Featuring Classical and Modern Arabic poetry

Engaging Evening of Classic, Contemporary, and Modern Arabic Poetry, narration, music, and discussion.

Film: **Capernaum**
November 22, 7:30 PM

November 15 @ November 24
All Times Central & PST. Open to the PDS community. CAS and ASU.

Link to Zoom: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/783716302>

Council of Arab and Islamic Studies presents

One World, Two Cultures: A Personal Journey

Annual Lecture Series featuring
Ambassador Maen Rashid Aneikat
Organized and Moderated by Dr. Susan T. Al, CAS Founding Chair

April 7, 2022, Virtual Delivery, 6:30 - 8 PM
Virtual Zoom: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>

ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

ARABIC film&poetry series

Engaging night of art, culture, & faculty-led scholarly discussion

Classical and Modern Arabic Poetry
February 29, 7:30 PM

Film: Brotherhood
March 19th, 7:30 PM

Engaging Evening of Classical, Contemporary, and Modern Arabic Poetry, narration, music, and discussion.

March 19th, 7:30 PM

Virtual Zoom: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>
Link to Zoom: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>

Council of Arab and Islamic Studies presents

Piety, Ethics, and Politics in the Friday Sermon of Islam

Annual Lecture Series featuring
Prof. Tahera Aabuddin
Professor of Arabic, Literature and Islamic Studies at University of Chicago

Organized & Moderated by Dr. Susan T. Al, CAS Founding Chair

March 17th, 2022, 6:30 PM
Virtual Zoom: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>

Council of Arab and Islamic Studies presents

Diversity, Diplomacy, and Careers at the U.S. Department of State

Annual Lecture Series featuring
Amirah Ismail
Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Department of State

Organized & Moderated by Dr. Susan T. Al, CAS Founding Chair

Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:00 - 1:00 PM
Virtual Zoom: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>

Council of Arab and Islamic Studies presents

Half a Century of Islam and Feminism

Annual Lecture Series featuring
Dr. Amina Wadud
Visiting Professor, National Islamic University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Organized and moderated by Dr. Susan T. Al, CAS Founding Chair

March 3, 2022, 6:30 PM
Virtual Zoom: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>

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Lecture Series

The annual Lecture Series brings leading world scholars to the ASU community to explore timely, critical, and related topics surrounding Arabic and Islamic Studies.

Piety, Ethics, and Politics in the Friday Sermon of Islam. October 17th, 2022



Professor Tahera Qutbuddin. The Friday sermon that is an intrinsic part of Muslim ritual across the globe today has a long history rooted in the first Friday sermon delivered by the Prophet Muhammad in Medina, and more broadly in the multifunctional orations of the early Islamic world. Across the mosques, homes, battlefields, and open town spaces of the Middle East in the 7th and 8th centuries AD, religion, politics, and aesthetics coalesced in the richly artistic public performance of spontaneous Arabic oration (khuṭba). Exquisite in rhetorical craftsmanship, interactive speeches and sermons by Muḥammad, 'Alī, and other political and military early Muslim leaders were also the major vehicle of policymaking and persuasion, and the primary conduit for dissemination of ethical, legal, and religious teachings. Drawing on ten years of research for her recently published book, *Arabic Oration: Art and Function* (Brill, Handbook of Oriental Studies series, 2019), Professor Qutbuddin discussed the Prophet Muhammad's first Friday sermon, and sermons by early Muslim political and military leaders, exploring their major themes of piety and ethics, in intersection with their religio-political goals. Her Lecture offered remarks on echoes of this heritage, and divergences from it, in Friday sermons of the contemporary Muslim world.

Burning Desires: Zanzibari Women in the Throes of Concubinage and Forced Marriage.

September 21st, 2022



Professor Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf. Drawing on a variety of ethnographic insights I have gathered in Zanzibar and Oman between 2016-2019 along with a constellation of texts, archives, local historiographies, a constellation of Swahili statements for against Ndoa in private possession of an interlocutor, memoirs and other e-fieldnotes gathered over 2020-2021; I base my commentaries in the frame of what anthropologist Enseng Ho calls “oceanic intimates.” I shall attempt to consider the exploitation of women’s bodies to explore what was at stake in the two parallel instances of concubinage and forced marriage, which cannot be understood in isolation of the “correspondences” and the emotionality that manifested itself phenomenologically in both gendered social dramas.

Half a century of Islam and Feminism. March 3rd, 2022



Dr. Amina Wadud is a world renowned scholar and activist with a focus on Islam, justice, gender and sexuality. After achieving Full Professor she retired from US academia—except as Visiting Researcher to Starr King School for the Ministry, California, USA. After 15 years in retirement she has recently returned to academia as Visiting Professor to the National Islamic University in Jogjakarta, Indonesia. She migrated to Indonesia in 2018 to avoid the chaos of US politics and ethics first hand. Author of *Qur’an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman’s Perspective*, a classic that helped towards the development of epistemology and methodology in Islamic feminism, which is the most dynamic aspect of Islamic reform today. It is 3 decades old and translated over 10 times, most recently into French. Her second manuscript, *Inside the Gender Jihad: Women’s Reform in Islam*, moved the discussion further by aligning it with a mandate for ethics and activism in collaboration with scholarship and spirituality. After completing a 3 year research grant investigating 500 years of Islamic classical discourse on sexual diversity and human dignity, funded by the Arcus Foundation, she is organizing an International Center for Queer Islamic Studies and Theology: (QIST) the first of its kind in the world. Mother of five and Nana to six, she is best known as The Lady Imam

Influence of Comics on Arab Politics. April 14th, 2022



Sara Rizkallah is currently a PHD student in the Sociology & Social Anthropology Department at the Central European University, Vienna, where she received a full doctoral scholarship for her academic merit along with a field and an archival grant for her outstanding scholarly work. She is also an assistant lecturer in the Political Science Department at the British University in Egypt. Ms. Sara was also nominated to be a main participant in the International Visitor Leadership Program, the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program and for an Erasmus exchange program at the National University of Public Service (NUPS) in Hungary, Budapest. She joined the bi-national Fulbright Commission in Egypt as a Program Consultant, where she has been responsible for administering the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, one of the largest programs for Egyptian mid-career professionals to pursue a non-degree study at prestigious universities in the United States. She is also one of the main researchers for the "25th Revolution Oral History Project" at the American University Library in Egypt and the "Oral History Project of Heliopolis" at the British University in Egypt (BUE) in partnership with Leicester University. Her research focuses on visual resistance in a post-Arab Spring, with a particular focus on comic art production/graphic novel production in the Arab region.



Diversity Diplomacy, careers at the U.S. Department of State. November 18th, 2021

Amirah Ismail is the Foreign Service Officer at the US department talks where she currently advises the editorial and design team on the U.S Foreign policy to produce content for the department's social media platforms. Talks about the moto of U.S Department of State under the current administration and working towards recruiting and retaining the work force That truly reflects America. Further she talks about every day work of U.S diplomats and Foreign Services how they work every day to promote everyday values around the world and what are different career prospects and opportunities of joining the U.S Department of State.

The Subtle Pleasures of hidden Treasures. October 21, 2021



Dr. Scott Lucas is Associate Professor of Islamic Studies in the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Arizona Tucson. He has published multiple articles and a book on sunni hadith and law, as well as a two-volume translation from al-tabaris famous Quran commentary. He talks how thousands of Arabic manuscripts are preserved in small number of University and public libraries in the United States, and how regrettably very few of them are studied .Furthermore how American based Islamicists rarely engage in the laborious process of producing critical editions of Arabic texts on the basis of manuscripts. This talk shows several manuscripts held by the Princeton University and the importance of manuscripts for the study of the Zaydi Islamic tradition in Yemen.

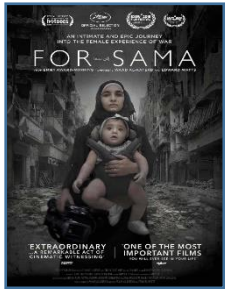
One World, Two Cultures: A Personal Journey April 7, 2021



Ambassador Areikat has been the Special Advisor to ASU President Michael Crow on University Global Engagement in the Middle East and North A journey to Arizona State University (ASU) from Palestine started in August 1980, after spending less than two years in England and Wales. I Chose ASU because my younger brother was starting his engineering degree there, and because I had family members living in the Valley since the early 1970s. My three and a half years at ASU were a game-changing experience and they continue to impact me today, I enjoyed my time on and off campus and took advantage of the opportunities that were presented to me. I established many relationships with students from the US and around the world. During the early 80's, ASU had more than 50

Arabic Film & Poetry Series

The Arabic Film and Poetry Series, held each semester, offers the larger ASU community the opportunity to explore the Arab and Islamic worlds during an engaging series including art, culture, and faculty-led scholarly discussions through classical and contemporary Arabic poetry and award-winning international films.

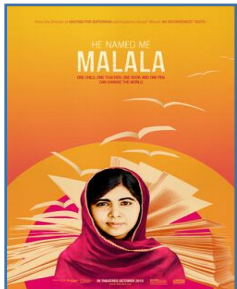


For SAMA, February 17th, 2022

FOR SAMA is both an intimate and epic journey into the female experience of war. A love letter from a young mother to her daughter, the film tells the story of Waad al-Kateab's life through five years of the uprising in Aleppo, Syria as she falls in love, gets married and gives birth to Sama, all while cataclysmic conflict rises around her.

Classical Arabic Poetry, January 27th

The contemporary and modern Arabic poetry session covered several poets from different Arab countries. In addition to poetry viewing and scholarly discussion, students were invited to recite various pieces of their favorite modern poetry and to recite their own original works.



He named me Malala, March 15, 2022

A look at the events leading up to the Taliban's attack on Pakistani schoolgirl, Malala Yousafzai, for speaking out on girls' education followed by the aftermath, including her speech to the United Nations.



Contemporary & Modern Poetry, November 16th

The contemporary and modern Arabic poetry session covered several poets from different Arab countries. In addition to poetry viewing and scholarly discussion, students were invited to recite various pieces of their favorite modern poetry and to recite their own original works.

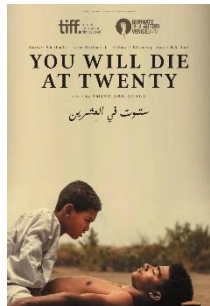
Classical Arabic Poetry, February 23rd

The contemporary and modern Arabic poetry session covered several poets from different Arab countries. In addition to poetry viewing and scholarly discussion, students were invited to recite various pieces of their favorite modern poetry and to recite their own original works.



The Last men in Aleppo October 5, 2021

Through the eyes of volunteer rescue workers called the White Helmets, Last Men in Aleppo allows viewers to experience the daily life, death, and struggle in the streets, where they are fighting for sanity in a city where war has become the norm. Winner, 2017 Sundance World Cinema Grand Jury Prize for Documentary.



You will Die at 20 Sept 20, 2021

Shortly after Muzamil was born, the village's holy man predicts that he will die at age 20. Muzamil's father can't stand the curse and leaves home. Sakina raises her son as a single mother, overly protective. One day, Muzamil turns 19.



Contemporary & Modern Poetry, March 4th 2021

The contemporary and modern Arabic poetry session covered several poets from different Arab countries. In addition to poetry viewing and scholarly discussion, students were invited to recite various pieces of their favorite modern poetry and to recite their own original works.

Brotherhood, March 10th, 2021

Mohamed, a shepherd living in the Tunisian countryside with his wife and two sons, is deeply disturbed by the return from Syria of his elder son Malik, accompanied by a mysterious wife. The tension between the two men gradually builds until things reach breaking point.

Supporting the Community

The Council also supports various ASU and community events which expand the community's understanding of Arabic and Islamic Studies. Some activities have included co-sponsoring the annual ASU Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Open House, participating in School of International Letters and Cultures activities, and supporting events and initiatives with various ASU units, community organizations, and student organizations.

ASU Homecoming Block Party

Homecoming brings together students, parents and alumni to celebrate their Sun Devil spirit. At the highlighted event, the Homecoming Block Party, thousands of people visited the School of International Letters and Cultures site which included cultural activities and entertainment in more than 20 languages, including Arabic and Hebrew calligraphy, henna tattoos, and more.

ASU Night of the Open Door

The annual Night of the Open Door brings thousands of local community members to experience ASU through a variety of hands-on activities, presentations, and visits to campus museums, classrooms, and laboratories. Mini Arabic language classes, cultural lessons and Arabic calligraphy were provided by CAIS and the Arabic Studies Program in the School of International Letters and Cultures.

School of International Letters and Cultures - Language Fair

CAIS, along with the ASU Arabic language section, showcased the Arabic language and culture at the annual Language Fair sponsored by the School of International Letters and Cultures. The annual fair engages local high school students in expanding their global appreciation and knowledge of languages by showcasing various cultures, lessons, competitions, foods, dances, and traditions. The Fair is an important outreach program to attract high school students to ASU.

Academic Opportunities

ASU students of all levels, interests, and majors can enhance their ASU experience and career opportunities through a major concentration, minor or certificate in Arabic studies. Courses are offered through the ASU Arabic Studies program within the School of International Letters and Cultures.

Arabic Studies Concentration – B.A. in International Letters and Cultures

The B.A. program in international letters and cultures with a concentration in Arabic studies provides critical and cultural diversity in advanced Arabic language and literature that enriches ASU students' undergraduate experience; helps them gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the culture, literature and traditions of the vast Arabic-speaking world; and prepares them for the job market. The Arabic studies concentration benefits students interested in academic research and careers in public and diplomatic service as well as in national security. This concentration complements existing degree programs in the School of International Letters of Culture and enhances studies in social science disciplines such as political science and global studies, and in humanities fields including anthropology, history, philosophy and religious studies.

Arabic Studies Minor

The minor in Arabic studies provides students with instruction in Modern Standard Arabic as well as Arabic culture and literature. Students who successfully complete the prescribed coursework will be able to effectively communicate in Arabic and interact with native speakers of Arabic. Literature courses expand students' knowledge in Arabic, Middle East, and Islamic culture and civilization. Students of all academic disciplines doing research or seeking employment in areas related to the Middle East or parts of the Arab world will find the minor in Arabic highly beneficial.

Arabic Studies Certificate

The certificate in Arabic studies provides undergraduate and graduate students with skills that will enable and qualify them to communicate effectively in Arabic. Simultaneously, students gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the culture, literature and traditions of the vast Arabic-speaking world. The certificate provides critically needed educational and cultural diversity that will enrich students' experience and prepare them for life as employees and employers with an added advantage the program gives them in the job market, given the demonstrably high need for graduates with Arabic knowledge.

Other Languages

The ASU School for International Letters and Cultures also offers additional languages, such as Hebrew, Hindi-Urdu, and Indonesian that are significant to Arab, Islamic, and Middle Eastern communities.

- **Farsi**, also known as Persian, is the most widely spoken member of the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian languages, a subfamily of the Indo-European languages. It is the language of Iran (formerly Persia) and is also widely spoken in Afghanistan, in an archaic form, in Tajikistan and the Pamir Mountain region. Persian is spoken today primarily in Iran and Afghanistan, but was historically a more widely understood language in an area ranging from the Middle East to India. Significant populations of speakers in other Persian Gulf countries include Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as large communities in the United States.
- **Turkish** is the official language of the Republic of Turkey and is the most widely spoken language in the Turkic language family with over 70 million native speakers. Outside of Turkey, Turkish is also spoken in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Northern Cyprus, Greece, and other European countries, like Germany, where many Turkish workers and their families live. Turkey is a democratic and secular country with a rich and diverse cultural heritage. Turkey, considered the gateway between the East and the West, is bordered by eight countries in Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East, making it geo-strategically important.
- **Modern Hebrew** is one of two official languages of Israel (the other being Arabic), which is home to a diverse representation of Jews, Muslims, Christians, and others, including a 20% Muslim population. Modern and pre-modern Hebrew are studied by Jews and students of Judaism, Israel, theology, and the Middle East.
- **Hindi** is the official language of India, home to ancient civilizations, historic trade routes, and vast empires, including a significant Muslim population and Islamic history.
- **Urdu** is the official language to Pakistan and is similar to Hindi other than that it is written in the Arabic script.
- **Indonesian** is the national language of Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country with over 238 million people and the largest Muslim population in the world.

Learn more at
<https://silc.asu.edu/content/academic-areas>

Fulbright FLTA Fellows

Our Middle Eastern Studies program hosted two Fulbright FLTA Fellows from Turkey and Libya who taught Turkish and Arabic in fall 2022 and spring 2023.



Rumeysa YÜCEL

Rumeysa is PhD student in Bahcesehir University English Language Education program, was an English Language instructor at Turkish Air Force Academy, National Defense University. She has certificate in teaching Aviation English awarded by Mayflower College and Turkish Partnership for Peace Training Center. Also, she is a participant in 'EAP Leaders of Tomorrow'(E-LOT) funded by British Council and carried out with the cooperation of Çukurova University and Leeds Beckett University. Her research interests are ESP curriculum development, teacher education in educational technology, bilingual education. She has taught Turkish to Syrian refugee children in Istanbul for their immersion into Turkish society. She is currently a Turkish FLTA at Arizona State University.

Malak Ali

Selma Malak Ali, an English language graduate from Tripoli's university in Libya. Has been teaching English to second language learners for 13 years both in Tripoli and in Cairo-Egypt. She is certified from Cambridge university to teach English globally. She is an active member in her society as she volunteers to teach kids English, and volunteers to help displaced people back in her country to get shelters and food. She is a mental health advocate in her hometown as she spoke on Tedx about mental health to raise awareness in her community. She is currently the Libyan FLTA who has been teaching Arabic at Arizona state university.



The Egyptian Collection: A Gift to CAIS



CAIS has been honored to receive a precious gift from the family of Patricia "Patty" Turullols Lindbergh Cooper, a lovingly curated her self-taught knowledge of Egyptology for over 50 years. Her first item the collection was the cat statue. This adoration for the domestic cat undoubtedly connected her with the lives of Ancient Egyptians. She was of Spanish-Mexican decent and lived most of her life in Texas and Arizona but always craved exotic cultures and far-away lands as an escape from the challenges of daily life. Patty surrounded herself with her collection of Egyptian reproductions and books as a source of extraordinary joy. May her collection transport the viewer through time and imagination to a culture of beauty, extravagance, mystery and of course a profound veneration for cats. The Collection is displayed on the 2nd floor of the DH building.



Success Stories

The Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies would like to congratulate many ASU students, scholars, and alumni for their great achievements in Arabic and Islamic Studies! Here are a few examples of outstanding student success stories through the years.

Alaa Amjad Khalaf

Khalaf is graduating as a Barrett, The Honors College student with bachelor's degrees in political science and international letters and cultures (Arabic studies) from the School of Politics and Global Studies and the School of International Letters and Cultures, respectively. She added the concurrent major in Arabic studies midway through her time at ASU because she "realized that I need something that will always keep me connected to my Palestinian roots." Khalaf moved to Palestine with her mother and brother after the death of her father when she was just 4 years old. Amjad Khalaf was her father's name, and she feels honored to have it as part of her own name.



Bethany Elias Jenner

Bethany successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in April 2020, entitled "They Made their Sacred Space: Power and Piety in Women's Mosques, and Mushollas [In Indonesia]," under the supervision of Dr. Abdullahi Gallab, Dr. Souad T. Ali and Dr. Suzanne Brenner. Through generous funding from ASU, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and the Henry Luce Foundation, Bethany's research examines the nuances of gendered space, piety, and community in the context of religion and gender through ethnographies of the Women's Mosque of America in Los Angeles and two of Indonesia's Women – only Mushollas. Among her other Awards and Grants, Bethany is a recipient of the Jenny Norton Grant for Women's Studies, CLAS Graduate Excellence Award, and the Distinguished Arabic Excellence Award. She completed her PhD in SHPRS with an emphasis in Islam in Global Context. Bethany is currently a Faculty Associate at ASU.





Samantha Hill

Samantha graduated with a B.A in Psychology in 2019. At ASU, she was a peer educator for the ASU Sexual and Relationship Violence Prevention Program and started the Refugee Support Alliance student organization dedicated to serving refugees both locally and internationally. Samantha advocates against sexual violence within interfaith communities, and her Honors Thesis titled “The Intersection of Islam, Women and Sexual Violence Prevention” was directed by Dr. Souad T. Ali. She continues working with local communities in raising awareness against injustice in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Yusef Sabri

Yusef Sabri recently graduated with a Minor and a Certificate in Arabic Studies and a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering. Yusef said, “his knowledge of Arabic has “opened up several doors” and indicated that he already began receiving several job offers. Recommended by his mentor Dr. Souad T. Ali, Yusef completed an Internship with “A Foreign Language Service”, which is a Mesa-based company in Arizona. He did significant Arabic-English translation and interpreting work for the company as an Intern. Sabri mentioned that, “interpreting offers him a practical way to use the language skills her worked hard to master in his courses”.



Raneem Tohaibeche

Raneem graduated from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with her Bachelors in Biochemistry along with a Certificate in Arabic Studies. Her Arabic study courses led her to start an honors thesis project under the supervision of Dr. Souad T. Ali about the evolution of Muslim female physicians in medicine. Raneem’s interest in medicine and the health field has been uprising since, and she is currently pursuing her Master in the Science of Health Care Delivery.

Selma Ismail

Selma Ismail graduated from ASU with degrees in Global Studies and Business (Public Service/Public Policy) from the WP Carey School of Business. She also completed an Arabic Studies Certificate in SILC, as well as a Certificate in Islamic Studies in Religious Studies. Selma has received a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Malaysia as a Fulbright Scholar. With interest in international relations and human right issues, Selma completed her Honors Thesis “Female Circumcision in Sudan: Exploring the Human Rights Abuse Through a Culturally Competent Lens”, directed by Dr. Souad T. Ali.

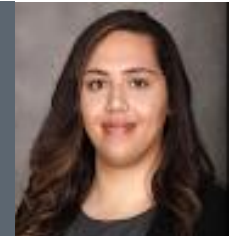


Joseph Conant

Joseph graduated with a B.A. in French with a Minor in Arabic Studies and an Arabic Studies Certificate in the School of International Letters and Cultures. He received two prestigious scholarships: the Boren Scholarship NSEP and a scholarship from Qatar University to study advanced Arabic. He is very interested in doing further Arabic studies. Joseph also assumed the position of President of the Arabic Language and Culture Club for one year.

Mary-Victoria Hickcox

Mary-Victoria Hickcox graduated with a B.A. degree in Global Health and a Minor in Sustainability from Barrett, the Honors College. Her thesis, “Addressing Misconceptions of Women in Islam through the Exegesis of Female Islamic Scholars”, directed by Dr. Souad T. Ali, examined the various interpretations and readings of the Qur’an pertaining to women (and men). She is teaching middle school science in Phoenix through Teach For America with a long-term goal of entering into education policy.



Ayla Perez

Ayla Perez graduated with a Master's degree in Women and Gender Studies from the School of Social Transformation. Her Masters Applied Project for Women and Gender Studies, chaired by Dr. Souad T. Ali, examined honor crimes within imperialism, colonialism and regime change. As a case manager for substance abuse and mental health, she works now to obtain grants to develop a program in the U.S. to recognize honor crimes against women and create support systems for survivors of honor crimes.

Lourdes Saez

Lourdes E. Saez completed her Ph.D. in Religious Studies with concentration in Islam in Global context in under the mentorship of Dr. Abdullahi Gallab, Dr. Souad T. Ali and Dr. Moses Moore. She also holds a Certificate in Arabic Studies. Her Dissertation, *Hay Moros en la Costa: the Imprint and Legacy of Islam in Puerto Rico and the Fiestas de Santiago Apostol*, examined the legacy of Islam through Iberian and African Muslims in Puerto Rico. Lourdes received a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM. She also holds a Master of Arts in Spanish, from the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. She currently teaches at a college in Albuquerque and volunteers for a local homeless shelter.



Shabnam Rezai

With an undergraduate degree in Psychology, Shabnam Rezai worked on her Master's thesis, co-chaired by Dr. Souad T. Ali that presented a more positive view of Afghani women, told from their own perspective and experiences. Shabnam works to dispel the oppressed and passive image of Afghani women portrayed by the press and even in some scholarly studies. Shabnam works as an academic advisor in the ASU Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering with mechanical engineering and aerospace students. She graduated in May 2017 with a Master's degree in Religious Studies focusing on Islam in global contexts. Her ultimate goal is to teach as a professor.



Brianna Griffin

Brianna graduated from Barrett, the Honors College at ASU with double Majors in Global Studies and Anthropology, as well as a Minor in Arabic studies and certificates in Islamic studies and TESOL. After graduating, she traveled to Tanzania to study Swahili intensively and work at a local NGO as a Boren scholar through the U.S. government. She noted that the combination of Arabic and the Swahili language skills helped better prepare her to pursue graduate studies in Islamic studies and work within American public diplomacy (with an emphasis in public diplomacy throughout the Muslim world).



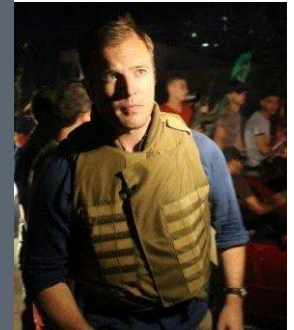


Amirah Ismail

Amirah is a Foreign Service Officer within the U.S. Department of State. She served a two-year term in Latvia, an assignment in Algeria and is currently covering the Afghanistan Desk. Additionally, she served various roles both as a student and in the U.S. Department of State in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Washington D.C. as a U.S. diplomat. Amirah noted that her mission is to promote peace and prosperity around the world, protect American citizens, and advance U.S. foreign policy goals. Amirah earned a Master degree in Middle East Studies from George Washington University, and graduated from ASU in 2009 with double majors in global studies and justice studies, and certificates in Arabic and Islamic Studies.

Ian Lee

Ian continues his vigorous journalism activities as a CNN reporter in the Middle East, covering the most critical developments in the region, including the 2011 Arab Spring, Ukraine Crisis, Sochi Winter Olympics, June 30 Revolution in Egypt, 2014 Gaza War, 2016 Turkish coup d'état attempt, and 2017 North Korea crisis, among other things. He has received many awards for his important work, including the Emmy Award "CNN/CNNi Breaking News Simulcast" (2012) and the Peabody Award "CNN's coverage of the uprising in Libya and Egypt" (2011). Ian graduated from ASU in 2007 majoring in journalism with specialization in Arabic and Islamic studies, including a study abroad experience at the University of Jordan, followed by work in Egypt as a Fulbright Grantee.



Lena Arkawi

Lena played a critical role for the United Nations World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey) that hosted 53 world leaders and 9,000 participants during this first-ever convening in the UN's 70-year history due to the highest levels of human suffering witnessed since World War II. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree program in Advocacy in a Global Environment at George Washington University. Lena graduated from ASU in 2009 majoring in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in business and communication, and a certificate in Arabic Studies.

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About Dr. Souad T. Ali, Founding Chair

Dr. Souad T. Ali is Founding Chair of the ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies; Head of Classics and Middle Eastern Studies, Coordinator of Arabic Studies; Associate Professor of Arabic Literature and Middle East/Islamic Studies in the School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC). She is simultaneously an Affiliate Faculty in the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Women and Gender Studies, African and African-American Studies, the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Center for the Study or Race and Democracy, Institute for Humanities Research, among others.

A Fulbright Scholar, Professor Ali is the author of *A Religion, Not A State: Ali 'Abd al-Raziq's Islamic Justification of Political Secularism* (University of Utah Press 2009) that reached the top of Amazon's List for "Bestselling New and Future Releases in Turkey" when it was released. Her second book, *The Road to Two Sudans*, an edited volume of which she is the lead editor, has been published internationally by Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2014) and reached the top of Amazon's List for "Bestselling New and Future Releases" in Sudan History and North African History. Dr. Ali's third book, *Kuwaiti Women in Leadership Roles* has recently been published internationally by Cambridge Scholars (2019). Her fourth forthcoming book is, *Subjugated Voiced* (with Emily Silverman). Dr. Ali published over 30 scholarly articles. Additional international publications include several of her scholarly articles which have been translated into different languages. She has contributed over 100 scholarly presentations nationally and internationally.

Professor Ali's research interests cover a wide area including Arabic Literature, women and gender in Islam, Classical Islamic Texts, Islam and Secularism, Islamic Law; Sufism, Islam and Democracy, Islam and modernity, Quranic and Hadith Studies, feminist movements in Islam and the Middle East, Arab and Arab-American women, the emergent scholarship of Muslim-American women scholars, Sudanese women, and Sudanese politics.

President of the Sudan Studies Association of North America, Dr. Ali is a Board Member and Arizona Representative, as well as the past- President, of the American Academy of Religion/Western Region (AAR WR). She represented ASU on the Governing Board of the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA) in the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. In addition, she serves as Executive Committee Member of the International Association of Intercultural Studies (IAIS), Cairo, Egypt and Bremen, Germany. She is also a Board Member of the Sudan Studies Association of North America.

Professor Ali received a B.A. with distinction from the University of Khartoum and the Polytechnic of North London, a Masters with distinction from Brigham Young University, and a Ph.D. with honors from the University of Utah (2004) where she studied under Dr. Bernard G. Weiss.

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