

HEBA ALNAJADA

History of Art & Architecture, Boston University
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EDUCATION

- PhD **University of California, Berkeley**
Architectural History, Designated Emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies,
2022.
- MA **University of Sheffield**
Urban Design (Distinction), 2011.
- BSc **University of Jordan**
Architecture, 2009

EMPLOYMENT

- Assistant Professor **Boston University**
Department of History of Art & Architecture, 2023-Present.
- Postdoctoral Fellow **University of California, Davis**
Department of History, UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow, 2022-23.
- Teaching Fellow **University of California, Berkeley**
Department of Architecture, 2017-2020.
- Full-time Lecturer **German Jordanian University**
School of Architecture and the Built Environment, 2012-16.
- Visiting Scholar **TU Dortmund University**
Department of Spatial Planning, Fall 2015.
- Part-time Lecturer **University of Jordan**
Department of Architecture, Fall 2011.

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2022-23 (60K USD).
- Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2022-23 (65K USD, Declined).
- Mellon/ACLS Doctoral Fellowship, 2021-22 (43K USD).
- Global Urban Humanities-Townsend Fellowship, Spring 2020 (21k USD)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Article

- 2023 “‘This Camp Is Full of Hujaj!’: Claims to Land and the Built Environment in a Contested Palestinian Refugee Camp in Amman.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 43, no. 3 (December 1, 2023): 275–92.
- 2023 “From the Prophet’s Hijra to Ottoman Refugee Villages to Palestinian Camps and Syrian Sanctuary: An Alternative Genealogy of Refugee Spaces.” *Change Over Time: An International Journal of Conservation and the Built Environment* (Under Review, Expected Summer 2024)
- 2023 “When the Palestinian Camp Became a “Squatter Settlement” *Journal of Refugee Studies* (Under Review, Expected Fall 2024)

Books

- 2014 Alnajada, Heba, Mohammad Aljabi, Liyan Jabi, Christoph Lueder, and Alexandru Malaescu, (eds.) *Mapping Jabal Al-Natbif*. Berlin: Heinrich Böll Foundation. Barcelona: Apograf publishers, 2014. ([Full book](#))

Works in Progress

- 2023 “*Hijra, Land, Camps, Sanctuary: Genealogies of Refuge*” Book manuscript in progress.

Conference Proceedings

- 2015 Alnajada, Heba, and Ohoud Kamal. “Socio-Spatial Reader: Exploring the Potential of Narrative in Jabal Al Natheef Informal Camp.” In *Transformation of the Urban Character of Arab Cities Since the Late Last Century: Proceedings of the International Conference Held at German Jordanian University, Amman, Jordan 22-24 April 2015*, edited by Bushra Zalloom and Mohsen Aboutorabi, 122–39. Birmingham, UK: Birmingham City University, 2015.

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 [When the Palestinian Refugee Camp Became a “Squatter Settlement.”](#) Virtual Talk sponsored by UC Davis Department of History; the Middle East/South Asian Studies Program; the Human Rights Studies Program; and the Global Migration Center at UC Davis (May 24, 2023).
- 2022 “Claims to Territory as a Pattern of City-Space-Making,” Peer-selected paper, co-authored with Ohoud Kamal. Presented for ‘The Profession’s Extensions: Architecture Beyond Architects in the Modern Middle East’ Symposium at Princeton University (May 14, 2022).
- 2021 “When the Camp Became a Squatter Settlement: A Story of Construction, Demolition, and Low-Resolution,” Peer-Selected and Peer-Reviewed Paper. Presented for Camp Histories Workshop organized by Mezna Qato and Kjersti Gravelseter Berg (December 3, 2021).

- 2021 “This Camp is. Full of Hujjaj”: Land Tenure and Property in the Shadow of Black September,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting (MESA), Panel: “Politics of Place and Displacement: Afghanistan, Morocco, Oman, Palestine” (November 30, 2021)
- 2021 “Refugees & Urban Land Tenure” Guest Lecture for Giselle Mendonça Abreu’s Urbanization in Developing Countries Class at the Department of City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley (Virtual, June 15, 2021).
- 2021 “Mapping and Countermapping the Palestinian Camp,” Virtual Talk for Ayham Dalal’s Refugees and Urban Space Class at Vassar College (April 5, 2021).
- 2019 Presentation: “In-between ‘Refugee’ and Hijrā: Empty Spaces for Syrian Refugees in Jordan.” Critical Refugee Studies Collective Conference, UC Merced (Merced, November 16, 2019)
- 2019 “Spaces of Hospitality,” Human Rights Fellowship Conference, School of Law, UC Berkeley (Berkeley, October 26, 2019)
- 2019 “Caravans in the Desert: The Case of Za’atari Syrian Refugee Camp in Jordan,” Center for Race and Gender Forum, UC Berkeley (Berkeley, October 24, 2019).
- 2018 “The Subjectivity of the NGO Architect,” Talk for MIT, Future Heritage Lab & Amman Design Week, (Amman, July 2018)

CONFERENCES, PANELS & SYMPOSIA ORGANIZATION

Conference Organization

- 2015 Transformation of Urban Character of Arab Cities (Twentieth Century to the Present), Joint Conference between Birmingham City University and German Jordanian University, Conference Co-Organizer (Madaba, Jordan, April 22-24, 2015).

Panel and Symposia Organization

- 2024 The Histories of Camps, Co-Organizer and Co-Chair, CAA 112TH Annual Conference (Chicago, USA, February 14–17, 2024).
- 2019 Carceral (Im)Mobilities: Architectures of the Migrant Camp, the Refugee Camp, and the Labor Camp, Organizer and Presenter, Center for Race and Gender Forum, UC Berkeley (Berkeley, October 24, 2019).
- 2019 Dispossession in Motion: Migration, Displacement, Knowledge, Co-organizer, Department of Architecture, UC Berkeley (Spring 2020, Cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic).
- 2014 “Formalization, Regularization, and the Informal Camp,” (Organizer and Chair) Columbia Global Center Mapping Jabal Al-Nathif Book Launch, October 2014.

INTERVIEWS

- 2021 [Land, Camps, and the Remains: Heba Alnajada on the History of the Syrian Refugee Crisis](#).
Interview by Julia Sizek. *Social Science Matrix* website. November 3, 2021

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Webinars

- 2022 Settler Colonialism & Architecture Talk Series (Co-organizer), Department of Architecture, UC Berkeley (Spring 2022).
- 2021 Race & Architecture Talk Series (Co-organizer), Department of Architecture, UC Berkeley (Spring 2021).
- 2019 Arab Cities in Film (Curator), Department of Architecture, UC Berkeley (Fall 2021).

Guest Lectures

- 2020 Graduate Student Speaker for K-12 and Community College Students, Office of Resources for International and Area Studies, UC Berkeley, Presentation Title : “Borders and the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Jordan” (2019-20)

SELECT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-founder [Arini](#), a research and design institute focusing on socially engaged architecture in the Middle East (2012-Present).

Co-founder [herskhazeen.com](#), an online magazine for urbanism, architecture, and design in Middle Eastern countries (2012-Present).

Urban Planner and Research Consultant, Sana’a Masterplan 2030, 2013-2014.

Consultant, Bethany Beyond the Jordan: Baptism Site World Heritage Report, 2014.

Researcher, Center for the Study of the Built Environment, 2011-12.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Writing Fellowships

- Graduate Division’s Summer Dissertation Writing Grants for Advanced Arts and Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences 2022 (8k)
- Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship 2021-22 (43k USD)
- Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2021-22 (29k USD; Declined)
- Townsend Dissertation Fellowship 2021-22 (UC Berkeley; Finalist)
- Department of Architecture Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Spring 2021 (UC Berkeley; 20k USD)
- Global Urban Humanities-Townsend Fellowship, Spring 2020 (UC Berkeley; 21k USD)
- IJURR Foundation Studentship within the Field of Urban and Regional Planning, 2019-20 (15k Euro)

Research Grants

- The Joan E. Draper Architectural History Endowment, 2021 (UC Berkeley; 7.5k USD)
- Global Metropolitan Studies Summer Research Grant, Summer 2021 (UC Berkeley; 5k USD)
- Al-Sultan Program in Arab Studies, 2020 (Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley; 5k USD)
- Al-Falah Program in Islamic Studies, 2019 (Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley; 7.5k USD)
- Critical Refugee Studies Collective Grant, 2019 (University of California; 7.5k USD)
- Human Rights Fellowship, Summer 2018 (Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley School of Law; 5k USD)
- Institute of International Studies Pre-Dissertation Grant, Summer 2017 (Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley; 5k USD)

Multi-Year Fellowships

- Eva Li Fellowship, 2016-2018 (Department of Architecture, UC Berkeley; 60k USD and tuition remission)

Course and Program Development Grants

- Remote Instruction Grant. For online course prep during the COVID Pandemic (College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley; 2.5k USD)
- Course Enhancement Grant. Design & Activism for the Art+Design initiative (Global Urban Humanities, UC Berkeley; 5 USD)

SELECT ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

- Omrania/CSBE Award for Architectural Design
First Prize Winning Project, 2009 Cycle
Project: [Ain Ghazal Interpretation Park](#)
Jury: Saleh Al-Hathloul, Vladimir Djurovic, Khalid Nahhas
- WISH Workshop for Low Income Housing
Universita di Svizzera Italiana, Selected participant, 2008

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: October 7, 1986
Citizenship: Jordanian; US F-1 Visa (OPT)

LANGUAGES

Arabic: Native speaker

English: Advanced oral and written level (TOEFL score: 104, tested October 2015)

French: Medium oral and written level

MEMBERSHIPS

Member of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

Member of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEG)