

# MAY AL-DABBAGH

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## EDUCATION

D. Phil, Department of Experimental Psychology, OXFORD UNIVERSITY 2001 – 2005  
A.B. with High Honors in Psychology, Harvard College, HARVARD UNIVERSITY 1995 – 1999

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Social Research and Public Policy, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI 2014 – Current  
Global Network University Assistant Professor, Wagner School of Public Service, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY Fall 2013  
Research Fellow, Women and Public Policy Program, Harvard Kennedy School, HARVARD UNIVERSITY 2011 – 2013  
Post-doctoral Researcher, Department of Experimental Psychology, OXFORD UNIVERSITY 2005 – 2006

## POLICY WORK

Director of the Gender and Public Policy Program and Lecturer, DUBAI SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT 2006 – 2012

## RESEARCH and TEACHING INTERESTS

Gender, Globalization, Family, Feminism, Serial Migration, Global Social Thought, Geopolitics of Knowledge,  
Critical Pedagogy, Art and Cultural Production, Gulf, Arab, Middle East.

## BOOK

Al-Dabbagh, May. *The Messy Middle: How Migrant Mothers Turn Impermanence into a Resource in Dubai*.  
(Under contract with Columbia University Press).

## PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Al-Dabbagh, May. *The Messy Middle: Serial Migrant Mothers and Permanent Temporariness in Dubai*. *Migration Studies*. (RnR)

Al-Dabbagh, May and O'Brien, John (2021). Letter to a Young Ethnographer of the Global South. in Eds Victoria Reyes and Marco Garrido: *Ethnographies of the Global South*. *Contexts*. 20 (1) Pp.76.

Al-Dabbagh, May, Riley-Bowles, Hannah, and Thomason, Bobbi (2017). Status Reinforcement in Emerging Economies: The Psychological Experience of Local Candidates Striving for Global Employment. *Organization Science*. 27(6):1453-1471. ([Harvard Business Review](#) mention)

Al-Dabbagh, May. Saudi Arabian Women and Group Activism (2015). *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies: Feminist Formations*. Pp. 235-237. (Invited submission).

Al-Dabbagh, May & Ramadan, Asmaa (2013). Translating "Gender" in the Arab World: Implications for Public Policy (in Arabic). *Idafat: Arab Journal of Sociology*, 23/24, 118- 140.

Gelfand, Michele, Shteynberg, Garriy, Lee, Tiane, Lun, Janetta, Lyons, Sarah, Ball, Chris, Chiao, Joan, Bruss, Bayan, Al-Dabbagh, May, Aycan, Zeynep, Abdel-Latif, Abdel-Hamid, Dagher, Munqith, Khashan, Hilal, & Soomro, Nazar (March 5, 2012). The Cultural Contagion of Conflict. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 367, 692-703.

## PEER REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

Al-Dabbagh, May. Self-Tracing. *World Humanities Report*. (Forthcoming) (Mentioned in an [Interview](#) with Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College and Global (De)Centre).

Al-Dabbagh, May and Gargani, Ghaliya (2018). Saudi Arabia. In Suad Joseph (ed.) *Arab Family Studies: Critical Reviews*. Syracuse University Press. 275-295.

Al-Dabbagh, May & Ramadan, Asmaa (2014) Gender and Public Policy in the Arab World (in Arabic) in Sari Hanafi, Nouria bin Ghabrit-Ramoun, and Mustafa Mujahidi (Eds.) *The Future of the Social Sciences in the Arab World*. Pp. 371 – 395. Center for Arab Unity Studies. Beirut, Lebanon.

Gelfand, Michele, Severance, Laura, Fulmer, Ashley, & Al-Dabbagh, May (2012). Explaining and Predicting Cultural Differences in Negotiation. In Rachel Croson (Ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Economic Conflict Resolution*. Oxford, UK; Oxford University Press. Pp. 332-359.

Al-Dabbagh, May (2010). The Context for Intergroup Leadership: Women’s Groups in Saudi Arabia. In Todd Pittinsky (Ed.): *Crossing the Divide: Intergroup Leadership in a World of Difference*. Harvard Business School Press. pp. 171-186.

## OTHER RESEARCH OUTPUT

### Gulf Networks

Gulf Gender Database. Established a database of 3000+ members of local, regional, and international organizations working on gender-related issues in the Gulf (available upon request).

Talking Texts. A series of [interviews](#) with the new generation of Gulf researchers about their work and process.

### Art Collaborations

Sharbaka: Entanglement/Attunement (2021). An exhibition exploring themes of gender, globalization, capitalism, mobility, and migration through the work of five contemporary artists at 19WSN in New York (Dec 6 2021-May 6 2022). [The curated exhibition](#) includes an interdisciplinary [program](#) that bridges the arts and social sciences through talks and workshops with faculty, students, and community members.

Moving Bodies/Theorizing up (2019). Commissioned [essay](#) for Farah Al-Qasimi (Bard College) [film](#) *Um Al Naar* and exhibition *Arrival* at Third Line Gallery, Dubai: Publitas.

Making Space (2019). [Workshop](#) co-organized with Pato Hebert (Department of Art and Public Policy, NYU), [video](#), and [article](#) in *Electra Street: Journal of Arts and Humanities* (Special Issue: Art as Research). pp. 41-53.

Voice (re) Claimed (2015). [Installation](#) in collaboration with Manal Al-Dowayan (Royal College of Arts) exploring gendered representations of women in Saudi Arabia.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Al-Dabbagh, May. The Migrant Motherhood Bonus. (Manuscript in preparation for *Gender and Society*).

Al-Dabbagh, May, Bravo, Gweneth, Gleason, Nancy, and Sanjairaj, Vijayavenkataraman. Research in/of the Classroom: Lessons from a Liberal Arts Institution in the Middle East (interdisciplinary collaboration with Art and Humanities and the Science and Engineering divisions at NYUAD. Manuscript in preparation).

Al-Dabbagh, May. Istishfaf Al-Nafs. *Qiraat*. Arab Council for the Social Sciences. (Manuscript available).

## POLICY REPORTS & BRIEFS

Al-Dabbagh, May & Nusseibeh, Lana (2009). Women in Parliament and Politics in the UAE: A study of the 2006 Federal National Council Elections. *Dubai School of Government Report* (in Arabic and English).

Al-Dabbagh, May, Abdelhady, Dalia, and Gargani, Ghalia (2013) Women and Globalization in the GCC: Negotiating States, Agency and Social Change. *Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lundt University and Dubai School of Government Report*.

Gender and Economics in the Middle East and North Africa: From Theory to Policy Making (2008). *Dubai School of Government Report* (with the World Bank, in Arabic and English)

Al-Dabbagh, May, Gargani, Ghalia, and Bowles, Hannah Riley (2013) Rethinking Women's Leadership Development Programs in the UAE (in Arabic). *Dubai School of Government Policy Brief*.

Al-Dabbagh, May & Assaad, Christine (2010). Advancing New Leadership Development Models in the Gulf Cooperative Council Countries (GCC): Beyond the Individual Approach. *Dubai School of Government Policy Brief*.

## GRANTS

al Mawrid: Arab Center for the Study of Art	5.7 Mil USD	2020 - 2025
Recipient of Research Institute Center Grant (with Salwa Mikdadi and Shamooun Zamir)		
Interdisciplinary Center and Archive for the Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities (NYUAD)		
Currently directing <a href="#">Haraka: Experimental Lab</a> for Arab Art and Social Thought		
19 Washington Square North Fellowship (with Natasha Iskander, NYU Wagner)	20K	2019 - 2020
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences Fellowship, Stanford University		Summer 2019
Critical Collaboration Fellowship, Art and Public Policy Program, Tisch School of the Arts	20K	2016 - 2018
Finding Intersections and Dialogues, NYU Academia Art Fellowship (with Manal Dowayan)	10K	2013 - 2014
Families in the Arab World Project, Doha International Family Institute	20K	2013 - 2014
Closing the Gender Gap Initiative, Harvard University (with Hannah Riley-Bowles)	50K	2012 - 2013
Closing the Gender Gap Initiative, Harvard University (with Hannah Riley-Bowles)	25K	2011 - 2012
Principal Investigator on BIG Women Leadership Grant	25K	2010 - 2011
Middle East Initiative Grant, Harvard University (with Hannah Riley-Bowles)	30K	2008 - 2009
Fundraising for programmatic activities (Gender and Public Policy Program, DSG)	250K	2007 - 2008

## AWARDS

NYUAD Shukran Award for excellence in teaching and cultural engagement	2018
DSG Teaching Award for highest teaching evaluation on executive education programs	2010
Ministry of Higher Education Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Saudi Arabia	1995 - 1999
John Harvard Scholarship for Academic Achievement of Highest Distinction (all semesters)	1995 - 1999

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

The Messy Middle: Shifting Intersectionality and Serial Migration in Dubai. Psychology Seminar Series. NYUAD (Virtual). Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

The Messy Middle: Shifting Intersectionality and Serial Migration in Dubai. Women and Work Conference. INSEAD (Virtual). Monday 30, 2021.

Arriving in the Instagrammable City: Motherhood, Serial Migration, and the Politics of Arrival at the Margins Workshop. New York University and Oxford University (Virtual). July 10, 2020.

Making Care Work: Mompreneurs between State, Market, and Mediated Spaces. Women and Public Policy Program. Harvard Kennedy School. Harvard University. Cambridge, USA. April 5, 2019.

Making Care Work: Mompreneurs between State, Market, and Mediated Spaces. Comparative Sociology Speaker Series. Carlos III Juan March Institute of Social Sciences. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. March 6, 2019.

Making Care Work: Mompreneurs between State, Market, and Mediated Spaces. Theorizing the Gulf Workshop. Social Sciences Division. NYUAD. Abu Dhabi. February 7, 2019.

Self-Tracing: A Digital Auto-ethnography of the Self in Context. Identity Politics Brown Bag. Social Sciences Division. NYUAD. Abu Dhabi. September 27, 2018.

Self-Tracing: A Digital Auto-ethnography of the Self in Context. Gender Brown Bag. Social Sciences Division. NYUAD. Abu Dhabi. April 15, 2018.

Mompreneurs: The Construction of Modern Motherhood and Work in the Middle East. American Sociological Association. Montreal. August 11- 15, 2017.

Voice (re) Claimed: Voice and Post-Colonial Feminist Pedagogy. Talking the Walk: Possibilities for Change through Dialogue, Expression, and Narrative. *Gender and Work Symposium*. Harvard Business School. March 31- April 1, 2016.

The Trials and Triumphs of “Doing” Gender in the Arab World. Research to Change the World: Translating Ideas, Transforming Practice. *Gender and Work Symposium*. Harvard Business School. April, 2-3, 2015

Doing Gender in the Middle East: Reflections on Research, Teaching, and Global Collaborations. Relationships Among Women: Bridging Racial, Generational, and Global Divides. *Gender and Work Symposium*. Harvard Business School. April, 3-4, 2014.

The Psychological Effects of Globalization: Gender, Status and Negotiation in the GCC. *International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology Regional Conference*. Istanbul, Turkey. July 4, 2011.

A Psychological Study of Nationalization in the GCC: Gender, Power, and Identity. *Nationalization of the Workforce in the GCC Countries Conference*. New York University Abu Dhabi. November 28, 2010.

Priming Globalization: Gender, Status, and Negotiation. *Graduate School of Business*. Columbia University. November 18, 2010

Priming Globalization: Gender, Status, and Negotiation. *Jost Lab, Department of Psychology*. New York University November 15, 2010.

Mind Your Language: The Role of Biculturalism in the Propensity to Initiate Negotiations in Globalizing Contexts. *International Association for Conflict Management*, Boston. June 28, 2010.

Finding a Place in their Midst: The Experience of an 'Indigenous' Researcher in the Gulf. *Conducting Research in the Gulf: Assessment, Challenges, and Future Directions*. Middle East Studies Association (MESA) November, April 7 2008

Women's Groups in Saudi Arabia: Exploring Intergroup Leadership. *Center for Middle Eastern Studies Seminar Series*, Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. February 20, 2008.

Saudi Arabian Women and Reform: The Politics of Reclaiming Spaces in Public Life. *Fellows Research Seminar Series*. Harvard Kennedy School. Cambridge, MA. May 14, 2007.

## PRESENTATIONS IN THE ARAB WORLD

Negotiations and Collaborations: Reflections from the Field. The Kuwait Global Art Forum (Curated by Sultan Al-Qasimi). Dar Al-Athar-Al-Islamiyyah. Kuwait City, KUWAIT. March 14, 2015.

Negotiating Globalization's Cultural Consequences in the GCC: Women, Gender, and the State. *Women Studies Group Qatar*. Georgetown University, Doha, QATAR. May 22, 2013.

Priming Globalization: Gender, Status, and Negotiation in the Global Workplace. *Global Strategy and Policy Implications of Biculturals as the New Workplace Demographic Conference*. INSEAD Abu Dhabi, UAE. December 11-13, 2010.

The Psychological Effects of Globalization: Gender, Status and Negotiation in the GCC (in Arabic). *Al-Muntada (Network of Saudi Arabian Women in the Social Sciences)*. Riyadh, SAUDI ARABIA. December 5, 2010.

The Gendered Effect of Globalization on Saudi Arabian Youth. *Essam Faris Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs Research Seminars*. American University of Beirut, LEBANON. July 26, 2010.

Taking Stock and Looking Forward: Evaluating Leadership Development Programs in the Arab World. *Research Seminar Series*. Zayed University, Dubai, UAE. March 18, 2010.

#### CHAired Academic Conferences

Co-Chair of Workshop *Women and Globalization in the GCC: Negotiating States, Agency, and Social Change* with Dalia Abdelhady. Gulf Research Meeting. Cambridge University. Cambridge, UK. July 12-13, 2012.

Co-Chair of Conference *Culture, Identity, and Change in the Middle East: Insights for Conflict and Negotiation* with Michelle Gelfand and Hannah Riley Bowles and Chair of Panel *Negotiating Globalization in the Arab World*. Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. June 7-8, 2012.

Co-Chair of *The Psychology of Social Change in the Arab world: Values, Identity, and Gender Norms* with Charles Harb. International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology. Istanbul, Turkey. July 4, 2011.

Co-Chair of Symposium *Intersections of Gender and Culture in Negotiation: New Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives* with Hannah Riley-Bowles. International Association for Conflict Management, Boston, MA. June 27, 2010.

#### Regional Policy Workshops

Think Tank for Women in Organizations in the MENA region. American University of Sharjah. Sharjah, UAE. March 18-19, 2019.

Asia and Arabia Continued. Rahmaniya Annual Seminar. The Institute for Transregional Study of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia at Princeton University. Al-Ghat, Saudi Arabia. January 16-17, 2015.

The Arab Uprisings. Rahmaniya Annual Seminar. The Institute for Transregional Study of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia at Princeton University. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. January 16-17, 2013.

Whither the Arab State? Rahmaniya Annual Seminar. The Institute for Transregional Study of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia at Princeton University. Rahmaniya Cultural Center. Al-Ghat Saudi Arabia. January 11-13, 2012

Evidence-Informed Policy Design for the Labor Market. Evidence for Policy Design at the Center for International Development, Harvard University and The Ministry of Labor Saudi Arabia. Harvard Kennedy School. Cambridge, MA. November 8-9, 2013.

Women's Advancement in the UAE: Strategies for Success. Center for Global Affairs. New York University. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. April 29-30, 2013

Women in Parliament and Politics in the UAE: A Study of the 2006 FNC Elections. *Second Regional Forum on Women's Rights and Family Law*. Freedom House. Kuwait. March 24-25, 2009.

Gender and Public Policy Programs in the Arab world: Intersections of Research, Teaching, and Training. *Center for Arab Women's Training and Research*, Tunis, Tunisia. December 15 2007.

#### NYUAD Events

##### NYUAD Institute

Women's Advancement in the UAE: Strategies for Success

April 30 2013

Supporting Women's Work in the UAE: Transitions, Trajectories, and Intersections

January 11 2015

Family Matters: Theorizing State and Family in the Arab world (Suad Joseph)

February 10 2015

Gender and Labor in the Arab Region: Towards Innovative Approaches to Women's Economic Empowerment	April 11 2015
Why "Difference" Matters: Dominant Discourses and Arab Women in Computing	May 17 2015
Women's Political Participation and Leadership in Developing Countries	March 7 2016
Permanent Temporariness	February 26 2018
<a href="#">Cultural Spaces</a> : A conversation with H.E. Noura Al-Kaabi	October 9 2018
Transnational Feminism	December 6 2018
The New Arab Urban	February 10 2019
Seeing The World: How Universities Make Knowledge in a Global Era (Seteney Shami)	May 1 2019

## SRPP

In the Corridors of Knowledge and Power: Studying up in Academia	February 9 2015
Theorizing the Gulf	February 7 2019
<a href="#">Studying Your Own</a> : The Politics of Knowledge Production in the Arab World	May 2 2019
Is the Gulf a Postcolonial Space?	November 4 2019
Excavating the Global South in the Gulf	April 15 2021
Pearl Diving Music as Decolonial Gulf Archive	April 29 2021

## Other

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training	May 1 2017
Women's Leadership Network Conference	November 16 2018
Moving Bodies/Theorizing up: Farah Al-Qasimi's Um Al-Naar	September 29 2019
Hilary Ballon Center's Teach Talk: Bringing Your Research into the Classroom	March 1 2021

## TEACHING

Introduction to Public Policy      Course 4.3/5      Instructor 4.5/5      (avg. evaluation for 2014 - 2018)

Women and Work in the Gulf      Course 4.9/5      Instructor 4.9/5      (avg. 2015 - 2020)

Making Women Matter      Course 4.9/5      Instructor 5/5      (avg. 2019 - 2020)

Capstones mentored      3 (2016/17)    2 (2017/18)    2 (2018/19)    3 (2019/20)    3 (2020/21)

### Student Mentoring

#### Undergraduate

First Year Students and SRPP Major Mentor	2014 - Current
Women's Leadership student group	2014 - 2016

#### Graduate

Phd Dissertation Committee member for Lauren Clingan (Princeton University) (with Sanyu Mojola, Mitch Duneier, and Viviana Zelizer)	2020 - Current
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Post-Docs	2021- Current
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Sarah Musaifer, Social Sciences, NYUAD (joining 2022)  
Rana Al-Mutawa, Social Sciences NYUAD (Emerging Scholars Program)

## SERVICE

### NYUAD

NYUAD Art Gallery (Project Space Programming)	2020 - Current
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NYUAD Institute (Public Programming)  
Institutional Review Board Committee

2018 - Current  
2016 - 2018

#### SRPP

Haraka Experimental Lab Plurilogue Series  
Search Committee Policy  
Search Committee Sociology and SRPP-Legal Studies  
Chair of the SRPP Seminar Series

2021- Current  
2018 - 2019  
2018 - 2019  
2014 - 2015

#### NYUNY

Chief Diversity Officer Selection Committee

2016 - 2017

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for Ethnic and Racial Studies, Middle East Women's Studies, Journal of Arabian Studies, Organizational Behavior and Human Development Processes, Socioeconomic Review, The International Journal of Psychology, and The International Journal of Conflict Management.

Series editor for the Gender and Public Policy Program (GPPP) Policy Briefs 2006 -2009  
The Hidden Gender Gap in Education in the UAE (Natasha Ridge)  
Closing the Health Gender Gap: Toward a Wellness-Based Model of Healthcare (Fatma Abdallah)  
Closing the UAE's Political Gender Gap: Measures for Effective Policy Change (Huda Sajwani)  
Gender Equality in the United Arab Emirates: A Driver for Increased Competitiveness? (Christine Assad).

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reviewer for Regional and International Policy Reports:

Lebanese Youth Report. (American University of Beirut, *Lebanon*). Arab Women and Decision Making Report. (Center for Arab Women's Training and Research, *Tunis*), Saudi Chapter of Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa Report (Freedom House, *New York*), The Business of Determination: Saudi Arabia's Female Entrepreneurs. (Khadija Bint Khuwailid Businesswomen Center, Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, *Saudi Arabia*)

Knowledge partner on forums about gender equality in the Arab world:

*Women's Leadership in Organizations: Towards New Conceptions of Work Life Balance* in partnership with the Dubai Women's Establishment. Dubai, UAE (12-13 January, 2010)

*Transforming the Arab World: New Perspectives on Culture, Modernity, and Change* (Conference Co-Chair) and *Girls of Riyadh, Doha, and Manama: A New Reading of Women's History in the GCC* (Panel Chair), Doha, Qatar. Harvard Arab Alumni Association. (April 22, 2010).

*Women and Leadership: Global Trends and Local Innovations* in partnership with the Dubai Women's Establishment. Dubai, UAE. (January 13-14, 2009).

### MEMBERSHIPS

#### Academic

Member of the Academy of Management (AOM) 2012 - Current  
Member of the American Sociological Association (ASA) 2017 - Current  
Member of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) 2007 - Current  
Founding Member of the Arab Women and Gender Studies Consortium in the UAE 2012 - Current  
Member of the Development Forum (Social Sciences Society of the GCC) 2012 - Current  
Member of the International Association for Cross Cultural Psychology (IACCP) 2010 - 2015

#### Community Service

Appointed Board Member, Harvard Alumni Association 2010 - 2013  
Elected Board Member and Director of the Middle East for the Harvard Arab Alumni Association 2010 - 2012

Interdisciplinary Art/Social Science Networks

The Global (De)Centre: Diversity, Mobility, and Culture.

2020 - Current

Tents of Thought Decolonial Exchanges (with Walter D. Mignolo, Zoe Butt, Liliana Coutinho, Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti)

2020 - Current

MEDIA

My work has been featured in 60+ interviews and numerous mentions in leading English and Arabic language media outlets in the Gulf and the U.S. including: Harvard Business Review, CNN Arabic, ABC News, Forbes, The Harvard Magazine, BBC News, Arab News, Al-Bayan, The National, Gulf News, Alittihad, Gulf Today, Khaleej Times, UAE Today, Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, Dar Al-Hayat, Middle East Online, Zawya.com, AME Info, Emirates 24/7, WomenGateway.com, Dubai One TV, Dubai Radio 1, and MBC1 TV.

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Arabic and English (bilingual).