

Maha T. Nassar, Assistant Professor

Department of Near Eastern Studies

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. (with honors) University of Chicago, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2006
M.A. University of Chicago, Middle Eastern Studies, 1999
B.A. Benedictine University, English Language and Literature, Secondary Education (minor),
Summa Cum Laude, 1997

DISSERTATION

My dissertation, "Affirmation and Resistance: Press, Poetry and the Formation of National Identity among Palestinian Citizens of Israel, 1948-1967," is the first systematic study of the Palestinian-Israeli popular press and its seminal role in creating an emerging sense of nationhood among Palestinian citizens of Israel. It also explores the social, cultural and political climate that led to the rise of the "resistance poets," who played a key role in the development of Palestinian identity more broadly both before and after the 1967 war. Through close textual analysis of important Arabic publications, this study shows how Palestinian-Israeli intellectuals, writers and activists utilized the press to contest the dominant national narratives of the Israeli state and affirm their connection to the broader Arab world, despite their political and geographic isolation.

Dissertation committee: Rashid Khalidi (chair), Ada Holly Shissler, Ian Lustick

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

- University of Chicago Century Fellowship (Tuition and Stipend), 1999-2004
University of Chicago Unendowed Fellowship, 1997-99
Benedictine University Humanities Division Award, 1997
Benedictine University Scholar's Program Scholarship, 1993-7

PUBLICATIONS

- "Pressing for Return: Palestinian Citizens of Israel, *al-Ittihad*, and the Refugee Issue, 1948-59" *Journal of Palestine Studies* (forthcoming)
"The Marginal as Central: *Al-Jadid* and the Development of Palestinian National Identity," *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication* (under review)
Book Review of Hillel Cohen, *Army of Shadows: Palestinian Collaboration with Zionism, 1917- 1948*, tr. Haim Watzman (2008). *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 41 (2009), pp.506-7
Book Review of Shawkat Toorawa (translator), *Adonis, A Time between Ashes and Roses: Poems* (2004). *Journal of Arabic Literature* 38, no. 2 (2007), pp. 240-3.

Works in Progress

Monograph, *Press, Poetry and the Formation of National Identity among Palestinian Citizens of Israel, 1948-67*

Article, "From Victims to Heroes: Arab Intellectual Discourses of Palestinian Israelis, 1948-70"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Lecturer, Dept. of Near Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, 2008-present
 Adjunct Lecturer, Dept. of Near Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, 2006-2008
 Instructor, The College, University of Chicago, Winter-Spring 2004
 Teaching Assistant, The College, University of Chicago, Spring 2002

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- "Islam in the Media." Arizona Newspaper Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, October 10, 2009.
- "The Marginal as Central: Arabic Literary Journals in Israel and the Development of a Palestinian Public Sphere." Paper presented at the University of Arizona Sociology Department Friday Lunch Oratory ("Brown Bag") series, October 2, 2009.
- "Pressing for Return: Palestinian Citizens of Israel and the Discourse on Refugees, 1948-1958." Paper presented at the University of Arizona CMES/NES faculty lecture series, February 5, 2009.
- "The Generation Gap: Marxism and Nationalism in Palestinian-Israeli Literary Productions, 1948- 1967," the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2008
- "Media Coverage of Muslims and Muslim-Americans." Society of Professional Journalists Annual Conference, Tucson, April 12, 2008.
- "From Victims to Heroes: Arab Intellectual Discourses of Palestinian Israelis, 1948-70," Invited Lecture, University of Montana, November 2007.
- "The Generation Gap: Poetry, Resistance and Nationalism Among Palestinian Israelis, 1948-67." Invited lecture, Cornell University, February 2007.
- "On the Front Lines: The Arab 'Discovery' of Palestinian Citizens of Israel, 1967-1970." Paper presented at the University of Arizona, Center for Middle Eastern Studies Public Forum, September 2005, the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2005, and Rutgers University History Department, February 2007.
- "'Know Your Heritage': Communism, Nationalism and the Appropriation of Islamic History Among Palestinian-Israeli Intellectuals, c. 1953-1960." Paper presented at the Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 2005.
- "Nationalism through Verse: The Emergence of Palestinian-Israeli Resistance Poetry, 1957-60." Paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, November 2004.
- Palestinian Delegate, Women Waging Peace Executive Program and U.S. Institute of Peace Training Program, Women and Public Policy Program, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, November 2002.
- "Inspiration, Confirmation, Justification: The Functions of Islamic History in Palestinian Nationalist Rhetoric." Paper presented at the Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 2001.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

- Undergraduate Advisor, Near Eastern Studies majors & minors, University of Arizona, Fall 2008-present
 Member, University of Arizona Diversity Coalition, 2008-2009
 Panel Organizer, "Palestinian Intelligentsia in Israel: Negotiating Gender and Nationalism Within and Beyond the State" the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2008
 Panel Discussant: "Negotiating Family: Women and the Modern State," the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2008
 Co-coordinator, Middle East Summer Institute, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, June 2008.

Symposium Co-Chair, "In Perfect Harmony: Cultures, Dialogue and the Heart," Tucson, February 2008.
Guest Lecturer, "Women's Roles in Muslim Communities." Conversations Across Religious Traditions Lecture Series. University of Arizona, October 2007.
Guest Lecturer, "Gender and Nationalism in Arabic Literature." University of Arizona, September 2007.
Guest Lecturer, "Defining the Ideal Muslim Woman in the 21st Century." University of Arizona, April 2007.
Panel Organizer, "Palestinian National Identity and Resistance in the 20th Century: Textual Approaches." Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2005.
Guest Lecturer, "An Overview of the Classical Qur'anic Exegesis of 24:31 ('The Hijab Verse')." University of Arizona, March 2005.
Guest Lecturer, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in the Palestinian Context," DePaul University, Chicago, June 2004.
Guest Lecturer, "Muslim Women in America," American University of Beirut, November 2003.
Guest Lecturer, "Muslim Women in America," Mount Holyoke College, December 2002.
Guest Lecturer, "Applying an Inclusive Security Paradigm to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict," Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, November 2002.
Coordinator, Teach-in series on Middle East Peace Process, The Norman Waite Harris Memorial Foundation Fund, Center for International Studies, University of Chicago, 2001-2
Member, University of Chicago's Center for Middle Eastern Studies Speakers Bureau, 2000-2
Coordinator, Middle East History and Theory Workshop and Conference, Council for Advanced Studies, University of Chicago, 1999-2000
Coordinator and Moderator, "Public Policy and Minorities," International Strategy and Planning Institute Policy Day, University of Chicago, May 1999

TEACHING INTERESTS

Modern Middle East History, Islamic Thought, Arab-Israeli Conflict, The United States and the Middle East, Nationalism and Religion in the Middle East, Language and Culture in the Middle East, Women and Gender in Islam and the Middle East, Muslims in America and the West

LANGUAGES

Near-native fluency in Arabic (reading and speaking)
Fair Hebrew and Spanish (reading and speaking)
Reading Persian and French

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Middle East Studies Association, American Historical Association