

Sarah Aly

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803-234-1771

Research interests

Arabic Literature, Egyptian Film, Women and Gender Studies, Geocriticism, Deconstruction, Literary engagements with the Egyptian Revolution of 2011

Education

2025 – Present **University of South Carolina** – Columbia, SC
PhD in Comparative Literature

2021 – 2025 **Alexandria University** – Alexandria, Egypt
MA in English Literature

2016 – 2020 **Alexandria University** – Alexandria, Egypt
BA in English Language and Literature

Additional Education

2026 – Present **University of South Carolina** – Columbia, SC
Women and Gender Studies Certificate

Honors and Scholarships

- 2025 – 2026 Graduate Student Research Paper Award in Comparative Literature, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of South Carolina
Awarded for the paper "Between a Promised Presence and an Idealized Absence: Plato and Derrida Conceptualizing Justice."
- Spring 2025 Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Exchange Scholar (University of the Aegean)
Spent a semester at the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication, University of the Aegean, Greece, conducting research as part of my MA degree from Alexandria University.
- 2023 – 2024 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (Mercyhurst University)
Main Arabic instructor at Mercyhurst University, Erie, PA for the academic year 2023-2024
- 2016 – 2020 Highest Academic Standing of Undergraduate Cohort (Alexandria University)

Scholarly Conference Presentations

- November 2026
(Upcoming) "The Poetics of Deferred Revolution: Cruel Optimism and the Messianic Structure in Egyptian Colloquial Poetry of Revolt"
"MESA's 60th Annual Meeting - November 21-24, 2026" organised by The Middle East Studies Association (MESA), at Hilton Boston Park Plaza
- October 2026
(Upcoming) "Between a Promised Presence and an Idealized Absence: Plato and Derrida Conceptualizing Justice"
"2026 Meeting of the Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts" organised by The Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts (SCLA), at Embassy Suites Austin Central, Austin, TX
- June 2026 "Homecoming and Memory Anticipated: A Deconstruction of Homecoming Journeys in André Aciman's *False Papers*"
"The Place of Memory and the Memory of Place" organised by London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, at Birkbeck, University of London
- June 2026 "Between North and South: In-Betweenness, Return, and the Deferral of Arrival in the works of Youssef Chahine and André Aciman"
"Global North and Global South Perspectives on Literature, Linguistics, and Translation" at The British University in Egypt
- April 2026 "The Visual as Battleground: Graffiti of The Egyptian Revolution, 2011 and Beyond"
8th Annual DLLC GSA Conference: Global Visual Cultures, at the University of South Carolina

February 2026 “Crossroads as a Gap: The Immigrant and the Endless Deferral of Arrival”
6th Annual Crossroads Graduate Conference at the ROML Department, University of Georgia

Teaching Experience

Fall 2025 **Teaching Assistant, ARAB 121: Elementary Arabic (University of South Carolina)**

Instructor for the fourth hour of ARAB121, sections 001, 002, H10. My responsibilities entailed teaching the Egyptian Arabic component of the course for one hour a week for each section, as well as grading weekly assignments and assisting in the creation of quizzes, weekly tests, and final exams.

Spring 2024 **Instructor, ARAB 204: Intermediate Arabic II (Mercyhurst University)**

Instructor of record. Responsible for creating the syllabus, course material, creating quizzes and final exams, grading, and teaching all aspects of the course.

Spring 2024 **Instructor, ARAB 102: Intro to Arabic II (Mercyhurst University)**

Instructor of record. Responsible for creating the syllabus, course material, creating quizzes and final exams, grading, and teaching all aspects of the course.

Fall 2023 **Instructor, ARAB 203: Intermediate Arabic I (Mercyhurst University)**

Instructor of record. Responsible for creating the syllabus, course material, creating quizzes and final exams, grading, and teaching all aspects of the course.

Fall 2023 **Teaching Assistant, ARAB 101: Intro to Arabic I (Mercyhurst University)**

Responsible for grading the weekly cultural activity and providing personalized feedback. Responsible for tutoring.

Related Work Experience

- Fall 2026 **Graduate Grader, CPLT 150: Values and Ethics in Literature (University of South Carolina)** – Columbia, SC
Responsible for evaluating and providing feedback on all student assignments and examinations.
- Fall 2025 – Present **Graduate Assistant at the Foreign Language Learning Center (University of South Carolina)** – Columbia, SC
Responsibilities include providing technical and instructional support, including setup of classroom technology, troubleshooting faculty technology needs, and assisting students with device and online access issues.

Academic Service and Community Outreach

- May 2026 – Present ***Graduate Student Organization. Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of South Carolina (Secretary)***
Elected by the graduate student body to be the secretary of the DLLC Graduate Student Organization for the academic year 2026 - 2027.
- August 2025 ***Transnational Visual Culture Across Korea, Hong Kong, and Burma. A symposium by the University of South Carolina (Symposium Assistant)***
Assisted with symposium logistics, including preparation of printed materials and coordinating guest registration and check-in.
- 2023 – 2024 ***Language in Motion (Volunteer)***
As Mercyhurst University's Fulbright teaching assistant for Arabic, I was responsible for creating cultural and academic activities introducing K-2 grade students to the Arabic language and culture through weekly visits to elementary schools in rural Erie county, PA, giving special focus to schools in underprivileged communities.

Professional Memberships

- 2026 – Present Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
- 2026 – Present Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts (SCLA)

Languages

Arabic (Native)
English (Fluent)
Italian (Intermediate)

Creative Interests

2023 – Present	Co-writer at “Ehky” film writing workshop, under the supervision of Dina Abd El Salam (Director and Associate Professor of English Literature at Alexandria University).
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