

NOVA ROBINSON

Seattle University
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EDUCATION

- 2015 **Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**, New Brunswick, NJ
Ph.D. in History

Dissertation: “Sisters of Men’: Syrian and Lebanese Women’s
Transnational Campaigns for Arab Independence and Women’s Rights,
1910-1949”
- 2008 **Dartmouth College**, Hanover, NH
A.B. *cum laude* in History with honors

EMPLOYMENT

- Sept. 2015 - Present **Seattle University**, Seattle, Washington
Tenure-track Assistant Professor, History Department and International
Studies Program. Affiliated with the Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Studies Program

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Forthcoming *Truly Sisters: Arab Women and International Women’s Rights* (under
review at Stanford University Press. Submitted May 2019)
- 2020 *Routledge Global History of Feminism* (under contract with Routledge),
co-Editor with Bonnie G. Smith

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2019 "Jerry Cans and Shrapnel Collections: Using Graphic Novels to Teach the Lebanese Civil War," *Arab Studies Journal* (Fall 2019).
- 2018 "Review Essay: Digitizing Women's and Gender History in the Middle East," *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 14.2 (2018): 213-216.
- 2016 "Arab Internationalism and Gender: Perspectives from the Third Session of the UNCSW, 1949," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49.3 (2016): 578-583.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- Forthcoming "Feminism as Global Endeavor" in *Routledge Global History of Feminism*, Bonnie G. Smith and Nova Robinson, eds. (Routledge, forthcoming 2020).
- Forthcoming "Blue Lines and Red Splatters: Art Therapy and Children's Visual Stories of the Lebanese Civil War" in *Women's War Stories: The Lebanese Civil War as Lived by Women*, Malek Abisaab and Michelle Hartman, eds. (McGill University Press, expected 2020. Submitted September 2019).
- 2018 "'Women's point of view was apt to be forgotten': The Liaison Committee of International Women's Organizations' Campaign for an International Women's Convention, 1920-1953" in *The Institution of International Order: From the League of Nations to the United Nations*, Simon Jackson and Alanna O'Malley, eds. (Routledge, 2018), 136-162.

Conference Volumes

- Forthcoming "Nour Hamada's Answer to the 'Women's Question': Include 'Eastern' Perspectives," in *Druze Millennium: Celebrating a Thousand Years of Diversity* (American University of Beirut Press, expected 2020. Submitted March 2019)
- Forthcoming "Lobbying the League": Syro-Lebanese Women's Transnational Anti-Colonial Activism, 1935-1950," in *Transnational Transgressions*, Eileen Boris, Sandra Dawson, and Barbara Molony, eds. (Routledge, expected 2019. Submitted July 2019)
- 2019 "Activist as Expert: Representation from the French Mandate for Syria on the Committee of Experts on the Legal Status of Women" in *Experts and Expertise in the League of Nations Mandates: Figures, Fields, and Tools* (in press. Submitted June 2015).

Manuscripts Under Review

“Sisters in Asia’: The All-Asian Women’s Conference and Anti-Colonial Internationalism”

Books in Progress

Fighting for Representation: The Internationalization of Women’s Rights at the League of Nations (anticipated press submission 2021)

Articles in Progress

“Photos as Petitions: Documenting Violence in French Mandate Syria”

“The Village Welfare Society and the Gendered Power of Development Discourse in Post-Independence Lebanon”

Book Reviews

- 2019 “Women’s Political Activism in Palestine: Peacebuilding, Resistance, and Survival,” Sophie Richter-Devroe. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* (Fall 2019).
- “Women and Gender in Iraq: Between Nation-Building and Fragmentation,” Zahra Ali. *The Middle East Journal* (Summer 2019).
- “A History of the Modern Middle East: Rulers, Rebels, and Rogues,” Betty S. Anderson. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 51.2 (2019): 321-323.
- 2017 “Negotiating Palestinian Womanhood: Encounters between Palestinian Women and American Missionaries, 1880s-1940s,” Enaya Hammad Othman. *Women and Social Movements* 21.2. Online.
- 2015 “Arab Feminisms: Gender and Equality in the Middle East,” ed. Jean Said Makdisi, Noha Bayoumi, and Rafif Rida Sidawi. *Women’s History Review* 24:2.
- 2014 “Women in Iraq: Past Meets Present,” by Noga Efrati. *Women’s History Review* 23:3.
- 2014 “Women and Knowledge in the Mediterranean,” ed. Fatima Sadiqi. *Mashriq & Mahjar*. 2:1.

Published Lectures

- 2019 "From Home to Nation: The Evolution of Julia Dimashqiyya's Ideas about Women's Roles in Lebanese Society," *Near East Theological Review* 40.1 (2019): 3-27.

Web-Based Publications

- 2017 "Arab Feminism in Periods of Transition," with Marilyn Booth Ottoman History Podcast, Episode 335, October 8.
- 2016 "From Charity Work to Crafting Constitutions: Women and Social and Political Transformation in the Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Eastern Mediterranean, 1860-1960," *Women and Social Movements in Modern Empires since 1820* (Alexander Street Press), December 15. (Peer reviewed)
- 2014 "Researching the Middle East and North Africa after 2011: Challenges, Queries, and Questions' Symposium Report," *Jadaliyya*, November 1.
- "Workshop Report: 'Arab Nationalism: From the Ottoman Empire to the Colonial Mandates,'" University of Basel, September 11-12, 2014," *H-Turk*, October 2.

AWARDS

- 2019 Student Executive Committee "Teacher of the Year," College of Arts and Sciences, Seattle University
Voted by students in the College of Arts and Sciences

FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS

- 2019 Summer Faculty Research Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, Seattle University
- 2018 Bernadotte Schmitt Research Grant, American Historical Association
- 2016-2017 Student Assistantship Grant, Seattle University
- 2016-2017 Jesuit Mission Fellowship, Seattle University
- 2016 Summer Faculty Fellowship, Seattle University

- 2014 - 2015 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Rutgers University
- 2014 Hybrid Course Conversion Grant, Rutgers University
- 2013 - 2014 Institute for Research on Women Fellowship, Rutgers University
 "Decolonizing Gender/Gendering Decolonization" Seminar
- 2011 - 2012 Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis Fellowship, Rutgers University
 "Narratives of Power: New Articulations of Race, Gender,
 Sexuality, and Class" Seminar
- 2008 - 2009 Fulbright IIE, Manama, Bahrain; Amman, Jordan
 Researched historical trends in the rights vocabularies used by
 women in Bahrain.

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

- 2018 Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, Lebanese American
 University, Beirut
- Center for Arab and Middle East Studies, American University in Beirut,
 Beirut

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 "Sisters in Asia': The Struggle over Defining Women's Rights at the
 League of Nations and Early United Nations," University of Hong Kong,
 September 12.
- 2018 "Lebanon's 'Sisters of Men' and the Foundations of the Lebanese
 Women's Movement," Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World,
 Lebanese American University, Beirut, October 23.
- "Transnational Lebanese Feminism," Center for Arab and Middle East
 Studies (CAMES), American University in Beirut, October 22.
- "Julia Dimashqiyya and the Protestant Influence on Women's Rights in
 Lebanon," Near East School of Theology (NEST), Beirut, October 18.
- 2017 "Syrian 'Sisters of Men' and the Gendering of Arab Internationalism,
 1938-1949," Voices in the Middle East Lecture Series, University of

Washington-Seattle, November 13.

"The Women's Movement and the Invention of the International" in Dr. Mika Ahuvia's "Protest Movements in the US and the World" Course, University of Washington-Seattle, October 12.

"Migrations in the Middle East: Past and Present," Roundtable, University of Washington-Seattle, February 23.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Conferences Organized

- 2014 "Researching the Middle East and North Africa after 2011: Challenges, Queries, and Questions" Research Symposium, Rutgers University, October 17.
- 2011 33rd Annual Warren I. Susman Graduate Conference, "The Inescapable Interrelatedness of ... Things," Rutgers History Department, March 26.

Panels Organized

- 2020 "Continuities and Ruptures: Gender, Geopolitics, and the Making of the Modern Middle East," co-organized with Kate Dannies, *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, January 2-5.
- 2019 "Women in Lebanon: From Late Colonialism to Early Independence" co-organized with Ziad Abu-Rish, *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 14-17.
- 2018 "Writing Past Lives: Gender, Biography, and History" co-organized with Catherine Batruni, *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 15-18.
- 2017 "Gendered Transformations: 'New Women' of the Mandate Period" co-organized with Camila Pastor, *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 18-21.
- 2016 "Digitizing Women's and Gender History: A Way Forward for the Field?" *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 17-20.

"Shaping International Governance: The League of Nations and UN in the Middle East (1920-1985)," co-organized with Anat Mooreville, *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 17-20.

2015 "Contesting the Meaning of 'International' Governance: Minorities and the League of Nations," *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, January 2-5.

Papers Presented

2020 "Syrian Women's Anti-Colonial Nationalist Organizing, 1918-1927," *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, January 2-5.

2019 "Reaching Rural Women: The Village Welfare Society, Women's Rights, and Development Discourse in Post-Independence Lebanon," *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 14-17.

2019 "The Committee of Experts on the Legal Status of Women and Measuring the Status of 'All the World's Women,'" *A Century of Internationalisms Conference*, Lisbon, September 18-22.

2018 "Eveline Bustros and the Limits of Historical Biography," *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 15-18.

"Lobbying the League: Syrian and Lebanese Women's Transnational Anti-Colonial Activism, 1920-1946," *International Federation for Research on Women's History Conference*, Vancouver, Canada, August 9-12.

"Photos as Petitions: Documenting Colonial Abuses During the Syrian Revolt, 1925" *The First Century of Photography: Photography as History/Historicizing Photography in Ottoman Territories Workshop*, Istanbul, Turkey, June 19-21.

"Between 'Arab' and 'Eastern': Women's Conferences and Anti-Colonial Identities in Interwar Syria," *French Colonial History Society Conference*, May 31-June 2.

2017 "Showcasing the New Arab Woman Abroad: Syrian Women's Speaking Tours in the United States in the 1940s," *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 18-21.

"Seeking 'Eastern' Representation: Syrian and Lebanese Women and the Development of International Women's Rights Norms at the League of Nations," *Berkshire Conference on Women*, June 1-4.

- 2016
- "Fraud or Chameleon: Nour Hamada's Transnational Campaigns for Women's Rights, 1931-1939," *Fraud, Fake and Make-believe: Transregional and Transdisciplinary Perspectives*, Goethe Universität Frankfurt, Germany, December 1-3.
- "Lebanese Women, 'Eastern' Women's Rights, and the UN Commission on the Status of Women," *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 17-20.
- "The All-Asian Women's Conference And 'Oriental' Women's Rights," *South-South Workshop: Intellectual History across Middle East and South Asia, 1857-1948*, October 20-21.
- "Pursuing Equality in Asia: Regional Women's Rights Consciousness at the All-Asian Women's Conference," *The Global Pursuit of Equality: Women, Networks and Networking 1800-2000*, Oxford University, September 26-27.
- "Photos as Petitions: Syrian Nationalists Campaign for Independence at the League of Nations," *World History Association Conference*, Ghent, Belgium, July 2-5.
- 2015
- "Opportunities and Challenges: Digitizing Sources in Women's History from the Middle East for an English-Speaking Audience," with Seçil Yilmaz, *Women's History in a Digital World*, May 21-22.
- "'Our Great Disappointment': Arab Women's Campaigns for Representation on the League of Nation's Committee on the Legal Status of Women," *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, January 2-5.
- "The Committee of Experts on the Legal Status of Women and Measuring the Status of 'All the World's Women,'" *Experts and Expertise in the League of Nations Mandates: Figures, Fields and Tools*, Paris, March 26-27.
- 2014
- "Adopting 'Arab': World War I and the Development of Women's Pan-Arab Activism," *International Congress on War History Studies*, Çanakkale, Turkey, November 6-8.
- "Pan-Regional Internationalisms: A Counter-Concept to Universal Internationalism?," *Fourth European Congress on World and Global History*, September 4-7.

"Syrian Women, Arab Independence, and Transnational Arab women's Activism in the 1920s and 1930s," *Transnational Feminisms Summer Institute*, July 7-11.

"'Syrian,' 'Lebanese,' 'Arab,' 'Eastern,' 'Oriental': Women's Conferences and the Search for an Identity," *(Un)Civil Society, Past and Present*, April 4-6.

2013 "Arab Women, The League of Nations, and the Politicization of Women's Rights," *Harvard Conference on International History*, March 14-15.

2012 "Before the 'Days of Rage': Registers of Bahraini Women's Activism," *Legal Reform and Political Change Affecting Women in the MENA Region*, Oxford, June 12-13.

"The Progressive Mystique: A Short History of State Feminism in the Kingdom of Bahrain," *BRISMES Graduate Section Annual Conference*, June 11.

"Tracing Transnationalisms: Pan-Arab Women's Activism, 1920-1940," *Susan B. Anthony Institute's 19th Annual Gender and Women's Studies Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference*, March 23-24.

2011 Comment on the February 2011 uprising in Bahrain for a retirement symposium for Gene R. Garthwaite, *Crossing at the Green: Dartmouth in the Middle East*, April 8-9.

2010 "Two Seas and Two Sides: Bahraini Women's Activism, 1955 - 2005," *Columbia Middle East, South Asia and African Studies Conference*, April 15-17.

Discussant

2018 "Identity-Construction through Embodiment, Language and Cinema in Colonial Africa/ Corporéité, langage, cinéma et construction identitaire dans l'Afrique coloniale," *French Colonial History Society Conference*, May 31-June 2, 2018.

2017 "Conducting Archival Research in MENA: Current Challenges, Creative Solutions," *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 18-21.

"Women Thinkers and Islamic Concepts in the Modern Middle East," *Berkshire Conference on Women*, June 1-4.

- 2016 "Digitizing Women's and Gender History: A Way Forward for the Field?"
Middle East Studies Association Conference, November 17-20.
- 2012 "The Role of the Independent Judiciary in Emerging Democracies,"
Columbia Society of International Law's 38th annual Friedmann Conference, Columbia University, April 3.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2019 "The Syrian Crisis: Local, Regional, and International Implications," with
Dr. Onur Bakiner, October 29.
- "Trump and America's Wars in the Middle East," January 16.
- 2017 "Inviting a Global, Intersectional Feminist Awareness into the
Classroom," Center for Faculty Development Panel Discussion, April 27.
- 2015 "The Syrian Conflict in Historical Perspective," Global Awareness
Program, October 20.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Seattle University

History of the Modern Middle East - Fall 2015, Winter 2018
 Women and Gender in the Modern Middle East - Winter 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2017
 Middle East and America since 1776 - Winter 2017, Spring 2019
 Arab-Israeli Conflict - Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Winter 2019
 Syrian Crisis in Context - Fall 2017
 Women's Rights as Human Rights: A Historical Inquiry - Spring 2016, Fall 2016
 Transnational Feminisms - Winter 2019
 Global Histories: Encounters and Exchanges - Twice yearly in Winter and Spring Quarters

Rutgers University

History of the Modern Middle East (50-50 Hybrid) - Summer 2014
 Expository Writing - Fall 2013 (English Department)
 History of the Modern Middle East - Summer 2013
 Age of European Global Expansion - Summer 2012

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019 Preliminary research for a book manuscript on Arab women's solidarity networks with women in Asia in archives in New Delhi, India and London, England.
- 2018 Junior Faculty Leave in Beirut, Lebanon. Final research trip for *Truly Sisters*. Preliminary research on women's organizing during the Lebanese Civil War.
- 2016 Research for *Truly Sisters: Arab Women and International Women's Rights* in institutional and family collections in Beirut, Lebanon and London, England.
- 2012 - 2013 Dissertation research in governmental and institutional archives in Beirut, Lebanon; Geneva, Switzerland; Paris and Nantes, France; Cambridge and Northampton, MA and Washington, DC.
- 2011 Pre-dissertation research in Paris, France; Geneva, Switzerland; Rome, Italy; Cairo, Egypt; and Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2009 Fulbright research in Bahrain.
- 2007 Undergraduate honors thesis research at the Sophia Smith Collection in Northampton, MA.
- 2005 Internship with the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights.

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

- 2017 - Present Manuscript reviewer for the *Journal of Middle Eastern Women's Studies (JMEWS)*
- 2016 - Present Founder of the Arab Women's History Project (AWHP) a digital humanities initiative launching in collaboration with the Institute for Research on Women in the Arab World at the Lebanese American University. Currently seeking grant funding.

2017 - Present Chair of the Women Historians of the Middle East Prize Committee.

2014 - 2018 Associate Editor of the *Bilad al-Sham* (Greater Syria) - 1900-1960, documents in the "Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Eastern Mediterranean, 1860-1960" section of *Women and Social Movements in Modern Empires since 1820* (Alexander Street Press).

2014 - 2016 Association of Middle East Women's Studies Program Committee

University Service

Seattle University

2019 - Present Student Advisement Council

2019 - Present Fellowship Office Mock Interview Team

2018 - 2020 Student Research Grant Committee

2016 - Present Fulbright and Boren Selection Committees

2016 - Present Common Text Discussion Leader

Rutgers University

2011-2015 Founder and President of Middle East Studies Graduate Forum (MESGF)

College Service

2017 - present Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Executive Committee – Women and Gender Studies Program (elected position)

2019 - 2020 Scholar of Islam search committee member – Theology and Religious Studies Department

2016 - 2019 College of Arts and Sciences Global Affairs Committee

2017 Student Assistantship Awards Selection Committee

2015 - Present Convened the "Rights and Justice" Faculty Research Seminar

Series, Panels or Talks Organized

- 2020 "Critical Reflections on the Suffrage Centennial" Speakers Series, a year of events to raise awareness about the hundredth anniversary of the passage of the nineteenth anniversary, which brought Julia Bowes (University of Hong Kong, January 13) and Eileen Boris (University of California, Santa Barbara) to campus among other events
- 2020 "Laboring Toward the City of God: Catholicism and the NYC Labor Movement, 1870-1920," with Patrick McGrath (University of Hong Kong), January 14.
- 2019 "Feminism for the Americas: The Making of an International Human Rights Movement," with Katherine Marino (University of Los Angeles), May 21.
- 2018 "Ambiguous Encounters: North African Soldiers and French Nurse during the First World War," with Dr. Chris Rominger (University of North Florida), May 30.
- "1948 at 70: Reflecting on the Past, Looking to the Future of the Arab-Israeli Conflict," a two-part lecture series with Dr. Laura Robson (University of Portland, April 12) and Dr. Liora Halperin, (UW-Seattle April 26).
- "Kirkuk: Oil and the Making of a City" with Dr. Arbella Bet-Shlimon (UW-Seattle), February 13.
- "The Gender of Forgiveness: Women's Roles in Peacemaking in Iranian Criminal Sanctioning" with Dr. Arzoo Osanloo (UW-Seattle), February 8.
- 2017 "Women and Gender in the Middle East" Series, as part of the Women and Gender Studies Program's 25th Anniversary Celebrations, which brought six outside speakers to campus, Oct-Nov.
- "Surviving Statelessness: Palestinian and Syrian Displacement in the Contemporary Middle East" with Dr. Michael Vincent Pérez (UW-Seattle), April 27.
- "Making and Unmaking Order Under ISIS Rule: The Importance of Banal Regulations" with Michael Degerald (History x ISIS), February 21.
- "Creativity, Resilience, and the Syrian Revolution" with Dr. miriam cooke (Duke University), January 30.
- 2016 "Medical Knowledge and Scientific Discovery in the 20th Century Middle East" Speakers Series, which brought three outside speakers to campus:

Beth Baron (CUNY), Anat Mooreville (UW-Seattle), Sagit Mor (University of Haifa Faculty of Law).

Departmental Service

Seattle University

2018 - 2019	Program Review Committee – International Studies Program
2017 - 2020	Events Committee – Women and Gender Studies Program
2016 - 2018	Learning Outcome Assessment – International Studies Program
2016 - Present	Advisor for <i>Sigma Iota Rho</i> – The International Studies Honors Society
2015 - Present	Honors Thesis Advisor – International Studies Program and History Department
2016 - 2017	Historian of the Ancient World search committee member – History Department
2016 - 2017	Sociologist of Developing World search committee member – International Studies Program

Rutgers University

2009 - 2013	Graduate Education Committee - History Department
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2019 - 2020	“Struggling for Sisterhood: A Global History of International Women’s Rights,” a six-part lecture series at the Seattle University Women’s Club, October - May.
2019	“Democracy in Danger: The Middle East,” a panel discussion at Folio: The Seattle Athenaeum, October 21.
2018	“The Origins of the Arab Women’s Movement,” a two-part lecture series at the Seattle University Women’s Club, August.
2017	High school teacher training session about women and gender in the modern Middle East in collaboration with the World Affairs Council and

- the United States Department of State's Global Classroom Program, November 1.
- 2017 Lecture on history of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen for "A Luke Somers Retrospective: A Day in the Life of Yemen," April 29.
- 2017 Moderated World Affairs Council discussion with Daniel Beniam, "Challenges in the Middle East," April 20.
- 2016 - 2017 "The Syrian Refugee Crisis in Historical Perspective," a six-part lecture series at the Seattle University Women's Club, October - May.
- 2017 Moderated World Affairs Council discussion with Reem Asaad, "Saudi Arabia and Socio-Economic Change in the Digital Age," January 27.
- 2016 Keynote address, "Beijing +21: The Beijing Platform for Action and its Impact on Women's Rights Around the World Today," at the Center for Women & Democracy's "State of Women in the World," November 17.
- 2015 - Present International Rescue Committee volunteer (Seattle area)
- 2015 - Present Salaam Cultural Museum volunteer

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Arabic - fluent in Levanti colloquial; reading proficiency

- 2010-2015 President of "Munakasha," a weekly Arabic discussion circle in NYC
- 2010 Middlebury Summer Language School (Arabic), Oakland, CA · Level 3
- 2008 - 2009 Qasid Language Institute, Amman, Jordan · Level 2

French - speaking proficiency; reading

Italian - fluent

AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
 Lebanese Studies Association
 Middle East Studies Association

Women Historians of the Middle East (WHOME)