

Hala G. Sami

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Current Position: Associate Professor

Affiliation: English Department, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University, Egypt.

Degrees:

Dec. 2011: was promoted to the degree of Associate Professor

2002: Obtained a Ph.D from Cairo University about the re-writing of fairy tales from a feminist perspective.

Title of dissertation: "**Wayward Girls and Wicked Women': The Writing and Re-Writing of Fairy Tales**". The dissertation was recommended for publication.

1994: Obtained an M.A. from Cairo University about a reading of Todorov's theory of the fantastic in Henry James's supernatural tales.

Title of thesis: "**A Study of the Fantastic in Henry James's Supernatural Tales**".

1989: Attended the Preliminary year to the M.A. at Cairo University, with courses on American Literature, Comparative Literature and Stylistics.

1988: Graduated with a B.A., with Honors, in English Language and Literature from the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.

Professional Experience:

2015: Currently taking part in designing a Cultural Studies course.

2014 – 2015: Contributing to the development of the Novel and Comparative Literature/Studies courses.

2013 – 2014: Teaching American Studies and Comparative Literature/Studies

2010 – 2013: Teaching selected topics in fiction: for example, Gothic fiction and Women's Writing.

2009-2011: Currently teaching in the Department of English Language and Literature, Cairo University: giving courses in English Fiction and Comparative Studies.

2009 – 2010: Coordinator of the third year novel course (English Dept. – Fac. of Arts – Cairo University)

2009: Participated in designing novel courses for second, third and fourth years, and American Literature courses for third and fourth years (English Dept. – Fac. of Arts – Cairo University).

2002-2008: Taught courses on the British novel, American Novel, Comparative Literature and Studies, Contemporary Western Civilisation, Translation and Literary Appreciation.

Dissertations:**Supervision:****M.A.:**

November 2014: Co-supervisor of Yasmine Amir's thesis entitled: "La langue intermédiaire en traduction: "A la Recherche d'une identité: Histoire de ma vie"

d'Anouar El-Sadate, la traduction française effectuée à partir de l'anglais." (French Department, Cairo University).

June 2014: Co-supervisor of Nouran El Sayyad's thesis entitled: "Fantasy in Contemporary Fairy Tales, With Special Emphasis on Selected New Versions of "Cinderella"." (Women's College, Ain Shams University).

2012: Co-supervisor of Asmaa Farrag's thesis entitled "The Potter Mania: A Contextual Study of the Phenomenal Success of J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter*." (English Department, Cairo University).

PhD Examiner:

- **April 2012:** Internal examiner of PhD candidate Nada Ramadan's thesis, entitled "Autobiographical Practices: Women Writers and Their Fictional Self-Images." (Cairo University).

M.A Examiner:

- **April 2013:** External examiner of M. A. candidate Rania El Badry's thesis, entitled "Romantic Revival in Subgenres of Late Victorian Fiction." (Alexandria University).

- **May 2012: External examiner of Doaa Abdel Salam; M. A. thesis entitled: "Gothic and the Orient in the British Imagination with Particular Reference to the Nineteenth-Century." (Alexandria University).**

Publications:

Forthcoming: May 2015: a chapter entitled: “A Strategic Use of Culture: Egyptian Women’s Subversion and Re-signification of Gender Norms,” in *Rethinking Gender in Revolutions and Resistance: Lessons from the Arab World*, Edited by Maha El Said, Lena Meari and Nicola Pratt, Zed Books.

2012: A paper entitled “**‘In the beginning, there was chaos’: Memory of a Reversed Genesis in Margaret Atwood’s *Oryx and Crake*.**” *Cairo Studies in English: Essays in Honour of Malak Hashem*. 103 – 118.

- **January 2012:** Translation from Arabic into English of a short story by Bahaa Taher “Sukkaān al-qasr” (“Residents of the Palace”). *Fikr wa ibda’*. Vol. 65 1 – 34.

- **2009:** A paper entitled: “**Between the Turban and the Hat: Border Crossing and the Subversion of Identity in Sun’allah Ibrahim’s *Al-`imama wa-l-qubba’a*.**” *Egypt at the Crossroads: Literary and Linguistic Studies: Proceedings of the Ninth International Symposium on Comparative Literature, November 4 -6th, 2008*. Eds. Salwa A. Kamel, Hoda S. Gindi, and Nadia S. El-Kholi. Giza, Egypt: The Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.

- **2008:** A paper entitled: “***Naturally Mine: House Contest in Tanith Lee’s *Snow-Drop*.***” *Essays in Honour of Galila Ann Ragheb*. Cairo Studies in English. Eds. Nadia El Kholy and Mohamed Abdel Aaty. Giza, Egypt: The Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.

- **2006:** A paper entitled: “***The Rules of the Power Game: A Reading of Fatima Mernissi’s Harem.***” In *Power and the Role of the Intellectual: Proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on Comparative Literature (22nd – 24th November, 2005)*.

Cairo: The Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, University of Cairo.

- **1999:** Published a story entitled *Set Begad* (“*A True Woman*”) in *Qaalat al-raweya: hekayaāt min wejhet naẓar al-mar’a min waḥye nuṣuṣ sha`beyya `arabeyya. (The Woman Storyteller Speaks: Stories from a Female Perspective and Inspired by Arabic Folktales)*. Ed. Hala Kamal. Al-qahira: multaqa al-mar’a wal dhakira.

- **1995:** A paper entitled “**Tradition and the Fate of Women in Ben Jelloun and Walker.**” *History in Literature: Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Comparative. Literature* (20th - 22nd December, 1994). Cairo: The Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, University of Cairo.

Book Reviews:

- **March 2011:** Article Review of “**Towards a Critical Assessment of the Current Arab Discourse.**” Rev. of *Fi naqd al-khitaab al-arabi al-rahin*, by Samir Amin. *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* **13. 1 Mar. 2011: 162-165.**

- **2006:** Contributed book reviews of contemporary Arabic fiction to *Al-Ahram Weekly*: “A Tragedy, Like My Own.” 22 - 28 June 2006: 12; “The Machiavellian Embrace.” 24 – 30 August 2006: 15; “Remembrance of Things Past.” 14 – 20 September 2006: 15.

Presentations:

16 – 18th June, 2014: Presented a paper entitled “Depictions of the Middle East: Bestsellers from East and West,” at the British Society for Middle Eastern

Studies (BRISMES) Annual Conference entitled “The Middle East in Global Perspective: Interactions Across Time and Space.” University of Sussex, Brighton, U. K.

8th – 10th July, 2013: Participated in a workshop entitled “Rethinking Gender in Revolutions and Resistance: Lessons from the Arab World.” The workshop was held by the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender, University of Warwick, U. K. Title of presentation: **“Going Back To the Roots: Egyptian Women Mobilise For a Continuing Revolution.”**

6th – 8th September, 2012: Presented a paper entitled: **“Weaving, we are weaving ...”: The Fairy Tale as Historical Narrative in Haydn Middleton’s *Grimm’s Last Fairy Tale*.** Title of conference: “After Grimm: Fairy Tales and the Art of Storytelling.” Kingston University, Kingston, U. K.

Dec. 7th-9th, 2010: Presented a paper entitled **“Leaving tracks in the sand like engravings”: The Poetics of a Culture in Decline in Louise Erdrich’s *Tracks* and Miral Al-Tahawy’s *Naqaraat al-thiba’ (Gazelle Tracks)*,** at the Tenth International Symposium on Comparative Literature: **“The Marginalised: Literary and Linguistic Studies,”** in the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.

22 - 25 April 2009: Presented a paper **“Phantom Colours: Elements of the Gothic in Tanith Lee’s ‘Snow-Drop’” in 2009;** at a conference entitled **“The Fairy Tale after Angela Carter,”** held at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, U.K.

29th January, 2009: Invited by the British Council and The Egyptian Board on Books for Young People to take part in a workshop for “Encouraging Reading for Life” for children.

- **22nd January, 2009:** Invited by the British Council, who was the guest of honour at the 41st Cairo International Book Fair, to chair a session **entitled "Subversion and Repossession: The Use of Myth in Contemporary Writing"**; speakers of the panel: Booker Prize winner Ben Okri and British writer, critic and mythographer, Marina Warner.
 - **November 2008:** Presented a paper **"Between the Turban and the Hat: Border Crossing and the Subversion of Identity in Sun'allah Ibrahim's Al-'imama wa-l-qubba'a."** in the Ninth International Symposium on Comparative Literature, entitled **"Egypt at the Crossroads: Literary and Linguistic Studies"** (4th - 6th November) in the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University;
 - **July 2008:** Presented a paper in a conference entitled *The Novel and Its Borders*, at the University of Aberdeen, in Aberdeen, Scotland (8th - 10th July).
 - **May 2007:** Gave a lecture on "Feminism, Gothic Literature and the Postmodern Fairy Tale" to Post-graduate students in the English Department, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University.
- November 2005:** Presented a paper **"The rules of the power game": A Reading of Fatima Mernissi's Harem** at the Eighth International Symposium on Comparative Literature, English Department, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.
- **February 2005:** Participated in a panel discussion of African-American writer of children's literature, Joyce Hansen's *The Captive*, in commemoration of its translation into Arabic, in celebration of Black History Month, and under the general title *African American Contributions to American Culture*; organized by

the Cultural Office of the U. S. Embassy in Cairo and the Mubarak Public Library, Cairo, Egypt.

- **April 2004:** Gave a presentation on the contemporary fairy tale genre, in the English Department, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.
- **March 2003:** Presented a paper on the rewriting of female cultural myths at Ain Shams University International Symposium "New Readings of Old Masters".
- **December 1994:** Presented a paper "Tradition and the Fate of Women in Ben Jelloun and Walker" at The Third International Symposium on Comparative Literature, English Department, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.

Translations:

2012: Translation from Arabic into English of a short story by Bahaa Taher "Sukkaān al-qasr" ("Residents of the Palace"). *Fikr wa ibda'*. Vol. 65 1 – 34.

2006: Translated the commentary to a documentary film entitled *The Temple of Abu Simbel* by Khaled Alkhamissi, from French into English.

2005: Translated an abridged version of a textbook entitled *The Egyptian Society* (Cairo: Cairo University Press, 2005) from French into English for foreign first year students at the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.

Seminars:

September – October, 2014: Attended the Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association Symposium: "Defining America: New Writing, New Voices, New Directions," in Salzburg, Austria.

Workshops:

- **February 2007:** Gave a presentation entitled “**Major Issues and Themes in American Literature**”, in a one-day workshop held by the Fulbright Commission in Egypt, American Studies Alumni Circle, under the title “**American Literature in Egyptian Universities.**”
- **November 2005:** Participated in a one-day workshop entitled: “**Text as Artifact: An Exploration of Contemporary American Literature from an American Studies Perspective**” (organized and sponsored by the Prince Alwaleed Center for American Studies and Research (AUC) and the Binational Fulbright Commission in Egypt).
- **1998-2003:** Participated in the Women and Memory Forum workshops concerned with discussing, re-envisioning and re-writing Egyptian folktales from a gender-sensitive perspective.

Miscellaneous Activities:

- Refereed short stories written for children for the National Center for Children’s Education and Culture
- Member of the Committee for the selection of Films for the Cairo International Film Festival for Children (February 2012)
- **2011:** Member of the Committee for Children’s Culture, affiliated to the Egyptian Supreme Council for Culture.
- Member of the Board of Referees of the Cairo Studies in English (2008).

- **2007-8:** Participated as a title reviewer in the "**National Book Program for Schools: Books for Preparatory and Secondary Schools**" (October 2007-January 2008); a project sponsored by the USAID in collaboration with the Egyptian government.

Fields of interest:

Gothic and Fairy Tale Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Contemporary Literary Theory and Criticism, Women's literature; Contemporary Arabic fiction; American Studies and Fiction; Translation.

Memberships:

- The Egyptian Society of Comparative Literature
- The International Comparative Literature Association
- The British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)
- The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts
- The American Studies Association (2006 – 2010)