

# KATHERINE HENNESSEY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT  
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## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

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**University of Notre Dame** South Bend, IN, USA

2008 PhD in English, with Irish Studies concentration

2007 MA in 20<sup>th</sup> Century British and Irish Literature

2004 MA in Italian Language and Literature

**Franklin and Marshall College** Lancaster, PA, USA

1998 BA in Comparative Literature (Irish, French, and Italian), *summa cum laude*

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Current Associate Professor of English, American University of Kuwait

2020-21 Research Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

2017-19 Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Assistant Professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences, American University of Kuwait

2014-16 Research Fellow, Global Shakespeare Program, University of Warwick and Queen Mary University of London

2013-14 Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian, Sana'a University, Sana'a, Yemen

2010-14 Fellow and Researcher in Residence, American Institute for Yemeni Studies, Sana'a

2008-09 Assistant Professor of English Literature, Bethlehem University in the Holy Land, Palestinian West Bank

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## RESEARCH: PUBLICATIONS

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### Authored Books

2022 *Theatre on the Arabian Peninsula*. NEH-funded monograph (in progress).

2018 [\*Shakespeare on the Arabian Peninsula\*](#). Monograph in the *Global Shakespeares* series, Palgrave-Macmillan. ISBN 978-1-137-58470-0.

# KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2021 Bending the Plot Arc Towards Justice: Adaptation as Rebellion Against the Shakespearean Status Quo. *Shakespeare Bulletin* (forthcoming).
- 2021 Interpreting *Othello* on the Arabian Peninsula: Shakespeare in a Time of Blackface Controversies. *Multicultural Shakespeare: Translation, Appropriation and Performance*, Vol. 22 (37); <http://dx.doi.org/10.18778/2083-8530.22.07>.
- 2017 Sculpting in Sand: The Construction of Narrative in Contemporary Yemeni Theatre. *Arab Journal of Performance Studies*, No. 4, May 2017. ISSN 2489-088X.
- 2016 Othello in Oman: Ahmad al-Izki's Fusion of Shakespeare and Classical Arab Epic. *Critical Survey* 28.3.
- 2015 [Staging the Revolution: The Drama of Yemen's Arab Spring](#), *Arabian Humanities* 4.
- 2014 [Explosions and Ill Omens: On the Stage at World Theatre Day in Yemen](#). *Middle East Report* 273.
- 2014 'Now I Shall Believe That There Are Unicorns': The Improbable History of Shakespeare in Yemen. *Arab Stages* 1.1 (December).
- 2014 [Drama in Yemen: Behind the Scenes at World Theater Day](#). *Middle East Report* 271.
- 2013 [Shylock in the Hadramawt? Adaptations of Shakespeare on the Yemeni Stage](#). *ArabLit* 3.5.
- 2012 The Inaugural Season of the Royal Opera House, Muscat, Oman, *Portal* 9, Vol 1. In English and Arabic translation.

## Edited Books and Guest-edited Journal Issues

- 2019 [Shakespeare & the Arab World](#). Co-edited with Margaret Litvin. Berghahn. ISBN 978-1-78920-259-5.
- 2016 *Arab Shakespeares*, special issue of *Critical Survey* (28.3), co-edited with Margaret Litvin.

## Book Chapters

- 2022 Capitalism and the Film Industry: Creating and Distributing Cinema in the Age of Television. In *The American Blockbuster: Movies that Defined their Generations*, ed. Benjamin Crace. ABC-CLIO.
- 2022 'A Drop of Water in the Breaking Gulf: Shakespeare, University Education, and Anti-Racism on the Arabian Peninsula.' In *Shakespeare, Education, and Pedagogy: Representations, Interactions and Adaptations*, ed. Pamela Bickley and Jenny Stevens. Routledge.
- 2022 Shakespeare in the Arab World. In *A Companion to Global Shakespeares*, ed. Alexa Alice Joubin. Wiley-Blackwell (forthcoming).

## KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.

- 2021 Canonising Cleopatra? *Shakespeare400* and the Library, Lovers, and Saints of Alexandria. In *Memorializing Shakespeare: Commemoration and Collective Identity, 1916–2016*, ed. Edmund King and Monika Smialkowska. Palgrave (forthcoming).
- 2020 [William Shakespeare: Worlds Here, There and Elsewhere](#). In *A Companion to World Literature*, ed. Christine Chism and Ken Seigneurie. Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2018 Can We Talk to Terrorists? Extremism and the Potential for Dialogue, as Portrayed in Yemeni Film and Theatre. In *Yemen and the Search for Stability*, ed. Marie-Christine Heinz. I.B. Tauris.
- 2016 All the World's a Stage Designed by Zaha Hadid: How the Gulf's New Mega-theatres Attempt to Promote 'Global' Identities. In *Representing the Nation: Heritage, Museums, National Narratives, and Identity in the Arab Gulf States*, ed. Pamela Erskine-Loftus, Mariam al-Mulla, and Victoria Hightower. Routledge.
- 2016 Explosions and Ill Omens: On the Stage at World Theatre Day in Yemen. In *Arabia Incognita: Dispatches from Yemen and the Gulf*, ed. Sheila Carapico. Just World Press. Reprinted from *Middle East Report* 273 (2014).
- 2014 Yemeni Society in the Spotlight: Theatre and Film in Yemen Before, During, and After the Arab Spring. *Why Yemen Matters: A Society in Transition*, ed. Helen Lackner. Saqi.
- 2013 Yemeni Literature, by Steven C. Caton, Katherine Hennessey, and Mohammed Sharafuddin. *Yemen: Geography and World Cultures Series*. ABC-CLIO.
- 2012 Staging a Protest: Socio-Political Criticism in Contemporary Yemeni Theater. *Doomed by Hope: Essays on Arab Theater*. Pluto. In English and Arabic translation.
- Film**
- 2018 [Shakespeare in Yemen](#). Short documentary (director, with Amin Hazaber). Screened at the Signature Theatre in New York City, June 2018, and at the Middle East Studies Association FilmFest, November 2018.

### Translations

- 2021 *The Balcony*, a play by Wajdi al-Ahdal. From Modern Standard Arabic to English. In progress, with the support of Foreign Affairs Theatre Company's Theatre Translation Lab.
- 2021 "Last Tuesday," by Ziyad Al-Qahem. From Modern Standard Arabic to English. *World Literature Today* (Fall issue).
- 2019 [The Colonel's Wedding](#), a play by Wajdi al-Ahdal. From Modern Standard Arabic to English. *Words Without Borders*, October.
- 2016 *A Crime on Restaurant Street*, a play by Wajdi al-Ahdal. From Modern Standard Arabic to English. *Arab Stages* 5.1.

## KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.

- 2016 *Ophelia is Not Dead at 47: An interview with Nabyl Lablou* by Khalid Amine. From French to English. *Critical Survey* 28.3.
- 2014 *Instant of Enchantment: Short Stories from the Literary Heritage of Yemen*. From Yemeni Arabic to English. Ed. Fatima al-Baydhani and Zayd al-Faqih, ed. and trans. by Hennessey and Howeida al-Shaiba. Al-Haya al-'Amah lil-Kutub, Sana'a. Kindle edition published 2015.
- 2013 *Seventy Years of Theatre in Yemen* by Sa'id Aulaqi. From Modern Standard Arabic. Not yet published.

### Book Reviews, Performance Reviews, and Other Short Publications

- 2021 *Shakespeare in the Global South* by Sandra Young. Book Review. *Shakespeare Quarterly* (forthcoming).
- 2021 Entries on Shakespeare in Oman and in Yemen for *The Stanford Global Shakespeare Encyclopedia*, ed. Patricia Parker (forthcoming).
- 2021 'Darkness Around Our Dreams: What the 2020 National Theatre Festival Can Tell Us About Contemporary Yemen.' With on-site reporting by Shroq Alramadi. *Yemen Report* 21.
- 2020 [Raising the Profile of Theatre in Ras Al Khaimah: History and Impact](#). Policy Paper, Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research.
- 2020 [Scenes from the Theatre in Ras Al Khaimah](#). Blog posting, Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research.
- 2018 Arab Shakespeares at the World Shakespeare Congress, with Margaret Litvin. *Shakespeare Survey* 71.
- 2017 My first encounter with Nehad Selaiha. *Arab Stages*, Vol. 6 (February).
- 2017 Yemen 2013-2015, in *World of Theatre 2013-2015*, International Theatre Institute.
- 2016 Shakespeare in Armenia, *PerformanceShakespeare2016* website. (Wrote review of *Macbeth: A Comedy* by the Kooche theatre troupe, and solicited the complementary contributions.)
- 2016 [Othello at the Abbey Theatre](#). *PerformanceShakespeare2016* website.
- 2016 [Lear by John Scott and Valda Setterfield](#), *Shakespeare in Ireland* blog.
- 2014 Merchant of Venice in Yemen. *Global Shakespeares (Arab World)* website, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February.

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### RESEARCH: GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2019 Faculty Research Grant, Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research

## KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.

2018 Fellowship (full year/\$60,000), National Endowment for the Humanities. Awarded in 2018, used in 2020.

2016 Moore Institute Visiting Fellowship, National University of Ireland, Galway (two months)

2014-16 Global Shakespeare Research Fellowship, University of Warwick and Queen Mary University of London

In graduate school: Beinecke Scholarship for Graduate Study  
University of Notre Dame Presidential Scholarship  
Paul G. Tobin Dissertation Fellowship  
Mellon fellowship for summer study at the Getty Research Center in Los Angeles

Before graduate school: Fulbright research fellowship, Milan, Italy  
Fulbright teaching assistantship, Fontainebleau, France

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### RESEARCH: INTERVIEWS AND INVITED TALKS

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2021 [The Challenges \(and Possibilities\) of Translating Literary Scholarship](#). With Abdulkader Abdulkader, Wajdi Al-Ahdal, and Laurent Bonnefoy. Interviewed by Marcia Lynx Qualey for the ArabLit blog, May 27. Also [published in French](#), by *En Toutes Lettres*, and in Arabic, by [Naqsh](#) (August 2021).

2020 Theatre on the Arabian Peninsula. Interviewed by Ethan Lee for the Al Qasimi Foundation podcast, May 19.

2019 [The Enchanting, the Surprising, the Shocking: ‘Shakespeare on the Arabian Peninsula.’](#) Interviewed by Marcia Lynx Qualey for the ArabLit blog, April 24.

2019 Travels With Shakespeare: From F&M to the Arabian Peninsula. Franklin and Marshall College, Feb 13.

2018 The Merchant of Venice. *The Shakespeare Conversations*, Abbey Theatre, Dublin, Oct 25.

2018 The Theatre of Dissent in Yemen and the Gulf. Video interview, Media Majlis, Northwestern University Qatar, for 2020 exhibition *Media Revolutions in the Middle East*.

2017 Broaching Rebellion: Ireland and Shakespeare, 1660-1916. New York University Abu Dhabi, 9 October.

2017 [‘The Yemeni Public Loves Writing Laced with Irony and Sarcasm’: On Yemeni Literary and Performing Arts](#). Co-interview with (and translator of) Wajdi al-Ahdal, for the *ArabLit* blog, 15 May.

2016 Shakespeare in Yemen.  
--Advanced Drama Research Seminar, Trinity College Dublin, 5 December.  
--Queen’s University Belfast, 1 December.

## KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.

--School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, 19 October.

- 2016 Titus Andronicus. *The Shakespeare Conversations*, Abbey Theatre, Dublin, Sept 7.
- 2016 We'll break our walls: Segregation, Citizenship and Shakespeare in the Arabian Gulf. *Shakespeare400* at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt, 23-25 April.
- 2016 Chevening Foundation Scholars' Lecture on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Stratford-upon-Avon, 26 February.
- 2015 Liberating the South: Yemeni Theatre and the British Occupation of Aden. Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, Cultures of Diversity Network, University of Edinburgh, 14 October.
- 2014 Desdemona in a Bedouin Tent? How the Arab World Performs Shakespeare. AHRC/BBC, The Mailbox, Birmingham, 21 November.

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### RESEARCH: CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

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- 2016 [\*Ireland and Shakespeare Symposium\*](#), Princeton University. Co-convenor, with Clair Wills and Fintan O'Toole, 4-5 March.

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### RESEARCH: CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (SELECT)

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#### Keynotes and Plenaries

- 2019 Arab Theatre Working Group Keynote: New Local Theatre in the Urban Centers of the Arabian Peninsula, International Federation for Theatre Research annual meeting, Shanghai, 9 July.
- 2018 Plenary roundtable speaker: Trends in Irish Theatre Research. International Association for the Study of Irish Literature (IASIL) annual meeting, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 23-27 July.
- 2018 Keynote: Widening Lenses and Breaking Down Walls: Shakespeare and 'New Local' Theatre on the Arabian Peninsula, *Widening the Lens: Beyond Orient and Occident in Narrative Perspectives of East and West* conference, American University of Dubai, 5-7 Apr.
- 2017 Plenary roundtable speaker: Contemporary Arab Theatre and its Discontents: A Decade's Worth of Evolving Questions, Celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Arabic Theatre Working Group, Cairo, 21 September.
- 2016 Keynote: Hell is Empty and All the Devils Are Here: Resurrecting Shakespeare in 2016. *Shakespeare400: The Enigma of Endurance* conference, Yerevan, Armenia, 3 October.

#### Panel and Workshop Organization

- 2017 Shakespeare Association of America annual meeting. Co-organiser and convenor, with Paul Prescott, of workshop entitled Adapting Shakespeare: Theory and Practice in the 21st Century. Atlanta, GA, 5-8 April.

## KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.

- 2016 World Shakespeare Congress. Organizer, Chair, and Presenter, Arab Shakespeares panel. Stratford/London, 31 July-6 Aug.

### Papers Delivered

- 2021 “Tyrant, show thy face!” Shakespeare and The Dublin Gate Theatre’s 1939 Balkan Tour. World Shakespeare Congress (online). 29 July.
- 2021 Adaptation to a Harsher Clime: Re-Writing Western Plays on the Arabian Peninsula. International Federation for Theatre Research annual meeting (online). 10 July.
- 2021 A Yemeni *Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Writing for Public Media workshop, Shakespeare Association of America annual meeting, 2 April.
- 2020 ‘Body Armour Against the Censor’s Whip’ in West Asia: Shakespeare and Socio-Political Critique on the Arabian Peninsula. Virtual presentation at the Asian Shakespeare Association, Seoul, South Korea, 6 November.
- 2020 Interpreting *Othello* in the Gulf: Shakespeare in a Climate of Rising Xenophobia and Blackface Controversies. 4th International Conference on Language, Linguistics, Literature and Translation, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman, 6-8 February.
- 2019 ‘Wait, So You’re Saying Yemenis Make Theatre?’ The Challenges and the Benefits of Researching Cultural Practice in Yemen. 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Exeter Gulf Conference, University of Exeter, UK, 1-2 July.
- 2019 Bending the Arc Towards Justice: Adaptation as Rebellion Against the Shakespearean Status Quo. *Shakespeare and Social Justice* conference, Cape Town, 16-18 May.
- 2018 Memorable Barbarities on the Stage: The Gate’s Adaptations of Greek Tragedy, Irish Epic, and Shakespeare. Inaugural Experts’ Meeting of the Gate Theatre Research Network, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, 6-7 September.
- 2018 I wonder if Shakespeare would’ve recognized it: The Abbey’s Radical Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Shakespeare Plays. International Association for the Study of Irish Literature annual meeting (IASIL), Nijmegen, the Netherlands, 23-27 July.
- 2018 Theatre, Migration, and Identity in the Arabian Peninsula. International Federation for Theatre Research World Congress (IFTR), Belgrade, Serbia, July 9-13.
- 2017 Hell is Empty and All the Devils Are Here: Shakespeare in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Irish Theatre. IASIL, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 24-28 July.
- 2016 Seven Countries in Search of a Historiographer: The Challenges and the Potential of Theatre History on the Arabian Peninsula. IFTR, University of Stockholm, 13-17 June.
- 2016 ‘What’s Hecuba to Him or He to Hecuba?’ Irish and Global Shakespeares. *Ireland and Shakespeare Symposium*, Princeton University, 4-5 March.
- 2015 ‘*Macbeth* Shall Ne’er Vanquished Be’: How Northern Irish Inmates and Yemeni Tribesmen Perform The Scottish Play. IASIL, University of York, 20-24 July.
- 2015 ‘Shall We Sing and Bless This Place?’ Shakespeare on Stage at the Royal Opera House Muscat. *Shakespeare and Global Cultural Heritage*, New York University Abu Dhabi, 18-19 April.
- 2015 ‘Knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven’: Shakespeare and the Gulf’s New

## KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.

Knowledge Economy. Gulf Studies Symposium, AUK, 13-15 March.

- 2014      All the Men and Women Merely Players? The intersection of cosmopolitanism, local identities, and regional rivalries in the Gulf's spectacular new performing arts venues. Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge, 25-28 August.
- 2014      Strikes, Satire, and Storming the Stage: How Yemen Celebrates World Theatre Day. Presenter and panel chair, IFTR, University of Warwick, 28 July-1 August.
- 2013      The Revolution Will Be Staged Tonight: Contemporary Socio-political Theatre in Yemen and Oman. Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual meeting. New Orleans, LA, 10-13 October.
- 2013      All the World's a Stage Designed by Zaha Hadid: The Architecture, Economics, and Cultural Implications of the GCC's New Performance Spaces. Gulf Studies Symposium, AUK, 22-24 March.

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### TEACHING: COURSES TAUGHT

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#### **American University of Kuwait**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Shakespeare   | Fall 2019   |
| Critical Reading and Writing (ENGL 101, 2 sections)                     |             |
| English Poetry and Prose 1500-1660                                      | Spring 2019 |
| Academic Reading and Writing (ENGL 100)                                 |             |
| Academic Reading and Writing (ENGL 100, 2 sections)                     | Fall 2018   |
| Literature in Kuwait (ENGL 389, Special Topics course of my own design) | Spring 2018 |
| Critical Reading and Writing (ENGL 101)                                 |             |
| Shakespeare (ENGL 307)  | Fall 2017   |
| Academic Reading and Writing (ENGL 100)                                 |             |
| Writing and Information Literacy (ENGL 102, 2 sections)                 | Spring 2017 |
| University, Community, and Citizenship (UNIV 110)                       |             |

#### **Queen Mary University of London**

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| Global Shakespeare   | Fall 2015   |
| Shakespeare: Global Tragedy (co-taught with GS colleagues) | Spring 2015 |

#### **Sana'a University** (taught in Italian)

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| Invisible Cities and Rose-Shaped Poems: Italian Literature 1950-2014 | Spring 2014 |
| Sociolinguistics   |             |
| Senior Thesis  |             |
| Nationalism and War: Italian Literature 1850-1950                    | Fall 2013   |
| Research Methods   |             |
| Syntax   |             |
| Stylistics   |             |
| Renaissance to <i>Risorgimento</i> : Italian Literature 1400-1850    | Spring 2013 |
| Phonology  |             |
| Morphology   |             |
| Cultural Vocabulary  |             |



# KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.

## Bethlehem University in the Holy Land

### *Drama*

The Dramatic Works of Brian Friel (my design)	2009
Introduction to Drama	2009
Shakespeare	2008

### *Literature*

Romantic Era Literature	2008
Prose Fiction	2008

### *Writing, Research, and Language*

University-Level Writing I and II	2008-2009
Research Methods	2008, 2009
Intensive English	2008

## Pontifical Institute of Notre Dame, Jerusalem

First Year Italian I and II	2007-2008
Second Year Italian I and II	2007-2008

## University of Notre Dame

History, Politics, and Culture of the Holy Land (co-designed and taught)	2010
Celtic Mythology	2006
CORE (sophomore-level world literature course)	2003-2004
First Year Italian I and II	2002-2003
First Year Composition and Writing	2001, 2002

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## TEACHING PORTFOLIO

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Available upon request, including teaching statement, student and peer evaluations, number of student advisees, and sample course materials.

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## SERVICE

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### University and College Level, AUK

Lead author, Accreditation Interim Report	Fall 2019
Assistant Dean for Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences	Fall 2017-Summer 2019
Chair, University Curriculum Committee	Fall 2017-Spring 2019
College Assessment Committee, College of Arts and Sciences	Fall 2017-Spring 2019
Lead author, Accreditation Progress Report	Spring 2018

### Departmental (English Department, AUK)

Assessment Committee	Fall 2019
Writing Program Committee	Fall 2019
Chair, Professional Development Committee	AY 2018-19

# KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.

Curriculum Committee Spring 2017 - Spring 2019

Assessment Committee Spring 2017-Spring 2018

## Professional

Editorial Board Member: *Arab Stages, Theatre Research International*

Book Proposal Reviewer: Palgrave-Macmillan, Bloomsbury/Methuen, Routledge, Manchester University Press

Peer Reviewer: *Arab Stages, Arabian Humanities, Critical Survey, Early Modern Literary Studies, English Studies, History Compass, Journal of Arabian Studies, Theatre Research International*

Grant Proposal Reviewer: Al Qasimi Foundation for Public Policy Research

Judge: World Monologue Games 2020, 2021

Translator: Foreign Affairs Theatre Translation Lab 2020-present

Mentor: Cultural Networks Yemen 2020-present

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## REFERENCES

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### Prof. Sheila T. Cavanagh

Professor of English, Emory University and Director, World Shakespeare Project  
(Former Fulbright/Global Shakespeare Centre Distinguished Chair)

Email: [engstc@emory.edu](mailto:engstc@emory.edu)

### Dr. Margaret Litvin

Associate Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature, Boston University

Email: [mlitvin@bu.edu](mailto:mlitvin@bu.edu)

### Dr. David Hadbawnik

Visiting Assistant Professor of English, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
(Former Chair of the English Department, American University of Kuwait)

Email: [hadbawnd@uwec.edu](mailto:hadbawnd@uwec.edu)

### Dr. Elisabeth Kendall

Senior Research Fellow in Arabic, Pembroke College, Oxford University

Email: [elisabeth.kendall@pmb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elisabeth.kendall@pmb.ox.ac.uk)

### Prof. Alexa Alice Joubin

Professor of English, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Theatre, East Asian Languages and Literatures, and International Affairs at George Washington University

Email: [ajoubin@gwu.edu](mailto:ajoubin@gwu.edu)

### Prof. Marvin Carlson

Sidney E. Cohn Distinguished Professor of Theatre, Comparative Literature and Middle Eastern

# **KATHERINE HENNESSEY, PH.D.**

Studies, City University of New York

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