

# Anna Ziajka Stanton

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA Caroline D. Eckhardt Early Career Professor of Comparative Literature and Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature	2020– 2016–2020
The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX Assistant Instructor of Arabic	2013–2014

## EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX Ph.D., Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures	2016
• Dissertation: “From a Labor of Love to Gulf Labor: The Ethics of Translating Arabic Literature in a Global Age” • Committee: Tarek El-Ariss (supervisor), Kristen Brustad, Karen Grumberg, Hannah Wojciehowski	
M.A., Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures	2013
Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. B.A., Arabic and English, magna cum laude	2007
Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), Cairo, Egypt	2011
The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt (semester abroad)	2006

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*The Worlding of Arabic Literature: Language, Affect, and the Ethics of Translatability*  
[forthcoming from Fordham University Press, 2023]

- Recipient of an ACLA Helen Tartar First Book Subvention
- Recipient of a Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME) grant

*Limbo Beirut*, by Hilal Chouman, trans. Anna Ziajka Stanton (Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, 2016)

- Longlisted for the 2017 PEN Translation Prize
- Shortlisted for the 2017 Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation

#### Peer-reviewed articles

“Eyes on the Prize: The Global Readability of an IPAF-Winning Modern Arabic Novel,” *Middle Eastern Literatures* 24.1 (2021): 20–39

“Spatial Attractions: The Literary Aesthetics of Female Erotic Experience in the Colony,” *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 8.2 (2021): 253–269

“Vulgar Pleasures: The Scandalous Worldliness of Burton’s ‘Arabian Nights,’” *Journal of World Literature* 6.1 (2021): 45–64

“Feeling the Grammar: Literary Translations of the Dual Inflection in Arabic,” *Philological Encounters* 4.1–2 (2019): 26–54

“A Whole Imaginary World: The Incomparable Fiction of Waguih Ghali,” *Journal of Arabic Literature* 46.2–3 (2015): 244–267

#### Book reviews

Review of *Modern Arabic Literature: A Theoretical Framework*, by Reuven Snir, *Modernism/modernity* 26.3 (2019): 681–683

Review of *The Diaries of Waguih Ghali: An Egyptian Writer in the Swinging Sixties*, ed. May Hawas, *Banipal* 62 (2018): 188–191

#### Edited volumes

Assistant Editor, *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda*, ed. Tarek El-Ariss (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2018)

#### Translations

“A Postman Who Gets the Addresses Wrong” and “Daytime Makes Me Fretful...,” by Abdulrahman Alshihri, trans. Anna Ziajka Stanton, *Al-Qafilah Magazine* [forthcoming, 2022]

“Make-Believe Biography” and “Assyrian Tablet,” by Abdullah Almohsin, trans. Anna Ziajka Stanton, *Al-Qafilah Magazine* [forthcoming, 2022]

“A Voice Crying in the Wilderness,” by Hoda Barakat, trans. Anna Ziajka Stanton, *The Derivative*, iss. 01\_10/20\_20/21, [thederivative.org/a-voice-crying-in-the-wilderness](http://thederivative.org/a-voice-crying-in-the-wilderness)

“Mama Aicha: Jemaa el-Fnaa,” by Halima Zine El Abidine, trans. Anna Ziajka Stanton, in *Marrakech Noir*, ed. Yassin Adnan (Brooklyn, NY: Akashic Books, 2018): 183–209

“A Brief Statement about Al al-Bayt University,” by Fahmi al-Mudarris, trans. Anna Ziajka Stanton, in *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda*, ed. Tarek El-Ariss (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2018): 20–30

“For the Sake of Marriage,” by Mahmud Ahmad al-Sayyid, trans. Anna Ziajka Stanton, in *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda*, ed. Tarek El-Ariss (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2018): 287–299

“From Limbo Beirut,” by Hilal Chouman, trans. Anna Ziajka Stanton, *The Common* 11 (2016): 145–155

“On Motherhood and Violence,” by Iman Mersal, trans. Anna Ziajka Stanton, *Makhzin 2* (2015), [www.makhzin.org/issues/feminisms/on-motherhood-and-violence](http://www.makhzin.org/issues/feminisms/on-motherhood-and-violence)

#### Miscellaneous

“al-Zamkāniyyah fī al-adabayn al-miṣrī wa-al-filistīnī [Chronotopicity in Egyptian and Palestinian Literatures],” *al-Thaqāh al-Jadīdah* 252 (2011): 94–97

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Sydney Aboul-Hosn Award for Excellence in Teaching and Student Mentoring, The Pennsylvania State University Department of Comparative Literature, 2019  
Faculty Teaching Award, The Pennsylvania State University Department of Comparative Literature, 2018  
PEN Translation Prize, longlist, 2017  
Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation, shortlist, 2017

### **FELLOWSHIPS**

Center for Humanities & Information (CHI) Faculty Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University, 2021  
Humanities Institute Residential Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University, 2019  
Mayers Fellowship at The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, 2018  
Institute for World Literature Summer Fellowship, Harvard University, 2013  
Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, 2011–2012  
Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) Full-Year Fellowship, 2010–2011  
Sultan Said bin Qaboos Scholarship, Georgetown University, 2003–2007  
John Carroll Fellowship, Georgetown University, 2003–2007

### **CONFERENCES AND LECTURES**

#### Invited lectures

“The Ambivalent Worldliness of Arabic Literature in Translation: Philology, Ethics, and the ‘Arabian Nights,’” Penn State Humanities Institute, University Park, PA, March 26, 2019  
“*Limbo Beirut*: Readings and Discussion of Literature and Translation,” The American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, November 24, 2017  
“Beyond Untranslatability: Translation Ethics and the Pragmatics of Affective Language Practices in the Translation of Contemporary Arabic Literature,” The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, April 21, 2017

#### Conference papers

“Richard Francis Burton and the Translation of Ṭarab,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, virtual, April 9, 2021

- “After the Embargo: Translating Arabic Literature for a Post-Orientalist U.S. Anglophone Market,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, virtual, October 15, 2020
- “Richard Francis Burton and the Translation of Ṭarab,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, March 20, 2020 (Canceled/COVID)
- “Ambivalent Canonicity of Burton’s Translation of the Nights,” Paris Columbia Global Center Workshop on Conceptions and Configurations of the Arabic Literary Canon, Paris, France, June 18, 2019
- “Labors of Love: Philological Translations of Arabic Literature,” MLA Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, January 5, 2019
- “The Affective Orientalist Imaginary of Burton’s *Arabian Nights*,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, March 31, 2018
- “Arabic Writing in a Translatable Present,” ASAP/9: The Arts of the Present, Oakland, CA, October 26, 2017
- “Adab as Theory: Toward a Corporeal Ethos of Reading,” Conference on *Adab* as an Interdisciplinary Pursuit, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 13, 2017
- “Precarious Bodies: Self-Translating Iraq in America,” MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, January 7, 2017
- “Arabic Prize-Winning Novels and the Problematic Ethics of World Literature,” 12<sup>th</sup> EURAMAL Conference, Oslo, Norway, June 4, 2016
- “Getting the Picture: Affects and Ethics in the Translation of Hilal Chouman’s *Limbo Beirut*,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 22, 2015
- “Dwelling Among the Ruins: A Move Toward Happiness, Perhaps, in Solidere’s Beirut,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, March 27, 2015
- “Ritual Spaces, Uncanny Places: Cinematic Representations of Loss in Ḥusayn Kamāl’s *Chitchat on the Nile*,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 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, New York, NY, November 9, 2013
- “Too Close for Comfort: Translating the Other in Colonial Egyptian Novels of Europe,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, October 13, 2013
- “The Economics of Arabic Translation,” MLA Annual Convention, Boston, MA January 3, 2013

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

### Editorial work

Associate Editor, *Journal of Arabic Literature*, 2018–present

Assistant Editor, *Journal of Arabic Literature*, 2014–2018

Editorial board member, Modern Middle East Literatures in Translation Series (Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin), 2017–present

### Conference organizing

Panel co-organizer, MESA Annual Meeting, “Orientalist Networks and Their Afterlives,” virtual, October 15, 2020

Conference co-organizer, The Cultural Turn in Arabic Literary Production, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 19–21, 2019

Panel co-organizer, MLA Annual Convention, “Arabic Literature in Translation / Arabic Literature and Translation” (LLC Arabic Forum), Chicago, IL, January 5, 2019

Panel co-organizer, ACL(x): Extra-Disciplinarity, “Globe, Planet, World: Comparison and the Problem of Disciplinary Scale,” State College, PA, September 23, 2016

#### Membership in professional organizations

Delegate for the CLCS Global Arab and Arab American forum to the MLA Delegate Assembly, 2021–2024

Member of the Executive Committee of the CLCS Global Arab and Arab American forum at the MLA, 2021–2026

Current member: American Comparative Literature Association, Middle East Studies Association, MLA

Past member: American Literary Translators Association, Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, European Association for Modern Arabic Literature

#### Miscellaneous

Judge for literary submissions for the American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA) Translation Contest, 2018

### **TEACHING AND ADVISING**

#### Committee membership

Co-chair, Ph.D. committee, Hanan Al-Alawi, 2019–present

Co-chair, Ph.D. committee, Dina Mahmoud, 2019–present

Supervisor, M.A. & B.A. with Honors, Samantha Landmesser, 2021–2022

- M.A. paper: “Living and Perceived: Depictions of the Gnawa Boy in Charif Shanahan’s Poetry” (submitted March 2022)
- Honors Thesis: “Living and Perceived: Depictions of Gnawa Culture in American Literature” (submitted April 2022)

Member, Ph.D. committee, Merve Tabur, 2018–2021

- Dissertation: “Ends of Language in the Anthropocene: Narrating Environmental Destruction in Turkish, Arabic, and Arab-Anglophone Speculative Fiction” (defended February 2021)
- Current appointment: Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo

Member, Ph.D. committee, Tembi Charles, 2018–present

Member, Ph.D. committee, Rhett McNeil, 2016–present

Member, Ph.D. committee, Rebekah Zwanzig, 2016–2018

#### Classes taught at The Pennsylvania State University

CMLIT 010 Introduction to World Literature

CMLIT 83S First-Year Seminar in Comparative Literature

CMLIT 107 Exploration, Travel, Migration, and Exile

CMLIT 153 International Cultures: Film and Literature  
CMLIT 449 Literary Cultures of Islam  
CMLIT 470 The Modern Novel  
CMLIT 503 Comparative Criticism II (graduate seminar)  
CMLIT 524 Comparative Arab/ic Literature and Criticism (graduate seminar)  
CMLIT 580 The Body in Comparative Literary Contexts (graduate seminar)

Classes taught at The University of Texas at Austin

ARA 601C Intensive Arabic I  
ARA 611C Intensive Arabic II

## **LANGUAGES**

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