

Cairo Full Year Fellows 2008-2009

Tania Abbas received her B.A. in Near Eastern Studies with an emphasis in the Arabic Language from the University of California, Berkeley in 2004. For the past year and a half she has been living in Yemen teaching English and working for the Yemen Agricultural Support Program. She is interested in studying ijtiḥād as a way of understanding the process of historical and religious change in Muslim communities.

Kate Allen finished her M.A. in Modern Middle Eastern and North African Studies and her MPH in Epidemiology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in December 2007. She has studied Arabic in Egypt (AUC-ALI), Syria (Damascus University), the UK (SOAS) and Michigan. Most recently, she has worked on an epidemiological study of breast cancer in North Africa. Her interests focus on Public Health in the Middle East.

Timothy Allen received his B.A. in Spanish from the University of Florida. He is currently working on an M.A. in Arabic with a minor in Linguistics from Georgetown University. His interests include teaching Arabic as a foreign language and second language acquisition. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Arabic.

Allison Blecker is currently an M.A. student at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Her interests are modern and contemporary Arabic literature. She received her B.A. in Politics and Middle Eastern Studies from New York University in 2005. She has studied Arabic in Morocco, Egypt, Jordan and Qatar.

Carolyn Brunelle is a graduate student in the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations department of the University of Pennsylvania where she studies modern Arabic Literature. She hopes to focus her research on contemporary fiction in North Africa. Previously, she spent the summer of 2005 studying Arabic in Fez, Morocco, and the academic year of 2005-2006 studying at the Arabic Language Institute of AUC. She received her B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from Wellesley College in 2007.

John Chen received his bachelor's degree in History from Harvard University in 2008. His current research interests focus on the changing relationships between China and the Middle East, a topic he will explore further while in Egypt with the support of a Fulbright grant. After completing CASA, he plans to pursue a Ph.D. in International Relations or Middle Eastern Studies.

Dana Chidiac received a B.A. in English and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan in 2008. She hopes to pursue a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies and a law degree in the future.

Lisa Cosgrove graduated from Princeton University in 2008 majoring in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and International Affairs. Her specific interests include U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East and North Africa and International Business.

Michael Dziuban received his B.A. in Political Science from Yale University in 2008. His interests include formal political institutions in the Middle East, as well as the development and impact of non-governmental organizations in the region. He hopes to pursue a degree in Middle East politics and a law degree with a focus on international human rights.

Greg Halaby recently received his B.A. from UC Berkeley in Arabic Literature. He studied in CASA in the Summer of 2006 and at the French Institute in Damascus in 2007 where he explored his interests in Abbasid belles-lettres and British Mandate social history. He plans on pursuing graduate school in 2009.

Lizz Huntley is a 2008 graduate from Middlebury College, majoring in International Studies with a focus on Middle Eastern history. She studied Arabic at the University of Damascus in 2006-2007. Her interests include teaching Arabic as a foreign language and international development.

Henry Huttinger received his B.A. in Arabic Language and Political Science from the University of Edinburgh. His honors thesis focused on the genesis of modern Iraqi political Islam in Najaf, specifically the theoretical works of Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr. He has worked for Cairo Magazine and the Middle East Research and Information Project, and intends to pursue a career in international development.

Katherine LeRah Jernigan received a B.A. in Government and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Her interests include the impact of language on governmental structures and institutions within Middle Eastern countries.

Julia Johnson is a recent graduate of Emory University and holds a B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies and Linguistics with minor concentrations in Arabic and Persian. Her undergraduate research focused on the Arabic linguistic tradition and the history of Arabic dialects. After CASA, she plans to pursue graduate study of Middle Eastern linguistics with an emphasis on Arabic dialectology.

Timothy Elhami Kaldas received his B.A. in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies with a minor in History from the George Washington University in 2006. He has just completed his M.A. in Arab Studies at Georgetown University with a concentration in Politics. His MA thesis discusses the link between French colonial technologies and discourses of rule in Algeria and the current treatment of Maghrebis living in France. He studied Arabic at the American University of Cairo in the summers of 2003 and 2007. He intends to pursue a Ph.D. in Comparative Politics focusing on the Middle East.

Khulood Kandil is a graduate of the University of Maryland's master's program in Arabic Studies. She spent the 2007-2008 academic year studying at the University of Damascus in Syria. She has also traveled extensively throughout the region. Her interests include Arabic dialectology, morphology, pedagogy and translation and interpretation. She would like to pursue advanced Arabic dialectology research in the future.

Banafsheh Madaninejad is currently working on a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. Specifically, she is researching AbdolKarim Soroush's Theory of Religious Pluralism and a modern conception of Islamic identity.

Alyssa Miller is currently working towards her M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her interests include modern Arabic literature and intellectual history. Upon completion of her M.A., she plans to pursue a doctorate in Arabic Literature.

Mona Mogahed is a 2008 graduate from the University of Wisconsin - Madison where she majored in Rhetorical Studies and minored in Religious Studies and Middle East Studies. She spent two months in Cairo conducting fieldwork for her senior thesis on Egyptian reactions to the execution of Saddam Hussein. In the future, she plans to pursue a graduate program in Cultural Anthropology with a regional focus on the Middle East.

Claire Panetta holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Haverford College and has recently completed an M.A. at Columbia University in the same field. Her research interests are focused on the restoration of Islamic Cairo and she hopes to begin a Ph.D. in urban anthropology after completing CASA.

Samantha Rose is currently in Cairo as a Fulbright Arabic Language Grantee. She received her BA in Middle Eastern Studies in 2005 from Wellesley College and her M.A. in Middle Eastern History from the University of St. Andrews. She is interested in the current Arab-Israeli conflict and child rights in the region.

Shahreena Shahrani is currently working on an M.A. in Near Eastern Languages and Literature with a concentration in Arabic and Persian languages and literature at The Ohio State University. Her interests include pre-Islamic and early Islamic poetry and prose. She studied Arabic in Sana'a, Yemen through the Critical Language Scholarship and intends to pursue a Ph.D. in Arabic after completing CASA.

Joseph Simons received his B.A. in Political Science and Middle East Studies from McGill University in 2006. He has worked as a foreign media analyst in Washington, DC, and hopes to pursue a master's degree in Middle East Studies or International Relations after CASA.

Bethany Stipe received her B.A. in African Studies from Middlebury College in 2008. Her senior research focused on the role of Christianity within the Sudanese youth refugee community in Cairo and how members of this population engage spiritual narratives to interpret their experiences in Egypt. She intends to pursue an M.A. in Counseling and work with Arabic speaking refugee populations in the future.

Ramon Stern is a Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan Ann-Arbor. His research examines modern literature of Arab diaspora from a multilingual and multicultural perspective, looking at texts across South America and the Middle East by Arab immigrants and exiles in the second half of the 20th century. The

literary sources include Portuguese, Spanish, French, Hebrew, and, of course, Arabic language texts. He is also generally interested in cross-language aesthetics, hybrid stylistics of allusion and referentiality, post-colonial theory and the ethics of reading.

Timothy Taylor graduated this year from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Arabic and Islamic Studies. Academically, he is particularly interested in contemporary and classical Arabic literature and linguistics. Directly after completing CASA, he plans to work for a global consultancy active in the Middle East, and, in the future, would like to pursue a Ph.D. in Arabic Literature.

Summer Only Fellows

Ashley Barry is a 2008 graduate in Arabic Language and Literature from the University of California, Berkeley. She began studying Arabic in 2004 during her first year at UC Berkeley. In the summer of 2007, she studied at the Arabic School at Middlebury College. Her interests include modern Arabic literature, contemporary Middle East politics, and Islamic architecture.

Dimitry Medvedev is a senior at the University of Michigan currently working towards a B.A. in International Relations and a Bachelor's of Business Administration. His interests include democratization and economic development and integration in the global economy. He plans to obtain a M.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies and to pursue a professional career in diplomacy or business consulting in the Middle East.

Joanne Randa Nucho received her B.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she studied film and television production. After graduating, she pursued her interests in documentary and ethnographic film production, showing some of her shorter works in various film festivals and on public television programs. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Anthropology at University of California, Irvine. Her research interests include transnational migration, mass media, cinema, urban spaces and modernity.

Elizabeth Nugent received a B.A. in Arabic and Government from Georgetown University in 2007 and is a Fulbright Fellow for the 2007-2008 academic year. She will return to Georgetown in the fall to begin the Master's in Arab Studies program, where she will focus on the role of oppositional parties in political reform in the Middle East.

Alexandra Dika Seggerman is currently working on a Ph.D. in History of Art at Yale University. Her research area is Islamic art, with a focus on the economic structures and international exchanges of contemporary art from the Arab world.

Johanna Sellman has an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Texas where she is currently a doctoral student in Comparative Literature. Her studies focus on contemporary Arabic and French literature of the Middle East and Africa. Her interests include translation, testimonial writing, and immigrant writing in Europe.

CASA II Fellows

Sara Nimis is a Ph.D. student in Georgetown University's Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies. During her CASA II semester, she will be collecting data for her dissertation research on educational reform in 19th Century Egypt.

Luke Yarbrough is a Ph.D. candidate at Princeton University. His current research concerns the participation of non-Muslims in the governance of Islamic polities in the early middle period (9th-12th centuries). He is also interested in ethics in the Islamic philosophical tradition, and in the Syriac and Persian literatures of the Islamic period.

Sahar Ishtiaque Ullah recently received her M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago. Her research interests include how the consumption of racial and gendered representations shape American minorities' narratives outside the United States and she is working on a monologue project which includes the stories of Muslim American women. She likes Arabic very much and hopes to figure out soon what to do with it.