

Curriculum Vitae

Elsa Elmahdy

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Education:

M.A. Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language (June 2012)
American University in Cairo

M.A. Arabic Studies (Emphasis in Arabic Language and Literature) (June 2007)
American University in Cairo

Thesis: “*Hija*’ (Satire) in the Early Islamic Period: Thematic and Stylistic Characteristics”

B.A. Double Major: (December 2002)
Near Eastern Studies (Emphasis in Arabic Language) and Chemistry
University of California, Berkeley

Non-Degree Education:

Intensive Persian Immersion Summer Program II (Summer 2008) Arya International
University, Yerevan, Armenia

Intensive Persian Immersion Summer Program I (Summer 2007) California State
University, Fullerton (CSUF)

Coursework in News Translation (Arabic-English) (Spring 2007) School of
Continuing Education, American University in Cairo

Coursework in Modern Standard Arabic (Rhetoric & Prosody) (2004-2005)
Al-Diwan Institute, Cairo, Egypt

Academic and Teaching Experience:

Arabic Language Coordinator and Lecturer (2012-Present)
Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley
Responsible for the coordination of the Arabic language program, curriculum development,
conducting placement & proficiency examinations, mentoring Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs)
Courses Taught: Elementary Arabic (Arabic 1A & Arabic 1B), Intermediate Arabic (Arabic 20A &
Arabic 20B), Advanced Arabic (Arabic 100A), Teaching Near Eastern Languages in College (NES
375)

Arabic Language Instructor (2008-2012)
Arabic Language Institute, American University in Cairo
Courses Taught: Elementary Arabic (ALNG 101 & ALNG 102), Intermediate Arabic (ALNG 103,
ALNG 112 & ALNG 201/ALIN 103, ALIN 201 & ALIN 202), Arabic Writing (ALIN 221 &
ALIN 222), and Arabic for the News Media (ALNG 206)

Arabic Language Instructor (Summers 2009, 2010, 2012)
Summer Arabic Intensive, Zaytuna College, Berkeley, California

Courses Taught: Intermediate Arabic & Advanced Arabic

Arabic Language Instructor (Fall 2007)
Al-Alusi Foundation, Hayward, California
Courses Taught: Elementary Arabic

Research Assistant (Spring 2006)
Department of Arabic Studies, American University in Cairo
Assisted Arabic Studies Department Chair, Dr. Eleanora Fernandes, Professor of Middle Eastern History

Conferences, Seminars & Workshops:

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (November 2016)
Annual Convention & Expo, Boston, Massachusetts

American Association of Teachers of Arabic Annual Meeting (November 2015)
Denver, Colorado

Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting (November 2015) Denver,
Colorado

Foreign Language Association of Northern California Conference
Hayward, California (October 2015)

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (November 2014)
Annual Convention & Expo, San Antonio, Texas

Department of Near Eastern Studies Brown Bag Talk (Spring 2014)
Talk title: "Teaching the Near Eastern Languages in College"

Faculty Seminar on Teaching with GSIs (Fall 2013) GSI Teaching and Resource
Center, University of California, Berkeley
Participated a three-part seminar on working with GSIs.

Language Teaching with Technology Seminar (Spring 2013) Berkeley Language
Center, University of California, Berkeley
Participated in the semester-long seminar in using technology effectively in the foreign language
classroom.

International Conference on Teaching Arabic in a Changing World: Needs and Challenges,
American University in Cairo (AUC), Cairo, Egypt (January 2013)
Paper Title: "Student and Teacher Beliefs on Written Corrective Feedback in the Arabic Foreign
Language Classroom"

Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting (December 2011)
Panel Chair and Presenter, Washington D.C.

Panel: “Issues in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language”

Paper Title: “Discrepancies in Native and Non-Native Production: The Case of the Active Participle in Modern Standard Arabic”

Virtual Classroom Workshop (Fall 2011)

Arabic Language Institute, American University in Cairo

Participated in a number of workshops on conducting online teaching and creating virtual classrooms

Faculty Workshop on Assessment (Summer 2010) Organizer and Presenter, Zaytuna College, Berkeley, California

Workshop Title: “Matching Assessment Strategies with Instructional Objectives in Language Testing”

Fifteenth Annual AUC Research Conference (April 2008) Panel Title: “Exploring Arab Literary History: Themes in Classical Arabic Poetry”

Paper Title: “*Hija*’ (Satire) in the Early Islamic Period”

Awards:

Mellon Conference Grant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) (2017) Professional

Development Fund (PDF) Grant

Grant for Oral Proficiency Interview workshop, University of Oregon, Eugene. (2016)

Mellon Conference Grant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) (2013) Travel Grant, Berkeley Language Center (BLC) (2013)

Conference Grant, American University in Cairo (AUC) (2011)

Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language Fellowship (Spring 2008-Spring 2010) American University in Cairo

Strategic Language Initiative Scholarship (Summers 2007, 2008) Intensive Persian Immersion Program, California State University, Fullerton

University Fellowship (Spring 2006)

Arabic Studies Department, American University in Cairo

Academic Memberships:

Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) (2011-present)

American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA) (2013-present) American Council

on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) (2014-present) Foreign Language

Association of Northern California (FLANC) (2015-present)

Service:

Search Committee Member, Persian Coordinator & Lecturer Position

Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley (Spring 2016)

Search Committee Member, Turkish Language Lecturer Position (Spring 2015)

Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Languages:

English: Native speaker

Modern Standard Arabic: Near-native fluency

Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: Proficient

Persian: Intermediate

Spanish: Intermediate

Research Interests:

Written corrective feedback in the L2 classroom, matching assessment tools with learning targets, bridging the gap between the production of native and non-native speakers of Arabic, understanding student and teacher attitudes in the Arabic classroom, functional grammar, the relationship between modern standard Arabic and colloquial Arabic, history of the Arabic language, Arabic poetry