

Kevin Blankinship

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SUMMARY

I am a Middle East expert, and my mission is to bring classical Islamic civilization to a wider public through scholarship, teaching, editing, translation, journalism, podcasts, and public lectures.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Brigham Young University (Provo, UT), Asian and Near Eastern Languages	
<i>Associate Professor, Arabic Language and Literature</i>	May 2024-Present
<i>Graduate faculty status (approval to advise MA and PhD students)</i>	Oct. 2021-Present
<i>Assistant Professor, Arabic Language and Literature</i>	Aug. 2018-Apr. 2024
New Lines Magazine (Washington, DC)	
<i>Contributing Editor</i>	Sept. 2021-Present
Middlebury College (Middlebury, VT), Summer Arabic School	
<i>Instructor, Arabic Language and Literature</i>	2019
University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT), World Languages and Cultures	
<i>Instructor and Program Coordinator, Arabic</i>	July 2017-Aug. 2018

EDUCATION

University of Chicago (Chicago, IL): MA, PhD, Arabic Language and Literature	2018
<i>Dissertation: "Thresholds of Doubt: Negotiating Authorship in the Paratexts of al-Ma`arri"</i>	
Middlebury College (Middlebury, VT): MA Arabic Studies, Arabic Language Pedagogy	2015
American University in Cairo (Egypt): Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA)	2010
University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC): MA Comparative Literature	2009
Brigham Young University (Provo, UT): BA Comparative Literature, Portuguese Minor	2007

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Academic Articles & Chapters

<i>Routledge Handbook of Islamic Ethics</i>	Accepted, planned publication 2025
• "Mirrors for Princes"	
<i>Oxford Bibliographies</i>	Accepted, planned publication 2025
• "Classical Arabic Literature" (annotated, peer-reviewed critical bibliography)	
<i>Al-Abhath: Journal of the American University of Beirut</i> 71 (pages 9-37)	Online Dec. 2023
• " As Barren as Mother Eve: Why Some Poems End Badly, According to Premodern Arabic Critics "	
<i>Philological Encounters</i>	Online Aug. 2022; Print 2023
• " Self-Commentary as Defensive Strategy in the Works of John Tzetzes (d. 1180 CE) and Abū l-ʿAlāʾ al-Maʿarrī (d. 1057 CE) " (co-authored with Aglae Pizzone)	
<i>Journal of Abbasid Studies</i> 8, no. 1 (pages 142-171)	2021
• " Al-Ma`arri's Anxious Menagerie: The Epistle of the Horse and the Mule "	
<i>Religions</i> 11, no. 8, special issue: Animals in Islam (pages 1-20)	2020
• " Suffering the Sons of Eve: Animal Ethics in al-Ma`arri's Epistle of the Horse and the Mule "	

- Journal of the American Oriental Society* 140, no. 1 (pages 19-37) 2020
- “[Giggers, Greeners, Peyserts, and Palliards: Rendering Slang in al-Bukhala of al-Jahiz](#)”
- Insatiable Appetite: Food as a Cultural Signifier in the Middle East and Beyond* (Brill, 2019), ed. Bilal Orfali, Kirill Dmitriev, Julia Hauser (pages 260-291) 2019
- “[Missionary and Heretic: Debating Veganism in the Medieval Islamic World](#),” pp. 260-91
- Al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean* 31, no. 3 (pages 253-271) 2019
- “[Al-Ma`arri’s Esteem in the Islamic West: A Preliminary Overview](#)”

Article-Length Translations

- Jansenism: An International Anthology* (Catholic U of America Press) Aug. 2024
- “Jansenism and Eastern Catholicism: The Melkite Synod of Qarqafé, 1806 AD”
 - Translated from Arabic; with help from Mark Spinnenweber regarding theological content
- Al-Ma`arri’s Poems Set to Music* (lyricist and translator) Oct. 2020-Dec. 2022
- Collaboration with composer Will White, to set medieval Arabic poetry to classical choir music
 - Complete recording on YouTube (one version with [scrolling lyrics](#), one with [scrolling score](#))
- Marhaba Language Expertise* 1 June 2022
- “[Flight of the Camel](#),” joint translation with Melanie Magidow of a classical Arabic ode of praise by celebrated wine poet Abu Nuwas (d. 814 AD)
- Mu`allaqat for Millennials: Pre-Islamic Arabic Golden Odes* (Saudi Arabia) May-Sept. 2020
- [English translation](#) of four out of ten foundational pre-Islamic poems in classical Arabic
 - Supported by *Al-Qafila* Magazine & “Ithra” (King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture)
 - Reviewed in [Asymptote Journal](#), [Middle East Eye](#)
 - One translated poem shown in exhibit booklet, Wereldmuseum Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- ArabLit.org*, [Arabic Translation Challenge](#) (host and curator) May 2020-Oct. 2020
- Tuesdays I posted an Arabic text to translate, then invited translations in any language. Saturdays I did a highlights roundup; two semiannual writeups of results in *Arablit Quarterly*.
- Jadaliyya* 20 Sept. 2015
- “[An Elegy by al-Ma`arri](#),” Arabic-to-English translation plus introduction

Academic Book Reviews

- Journal of the American Oriental Society* planned publication 2025
- Work reviewed: Hakan Özkan and Nefeli Papoutsakis (eds.), *Doing Justice to a Wronged Literature: Essays on Arabic Literature and Rhetoric of the 12th-18th Centuries in Honour of Thomas Bauer* (Brill, 2022)
- Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies* (Medieval Association of America) planned pub 2025
- Work reviewed: *Fate the Hunter: Early Arabic Hunting Poems*, ed. and trans. James E. Montgomery (Library of Arabic Literature, New York University Press, 2023)
- Journal of the American Oriental Society* Mar. 2024
- Work reviewed: Jokha Alharthi, [The Body in Arabic Love Poetry: The `Udhri Tradition](#) (Edinburgh University Press, 2021)
- Journal of Arabic Literature* 54, no. 3-4 (pages 473-477) Oct. 2023
- Work reviewed: R. Kevin Lacey, [All the World is Awry: al-Ma`arri and the Luzumiyyat Revisited](#) (Syracuse University Press, 2021)
- Middle Eastern Literatures* Nov. 2022
- Work reviewed: Michael Sells (trans.), [Ibn `Arabi, The Translator of Desires](#) (Princeton University Press, 2021)

- Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)* Aug. 2022
- Work reviewed: Emily Selove and Geert Jan van Gelder, trans. [The Portrait of Abu l-Qasim al-Baghdadi al-Tamimi](#) (Gibb Memorial Trust, 2021)
- Al-Abhath: Journal of the American University of Beirut* 62-63, pp. 148-154 Sept. 2018
- Work reviewed: James T. Monroe, trans., [The Mischievous Muse](#), 2 vols. (Brill, 2017)
- Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 76, no. 1 Apr. 2017
- Work reviewed: Christian Peltz, [Der Koran des Abu l-'Ala'](#), 2 vols. (Harrassowitz-Verlag, 2013)

Selected Journalism (full list: KBlankinship.com)

New Lines Magazine (as contributing editor)

- [“The Greatest Arab Poet?”](#) 14 July 2024
- [“The Forgotten Middle East Legacy of ‘1,001 Nights’](#)” 2 July 2023
- [“The ‘Romeo and Juliet’ of the East”](#) (print and online) 17 Apr. 2023
- [“What Happens if You Meet a Jinn?”](#) 31 Oct. 2022
- [“The Mad Prophet of the Airwaves”](#) 15 April 2022
(published in Arabic, 3 June 2024, *Alpheratz Magazine*)
- [“Women Warriors of the Early Muslim World”](#) 25 Aug. 2021
- [“The Seven Hanging Odes of Mecca”](#) 28 May 2021

Other (as contributing author)

- BYU Humanities Center Blog* 7 Nov. 2022
- [“Golden Odes and Ruby-Red Letters: Why Classical Arabic Literature Matters Today”](#)
- Lapham’s Quarterly* 31 Oct. 2022
- [“The House of His Desires: The Life and Legacy of al-Hallaj”](#)
 - Featured by *Arts & Letters Daily*, a web portal of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* linking to news stories, features, and reviews from across the humanities, 5 Nov 2022
- Aeon Magazine* 11 Mar. 2022
- [“Tales of Two Jackals,”](#) about Islamic animal fables in *Kalila and Dimna*
- The Los Angeles Review of Books* 9 Jan. 2022
- [“Feast and Fight: A New Adaptation of Samak the Ayyar”](#)
- Foreign Policy Magazine* 1 Aug. 2021
- [“In Alaa al-Aswany’s New Novel, Dictatorship Keeps Winning: ‘Republic of False Truths’”](#)
- مجلة سرد أدبي الإلكتروني (Literary Narrative Online)* 28 June 2021
- [“في البدء كانت ... البداية”](#) (“In the Beginning Was ... the Beginning,” essay in Arabic)
- Prospect Magazine UK* 14 Apr. 2021
- [“What a Free-thinking Medieval Muslim Can Teach Us About Animal Welfare”](#)
- The Spectator* 13 Nov. 2020
- [“A 13th-Century Guide to Fraud and Skulduggery,”](#) review of *The Book of Charlatans*, trans. Humphrey Davies (NYU Press, 2020); featured in [The New Criterion](#) weekly roundup
- Al-Jumhuriyah English* 21 Aug. 2020
- [“Jinn and Tonic: Medieval Islam’s Celebrity Doctors”](#)
- The Times Literary Supplement* 22 Nov. 2019

- “[Full-Bodied](#),” review of *The Praiseworthy One: The Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Texts and Images*, by Christiane Gruber (Indiana University Press, 2019)

The Los Angeles Review of Books 30 Jan. 2019

- “[Rushdie’s Deal with the Devil](#),” 30th anniv. review of *The Satanic Verses*

The Atlantic 9 Dec. 2018

- “[The Benefits of a Foreign-Language Tattoo](#)”; featured in [The Tattoo Forum](#)

Selected Original Poetry (full list: KBlankinship.com)

The Chained Muse 2 Jan. 2025

- “[Mediterranean Fortunes](#)” (with voice recording by David Gosselin)

The Road Not Taken Spring 2022

- “[Grad Student’s Lament](#)”

Pulsebeat

- “[Bonneville](#)” May 2022

Better Than Starbucks May 2022

- “[Cancer Scare](#)”

Wine Cellar Press 7 Jan. 2022

- “[Lazaruslike](#)”

The Society of Classical Poets

- “[My Sickness is a Mistress](#)” 31 Aug. 2020

Blue Unicorn Spring 2020

- “[Free Enterprise](#)”

Lighten Up Online June 2020

- “[To Arabic, an Abortive Dear Jane](#)”

Gingerbread House 30 Nov. 2019

- “[Bourgeois Prometheus](#)”

Blurbs

The Tale of Princess Fatima (trans. Melanie Magidow, Penguin Classics) Aug. 2021

- “The iron Valkyrie Princess Fatima joins a whole cast of female champions out for blood and honor in this fluidly translated epic that is part battlefield saga, part *chanson de geste*, part family drama, and all heroine’s journey, one worthy of inclusion with the great warrior women classics.”

Barra and Zaman: Reading Egyptian Modernity in Shadi Abdel Salam’s The Mummy Dec. 2020
(Youssef Rakha, Palgrave Macmillan)

- “Egyptian novelist Youssef Rakha captures the personal relationship with art that lies beneath all scholarly endeavor, but which too often gets lost in academic analysis. The aphoristic prose recalls Derrida and the sad-faced irony of Vonnegut is never far away. Nezar Andary’s foreword adds to the effect by calling up veils and cocoons to imagine how audiences get ‘wrapped up’ in cinema. A thoughtful and moving work of creative nonfiction.”

Collaborative Projects

“Language, Philology, Culture: Arab Cultural Semantics in Transition” Apr. 2018-Jan. 2019

- Contributor, European Research Council (ERC)-funded digital database of Arabic poetry

Work-in-progress

- Book (as author): *Steal No More from Nature: Al-Ma`arri and Animal Ethics in Classical Arabic Literature* TBD
- Advance contract, Eisenbrauns (Penn State University Press), acceptance of manuscript pending result of peer reviews
- Book (as translator): *Foolscap and Tambourine: The Collected Poems of Ibn Daniyal* TBD
- Original Arabic edited by Professor Li Guo, University of Notre Dame
 - Proposal accepted, translation sample under review, Library of Arabic Literature, NYU Press
- Book (as co-editor): *Classical Arabic Poetry: Tools, Techniques, and Texts* TBD
- Guidebook for students and researchers, with essays by leading scholars of Arabic poetry
 - Co-edited with Tahera Qutbuddin (Oxford) and Nathaniel Miller (Denver)
- Refereed journal article, *Journal of Arabic Literature* under review, publication TBD
- “Get Thee Behind Me: Al-Farazdaq Takes Down the Devil”
 - Special issue honoring the life and career of Oxford emeritus Professor Geert Jan van Gelder
- Refereed chapter, School of Abbasid Studies/Brill Festschrift, Monique Bernards and John Nawas TBD
- “An Evening of *Mujun*: The Eighteenth Night of al-Tawhidi’s *al-Imta` wa-l-Mu`anasah*”
 - Scholarly translation, footnotes, and introduction
- Refereed journal article, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* TBD
- “One Hundred Mottled Rockplains: On the Word *burqah*, *biraq* in Yaqut al-Hamawi’s Geographical Encyclopedia”
- Refereed journal article, *Al-Abhath: Journal of the American University of Beirut* TBD
- “A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread—and Thou! Number Aphorisms in Classical Arabic Poetry”
- Refereed translation and introduction, Institute of Ismaili Studies TBD
- Volume #?? from *al-Majalis al-Mu’ayyadiyyah*, a group of medieval Shi`ite religious sessions
- Arabica* revise and resubmit, 2021, publication TBD
- “A Banu Sasan Underworld Poem by Nasrid Andalusí Jurist Umar al-Malaqi (d. after CE 1440)”

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Academic Solo Lectures

- Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies (Cambridge, MA) 13 Feb. 2025
- “Debating Veganism in the Medieval Islamic World: al-Ma`arri and al-Mu’ayyad al-Shirazi”
- Al Akhawayn University (Ifrane, Morocco) 12 Nov. 2024
- “Love, Fear, Anger, Sorrow: Diseases of the Soul in ‘Islamicate’ Literature”
- University of Exeter, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (Exeter, UK, via Zoom) 11 Nov. 2024
- “[Debating Veganism in the Islamic World: al-Ma`arri and al-Mu’ayyad al-Shirazi](#)”
 - Part of the “Monday Majlis” series on current research in Islamic Studies
- Georgetown University (Washington, DC, via Zoom) 19 Sept. 2024
- “Abbasid Arabic Literature,” guest lecture, Islamic studies course with Prof. Jonathan Brown
- Brigham Young University, Department of English 6 Feb. 2024
- “Classical Arabic Poetry in Translation,” guest lecture, graduate poetry workshop, Prof. John Talbot
- University of Chicago, Department of Middle Eastern Studies (Chicago, IL) 17 Jan. 2024

- “Don’t Hasten the Knife: Animal Ethics in Classical Arabic Literature”

Tulane University (New Orleans, LA)

4 Dec. 2023

- [“Love, Fear, Anger, Sorrow: Diseases of the Soul in ‘Islamicate’ Literature”](#)

Renaissance Weekend (invitation-only ideas festival, Charleston, SC)

28 Dec. 2022-1 Jan. 2023

- “Cornerstone” solo lecture: “Emotions and Diseases of the Soul in Islamicate Literatures”
- “Cornerstone” solo lecture: “What Americans Don’t Understand About Islam, Arab Cultures”
- Panel moderator: “Is the Middle East More Combustible than Ever?”

Brigham Young University, Dept. of Asian and Near Eastern Languages (Provo, UT)

3 Nov. 2022

- “The Medieval Islamic Bestiary”

Georgetown University (Washington, DC, via Zoom)

15 Sept. 2022

- “Abbasid Arabic Literature,” guest lecture, Islamic studies course with Prof. Jonathan Brown

University of Brasilia (Brasilia, Brazil, via Zoom)

1 Aug. 2022

- “‘Não mais roube da natureza: Animais e o veganismo nas obras árabes clássicas de Abu al-`Ala’ al-Ma`arri (m. 449/1057)” (lecture in Portuguese, “‘Steal no More from Nature’: Animals and Veganism in the Classical Arabic Works of Abu al-`Ala’ al-Ma`arri”)

University of Chicago, Center for Middle East Studies (CMES, Chicago, IL, via Zoom)

May 2021

- “[كتاب كوشني الرّوض: صُورُ الخطِّ والأقلام والحُروف في الشَّعرِ العَرَبِيِّ القَدِيمِ](#)” (A Book like a Painted Garden: Script, Pen, and Letter Imagery in Classical Arabic Poetry) (lecture in Arabic)

University of Southern Denmark, Center for Medieval Literature (Odense, Denmark)

Apr. 2021

- “Counted Among the Dead: Pious Self-Detachment (zuhd) in Medieval Islamic Thought and Literature”

Bard College (Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, via Zoom)

Oct. 2020

- “Al-Ma`arri and Dante,” guest lecture, first-year seminar on literature, Prof. Nora Zaki

University of Chicago, Center for Middle East Studies (CMES, Chicago, IL, via Zoom)

Apr. 2020

- [“الحَيَّوانُ فِي الْمِيزَانِ: رِسَالَةُ الصَّاهِلِ وَالشَّاحِجِ](#)” (Animals in the Balance: *The Epistle of the Horse and the Mule*) (lecture in Arabic)

University of Pennsylvania, Department of Romance Languages (Philadelphia, PA)

Nov. 2019

- “Spark Showers Way Out West: Forging an Author Through Self-Commentary in Andalusí Arabic Poetry”

Middlebury Summer Arabic School at Mills College (Oakland, CA)

June 2019

- “Night, Horses, and the Desert: My Strange Journey with Arabic”

Georgetown University (Washington, DC)

Apr. 2019

- “Memento Ma`arri: The Art of Dying in Classical Arabic Literature”

Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center (Washington, DC)

Apr. 2019

- [“Dust’s Embrace: Al-Ma`arri and the Art of Dying in Classical Arabic Literature,”](#) for the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center’s quarterly Poetry and Prose lecture series

Invited Academic Conference Papers & Presentations

University of Kent (Canterbury, UK)

13 Sept. 2024

- [“Al-Ma`arri’s Ultra-Short Ascetic Animal Stories,”](#) panel on animal fables ancient and modern

- “[Rethinking Fables in the Age of Global Environmental Crisis](#),” Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) UK-funded collaboration by scholars, artists, and animal experts

New York University, Abu Dhabi Campus (Abu Dhabi, UAE) 28-29 Sept. 2023

- “Classical Arabic Literature’s Deal with the Devil,” panel on public humanities
- Library of Arabic Literature series (‘LAL’, NYU Press) 10th anniversary celebration

Middle East Studies Association (Denver, Colorado) 3 Dec. 2022

- “A Banu Sasan Underworld Poem by Nasrid Andalusi Jurist, Umar al-Malaqi (d. after 1440 CE)”
- Panel on “Classical Matters: Periodization, Diversity, and Inventiveness”

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany) May 2022

- “Al-Ma`arri’s Defense of Veganism in Letters to al-Mu’ayyad fi al-Din al-Shirazi”
- European Research Council-funded conference, “Animals in Islamic Theology and Literature” (dir. Peter Adamson)

University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA) Apr. 2022

- “A Banu Sasan Underworld Poem by Nasrid Andalusi Jurist, Umar al-Malaqi (d. after 1440 CE)”
- [Symposium](#) on Islamic Spain and North Africa in honor of James T. Monroe

American Oriental Society (Boston, MA) Mar. 2022

- “An Evening of Poetry,” original translations from Arabic poetry (one of five readers)

The Royal Swedish Academy (Stockholm, Sweden) Jan. 2022

- “Like a Camel’s Afterbirth: Al-Ma`arri’s Refusal to Write Arabic Poetry for Patrons”
- Conference, “The Poetics of Occasional Literature in the Eastern Mediterranean and Beyond”

National Book Critics Circle (NBCC) Nov. 2021

- “[The Art of Reviewing Literature in Translation](#),” panel discussion in honor of the new NBCC Greg Barrios Book in Translation Prize

Frankfurt Book Fair, Sheikh Zayed Book Award (Frankfurt, Germany) Oct. 2021

- “[The Untapped Potential of Arabic Literature](#),” Zoom panel on untranslated Arabic works (first segment of this longer [video](#))
- Moderated by Porter Anderson, editor-in-chief of Publishing Perspectives Magazine
- Covered in [The National](#) (English language newspaper in Abu Dhabi, UAE), 22 October 2021

Saudi Arabia Ministry of Culture and the Adab Foundation Apr. 2021

- “[كتاب كوشى الرّوض: الخطّ رمزاً بلاغياً في الشّعر العربيّ القديم](#) (A Book like a Painted Garden: Script as Rhetorical Symbol in Classical Arabic Poetry)” (talk in Arabic)

University of Chicago, Center for Middle East Studies (CMES) Oct. 2020

- “[Careers in Literary Translation: Challenges and Opportunities](#),” career talk for MA students

Middle East Studies Association Oct. 2020

- “A Little World Made Cunningly: Al-Ma`arri and the Verse of Cosmic Principle”

Freie Universität Berlin, European Research Council (ERC) May 2019

- “Al-Ma`arri’s Anxious Menagerie: *The Epistle of the Horse and the Mule*”
-Presentation plus seminar, “Animals, Adab, and Fictivity,” for ERC project AnonymClassic with Beatrice Gruendler (principal investigator) and Matthew Keegan

Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, Casa Árabe (Córdoba, Spain) Apr. 2018

- “‘Impartially Have I Judged’: Contests of Poetry and *Adab* in the Medieval Islamic Court”

University of Southern Denmark, Center for Medieval Literature

June 2016

- “Literary Self-Defense: The *Zajr al-nabih* of al-Ma`arri,” conference on self-commentary

Academic Panels Convened or Chaired

American Oriental Society

Various to Present

Convener and presenter

Mar. 2024

- *Panel Title:* “Arabic Literature”
- *Discussant:* Sebastian Günther (Universität Göttingen)
- *Co-panelists:* Li Guo (Notre Dame), Jeannie Miller (U Toronto), Hakan Özkan (Aix-Marseille), Betty Rosen (King’s College London), Jens Ole Schmitt (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg), Aram Shahin (James Madison U), Jennifer Tobkin (George Washington U), Jonathan Lawrence (Cornell)
- *Paper Title:* “Foolscap and Tambourine: Translating the Surviving Poems of Ibn Daniyal (d. 710/1310)”

Chair and discussant

Mar. 2024

- *Panel Title:* “Early Islam and Quranic Studies”
- *Discussant:* Kevin Blankinship
- *Panelists:* S. Beena Butool (Florida State U), Isa Almisry (City Colleges of Chicago), Chris Mezger (Yale), Arafat A. Razzaque (U Toronto), Sean W. Anthony (Ohio State U), Juan R. Cole (U Michigan), Abdulla Galadari (Khalifa University of Science and Technology), Nadir Ansari (U Toronto)

Convener and presenter

Mar. 2023

- *Panel Title:* “Theories and Usages of Language”
- *Discussant:* Han Hsien Liew (Arizona State University)
- *Co-panelists:* Avigail Noy (University of Texas, Austin), Alexander Key (Stanford), Shahnaz Begum (University of Exeter)
- *Paper Title:* “Organic Unity in the ‘Personified Letter’ of Ibn Hijja al-Hamawi (d. 837/1434)”

Chair and discussant

Mar. 2023

- *Panel Title:* “Scribal Culture”
- *Discussant:* Kevin Blankinship
- *Panelists:* Arshad M. Hadjirin (Cambridge), Jamie O’Connell (Princeton University), Nicholas Kyle Longworth (University of Chicago)

Co-convener and presenter (with David Larsen, NYU)

Mar. 2022

- *Panel Title:* “Literature: In Memory of Jaroslav Stetkevych”
- *Discussant:* Bruce Fudge (University of Geneva)
- *Panelists:* Jennifer Tobkin (George Washington U), Erez Naaman (American University), David Larsen (NYU), Beatrice Gruendler (FU Berlin), Julie Ershadi (UCLA), Raashid Goyal (Cornell), Yusuf Unal (Emory), Mina Yazdani (Eastern Kentucky U)
- *Paper Title:* “As Barren as Mother Eve: Why Some Poems End Better than Others, According to Classical Arabic Critics”

Chair and discussant

Mar. 2022

- *Panel Title:* “Non-Muslim Communities Under Islam”
- *Discussant:* Kevin Blankinship
- *Panelists:* Thomas Benfey (Oxford), Kayla Dang (Yale), Andrew Magnusson (U of Central Oklahoma), Charles Häberl (Rutgers), Kevin van Bladel (Yale), David Hollenberg (University of Oregon)

Convener and presenter

Mar. 2021

- *Panel Title:* “Literature II”
- *Discussant:* Avigail Noy (University of Texas at Austin)
- *Co-panelists:* Jennifer Tobkin (George Washington University), Nicola Carpentieri (University of Connecticut), Ailin Qian (Southern University of Science and Technology)
- *Paper Title:* “Al-Ma`arri’s Anxious Menagerie: *The Epistle of the Horse and the Mule*”

Chair and discussant

Mar. 2021

- *Panel Title:* “Poetry I”
- *Discussant:* Kevin Blankinship
- *Panelists:* Catherine Ambler (Columbia University), David Larsen (NYU), Avigail Noy (University of Texas at Austin), Azeem Malik (UCLA)

Convener and presenter

Mar. 2019

- *Panel Title:* “The Maghrib”
- *Discussant:* Paul Walker (University of Chicago)
- *Co-panelists:* Mohamad Ballan (SUNY Stony Brook), Andrea Castonguay (Notre Dame), Arshad Hadjirin (Cambridge), Nick Harris (UPenn)
- *Paper Title:* “A New, Andalusí Witness of al-Ma`arri’s Poetic Self-Commentary *Daw’ al-Saqt* (The Light of *The Tinder-Spark*)”

Other Conferences

The School of Abbasid Studies (Università Ca’ Foscari, Venice, Italy)

Jul. 2024

Convener and presenter

- *Panel Title:* “Fowl Play, or Very Bad Birds in Abbasid Belles Lettres”
- *Discussant:* Geert Jan van Gelder (University of Oxford, emeritus)
- *Co-panelists:* Emily Selove (University of Exeter)
- *Paper Title:* “Poppycock, or Birds as Liars and Tricksters in Abbasid Arabic Literature”

Middle East Studies Association

Nov. 2023

Convener and presenter

- *Panel Title:* “Mamluk Arabic Literature, or New Wine in Old Bottles”
- *Chair:* Jeannie Miller (University of Toronto)
- *Co-panelists:* Li Guo (University of Notre Dame), David Larsen (NYU), Ghassan Osmat (University of Toronto)
- *Paper Title:* “Organic Unity in the ‘Personified Letter’ of Ibn Hijja al-Hamawi (d. 837/1434)”

American Literary Translators Association
Convener and presenter

Nov. 2020

- *Panel Title:* "The Arabic Translation Challenge"
- *Discussant:* Kevin Blankinship
- *Panelists:* Marcia Qualey (ArabLit.org), Rachel Schine (CU Boulder), Youssef Rakha

Middle East Studies Association
Convener and presenter

Nov. 2017

- *Panel Title:* "Literary Genealogy in Medieval and Modern Iberia and North Africa"
- *Discussant:* Suzanne Stetkevych (Georgetown)
- *Co-panelists:* Gretchen Head (Yale), Nizar Hermes (UVA), Enass Khansa (AU Beirut)
- *Paper Title:* "Al-Ma`arri's Menagerie in the Maghreb"

Individual Academic Conference Papers (unsolicited)

American University of Beirut (Lebanon)

June 2021

- "As Barren as Mother Eve: Why Some Poems End Better than Others, According to Classical Arabic Critics"

Medieval Association of the Midwest

Oct. 2019

- "Banu Sasan: A Medieval Arab Underworld Society"

International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI)

May 2018

- "Repenting of Poetry: Al-Farazdaq's Notice to the Devil," Great Lakes Adiban Society

International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI)

May 2018

- "A Form Most Foul: Transgression and Shapeshifting in Arabic and Icelandic Popular Belief"

American Academy of Religion, Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region

Mar. 2018

- "Repenting of Poetry: Al-Farazdaq's Notice to the Devil"

University of Colorado Boulder, The Mediterranean Seminar

Apr. 2017

- "The Mediterranean and the Dream of Comparative Literature"

University of Seville (Spain), Three Cultures Foundation

Nov. 2016

- "A Persian *Jarcha* by Ibn Sana' al-Mulk," conference on Heritage of Al-Andalus: Iberia-Persia

American University of Beirut, Arab-German Young Academy

May 2016

- "Veganism and the Ethics of Medieval Authorship in Ma`arri's Personal Correspondence"

American Oriental Society

Mar. 2016

- "Al-Ma`arri's Imitation as Literary Reading of the Qur'an"

American Comparative Literature Association

Mar. 2016

- "Al-Ma`arri as Signifier of Modernity in Neoclassical Arabic Literature"

Middle East Studies Association

Nov. 2015

- "A Second Matching Brocade: Medieval Theologians on Emulation of the Qur'an"

American Comparative Literature Association

Mar. 2015

- "Did al-Ma`arri Really Try to Imitate the Qur'an?"

American Oriental Society

Mar. 2015

- "Absent Commentary and the 'Qur'an' of Syrian Poet Abu'l-'Ala' al-Ma`arri"

Modern Language Association

Jan. 2013

- “‘Tell Me Humorous Anecdotes of Misers’: Rendering the Kitab al-Bukhala’ Into English”

AWARDS & HONORS

Internal

- Brigham Young University, Humanities+ (Plus) Public Humanities Award (\$1,000) 1 May 2024
- BYU College of Humanities award for exemplary contributions as a public intellectual sharing humanities with the broader public

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

External (as Principal Investigator)

- American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) Research Grant (\$2,250) Mar. 2019
- Funding for short-term archive work in Tunisia, fall 2019
 - *Project*: Al-Ma`arri's Admirers in the Maghrib: Classical Arabic Literature East and West
- American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) Jeanne Jeffers Mrad Award (\$150) Sept. 2017
- Travel award to annual Middle East Studies Association (MESA) meeting (Washington, DC)
 - *Presentation Title*: Al-Ma`arri's Menagerie in the Maghrib
- Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award (DDRA) (\$33,500) 2016-2017
- Full-Year (12 months) PhD research grant to Morocco (Rabat, Tangier, Tetouan)
 - *Proposed Project*: Recovering African Literature in Arabic: Al-Ma`arri in North Africa
- Middlebury College Betty Jones Fellowship (\$8,500) June-Aug. 2015
- Merit-based fellowship, full tuition and stipend, Summer Arabic School
- Middlebury College Betty Jones Fellowship (\$7,500) June-Aug. 2014
- Merit-based fellowship, full tuition and stipend, Summer Arabic School
- Middlebury College, Kathryn Davis Fellows For Peace (\$8,500) June-Aug. 2013
- Competitive fellowship for peace through language, Middlebury Summer Arabic School
- Foreign Language/ Area Studies (FLAS) Grant (\$7,500) June-Aug. 2012
- U.S. Department of Education grant, Middlebury Arabic School
- University of California Santa Barbara, Conference Travel Grant (\$500) Apr. 2011
- Travel grant to UC Santa Barbara Islamic Studies Conference
 - *Presentation Title*: The Fate of the Soul in Abu Ya`qub al-Sijistani's Thought
- Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) I (\$40,000) 2009-2010
- Full-year fellowship, advanced Arabic training, American University in Cairo

External (as Associate Investigator)

- University of Oxford, St. John's College “Welcome Grant” (\$20,000) Dec. 2024-Present
- Two-year funding for conference, edited volume on classical Arabic poetry
 - Co-authored with Tahera Qutbuddin (principal investigator) and Nathan Miller
 - *Project*: A Practical Guide to Classical Arabic Poetry: Tools for Understanding Form and Meaning, Art and Function
- Independent Research Fund Denmark (DFF) Project 1 Grant (\$433,000) Apr. 2019-Apr. 2023
- Three-year funding for research on comparative self-commentary (Latin, Greek, Arabic)
 - Co-authored with Aglae Pizzone (principal investigator) and Lars Mortensen
 - *Project*: Medieval Self-Commentaries Beyond Europe: A Transcultural Perspective

- University of Southern Denmark, HUM SEED Research Grant (\$12,750) Mar. 2017
- Short-term research grant, Southern Denmark University (with Aglae Pizzone, principal)
 - *Project: Medieval Self-Commentary East and West* (Arabic and Greek)

Internal

- University of Utah, Department of World Languages and Cultures (\$1,100) Sept. 2017
- Travel grant to annual International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, Michigan)
 - *Presentation Title: Repenting of Poetry: Al-Farazdaq's Notice to the Devil*

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS (DECLINED)

- Brigham Young University, Kennedy Center for International Studies (\$1,000) Nov. 2018
- Travel grant to Mediterranean Studies Association meeting (Rethymnon, Greece)
 - *Presentation Title: Holy Terror: Byzantium in the Eyes of an 11th-Century Arab Poet*
- Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) II (\$40,000) 2013-2014
- Full-year fellowship, independent graduate research, intensive language study
 - *Proposed Project: Abbasid-Era Poetry (750-1258 AD) and Arabic Literary Theory*

FUNDRAISING, CHARITY & PRO BONO

- Zahra Hasanaat Charities Dec. 2024-Present
- Liaison between [LDS Humanitarian Services](#) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and [Zahra Hasanaat Charities](#) of the Dawoodi Bohra Shiite Muslim community
- University of Arizona, *Step Up for CASA fundraising campaign* Feb. 2021-Present
- Member, fundraising committee to anchor the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) program. Campaign goal: \$3 million in three years.
 - My work with Title VI Middle East Centers, other institutional donors led to "Director's Circle" scheme for tiered institutional gifts

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Radio, Podcasts & Videocasts

- "[Not the 1,001 Nights with Professor Kevin Blankinship \(a unique journey into Classical Arabic Literature\)](#)" | *New Lyre Podcast (The Chained Muse magazine)*, 28 January 2025
- "[Al-Ma`arri: The World's First Vegan](#)" | *The Vegan Report*, 9 April 2024
- "[Book Club Edition: Poetry by Rumi](#)" (Islamic mystical poems translated by Franklin Lewis in 'Swallowing the Sun') | *In Good Faith* podcast on BYU Radio, 22 October 2023
- "[Rumi and the Sheikh](#)" | *In Good Faith* podcast on BYU Radio, 15 October 2023 (I can be heard from minute 5:00 to minute 20:16)
- "[Bedouin Poetry and Culture through the Ages, with Marcel Kurpershoek](#)" | *New Lines Magazine* podcast, 20 May 2022
- "[What Happened in Baghdad, episode 3: Al-Ma`arri](#)" | *What Happened in Baghdad* podcast, 18 May 2022
- "[A Life in Translation, with William Maynard Hutchins](#)" | *New Lines Magazine* podcast, 6 May 2022

- [“Poetry Still Happens,”](#) *RadioACTIVE* on KRCL 90.9 Salt Lake City, Utah, 25 August 2021
- [“A Spring of Classical Arabic Poetry: A Twelve-Part Series with Kevin Blankinship,”](#) *Abbasid History Podcast*, 2 January 2021-15 December 2021 (semiannual podcast episodes)
- [“Arabic Professor Dr. Kevin Blankinship: Arabic Dialects, Poetry, and Tips for Learners”](#) *Interview with translator and media professional Shannon E. Maher*, 22 January 2021
- [“Michael Cooperson in Conversation with Kevin Blankinship,”](#) *Words are Bridges* (Jaipur Literature Festival), 5 November 2020.
- [“Dr. Kevin Blankinship on the Life and Works of Poet-philosopher ‘Heretic’ Abū al-‘Alā’ al-Ma‘arrī \(d. 1058\),”](#) *Abbasid History Podcast*, 29 March 2020 (interview series about classical Islamic history and civilization with academics, archivists, artists, and more)

Written Media Coverage

- [“Why Academics Should Join the Popular Press”](#) | BYU College of Humanities, 16 March 2023
- [“Rediscovered Poetry Inspires New Music”](#) | BYU College of Humanities, 16 August 2022
- [“Moneera al-Ghadeer reviews *The Mu‘allaqat for Millennials: Pre-Islamic Arabian Golden Odes* translated by Kevin Blankinship et al”](#) | *Asymptote Journal*, 21 April 2022
- [“National Book Critics Circle in the U.S. Announces ‘Greg Barrios Book in Translation Prize’,”](#) *ArabLit.org*, 4 November 2021
- [“المعلقات لجيل الألفية: إعادة إحياء للشعر العربي القديم”](#) (The Mu‘allaqat for Millennials: Reviving Ancient Arabic Poetry), interview in Arabic with *Raseef22*, 27 March 2021
- [“Millennials Invited to Rediscover Timeless Literature of Arabia,”](#) *Arab News*, 12 March 2021
- [“إعادة إحياء المعلقات العشر لجيل الألفية”](#) (Reviving the Ten Mu‘allaqat Poems for Millennials), *Thmanyah Magazine*, 18 December 2020
- [“What Do You Know About ‘The Mu‘allaqat for Millennials?’”](#) *Sekka Magazine*, December 2020
- [“‘History is Better When it’s Alive’: Professor Kevin Blankinship on Public Humanities as Ambassadorship for the Past,”](#) *BYU Humanities Center*, 5 October 2020
- [“The Los Angeles Review of Books showcases essay by Kevin Blankinship, professor of Arabic,”](#) *BYU Humanities College Newsletter*, 28 September 2020
- [“New Arabic Translation Challenges are Published Each Tuesday with Roundups on Saturday,”](#) *Bulaq Podcast*, Episode 49: Locked-In Lit, 22 May 2020
- [“Independent Research Fund Denmark Awards Kevin Blankinship and Colleagues Substantial Research Grant,”](#) *BYU Humanities College Newsletter*, 31 March 2020
- [“A research trio including professor of Arabic Kevin M. Blankinship \(BA ’07\) won a \\$430,000 grant from the Independent Research Fund Denmark to study writings from the medieval period at the Royal Library of Copenhagen,”](#) *BYU Magazine*, July 2019
- [“CML’s Aglae Pizzone Awarded Research Project 1 Grant from Independent Research Fund Denmark,”](#) *Centre for Medieval Literature* (University of Southern Denmark), 13 May 2019

- [“Poetry and Prose Lecture with Professor Kevin Blankinship,”](#) *Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center Newsletter*, April 3, 2019
- [“Fulbright-Hays Fellow Spotlight: Kevin Blankinship,”](#) *UChicagoGRAD Digest*, May 16, 2018
- Chloé Conorch, [“U of U Professor Hosts Lecture on Arabic Language and Culture for Utah Humanities Book Festival,”](#) *The Signpost, Weber State University*, 29 September 2017

TEACHING

Brigham Young University

Arabic Language and Literature

ARAB 426R	Advanced Arabic Grammar	Various (to present)
	• Directed readings with teaching assistant for study abroad	<i>Fall 2024</i>
ARAB 425	Classical Texts in Arabic	Various (to present)
	• <i>Animals in Arabic Thought and Literature</i>	<i>Fall 2023</i>
	• <i>Love in Arabic Literature</i> (dir. readings, MESA 398R)	<i>Spring 2021</i>
ARAB 495R (II), 411	Arabic Texts Seminar	Various (to present)
	• <i>Qur'an, Hadith, Stories of the Prophets, Moral Tales</i>	<i>Spring 2022</i>
	• <i>Adab: Education, Society, Writing</i>	<i>Spring 2021</i>
ARAB 495R (I)	Advanced Arabic Written Composition	Various (2019 to present)
ARAB 302	Media Arabic Class (study abroad, Morocco)	<i>Fall 2024</i>
ARAB 311R	Third-Year Arabic Conversation	Various (to present)
	• <i>The Qur'an, Text and Context</i>	<i>Fall 2020</i>
	• <i>Arabic Language House Dinner Conversation</i>	<i>Fall 2019</i>
ARAB 202	Second-year Arabic	Various (to present)
ARAB 101, 102	First-year Arabic	Various (to present)

Islamic Religion, Thought and Civilization

IAS 201R	Arabic Study Abroad prep class	Winter 2024
MESA 250	The Religion of Islam	Annually (2023-present)
IHUM 242	Humanities of the Islamic World	Bi-annually (2021-present)

Middlebury Summer Arabic School, Mills College

ARAB 1B	First-year Arabic, Level 1B	Summer 2019
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University of Utah

ARAB 4050	The Qur'an, Text and Context	Spring 2018
ARAB 3020	Third-year Arabic II	
ARAB 4040	Advanced Arabic Writing	Fall 2017
ARAB 3010	Third-year Arabic I	
ARAB 2010	Second-year Arabic I	

ADVISING

Graduate Research (as committee member)

Caleb Deppermann, MA Comparative Studies, Brigham Young University May 2022-Apr. 2024

- “The Materiality of the Soul in Plutarch’s *Moralia*”

Clayton van Woerkom, MA Anthropology, Brigham Young University Sept. 2021-Apr. 2023

- “Becoming Good: Muslims in a Rural French Town Pursuing Moral Personhood”
- Graduated April 2023, current PhD student in sociology, University of Michigan

Graduate Research (as external reviewer)

Dua Yousif Bassal, PhD Philosophy, University of Haifa Mar. 2024

- “الفكاهة في الشعر العباسي: دراسة تطبيقية-تحليلية ومقارنة” (Humor in Abbasid Poetry: An Applied-Analytical and Comparative Study)
- Primary advisor: Ali Ahmad Hussein, Associate Professor, Classical Arabic Literature

Undergraduate Research (as primary advisor)

Paige Barney, BA Art History and Curatorial Studies Oct. 2023-Aug. 2024

- BYU HumGrant Project (\$1,200 for student-initiated, faculty mentored research): “Arabic Scripts of the Alhambra Palace”

Austin Ball, BA Comparative Literature and Arabic Feb. 2022-Apr. 2023

- BYU HumGrant Project: “Causation at a Distance in al-Kindi’s Physics”

Garrett Maxwell, BA Comparative Literature and Arabic Feb. 2022-Dec. 2022

- BYU HumGrant project: “Prophethood in the Early Qur’anic Suras”

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Boards & Other Editorial Work Various to Present

- Book reviews editor, *Journal of Arabic Literature* (March 2024-present)
- Editorial Board, [Rocznik Orientalistyczny](#) (Yearbook of Oriental Studies, University of Łódź, Poland, March 2022-present)

American Oriental Society Various to Present

- Member (2022) and Chair (2023), Nominating Committee (2-year term, March 2022-March 2024; solicit nominations to elected offices, submit ballot to general membership, consult with society officers, board of directors)
- “An Evening of Poetry,” recruit five readers from each section to recite poetry in translation; host event, provide refreshments (March 2023, 2024)
- “Creating Your Digital Presence,” professionalization talk for graduate students, March 2022

American Institute for Maghreb Studies (AIMS) Nov. 2021-Nov. 2024

Board of Directors, Institutional Representative of Brigham Young University

- Three-year term of service; attend annual board meeting, Middle East Studies Association
- Grants committee (review 30+ applications, work with committee to award funding)
- Book prize committee (review 15+ submissions, work with committee to award prize)
- Graduate student committee (give written & oral feedback on job application materials)

National Book Critics Circle (NBCC)

April 2019-Nov. 2022

Translation Prize Working Group

- Solicit book nominations; form long- and shortlists; vote on best book from 5-8 finalists
- Organize, promote translation-related events, including award ceremony

Reading Committee Member, John Leonard Award for Best First Book

- Nominate books for selection, read and vote on best book from 5-8 finalists

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

June-July 2022

Grant Application Reviewer, NEA Translation Project Fellowship Applications

- Read, review 35-40 applications per cycle (fields: literary translation in multiple languages)
- Write evaluation reports, assess applications in coordination with other panelists

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

May-June 2021

Grant Application Reviewer, NEH Fellowships Program and NEH Summer Stipends Program

- Read, review 25-30 applications per cycle (fields: Middle East Studies, general humanities)
- Write evaluation reports, assess applications in coordination with other panelists

Journal Article Manuscript Referee

Aug. 2019-Present

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (JRAS), International Journal of Middle East Studies (IJMES), Publications of the Modern Language Association (PMLA), Journal of Arabic Literature (JAL), Journal of the American Oriental Society (JAOS), The Journal of North African Studies (American Institute of Maghrib Studies, AIMS), Middle Eastern Literatures (MEL), Oriens: Journal of Philosophy, Theology, and Science in Islamic Societies (Brill), Revista Al-Qantara (Spanish National Research Council, CSIC), Al-Abhath (American University of Beirut), Al-Markaz (Arabic-language journal, American University of Beirut), Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics (American University in Cairo), The Hispanic Review (University of Pennsylvania), Rocznik Orientalistyczny (Yearbook of Oriental Studies, University of Łódź, Poland), Religions (MDPI), Annales Islamologiques

Book Manuscript Referee

June 2018-Present

Yale University Press, Catholic University of America Press, Brill Publishers, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, Gorgias Press

SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION

Brigham Young University

Department of Asian & Near Eastern Languages

Jan. 2025-Present

Member, Rank and Status Committee

- Evaluate candidates for tenure, full professor

Kennedy Center for International Studies; Dept. of Asian & Near Eastern Languages

Jan.-Dec. 2024

Director, Arabic Study Abroad to Rabat, Morocco

- Evaluate 30+ student applications for intensive Arabic study abroad
- Lead seven-week prep class prior to departure, advanced Media Arabic class in country
- Create and oversee budget of \$200,000+ in conjunction with BYU Kennedy Center
- Arrange flights, lodging, food, local transport, classes, guest speakers, weekend field trips in conjunction with AMIDEAST Rabat (in-country host institution), Qasid Language Institute in Amman, Jordan (for language appointments via Zoom)
- Oversee Arabic teaching, offer feedback, suggestions for improvement

- Humanities+ (Plus) Fellow May 2024-Present
- Four-day workshop, humanities competencies and experiential education
- BYU Humanities Center 9 Feb. 2023
- [“Brokers of the Trust Economy, or Why Faculty Should Write for the Popular Press”](#)
- Talk/workshop for BYU faculty and students about how to do “public” humanities
- College of Humanities Feb. 2022, 2023
- Faculty Judge, [Three-Minute Graduate Thesis Competition](#)
- Listen to 6-8 humanities grad students each give a 3-minute thesis “pitch.” Work with other judges to award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. First place goes on to compete at university level.
- Kennedy Center for International Studies; Various Departments Jan. 2022-Apr. 2022
- Faculty Reviewer, *Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Grant Applications*
- Evaluate 25+ student applications for academic-year foreign language studies funding
 - Consult with Asian Studies coordinator regarding final rankings and awards
- Middle East Studies/Arabic, Department of Asian & Near Eastern Langs. Jan. 2022-Present
- Faculty Supervisor, *Al-Buhuth Student Journal for Middle Eastern Studies*
- Edit English and Arabic-language submissions; work with authors, student editors, and faculty readers to provide timely feedback; oversee final production of journal
- Departments of History, Political Science, Asian & Near Eastern Langs. Mar. 2020-Nov. 2021
- Chair, *Publicity and Promotion, BYU Fall 2021 Conference on Modern Islamic World*
- Generate topics and schedule, invite speakers, coordinate with other members, university administration. Press releases, social media, other promotional items. Budget: \$100,000
- Foreign Language Student Residence (FLSR) Aug. 2019-Dec. 2020
- Faculty Supervisor, *Arabic Language Immersion Housing*
- Lead weekly discussions in Arabic, advise resident heads, FLSR administrative staff
- International Vice President’s Office Nov. 2018-Present
- Member, *Advisory Council for Jordan, Middle East Affairs*
- Inform, advise faculty and staff about in-country programming, local conditions, concerns

SERVICE TO SOCIETY

Public Lectures & Readings

- Utah Arts Festival (Salt Lake City, UT) 27-29 Aug. 2021
- Original poetry reading, part of Rock Canyon Poets group performance
- Taylorsville Public Library (Taylorsville, UT) 4 May 2021
- [“The 1,001 Arabian Nights: Talking Fish, Drug-filled Polo Sticks, and Other Serious Matters”](#)
- AMIDEAST Rabat, Morocco; National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) 18 Dec. 2018
- “My Journey with Arabic,” informal careers talk, high school and gap-year Arabic students
- Utah Humanities Book Festival; Utah Symphony and Opera (Ogden, UT) 21 Sept. 2017
- “Imagination, Orient, and the 1,001 Arabian Nights,” public lecture for Utah Humanities

TRANSLATION & CONSULTING WORK

Expert Witness

Nov. 2020-Dec. 2021

- Provide expertise on Arab/Middle Eastern culture and society for family law cases
- Firms worked with: *Utah Legal Services*

Independent Consulting

Oct. 2019-Present

- Provide Middle East expertise to clients (NGOs, law firms, public sector agencies)
- Firms worked with: *GlobalWonks Consulting*

Freelance Arabic-English Translator

Sept. 2009-Present

- Past clients: *Marhaba Language Expertise, University of Chicago Law School/Neubauer Collegium, King Saud University, Christian Solidarity International (CSI), Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), The Tafsir Project (Office of the Grand Mufti of Egypt)*

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

American Institute for Maghreb Studies; American Oriental Society; American Comparative Literature Association; Foundation for Individual Rights in Education; Heterodox Academy; Library of Arabic Literature (NYU Press); Middle East Medievalists; Middle East Studies Association; School of Abbasid Studies; School of Mamluk Studies

LANGUAGES

- *Reading and speaking:* Arabic (Classical, Modern Standard; Jordanian, Egyptian, and Moroccan dialects), Portuguese, Spanish
- *Reading proficiency:* Persian, French, German, Latin

ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Arabic Language and Literature

- Classical poetry and belles lettres; the Arabic tradition of rhetoric and poetics; dialect and “popular” literature; specific themes and motifs (e.g., animals, food, numbers)

Comparative Literature

- Literary history (genre, reception, translation); textual cultures (authorship, commentaries)

Religious Studies

- Ethics, Qur'an and literature, moral status of poetry in Islam