

Laila Shereen Sakr

Department of Film and Media Studies
2433 Social Sciences & Media Studies Building
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-4010

(mobile) +1-202-462-6242
lailashereensakr@ucsb.edu
vjumamel.com

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
2019-present Faculty Affiliate, Center for Responsible Machine Learning, UCSB
2017-present 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

GRANTS and AWARDS

2021 ACLS Digital Extension Grant (\$150,000)
2021 Office of Research Grant, UCSB
2021 Instructional Development Grant, UCSB
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 IHC 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 IHC 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

- 2016-present Co-Founder, Wireframe Digital Media Studio, UCSB
 Research Collaborator, Global Media Technologies & Cultures Lab, UCSB
 Advisory Committee, Digital Arts & Humanities Commons, UCSB
 Executive Committee, Middle East Studies Program, UCSB
- 2015-present Undergraduate Committee, Film and Media Studies Department, UCSB
- 2016-2021 Steering Committee, Center for Information Tech & Society, UCSB
- 2017-2019 Website Committee Chair, 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

Book

Arabic Glitch: Technoculture, Data Bodies, and Archives. Stanford University Press, forthcoming 2023.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

Digital Humanities in the Arab World in the 21st Century, *The Fourth Arab Social Science Report*. Arab Council for the Social Sciences, 2023.

Reframing the ‘Arab Spring.’ In Angela Krewan and Alena Strohmaier, editors, *Media and Spatial Knowledge in/of the MENA-region*. Amsterdam University Press, 2021.

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 (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 A. Iskander and B. 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).

On Becoming Arab, *Mizna* 6.1, 2004.

CREATIVE WORKS

Solo Exhibitions

2021 *Capital Glitch: Arab Cyborg Turns to D.C.* 04 November- 03 December 2021, Qualcomm Institute Gallery, UC San Diego, La Jolla.

2020 *Beit Um Amel / بيت ام امل*. February-March 2020, Future Gallery, American University of Cairo's Tahrir Cultural Center, Cairo.

Installations in Group Exhibitions

2023 *Dis-Assembling the Cloud. Lagos Biennial, 2021-2023*, Lagos, Nigeria

2023 *Rosetta Stones Resurrected. Art Must Be Artificial: Perspectives of AI in the Visual Arts*, April 2023, Diriyah Art Futures Museum, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

2020 *Birds 1.0 / طيور / Glitch / غليتش*, February-March 2020, Margo Veillon Gallery, American University of Cairo's Tahrir Cultural Center, Cairo.

2020 *Touch Data Body X. Beyond Embodiment*, January-March, 2020, The Brand Art Gallery, Glendale.

2018 *Touch Data Body X. ArtoBots*. 2018, Codame's Art & Technology, The Midway, San Francisco.

2018 *Glitch Resistance in Metal. ArtoBots*. 2018, Codame's Art & Technology, The Midway, San Francisco.

2018 *Ten-year Retrospective. VISIBILITY*, 2018, Centro Cultural Kirchner, Buenos Aires.

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 (Hamilton, NY)

-
- 2013 *Performing and Archiving the Middle East Internet*. Levantine Cultural Center (Los Angeles, CA)
- 2012 *Egyptian Body Politic Remix. iMappening*, USC (Los Angeles, CA)
- 2011 *Egyptian Body Politic Remix: Adaptation of #Tahrir. 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*, Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)
- 2008 *Post-Colonial Ninja Front*, Porter Faculty Gallery (Santa Cruz, CA)
- 2006 *The Why Project*, Green Festival (Washington DC)
- 2000 *Awakening*, Bossa (Washington DC)

Art Objects

- 2021 *Insurrection Video Procession*, an augmented reality data visualization of over two million videos from Parler social media platform on January 6, 2021
- 2021 *Capitol Mosaic*, an interactive, creative, data visualization designed for a 30-foot wall and also for web and mobile experience
- 2021 *Bernie Memes Reset the Internet*, video remix of memes
- 2020 *R-Shief Portal/ بوابة أرشيف*, interactive application
- 2020 *Rosetta Archive, 2011-2012/ أرشيف روزينا*, data visualization
- 2020 *Triangulation Series*, a series of glitched images
- 2019 *Glitch Resistance* series, dye sublimation on metal and canvas
- 2019 *Lego Welt* series, a consideration of power, ink jets on canvas and metal
- 2019 *Tapestry Series/ نسيج*, glitched images of Yemen
- 2017 *Arab Future Tripping*, a virtual reality prototype
- 2017 “*Body of Cyborg 8.8/ م من البياناتسايبورغ مجس*” *Media and Mapping Practices in the Middle East and North Africa: Producing Space*, Eds. Alena Strohmaier and Angela Krewani, Amsterdam University Press,

-
- 2017 *Portrait of a Cyborg*, a consideration of form, content, composition, materiality, virtuality, and data, ink jets on canvas and metal.
- 2016 “For the Global-Popular” 2016, *Asian Video Cultures*, Eds. Joshua Neves and Bhaskar Sarkar, Duke University Press, 2017, front cover.
- 2015 *Beach Series/ الشاطئ*, an exploration of memory, diaspora and migration through glitch.
- 2015 *Birds Over Libya*, birds flying over refugee boat off Libyan shore in 2014, ink jets on canvas and metal, 2017.
- 2015 Collaborated with Alex Juhasz in building the online portals and interfaces for *Ev-ent-angle-ment*. The ev-ent-angement 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—from Utrecht to Dehli, Dublin, Montreal, LA—and also always online
- 2015 *Street Activism and Graffiti Glitched*, a consideration of movement in the singular and movements in the plural with speed, velocity, and power through dynamic mapping and glitch. Limited series, ink jets on canvas and metal
- 2014 *#Gaza Audio-Visual Narrative by a Cyborg: Images by Hashtag*, an online interactive mosaic of images tweeted on the bombing of Gaza
- 2014 *Boys on the Gaza Beach*, digital mosaic
- 2011 *Riot Smoke: A Mosaic of Social Media Images*, digital mosaic
- 2011 *What the World Tweeted on #Egypt*, a running applet of all the tweets on #Egypt that were posted to Twitter the day Hosni Mubarak resigned as president of Egypt
- 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.
- Software**
- 2021 *Connect the Dots* a 3D directed network graph data visualization
- 2021 *Parler User Web* a 3D directed network graph data visualization
- 2019 *R-Shief 5.0* software apps and cloud computing architecture
- 2013- 2017 *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:

-
- 2012 Kal3a is an open source application stack that collects, stores, and indexes the social media content that supports R-Shief's research.
 - 2012 Hashtag Visualizer displays trending words over time with frequency counts. The graphs can be exported, and are fully interactive.
 - 2012 The Hashtag Trends Widget measures trending words in real-time. This widget can be embedded anywhere as an iframe.
 - 2012 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.
 - 2012 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
 - 2009 Commissioned for art direction and lead design for The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies' Islamopedia project at Harvard University
 - 2007 Developed 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.

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)
- 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, *iMAPPING* (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)
 - 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 Poet Remi Kanazi, 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

- 2022-2023, University of California, Santa Barbara, Film and Media Studies Department*
 - Middle East Media (undergraduate), Fall 2022
 - Glitch Art (undergraduate), Fall 2022
 - Algorithms and Culture (undergraduate), Spring 2023
 - Interaction Design (undergraduate), Spring 2023
- 2021-2022, University of California, Santa Barbara, Film and Media Studies Department*
 - Critical Analysis (graduate), Fall 2021
 - Algorithms and Culture (undergraduate), Fall 2021

-
- Feminist Technology (undergraduate), Spring 2022
Glitch Art (undergraduate), Fall 2022
- 2020-2021, University of California, Santa Barbara, Film and Media Studies Department*
Middle East Media (undergraduate), Winter 2021
Glitch Art (undergraduate), Winter 2021
Algorithms and Culture (undergraduate), Spring 2021
Interaction Design (undergraduate), Spring 2021
- 2019-2020, University of California, Santa Barbara, Film and Media Studies Department*
Digital Media Theory + Practice (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
Intro to the Technology, Equipment and Materials, (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

- 2019-2020 Advisor for Josh Bevan, Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Grant project, "Echo."
- 2017-2018 Advisor for Rachael Grainger, Senior Honor Thesis, "A Feminist Reading of Immersive Journalism: *The Displaced*."

Graduate Student Supervision

- 2021-present Casey Coffee, Film and Media Studies (MA Committee)
- 2018-present Sara Morris, Art History (PhD Minor Advisor)
- 2018-2022 Sihwa Park, Media Arts & Technology (PhD Committee)
- 2022-2023 Kyna McClenaghan and Chelsea Kai Roesch, Film & Media Studies; Adam Burston, Sociology (PI, IHC Graduate Collaboration Award)
- 2019-2021 Soha Saghadzadeh, Film and Media Studies (MA Advisor)

2018-2020	Nathan Cox, Film and Media Studies (MA Committee)
2017-2018	Daniel Grinberg, Film & Media Studies (PI, UCHRI Grad Student Research)
2015-2017	Ali Rahman, Comparative Literature Department (PhD Committee)

LECTURES

Keynotes

Feb 2019	“A Theory of the Glitch,” HIGH/LOW Taste, Quality, and Resolution in Film and Media, a UC Berkeley Film & Media Graduate Conference (Berkeley)
Feb 2019	“Abstraction, Glitch, and Resistance,” 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” an Orient-Institut in Beirut (OIB) international conference (Beirut, LEBANON)

Invited

Mar 2022	“Social Media and Global Rhetoric” guest speaker in Professor Elizabeth Losh’s class at Tallinn University in Estonia
Feb 2022	“Towards an Arab Digital Humanities” at Arab Digital Expression Foundation in Berlin
Oct 2020	“A Case for Creative Digital Scholarship” in UC HBCU Critical Work of Creative Writing Grant program with Tougaloo College in Mississippi
Oct 2020	“Archives & Activation // Platforms and Publics: Engagement in Digital Spaces.” Discussant in Digital Forays in Middle Eastern Studies: Changing Practices & Pedagogy Series at New York University
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, UCLA
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 “Data Moshing” 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 the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis)
- Apr 2017 “The Myth of the Muslim Nation” on “Imaginaries about Muslims: Before and After Trump” panel at the UCSB Multicultural Center (Santa Barbara)
- 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” 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-presenter) 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)
- 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 the University of Southern California (Los Angeles)
- 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 Headquarters (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

- Oct 2020 "Big Data and Mega Corpora" at Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference (Zoom)
- 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 through the Global Authoritarian Turn" at American Studies Association Conference (Atlanta, GA)
- 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 presented "Media Sousveillance on its Back" in a 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 a 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 a 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)
- 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-present

Gaafer, Rania "Glitch: Art & Technology: Processing Media Matter," *Necsus* (Autumn 2020, #Method), November 30, 2020.

Michelsen, Leslee "[In Cairo, Artists Use Pixels, Cyborgs, and More to Examine Technology and Belief](#)," *Hyperallergic*, March 9, 2020.

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

Editors. "[AUC's TCC Hosts Three Exhibitions on Art and Technology](#)" *Albawaba: Your Gateway to the Middle East*, February 13, 2020

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.

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

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

Iskander, Adel. "[What's Trending in Social Media in the Middle East?](#)" *Status Audio-Journal Vols. 2-4*, May 1, 2017

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

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

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.

"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 a two-day conference in April 2018. "The Future Tripping" conference addressed the intertwined nature of economic, political, and environmental uncertainty. 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.

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: <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 Occupy Data 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 spoken Arabic
Proficient in French and written Modern Standard Arabic