

Charlotte Karem Albrecht

Assistant Professor of American Culture & Women's and Gender Studies

OFFICE:

Department of American Culture
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
505 S. State Street / 3700 Haven Hall
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045

EMAIL:

charka@umich.edu

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Arab American and Arab Diaspora Studies, Relational Ethnic Studies, Queer of Color Critique, Women of Color Feminist Theory, Transnational Feminisms, Histories of Gender and Sexuality, Interdisciplinary and Historicist Research Methods

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2015-present Assistant Professor, Departments of American Culture and Women's and Gender Studies
Core Faculty, Arab and Muslim American Studies Program
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Middle East and North African Studies
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
2014-2015 Visiting Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Program, Denison University
2013-2014 Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow, Women's Studies Program, Denison University

EDUCATION

2013 Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Feminist Studies; Minor Field: American Studies
2003 B.A., Women's and Gender Studies, French Studies, Rice University (*cum laude*)

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts In-Press

2023 *Possible Histories: Arab Americans and the Queer Ecology of Peddling*. Berkeley: University of California Press, February 2023.
2022 "Narrating Arab American History: The Peddling Thesis." *Sajjilu Arab American: A Reader in SWANA Studies*. Cainkar et al, eds. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, June 2022. (Reprint)

Journal Articles

- 2018 “Why Arab American History Needs Queer of Color Critique.” *Journal of American Ethnic History*. Vol. 37, No. 3 (Spring): 84-92.
- 2016 “An Archive of Difference: Syrian Women Peddlers and U.S. Social Welfare, 1880-1935.” *Gender & History*. Vol. 28, No. 1 (March): 127-149.
- 2015 “Narrating Arab American History: The Peddling Thesis.” *Arab Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 37, No. 1 (Winter): 100-117.

Book Chapters

- 2021 “An Archive of Difference: Syrian Women Peddlers and U.S. Social Welfare, 1880-1935.” *Arab American Women: Representation and Refusal*. Cainkar et al, eds. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 134-165. (Reprint)
- 2010 “The Myth of the Great White North: Claiming Queer People of Color Histories in the Twin Cities.” Co-authored with Brandon Lacy Campos and Jessica Giusti. *Queer Twin Cities*, Knopp et al, eds. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 90-118.

Book Reviews

- 2022 “*Arab Routes: Pathways to Syrian California*. By Sarah M. A. Gualtieri.” Book review. *Southern California Quarterly*. Vol. 104, No. 1 (Spring): 132-134.

PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Guest Lectures

- 2020 Roundtable on Refugee Lifeworlds, “The 1980 Refugee Act after 40 Years: Is There a Minnesota School of Refugee Studies?” Symposium Organized by the Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, April 17. *Canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic*.
- 2016 “Racing and Gendering Arab America: History, Culture, Politics,” Bates College, October 17.
- 2014 “Peddling an Arab American History,” University of Michigan, November 18.

Organized Conference Sessions, Roundtables, Workshops, and Moderations

- 2020 Roundtable Organizer, “Approaches to Arab American Studies Marginalization in the Age of Anti-Muslim and Anti-Black Racisms.” Arab American Studies Association Triennial Conference, San Diego, April 3-5. *Canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic*.
- 2017 Invited Panel, “Arab American Studies: State of the Field,” Organization of American Historians Conference, New Orleans, April 6-9.
- 2015 Session Organizer, “Arab American Studies: A Roundtable Discussion on the State of the Field.” Immigrant America Conference, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, October 24.
- 2011 Session Organizer, “Not So Disciplined: Challenging Ethnic and Area Studies through Queer, Arab/SWANA Scholarship.” Critical Ethnic Studies Conference, University of California, Riverside, March 10-12.
- 2008 Discussant for “Motions” panel at Queer Motions Conference, University of Minnesota, April 5.

Papers Presented at Professional Conferences

- 2022 “Historicizing Arab Immigrant Relationships to Indigenous Sovereignty in the United States and Canada.” Arab American Studies Association Conference, San Diego, CA, March 25-27.
- 2017 “The Refusal to Be Known.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 9-12.
- 2016 “Seeking Pleasure Queerly in the Early Arab American Diaspora.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, November 10-13.
- 2014 “Imaging and Imagining Pleasure in Early Arab American Communities.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, November 6-9.
- 2014 “Arab Americans and U.S. Settler Colonialism: Migrants and Intermediaries.” Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 16-19.
- 2014 “Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Early Arab American History: Alixa Naff’s Peddling Thesis.” Arab American Studies Association Conference, Dearborn, MI, April 4-6.
- 2013 “Untenable Lives: Arab Women Peddlers and the Social Welfare Archive.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH, November 7-10.
- 2013 “Finding Arabs in the Archive: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Strategy,” Arab American History and Literature Symposium, University of Minnesota, October 25.
- 2012 “Narrative Structures of Arab American History.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18.
- 2012 “The Visual Traces of a Queer Arab Past?” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA, November 8-11.
- 2012 “Arab America Obscura: The Racial Intimacies of Working Class ‘Syrian’ Migrants in the Early 20th Century.” The Center for American Studies and Research 4th International Conference, “Shifting Borders: America and the Middle East/ North Africa,” American University - Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, January 11-14.
- 2011 “Peddling Encounters: ‘Syrian’ Migrants and the Intimacies of Race in Early Arab American History, 1880-1948.” Conference: “Contemporary Research in Arab American Studies: New Trends and Critical Perspectives,” Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, MI, November 4-6.
- 2011 “Peddling Encounters: Sex, Gender, and Racial Formation in the Border Spaces of Early Arab American Migration History.” Conference: Critical Ethnic Studies and the Future of Genocide: Settler Colonialism/Heteropatriarchy/White Supremacy, University of California, Riverside, March 10-12.
- 2010 “Peddling Encounters: Sex, Gender, and Racial Formation in the Border Spaces of Early Arab American Migration History.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 18-21.
- 2009 “Theorizing Asian American Studies East of California.” Teaching roundtable with Doug Jensen and Jasmine Kar Tang (University of Minnesota) for Crossroads: IU-Purdue Asian American Studies Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, September 25-26.
- 2009 “Engagements with U.S. Orientalism: Early ‘Syrian’ Immigration and Philip Hitti’s *The Syrians in America*.” Southwest Graduate Conference in Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 25-27.
- 2009 “Picking Up the Pieces: Explorations of Immigration, Assimilation, and Arab-American Identity.” Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association

Conference, Albuquerque, NM, February 24-28.

COURSES OFFERED

Undergraduate

Arab America: Art, Cultural Politics, and Activism
 Arab American Feminisms
 Feminist Research Methods
 Gender and Sexuality in American Orientalism
 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
 Queering U.S. Immigration History
 Transnational Sexualities

Graduate

Intersectionality
 Historicist Approaches to Gender and Sexuality

University Invited Talks

- 2021 "Queer Arab American Histories: Methods of Possibility." Department of American Culture Workshop, University of Michigan, April 7.
- 2019 "Critical Conversations: Sexualities." Department of English, University of Michigan, October 4.
- 2017 "Lightning Talk." Critical Intersectionality Mini-Conference, Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Michigan, November 8.
- 2016 "Seeking Pleasure Queerly in the Early Syrian American Diaspora." Women's Studies Spring Seminar, University of Michigan, April 19.
- 2014 "Peddling an Arab American History: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Early Syrian American Communities." Global Studies Seminar, Denison University, March 10.
- 2012 "'From Peddling it is Only a Step to Begging': 'Syrian' Migrants and the Social Welfare Archive." Global Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Series Talk for Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, April 5.
- 2012 "'Syrian' Peddlers and the Intimacies of Race in Early Arab America." Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies Department Colloquium Talk, University of Minnesota, February 24.
- 2011 "Peddling Encounters: 'Syrian' Migrants and the Intimacies of Race in Early Arab American History." Research-in-Progress Talk for Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, March 21.
- 2009 "Borders and Belonging." "Critical Dialogues: Crossings in American Studies" Speaker Series with Rodrigo Sanchez and Marisa Carr, University of Minnesota, November 2.

ADVISING

Graduate Students*Current*

Sena Duran, Advisor, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Winter 2024
 Belquis Elhadi, Advisor and Dissertation Co-chair, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Winter 2023

Alice Mishkin, Advisor, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Winter 2025

Loveleen Brar, Dissertation Committee Member, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Winter 2025

Adrian King, Prospectus Committee Member, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Winter 2025

Past

Yahya Hafez, Advisor, American Culture, University of Michigan, M.A. 2019

Christina LaRose, Dissertation Committee Member, “Anglophone Arab Women’s Poetry: Women of Color Genealogies, Transnational Subjectivities, and Trauma Recovery,” English and Women’s Studies, University of Michigan, February 2018

Undergraduate Students

Nadia Shebli, Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor, “Deconstructing the Gendered Binary of Cultural Identity Through Arab-Muslim American Women’s Experience with Marital Traditions,” University of Michigan, 2021-2022

Darcey Babikian, Senior Research Reader, “Voluntourism as Gendered Colonialism,” Denison University, Fall 2014

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

2022 Provost’s Early Tenure-Track Faculty Research Support Initiative, ADVANCE Program, University of Michigan

2022 Supporting Careers and Cultivating Excellence, Engagement and Diversity Faculty Grant, ADVANCE Program, University of Michigan

2019 Richard and Lillian Ives Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan

2018 Seed Grant, “The Sexual Politics of Settling: Arab Americans, Settler Colonialism, and the United States,” Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan

2017 Faculty Summer Writing Grant, ADVANCE Program, University of Michigan

2017 Large Course Initiative Grant, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan

2016 Faculty Communities for Inclusive Teaching Grant, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan

2014 Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize, American Studies Association, *Nominee*

2013 Consortium for Faculty Diversity in Liberal Arts Colleges, Postdoctoral Fellowship at Denison University

2013 College of Liberal Arts Ethnic Studies Summer Fellowship, University of Minnesota,

2011 Summer

- Francis Maria Graduate Fellowship in Arab American Studies, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, Fall
- 2010 Francis Maria Graduate Fellowship in Arab American Studies, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, Summer
- 2009 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, Academic Year
- 2008 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, Academic Year
- 2007 Graduate Research Partnership Program, Collaborative research with Professor Lisa Albrecht, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, Summer

CREATIVE PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, & HONORS

- 2015 “Foreword: Intersectionality” *Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America*. Minneapolis, MN. Vol. 16, No. 2.
- 2014 Session Organizer, “Writing self, community, history, memory.” Radius of Arab American Writers (RAWI) National Conference, Minneapolis, MN, September 18-20.
- 2009 Jerry Bradley Award for Creative Writing, Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2008 “The Sweetness of Hauntings.” *Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America*. Minneapolis, MN. Vol. 10.
- 2008 “Lovelessness and Extinguished Spirits.” *¿Nation of Immigrants? Minnesota spoken word artists and poets question the world*. Dir. Bao Phi. The Loft Literary Center.
- 2007 Latitudes Artist Fellowship, Mizna, St. Paul, MN.

SERVICE

National

- 2017-present Editorial Board Member and Peer Reviewer, *Mashriq & Mahjar: A Journal of Middle East and North African Migration Studies*
- 2021 Peer Reviewer, *American Periodicals*
- 2020 Peer Reviewer, *Gender & History*
- 2017 Peer Reviewer, *Amerasia Journal*
- 2016-2018 Member-at-Large, Arab American Studies Association
- 2015-2017 Peer Reviewer, *Kohl: A Journal for Body and Gender Research*
- 2014-2017 Chair, Board of Directors, Mizna (Arab American arts organization)
- 2014 Peer Reviewer, *Feral Feminisms*
- 2011-2014 Member, Board of Directors, Mizna
- 2007-2011 Volunteer, Mizna

Institutional

- 2022, 2018 Reviewer, Boyd/Williams Dissertation Grant Committee, Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG), University of Michigan
- 2021 Reviewer, Institute for the Humanities Graduate Fellowship Committee, University of Michigan

- 2015-present Steering Committee Member, Colonialism, Race, and Sexuality Initiative, IRWG, University of Michigan
- 2013-14 Member, Human Rights Film Festival Committee, Denison University
- 2011-13 Mentor, GLBTA Programs Office, University of Minnesota
- 2010-12 Department Representative, Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota
- 2007-09 Member, Facilities Working Group, Transgender Commission, University of Minnesota

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

- 2020-present Women's and Gender Studies Department Liaison, Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholar Program (MICHHERS), Rackham Graduate School
- 2020-present Rackham Graduate School Faculty Ally for Diversity, Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan
- 2019-2020 Member, University Musical Society, Arab Advisory Council, University of Michigan
- 2017-2021 Mentor, Women's Studies, MICHHERS, Rackham Graduate School
- 2017-2018 Rackham Graduate School Faculty Ally for Diversity, American Culture, University of Michigan
- 2017-2018 Rackham Graduate School Faculty Ally for Diversity, Women's Studies, University of Michigan
- 2016-2017 Member, Islamophobia Working Group, University of Michigan
- 2016 Discussant for *Facing Mirrors* film screening. Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum, University of Michigan, October 20.
- 2016 "Can We Talk About It? Sexuality, Gender, Race, and Labor in the Early Syrian American Diaspora." Keynote address for MEdAN (Middle East Action Network, student group) Community Dinner, University of Michigan, February 19.
- 2013-2015 Member, Faculty of Color and International Faculty (FOCIF) Working Group, Denison University

Departmental

- 2022 Foundational Course Initiative Team Member, Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Center for Research on Teaching and Learning Department Grant, Women's and Gender Studies
- 2021 American Culture Workshop Coordinator, American Culture, University of Michigan
- 2020-2021 Executive Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan
- 2020-2021 Salary Review Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan
- 2017-2018 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Women's Studies, University of Michigan
- 2015-present Advisory Board, Arab and Muslim American Studies, University of Michigan
- 2017 Muslim American Studies Search Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan
- 2017 Lecturer Review Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan
- 2016 Society of Fellows and Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellowships Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan

- 2016 Society of Fellows and Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellowships Committee, Women's Studies, University of Michigan
- 2016 Junior Faculty Representative, Executive Committee, Women's Studies, University of Michigan
- 2015-2016 Member, 80th Anniversary Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan
- 2013-2015 Member, Women's Studies Committee, Denison University
- 2011-2012 Graduate Student Representative, Executive Committee, Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS), University of Minnesota
- 2011-2012 Co-chair, Feminist Studies Graduate Student Association, University of Minnesota
- 2009-2010 Graduate Student Representative, Curriculum Committee, Department of GWSS, University of Minnesota
- 2007-2008 Member, Colloquium Committee, Department of GWSS, University of Minnesota
- 2006-2007 Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of GWSS, University of Minnesota

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Studies Association
- Arab American Studies Association
- Middle East Studies Association
- National Women's Studies Association
- Association for Asian American Studies (past affiliation)
- Organization of American Historians (past affiliation)