

Alaa Badr

I am a post-doctoral researcher at the Collège de France as well as a lecturer in political theory at SciencesPo Paris. I have more than a decade experience in researching and teaching in Italy, France, the UK, Qatar and Egypt. My research interests include intellectual history, political theory, and cultural studies. Following the successful defense of my Ph.D. without corrections, I am preparing my thesis for publication.

Education & Teaching Experience

- 2025** **Postdoctoral Researcher at the Collège de France**
- 2025** **Lecturer at SciencesPo Paris, Menton Campus.**
Courses designed and taught at undergraduate level:
- Knowledge Production after the Revolutions – contemporary Arab Intellectuals.
 - Arab POP! Culture and Critique in the Arab world.
 - Arabic Language levels A1 & B1
- 2024** **Delivered a Postgraduate Masterclass on Qualitative Research Methods, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar.**
Co-designed and delivered a course on Qualitative Research Methods to the new cohort of PhD candidates at the Doha Institute of Graduate Studies.
- 2024** **Instructional design consultant at Integrated Business Consulting, Cairo**
Successfully developed the mission and vision of the Research and Development wing at IBC, Identified prospective clients and developed course proposals to meet their needs.
- 2024** **Lecturer at SciencesPo Paris, Menton Campus.**
Courses designed and taught at undergraduate level:
- Identity and Religions in the Mediterranean
 - Arabic Language levels A1 & B1
- 2024** **Visiting Researcher at the Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), EUI.**
Research project on the new modes of knowledge production and sites of intellectual debate in North Africa.
- 2023** **PhD, the European University Institute, EUI.**
Dissertation title and [Abstract](#): *“Contributions toward the Remaking of the Arab Intellectual Scene, Informal Intellectual Collectives.”*
Research interests: Intellectual History, Political Theory, Cultural Studies, Middle Eastern Studies.

- 2018** **Cairo Institute for Liberal Arts & Sciences - CILAS**
 Designed and taught a graduate level course on Arab political thought post-67 entitled “[Visions of the Arab – orientalism and Orientalism in Reverse](#)”
- 2017** **Master’s in Political theory, SciencesPo Paris.**
 Dissertation title: “*Self-criticism in Arab Political thought post- 1967 Naksa*”
- 2015** **Erasmus exchange, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).**
 Undergraduate Erasmus Exchange program: Focus on the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies.
- 2014** **Bachelor’s in Political Sciences, SciencesPo Paris, Middle East and Mediterranean campus. Menton, France.**
 Focus on Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries.
 Bachelor thesis title: “*Self-Referentiality in the Quranic Text.*”
- 2012** **The United World College of The Adriatic (UWC). Trieste, Italy.**
 Received a full scholarship to complete the International Baccalaureate in Italy in an international and multi-cultural community.

Conferences & Workshops

- 2024** **EUI Muslim World Working Group discussant for the following books**
 Challand, Benoît. *Violence and Representation in the Arab Uprisings*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.
 Lacroix, Stéphane. *Le crépuscule des Saints, Histoire et politique du salafisme en Égypte*. CNRS Editions, 2024.
 Latif, Rusha. *Tabrir Youth, Leaders of a Leadersless Revolution*. AUC Press, 2023.
- 2024** **SciencesPo Paris, Menton Campus Welcome Week Inaugural lecture**
 Invited to deliver a lecture to the new cohort of students entitled “The Power of Language to Create Bridges and Belonging without Othering.”
- 2024** **Berlin Institute for Critical Inquiry – [Symposium on Recognition](#)**
 Presented a paper conceptualizing *I'tiraf* اعتراف as a new grassroots model of Recognition
- 2024** **APSA – Research Development Workshop, Los Angeles, US**
 Presented paper on *Satire as Intellectual Dissent in post-revolutionary Egypt*.
- 2023** **EUI - Decolonizing Initiative, EUI, Italy**
 Contributor and discussant for Prof. Kimberlé Crenshaw’s paper titled “*Culture Wars in the US and the EU.*”
- 2022** **BRISMES Conference - London, UK**
 Presented a paper entitled: “*Parallel Education Movements in Egypt as Post-Colonial Practice.*”
- 2021** **Arab Council for Social Sciences Academy (ACSS)**
 Attended the summer school on ‘Critiques of Power’, moderated by dr. Fadi Bardawil, dr. Sari Hanafi.

- 2020** **EUI Max Weber Program - Florence, Italy**
Co-organized the workshop Methodologies in the study of Islamic Movement
- 2019** **Arab Reform for Alternatives, Beirut, Lebanon**
Took part in a workshop on needs identification in the cultural sector.
- 2019** **BRISMES Conference – Leeds, UK**
Presented a paper entitled: “The Remaking of the Arab Intellectual” based on my doctoral research.
- 2018** **Euroacademia – Photography as Othering**
Presented a paper entitled: “*Camera Illuminante – Arab Photography Post-Revolutions*”
- 2018** **Workshop on Enlightenment & Nahda – EUI, Italy**
Presented a paper entitled: “*Arab Enlightenment Figures, Then & Now.*”

Research Leadership Roles

- 2018 - 2022** **Muslim World Working Group Coordinator**
Coordinated workshops and talks in the context of the Middle East and the Muslim world at the EUI.
- 2014** **Co-Founder of YAUMENA Association**
Based in SciencesPo University, Yaumena aims to provide a platform for the Youth of the MENA region to voice their opinions and innovative ideas.
- 2012-2015** **YAUMENA – Head of research division**
Organized the research branch of Yaumena which published background knowledge for the audience in order to have more fruitful discussions. <http://www.yaumena.org/research/>
- 2012-2014** **Arabic Language Instructor - SciencesPo Paris**
Taught Arabic language for foreigners within the context of the language program at SciencesPo Paris.
- 2013** **Badael - Arab Forum for Alternatives**
I completed an internship in the Politics department of Badael think-tank under the supervision of Dr. Amr Al-Shobky.
- 2013** **“Greek Theatre in Crisis” Research Project**
With a professional actor and theatre producer from Luxembourg, we investigated how the theatre scene was affected by the Greek financial crisis.
*This project was carried out under the supervision and funding of the “Babel Initiative”
- 2012** **“The Ghost of Post-Communism” Research Project**
A field research trip discovering post-communist countries’ relationship with their past through photography in Prague, Czech Republic
*This project was carried out with the help of UWCAD ProjectWeek Initiative.

2011 Turkish Youth in Berlin, Germany Research Project

Worked with a team on documenting the perception of Turkish immigration among German youth. The final form of the project was a documentary featuring local youth and government officials.

*This project was carried out with the help of UWCAD ProjectWeek Initiative.

Languages

Arabic: Mother Tongue

French: Near Native Fluency

German: A2

English: Near Native Fluency

Italian: C1

Spanish: A2

Grants & Fellowships

- Italian Foreign ministry grant for north African students: 2017 – 2022.
Full Tuition for postgraduate Studies
- Cairo Institute for Liberal Arts & Sciences Teaching Fellowship: 2017.
- Bourse d'excellence Emile Boutmy for Undergraduate Level: 2012 – 2015.
- Bourse d'excellence Emile Boutmy Master level: 2015 – 2017.
- United World colleges Grant IB diploma: 2010 – 2012.

Certifications

- 2022 Agile Project Management & Organizational Strategy Certificates, Egyptian Banking Institute (EBI).
- 2021 Teacher Training Certification, EUI.
- 2019 Master's Degree in Research, EUI.

Community Involvement

- Volunteer as Project Coordinator for Middle East Now Film festival, Florence, Italy.
- Member of the United World Colleges (UWC) Egyptian national selection committee, Egypt.
- Literary contributor for *Amaliab.com*, UK.
- Volunteer Counselor at Mental Health Initiative, Soul Route Therapy, UK.

Publications

Forthcoming - **“Public Pedagogy as an Agent of Social Transformation in Post-2011 Arab Societies”** in Chapter in Edited book by Sari Hanafi & Borut Rončević

In preparation – **“Culture as Critique in the Arab World”**

Co-Editor with Olivier Roy

“New Arab Intellectual Producers Redefining the Vocabulary of Critique”

Reset Dialogues, 30 May 2026

<https://www.resetdoc.org/story/arab-intellectual-vocabulary-of-critique/>

“I’tiraf اعتراف as a New Grassroot Model of Recognition”

Berlin Institute for Critical Inquiry, recorded talk, 2024

<https://doi.org/10.25620/e240523>

“When does a house become a home?”

Inhabiting Languages in times of Displacement.

ArabPop Magazine, Issue 3, *Tamu Edizioni*, 2023

The Arab Intellectual, Past and Present

With Nader Andrawos, MadaMasr 26 January 2020

Camera Illuminate - Arab Photography Post Arab Revolutions

Revista de Estudios Globales y Arte Contemporáneo | Vol. 6 | Núm. 1 | 2019 | 77-104

The Veil Debates – Un dialogue de sourds

SciencesPo Paris YAUMENA blog post, April 2016

References:

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Dissertation Jury Member

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