

# JOHANNA SELLMAN

Assistant Professor  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures  
The Ohio State University  
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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016- The Ohio State University, Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature in The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
- 2014-2016 The Ohio State University, Assistant Professor and Middle East and Islamic Studies Librarian
- 2013-2014 The Ohio State University, Instructor and Middle East and Islamic Studies Librarian
- 2010-2012 The Ohio State University, Lecturer in the Department of Comparative Studies
- 2001-2003 Tallbohovskolan, Stockholm, Teacher of Spanish, English, and Special Education

## EDUCATION

- 2015 Intensive Ottoman and Turkish Summer School, Cunda, Turkey
- 2013 PhD Comparative Literature, The University of Texas at Austin  
Dissertation: "The Biopolitics of Belonging: Europe in Post-Cold War Arabic Literature of Migration"  
Advisor: Tarek El-Ariss
- 2010 Center for Arabic Study Abroad, The American University in Cairo
- 2008 Center for Arabic Study Abroad, The American University in Cairo  
Center for Arabic Study Abroad, The American University in Cairo
- 2006 MA in Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin  
MA Thesis: "Testimonial Narratives: Moroccan Prison Writing in the Context of National Reconciliation"
- 2001 BA in French Literature, Magna Cum Laude, Carleton College

BA Thesis: “Abdelkebir Khatibi, voyageur professionnel”

## LANGUAGES

English, Arabic, French, Turkish, Swedish, Spanish

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Contemporary Arabic Literature  
Migration and Diaspora  
Translation Studies  
Gender Studies  
Critical Pedagogy  
Visual Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

*Borders of Belonging: Imagined Citizenship in Contemporary Arabic Migration Literature in Europe* (in progress)

### Articles

- 2019 “Translating the Translational: Adapting language, migration, and racial profiling in Jonas Hassen Khemiri’s Plays in US Contexts.” (in progress)
- 2018 “A Global Postcolonial: Contemporary Arabic Literature of Migration to Europe” *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*. Issue 54:6 (forthcoming)
- 2018 (co-written with Margaret Litvin) “An Icy Heaven: Arab Migration on Nordic Stages” *Theatre Research International* Volume 43, no 1, 2018, pp. 45-62.
- 2016 “The Ghosts of Exilic Belongings: Maḥmūd al-Bayyātī’s *Raqṣ ‘alā al-mā’*: *aḥlām wa’rah* and Post-Soviet Themes in Arabic Exile Literature. *Journal of Arabic Literature*. Vol 47, no. 1-2, 2016, pp. 111-137.
- 2016 “Learning Arabic through Literature: Resources, Approaches, and Opportunities” *Al-‘Arabiyya: Journal of The American Association of Teachers of Arabic*. Vol. 49, pp. 133-138.
- 2014 “The Forests of Exile.” *Portal 9 Stories and Critical Writing about the City*. Fall 2014, pp. 37-51.
- 2011 “Jonas Hassen Khemiri.” *Banipal: Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*. Vol 41, Summer 2011, pp. 104-105.

- 2006 "Memoirs from Tazmamart: Writing Strategies and Alternative Frameworks of Judgment" *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*. Vol. 39, No. 2, Fall 2006, pp. 71-92

### Reference Articles

2018 Sellman, Johanna. "Hassan Blasim". *The Literary Encyclopedia*. First published 16 January 2018  
[<https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=13982>, accessed 16 March 2018]

### Book Chapters

- 2019 "The Queue as Dystopia: Waiting and Time in Contemporary Arabic Future Writing" (submitted)
- 2010 "Narration and Vernacular in Mohamed Berrada's Lu'bat al-Nisyan"  
In Falola, Toyin and Ngom, Fallou *Facts, Fiction, and African Creative Imaginations*, New York, NY: Routledge, 2010.

### Book Reviews

- 2015 *Hoda Barakat's Sayyidi wa Habibi: The Authorized Abridged Version for Students of Arabic*, edited by Laila Familiar. *MELA Notes* No. 89, 2016. web.  
<http://www.mela.us/2016/08/22/hoda-barakats-sayyidi-wa-habibi-book-review/>
- 2014 *Moroccan Noir: Police, Crime, and Politics in Popular Culture* by Jonathan Smolin. *MELA Notes* No. 88, 2015, pp. 32-34.
- 2011 *Conscience of the Nation: Writers, State and Society in Modern Egypt* by Jacques Jacquemond. *Journal of Arabic Literature*. Vol 42, 2011, pp. 95-100.
- 2009 *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals* by Jane Meyer, Spring 2009 Annual Sequels Review of Books, The University of Texas.
- 2008 *Autobiography and Independence: Selfhood and Creativity in North African Postcolonial Writing in French* by Debra Kelly, Spring 2008 Annual Sequels Review of Books, The University of Texas.

2007 *Le dernier ami* by Tahar Ben Jelloun, Spring 2007 Annual Sequels Review of Books, The University of Texas.

### **Selected Interviews, Blog Posts, and Podcasts**

- 2018 Sellman, Johanna. "Arrival and Illusion in Arabic Theatre's Northernmost Outpost." September 4, 2018. *ArabLit*. <https://arablit.org/2018/09/04/arrival-and-illusion-in-arabic-theatres-northernmost-outpost/>
- 2018 Sellman, Johanna; Nusair, Isis; and Ayoub, Dima; Deiri, Youmna "LGBTQ, Religions, and Immigration (Middle East)" Great Lakes Equity Center <https://greatlakesequity.org/>
- 2016 Blasim, Hassan; Litvin, Margaret; Sellman, Johanna. "Interview with Hassan Blasim," *Tank Magazine*, Vol. 8, no. 9. <http://tankmagazine.com/issue-69/talk/hassan-blasim/>
- 2016 Sellman, Johanna; Torunoglu, Gulsah; Webber, Sabra "Beyond the Veil: Women in the Mideast and North Africa." July, 2016. *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*. <http://origins.osu.edu/history-talk>. August 5, 2016.
- 2016 Litvin, Margaret and Sellman, Johanna. "Digital Hats, Analog Ambitions: Staging Hassan Blasim." April 4, 2016. *Arabic Literature in English*. <https://arablit.org/2016/04/04/digital-hats-analog-ambitions-staging-hassan-blasim/>.
- 2016 Sellman, Johanna. New Acquisitions! Early Arab Comics: Samir and Dunia al-Ahdath." April 19, 2016. *Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum Blog*. "<https://library.osu.edu/blogs/cartoons/2016/04/19/new-acquisitions-early-arab-comics-samir-and-dunia-al-ahdath/>."

### **Exhibits**

- 2018 Advisory Board. "Looking Backward, Looking Forward: Immigration in American Political Cartoons, November 2017-April 2018.
- 2016 Co-curator. *They are Among Us* Display on Resistance and Martyrdom in Middle Eastern Visual Cultures. 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Library, The Ohio State University, September 2016.
- 2014 Curator. *Colonial Entanglements*. Part of a larger exhibit on WWI from world perspectives, this installation explores the Arab Revolts against the Ottoman Empire and representations of the *tirailleurs sénégalais*, the West African soldiers in the French army. Thompson Library, The Ohio State University.
- 2014 Curator. *The City Will Follow You*. An exhibit on David Bond's Sketches of the old City of Tunis. Thompson Library, The Ohio State University.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2009 Rehder Award, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2006 University Bruton Award, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2001 Departmental honors in French, Carleton College
- 2001 Distinction on Senior Thesis, Carleton College

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2019 Grants from Migration, Mobility, and Immobility discovery theme to support lecture series “The Movement of People and Ideas in the Arab World” and Artist in residence Alexandra Chreiteh
- 2018 Service Learning Course Development Grant for the course “Contemporary Migration: Theory and Community Engagement,” The Ohio State University
- 2014-2015 Course enhancement grants for the courses “Intermediate Arabic” and “Intersections: New Approaches to Theorizing Difference,” The Ohio State University Libraries
- 2010-2011 Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA II) at the American University in Cairo, academic year fellow (declined)
- 2009-2010 Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA I) at The American University in Cairo, academic year fellow
- 2009 Swedish Institute, Stockholm Sweden, summer research on Arabic literature in Scandinavia
- 2009 Swedish Endowment, The University of Texas at Austin, summer research on Arabic literature in Scandinavia
- 2008 Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), The American University in Cairo, summer fellow
- 2007-2008 FLAS Academic Year Fellowship for Arabic study, The University of Texas at Austin

- 2006-2007 FLAS Academic Year Fellowship for Arabic study, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2005-2006 FLAS Academic Year Fellowship for Arabic study, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2004-2005 The Ann Grabhorn Friday Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin

**INVITED TALKS**

- 2018 “The Subversion of Borders in Hassan Blasim’s Fiction,” Symposium: Rethinking Arabic Literature from the Margins, University of Chicago, April 2018
- 2018 Speaker on plenary panel: “Borders, Barriers, and Belonging: A Spotlight on Global Migration” Midwest Slavic Conference, The Ohio State University, March 2018
- 2016 “Migration, Borders, and Networks in Hassan Blasim’s Fiction” Uppsala University, Semitiska seminariet, March 2016
- 2016 “Translation, Gender, and Genre in Hawra al-Nadawi’s *Under the Copenhagen Sky*” The Pennsylvania State University, January 2016
- 2015 “The Palestinian Issue through Cartoons and Graphic Novels” A Video-conference presentation and discussion between OSU and The American University in Cairo, November 2015
- 2013 “New Digital Resources for Middle East and Islamic Studies” The Ohio State University Libraries, December 2013
- 2012 “The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt: Past and Present” Guest lecture for “Introduction to Comparative Religion,” The Ohio State University at Newark, February 2012
- 2006 “The Moroccan Reconciliation Process,” Global Challenges Conference, The University of Texas at Austin, June 2006

**COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS PANELS / OUTREACH AT OSU**

- 2018 “Borders in Translation” Reading Conversation, October 2018, October 2018 (organizer and presenter)
- 2018 “A Workshop in Intercultural Pedagogy,” NELC department, September 2018 (co-organizer and presenter)
- 2018 “A Conversation with Tamer El Said” NELC and The Wexner Center for the Arts

(organizer)

- 2018 *The Other Side of Hope*, January 2017, post-screening discussion at The Wexner Center for the Arts
- 2017 “Identities in Translation: A Conversation with Jason “Timbuktu Diakité and Rachel Willson-Broyles,” November 2017 (organizer and co-moderator)
- 2017 Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Association Symposium, November 2017 (panelist)
- 2017 “Migration and the Arts” Reading conversation, November 2017 (co-organizer)
- 2017 “Feminism in the Middle East and Africa” A Panel Organized by The Arab Student Union, The Ohio State University, November 2017 (panelist)
- 2017 “Cartooning in the Arab World Today” An event featuring eight political cartoonists from Arab countries co-organized with Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum, OSU Libraries, and The State Department, October 2017 (co-organizer)
- 2017 “Translation as a Vocation,” Panel discussion featuring four translators organized by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and The Humanities Institute (co-organizer and moderator)
- 2017 “What is the American Dream?” Storytelling event organized by Peace Catalysts International - Columbus April 2017 (speaker)
- 2017 “Islamophobia and Inequality,” Panel discussion organized by The Ohio State University Chapter of the United Nations Association April 2017 (panelist).
- 2017 “Fighting Islamophobia on Campus and Beyond,” Panel discussion hosted by The Department of African and African American Studies, February 2017 (co-organizer and moderator)
- 2013-2016 Numerous open houses, workshops, film screenings, and panels organized through The Ohio State Libraries
- 2012 “Q&A Session with Malian Actor and Activist Tiécoura Traoré,” The Ohio State University at Newark, Organizer and French-English interpreter, April 2012 (organizer and translator)
- 2009 “Farewell to Mahmoud Darwish,” The University of Texas, Poetry Reading, September 2009 (reader)

## CONFERENCES

## Presentations:

- 2018 “The Queue as Dystopia: Waiting and Time in Contemporary Arabic Future Writing.”  
Metaphors of Time: An Interdisciplinary Conversation across the Arts, Humanities, and  
Sciences, The Ohio State University, April 2018
- 2017 “Comparative Paradigms for Studying Arabic Migration Literature,” American  
Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, Holland, July 2017.
- 2016 “Critical Information Literacy in Middle East Studies: Opportunities for  
Collaboration,” Ohio Symposium on MENA Studies, Dayton, OH, April 2016
- 2015 “Hoda Barakat’s *The Stranger’s Letters* and Shifting Notions of Diaspora in Arabic  
Literature” Middle Eastern Studies Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2015
- 2014 Roundtable “Documenting the Arab Uprisings.” Middle East Studies Association,  
November 2014
- 2014 “New Arabic Literary Landscapes in Europe: The Theme of Translation in  
Migration Literature” American Comparative Literature Association, New York  
City, NY, March 2014
- 2012 “The Reappearance of the *Muselman* in Arabic literature of (Im)migration to Europe”  
(presented by proxy) American Comparative Literature Association,” Providence, RI,  
April 2012
- 2011 “Parody and Revised Materialism in New Arabic Literature on Europe” Jil Jadid  
Conference at The University of Texas at Austin, February 2011
- 2010 “Dancing on Water: Alfons, the Wallet, and New Humanisms” Middle Eastern Studies  
Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2010
- 2009 “Precarious Asylum for Iraqis in Europe: Nature as a Protective Fiction in Fārūq Yūsuf’s  
*Lā Shay Lā Aḥad*” (presented by proxy) Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual  
Meeting, Boston, MA, November 2009
- 2008 “The Man in Rubber Sandals: Local and International Solidarities in Kateb Yacine’s  
Turn toward Popular Theater” The Fifth Annual Comparative Literature Conference at  
the University of Texas, October 2008
- 2008 “Orality as Healing in Nabile Farès’s *Mémoire de L’Absent*,” Conference on Franco-  
Arab Cultures, Chapel Hill, N.C., April 2008



- 2008 “Storytelling on Trial: The Politics and Aesthetics of Interrogation in Abdelkader Chaoui’s *Kana wa Akhawatuha* and Fatna Elbouih’s *Hadīth al-‘Atāma*” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Long Beach, CA, May 2008
- 2008 “Walter Benjamin’s Storyteller and the Role of the Archaic in two North African Novels” The 2008 International Conference on Narrative, Austin, Texas, May 2008
- 2007 “The Role of Vernacular in Mohamed Berrada’s *Game of Forgetting*,” Popular Culture in Africa Conference, The University of Texas at Austin, March 2007
- 2006 “Memoirs from Tazmamart: Writing Strategies and Alternative Frameworks of Judgment,” Sequels Symposium, The University of Texas at Austin, March 2006
- 2005 “Whose Reconciliation?: Narrating Human rights in Morocco,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Milwaukee, WI, October 2005.

**Panels Co-Organized**

- 2008 “Un-settling Boundaries: The Novel, Narrative, and the Chronotopic Imaginary” The 2008 International Conference on Narrative, Austin, TX, May 2008
- 2008 “Changing Artistic and Political Modalities in the 1960s Middle East and North Africa” 1968: A Global Perspective, The University of Texas at Austin, October 2008

**Discussant / Chair**

- 2017 Chair, “Gender and Mobility in Arab Women's Writings,” Middle East Studies Association, Washington DC, November 2017.
- 2017 Discussant and Presenter, “Contemporary Turkey across Disciplines,” Migration Studies Symposium, The Ohio State University, April 2017.
- 2015 Discussant, “Homeland and Diaspora.” Zionism in Comparative Perspective. Columbus, OH, November 2015
- 2013 Chair, “Documenting the Ordinary and Unspeakable in Middle Eastern Cinema.” Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, October 2013
- 2009 Discussant, Sixth Annual French and Italian Graduate Student Conference, The University of Texas at Austin, TX, April 2009
- 2008 Discussant, Fifth Annual French and Italian Graduate Student Conference, The University of Texas at Austin, TX, April 2008

2007 Discussant, “This is My House: Undisciplinarity and the Challenges from Within”  
Fourth Annual Comparative Literature Conference at the University of Texas, October  
2007

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **The Ohio State University**

2019 “Place, Space, and Belonging in Modern Arabic Literature”

2018 “Cultures of the Contemporary Arab World” (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures), “Translation: Theory and Practice,” (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures)

2017 “Gender in Modern Arabic Literature,” “Translation: Theory and Practice,” (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures)

2016 “The Arabian Nights,” “Cultures of the Contemporary Arab World,” (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures)

2015 “Intersections: New Approaches to Theorizing Difference” Comparative Studies (co-taught twice with Maurice Stevens)

2014-2015 Understanding the Global Information Society, International Studies (co-taught once with Maureen Donovan and once with José Diaz)

2010-2012 Introduction to Comparative Studies, Literature and Society, Comparative Studies (designed and taught courses, usually two courses per term on the OSU Newark Campus)

### **The University of Texas at Austin**

2009 Accelerated Second-Year Swedish, Assistant Instructor (designed and taught course)

2008 Accelerated First-Year Swedish, Assistant Instructor (designed and taught course)

2008 First-Year Arabic, Teaching Assistant

2006 Accelerated First-Year Swedish, Assistant Instructor (designed and taught course)

2006 Second-Year Arabic I, Teaching Assistant

2006 Second-Year Arabic II, Teaching Assistant

2004 Muslim Women: Past and Present, Teaching Assistant

### **Carleton College**

1999-2001 Teaching Assistant in French Department

### **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

2005 Research Assistant for Denise Spellberg focusing on Islam in early U.S. history, The University of Texas at Austin

2001 Research Assistant in Spanish Department, Carleton College

### **SERVICE AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2018 Judge of Arabic-English translation contest, AATA (American Association of Teachers of Arabic)

2017- SPA (Supporting Pedagogy Actively) Co-founder and member of faculty-led pedagogy group

2017- Peer reviewer for *Journal of Arabic Literature* and *Comparative Literature and Culture*, Reviewer for Georgetown University Press,

2017- Community Refugee and Immigration Services Connect, faculty mentor for undergraduate student group

2017- Model Arab League, Students for CRIS, faculty mentor for undergraduate student groups

2016- Migration Studies Working Group, OSU, faculty mentor for graduate student-led group

2016 - CRIS (Community Refugee and Immigration Services), Columbus, OH, volunteer mentor for Syrian family

2016 Volunteer at language cafés for newly arrived refugees (NBV språkcafé / Tillsammanscaféet) Uppsala, Sweden

2015 Peer reviewer of the RCL Middle East Bibliography (4000+ items)

2011 Critical Language Scholarship Program, Reviewer of Applications for Arabic language programs

- 2004-2006 Political Asylum Project of Austin, Austin, TX, Arabic-English translator
- 2003 Academia Arabesca, Marrakech, Morocco, On-site assistant to director
- 2003 *Vi på Söderhöjden*, Co-founder and writer for a local newsletter promoting civil society in suburban Stockholm
- 2000 Teacher of adult language courses in Swedish and English for recent immigrants and refugees in Järfälla, Sweden
- 1999-2001 Amnesty International Carleton College Chapter, Co-chair

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Middle East Studies Association  
The American Comparative Literature Association

### **OSU COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

Conceptual Team for the Arts and Sciences Discovery Theme Global Mobility and Migration (2018-)

Translation and Interpretation Working Group – CLLC (2017-)  
Subcommittee on literary translation

Teaching and Learning Committee, The Ohio State University Libraries (2014-2016)

Middle East Studies Center Executive Committee, The Ohio State University (2013-)

Buckeye Book Community Selection Committee (2015)

PhD Dissertation Advisor: Rasmyah Alaybany (ongoing)

PhD Dissertation Committees: Shahreena Shahrani (NELC 2016), David Bond (NELC 2016), Miriam Bourgois (NELC ongoing). Ahmed Alatawi (NELC 2017), Nathan Young (NELC ongoing), Rasmyah Alaybani (NELC ongoing), Youmna Deiri (Teaching and Learning ongoing), Shaimaa Fatani (Teaching and Learning ongoing)

PhD Exam Committees: David Bond (NELC 2014), Ahmed Alatawy (NELC 2015), Nathan Young (NELC 2017), Carolin Mueller (Germanic Languages and Literatures 2018), Shaimaa Fatani (Teaching and Learning 2018)

M.A. Exam Committee: Kathy Novak (Advisor, NELC 2018), Molly Reed (Committee Member, Slavic Studies 2015)

B.A. Honors Thesis Committee: Chineze Okpalaoka (Committee Member, International Studies 2015), Thorayah Abdelqader (Advisor, Arabic 2018), Aseel Houmsse (Advisor, Arabic 2018)