

Nada Ayad

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature	2025-present
Acting Dean of The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art	2024-2026
Associate Dean of The Faculty Humanities and Social Sciences The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art	2020-2024
Assistant Dean of The Faculty Humanities and Social Sciences The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art	2019-2020
Assistant Professor of World Literature Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY)	2018-2019
Postdoctoral Fellow in Comparative Literature The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art	2016-2018

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Comparative Literature, University of Southern California, 2016.
Dissertation: "Revolution and Domesticity in Egyptian Women's Political Texts"
- M.A. Comparative Literature, University of Southern California, 2010.
- M.A. Twentieth-century English Literature, Leeds University, 2005.
- B.A. American Literature, with minors in French and German, University of Southern California, 2001.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Literature, World Literature, Postcolonial and Decolonial Anglophone and Francophone Literatures, Contemporary Arabic Literature, Arab Feminisms, Transnational Feminisms, Egyptology, Translation and Translation Studies, Food Studies, Revolution, Domesticity, Nationalism

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript

At Home in the Revolution: Domesticity's Political Work in Egyptian Women's Texts, 1919-2011, under review with Syracuse University Press.

Peer-reviewed Articles

"Reclaiming Ancient Egypt" *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, forthcoming, vol.23, no.2, 2027.

"The Ambivalence of Revolutionary Cleaning in Mona Prince's *Revolution is my Name*" *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*, vol. 12, no.2, 2024, p. 21-32.

"Tasting Revolutions: Food, Gender and Class in Egyptian Women's Narratives" *Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics*, vol. 44, no. 4, 2024, p. 40 – 57.

"South-South Triangulations: Fabric, Marriage, and Decolonization in Latifa al-Zayyat's *The*

Open Door and Leila Aboulela's *Lyrics Alley*." *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 53 no. 4, 2023, p. 15-31.

"Reproducing, Mothering, and Caretaking: Forms of Resistance in Ahdaf Soueif's *In the Eye of the Sun*" *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, vol. 55, no.2, 2019, pp. 228-239.

"The Politics of Foreignizing and Domesticating English in Ahdaf Soueif's *In the Eye of the Sun*" *Translation Review*, vol. 95, no.1, 2016, pp. 55 – 66.

Book Chapter

"Between Huda Sha'rawi's Memoirs and *Harem Years*," in *Translation and the Intersection of Texts, Contexts and Politics: Historical and Socio-Cultural Perspectives*, ed. Mohammed Albakry. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing, 2017. 113–132.

Articles in Progress

"The Function of the Photograph in Egyptian Women's Political Memoirs and its (in)visibility on the Global Market"

"Kinship, Care, and Belonging in Egyptian Women's Prison Memoirs"

Translations

(French to English) *Safia Zaghloul* by Fina Gued Vidal, biography of a 1919 Egyptian Revolution leader. In progress.

(Arabic to English) Interviews for the SAWT (Supporting Arab Women at the Table) Project's documentary film on Egyptian women's experiences during the 2011 Revolution.

(French to English) "It's About Dignity" by Omar Radi, in *Demanding Dignity: Young Voices from the Front Lines of the Arab Revolutions*, eds. Maytha Alhassen and Ahmed Shihab-Eldin, Ashland: White Cloud, 2012. 181-88.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

(*new curriculum additions)

The Cooper Union

*Revolutions of the Global South

*Arab Women and the War Story

*Race and Gender in Literature

First Year Seminar: Kinship and Power in Literatures across Cultures

The Modern Context: The Arab Spring

The School of Art Intra-Disciplinary Seminar

Summer Writing Program [Workshop]

Texts and Contexts: Old Worlds and New

FIT (SUNY)

*Revolutions, Uprisings, Resistance

Short Fiction

Freshman Composition

USC

Arabic (tutoring)

French I

Women Writers in Europe and America (teaching assistant)
Masterpieces and Masterminds: Literature and Thought (teaching assistant)

Sorbonne Nouvelle

Advanced English Composition and Conversation

Orange Coast College

Critical Thinking Through Literature
Women in Literature
Freshman Composition

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Research Grant, FIT (SUNY) Faculty Development Grants and Awards	2018
Fulbright Fellowship Finalist (2016-17) (suspended due to political instability in Egypt)	2016
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, USC	2015-16
Josephine de Karman Foundation Fellowship	2014-15
Fulbright Fellowship Finalist (2014-15) (suspended due to political instability in Egypt)	2014
Summer Research Grant, USC Department of Comparative Literature	2014
Marta Feuchtwanger Merit Award	2013-14
Summer Language Studies Grant, USC Department of Comparative Literature	2013
Research Fellowship, USC Department of Comparative Literature	2012-13
Research Grant, USC Department of Comparative Literature	2011
Summer Language Studies Grant, USC Department of Comparative Literature	2010
Language Studies Grant, USC Middle Eastern Studies Program	2010

INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES

- "Intersectional Justice Program," Global Black Studies Symposium, Rutgers University, April, 2024.
- "Memoirs of Revolution," invited lecture in "Writing Revolution," Princeton University, February, 2023.
- "Bread, Freedom, and Social Justice: Food in Egyptian narratives of resistance," invited lecture in "Food: French and Italian Rituals," University of Richmond, April, 2023.
- "Graduate Student Alumni Panel, Comparative Studies in Literatures and Cultures, University of Southern California, October, 2022.
- Moderator, "Undergraduate Alumni Student Panel", Department of Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture, University of Southern California, October, 2020.
- " 'Victory or Egypt': Transcolonial Lessons in Gender, Revolution, and the Archive," invited speaker in Humanities and Social Sciences Conference "My Ancestors' Crimes, Not Mine: Grappling with the Legacy of Privilege and Power while Building a Better Tomorrow," William Patterson University, October, 2019.

At The Cooper Union

"Narratives and Counternarratives of the Egyptian Arab Spring: Technology, Ephemerality, and Questions of the Archive," invited lecture in "Postmodernism and Technology," April 2025.

"Women in Translation," invited lecture in "Am I that Name? Topics in Gender and Sexuality," February, 2025.

"Nation Building through Cultural Productions in 1920's Egypt," invited lecture in "International Futurism," October, 2023.

"What is the Global South?" invited lecture in "The Polar Imaginary," September, 2023.

"Egyptian Women's Protests: between State Censorship and Timelessness," invited lecture in "Women's Art and Feminisms," April, 2021.

"The Arab Spring" invited lecture in "Global Politics," April, 2021.

"Women in the 'Battle of Algiers'" invited lecture in "Urban History and Theories," March, 2021.

"Troubling time(s): excavations, evacuations, and reordering in Ahdaf Soueif's *In the Eye of the Sun*," invited lecture in "Oral Histories," November, 2020.

"Literature, Revolution, and the Literary Market: Understanding the 1919 Egyptian Revolution through Language," invited lecture in "International Futurism," March, 2020.

"Visibility of Algerian Women Revolutionaries," invited speaker in "Hinges, Mirrors, and Eclipses," October, 2019.

"Transnational Revolutions and Nationalisms in Global Context: Gender, Revolution, and Empire," invited speaker in "Making of Modern Society: Modern European Political, Social, and Cultural History in Global Context," September, 2019.

"Domesticating the Revolution in Egyptian Women's Texts," January 2018.

"Egypt's Revolutionary History," invited lecture in "Modern to Contemporary: An Introduction to Art History," October, 2017.

Emergency Teach-In Participant, "Domesticity as Political Resistance: Notes from the 2011 Arab Spring", November, 2016.

AT FIT

"The Politics of the Home in the 2011 Tahrir Revolution," invited speaker for the Presidential Scholars evening colloquium talk, FIT, SUNY, February 2019.

AT USC

Invited commentator on "The Square," Middle East Studies Program Film Series, October, 2015.

"Self-Orientalizing in Arabic Literature in Translation," invited lecture in "Arabs in America," November, 2015.

"The Representation of Egypt's Revolutionaries: from the Harem to the Square," invited lecture in "Women and Revolution in the Middle East," November, 2015.

"The Gendered Space of Revolution," invited lecture in "Globalization: Culture, Change and Resistance," April, 2015.

"Arab Women in the Revolution: the Case of Algeria and Egypt," invited lecture in "Globalization: Culture, Change and Resistance," USC, April, 2014.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Many Daughters of Isis: Black American Artists in Dialogue with an Egyptian Feminist," American Research Center in Egypt, Annual Meeting, March 2026 (accepted but did not attend).

"Photographs in Egyptian Women's Political Memoirs," Modern Languages Association, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, January 2025.

"Claiming Ancient Egypt," Middle East Studies Association, Annual Meeting, virtual, November, 2024.

"The Womb as Resistance," Middle East Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Montreal, November, 2023.

"Kinship, Care, and Disavowal in Women's Prison Narratives," Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, January 2023.

"National Housecleaning: Domestic Servants, Newness, and Cockroaches in *The Apartment in Bab el Louk*," African Studies Association, Philadelphia, November, 2022.

"Feeding the Revolution: Class, Gender, and National Belonging in Egyptian Women's Political Memoirs," Northeast Modern Languages Association Annual Meeting, Buffalo, March 2022.

"Arresting Time: The Function of the Photograph in Badran's *Harem Years* and its (in)visibility on the Global Market," Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, January 2022.

"Translating the 2011 Revolution in Arabizi" American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, virtual, April 2021.

"Arresting Time: The Function of the Photograph in Badran's *Harem Years* and its (in)visibility on the Global Market," Sarah Lawrence College 22nd Annual Women's History Conference: From the Grassroots to the Statehouse (cancelled due to COVID).

"South-South Triangulations: Marriage, Fabric, and Decolonization in Leila Abouleila's *Lyrics Alley*," Middle East Studies Association, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November 2019.

"Egypt as Other in Sudanese Literature: the Challenges of a South-South Conversation," World Conference on Women's Studies, Bangkok, Thailand, April 2019.

"The Ambivalence of Revolutionary Cleaning in Mona Prince's *My Name is Revolution*," National Women's Studies Association Annual Meeting, "Imagining Justice: Feminist Visions of Freedom, Dream Making and the Radical Politics of Futures," Atlanta, Georgia, November, 2018.

Seminar Co-organizer, "Revolutionary Love: Decolonizing Kinship and Intimacy," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, University of Utrecht, July, 2017.

"Mothering as Neoliberal Critique in Ahdaf Soueif's *In the Eye of the Sun*," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Utrecht, July, 2017.

Seminar Co-organizer, "Politics, Intimacy, and Kinship," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Harvard University, March, 2016.

"Between *Mudhakirati* and *Harem Years*: A Story of Movement," Middle East Studies Association,

Annual Meeting, Denver, November, 2015.

"Tahrir's Temporalities: Reading Gender and Class in Mona Prince's *Ismi Thoura [Revolution is My Name]*," Journal of Middle East Women's Studies Distinguished Lecture and Research Workshop, "Transnational Feminisms and the New Middle East Insurrections," Yale University, April, 2014.

"Tahrir as Home: Representations of Domesticity in Mona Prince's *Ismi Thoura [Revolution is my Name]*," Thinking Gender, University of California Los Angeles Center for the Study of Women, February, 2014.

"Knowing Arab Women Otherwise: Resisting Exoticism in Ahdaf Soueif's *In the Eye of the Sun*," Consent: Terms of Agreement", Indiana University, April, 2013.

"The Marriage of Polis and Eros in Latifa al-Zayyat's *The Open Door*," Modern Language Association, Annual Meeting, Boston, January, 2013.

"Love and Postcolonial Belonging," American Comparative Literature Association, Annual Meeting, Providence, April, 2012.

"Ambivalence as Social Opposition in Tahar ben Jelloun's *L'enfant de sable*," Representations of Africa: Hybrid Identities, Diasporic Communities and the Politics of Representation, University of New Mexico, April, 2011.

STUDENT ADVISING & MENTORING

Mentor, Association for Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS), Fall 2025 - present

Independent Study, with Julia Robert, The Cooper Union School of Architecture Student, Fall 2023, Spring 2024.

Independent Study, with Rita Ross, The Cooper Union School of Art Student, Fall 2023, Spring 2024.

Independent Study, with Maya Bykuc, The Cooper Union School of Art Student, Spring 2023.

Academic Advisor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Fall 2021.

Member, Academic Standards Committee, School of Art, The Cooper Union, Fall 2020—Spring 2022.

Independent Study, with Tandis Shoushtary, Christien Vargas, The Cooper Union. School of Art Students, Spring 2020.

Thesis Advisor, Viktoria Klansee, The Cooper Union School of Architecture Student, Fall 2019.

Independent Study, with Jhakai Deshong, The Cooper Union School of Art Student, Fall 2018.

Independent Study, with Minh Bui, The Cooper Union School of Art Student, Fall 2016.

Mentor, Trojan Guardian Scholars, USC, Summer, 2015.

Mentor, USC Dornsife Gateway, USC, Summer, 2015.

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

Chair, Liberal Arts Program Review, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Spring 2026.

To The Discipline

Manuscript reviewer, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, Spring 2025.

Manuscript reviewer, *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*, Fall 2024.

Manuscript reviewer, *Cultural Critique*, Fall 2024.

Manuscript reviewer, *Comparative Literature*, Spring 2017.

To The Cooper Union

Organizer, American Democracy Lecture Series, Fall, 2024.

Organizer, HSS Faculty Focus, Fall, 2023 – present.

Organizer, Pedagogy Workshops, Fall 2023 – present.

Chair, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Administrative Committee, Fall, 2023 – present.

Chair, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Full Faculty Committee, Fall, 2023- present.

Moderator, "Pluriversal, Bewildered, and Otherwise Lecture Series", Sigil Collective – Monuments of the Everyday: Condemned to Hope, November, 2021.

Organizer, "Slavery and Abolition: Formative Moments of the American University in the Northeast" April, 2021.

Presenter, "Strategies to Decolonize your Syllabus," The Center for Writing, December 2020.

Presenter, "Decolonization Initiatives at The Cooper Union," The Irwin C. Chanin School of Architecture, November 2020.

Moderator, "*Radical Botany* and Speculative Futures," The Cooper Climate Coalition, September, 2020.

Co-organizer, Anti-racist Glossary of Terms, Summer 2020.

Advisor, Disability. Accessibility. Mental Health. Sensitivity. (DAMHS) Committee, Summer 2020.

Organizer, Intersectional Justice Discussion, Reading and Lecture Series, August 2020 – May 2024.

Organizer, Race and Climate Reading Group, Spring 2020—Spring 2023.

Organizer, Decolonize Cooper Initiative, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020.

Advisor, Council on Shared Learning, Fall 2019—Spring 2020.

Co-organizer, Cooper 2040, "MIT & Slavery: The Humanities in the Age of STEM," January 2020.

Member, First Book Committee, Fall 2017.

Organizer, Race and Empire Alumni Reading Group, 2017.

Member, Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce, "First-year Experience", 2017.

Co-Organizer, Race, Gender and Identity Politics Student Discussion Group, Spring 2016 -- 2018.

To FIT

Organizer, "Writers and Poets" Spring Series for Simeon Marsalis' reading of his novel *As Lie is to Grin*,

FIT, SUNY, March 5th, 2019.

Presenter, "Embracing Multimodality" Department Writing Event, FIT, SUNY, November, 2018.

Curriculum Committee, FIT, SUNY, Fall 2018 – 2019.

LANGUAGES

Native fluency in English
Native fluency in Egyptian Arabic
Advanced knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic
Advanced knowledge of French
Reading knowledge of German

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
Modern Languages Association (MLA)
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
Association of Middle Eastern Women's Studies (AMEWS)

Last updated: August, 2026