

ELIZABETH CLAIRE SAYLOR

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Near Eastern Studies, May 2015.
Dissertation: "A Bridge Too Soon: The Life and Works of 'Affa Karam, The First Arab American Woman Novelist." Advisor: Margaret Larkin.
- M.A. University of California, Berkeley, Near Eastern Studies, May 2008.
Examination fields: Classical Arabic Literature, Literary Theory, Islamic Art & Architecture.
- Fellow Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), American University in Cairo, 2006-2007.
- B.A. Columbia University, Comparative Literature & Society, May 2005.
Literatures studied: Arabic, French, German, Italian.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2019-present **Assistant Professor of Arabic**, North Carolina State University, NC.
Designed and taught upper division courses in Arabic language, literature, and culture, including the Senior Capstone course for Arabic majors.
- 2017-2019 **Visiting Assistant Professor of Arabic**, Middlebury College, VT
Designed and taught courses in Arabic language at all levels as well as advanced content courses in Arabic, including "Mahjar Literature" and "Music and Identity in the Contemporary Arab World."
- 2016-2017 **Post-Doctoral Fellow**, Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. Taught Advanced Arabic and Guest Edited *Mashriq & Mahjar: Journal of Middle East Migration Studies*.
- 2015-2016 **Visiting Assistant Professor of Arabic**, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Designed and taught courses in: Beginning Arabic; Advanced Arabic; Arab Women's Literature; Modern Arabic Fiction; and "First-Year Seminar," a two-semester course that presents seminal intellectual, cultural, and artistic ideas in the context of an historical tradition; includes works by Locke, Rousseau, Equiano, Kant, Wollstonecraft, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud.
- 2018/2019 Summers **Program Director**, Center for Jerusalem Studies, Summer Arabic Language Program, Jerusalem.

Designed an intensive nine-week Arabic language program for beginning to advanced students. Instituted a comprehensive co-curricular program for students that included guest lecture series and excursions to cultural institutions in and around Jerusalem.

2016 Summer

Program Director, Al-Quds Bard Arabic Summer Language Intensive (AQB SLI), Abu Dis, West Bank, Palestine.

Developed specialized curriculum for an intensive four-week Arabic language program for upper-intermediate and advanced students. Instruction in Palestinian colloquial Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic tailored to target vocabulary and grammar related to social, cultural, and political aspects of Jerusalem and surrounding areas.

2011-12 Summers

Assistant Program Director, Critical Language Scholarship Program (CLS), Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia.

Supervised placement process and assessment for students at all levels.

Developed curriculum for the advanced-level classes in Modern Standard Arabic using cutting-edge language teaching methods and technologies.

Designed targeted language socialization activities to encourage students' use of Tunisian dialect with native speakers outside of the classroom.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

North Carolina State University

Modern Arabic Short Story (Fall 2019)

Introduction to Levantine Colloquial Arabic I (Fall 2019)

Introduction to Levantine Colloquial Arabic II (Spring 2020)

Senior Arabic Capstone Seminar (Spring 2020)

Middlebury College

Mahjar Literature (Spring 2018)

Music and Identity in the Contemporary Arab World (Spring 2019)

Elementary Arabic (Fall 2017/Winter 2018)

Intermediate Arabic (Spring 2018/Fall 2018)

Advanced Arabic (Fall 2018)

North Carolina State University

Senior Seminar for Arabic Majors (Spring 2017)

Modern Arabic Short Stories – Independent Study (Spring 2017)

Bard College

Arab Women's Literature (Fall 2015)

Advanced Arabic (Fall 2015)

Modern Arabic Fiction (Spring 2016)

First-Year Seminar (Spring 2016)

Elementary Arabic (Fall 2015/Spring 2016)

UC Berkeley

Arab Women's Literature in Translation (Fall 2013)
Intensive Intermediate Arabic Language (Summer 2010, Summer 2015)
Elementary Arabic Language (Fall/Spring 2009-2014)

Columbia University

Intensive Elementary Arabic (Summer 2007)

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming "The Mahjar: Arab Women's Literary Culture and the Arab Diaspora in the U.S. at the Early Twentieth Century," in *Gender & American Literature*, Jean Lutes and Jennifer Travis, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2020 "Gender Politics in the Early Nahḍa Fiction of Kahlil Gibran (1906-1912)," in *5ème Rencontre Internationale Gibran*, Beirut: Lebanese American University Press, 2020, 78-87.
- 2019 "Gender Politics in Gibran, Rihani, and 'Afifa Karam,'" *Reshaping the Landscapes of Arab Thought: The Legacies of Kahlil Gibran, Ameen Rihani, and Mikhail Naimy*. May Rihani, ed. University of Maryland Press, 2019.
- 2019 "Subversive Sisterhood: Gender, Hybridity, and Transnationalism in 'Afifa Karam's *Fatima al-Badawiyya (Fatima the Bedouin)* (1909)," *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*. 15.1 (March) 2019.
- 2018 "Mapping Women Writers in the *Mahjar*: A Digital Humanities Project," employs interactive ArcGIS mapping technology to archive and visualize little known writings by Arab women in the diaspora.
- 2017 Editorial Foreword, *Mashriq & Mahjar: Journal of Middle East Migration Studies*. 4 (1) 2017, 1-3.
- 2017 "Diasporic Cartographies: An Interview with Nathalie Handal," *Mashriq & Mahjar: Journal of Middle East Migration Studies*. 4 (1) 2017, 141-146.
- 2016-17 Guest Editor, *Mashriq & Mahjar: Journal of Middle East Migration Studies*.
- 2013 Book Review: Mervat Hatem's *Literature, Gender, and Nation-Building in Nineteenth-Century Egypt*. *Journal of Arabic Literature* 44: 394-396.
- In Progress Book Manuscript: *Between Lebanon and Louisiana: Gender, Transnationalism, and Love in the Mahjar Fiction of 'Afifa Karam*.
- In Progress Textbook: *Zeit wa Zaatar: A Palestinian Colloquial Arabic Textbook, Jerusalem Dialect*. Educational Bookshop Press. Jerusalem

PROFESSIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2015-2019 **Secretary and Board Member**, *Washington Street Historical Society*.
Non-profit organization that promotes the legacy of New York City's "Little Syria" neighborhood through research, museum exhibits, public lectures, guided tours, and public art, fostering awareness about Arab immigration, arts, and culture in America.
- 2018-present **Nominee for the Board**, Kahlil Gibran Memorial Foundation.
- 2016-17 **Conference Organizer**, *The Middle East and North African Migration Studies in a Time of Crisis*, Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies, NC State University, April 21-22, 2017.
- April 2013 **Resident Expert**, University of California Discoveries Travel, "Moroccan Discovery: From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara"
Co-led a two-week trip throughout Morocco with a group of twenty Cal Alumni, serving as resident lecturer, translator, and guide.
- 2012-present **Consultant & Voice Recorder**, Berkeley Language Center (BLC), UC Berkeley. Provided voice recordings of Arabic vocabulary from *Alif Baa* and *Al-Kitaab* Books I & II for Arabic learning program *eyeVocab*, an innovative, technology-based vocabulary acquisition program.
- Summers 2011-12 **Assistant Program Director**, Critical Language Scholarship Program (CLS), Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2018 & 2019 Pedagogy Enrichment Fund, Middlebury College
- 2016 Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies, North Carolina State University
- 2014 The Sultan Program for Arab Studies, UC Berkeley
- 2013 Al-Falah Program Award, UC Berkeley
- 2012-13 Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley
- 2011 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley
- 2011-14 Mellon Travel Grant, UC Berkeley
- 2009 Fellow, Startalk Summer Intensive Teacher Training in Arabic, NYU
- 2007-08 Foreign Language and Area Studies Award (FLAS), Hebrew Language
- 2006-07 Fellow, Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), AUC
- 2007 Arabic Writing Prize, CASA, American University in Cairo
- 2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies Award (FLAS), Arabic Language

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 “Gender Politics in Arabic *Mahjar* Literature: Kahlil Gibran, Mikha’il Naimy, and ‘Afifa Karam,” Middlebury College, Vermont, January.
- 2019 “New York City’s “Little Syria” and ‘Afifa Karam, the Foremother of Arab American Literature,” Grinnell College, Iowa, September.
- 2019 “Gender Politics in the Early *Nahḍa* Fiction of Khalil Gibran, ” Fifth International Gibran Conference. Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France, October.
- 2019 “Reshaping the Landscapes of Arab Thought: The Legacies of Kahlil Gibran, Ameen Rihani, and Mikhail Naimy.” Symposium with Roger Allen, Geoffrey Nash, Terri de Young, Nathan Funk at the University of Maryland, March.
- 2018 “Lebanese Legacies: Expanding Horizons of Possibility” Lebanese Legacy Symposium, Georgetown County Library, Georgetown, SC, October.
- 2017 “Women’s Influence on the Literary Heritage of Little Syria.” Lecture in Conjunction with Traveling Exhibit “Little Syria-NYC.” The Metropolitan College of New York, March.
- 2017 “‘Afifa Karam on the Margins of the *Mahjar*. ” Middlebury College, January.
- 2016 Introduction and Bilingual Reading, Lifetime Achievement Award for ‘Afifa Karam. Arab American Book Awards. Lebanese American University, New York, NY, October.
- 2016 “Feminist Politics, Poetics, and Journalism: Female Entrepreneurs Challenging Gender Norms in Little Syria.” New York City Department of Records, New York, NY, August.
- 2016 “On the Margins of the *Mahjar*, ‘Afifa Karam: The First Arab Woman Novelist in America.” Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Literatures, Dartmouth College, January.
- 2015 “Hiding in Plain Sight: Ground Zero, ‘Afifa Karam, and the Invisible Legacy of New York City’s “Little Syria,” 10th Faculty Forum on Race and Ethnicity, Center for Race and Ethnicity, Rutgers University, October.
- 2013 Iconoclasts: Arab American Women Cross the New Frontier, “‘Afifa Karam: The First Arab American Woman Novelist,” Diwan5: A Forum for the Arts. The Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, April.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2019 **Organizer and Presenter**, “Keef halak, ya’ll!” Middle Eastern Diasporas in the U.S. South: A Roundtable on Oral History, Archives and Community,” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), New Orleans, November. Panelists: Akram Khater, Rosemarie Esber, Ruth Ann Skaff, Maria Curtis.
- 2018 **Organizer and Presenter**, Writing Past Lives: Gender, Biography, and History. Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), San Antonio, November. Panelists: Elizabeth Thompson, Nova Robinson.
- 2017 **Organizer and Presenter**, Gendering Migration & Transnationalizing Gender in the Middle East & North Africa. “Visualizing Arab Women’s Writings in the Mahjar: A Digital Humanities Project.” (MESA), Washington D.C., November.
- 2017 **Presenter**, Triangle Conference on the History of Muslim Societies. “Gender & Transnationalism in the *Nahḍa* Fiction of ‘Afīfa Karam.” Duke University, April. Panelists: Bruce Hall, Cemil Aydin, Iqbal Singh Sevea.
- 2016 **Chair and Discussant**, Representations Respond to History and Trauma. Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), Boston, November. Panelists: Jeannette Okur, Zeina Maasri, Hend Alawadhi, Katty Alhayek.
- 2014 **Organizer and Presenter**, Contested Voices: Gender, Narrative, and Subversion in Arab American Women’s Writing, “Subversive Sisterhood: Love Between Women in the Arabic Novels of ‘Afīfa Karam,” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., November. Panelists: Lisa Suhair Majaj, Pauline Homsy Vinson, Carol Fadda-Conrey, Rachel Norman.
- 2013 **Presenter**, In a Glass Darkly? Re-Framing Islamic Inspiration in Modern Arabic Literature, “‘Afīfa Karam’s Re-Imagining of Islam in *Fāṭima al-Badawiyya*,” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, October. Panelists: Mohammad Salama, Hanadi al-Samman, Yaseen Noorani, Reem Hilal.
- 2013 **Presenter**, Iconoclasts: Arab American Women Cross the New Frontier, “‘Afīfa Karam: The First Arab American Woman Novelist,” Diwan5: A Forum for the Arts. The Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, MI, April. Moderator: Nadine Naber.
- 2011 **Organizer, Chair, and Presenter**, Arab Women's Contributions to the Early Modern Arabic Novel, presented at Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., December. Panelists: Marilyn Booth, Mervat Hatem, Elizabeth Holt, and Ghenwa Hayek.

- 2011 **Presenter**, “A Woman Writer on the Margins: ‘Afifa Karam and her novel *Badī‘a wa-Fu’ād*,” presented at Middle Eastern History and Theory (MEHAT) Conference, University of Chicago, May.

DEPARTMENTAL TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

- 2020 “Intersectionality and Arab American Feminisms,” *Music and Race in Arab America*, Professor Michael Figueroa, University of North Carolina, March.
- 2019 “The Sounds of the Arabic Language,” *Music and Sound in the Arab World*, Professor Rachel Colwell, Grinnell College, Iowa, September.
- 2014 “From Hummus to Hushpuppies: The Life and Works of ‘Afifa Karam.” Brown Bag Lecture Series, Department of Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, April.
- 2013 “An Introduction to the Arabic Language;” “A Survey of Arabic Literature from Pre-Islamic Arabia to Hip-Hop;” and “‘Afifa Karam: The First Arab Woman Novelist in America,” University of California Discoveries Travel, Morocco, April.
- 2012 “Methods of Research in Middle Eastern Studies,” UC Berkeley. Lectured and led a discussion on studying Arabic literature as a mode of scholarly inquiry for Middle Eastern Studies majors working on their senior theses.
- 2011 “Egypt at Mid-Century: Literary Culture, Society and Politics in the 1950s,” UC Berkeley. Lectured and led a discussion on the documentary film *Salata Baladi* (2008) by Egyptian director Nadia Kamel, in seminar *Jews and Muslims*, Professor Emily Gottreich.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2020 Dissertation-to-Book Boot Camp, Six-week facilitated online course.
- 2015 “Teaching Close Reading,” Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
- 2014 Participant, Workshops on Teaching for Graduate Student Instructors, UC Berkeley
- 2014 “Working with Student Writing,” GSI Teaching & Learning Center, UC Berkeley
- 2014 “Teaching Critical Reading,” GSI Teaching & Learning Center, UC Berkeley

- 2013 “Syllabus and Course Design,” GSI Teaching & Learning Center, UC Berkeley
- 2012 “Learning Styles,” GSI Teaching & Learning Center, UC Berkeley
- 2011 Graduate Representative, “The How Students Learn Project,” UC Berkeley.
- 2009 GSI Pedagogy Seminar, GSI Teaching & Learning Center, UC Berkeley
- 2009 Fellow and Participant, Startalk Summer Intensive Teacher Training in Arabic, New York University. Intensive two-week program teaching theoretical knowledge, up-to-date methodologies, classroom procedures, strategies, and techniques for teaching Arabic at the university level.
- 2005 Fellow and Participant, Summer Program in Business Arabic, Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Intensive two-week training course in the language of business Arabic.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2019-20 **Committee Member**, Exit Interview Committee, North Carolina State University.
- 2019 **MA Thesis Advisor**, Omar Hamad, Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies. Thesis title: *Shifting Identities: Syrian Immigrants, Race, and Whiteness in the Early 20th Century*. North Carolina State University.
- 2018-19 **Academic and Thesis Advisor**, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.
- 2016-17 **Search Committee Member**, Academic Program Manager – Teaching Programs Coordinator, North Carolina State University.
- 2016 **Workshop Leader**, Workshop on Teaching for Graduate Students in the Humanities, North Carolina State University, Fall.
- 2015 **Academic and Thesis Advisor**, Undergraduate students of Arabic language and literature, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, Fall and Spring.
- 2014-15 **Search Committee Member**, Professor in Modern Arabic Literature, UC Berkeley.
- 2012 **Search Committee Member**, Arabic Language Coordinator, UC Berkeley.
- 2013 **Committee Member**, Near Eastern Studies Language Teaching Pedagogy Workshop, UC Berkeley, Summer. Created a cross-linguistic pedagogical seminar for teaching Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, and Persian that now serves as a model for other departments on campus teaching multiple languages.

2011

Thesis Advisor, Undergraduate Honors in Middle Eastern Studies & Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley, CA. Gemma Juan-Simo: “National Identity in the Egyptian Short Story of the Late 20th Century.”

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)
Washington Street Historical Society
Kahlil Gibran Memorial Foundation
Association for Middle Eastern Women’s Studies (AMEWS)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
Arab American Studies Association (AASA)
American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA)

LANGUAGES

Modern Standard Arabic (Near-Native Fluency)
Levantine Colloquial Arabic (Near-Native Fluency)
Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (Advanced Command)
Tunisian Colloquial Arabic (Advanced Command)
French (Near-Native Fluency)
Hebrew (Advanced Command)
Spanish (Advanced Command)
German (Advanced Command)
Italian (Advanced Command)
Persian (Reading and Auditory Proficiency)
Portuguese (Reading and Auditory Proficiency)