

NAJWA ADRA

Anthropologist

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SKILLS

- Adult Literacy • Sustainable Development • Gender Mainstreaming • Heritage • Project Design and Implementation • Multi-sectoral Coordination • Stakeholder Analysis • Qualitative Field Research •

LITERACY 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 and World Bank. Funded by World Bank and Social Fund for Development, Sanaa.

GENDER EQUALITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Established “Women in Development” position, UNICEF, Sanaa. *Situation Analysis. Social exclusion analysis* DFID and WORLD BANK. Challenges and Policies to Implement Yemen’s Quota System for *Female Political Participation*, WORLD BANK, Gender and Development Discussion Series. *Project Design* Team for *reproductive health*, Yemen. *Field research: women in agriculture*, barriers to *breastfeeding* and *contraception* in rural Yemen. *Publications: Tribal Mediation and Empowered Women: Potential Contributions of Heritage to National Development in Yemen*. NOREF, *Women and Peacebuilding* in Yemen. Entries on *Law, Economics* and *Female Body*, Encyclopedia of Women in Islamic Cultures.

HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DFID, RNE, UNDP Yemen Justice Sector Reform Team: *Informal/Formal Dispute Resolution*. UNESCO *Expert Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development*. Trained in implementing the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage. Field Research, Publications, Lectures, Panels,

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

INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON EXITING VIOLENCE (IPEV) (2017–2018)
Member. Working Group on Women and Violence.

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.

INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPING ECONOMIES (IDE–JETRO) (2015)
Invited presenter. Special Meeting of Yemeni Researchers in Japan. Makuhari, Japan June 5.

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.

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.

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.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

LITERACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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.

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.

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/>

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>

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

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.

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), ***UNESCO*** (2016), ***BRITISH COUNCIL CULTURAL PROTECTION GRANT*** (2017).

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.