

Laila Shereen Sakr

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EDUCATION

2015 **PhD, Media Arts and Practice**, USC School of Cinematic Arts
2009 **MFA, Digital Arts and New Media**, UC Santa Cruz
1998 **MA, Arab Studies**, Georgetown University
1993 **BA, English Literature**, University of Cincinnati (*cum laude*)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

July 2015-present Assistant Professor, Department of Film and Media Studies, UCSB
Faculty Affiliate, Feminist Studies Department, UCSB
2010-2015 Teaching and Research Assistant, School of Cinematic Arts, USC
2009-2010 Research Associate, Digital Arts New Media MFA Program, UCSC
2007-2009 Teaching and Research Assistant, Arts Division, UCSC
2001-2007 Multimedia and Publications Editor, Center for Contemporary Arab
Studies, Georgetown University
1993-1995 U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Instructor, Fes Sais University, MOROCCO

AREAS of RESEARCH and TEACHING EXPERTISE

Digital Arts	Data Visualization	Interaction Design
Media Theory + Practice	Feminist Technology	Middle East Studies

GRANTS and AWARDS

2019 Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, UCSB
2019 Academic Senate Faculty Research Grant, UCSB
2018 Academic Senate Faculty Research Grant, UCSB
2018 Carsey-Wolf Center Faculty Research Support Award
2018 UC Regents' Junior Faculty Fellowship
2017 Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Faculty Collaboration Grant, UCSB
2017 College of Letters & Science Conference Grant, UCSB
2016 Academic Senate Faculty Research Grant, UCSB
2016 Open Society Foundation, Human Rights Initiative Grant
2015 Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Faculty Collaboration Grant, UCSB
2013-2015 Arab Council on Social Sciences Research Grant
2012 Future Leadership Award by Egyptian American Association
2012-2013 Arab Digital Expression Foundation Award
2010-2011 MacArthur Foundation HASTAC Scholar award
2010-2015 Annenberg PhD Fellowship, USC
2009 Jack Shaheen Media Scholarship
2007-2008 UC Regents Graduate Student Fellowship, UCSC
2006 Puffin' Grant for the Guerrilla Poetry Insurgency
2005 Washington Peace Center, Peace and Justice Award

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE and SERVICE

- 2019-present Affiliated Faculty, Center for Responsible Machine Learning, UCSB
 2016-present Co-Founder, Wireframe Digital Media Studio, UCSB
 Research Collaborator, Global Media Technologies & Cultures Lab, MIT
 Advisory Committee, Digital Arts & Humanities Commons, UCSB
 Steering Committee, Center for Information Tech & Society, UCSB
 Executive Committee, Middle East Studies Program, UCSB
 2017-2019 Website Committee Chair, Film and Media Studies Department, UCSB
 2015-present Undergraduate Committee, Film and Media Studies Department, UCSB
 2015-2018 Modern Middle East Lecture Committee, Middle East Studies, UCSB
 Graduate Student Funding Committee, Middle East Studies, UCSB

Editorial Committee Service

- 2016-present *Media Theory*, open access journal
 2015-present *After Video*, published by Open Humanities Press

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

Digital Activism and Arabic Software Localization. In Mark LeVine, editor, *The Five-Year Old Who Toppled the Pharaoh*. Volume is under contract with UC Press.

Techies on the Ground. In Josepha Wessels, editor, Special Issue *Cyber Orient: Authoritarianism, digital dissidence and grassroots media in the Middle East and North African Region*. Vol. 13, Iss. 1 (2019).

Reframing the ‘Arab Spring’. In Angela Krewan and Alena Strohmaier, editors, *Media and Spatial Knowledge in/of the MENA-region*. Amsterdam University Press, 2020.

Ev-ent-angement: A Script to Reflexively Extend Engagement by Way of Technologies. In Elizabeth Losh and Jacqueline Wernimont, editors, *Bodies of Information: Intersectional Feminism and the Digital Humanities*. University of Minnesota Press, 2019.

On Developing a Teaching Module on Arab Social Media. *Cinema Journal Teaching Dossier: The Integration of Production and Theory/History in Cinema and Media Studies Courses 4.1* (June 2016).

The Virtual Body Politic: A Networked Political Mobilization of Information Patterns and Materiality. *Networking Knowledge: Journal of the Media, Communication, and Cultural Studies Association* 8.2 (May 2016).

From Archive to Analytics: Building Counter-Collections of Arabic Social Media. In Anthony Downey, editor, *Archival Dissonance: Contemporary Visual Culture and Knowledge Production*. I.B. Tauris/Ibraaz, 2015.

A Digital Humanities Approach: Text, the Internet, and the Egyptian Uprising. *Middle East Critique* 22.3 (2013).

The Materiality of Virtuality: Internet Reporting On Arab Revolutions. In Adel Iskander and Bassam Haddad, editors, *Mediating the Arab Uprisings*. Tadween Publishing, 2013.

Security or Uncertainty: Stabilizing R-Shief Twitter Analysis during the Jasmine & Egyptian Revolutions. *ThoughtMesh: Critical Code Journal* (February 2011).

The R-Shief Initiative: Proof of Concept. *Parson's Journal for Information Mapping 2* (2009).

Book Reviews

Hanan al-Cinema, Laura Marks (MIT Press, 2016). *Journal of the Society for Contemporary Thought and the Islamic World*, 2017.

CREATIVE WORKS

Installations

- 2020 *Beit Um Amel* / بيت ام امل X, solo exhibition curated by Shiva Balaghi: Future Gallery at the American University of Cairo's Tahrir Cultural Center (Cairo, Egypt)
- 2020 Birds 1.0 / "طيور" X, dye sublimation on metal, curated by Shiva Balaghi in the *Glitch/ غليتش* exhibition in the Margo Veillon Gallery at AUC's Tahrir Cultural Center (Cairo, Egypt)
- 2020 Touch Data Body X, interactive media installation, curated by Selwa Sweidan & Laura Darlington: *Beyond Embodiment* at The Brand Art Gallery (Glendale, CA)
- 2018 Touch Data Body X, interactive media installation, curated by Vanessa Chang: Codame's Art & Technology, *ArtoBots* at The Midway (San Francisco, CA)
- 2018 Glitch Resistance in Metal, dye sublimation on aluminum prints, curated by Vanessa Chang: Codame's Art and Technology Festival, *ArtoBots* at The Midway (San Francisco, CA)
- 2018 Ten-year Retrospective video installation in *VISIBILITY*, an exhibition curated by Milena Pafundi at the Central Cultural Kirchner (Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA)
- 2016 Egyptian Insurgency Data Visualization. *After Tahrir film festival*, Michael Douglas Lobby at Pollock Theater (Santa Barbara, CA)
- 2015 Ruptured Destruction: An Anarchists Vision. *Scents of Places*, Flaherty Film Seminar (New York, NY)
- 2013 Performing and Archiving the Middle East Internet. Levantine Cultural Center (Los Angeles, CA)
- 2012 Egyptian Body Politic Remix. *iMapping*, USC (Los Angeles, CA)
- 2011 Egyptian Body Politic Remix. *Digital Festival* (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

- 2011 Mother of Hope Words, Museum of Art & History (Vienna, Austria)
- 2009 Archiving Gaza in R-Shief. *interACTIVATE*, Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (Santa Cruz, CA)
- 2008-2009 Conversation Map by Warren Sack. *Art of Participation: 1950- Now*, curated by Rudolf Frieling. Produced video and website for the software that ran in the installation, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (San Francisco, CA)
- 2008 The Public Intellectual REMixed by VJ Um Amel. Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)
- 2008 Post-Colonial Ninja Front. Porter Faculty Gallery (Santa Cruz, CA)
- 2006 The Why Project, Green Festival (Washington, DC)

Digital Media (Illustrations, Visualizations, Software Applications, & Media Systems)

- 2019 Glitch Resistance series, dye sublimation on metal and canvas
- 2017 Arab Future Tripping Virtual Reality Prototype
- 2017 R-Shief 5.0 software apps and cloud computing architecture
- 2016 “For the Global-Popular” 2016, *Asian Video Cultures*, Eds. Joshua Neves and Bhaskar Sarkar, Duke University Press, 2017, front cover.
- 2015 Collaborated with Alex Juhasz in building the online portals and interfaces for Ev-ent-angle-ment. The ev-ent-anglement digitally entangles fragments from this event with those of four previous events experienced over the past year in Utrecht, Delhi, Dublin, and Montreal where I also collected participants’ fragments and stitched and re-stitched them together as I moved forward and back—from Utrecht to Dehli, Dublin, Montreal, LA—and also always online
- 2014 #Gaza Audio-Visual Narrative by a Cyborg: Images by Hashtag, an online interactive mosaic of images tweeted on the bombing of Gaza
- 2013- 2015 R-Shief 3.0 and 4.0, an archival and visualizing media system up to 26 billion social media posts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and sites) in more than seventy languages. Software applications:
- Kal3a is an open source application stack that collects, stores, and indexes the social media content that supports R-Shief’s research.
 - Hashtag Visualizer displays trending words over time with frequency counts. The graphs can be exported, and are fully interactive.
 - The Hashtag Trends Widget measures trending words in real-time. This widget can be embedded anywhere as an iframe.
 - The Arabic Smart Engine is an open source tool that feeds two APIs. The Arabic Text Analysis API is a text analyzer of Arabic content that uses Wikipedia as its knowledge base to show various occurrences.

- The Arabic Sentiment API will accept short Arabic Text, basically a tweet. It then will identify the related sentiment by analyzing the text taking into consideration several Arabic language rules.
- 2010 Twitterminer software application that data mines Twitter by hashtag
- 2010-2012 Under the name VJ Um Amel, produced over one hundred works of cultural analytics published across platforms including Jadaliyya.com, The Levantine Center, Mrzine, SMEX, 7iber, Henry Jenkins Blog.
- 2009 Commissioned for art direction and lead design for The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies's Islamopedia project at Harvard University
- 2007 Designed user interface using Drupal theming for Merip.org
- 2006 Designed website for Arabs and Terrorism film and research project using Cold Fusion, Access db. Built using ActionScript 2.0 and Flash 8.
- 2004 Designed and developed website for Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University using Cold Fusion and Access db. Built custom video players and web intro using ActionScript 2.0 and Flash 8.

Live Cinema Performances

- 2017 Wireframe Beta Launch: A Guerrilla Open Mic. Wireframe Studio, UCSB
- 2016 Resurgency. Nomadico Festival, curated by non-profit arts collective, Meso Creso, (Lignum, Virginia)
- 2015 Ev-ent-angement, the final iteration of a performance spanning Utrecht, Delhi, Dublin, and Montreal, PAM performance gallery (Los Angeles, CA)
- 2015 From Gaza to Cairo, International Symposium on Electronic Arts (ISEA), curated by Laura Marks (Vancouver, CANADA)
- 2015 Body of Work of VJ Um Amel. *Scents of Places*, Flaherty Film Seminar, (New York, NY)
- 2013 From Gaza to Cairo: Mobilizing Body Politic. *Collective Alchemy performance*, the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics Convergence (Los Angeles, CA)
- 2013 ImMobility: A Performed Score with Micha Cardenes and Leyya Tawil, *iMAPPENING* (Los Angeles)
- 2013 VJ Um Amel @100Copies Music Space with Music Squad (Cairo, EGYPT)
- 2013 #OpenEgypt Ali Shaath, Arab Digital Expression Foundation (Cairo, EGYPT)
- 2012 Wizard Science Presents: GRIMBLEE, The 418 Project (Santa Cruz, CA)

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- 2012 The Spirit of Tahrir: Honoring the 25th Egyptian Revolution. The Egyptian American Organization (Los Angeles, CA)
 - 2011 Music, Freedom, and a Bit of Egyptian Cinema, Hosted by Makkan Art Gallery sponsored by National Gallery of Art (Amman, JORDAN)
 - 2011 Live Visuals with Spoken Word Poet Remi Kanazi and Hip-Hop Artist The Philistines (Los Angeles, CA)
 - 2011 Bass Synthesis (Los Angeles, CA)
 - 2011 Brethren GRIMED: Full Moon Festival (Santa Cruz, CA)
 - 2010 Middle East Studies Association Dance Party with DJ Bassam (San Diego, CA)
 - 2010 When Worlds Collide (Los Angeles, CA)
 - 2010 Call 2 Presence, The Fridge DC Art Gallery (Washington, DC)
 - 2007 Hip Hop Theater Festival (Washington, DC)
 - 2006 Weekly Hip-Hop Performance with Thievery Corporation at Eighteenth Street Lounge (Washington, DC)
 - 2006 DC Coalition for Housing and Justice: Community Forum (Washington, DC)
 - 2006 Greenspace Festival (Washington, DC)
 - 2005 Operation Ceasefire Concert, opening act for Joan Baez, Sweet Honey & the Rock (Washington, DC)
 - 2005 Counter-Inaugural Event (Washington, DC)
 - 2002 Capital Heartbreak & Sweetness: DC POETS, by S. Ekanayak (Washington, DC)

TEACHING

Courses Designed and Taught

2019-2020, University of California, Santa Barbara, Film and Media Studies Department

Digital Media Theory (graduate), Winter 2020

Feminist Technology (undergraduate), Spring 2020

Interaction Design (undergraduate), Spring 2020

2018-2019, University of California, Santa Barbara, Film and Media Studies Department

Feminist Technology (undergraduate), Spring 2019

Glitch Art (undergraduate), Spring 2019

Middle East Film and Media (undergraduate), Winter 2019

Interaction Design (undergraduate), Fall 2018

2017-2018, *University of California, Santa Barbara, Film and Media Studies Department*
 Middle East Media (undergraduate), Spring 2018
 Glitch Art (undergraduate), Spring 2018
 Introduction to the Technology, Equipment and Materials of Film and Media,
 (undergraduate) Fall 2017
 Feminist Technology (graduate), Fall 2017

2016-2017, *University of California, Santa Barbara, Film and Media Studies Department*
 Glitch Art (undergraduate), Spring 2017
 Feminist Technology Lab (undergraduate), Spring 2017
 Algorithms and Culture (graduate), Winter 2017
 Digital Activism in the Middle East (undergraduate), Winter 2017
 Motion Graphics (undergraduate), Winter 2017

2015-2016, *University of California, Santa Barbara, Film and Media Studies Department*
 Glitch Art (undergraduate), Spring 2016
 Digital Activism in the Middle East (undergraduate), Winter 2016
 Data Visualization as Media Praxis (graduate), Winter 2016

Undergraduate Student Supervision

Advisor for Rachael Grainger, Senior Honor Thesis, "A Feminist Reading of Immersive Journalism: *The Displaced*," 2017-2018

Graduate Student Supervision

Nathan Cox, Film and Media Studies, 2018-present (PhD Dissertation Committee)
 Sara Morris, Art History, 2018-present (PhD Minor Advisor)
 Sihwa Park, Media Arts & Technology, 2018-present (PhD Dissertation Committee)
 Daniel Grinberg, Film and Media Studies, 2017-2018 (PI for UCHRI Graduate Student Research)
 Han-Wei Kung, Media Arts & Technology, 2017-2018 (PhD Dissertation Committee)
 Ali Rahman, Comparative Literature Department, 2015-2017 (PhD Exam Committee)

LECTURES

Keynote

Feb 2019	HIGH/LOW Taste, Quality, and Resolution in Film and Media, a UC Berkeley Film & Media Graduate Conference (Berkeley)
Feb 2019	!!Con ("bang bang con") at UCSC (Santa Cruz)
Oct 2018	"Reframing the 'Arab Spring'" at Emergency and Emergence: First Forum, a USC Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Conference in Cooperation with USC Interdivisional Media Arts and Practice PhD Program at the School of Cinematic Arts (Los Angeles)

July 2016 “Rethinking Social Movements in the Digital Age: Activism, Dissent and Rebellion in the Post-Arab Spring” a Orient-Institut in Beirut (OIB) international conference (Beirut, LEBANON)

Invited

May 2020 “Glitch Aesthetics” in Ethnomusicology Forum (UCSB)

May 2020 “Glitch” in Media Arts & Technology Graduate Colloquium (UCSB)

Apr 2020 “Glitch Resistance” in UCLA Information Studies Colloquium (Los Angeles)

Oct 2019 “Demystifying Algorithms: Questions of Value and Logics of Power” for graduate seminar on Interacting with AI at the Center for Information Technology and Society (Santa Barbara)

Apr 2019 “A Transdisciplinary Approach to Data Visualization” at UCSB Spring Insight

Feb 2019 “Uncanny Histories Conference” at Carsey-Wolf Center (Santa Barbara)

Jan 2019 “Data Visualization: Intersecting Math, Arts, and Science” (Monterrey)

May 2018 “DataMoshing” at UCHRI graduate research workshop on “War, Security, and Digital Media” (Santa Barbara)

April 2018 “Algorithmic Borders and the Arab World” at "(B)orders of Empire: Colonial Pasts, Imperial Presents and Implicate Futures of the Global Middle East" (UC Irvine)

Feb 2018 “Algorithmic Resistance” at “Understanding the New Middle East” Conference, UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies (Los Angeles)

Oct 2017 “Friction Points: Moving among the Disciplines” in Inaugural Panel on Interdisciplinary Crossings + Boundaries, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UCSB (Santa Barbara)

Oct 2017 “Billion Tweets Turned into Virtual Reality” at Big Data Research Symposium hosted by UCSB Office of Research (Santa Barbara)

Oct 2017 “Algorithmic Vision: An Arab Fem-Tech Logic” Dean Colloquium series at School of Arts, Technology and Emerging Communication (UT Dallas)

May 2017 “Arab Future Tripping and Algorithmic Vision” guest lecture series at Institute for Advanced Studies at University of Minnesota (Minneapolis)

Apr 2017 “The Myth of the Muslim Nation” on “Imaginarities about Muslims: Before and After Trump” panel at the UCSB Multicultural Center (Santa Barbara)

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- Mar 2017 “Always Already Computational: Library Collections as Data” National Forum on Digital Collections at UCSB Library (Santa Barbara)
- Mar 2017 “Algorithmic Culture and Its Impact on a Post-Uprisings Middle East” in New Scholar series, UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies (Los Angeles)
- Feb 2017 “Muslim American/ American Muslim Community Engagements: Opportunities and Challenges in the Aftermath of the 2016 Elections” at the UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (Santa Barbara)
- Jan 2017 “Launching new Cloud Computing Infrastructure” at UCSB’s Interdisciplinary Research Collaboratory’s panel on “Reproducible Data Research: It’s Complicated” (Santa Barbara)
- Dec 2016 Transregional Summit on “Freedom of Assembly in Civic Spaces,” (Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL)
- Nov 2016 “Digital Activism in the Arab World” invited guest lecture in UCSB Professor Dwight Reynolds’ Modern Arab Culture Class (Santa Barbara)
- Sep 2016 Arab Social Media at Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies bi-annual conference at Lund University (Copenhagen, DENMARK)
- Jun 2016 “On Designing Tweet World” at Games for Change Europe on “Immigration, Integration, and Self-Esteem: The Power of Videogames” (Paris, FRANCE)
- Jun 2016 “Rethinking from Concept to Gallery: A Performance of #Gaza Visual Narrative by a Cyborg” at “Unflattening and Enacting Visualization: a Critical Visualization Event” at The Graduate School, CUNY College (New York, NY)
- Jan 2016 “Unveiling R-Shief 4.0: A Social Media Archive and Analytics System” (co-presented) in lecture series by UCSB Center for Information Technology and Society (Santa Barbara)
- Nov 2015 “The R-Shief Media System” in guest lecture series at UC Berkeley Center for Middle Eastern Studies (Berkeley, CA)
- Oct 2015 Guest lecture in UCSB Professor Harold Marcuse’s “Digital History” graduate seminar in the History Department (Santa Barbara)
- Oct 2015 Guest lecture in UCSB Professor Lisa Parks’ “Social Media” seminar in the Film and Media Department (Santa Barbara)
- Oct 2015 Guest lecture in Professors Omar Dahi and Viveca Greene’s “Media and the Middle East” class at Hampshire College (Amherst, MA)
- Jun 2015 Led seminar on “Social Media and Digital Activism” at Digital Humanities Summer Institute at Claremont Colleges (Claremont, CA)

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- Nov 2014 Guest lecture in Professor Sarah Gualtieri's class on "Popular Culture in the Middle East" in the American Studies Department at the University of Southern California (Los Angeles)
- Oct 2014 Guest lecture in Professor Soraya Murray's graduate seminar, "Toward an Ethics of New Media" in UCSC Film and Digital Media Department (Santa Cruz)
- Oct 2014 "#OpenEgypt: Egypt's Twenty-first Century Open Source Tech Movement" in "Spotlight on Egypt: Troubled Transition" panel hosted by USC's Middle East Studies Program (Los Angeles)
- Jun 2014 Guest Lecture on "Data Mining & Analytics" guest lecture in USC Annenberg Graduate Summer Course (Los Angeles)
- Apr 2014 "</sentiment analysis_fail>" at the Information Sciences Institute Artificial Intelligence Series at USC (Los Angeles)
- Feb 2014 "Critical Intersections: A Digital Media Arts Framework" at Pratt Institute's Graduate Program in Media Studies (Brooklyn, NY)
- Feb 2013 "The Digital Humanities: Between Technology and Revolution" at the Middle East Studies Center at The American University (Cairo, EGYPT)
- May 2012 Guest lecturer in UCSD Professor Liz Losh's class on digital journalism (San Diego)
- Mar 2012 "The Arab Uprisings" at "The Emergence of Islamic Groups, Security, and Regional/International Dynamics" at Munk School of Global Affairs at University of Toronto (Toronto, CANADA)
- Feb 2012 "By the Demand of the People: Archiving digitally born information in Arabic" at UCSC Department of Film and Digital Media (Santa Cruz)
- Nov 2011 "Applications of Social Media Proliferation: New Approaches towards 'Objective' Study" at U.S. Department of State Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance "Arms Control in the Information Age" conference (Washington, DC)
- Nov 2011 "#NoMilTrials Remixed "#NoMilTrials Remixed" at Munk School of Global Affairs at University of Toronto "Arab Uprising: Causes of Change" (Toronto, CANADA)
- Sep 2011 "Turning Information into Insight Panel" at Tech@State: Data Visualization conference (Washington, DC)
- Sep 2011 "Social Media Proliferation: Mapping and Analyzing Online Content" in lecture series on "Transformations of Human Identity in the 21st Century" (Ferrum, VA)
- Sep 2011 "New Perspectives on Islam and the Middle East" in Fellows Forum series at University of Southern California (Los Angeles)

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- Jul 2011 Arab Techies 2011 Workshop (Cairo, EGYPT)
 - Jul 2011 “Documenting and Analyzing Arab Opinion on the Internet: Semantic Twitter Feed Analysis” at U.S. Department of State (Washington, DC)
 - Jun 2011 “Democratizing Knowledge: A2K4D’s Second Annual Conference” at American University in Cairo (Cairo, EGYPT)
 - May 2011 “The Role of Art and Humanities in Regime Change” at TEDx organized by Stanford’s Peace Innovation (Palo Alto, CA)
 - May 2011 “Visual Nesting: Facebook’s Design for Building Community” at Facebook Headquarter’s (Palo Alto, CA)
 - Apr 2011 “The Social Web Meets the Semantic Web” at Annenberg Innovation Lab’s Inaugural Conference at USC (Los Angeles)
 - Feb 2011 “Blogs and Bullets: Social Media and the Struggle for Political Change” by US Institute for Peace, The George Washington University, and Stanford University (Palo Alto, CA)
 - May 2010 Arab Techies Women’s Workshop (Beirut, LEBANON)
 - Mar 2010 “Cultural Expression” at Bay Area’s Arab Women’s Conference (San Francisco)
 - May 2008 Guest lecture in UCSC Professor Warren Sack’s class on Social Information Spaces (Santa Cruz)
 - Aug 2006 Poetry Workshop: Young Women’s Drumming Empowerment (Washington, DC)

Conferences

- Nov 2019 “Authoritarianism, Digital Dissidence and Grassroots Media in the Middle East and North Africa region” at Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference (New Orleans, LO)
- Nov 2018 “Authoritarianism, Digital Dissidence and Grassroots Media in the Middle East and North Africa region” at Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference (San Antonio, TX)
- Nov 2018 “Digital Humanities Caucus: Emerging Digital Humanities” at American Studies Association Annual Conference (Atlanta, GA)
- Nov 2018 “Presidential Session: Dictatorship or Democracy? Thinking though the Global Authoritarian Turn” at American Studies Association Conference (Atlanta, GA)

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- Jan 2018 "Activism in the Humanities: Digital Projects for Public Engagement" at Modern Language Association Conference (New York, NY)
- Nov 2017 Organized roundtable on "Social Media, Feminist Praxis, and State Power;" and presenting "Media Sousveillance on its Back" in panel on "Art and Mediation: Affective and Socio-political Practices of Revolutionary Challenges" at Middle East Studies Conference (Washington, DC)
- Apr 2016 "A Job (Un)like Any Other: Graduate School as Academic Labor" at Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) conference (Atlanta, GA)
- Nov 2015 "Media Praxis: A Hybrid Approach to Studying the Arabic Open Source Movement" in panel on Arab New Media Theory: At the Intersection of Art, Technology, and Scholarship at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference (Denver, CO)
- Mar 2015 "Data-Driven Literary Practices" at &Now 2015: Blast radius conference at California Institute of the Arts (Valencia, CA)
- Nov 2014 "On Developing a Teaching Module on Arab Social Media" and "The Archive: Collections and Counter-Collections" at the Middle East Studies Association conference (Washington, DC)
- Oct 2013 "Will the Revolution Be Tweeted? Mapping Complex Data Patterns from Sites of Protest" at the Internet Researchers 14.0: Resistance + Appropriation conference (Denver, CO)
- Oct 2013 "The Digital Humanities Meets Modern Egypt: Between Technology and Revolution" in panel on Digital Humanities in Middle East Studies II: Digital Communication at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference (New Orleans, LA)
- Apr 2013 "Narrating the Non-Narrative: A reading of experimental Arab art" at DIWAN with Mike Khoury, Leyya Tawil, and Nadim Damluji at DIWAN sponsored by the Arab American National Museum (Detroit, MI)
- Sep 2012 "The Place of Difference in the Digital Humanities" at the International Symposium of Electronic Art (Albuquerque, NM)
- Jun 2012 "Science of the Oppressed as Artivism," Allied Media Conference (Detroit, MI)
- Jun 2012 "The Cultural Logic of YouTube Videos from the Egyptian Revolution" at London School of Economics Symposium, "Cosmopolitanism, New Media and Protests" (London, UK)
- Apr 2012 "The Insight of Insider/Outsider Approaches to Scholarship roundtable" at USC Annenberg Research and Creative Project Symposium (Los Angeles)
- Mar 2012 "Arab Spring: Convening the ICTD research community" organized by Harvard University Berkman Center for Internet & Society" (Atlanta, GA)

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- Dec 2011 Social Media Practice: Revolution, Youth, and the Digital World roundtable discussion, Middle East Studies Association (Washington, DC)
- Jun 2011 “Al-Sha’ab Yureed (The People Demand): Transmitting the Revolution” at Allied Media Conference (Detroit, MI)
- Apr 2011 “Media Methods: Youth, Revolution, and the Arab States” at Annenberg Fellowship Creative Symposium at USC (Los Angeles, CA)
- Jan 2010 “The Digital Revolution: Arab Media in Digital Form” at Middle East Studies Association conference (San Diego, CA)
- Jul 2010 “The Digital Form: Rethinking R-Shief” at World Council on Middle East Studies (Barcelona, SPAIN)
- Feb 2010 “On Implementing the Digital Form: an Arabic-English Web-based Archive,” Yale University’s Digital Humanities Conference (New Haven)
- Oct 2006 Defining & Negotiating Public Space at Urban Culture Conference (DC)
- Dec 2005 “Disrupting Spaces at American Studies Association (Washington, DC)
- Jun 2004 “Is Everything Political?” at Radius of Arab-American Writers (NYC)
- Feb 2004 “Arab Voices of Protest” at National Conference of Organized Resistance (Washington DC)

INTERVIEWS and REVIEWS

2015-2020

Editor. “[Understanding Social Movements through Social Media’s Big Data](#),” *CCAS Newsmagazine* (Winter/Spring 2018).

Khallaf, Rania. “[The sound of a glitch](#),” *Al-Ahram Online*, February 25, 2020.

Lindsey, Ursula. “[Scholars Re-Examine Arab World’s ‘Facebook Revolutions’](#),” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 2015.

Logan, Jim. “[A billion tweets turned into virtual reality](#),” *University of California News*, July 27, 2017.

Losh, Elizabeth. “[#Intersection](#)” in *Hashtag*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2019, pp. 89-93.

Malatesta, Irene. “[Data Bodies and Tech Activism with VJ Um Amel](#),” *Medium*, May 2018.

Willis, Holly. [Fast Forward: The Future\(s\) of the Cinematic Art](#). Columbia Univ. Press, 2016.

2009-2014

Attalah, Lina. "VJ Um Amel hits 'the social' in media" *Al-Masry Al-Youm*, June 24, 2011.

Chlala, Youmna. "Interview with VJ Um Amel" *Art Territories*, June 22, 2011.

Editors. "[New Texts Out Now: VJ Um Amel, A Digital Humanities Approach: Text, the Internet and the Egyptian Uprising](#)" *Jadaliyya*, February 12, 2014.

Friedman, Jon. "[Twitter's Window on Middle East Uprisings](#)" *The Wall Street Journal*, May 18, 2011.

Good, Andrew. "[The Middle East finds its voice on social media](#)" *USC News*, August 29, 2014.

Gottmoeller, U.S. State Department Assistant Secretary Rosemary. "[From the Manhattan Project to the Cloud: Arms Control in the Information Age](#)" *Stanford University*, October 27, 2011

Losh, Elizabeth. "[Digital Learning and the Arab Spring](#)" *DML Central*, June 23, 2011.

Losh, Liz. "[Not Your Mother's VJ](#)" *Virtualpolitik*, February 25, 2011.

Miller, Greg. "[Social Scientists Wade Into the Tweet Stream](#)" *Science*, September 30, 2011.

Schenkar, Dylan. "[VJ Um Amel Remixes a Revolution](#)" *The Creators Project*, March 1, 2011.

Ungerleider, Neal. "[The People's Skype' and Occupy Wall Street Hackathons](#)" *Fast Company*, December 12, 2011.

ONLINE JOURNALS

Regular social media analysis and interview, "What's Trending in Social Media on the Middle East?" in *Status Hour: Audio Journal* vol. 1-3, 2015 and 2016 - <http://www.statushour.com/laila-shereen-sakr.html>

"Studying Social Streams: Cultural Analytics in Arabic," *Jadaliyya* 10/31/2012.

"Egypt's Presidential Election and Twitter Talk," *Jadaliyya* 05/26/2012.

"The Materiality of Virtuality: Internet Reporting Arab Revolutions," *Jadaliyya* 12/19/2011.

"Collateral Damage: #Oslo Attacks and Proliferating Islamophobia," *Jadaliyya* 08/09/2011.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Interviewed Director Tamer El Said in the screening of *In the Last Days of the City* at the CWC Pollock Theater, October 2018.

Co-organized two-day conference in April 2018. “The Future Tripping” conference addressed the intertwined nature of economic, political, and environmental uncertainty by bringing together scholarship and stakeholders often kept apart due to medium or methodology, among them environmental science, media theory and practice, and the digital humanities. Hosted a keynote talk by Elizabeth Losh (William & Mary), curated original art installation by Christina McPhee, with additional workshops and presentations by Elaine Gan (USC), Susana Ruiz (UC Santa Cruz), Danielle Svehla (Lawrence Berkeley National Lab), and UCSB faculty and students. <https://wireframeucsb.wordpress.com/2018/04/08/future-tripping/>

Co-organized four-day symposium and film fest at UCSB, “After Tahrir: Egyptian Revolutionary Experiences and Future Visions” with over twenty-five international guests, eighteen film shorts, and over twenty sponsors, January 2016 - <http://aftertahrir.net>

Interviewed Director Iva Radivojevic and organized screening of *Evaporating Borders* at the CWC Pollock Theater, December 2015.

Consulted for The World Bank on Lebanon’s garbage crisis through a series of social media analyses and data visualizations in Arabic and English, October 2015

Spearheaded first international OccupyData Hackathons I & II in December 2011, and March 2012, along with MIT Media Lab, R-Shief, The New School, Utrecht University, and activists in Washington, DC, Oakland, Rio de Janeiro, Cairo, Zaragoza, Spain.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Arab Techies
Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)
College Art Association (CAA)
FemTechNet
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
Radius of Arab-American Writers (RAWI)
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English and Arabic
Proficient in French