

Kevin Blankinship

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SUMMARY

I am a scholar, poet, critic, and translator. I research and teach Arabic language and literature within the context of the Mediterranean world. I also review books and comment on Middle East culture for general readers, write original English language poetry, and work as an Arabic translator.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigham Young University (Provo, UT), Asian and Near Eastern Languages <i>Assistant Professor, Arabic Language and Literature</i>	Aug. 2018-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
University of Chicago (Chicago, IL), Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations <i>Instructor, North African Culture and Society</i>	Feb.-Mar. 2017
<i>Teaching Assistant, Arabic and Islamic Studies</i>	Sept. 2012-Mar. 2014

EDUCATION

University of Chicago (Chicago, IL): MA, PhD, Arabic Language and Literature <i>Dissertation Title: "Thresholds of Doubt: Negotiating Authorship in the Paratexts of al-Ma`arri"</i>	2018
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 Articles and Chapters

<i>Journal of Abbasid Studies</i>	Expected 2021
• "Al-Ma`arri's Anxious Menagerie: <i>The Epistle of the Horse of the Mule</i> "	
<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> 140, no. 1 (pages 19-37)	2020
• "Giggers, Greeners, Peyserts, and Palliards: Rendering Slang in <i>al-Bukhala</i> of al-Jahiz"	
<i>Insatiable Appetite: Food as a Cultural Signifier in the Middle East and Beyond</i> (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	
<i>Al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean</i> 31, no. 3 (pages 253-271)	2019
• " Al-Ma`arri's Esteem in the Islamic West: A Preliminary Overview "	

Academic Book Reviews

<i>Al-Abhath: Journal of the American University of Beirut</i> 62-63, pp. 148-54	Sept. 2018
• Work reviewed: James T. Monroe, <i>The Mischievous Muse</i> , 2 vols. (Brill, 2017)	
<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i> 76, no. 1	Apr. 2017
• Work reviewed: Christian Peltz, <i>Der Koran des Abu l-'Ala'</i> , 2 vols. (Harrassowitz-Verlag, 2013)	

Literary Journalism (selected; full list at KBlankinship.com)

The Hedgehog Review 1 Mar. 2020

- “[A Grand Turk in Washington](#),” review of *Jefferson’s Muslim Fugitives: The Lost Story of Enslaved Africans, Their Arabic Letters, and an American President*, by Jeffrey Einboden (Oxford University Press, 2020)

The Millions

- “[Lost in Translation: Classical Arabic Literature](#),” essay about current trends in classical Arabic literature; featured on [Poets & Writers Magazine](#) 26 Nov. 2019

The Times Literary Supplement

- “[Full-Bodied](#),” review of *The Praiseworthy One: The Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Texts and Images*, by Christiane Gruber (Indiana University Press, 2019) 22 Nov. 2019

ArabLit.org (Arabic Literature and Translation)

- “[In Love and Word Ensnared](#),” review of *Bewildered: Love Poems from Translation of Desires* (trans. Michael Sells, Post-Apollo Press, 2018) 18 Nov. 2019

The Los Angeles Review of Books

- “[Rushdie’s Deal with the Devil](#),” 30th anniv. review of *The Satanic Verses* 30 Jan. 2019
-Featured on arts and culture digest [Arts Journal](#) and news daily [Jewish Journal](#)

The Atlantic

- “[The Benefits of a Foreign-Language Tattoo](#)”; featured on [The Tattoo Forum](#) 9 Dec. 2018

Poetry and Translations

Poetica Review (forthcoming) Spring 2020

- “Pruning the Apricot Tree”; “Ouroboros, or Writer’s Block”; “Majnun, or To Have” (three original poems)

Blue Unicorn (forthcoming) Spring 2020

- “Free Enterprise” (original poem)

Lighten Up Online (forthcoming) June 2020

- “To Arabic, an Abortive Dear Jane” (original poem)

The Society of Classical Poets

- “[On Hearing of Hosni Mubarak’s Death, 25 February 2020](#)” (original poem) 26 Feb. 2020

Gingerbread House 30 Nov. 2019

- “[Bourgeois Prometheus](#)” (original poem)

The Ekphrastic Review 2 Aug. 2019

- “[Frenzy](#)” (response poem to painting of same title by Władysław Podkowiński, 1893)

Peaks of Madness, Utah Horror Writers Association Poetry Anthology July 2019

- “Behind the Wall” (original poem)

Jadaliyya 20 Sept. 2015

- “[An Elegy by al-Ma`arri](#),” Arabic-to-English translation plus introduction; -Featured on [ArabLit.org](#), daily website for Arabic literature, 21 March 2018

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, with Kirill Dmitriev (principle investigator), University of St. Andrews, UK

Work Submitted or In Progress

Refereed Publications

“Safeguarding Texts in the Self-Commentaries of John Tzetzes and al-Ma`arri” Expected 2020

- Refereed article (under review), *Philological Encounters*, co-authored with Aglae Pizzone

- “An Underworld Poem by Andalusī Jurist `Umar al-Malaqī (d. CE 1440)” Expected 2020
- Refereed article (under review), *Arabica: Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies*
- “Animal Ethics in al-Ma`arri’s *Epistle of the Horse and the Mule*” Expected 2021
- Solicited, refereed article (in preparation), *Religions*, special issue: Animals in Islam
- “Fighting the Tide: `Umar al-Malaqī’s *Maqama* on the Plague” Expected 2021
- Refereed article (in preparation), *Studia Islamica*
- “Three New Witnesses of al-Ma`arri’s Poetic Self-Commentary *Daw’ al-Saqt*” Expected 2022
- Refereed article (in preparation), *Journal of Islamic Manuscripts*
- “In Defense of Wisdom: Ibn al-Uqlishi’s Poem against Burning al-Ghazali’s Books” Expected 2022
- Refereed article, *Oriens: Journal of Philosophy, Theology and Science in Islamic Societies*

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS (ACCEPTED)

External

- Independent Research Fund Denmark (DFF) Project 1 Grant (\$433,000)** Apr. 2019
- Three-year funding for research on comparative self-commentary (Latin, Greek, Arabic)
 - Co-authored with Aglae Pizzone (principle investigator) and Lars Mortensen
 - *Project: Medieval Self-Commentaries Beyond Europe: A Transcultural Perspective*
- 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
- University of Southern Denmark, HUM SEED Research Grant (\$12,750)** Mar. 2017
- Short-term research grant, University of Southern Denmark (with Aglae Pizzone)
 - *Proposed Project: Medieval Self-Commentary East and West (Arabic and Greek)*
- 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
- Foreign Language/ Area Studies (FLAS) Grant (\$7,500)** June-Aug. 2011
- U.S. Department of Education grant, Persian study, University of Wisconsin
- 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
- Foreign Language/ Area Studies (FLAS) Grant (\$7,500)** June-Aug. 2008
- U.S. Department of Education grant, Middlebury Arabic School

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
- University of Chicago Humanities Division Fellowship (\$50,000/year X 5 years)** 2010-2015
- Graduate Aid Initiative (GAI) PhD Fellowship, full tuition, stipend and insurance
- University of Chicago Graduate Council, Conference Travel Grant (\$500)** Nov. 2015
- Travel grant to annual Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference
 - *Presentation Title*: Medieval Theologians on Emulation of the Qur'an
- University of Chicago Humanities Division, Conference Travel Grant (\$500)** Jan. 2013
- Travel grant to Modern Language Association (MLA) annual conference
 - *Presentation Title*: Rendering the *Kitab al-Bukhala'* Into English

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS (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
- Foreign Language/ Area Studies (FLAS) Grant (\$7,500)** June-Aug. 2015
- U.S. Department of Education grant, Middlebury Arabic School
- Foreign Language/ Area Studies (FLAS) Grant (\$7,500)** June-Aug. 2014
- U.S. Department of Education grant, Middlebury Arabic School
- 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
- Foreign Language/ Area Studies (FLAS) Grant (\$7,500)** June-Aug. 2013
- U.S. Department of Education grant, Middlebury Arabic School

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONSResearch Presented by Invitation*Invited Solo Lectures (selected)*

- 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
- Brigham Young University** Feb. 2018
- "Thresholds of Doubt: Negotiating Authorship in the Paratexts of al-Ma`arri," job talk
- San Diego State University** Jan. 2018
- "Thresholds of Doubt: Negotiating Authorship in the Paratexts of al-Ma`arri," job talk

Invited Papers and Presentations

~~The Royal Swedish Academy (Stockholm) (POSTPONED FOR CORONAVIRUS) _____ Apr. 2020~~

- ~~“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 (11th to 17th c.): A Cross-Cultural Approach”~~

~~American Oriental Society _____ Mar. 2020~~

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

~~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 (principle investigator) and Matthew Keegan, Freie Universität Berlin

~~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”~~
- ~~Conference on *The Majlis Revisited: Inter- and Intra-religious and Cross-Cultural Disputations*~~

~~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~~

Panels Organized or Chaired

~~American Oriental Society _____ Various~~

~~Organizer and presenter (POSTPONED FOR CORONAVIRUS) _____ Mar. 2020~~

- ~~Panel Title: “Literature I”~~
- ~~Discussant: Beatrice Gruendler (Freie Universität Berlin)~~
- ~~Co-panelists: Suzanne Stetkevych (Georgetown), Jeannie Miller (University of Toronto)~~
~~Jennifer Tobkin (George Washington University)~~
- ~~Paper Title: “Al-Ma`arri’s Anxious Menagerie: *The Epistle of the Horse and the Mule*”~~

~~Chair and discussant (solicited) (POSTPONED FOR CORONAVIRUS)~~

- ~~Panel Title: “Poetry”~~
- ~~Discussant: Kevin Blankinship~~
- ~~Panelists: Catherine Ambler (Columbia), David Larsen (NYU), Erez Naaman (American U)~~

~~Organizer 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, Andalusian Witness of al-Ma`arri’s Poetic Self-Commentary *Daw’ al-Saqt* (The Light of *The Tinder-Spark*)”~~

Other Conferences

~~International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI) (discussant) _____ (upcoming) May 2020~~

- ~~Panel Title: “Love, Fear, Anger, Sorrow: Emotions and Diseases of the Soul in Islamicate Literature,” session II~~
- ~~Discussant: Kevin Blankinship~~

- *Panelists:* Alexandra Hoffman (University of Chicago), Sahar Ullah (Columbia), Rubina Salikuddin (Bryn Mawr), Jonathan Lawrence (Oxford)

Middle East Studies Association (organizer 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 Presentations

School of Abbasid Studies (University of Oxford) (POSTPONED FOR CORONAVIRUS) July 2020

- “Explain Yourself! Al-Ma`arri and the Art of Self-Defense in Classical Arabic Literature”

International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI) (upcoming) May 2020

- “Both of Us, Wallowed in Blood: Al-Husri al-Qayrawani’s Requiem for his Dead Son”

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”

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- “[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)

- “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*, September 29, 2017.

TEACHING

Brigham Young University

ARAB 495R (Part II)	Arabic Texts Seminar: Religion and Society	Spring 2021
ARAB 362	Classical Arabic Literature in Translation <i>Arabic Literature of Islamic Spain</i>	Various (to present) Winter 2021
ARAB 495R (Part I)	Advanced Arabic Composition	Various (to present)
ARAB 101, 102	First-year Arabic	Various (to 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	

University of Chicago

SOSC 19051	North African Culture and Society (solo instructor)	Spring 2017
ARAB 30202	Advanced Modern Standard Arabic (teaching assistant)	Winter 2014
ARAB 30303	Advanced Classical Arabic (teaching assistant)	Spring 2013
ISLM 30601	Islamic Thought and Literature (teaching assistant)	Fall 2013
ARAB 20101-2-3	Second-year Modern Standard Arabic (teaching assistant)	2012-2013

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

National Book Critics Circle (NBCC)

<i>Reading Committee Member, John Leonard Award for Best First Book</i>	Nov. 2019-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominate books for selection, read and vote on best book from 5-7 finalists 	

Book Manuscript Referee

June 2018-Present

Routledge Books, Taylor & Francis Group

Journal Article Manuscript Referee

Aug. 2019-Present

International Journal of Middle East Studies (IJMES), *Publications of the Modern Language Association* (PMLA), *Annales Islamologiques* (Journal of the Institut Français D’archéologie Orientale [IFAO]), *The Hispanic Review* (University of Pennsylvania), *Enarratio: Journal of the Medieval Association of the Midwest*

University of Utah

J. Willard Marriott Library; Department of World Languages and Cultures June 2017-Present
Member, Manuscript Digital Access Project Committee

- Assess and promote Arabic manuscripts, papyri: draft collaborative grant proposals

SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION

Brigham Young University

Departments of History, Political Science, Asian & Near Eastern Langs. Mar. 2020-Present
Member, Steering Committee, BYU Fall 2021 Conference on Modern Islamic World

- Invite speakers, plan and promote events, coordinate schedule, meeting spaces, catering

International Vice President's Office Nov. 2018-Present
Member, Advisory Council for Jordan Affairs

- Inform, advise faculty and staff about in-country programming, local conditions, concerns

Foreign Language Student Residence (FLSR) Aug.-Dec. 2019
Faculty Supervisor, Arabic Language Immersion Housing

- Lead weekly discussions in Arabic, advise resident heads, FLSR administrative staff

Kennedy Center for International Studies Aug. 2018-Aug. 2019
Affiliate Faculty, Middle East Studies/Arabic (MESA)

- Faculty supervisor, [Al-Buhuth](#), BYU student journal; lead Middle East studies courses

University of Chicago

Center for Middle East Studies (CMES) June 2016-May 2017
Lead Co-Organizer, Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT) Conference

- Reviewed 100+ abstracts, formed 18+ panels, secured funding, managed \$7,500+ budget
- Invite keynote speaker, plan and promote events, coordinate schedule, meeting spaces

Division of the Humanities Oct. 2014-June 2015
Member, Student Advisory Committee (SAC), Dean of Students

- Developed policies to increase academic, financial support for 1,000+ students

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Sept. 2014-Apr. 2015
Graduate Student Liaison, Modern Arabic Literature Hiring Search Committee

- Reviewed candidates, advertised lectures, facilitated student views, wrote reports

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Sept.-Dec 2013
Student Coordinator, Visiting Lecture Series

- Planned, executed guest lectures, coordinated travel, food, social events, facilitated feedback

Student Government Graduate Council Jan.-June 2013
Representative, Division of the Humanities

- Discussed, voted on funding proposals (\$100,000+); worked on student mentoring initiatives

Center for Middle East Studies (CMES) Sept. 2011-June 2012
Director, Arabic Circle Weekly Lecture Series

- Coordinated, promoted schedule of 30+ speakers, recorded talks, maintained website

SERVICE TO SOCIETY

Public Education

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 AND CONSULTING WORK

GlobalWonks Consulting Network

Oct. 2019-Present

- Provide Middle East and North Africa expertise to clients (Fortune 500 companies, NGOs, law firms, public sector agencies), as part of global knowledge-sharing platform

Freelance Arabic-English Translator

Sept. 2009-Present

- *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 Ali Gomaa, the Grand Mufti of Egypt)*

AFFILIATIONS

National Book Critics Circle; Rock Canyon Poets; The Society of Classical Poets; Heterodox Academy; American Oriental Society; Middle East Studies Association; American Institute for Maghreb Studies; Middle East Medievalists; International Congress on Medieval Studies; Great Lakes Adiban Society; American Comparative Literature Association

LANGUAGES

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

ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Arabic Language and Literature

- Premodern poetry and poetics, especially of the Islamic West (Iberia and North Africa); rhetoric, grammar, rhyme, meter; dialect literatures; Arabic manuscripts and varia

Comparative Literature

- Arabic literary history, e.g. genre, reception, translation, comparative poetics, semiotics, literary pragmatics; and textual cultures, e.g. authorship, commentaries, textual variance

Religious Studies

- Ethics of writing, moral status of poetry in Islam, intellectual foundations of literary commentary, Qur'an and literature, wisdom and ascetic literature

Updated: April 2020