

## NAJWA ADRA

Anthropologist

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### SKILLS

• Participatory Development • Heritage and Sustainable Development • Project Design and Implementation • Multi-sectoral Coordination • Field Research • Stakeholder Analysis • Trend Analysis • Adult Literacy • Qualitative Field Research • Training in Implementing the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage.

### TRIBES, MEDIATION AND CUSTOMARY LAW

DFID, RNE, UNDP Yemen Justice Sector Reform Team: *Informal/Formal Dispute Resolution*. Publications: *Tribal Mediation in Yemen and Its Implications to Development, Women and Peacebuilding in Yemen, Qabyala: The Tribal Concept in the Central Highlands of the Yemen Arab Republic*. Field research, lectures.

### HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Multisectoral *literacy pilot* for rural women in Yemen utilizing their own oral poetry as text. Project nominated for UNESCO Prize and chosen as *Best Practice* by CAWTAR, funded by World Bank and Social Fund for Development, Sanaa. UNESCO *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH): Expert Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development*. Organized round table discussion on *Heritage*, American Anthropological Association, Denver. Field research, publications, lectures on ICH, including *oral poetry* and *dancing*.

### GENDER EQUALITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

*Women and Peacebuilding* in Yemen. Established “Women in Development” position, UNICEF, Sanaa. *Situation Analysis*. UNICEF workshop on monitoring effectiveness of radio and television *health* messages. *Field research*: barriers to *breastfeeding* and *contraception* in rural Yemen; *women in agriculture*. *Social exclusion analysis* DFID and WORLD BANK. Challenges and Policies to Implement Yemen’s Quota System for *Female Political Participation*, WORLD BANK. Wrote entries on *Law, Economics* and *Female Body*, Encyclopedia of Women in Islamic Cultures. WORLD BANK Gender and Development Discussion Series. *Project Design* Team for *reproductive health*, Yemen.

### LANGUAGES

• *English* (fluent; excellent writing and editing) • *Arabic* (fluent) *French* (spoken and reading) • *Turkish* (spoken)

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#### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Temple University, Philadelphia, Anthropology, 1983 (Program in Culture and Communication)
- M.A. Brown University, Providence, Anthropology, 1975
- B.A. University of California, Los Angeles, and Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA 1969

#### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

##### **THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF OMAN, Muscat, 2016**

Invited speaker. *International Workshop on Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development*, 15–16 February.

##### **UNESCO, Doha, 2015**

Consultant. Created a template for a mapping of resources on intangible heritage in Yemen. Provided a list of publications, local specialists and institutions in order to assist in mapping of cultural heritage institutions and resources in Yemen. Doha.

##### **UNITED NATIONS, WORLD BANK, EUROPEAN UNION, Larnaca, 2015**

Invited participant, *Consultative Meeting for Yemen*, 6–8 October.

##### **UNESCO, Paris, 2015**

Invited speaker, “Sustainable ICH in Yemen.” *Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage of Yemen*. Expert Meeting on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Yemen. 15–16 July

##### **UNESCO, Istanbul, 2014**

Invited participant, *Expert Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development*, 29 September – 1 October.

##### **UNESCO, Kuwait City, 2014**

Invited participant. Regional Workshop with **ALECSO**, Conceptual Institutional Frameworks for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Arab States. Kuwait City, 7–9 May, and Arab Region Review Meeting. Global Strategy for Strengthening National Capacities for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, 10–11 May.

##### **THE WORLD BANK, 2014**

Invited lecture: *Challenges and Policies to Implement Yemen’s Quota System of Female Political Participation*. MNSSD Gender And Development Discussion Series, Washington, DC, 2 April.

**HAGOP KEVORKIAN CENTER FOR NEAR EASTERN STUDIES, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, 2013–2014**  
Visiting Scholar.

**CITYLORE, New York, 2013 – 2014**  
Consultant and invited speaker. “A Reverence for Words: Understanding Muslim Culture through the Arts.” National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute for Teachers.

**AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR YEMENI STUDIES (AIYS), 2011–2014**  
Fellow. Grant to transcribe and translate collection of *women’s oral poetry* from Yemen’s Central Highlands.

**CITYLORE and POETS HOUSE, New York, 2011–2013**  
Consultant, Speakers bureau. *Poetic Voices of the Muslim World*.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, London, 2012**  
Invited Presenter. *Workshop on Yemeni Tribes and Tribalism* held by the Tri-Departmental Stabilisation Unit. 26 April.

**UNESCO, Abu Dhabi, 2011**  
Invited participant. Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. *Training of Trainers* Workshop, Strengthening National Capacities for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage, 10–14 April.

**UNESCO and QATAR FOUNDATION, 2007**  
Invited presenter. *Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy: Literacy Challenges in the Arab Region. Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches*. Doha, 12–14 March.

**CENTER OF ARAB WOMEN FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (CAWTAR), 2007**  
*Literacy through Poetry/Heritage*. Invited presenter at the Regional Meeting of the Dynamics of Social Practices and Beliefs and Gender Equity: Lessons Learned in the Last 20 Years in Arabic Speaking MENA, Tunis, 27–28 February.

**DFID and WORLD BANK, 2005 – 2006**  
Consultant. Joint Social Exclusion Analysis for **DFID** Yemen Country Assistant Plans (CAP) and **WORLD BANK** Country Social Analysis (CSA). Desk study. Analysis of the causes and impacts of social exclusion on poverty reduction in Yemen and identification of *entry points*, potential *interventions*, and *stakeholders* to address social exclusion.

**WORLD BANK, Yemen, 2005**  
Researcher. **Country Social Analysis**, Yemen. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) with a team of Yemeni researchers. Investigated *gender and livelihoods* issues.

**DFID, NETHERLANDS EMBASSY, UNDP, Sanaa, 2005**

Consultant. Yemen Justice Sector Reform – *Informal/Formal Dispute Resolution*. Identified linkages between informal and formal legal systems.

**DFID, NETHERLANDS EMBASSY, Sanaa, 2004**

Consultant, The Policy Practice Limited. Yemen Study team. *Interviews* and *focus group* discussions with representatives of NGOs and CSOs, including tribal leaders. Wrote sections on *tribalism, gender, health, education* and *children and youth* of the final report.

**WORLD BANK and SOCIAL FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT, Sanaa, 2000–2003**

Consultant. Project Coordinator. Piloted multi-sectoral *literacy* project designed to empower rural *women* in Yemen utilizing their own *oral poetry* and oral literature to teach reading and writing skills. Project nominated for a UNESCO Prize. Chosen as *best practice*: Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), World Bank's Improving Women's Lives: *World Bank Actions Since Beijing*, p. 21; and UNESCO's Information Kit on Intangible Cultural Heritage. *Project design, action research, results based management*, facilitated implementation, prepared evaluation report, publications. Responsible for *budget* and disbursement of World Bank Funds.

**NEW YORK FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS (NYFA), New York, 1999 – 2002**

Outreach Coordinator. *Diversified* the applicant and panel pools for NYFA fellowships. Reached out to communities of *artists of color* throughout New York State using semi-structured *interviews, focus group* discussions and *stakeholder workshops*. Provided information on grants and funding opportunities. *Developed a database of artists of color and artists from other under-represented communities*. Formed a *network of artists* active in their respective communities who are willing to serve as liaisons with NYFA. *Recruited* and *trained* new Outreach Coordinator.

**FORD FOUNDATION, New York, 1994–1996**

Consultant, *Africa and Middle East Program*. *Recruited* candidates for position of program officer (PO) in Poverty Alleviation, Cairo office, PO in Human Rights, Johannesburg, and PO in Rights and Social Justice, Lagos. Developed a roster of contacts. Solicited and processed applications. Prepared a *guide on the recruiting process*, which provided the model for subsequent recruiting practices of the Office of Human Resources, Ford Foundation.

**HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY, Hempstead, NY, 1994**

Adjunct Assistant Professor in *visual anthropology*.

**UNICEF, Sanaa, 1984 – 1986**

Consultant. *Women in Development* (WID). Developed framework for job description and recruited Yemeni National Project Officer for WID. *Advocacy*, planned *policies* and programmes to enhance *women's participation* in development. *Creativity Workshop* in *Health Education* for Sanaa Radio and Television Programmers. Authored *Situation Analysis* on women, including annex on the situation of *children* in Yemen and bibliography on women and children in Yemen.

**USAID, Sanaa, 1984**

Consultant, Pritech. *Project Design* Mother and child *health/family planning* program in the Yemen Arab Republic. *Social soundness analysis* according to USAID guidelines.

**USAID, Sanaa, 1984**

Consultant, Agricultural Extension, Consortium for International Development. *Participatory evaluation* of Ibb Secondary Agricultural Institute Project in the Yemen Arab Republic. *Participatory survey (trend analysis, focus group discussions, interviews)* to determine the appropriateness of learning in the project. Focused on increasing the impact of extension agents on women farmers in Yemen.

**FAO, Yemen Arab Republic, 1983**

*Field research* on impact of male outmigration on **women's** roles in food production. *Trend analysis, participant-observation, interviews* with farmers, fishermen, and government officials, desk review. *Gender analysis* disaggregated by region, social status, household type.

**POPULATION COUNCIL, MEAwards, Yemen Arab Republic, 1983**

*Field research* on local perceptions of *breastfeeding, fertility* and *infant care* in al-Ahjur in the rural northern highlands of Yemen. Collected data on traditions of child-spacing and infant care.

**TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, Philadelphia, 1978–1983**

*Doctoral candidate in anthropology. Field research* on the *semiotics of dancing* in al-Ahjur, Yemen Arab Republic. *Participant-observation, interviews, desk review. Doctoral dissertation: Qabyala: The Tribal Concept in the Central Highland of the Yemen Arab Republic.*

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### TRIBES, MEDIATION AND CUSTOMARY LAW

2016 Tribal Mediation and Empowered Women: Potential Contributions of Heritage to National Development in Yemen. *International Journal of Islamic Art*. 5(2):301–337.

2016 Tribalism. *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, Vol. 2, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition. Richard C. Martin, ed. Pp. 1185–1188. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale.

2015 Don't Throw Out the Baby With Social Evolution: Revisiting "Tribe" in MENA. *Anthropology News*, November–December.

2015 After the Bombing: Can Tribal Institutions Help Rebuild Yemen? *Insight on Conflict*, <http://www.insightonconflict.org/2015/05/can-tribal-institutions-help-rebuild-yemen/>

2013 Women and Peacebuilding in Yemen: Challenges and Opportunities. Policy Brief, **Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF)**. Available online: <http://www.peacebuilding.no/Regions/Middle-East-and-North-Africa/The-Gulf/Publications/Women-and-peacebuilding-in-Yemen-challenges-and-opportunities>. Reprinted in **Open Democracy**, January 21, 2014: <http://www.opendemocracy.net/arab-awakening/najwa-adra/women-and-peacebuilding-in-yemen-challenges-and-opportunities>

2011 Tribal Mediation in Yemen and Its Implications to Development. **AAS Working Papers in Social Anthropology**, 19:1–17. Available online: <http://epub.oeaw.ac.at/wpsainhalt?frames=yes>

1983 **Qabyala: The Tribal Concept in the Central Highlands of the Yemen Arab Republic**. Doctoral Dissertation in Anthropology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

## INTANGIBLE HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2016 Tribal Mediation and Empowered Women: Potential Contributions of Heritage to National Development in Yemen. **International Journal of Islamic Art**. 5(2):301–337.

2009 Literacy Programme through Teaching Traditional Oral Poetry: The Case of Rural Women in Yemen. Fact Sheet. In **Information Kit on Intangible Cultural Heritage**. Paris: **UNESCO**.

2008 Learning through Heritage, Literacy through Poetry. **Adult Education and Development**, 70. Available online in English, French and Spanish: [http://www.dvv-international.de/index.php?article\\_id=731&clang=1](http://www.dvv-international.de/index.php?article_id=731&clang=1)

2004 Literacy Through Poetry: A Pilot Project for Women in the Republic of Yemen. **Women's Studies Quarterly**, 32(1&2):226–243.

2004 The Relevance of Intangible Heritage to Development. **Anthropology News**, 45(3):24.

1999 What's Art Got To Do With It? (Commentary on the theme: What is Relevant About Anthropology?) **Anthropology Newsletter**, May, p.15.

1996 The "Other" as Viewer: Reception of Western and Arab Televised Representations in Rural Yemen. In **The Construction of the Viewer: Media Ethnography and the Anthropology of Audiences**. P. I. Crawford and S. B. Hafsteinsson, eds. Pp. 255–269. Høbjerg: Intervention Press.

1984 Affluence and the Concept of the Tribe in the Central Highlands of the Yemen Arab Republic (co-authored with Daniel Martin Varisco). In **Affluence and Cultural Survival**, R. F. Salisbury and E. Tooker, eds. Pp. 134–149. Washington, DC: The American Ethnological Society.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

2016 Tribal Mediation and Empowered Women: Potential Contributions of Heritage to National Development in Yemen. *International Journal of Islamic Art*. 5(2):301–337.

2013 Women and Peacebuilding in Yemen: Challenges and Opportunities. Policy Brief, *Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF)*. Available online: <http://www.peacebuilding.no/Regions/Middle-East-and-North-Africa/The-Gulf/Publications/Women-and-peacebuilding-in-Yemen-challenges-and-opportunities>. Reprinted in *Open Democracy*, January 21, 2014: <http://www.opendemocracy.net/arab-awakening/najwa-adra/women-and-peacebuilding-in-yemen-challenges-and-opportunities>

2013 [1983] The Impact of Male Outmigration on Women's Roles in Agriculture in The Yemen Arab Republic. A revised and updated version of a report originally prepared for *FAO* in 1983. Available in pdf at: <http://www.najwaadra.net/impact.pdf>  
2006–2007 Articles for the *Encyclopedia of Women in Islamic Cultures*. Suad Joseph, ed. Leiden: Brill. The Gulf and Yemen Law: Customary. Yemen (Vol. II: 418–419, 2006). Body: Female. Yemen (Vol. III: 47–48, 2006). Economics: Agricultural Labor. Yemen (Vol. IV: 136–137, 2007); Economics: Land Reform. Yemen (Vol. IV: 215, 2007).

2006 *Social Exclusion Analysis, Yemen*. Unpublished report for *DFID* and *WORLD BANK*. Available in pdf at: <http://www.najwaadra.net/devrprts.html>

1986 *Situation Analysis – Women*. *UNICEF*, Sanaa, Yemen Arab Republic. Includes Bibliography of Women and Children in YAR, and an annex, The Situation of Children in YAR.

1983 *Local Perceptions of Breastfeeding, Fertility and Infant Care in Al-Ahjur, Yemen Arab Republic*. Report prepared for the *Population Council*, Cairo, Egypt.

## JURIES AND EVALUATION PANELS

### GRANT PROPOSALS

*National Endowment for the Humanities* (1993), *American Institute for Yemeni Studies* (1992–1996, 2006, 2010), U.S. *Department of Labor* (2008), *Citylore and Poets House* (2011, 2013, 2014), *Qatar National Research Fund* (2012, 2013), *University of Granada* (2015).

### FILMS

Juror, *Society for Visual Anthropology*, Ethnographic Film Festival (1996); Previewed films submitted to this festival (2004–2006). *Murshidat: Female Primary Health Care Workers Transforming Society in Yemen*, Directed by Delores Walters (2000).

## FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

***Literacy through Poetry/Heritage*** cited as best practice in ***Improving Women's Lives: World Bank Actions Since Beijing***, p. 21, and by the ***Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)***. Presented at ***UNESCO/Qatar Foundation Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy: Literacy Challenges in the Arab Region. Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches***, Doha, 2007. Nominated for ***UNESCO Prize***. Research fellowships: ***American Institute for Yemeni Studies***, 2011–2014, 2005. ***Population Council Middle East Awards in Population and Development (MEAwards)***, 1983. ***National Science Foundation Grant for Improving Doctoral Dissertation Research***, 1978–1979.