

Umayyah Cable

www.umayyahcable.com

Asian American Studies Program
Middle East & North African Studies Program
Crowe Hall 1-135
1860 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
umayyah.cable@northwestern.edu
cell: 415-828-7251

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2016-2018 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Asian American Studies Program and Middle East & North African Studies Program, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

EDUCATION

2016 PhD, American Studies & Ethnicity, University of Southern California
2016 Graduate Certificate, Visual Studies Research Institute, University of Southern California
2013 MA, American Studies & Ethnicity, University of Southern California
2005 BA, American Studies, Smith College

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Arab & Muslim American studies
- Transnational American Studies
- Critical ethnic studies
- LGBT/Queer politics
- Queer theory
- Cinema & media studies
- Arab cinema in diaspora
- Palestinian film culture
- Film festivals
- Arts activism & social movements

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Cinematic Activism: Film Culture and the Queer Politics of Palestine in North America [manuscript in progress].

Journal Articles

“An Uprising at *The Perfect Moment*: The Queerness of Palestine in the 1990s Culture Wars,” *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, [Under review].

“Projections of Palestine: Negotiating Diasporic Palestinian Identity in the US Through Film Festival Culture,” *Critical Ethnic Studies*, [Revised and resubmitted, under review].

Book Reviews

“Pamela E. Penneck: *The Rise of the Arab American Left: Activists, Allies, and their Fight against Imperialism and Racism, 1960s-1980s* (Book Review).” *Canadian Journal of History*, [forthcoming].

“New Wave Arab American Studies: Ethnic Studies and the Critical Turn,” *American Quarterly*, V. 65, 1, March 2013.

“Susan J. Douglas: *Enlightened Sexism* (Book Review).” *International Journal of Communication*, Vol 5, 2011, <http://www.ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/download/1171/546>.

Other Publications

“Reinventing Palestinian Oral History: A Review of *Palestinians Podcast*,” *Palestine Square*, Institute for Palestine Studies, September 18, 2017. <https://palestinesquare.com/2017/09/18/palestinians-podcast-reinventing-palestinian-oral-history/>

"Cover artwork [photography]." *American Quarterly*, V. 62, 4, December 2010

“Palestine & Palestinians: Cultural Survival Amidst a Ravaged Geography,” *Yellow Medicine Review*, Fall 2010

“Palestine & Palestinians: A Culture of Survival Amidst a Ravaged Geography, a Photo Essay,” *Electronic Intifada*, July 18, 2008. <https://electronicintifada.net/content/photostory-culture-survival-amidst-ravaged-geography/9726>

PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- 2018 “ ‘Money for AIDS, Not for Israel:’ The Question of Palestine in Early AIDS Activism,” Finding the Queer Radical Past: Scholars and Activists on the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, February 23, 2018
- 2017 “Asian America and Palestine,” Asian American Studies Program, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, October 18, 2017
- 2017 “Cinematic Activism: Palestine, Queer Politics, and the Case for Film Festivals in Times of Crisis,” MENA Monday Series, Middle East & North African Studies Program, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, February 6, 2017
- 2017 “From Filmstrips to Film Festivals: A Brief History of Film Usage in Palestine Activism in the United States,” The Global Terrain of Free Speech Conflicts, Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, May 5, 2017
- 2015 “Cinema Intifada and Palestine’s Queer Aesthetic.” *Feminisms Unbound: Queer Diasporas and Futurities*, Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, November 18, 2015
- 2015 “Women Without Men: Islamic Feminism as Resistance to Patriarchal Norms,” *Women Bought & Sold: Short Film Salon*, Levantine Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA, June 7, 2015

Conference Activity

- 2017 "Screening Palestine: Historicizing the Role of Film as a Teaching Tool in Palestine Activism in the United States," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2017 "Queers in Contest: The Cultural Politics of Palestine in LGBT/Queer Film Festival Organizing," Circuits of Cinema: Histories of Movie and Media Distribution, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 2017 "From AAUG to Arabic Hour: Arab American Scholar Activism and Independent Media in the 1980s and 1990s," Waypoints and Watersheds: Arab American Activism & Memories, Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, MI
- 2016 "Cinematic Activism: Palestinian-American Identity Politics and Film Festivals," Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Atlanta, GA
- 2015 "Visual Intifada: Art, Censorship, and the Racialized Discourse on Palestine in the US," American Studies Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada [panel organizer]
- 2015 "The Queer Question of Palestine," Middle East Studies Association, Denver, CO [panel organizer]
- 2015 "The Televisual Intifada: Palestinian Cinema, Resistance, and Censorship," Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- 2014 "Cinematic Activism: Palestinian Cultural Politics in the United States," American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 "Cinematic Activism: Feminist Praxis at the Boston Palestine Film Festival." World Congress of Middle East Studies, Ankara, Turkey
- 2014 "Near, Far, Wherever You Are: Reconciling the Compartmentalization of 'Asian' in Asian American Studies," Association of Asian American Studies, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 "Polycentric Palestine: Diasporic Identity Politics at the Boston Palestine Film Festival," Arab American Studies Association, Dearborn, MI
- 2013 "Arab American Studies: Ethnic Studies, Decolonization, and the Critical Turn," Critical Ethnic Studies Association, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL
- 2012 "Polycentric Palestinianism: National Consciousness in Diasporic Palestinian Cinema," American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico [panel organizer]
- 2011 "White-Hot Desire: Whiteness, Sexuality and Orientalist Representations of Queerness," Contemporary Research in Arab American Studies: New Trends and Critical Perspectives, Dearborn, MI

- 2011 “Manufactured Democracy: Israeli Homonationalism and the Propaganda of Public Relations,” American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD [panel organizer]
- 2011 “The Gray Zone,” Critical Ethnic Studies Association, University of California, Riverside, CA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Northwestern University

Film Festivals: Art & Activism in the Public Sphere, Asian American Studies, (Winter 2018)

*Some of the coursework for this class is based on a fieldtrip to conduct ethnographic research at the Festival of Films from Iran at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago, IL, made possible by a Weinberg College Dean’s Office Course Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$500.

Introduction to Arab American Studies, Asian American Studies, Middle East & North African Studies [cross-listed], (Winter 2017, Winter 2018)

Arab American Arts & Cinema, Asian American Studies, Middle East & North African Studies [cross-listed], (Spring 2017)

*Some of the coursework for this class was based on a fieldtrip to conduct ethnographic research at the Chicago Palestine Film Festival at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago, IL, made possible by a Weinberg College Dean’s Office Course Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$500.

University of Southern California

Undergraduate Research Methods (undergraduate). Teaching Assistant, McNair-Gateway Scholars Program.

Exploring Ethnicity Through Film (undergraduate). Teaching Assistant, American Studies & Ethnicity.

Race and Class in Los Angeles (undergraduate). Teaching Assistant, American Studies & Ethnicity.

Peoples and Cultures of the Americas (undergraduate). Teaching Assistant, American Studies & Ethnicity.

Introduction to Islam (undergraduate). Teaching Assistant, Religious Studies.

Issues of Gender and Sexuality in the Holocaust (undergraduate). Teaching Assistant, Gender Studies.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

- 2017 Faculty Research Grant, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
- 2017 Faculty Research Assistant Grant, Undergraduate Research Assistant Program, Northwestern University
- 2017 Faculty Course Enhancement Grant, Weinberg College Dean’s Office, Northwestern University
- 2015-2016 Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Southern California

- 2015 Research Grant, Dr. Philip M. Kayal Grant for Arab American Research, Center for Arab American Philanthropy
- 2010-2015 Dornsife College Graduate Merit Fellowship & Teaching Assistantship, University of Southern California
- 2015 Emerging Diversity Scholar Citation, National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan
- 2014 Visual Studies Research Institute Summer Grant, University of Southern California
- 2013 Ninfa Sanchez Memorial Award, Department of American Studies & Ethnicity, University of Southern California
- 2011 Middle East Studies Program Summer Grant, University of Southern California
- 2010 Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Summer Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Southern California
- 2009 Special Recognition, Palestinian Women's Research & Documentation Center, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- 2002 Ruth Forbes Eliot Prize, English Department, Smith College

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2013 Professor Sarah Gualtieri, University of Southern California
- 2003 Professor Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, Smith College

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2016-2017 Board of Directors: Past Web Coordinator, Arab American Studies Association
- 2014-2016 Board of Directors: Web Coordinator, Arab American Studies Association
- 2016 Peer Reviewer, *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*
- 2015 Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Transnational American Studies*
- 2015 Peer Reviewer, *Kohl: Journal on Gender & Sexuality in the Middle East & North Africa*
- 2012-2013 Chair, Call for Papers Committee, Crossing Borders: Politics, Cultural Contest, and the Urgency of Space, Graduate Student Conference, USC
- 2011-2013 Graduate Student Representative, ASE Graduate Studies Committee, USC

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2013 Human Subjects Research Certification, Institutional Review Board, University of Southern California

- 2011 Summer Intensive Modern Standard Arabic, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California at Los Angeles
- 2010 Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Summer Institute, The Graduate School, University of Southern California

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- American Studies Association
- Arab American Studies Association
- Critical Ethnic Studies Association
- Middle East Studies Association
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2016 Juror, Best Short Film Competition, Mizna: Twin Cities Arab Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN

VISUAL ART EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 "The Queer Southwest Asian and North African Visibility Project," Stockholm Pride Festival, The Headquarter Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2010 "The New, New Pornographers: Queer Sex Workers of San Francisco," Cardiac Unrest: Aorta Magazine Release Show, Million Fishes Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2008 "Surviving Palestine," Expression of Nakba, Harvard Film Archive, Cambridge, MA
- 2008 "Surviving Palestine," Expressions of Nakba, Josephine Butler Parks Center, Washington, DC

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2009-
2010 Customer Support Representative, Blurb Inc., San Francisco, CA
Provided customer support via email for digital self-publishing company. Helped customers with shipping and billing inquiries and troubleshooting technical issues with Blurb bookmaking software.
- 2008-
2010 Photographer/Production Assistant Pink & White Inc., San Francisco, CA
Cast and crew portraits, production stills, and promotional photos for independent LGBT film company. Assisted director and videographers with lighting and set design.
- 2006-
2009 Master Photographic Printmaker, Ets-Hokin Studios, San Francisco, CA
Silver-gelatin and digital inkjet photographic printmaker for Ets-Hokin Studio photographers. Operated and managed both traditional darkroom and digital lab.

REFERENCES

Sarah Gualtieri
Associate Professor of History and American Studies & Ethnicity
University of Southern California
213.740.5434 / gualtier@dornsife.usc.edu

Evelyn Alsultany
Associate Professor of American Culture
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
734.615.4627 / alsultan@umich.edu

Kara Keeling
Associate Professor of Cinema & Media Studies and American Studies & Ethnicity
University of Southern California
213.740.3334 / kkeeling@cinema.usc.edu

Olivia Harrison
Associate Professor of French & Italian and Middle East Studies
University of Southern California
213.740.0104 / oharriso@dornsife.usc.edu