

SAMI H ATASSI

EMPLOYMENT

Texas A&M University at Galveston, 2023 – present
Instructional Assistant Professor of English
Department of Liberal Studies

EDUCATION

- PhD English with a concentration in Literature, Indiana University Bloomington, June 2023
Minors: Comparative Literature; Middle Eastern Language and Cultures
Dissertation: *Revolting Laughter: Antebellum American Satire and the Reformation of Terror*
Committee: Jennifer Fleissner (Chair), Jonathan Elmer, Paul Gutjahr, Walton Muyumba, Eyal Peretz, and Margaret Graves
- MA English and American Literature, University of Houston, December 2014
Certificate: Graduate Certificate in Empire Studies
Thesis: “Melville’s Economics of Terror in *The Confidence-Man*”
Supervisor: Irving N. Rothman
- BA Arts and Humanities, University of Texas at Dallas, May 2012
Minor: Literary Studies
Honors: Latin (cum laude) and Major (thesis completion)
Thesis: “Crime on the Cob: Faulkner and Detective Fiction”
Supervisor: Theresa Towner

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- In-Person, Online, and Hybrid modalities: First-Year Composition, Developmental Writing, Argumentative Writing, Professional/Technical Writing; Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Film
- Comparative American literature, art, performance, and culture from the late 18th century to the end of the 19th century
- Affect/Humor/Terror Studies, Postcolonial/Empire Studies, Ethnic Studies, Critical Race Studies, Genre Studies, Performance Studies, Religious Studies, Media Studies, Art History, Ethics, Critical Theory, Satirical Rhetoric, and Blue/Environmental Humanities

- Early Orientalism and contemporary Middle Eastern and North African Studies
- New media, digital technology, and social activism

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University at Galveston

ENGL 104	Comp & Rhet: Big Brother, the Other, and Satire	Fall 2023 – Fall 2024
ENGL 203	Writing About Literature: The Horrors of Comedy	Summer 2024 – Fall 2024
ENGL 335	Literature of the Sea: Intro to the Blue Humanities	Spring 2024, Spring 2025
ENGL 415	Studies in a Major Author: Poe’s Scientific Designs	Fall 2024
ENGL 485	Directed Study: Cracking Poe’s Eureka	Fall 2024

Indiana University Bloomington

ENG J101	Intro to College Comp: Funny Monsters	Summer 2018
ENG J101	Intro to College Comp: Superhuman Violence	Summer 2019
ENG W131	Reading, Writing, and Inquiry: Media and the Gaze	Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
W131 Groups	Reading, Writing, and Inquiry	Summer 2021
ENG W170	The Detective: Reader, Writer, Thinker	Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
ENG W170	Reading Between Monsters and Superheroes	Spring 2021
ENG W231	Professional Writing Skills	Fall 2018
ENG W270	Argumentative Writing	Spring 2019 – Fall 2020
ENG L204	Intro to Fiction: Laughter and Tears in Literature	Fall 2021

University of Texas at Dallas

UNIV 1010	Freshman Seminar	Fall 2011 – Spring 2012
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SERVICE

- Maritime Studies Representative. Task Force for Designing and Integrating the New College of Marine Sciences and Maritime Studies, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Spring 2024.
- Team Member. CARE Team, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Spring 2024.
- Committee Member. Honor Council, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Fall 2023.
- Committee Member. Common Reader Program, Department of Liberal Studies, Texas A&M University of Galveston, Fall 2023.

- Graduate Conference Co-Chair (interim program organizer). Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, Spring 2022.
- Graduate Representative. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2021 – Spring 2022.
- Vice President. Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2021 – Spring 2022.
- English Composition Associate Instructor. Groups Scholars Program, Indiana University, Summer 2018, 2019, and 2021.
- Treasurer. Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2020 – Spring 2021.
- Graduate Mentor Chair. Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2020 – Spring 2021.
- Graduate Writing Tutor. Indiana University Bloomington, Writing Tutorial Services, Fall 2018 – Spring 2020.
- Prospective Student Mentor. Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, Spring 2017 – Spring 2022.
- Graduate Mentor for incoming candidates. Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2016 – Spring 2022.
- Undergraduate Service Committee Chair. Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017.
- Executive board member. Graduate Student Conference Committee, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2015 – Spring 2017.
- Reviewer and copyeditor. *Plaza: Dialogues in Language and Literature*, Department of English, University of Houston, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016.
- Instructional Assistant. Learning Support Services, University of Houston, Fall 2013 – Fall 2014.
- Graduate Assistant and History Coach. Cougar Core First Year Experience Program, University of Houston, Fall 2012 – Fall 2013.
- Executive board member and moderator. Coastal Plains Graduate Conference, Department of English, University of Houston, Fall 2012 – Spring 2014.
- Organizer and moderator. Syrian American Council Houston Chapter, Fall 2012 – Spring 2015.
- First Year Leader Co-Instructor. First Year Experience, University of Texas at Dallas, Fall 2011 – Spring 2012.

ESSAYS PUBLISHED IN BOOKS AND IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

- “Poe’s Arabesque Manner: Making Space for Satirical Reflection.” *Poe Spaces*, collection of scholarly essays edited by Philip Edward Phillips, Lehigh University Press, forthcoming.

- “Remediating Antebellum Laughter: *Sheppard Lee*, Bert Williams, and the Subversion of Blackface in *Get Out*.” “Fifth Issue,” open access special section of *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 62, no. 5, Summer 2023.
- “‘My Heart Laid Bare’: A Deep Rereading of Daniel Hoffman’s *Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe*.” “Critical Reassessments,” feature in *The Edgar Allan Poe Review* 24, no. 1, Spring 2023.
- “Teaching in Tumultuous Times: The Case of Edgar Allan Poe.” “Teaching Crime Fiction After BLM,” teaching forum in *Clues: A Journal of Detection* 40, no. 2, 2022, pp. 113-115.
- “Playing with the Sovereign’s Plague in ‘King Pest’: A Summoning of Poe’s Necromantic Humor in War-Torn Syria.” *Studies in American Humor* 5, no. 2, 2019, pp. 351-371.
- “Mapping Representations of the Queen of Mystery’s Middle East: Adaptations, Anxieties, and Geopolitics of Agatha Christie’s *Appointment with Death*.” “Postcolonial Crime Fiction,” special issue of *The Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies* 4, no. 1, 2016, pp. 23-40.
- “Social Media, Revolution, and Postcolonialism: Visualizing the Syrian Revolution via Social Media.” *Postcolonial Interventions: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Postcolonial Studies* 1, no. 1, 2016, pp. 97-122.
- “*Syria’s Elegies (@SyriasElegies): Socio-Political Poetics of the World Wide Web.*” *Plaza: Dialogues in Language and Literature* 5, no. 2, 2015, pp. 45-52.
- “Diaspora and Transnational Identities: Table Talk Construction of Syrian-American Identities in Times of Civil War.” *Plaza: Dialogues in Language and Literature* 4, no. 2, 2014, pp. 1-15.
- “Delusory Decolonization in a Syrian-American’s Mind.” *Plaza: Dialogues in Language and Literature* 4, no. 1, 2013, pp. 97-114.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND WRITINGS

- “Muslim Melville: On the Figure of Djalea in *Clarel*.” Proceedings of the Melville Society’s panel “Melville and the Gods” at the 35th Annual ALA Conference 2024 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago, Illinois, May 22-25, 2024. *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, forthcoming.
- *Gale Research Guide for: Mystery and Detective Fiction: Agatha Christie*, with David Hawkes. Kindle ed., Gale/Cengage Learning, 2018.
- “Prof. Gayatri Spivak visits UH–Jan. 29-30, 2015,” with Rebeca Velasquez. Empire Studies at the University of Houston, 12 Feb. 2015, <http://empirestudies.net/events/prof-gayatri-spivak-visits-uh-129-302015/>.

- “The Good Colonization,” poem. *Riwayya*, 6 Nov. 2015, <http://www.riwayya.com/the-good-colonization/>.
- “Take Me Back,” poem. *Riwayya*, 5 Sept. 2015, <http://www.riwayya.com/take-me-back/>.
- @SyriasElegies (Syria’s Elegies: A Lost Diary of [Com]posts). Twitter, <https://twitter.com/SyriasElegies>.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPATION

- “Muslim Melville: On the Figure of Djalea in *Clarel*.” 35th Annual American Literature Association Conference, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, Illinois, 2024.
- “Bird’s *Sheppard Lee*: The Tragicomic Story of Jacksonian Capital.” Re: Telling and Re: Form, English Graduate Conference, Indiana University Bloomington, 2022.
- “Poe at the Boston Lyceum: Performing His Satirical Arabesque.” Fifth International Edgar Allan Poe Conference, Poe Studies Association, Omni Parker House, 2022.
- “Poe’s Satirical Arabesque: Cracking Up at Progress, Modern Optics, and the Sovereign Self.” Comedy/Humor, American Humor Studies Association Conference, University of Texas Austin, 2021.
- “Concerning Some Cracks Beneath Poe’s Arabesque: A Manic Optic Ride.” How to Do Things with Worlds, English Graduate Conference, Indiana University Bloomington, 2021.
- “Teaching the Horror and Comedy of Blackface in *Benito Cereno*.” Teaching With Difficulty Colloquium, Indiana University Bloomington, 2021.
- “Reforming Antebellum Terror: Functions of Satire from Stowe to Poe.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Georgetown University, 2019.
- “The Game is Afoot: Learning to Play the Life of the Mind,” co-presented with Phillip Choong. Computers and Writing Conference, George Mason University, 2018.
- “Resurrecting Antebellum Laughter in Jordan Peele’s *Get Out*.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, 2018.
- “Summoning and Testing Poe’s Sense of Humor: The (Im)possibility of Laughter in Contemporary Syria.” South Central Modern Language Association Conference, Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 2016.
- “Visualizing the Syrian Crisis: Syrians’ Revolution of Images Before ISIS’s War of Images.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University, 2016.
- “Melville’s Shark: The Hungry Queer of the Sea.” Digesting Discourses: Taste, Appetite, and Consumption, English Graduate Conference, Indiana University Bloomington, 2016.
- “*Syria’s Elegies* (@SyriasElegies): Socio-Political Poetics of the World Wide Web.” Conference of College Teachers of English, College of the Mainland, 2015.

- “*Syria’s Elegies (@SyriasElegies)*: Socio-Political Poetics of the World Wide Web.” Coastal Plains Graduate Conference, University of Houston, 2015.
- “Delusory Decolonization in a Syrian-American’s Mind.” Critical Voices, English Graduate Conference, University of North Texas, 2014.
- “Delusory Decolonization in a Syrian-American’s Mind.” Energies: Through the Material, Theoretical, and Textual, English Graduate Conference, University of Southern California, 2014.
- “Diaspora and Transnational Identities: Table Talk Construction of Syrian-American Identities in Times of Civil War.” Coastal Plains Graduate Conference, University of Houston, 2014.

INVITED LECTURES, READINGS, OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- Lecture and discussion, on pursuing careers in literary studies, in Kristin Jøsvoll’s MAST 240 course, Introduction to Maritime Studies, Texas A&M University Galveston, 2023.
- Lecture and discussion, “Writing Your First Dissertation Chapter,” Dissertation Advice Forum, Department of English, Indiana University Bloomington, 2023.
- Lecture and discussion, on the German Romantic influences in Poe’s “Ligeia,” in Rebecca Ottman’s ENGL 203 course, Writing About Horror Literature, Texas A&M University Galveston, 2022.
- Lecture and seminar discussion, “A Poe-Ietic Intervention,” on Poe’s satirical use of the arabesque, in Cordula Grewe’s ARTH A640 course, The Arabesque from Kant to Comics, Indiana University Bloomington, 2021.
- Lecture and workshop, “Argumentative Writing Workshop,” Net Impact, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University Bloomington, 2020.
- Lecture, on revolution in Jordan Peele’s film *Us*, in Milo Hicks’s ENG W170 course, The Good, The Bad, and The Idea of Genre: Why Do We Love Superheroes and Monsters?, Indiana University Bloomington, 2020.
- Lecture, on the cultural politics of children, race, and class in horror cinema, in Michelle Mastro’s CLLC L210 course, Haunted and Possessed: Children in Horror Literature and Film, Indiana University Bloomington, 2020.
- Lecture, on Thomas Hobbes’s *Leviathan*, in Milo Hicks’s ENG W170 course, The Good, The Bad, and The Idea of Genre: Why Do We Love Superheroes and Monsters?, Indiana University Bloomington, 2020.
- Arabic lecture, “Syrian Cinema and the Industry’s History,” Arabic Lecture Series, Arabic Flagship Program, Indiana University Bloomington, 2020.
- Peer review workshop, in Candis Smith’s AAD A210 course, Black Women in the Diaspora, Indiana University Bloomington, 2019.

- Arabic poetry reading, Nizar Qabbani's "I Love You and This Is My Signature," Arabic Poetry Night, Arabic Flagship Program, Indiana University Bloomington, 2018.
- Lecture, on Edgar Allan Poe's "MS. Found in a Bottle," in Chris Thomas's ENG L204 course Introduction to Fiction: Out of Place, Indiana University Bloomington, 2018.
- Lecture, on Edgar Allan Poe's narrativization of his ratiocinative method in "The Purloined Letter," in Philip Choong's ENG W170 course, The Detective: Reader, Writer, Thinker, Indiana University Bloomington, 2018.
- Lecture, on Kenneth Burke's theory of "Comic Correctives" and on Edgar Allan Poe's use of satire in "King Pest," in Joan Linton's ENG L480 seminar, The Emperor has no /bɔlz/: Satire as Equipment for Living, Indiana University Bloomington, 2017.
- Poetry reading, "Syria is On Planet Earth," Bridging Toxic Links, Indiana University Bloomington, 2016.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- J. Albert Robbins Prize in American Literature, awarded by the Department of English at Indiana University Bloomington. Awarded to the best PhD candidate studying American literature, Fall 2022 – Spring 2023.
- Albert Wertheim Fellowship, awarded by the Department of English at Indiana University Bloomington. For advanced dissertation research on theatre, dramatic literature, and performance studies, Fall 2022 – Spring 2023.
- Lawlis-Duchovnay Award, awarded by the Department of English at Indiana University Bloomington. For participation in the Poe Studies Association's Fifth International Edgar Allan Poe Conference, Omni Parker House, 2022.
- Sanders-Weber Fellowship, awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington. For dissertation research and writing, Spring 2022.
- Teaching Fellowship, awarded by the Department of English at Indiana University Bloomington. For teaching an online section of ENG L204 Intro to Fiction, Fall 2021.
- Dr. William Slaymaker Graduate Fellowship, awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington. For exemplary research in the fields of American performance and postcolonial studies, Summer 2021.
- Constance Rourke Prize for Graduate Students, awarded by the American Humor Studies Association. For participation in annual conference, Comedy/Humor, University of Texas Austin, 2020.
- Susan D. Gubar Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship, awarded by the Department of English at Indiana University Bloomington. For research in the field of American studies, Summer 2020.

- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, awarded by the Islamic Studies Program at Indiana University Bloomington. For study of Arabic IV and Islamic art, culture, and history, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020.
- Culbertson Chair in Writing Award, awarded by the English Department at Indiana University Bloomington. For participation in the Computers and Writing Conference, George Mason University, 2018.
- Carnegie Travel Award, awarded by the Department of English at Indiana University Bloomington. For participation in the American Comparative Literature Association Conference, University of California Los Angeles, 2018.
- Carnegie Travel Award, awarded by the English Department at Indiana University Bloomington. For participation in the South Central Modern Language Association Conference, Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 2016.
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, awarded by the African Studies Program at Indiana University Bloomington. For study of Arabic I, Summer 2016.

CERTIFICATES

- Certified Master Tutor by the College Reading & Learning Association
- Graduate Certificate in Empire Studies, Department of English, University of Houston

LANGUAGES

- English – native
- Arabic – advanced fluency

