

MELANIE AUTUMN MAGIDOW

Email: melaniemagidow@gmail.com

Website: melaniemagidow.com

Education

- 2013** **PhD, Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures**, The University of Texas at Austin. **Dissertation:** Multicultural Solidarity: Performances of *Malḥūn* Poetry in Morocco
- 2007** **M.A. Near East Studies**, New York University. **Thesis:** Stories of the Arab-Byzantine Borderland: Fāṭima Dhāt al-Himma and Her Heroic *Sīra*
- 2005** **Diploma, Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA)**, American University in Cairo. Intensive advanced Modern Standard and Egyptian Arabic, June 2004 - May 2005
- 2004** **B.A. with Highest Honors**, Middle East Studies with Minor in Arabic, Emory University. **Honors Thesis:** *Kān Juḥā wāhid al-nahār*: Society and Identity in Oral and Written Moroccan Juḥā Tales

Academic Positions and Employment History

- Spring 2015 **Advanced Moroccan Arabic and Culture Instructor**, U. of Maryland
- Jan. 2013- **Moderator** of Middle East / North African Lit group, Goodreads.com
- Fall 2013 **Arabic Language Instructor**, The University of Rhode Island
- Summer 2012 **Arabic Language Instructor**, Middlebury College
- Summer 2008 **Arabic Teacher**, The University of Texas at Austin
- Spring 2007 **Arabic Language Instructor**, Hunter College
- Summer 2006 **Arabic Language Instructor**, City U. of New York Graduate Center
- 2006-07 **Arabic Bibliographer**, Modern Language Association
- 2004-05 **UNESCO Liaison for the Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyyah Project**,
UNESCO Cairo Office
- 2002-03 **Arabic Newspaper Collator**, Library of Congress

Experience in Arab World

- 2000-11 Semi-annual visits to Morocco, for language study and research, duration ranging from ten days to eight months
- 2004-05 One year living in Cairo, studying in CASA, interning at UNESCO
- 2004-05 Independent travel throughout Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan

Fellowships, Grants, and Honors

2016	Nominated for Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation
2016	National Endowment for the Arts Translation Grant (2 year project)
2014	NEH Summer Institute for North African Studies
2010-11	Fulbright Grant for dissertation research in Morocco
2009-10	Continuing Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Liberal Arts
2009	AIMS Research Grant
2009	Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research Grant
2008-09	Continuing Fellowship, UT Graduate School of Liberal Arts
2008-09	FLAS, Hebrew (declined for Continuing Fellowship)
2005-07	Henry M. MacCracken full tuition at New York University
2005-07	Beinecke Scholarship for graduate studies
2005	Winning short story in Arabic writing contest in Cairo
2004	Center for Arabic Study Abroad Fellowship (full year)
2004	National Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society (Gamma of Georgia chapter)
2003	Research Travel Grant, Institute for Comparative and International Studies

Research and Teaching Interests

- Arabic literature and society, both historical and contemporary
- Cultural studies of Arabic literature and society
- Feminisms and gender advocacy projects in the Arab World
- Genres and their relations to social movements, public discourses, and audiences
- Folk genres and their dialogic relations to public discourses and performances

Publications

"Trending Classic: The Cultural Register of Moroccan Malhun Poetry" in *The Journal of North African Studies* 21.2 (March 2016).

Book review of *The Warrior Women of Islam: Female Empowerment in Arabic Popular Literature* (2014) in the "Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies," 77.3 October 2014.

Multicultural Solidarity: Performances of *Malhun* Poetry in Morocco, PhD Diss. The University of Texas at Austin, 2013. A Bakhtinian dialogic analysis of sung poetry and its uses in inventing culture and society.

"Fatima Haddad" entry in *The Dictionary of African Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2011. By Melanie Clouser (maiden name).

Book review of *Who Sings the Nation State? Language, Politics, Belonging* by Judith Butler and Gayatri Chakravarty Spivak (2007) in "E3W Review of Books," Spring 2009. By Melanie Clouser.

Book review of *The Performance of Human Rights in Morocco* by Susan Slyomovics (2005) in "E3W Review of Books," Spring 2008. By Melanie Clouser.

<http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/orgs/e3w/Slyomovics>

"Society and Identity in Oral and Written Moroccan Juha Tales" in *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Popular Culture in the Middle East and North Africa*, April 2006. By Melanie Clouser.

Translations, Arabic to English

"The Story of King Shahrayar and His Brother in a Narrative Never Before Published" by Somaya Ramadan (from *Qalat al-rawiyya*, Cairo, 1999). *KIN* (forthcoming).

Mortal Designs, by Reem Bassiouney (*Ashiya' ra'i'a*, Beirut, 2010). American University in Cairo Press, forthcoming December 2015.

Verse 1 of the Moroccan poem *Al-Sham 'a* for "The Musical Heritage of Moorish Spain" Concert at U.C. Santa Barbara, 21 February 2015.

"Haifa Prior to *al-nakba*: The City and Society" by Mahmoud Yazbak, solicited translation from Arabic to English for French journal *Méditerranées*, June 2009. By Melanie Clouser (maiden name).

Speaking

Presentation: "A Twelfth-Century Lyric in Diaspora in Cosmopolitan Alexandria," American Comparative Literature Association annual meeting, 1-4 April 2010.

Presentation: "The Prison Poetry of al-Mutanabbi," Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual conference, 21-24 November 2009.

Presentation: "The Farewell Journey of a Twelfth-Century Sicilian Elegy," Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual conference, 22-25 November 2008.

Presentation: "Something up Her Sleeve: Recognizing *Anagnorisis* in Arabic Narratives" in *Metamorphoses: An International Colloquium on Narrative & Folklore* at The University of Utah, 2-4 October 2008.

Presentation: "An Introduction to Moroccan Literature" Fulbright-Hayes Summer Seminar Abroad in Morocco Orientation at UT Austin, 27 June 2008.

Presentation in Arabic: The Classical Arabic Heroine: The Epic of Princess Endeavor Dept. of MES at UT Austin, 19 March 2008.

Language Skills

English: Native language
Arabic: Modern Standard: Excellent ("Superior" level on ACTFL proficiency scale)
Moroccan Colloquial: Excellent comprehension, communication
Egyptian Colloquial: Advanced comprehension, communication
Levantine Colloquial: Intermediate comprehension, communication
French: Excellent reading; fair comprehension, intermediate communication
Hebrew: Fair reading, intermediate low communication
Spanish: Fair reading, intermediate low communication