

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: *Revolt and the Reformation of Terror: 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, Hybrid, and Online 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, and Satirical Rhetoric

- 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

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	The Lines 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, Tears in Literature	Fall 2021

University of Texas at Dallas

UNIV 1010 Freshman Seminar Fall 2011, Spring 2012

SERVICE

- 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

- *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

- “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, “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 /bɒlz/: 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

