

KARIM MATTAR

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RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

World literature; history of the novel; comparative Middle Eastern literatures and cultures; the Israel / Palestine conflict; Orientalism; the humanities; critical theory (esp. Marxism, poststructuralism, postcolonialism, ecocriticism, indigenous studies, translation); global modernisms / modernities

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2020-present Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
2013-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
2011-2012 Graduate Tutor, Balliol College, University of Oxford
2010-2013 Graduate Tutor, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford
2007-2009 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Virginia

EDUCATION

2013 D.Phil., English Language and Literature, University of Oxford
2009 M.A., English, University of Virginia
2005 M.A., English Literature (Critical Theory), University of Sussex
2004 M.A., Philosophy and Literature, University of Warwick
2003 B.A., Philosophy, University College London

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

2021 Collaborative Research or Pedagogical Grant (“Futures of the Humanities, with Eric Hayot”), Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
2018 Kayden Research Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado at Boulder
2018 IMPART Faculty Fellowship, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement, University of Colorado at Boulder
2017 Dean’s Summer Research Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado at Boulder
2016 Top-Up Research Grant, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
2016 Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado at Boulder
2015-2016 First Monograph Grant, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
2014 Visiting Scholar, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University
2013 Visiting Scholar / Artist Grant (Aamir Mufti), Center for Humanities and the Arts, University of Colorado at Boulder
2012 “Oxford Palestine Film Season” grants, University of Oxford, the Qattan Foundation
2011 Convention Travel Grant, Modern Language Association
2011 Research Training Support Grant, Arts and Humanities Research Council

2010-2012	Doctoral Award, Arts and Humanities Research Council
2010	Language Training Grant: Advanced Arabic, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford
2009-2012	Barbara Johnstone Award for Graduate Research, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford
2009-2011	Meyerstein Award for Graduate Research, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford
2007-2009	Teaching Fellowship, Department of English, University of Virginia
2007-2009	Commonwealth Fellowship, Department of English, University of Virginia

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

In progress	<i>The Ethics of Affiliation: A Letter to My Jewish Brothers and Sisters</i>
In progress	<i>Against Liberal Humanists!: A Manifesto for the Humanities in Dark Times</i>
2020	<i>Specters of World Literature: Orientalism, Modernity, and the Novel in the Middle East</i> (Edinburgh University Press)

Edited Collections

In progress	<i>Transnational Arabic Studies</i> , ed. with Yasser Elhariry (Liverpool University Press)
In progress	“Pandemic!: COVID-19 and Literary Studies”, ed. with Jason Gladstone and Nan Goodman, Special Issue, <i>English Language Notes</i>
2019	<i>The Edinburgh Companion to the Postcolonial Middle East</i> , ed. with Anna Ball (Edinburgh University Press)
2014	“Cartographies of Dissent”, ed., Special Issue, <i>English Language Notes</i> (52.2)
2014	“The Global Checkpoint”, ed. with David Fieni, Special Issue, <i>Journal of Postcolonial Writing</i> (50.1)

Articles & Chapters in Edited Books

In progress	“Red Dead Redemption 2 and the American Epic”
In progress	“Screening Palestine: The ‘Oxford Palestine Film Season’ and the Disaggregated Image”, in <i>New Visions, New Technologies, New Palestine</i> , ed. Helga Tawil-Souri and Dina Matar
In progress	“Exiles, Migrants, and Refugees: A Response”, <i>American Literary History</i>
2021	“Islam in the Theory and Practice of World Literature: Translating <i>Adab</i> in the Middle Eastern Novel”, in <i>Premises and Problems: Essays on World Literature and Cinema</i> , ed. Luiza Franco Moreira (State University of New York Press)
2021	“Gaza and the Limits of Metropolitan Solidarity: Affiliation Under Duress”, <i>boundary 2</i> (48.2)
2019	“Afterword: Critical Companionships, Urgent Affiliations”, with Anna Ball, in <i>The Edinburgh Companion to the Postcolonial Middle East</i> , ed. Anna Ball and Karim Mattar (Edinburgh University Press)
2019	“Interview with Sinan Antoon”, in <i>The Edinburgh Companion to the Postcolonial Middle East</i> , ed. Anna Ball and Karim Mattar (Edinburgh University Press)
2019	“Edward Said and the Institution of Postcolonial Studies”, in <i>The Edinburgh Companion to the Postcolonial Middle East</i> , ed. Anna Ball and Karim Mattar (Edinburgh University Press)
2019	“Dialectics of Post/Colonial Modernity in the Middle East: A Critical, Theoretical, and Disciplinary Overview”, with Anna Ball, in <i>The Edinburgh Companion to the Postcolonial Middle East</i> , ed. Anna Ball and Karim Mattar (Edinburgh University Press)
2014	“The <i>Shabaḥ</i> of World Literature: Bedouin Cartographies in Abdulrahman Munif’s <i>Cities of Salt</i> ”, <i>English Language Notes</i> (52.2)

- 2014 “Introduction: The Cartographic Unconscious of Literary Studies”, *English Language Notes* (52.2)
- 2014 “Orhan Pamuk and the Limits of Translation: Foreignizing *The Black Book* for World Literature”, *Translation and Literature* (23.1)
- 2014 “Out of Time: Colonial History in Ibrahim Nasrallah’s *Time of White Horses*”, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (50.2)
- 2014 “Mourid Barghouti’s ‘Multiple Displacements’: Exile and the National Checkpoint in Palestinian Literature”, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (50.1)
- 2014 “Introduction: Mapping the Global Checkpoint”, with David Fieni, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (50.1)
- 2012 “Re-Reading the ‘Rogue State’: The Politics of Gender in Anglophone Iranian Literature”, *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* (14.4)
- 2012 “Reading the Anglo-Arab Novel after Said”, *Postcolonial Studies Association Newsletter* (10)

Reviews

- In progress “Horizons of World Literature”, *Romantic Circles*
- 2016 “Negotiations of Loss: The Comparative Turn in Contemporary Arabic Criticism”, *Society for Contemporary Thought and the Islamicate World Review* (02/04/16)
- 2016 “Chief Complaint: A Country Doctor’s *Tales of Life in Galilee*, by Hatim Kanaaneh and *Return: A Palestinian Memoir*, by Ghada Karmi”, *Journal of Palestine Studies* (45.3)
- 2015 “Anna Bernard, *Rhetorics of Belonging: Nation, Narration, and Israel/Palestine*”, *Textual Practice* (29.2)
- 2014 “Against World Literature: On the Politics of Untranslatability. Emily Apter”, *Translation and Literature* (23.3)

Other

- 2020 “Migration from the Perspective of ‘the Native’”, “Of Note”, *English Language Notes*
- 2014 “Elleke Boehmer”, with Alex Bubb, *Wikipedia*

CONFERENCES & INVITED TALKS

- 2019 “Introduction”, “*The Edinburgh Companion to the Postcolonial Middle East: A Symposium*”, Middle East Studies Center, Duke University
- 2017 Respondent, “Archive Thievery: The Archive, Memory, and Resistance in the Colonial Context”, Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia
- 2016 “Towards a ‘Muslim’ World Literature: Islam in the Anglophone and Translated Middle Eastern Novel”, Society for Novel Studies Conference, University of Pittsburgh
- 2016 “Untranslatable Palestine”, World Literature Colloquium, SUNY Binghamton
- 2016 “Edward Said and the Institution of Postcolonial Studies”, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University
- 2016 “*Cities of Salt: Oil in the Environmental Imaginary*”, “Literature and Environment” Faculty Conference, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2015 “Negotiations of Loss: Palestine and the Comparative Turn in Contemporary Arabic Criticism”, Middle East Studies Association Conference, Denver
- 2015 “Tagline ‘Gaza’: Language(s) and Culture(s) of Metropolitan Solidarity”, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Seattle
- 2015 “Refusing to Mourn: Gaza and the Language of Resistance”, “Translation and the Many Languages of Resistance” Conference, Cairo
- 2014 “The *Shabāḥ* of World Literature: Bedouin Cartographies in Abdulrahman Munif’s *Cities of Salt*”, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, New York University

- 2012 “Exile and the National Checkpoint in Palestinian Literature: Mourid Barghouti’s ‘Multiple Displacements’”, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Brown University
- 2011 “Orhan Pamuk and the Limits of Translation”, “Global Journeys” Graduate Conference, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford
- 2011 “Istanbul and the Space of Comparative Literature: From Spitzer and Auerbach to Orhan Pamuk”, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Vancouver
- 2011 “‘Everyone needs to be a historian’: Rewriting the Suez Crisis as Postcolonial History”, Modern Language Association Convention, Los Angeles
- 2010 “‘Routes’ of Violence: Diplomacy and Exile in Anglophone Libyan Fiction”, Association of Commonwealth Language and Literature Studies Conference, Cyprus
- 2010 “‘Like a thing that hasn’t quite been born’: Migration in Anglophone Iranian Literature”, Postcolonial Studies Association Graduate Conference, University of Stirling
- 2010 “Of Despots, Migrants, and Children: ‘Rogue States’ in Anglophone Middle Eastern Literature”, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, New Orleans

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

University of Colorado at Boulder

- 2022 ENGL 7119, Towards a New Humanism: The American University in Dark Times (graduate)
- 2022 ENGL 2017, Global Indigeneity
- 2021 ENGL 4820, Honors Seminar
- 2021 ENGL 2017, The Aesthetics of Resistance: Art, Activism, and Authoritarianism in Global Context
- 2021 ENGL 5459, Introduction to the Profession (graduate)
- 2021 ENGL 2112, Introduction to Literary Theory
- 2020 ENGL 2017, Writing the New International: Black Lives Matter in Global Context
- 2020 ENGL 2017, Pandemic!: Cultures of Contagion and Quarantine
- 2020 ENGL 4697, The Middle East in the Imperial and Neo-Imperial Imaginary
- 2020 ENGL 2112, Introduction to Literary Theory
- 2019 ENGL 3116, Critical Thinking in the Age of Trump
- 2019 ENGL 3060, Modern and Contemporary Literature
- 2019 ENGL 5459, Introduction to the Profession (graduate)
- 2019 ENGL 5459, Introduction to the Profession (graduate)
- 2018 ENGL 4018, The Novel in Global Capitalist Modernity
- 2018 ENGL 2112, Introduction to Literary Theory
- 2017 ENGL 5169, Specters of World Literature (graduate)
- 2017 ENGL 2102, Literary Analysis
- 2017 ENGL 3060, Modern and Contemporary Literature
- 2017 ENGL 2112, Introduction to Literary Theory
- 2016 ENGL 4018, Literature and Globalization
- 2016 ENGL 3116, Marxism: The Institutions, Ideologies, and Desires of Contemporary Life
- 2015 ENGL 4250, The Modern Novel
- 2015 ENGL 4018, Israel / Palestine in Global Culture
- 2015 ENGL 7149, Literatures of Global Crisis (graduate)
- 2015 ENGL 2112, Introduction to Literary Theory
- 2014 ENGL 4287, Post-Orientalism
- 2013 ENGL 5139, Peripheral Vision: World-Systems and the Tradition of the Oppressed (graduate)
- 2013 ENGL 2767 / ETHN 2761, Postcolonial Literature

University of Oxford

- 2012 Moderations Paper 2/4, Postcolonialism
 2012 Moderations Paper 2/4, The Twentieth Century
 2011 Moderations Paper 1, History of the Novel
 2011 Moderations Paper 1, Introduction to Literary Studies

University of Virginia

- 2009 ENWR 110, English Writing: Dystopia and Critical Theory
 2008 ENWR 110, English Writing: Culture Wars
 2008 ENWR 380, Academic and Professional Writing
 2007 ENGL 383, History of English III: 1900 to the Present

Supervision

- 2021-2022 MA Thesis Supervisor, Christopher Liggett, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2020-present PhD Dissertation Supervisor, Alex Pappalardo, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2020-2021 MA Thesis Supervisor, Steffi Lang, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2020 BA Honors Thesis Supervisor, Caleb Wexler, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2019 BA Honors Thesis Committee, Sara Sabatello, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2018-2019 MA Thesis Committee, Caci Pippin, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2018-2019 MA Thesis Committee, Travis Zimpfer, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2018-2019 MA Thesis Committee, Theodor Hamstra, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2018-2019 BA Honors Thesis Supervisor, Anahita Khorsand, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2017-2018 BA Honors Thesis Supervisor, Allegra Upton, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2017-2018 BA Honors Thesis Supervisor, Hope Ruskaup, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2017 UROP Mentor, Damian Borovsky, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2017 UROP Mentor, Allegra Upton, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2016-2017 MA Thesis Supervisor, Eun Cho, Comparative Literature Graduate Program, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2016 BA Honors Thesis Supervisor, Theodor Hamstra, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2016 MA Comps Committee, Kevin Dibb, Department of German, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2015 MA Thesis Committee, Andrew Lindquist, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
 2014-2019 PhD Dissertation Committee, Allison Shelton, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**Organized Conferences, Panels, & Academic / Cultural Events**

- 2023 “Critical University Studies”, conference, Center for Critical Thought, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2022 “The Humanities in the 21st Century”, roundtable panel, Center for Critical Thought, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2021 “A Conversation Across the Divide: Haggai Matar and Karim Mattar”, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2021 “Futures of the Humanities, with Eric Hayot”, masterclass and lecture, Center for Critical Thought, Department of English, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Colorado at Boulder (with Lauren Stone)
- 2020 “Orientalism, Philology, World Literature”, panel, Modern Language Association Convention, Seattle
- 2019 “*The Edinburgh Companion to the Postcolonial Middle East: A Symposium*”, Middle East Studies Center, Duke University
- 2019 “Anglophone Literature at Sea”, panel, Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago
- 2019 “Transacting Arab Literary Modernity”, panel, Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago
- 2017 “States of In/Security: Global Palestine in Literature, Culture, Art, and Activism”, roundtable panel, Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia (with Pauline Homsy Vinson, Carol Fadda-Conrey, Hatem Akil, and Shaden Tageldin)
- 2016 “Activating Palestinian Solidarity”, panel, American Studies Association Conference, Denver
- 2016 “The Postcolonial Middle East: Theory, Politics, Culture”, seminar, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University (with Anna Ball)
- 2014 “Cartographies of Dissent: Resistance and Revolution in the Transnational Imaginary”, seminar, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, New York University (with Sarah D’Adamo)
- 2014 “Orientalisms and World Literatures with Aamir Mufti”, masterclass and lecture, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2012 “Oxford Palestine Film Season”, University of Oxford (with Anna Ball and Mohamed-Salah Omri)
- 2012 “The Global Checkpoint: ‘Rights’ of Passage, Performances of Sovereignty”, seminar, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Brown University (with David Fieni)
- 2011 “Global Journeys”, graduate conference, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford (with Elleke Boehmer, Ankhi Mukherjee, Alex Bubb, Charne Lavery, Nisha Manocha, Charlotta Salmi, and Stephanie Yorke)
- 2011 “The Middle Eastern City: Conflict and Modernity”, seminar, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Vancouver
- 2009-2010 “Literature and Globalization”, seminar, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford

Service

- 2021-present Faculty Mentor, ACUMen Across CU Mentoring, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2021-present Faculty Sponsor, Internship Program, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2021-present Editorial Board, *Journal of Controversial Ideas*
- 2021-2022 Honors Council Representative, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2021 External Reader, Professor Ammar Naji Tenure Review, Colorado College
- 2020-present Graduate Placement Officer, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder

- 2020-present Graduate Careers and Professional Development Committee, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2019-present Executive Committee, Center for Critical Thought, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2018-2020 Chair, Global Arab and Arab American Forum, Modern Language Association
- 2016-present Working Group, MLA Members for Justice in Palestine, Modern Language Association
- 2016-present Executive Committee, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2016-2021 Executive Committee, Global Arab and Arab American Forum, Modern Language Association
- 2016-2017 Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2015-present Editorial Board, *English Language Notes*
- 2015-2016 Departmental Self-Study Committee, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2014-2015 Graduate Studies Committee, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2014-2015 Search Committee, Assistant Professor of English (Chicano/a-Latino/a Literature), Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2014-2015 Recording Secretary, Faculty Meetings, Department of English, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2012-2013 Administrator, “Postcolonial Writing and Theory Seminar”, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford
- 2011-2013 Administrator, “Comparative Literature Seminar”, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford
- 2011-2012 Faculty Representative, Graduate Humanities Joint Consultative Committee, Oxford University Student Union, University of Oxford
- 2011 Administrator, “Introduction to Literary Studies”, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford
- 2011 Administrator, “Developing Learning and Teaching at Oxford”, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford
- 2010-2011 Academic Affairs Officer, English Graduates at Oxford, Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Oxford

Peer Review

- 2021 *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture*
- 2021 *Journal of Controversial Ideas*
- 2021 *Revue française d'études américaines*
- 2020 *Comparative Literature Studies*
- 2019 *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*
- 2019 *Comparative Literature*
- 2018 Edinburgh University Press
- 2018 *Contemporary Literature*
- 2016 *Commonwealth Essays and Studies*
- 2015 I.B. Tauris
- 2015 *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*
- 2015 *Textual Practice*
- 2015 *Publications of the Modern Language Association*
- 2014 *Women: A Cultural Review*
- 2014 *Journal of Arabic Literature*
- 2014 *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*
- 2013 *English Language Notes*

Other

2012 Participant, Institute for World Literature Summer Program, Harvard University / Bilgi University

LANGUAGES

Arabic (bilingual / fluent)

French (proficient)

German (proficient)

Turkish (reading)

Persian (reading)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association

American Comparative Literature Association

Middle East Studies Association