

Rana AlMutawa

Assistant Professor Emerging Scholar, NYU Abu Dhabi

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EDUCATION

- 2021 DPhil in Oriental Studies (Middle Eastern Studies), **University of Oxford**
Recipient of the fully funded Oxford-Mohammed bin Rashid Graduate
Scholarship
- 2014 Master's in International Affairs (Social Policy), **Columbia University**
- 2013 Master's in Public Policy, **University of Tokyo**
- 2010 BA, **American University in Dubai**

ACADEMIC/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021 Assistant Professor Emerging Scholar, **New York University Abu Dhabi**
Social Research and Public Policy, Social Sciences Division
- 2020 Tutor in Middle Eastern Studies, **University of Oxford**
Self-designed course: "Middle Eastern Cultures and Societies"
- 2014 – 2017 Instructor and researcher, **Zayed University** (Dubai)
Course: "Emirati Studies"

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 2020 "‘Glitzy’ Malls and Coffee Shops: Everyday Places of Belonging and Social
Contestation in Dubai," *Arab Studies Journal*, Vol. XXVIII (2): 44-75.
- 2020 "‘I Want to be a Leader, But Men Are Better Than Women in Leadership
Positions’: State Feminism and Legitimizing Myths in the United Arab
Emirates," *Hanma*, 18: 31-50.
- 2018 "‘The Mall Isn’t Authentic!’: Dubai’s Creative Class and the Construction of
Social Distinction." *Urban Anthropology*, 48 (1, 2): 183-224.
- 2016 "National Dress in the UAE: Constructions of Authenticity." *New Middle
Eastern Studies*, 6.

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming 2022 "Navigating the Cosmopolitan City: Emirati Women and Ambivalent Forms
of Belonging" in Antia Bouzas and Lorenzo Casini (ed.), *Migration in the
Making of Gulf Space*, Berghahn Books.
- Forthcoming 2024 "Dubai/Gulf Cities." *Oxford Handbook of Urban Sociology*. Edited by Ryan
Centner and Leonard Nevarez. Oxford University Press.

Essays and Media

- 2020 “Dishdasha Blues: Navigating Multiple Lived Experiences in the Gulf.” December 9th, 2020. *LSE Middle East Centre Blogs*.
- 2020 “ ‘Glitzy’ Malls and Coffee Shops: Everyday Places of Belonging and Social Contestation in Dubai.” November 19th, 2020. *Jadaliyya (New Texts Out Now)*.
- 2019 “Dubai Mall or Souq Naif? The Quest for ‘Authenticity’ and Social Distinction.” November 8th, 2019. *LSE Middle East Centre Blogs*.
- 2019 “You Can’t Sit with Us: Prejudice and ‘Othering’ among *Khaleejis*.” April 2019. *Sekka*.
- 2018 “Monolithic Representations of ‘Arabness’: From the Arab Nationalists to the Arab Gulf.” Dec 18th, 2018. *LSE Middle East Centre Blogs*.
- 2018 “Challenging Concepts of ‘Authenticity’: Dubai and Urban Spaces in the Gulf.” Dec. 4th, 2018. *LSE Middle East Centre Blogs*.
- 2017 “Women and Restrictive Campus Environments in the UAE: Public Universities vs. International Branch Campuses.” Spring 2017. *Gulf Affairs: Oxford Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies*.
- 2016 “Monolithic Representations and Orientalist Credence in the UAE.” Autumn 2016. *Gulf Affairs: Oxford Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies*.

Interviews

- “Women's Rights in the UAE: Progress Continues, but Conversation 'Should not End', says Academic.” May 20, 2018. *The National*, UAE.
- “On the Question of Monolithic National Narratives in the Gulf and Notions of Authenticity.” April 2018. *Sijal*.
- “Emirati academic wins first scholarship to Oxford University from Dubai knowledge foundation.” Jan 20, 2018. *The National*, UAE.

CONFERENCES/GUEST LECTURES

- 2021 “Everyday Life in the Glitzy City: Discourses of Authenticity and Belonging in Dubai.” London School of Economics (LSE), Department of Geography.
- 2021 “Beyond a Citizen/non-Citizen Binary in Dubai: Understanding Belonging in the Spectacular City.” Royal Geographical Society, UK (on Zoom).

- 2021 “Dishdasha Blues: Navigating Perceptions of Authenticity and Multiple Lived Experiences in the Gulf.” In *Culture Made in Arabia* conference, New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD)/Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi/CEFREPA
- 2020 “ ‘Glitzy’ Malls and Coffee Shops: Everyday Places of Belonging and Social Contestation in Dubai.” Invited class guest speaker, Kuwait University.
- 2020 “Women, National Dress and Constructions of Authenticity.” Invited class guest speaker, NYUAD.
- 2020 “Beyond Binaries of Western/Local: Experiences of Emirati Men and Women in Dubai .” Annual Middle East Studies Association Conference.
- 2020 “Women’s Social Contestations and Cultural Negotiations in Dubai’s New Developments.” British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual (BRISMES) Annual Conference (postponed due to COVID-19).
- 2020 “Arab and South Asian Women Navigating Race and Class in Cosmopolitan Dubai.” Crossroads in Cultural Studies, Lisbon (postponed due to COVID-19).
- 2020 “Beyond Binaries of Emirati/Western Spaces.” In *Segregation and Cosmopolitanism in/from the Gulf* workshop, NYUAD (postponed due to COVID-19).
- 2020 “Citizenship, Belonging and Exclusion in the Gulf City.” Invited class guest speaker, NYUAD.
- 2019 “Malls and Coffee Shops: Social Lives and Meanings in Dubai’s ‘Glitzy’ Spaces.” Gulf Research Workshop, Cambridge.
- 2019 “Beyond the Citizen/Non-Citizen Dichotomy in the Gulf.” Invited class guest speaker, NYUAD.
- 2019 “Women, Work and the City.” Invited class guest speaker, NYUAD.
- 2019 “Ethnic Diversity in the Gulf.” Invited class guest speaker, NYUAD.
- 2019 “Beyond Binaries of Authenticity.” Invited class guest speaker, NYUAD.
- 2018 “Empowerment on Trial: Encountering Emirati Women’s Voices.” NYUAD.
- 2018 “ ‘The Day I Told My Father’: Stories of Female Social Resistance from the Arab Gulf.” In *Varieties of Emirati Womanhood: Subjectivities, Creativities, and Confines* workshop, NYUAD.
- 2018 “Monolithic Representations of ‘Arabness’: From the Arab Nationalists to the Arab Gulf.” LSE Middle East Centre.
- 2017 “When Nationalism and Orientalism Coincide: Reading History and Culture in Emirati Schoolbooks,” in *Beyond Bedouin and Bania: Arabia-South Asia Relations*, National University of Singapore.

- 2017 “State Feminism and Legitimizing Myths in the United Arab Emirates.” Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge.
- 2016 “Textbooks and Representations of Emirati Women’s Economic Roles.” Comparative and International Education Society, Vancouver.

Public Presentations

- 2020 Online Cultural Majlis with Emirati public intellectual, Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi. Presented on Gulf urbanity and discourses of “authenticity.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9MN6MBeKZ8&t=2505s>
- 2020 ARCA Generation, London: Presented about urban studies and discussed ethnographic research methods at a youth centre.
- 2019 Jameel Art Centre, Dubai: Moderated a reading group on Gulf urbanity and globalization.
- 2016 Ministry of Education, Dubai: Presented about approaches to teaching Gulf studies to the curriculum department.

LANGUAGES

Arabic (Native), English (Fluent), French (Beginner), Japanese (Beginner)

SERVICE

Peer-review: Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies; Journal of Contemporary Issues in Education; Journal of Arabian Studies

Academic/Community Service

- 2017-18 Gulf Affairs, Managing Editor, Oxford.
Managing editor of Gulf Affairs, a non-partisan journal of the Oxford Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies Forum at St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford.
- 2016 Sharjah Labour Camps, English Language Teacher, English teacher in a women’s labour camp.
- 2016 Ministry of Education, Curriculum Committee, UAE: Curriculum committee member tasked with redesigning social studies curricula for high school.