

# Rana AlMutawa

Assistant Professor Emerging Scholar, NYU Abu Dhabi

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## EDUCATION

- 2021 PhD in Oriental Studies (Middle Eastern Studies), **University of Oxford**
- 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-present Assistant Professor Emerging Scholar, **New York University Abu Dhabi**  
Social Research and Public Policy (SRPP), Social Sciences Division
- 2020 Tutor in Middle Eastern Studies, **University of Oxford**
- 2014 – 2017 Instructor and researcher, **Zayed University** (Dubai)

## GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2021-23 Co-Principal Investigator for the research project, “Towards Sustainable Coastal Development in the Emirates,” from Center for Interactive Urban Networks (CITIES), NYUAD. Grant amount: **\$250,000**
- 2021-2022 Fund for Inclusion and Innovation, NYUAD. Grant amount: **\$2,700**
- 2017-2019 Oxford University-Mohammed bin Rashid Graduate Scholarship. Fully-funded

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

Everyday Life in the “Spectacular” City: Making Home in Dubai  
Under contract with *University of California Press*.

### Journal Articles

#### Published

- 2023 “We’re not like the Newbies: Belonging and Exclusion Among Dubai’s Long-Term Residents”. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

- 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.

### Reviewed

- Revise and Resubmit “Emiratis as Privileged but Under-represented Minorities in the UAE.” *Identities*.

### Book Chapters

- 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. *LSE Middle East Centre Blogs*.
- 2020 “‘Glitzy’ Malls and Coffee Shops: Everyday Places of Belonging and Social Contestation in Dubai.” November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. *Jadaliyya (New Texts Out Now)*.
- 2019 “Dubai Mall or Souq Naif? The Quest for ‘Authenticity’ and Social Distinction.” November 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. *LSE Middle East Centre Blogs*.
- 2018 “Challenging Concepts of ‘Authenticity’: Dubai and Urban Spaces in the Gulf.” Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 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

- 2022 “Why is Dubai Constantly Glamorized in the Media?” by Nithisa Kumar. July 17<sup>th</sup> 2022. *The Michigan Daily*.  
<https://www.michigandaily.com/multimedia/why-is-dubai-constantly-glamorized-in-the-media/>
- 2018 “Women's Rights in the UAE: Progress Continues, but Conversation 'Should not End', says Academic.” May 20, 2018. *The National*, UAE.
- 2018 “On the Question of Monolithic National Narratives in the Gulf and Notions of Authenticity.” April 2018. *Sijal*.
- 2018 “Emirati academic wins first scholarship to Oxford University from Dubai knowledge foundation.” Jan 20, 2018. *The National*, UAE.

## CONFERENCES/GUEST LECTURES

- 2022 “Searching for ‘Authenticity’ in Dubai: Who is Interested and Why?” in Political Economy of Infrastructure at Lancaster University, UK.
- 2022 “Urban Belonging and Exclusion in the Gulf.” Class guest speaker for Deepak Unnikrishnan’s course, NYUAD.
- 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.

### TEACHING

2021-present **New York University Abu Dhabi**

Developed a course titled *“Community Engaged Scholarship: Addressing Social Hierarchies in the UAE”*

- Explored a range of social topics including: urban studies/gentrification; public and private education and inequality in education; socio-economic class in the UAE; experiences of low-income Emiratis
- Invited guest speakers to connect academia with practical work, including speakers from Al Qassimi Foundation in Ras Al Khaimah; Dubai Foundation for Women and Children; and others.

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”

### 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 and Mentorship

2022 Capstone committee member for student in Arts & Humanities

- 2021-2022 Capstone Mentor, NYUAD.  
Mentored to undergraduate students on their final research project exploring Arab women's migrant lives in the UAE.
- 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.