

Anna Ziajka Stanton

Department of Comparative Literature
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The Pennsylvania State University	
Associate Professor of Comparative Literature	2024-
Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature	2016-24
Caroline D. Eckhardt Early Career Professor of Comparative Literature	2020-23
The University of Texas at Austin	
Assistant Instructor of Arabic	2013-14

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, The University of Texas at Austin	2016
M.A., Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, The University of Texas at Austin	2013
B.A., Arabic and English, <i>magna cum laude</i> , Georgetown University	2007
Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), Cairo	2010-11
The American University in Cairo, semester abroad	2006

PUBLICATIONS

Books

<i>The Worlding of Arabic Literature: Language, Affect, and the Ethics of Translatability</i> (Fordham University Press)	2023
• Awards: MLA Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Middle Eastern Studies, ACLA Helen Tartar First Book Subvention, Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME) Subvention	
• Reviews: Hosam Aboul-Ela, <i>Journal of Arabic Literature</i> 55.1 (2024): 189-211; Safa Khatib, <i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i> 56.2 (2024): 357-358; M. F. McClure, <i>Choice Reviews</i> 61.11 (2024); Nizar Qabilat, <i>Qirā'āt</i> 7 (2024): 41-42	
• Publicity: New Books Network Podcast (Oct. 18, 2023)	
<i>Limbo Beirut</i> by Hilal Chouman (Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin) [translation from Arabic]	2016
• Awards: 2017 PEN Translation Prize (longlisted), Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation (shortlisted)	

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

“Introduction to ‘An Arabic Theoretical Lexicon,’” <i>PMLA</i> 139.1: 9-15	2024
“Eyes on the Prize: The Global Readability of an IPAF-Winning Modern Arabic Novel,” <i>Middle Eastern Literatures</i> 24.1: 20-39	2021
“Spatial Attractions: The Literary Aesthetics of Female Erotic Experience in the Colony,” <i>Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry</i> 8.2: 253-269	2021
“Vulgar Pleasures: The Scandalous Worldliness of Burton’s ‘Arabian Nights,’” <i>Journal of World Literature</i> 6.1: 45-64	2021

- “Feeling the Grammar: Literary Translations of the Dual Inflection in Arabic,”
Philological Encounters 4.1-2: 26-54 2019
- “A Whole Imaginary World: The Incomparable Fiction of Waguih Ghali,” *Journal of Arabic Literature* 46.2-3: 244-267 2015

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- “Translation,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Arabic Literature*, ed. Michael Allan and Zeina Halabi (Peer Reviewed) contracted

Book Reviews

- Review of *Ageing in the Modern Arabic Novel* by Samira Aghacy, *Age, Culture, Humanities* 8 (Invited) 2024
- Review of *Modern Arabic Literature: A Theoretical Framework* by Reuven Snir, *Modernism/modernity* 26.3: 681-683 (Invited) 2019
- Review of *The Diaries of Waguih Ghali: An Egyptian Writer in the Swinging Sixties*, ed. May Hawas, *Banipal* 62: 188-191 (Invited) 2018

Translations

- “A Postman Who Gets the Addresses Wrong” and “Daytime Makes Me Fretful...” by Abdulrahman Alshihri, in *Translating the World: Contemporary Poetry from Saudi Arabia*, ed. Moneera Al-Ghadeer (Syracuse University Press) in press
- “Make-Believe Biography” and “Assyrian Tablet” by Abdullah Almohsin, in *Translating the World: Contemporary Poetry from Saudi Arabia*, ed. Moneera Al-Ghadeer (Syracuse University Press) in press
- “A Voice Crying in the Wilderness” by Hoda Barakat, in *The Derivative*, iss. 01_10/20_20/21, thederivative.org/a-voice-crying-in-the-wilderness 2021
- “Mama Aicha: Jemaa el-Fnaa” by Halima Zine El Abidine, in *Marrakech Noir*, ed. Yassin Adnan (Akashic Books): 183-209 2018
- “A Brief Statement about Al al-Bayt University” by Fahmi al-Mudarris, in *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda*, ed. Tarek El-Ariss (The Modern Language Association of America): 20-30 2018
- “For the Sake of Marriage” by Mahmud Ahmad al-Sayyid, in *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda*, ed. Tarek El-Ariss (The Modern Language Association of America): 287-299 2018
- “From *Limbo Beirut*” by Hilal Chouman, *The Common* 11: 145-155 2016
- “On Motherhood and Violence” by Iman Mersal, *Makhzin* 2, www.makhzin.org/issues/feminisms/on-motherhood-and-violence 2015

Other Essays

- In Arabic: “al-Zamkāniyyah fī al-adabayn al-Miṣrī wa-al-Filistīnī” [“Chronotopicity in Egyptian and Palestinian Literatures”], *al-Thaqāah al-Jadīdah* 252: 94-97 2011

EDITORIAL WORK

- Journal of Arabic Literature*, Senior Associate Editor (Assoc. Ed. 2018-24; Asst. Ed. 2014-18) 2024-

“Palestine as Theory Special Issue,” <i>Journal of Arabic Literature</i> 55.1, Co-Editor (with Rebecca C. Johnson)	2024
“Special Feature: ‘An Arabic Theoretical Lexicon,’” <i>PMLA</i> 139.1, Guest Editor (with Lara Harb and Jeannie Miller)	2024
<i>The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda</i> (ed. Tarek El-Ariss), Assistant Editor	2018

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

<i>PMLA</i> Advisory Committee, Member	2024-
CLCS Global Arab & Arab American Forum of the MLA, Chair	2023-25
CLCS Global Arab & Arab American Forum of the MLA, Executive Committee Member	2022-25
CLCS Global Arab & Arab American Forum of the MLA, Assembly Delegate	2022-24
American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA) Translation Contest, Judge	2018
Modern Middle East Literatures in Translation Series at The University of Texas at Austin, Editorial Board Member	2017-

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

External Awards

MLA Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Middle Eastern Studies (for <i>The Worlding of Arabic Literature</i>)	2024
ACLA Helen Tartar First Book Subvention (for <i>The Worlding of Arabic Literature</i>) - \$3,500	2022
Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME) Subvention (for <i>The Worlding of Arabic Literature</i>) - \$15,000	2021
PEN Translation Prize (for <i>Limbo Beirut</i>), longlist	2017
Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation (for <i>Limbo Beirut</i>), shortlist	2017

Fellowships

Penn State Center for Humanities & Information (CHI), faculty fellow	2021
Penn State Humanities Institute, faculty fellow	2019
The Huntington Library, Mayers fellow	2018
Institute for World Literature-Harvard University, summer fellow	2013
Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, graduate student fellow	2011-12
Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), full-year fellow	2010-11

Teaching Awards

Sydney Aboul-Hosn Award for Excellence in Teaching and Student Mentoring, Penn State Department of Comparative Literature	2019
Faculty Teaching Award, Penn State Department of Comparative Literature	2018

LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND CONFERENCES

Invited Talks

Book talk on <i>The Worlding of Arabic Literature</i> , The University of Texas at Austin, Feb. 28	2025
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Class discussion of <i>PMLA</i> Special Feature: “An Arabic Theoretical Lexicon,” UCLA (virtual), Oct. 22	2024
Class discussion of <i>The Worlding of Arabic Literature</i> , Rutgers University-Newark (virtual), Sep. 17	2024
Book talk on <i>The Worlding of Arabic Literature</i> , Columbia University, Sep. 22	2023
Class discussion of <i>The Worlding of Arabic Literature</i> , University of British Columbia (virtual), May 24	2023
Class discussion of <i>The Worlding of Arabic Literature</i> , Dartmouth College (virtual), Jan. 24	2023
“ <i>Limbo Beirut</i> : Readings and Discussion of Literature and Translation,” American University of Beirut, Nov. 24	2017
“Beyond Untranslatability: Translation Ethics and the Pragmatics of Affective Language Practices in the Translation of Contemporary Arabic Literature,” The Ohio State University, Apr. 21	2017
<u>Conference Papers</u>	
“Trees Not War: Arboreal Ethics in Ismā‘īl Fahd Ismā‘īl’s <i>al-Subaylīyāt</i> ,” 15 th EURAMAL Conference, Prague, May 30	2024
“Animate Alphabets, Mother Tongues: The Ethics of a Somatic Approach to Translating Arabic Literature into English,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Mar. 17	2024
“New Directions in Arabic Literature” (Roundtable Participant), MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, Jan. 7	2024
“The Geophenomenology of Extinction in Nūrah al-Nūmān’s <i>Ajwān</i> ,” MESA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Nov. 4	2023
“The Worldliness of <i>Lafz</i> : Translating the Aesthetic Form of Literary Arabic,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Chicago, Mar. 17	2023
“The Geophenomenology of Extinction in Nūrah al-Nūmān’s <i>Ajwān</i> ,” MLA Annual Convention, San Francisco, Jan. 8	2023
“Richard Francis Burton and the Translation of Ṭarab,” ACLA Annual Meeting (virtual), Apr. 9	2021
“After the Embargo: Translating Arabic Literature for a Post-Orientalist U.S. Anglophone Market,” MESA Annual Meeting (virtual), Oct. 15	2020
“Ambivalent Canonicity of Burton’s Translation of the Nights,” Columbia Global Center Workshop on Conceptions and Configurations of the Arabic Literary Canon, Paris, June 18	2019
“Labors of Love: Philological Translations of Arabic Literature,” MLA Annual Convention, Chicago, Jan. 5	2019
“The Affective Orientalist Imaginary of Burton’s <i>Arabian Nights</i> ,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, Mar. 31	2018
“Arabic Writing in a Translatable Present,” ASAP/9: The Arts of the Present, Oakland, CA, Oct. 26	2017
“Adab as Theory: Toward a Corporeal Ethos of Reading,” Conference on <i>Adab</i> as an Interdisciplinary Pursuit, Columbia University, Apr. 13	2017
“Precarious Bodies: Self-Translating Iraq in America,” MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, Jan. 7	2017
“Arabic Prize-Winning Novels and the Problematic Ethics of World Literature,” 12 th EURAMAL Conference, Oslo, June 4	2016

- “Getting the Picture: Affects and Ethics in the Translation of Hilal Chouman’s *Limbo Beirut*,” MESA Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 22 2015
- “Dwelling Among the Ruins: A Move Toward Happiness, Perhaps, in Solidere’s Beirut,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Seattle, Mar. 27 2015
- “Ritual Spaces, Uncanny Places: Cinematic Representations of Loss in Ḥusayn Kamāl’s *Chitchat on the Nile*,” MESA Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., Nov. 24 2014
- “Before the Funeral: A Levantine Reading of Waguih Ghali’s *Beer in the Snooker Club*,” Conference in Arabic Literature: Migration, Diaspora, Exile, Estrangement, Columbia University, Nov. 9 2013
- “Too Close for Comfort: Translating the Other in Colonial Egyptian Novels of Europe,” MESA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Oct. 13 2013
- “Economics of Arabic Translation,” MLA Annual Convention, Boston, Jan. 3 2013

Local Talks

- “Translating the Untranslatable? Arabic *Lafz* in English,” Penn State University Comparative Literature Luncheon, Feb. 26 2024
- Book talk on *The Worlding of Arabic Literature: Language, Affect, and the Ethics of Translatability*, Penn State University, Oct. 20 2023
- “The Ambivalent Worldliness of Arabic Literature in Translation: Philology, Ethics, and the ‘Arabian Nights,’” Penn State Humanities Institute, Mar. 26 2019

Conference Organizing

- Panel co-organizer, “Translation and Feeling,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Mar. 15-17 2024
- Panel organizer (for the CLCS Global Arab & Arab American Forum), “Reimagining the Field of Arab American Studies,” MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, Jan. 6 2024
- Conference co-organizer, “Arabic Literature Today: Texts, Methods, Directions,” Penn State University, Oct. 6-7 2023
- Panel organizer (for the CLCS Global Arab & Arab American Forum), “Migrants as Working Subjects,” MLA Annual Convention, San Francisco, Jan. 7 2023
- Panel co-organizer, “Orientalist Networks and Their Afterlives,” MESA Annual Meeting (virtual), Oct. 15 2020
- Conference co-organizer, “The Cultural Turn in Arabic Literary Production,” Columbia University, Apr. 19-21 2019
- Panel co-organizer (for the LLC Arabic Forum), “Arabic Literature in Translation / Arabic Literature and Translation,” MLA Annual Convention, Chicago, Jan. 5 2019
- Panel co-organizer, “Globe, Planet, World: Comparison and the Problem of Disciplinary Scale,” ACL(x) Conference, Penn State University, Sep. 23 2016

ADVISING

Chair, Ph.D. Committee

- Hanan Al-Alawi, Comparative Literature & Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (co-chair) 2019-24
- Dissertation: *Embodied Knowledges: Visceral and Parietal Poetics in Contemporary Arabic & Persian Literature of the Gulf*

- Current Academic Appointment: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Visiting Assistant Professor in Gender and Sexuality beyond North America
- Dina Mahmoud, Comparative Literature & Visual Studies (co-chair) 2019-24
- Dissertation: *Reading Literatism and (Il)literatecies Across the Sudanese and Lebanese Civil Conflicts*
 - Current Academic Appointment: University of Michigan, Postdoctoral Society Fellow and Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature (NTT)

Member, Ph.D. Committee

- Elena Quiñones, Comparative Literature 2022-24
- Ege Altan, Comparative Literature & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 2022-
- Tembi Charles, Comparative Literature & African Studies 2018-24
- Dissertation: *The Phenomenology of Migration: Humanizing Makwerekwere in Southern African Migration Literature and Visual Art*
- Merve Tabur, Comparative Literature 2018-21
- Dissertation: *Ends of Language in the Anthropocene: Narrating Environmental Destruction in Turkish, Arabic, and Arab-Anglophone Speculative Fiction*
 - Current Academic Appointment: Utrecht University, Lecturer in Comparative Literature
- Rhett McNeil, Comparative Literature 2016-24
- Rebekah Zwanzig, Comparative Literature 2016-18

M.A. Supervision

- Mariam Safyeldeen, Comparative Literature 2024-
- Samantha Landmesser, Comparative Literature 2021-22
- M.A. Paper: *Living and Perceived: Depictions of the Gnawa Boy in Charif Shanahan's Poetry*

B.A. Honors Supervision

- Samantha Landmesser, Comparative Literature 2021-22
- B.A. Honors Thesis: *Living and Perceived: Depictions of Gnawa Culture in American Literature*

TEACHING

The Pennsylvania State University

Undergraduate

- CMLIT 007 Introduction to Middle Eastern Literatures (fall 2023)
- CMLIT 010 Introduction to World Literature (fall 2016, spring 2017, fall 2017, fall 2020, fall 2021)
- CMLIT 83S First-Year Seminar in Comparative Literature (fall 2022, fall 2023)
- CMLIT 107 Exploration, Travel, Migration, and Exile (fall 2019, spring 2025)
- CMLIT 147N Displacement and Migration (spring 2025)
- CMLIT 153 International Cultures: Film and Literature (spring 2018, spring 2024)
- CMLIT 410 Literary Translation: Theory and Practice (spring 2023)
- CMLIT 446 Postcolonial Literature and Culture (fall 2023)

CMLIT 449 Literary Cultures of Islam (fall 2017, fall 2022)
CMLIT 455 Ethics, Justice, and Rights in World Literature (spring 2023)
CMLIT 470 The Modern Novel (spring 2017)

Graduate

CMLIT 503 Comparative Criticism II: Romantic to Contemporary (spring 2018, spring 2024)
CMLIT 524 Comparative Arab/ic Literature and Criticism (fall 2019, spring 2023)
CMLIT 580 The Body in Comparative Literary Contexts (fall 2020)
CMLIT 580 Trees in Comparative Literary Contexts (fall 2024)

The University of Texas at Austin

Undergraduate

ARA 601C “Intensive Arabic I” (fall 2013)
ARA 611C “Intensive Arabic II” (spring 2014)

LANGUAGES

English (native)
Modern Standard Arabic (Superior Proficiency–ACTFL scale)
Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (advanced speaking)
French (advanced reading)
Spanish (advanced reading)