

**NAJWA ADRA**

**Anthropologist**

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April 2010

**Participatory Rural Assessment / Monitoring and Evaluation** Participatory rural assessment for sustainable livelihoods analysis, Yemen (2005). Designed and coordinated participatory monitoring and evaluation strategy of Literacy through Poetry pilot (2001-2003). UNICEF workshop on monitoring effectiveness of radio and television health messages (1985). Participatory evaluation of Ibb Secondary Agricultural Institute Project in the Yemen Arab Republic (1984). Tools included: focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews, stakeholder meetings and workshops, trend analysis, participant-observation.

**Tribalism / Customary Law** Identified linkages between informal and formal legal systems as consultant with Yemen Justice Sector Reform Team: proposed project to transfer information on constitutional rights to marginalized communities (2005). Field research on tribal identity and customary law (1978-79, 2005). Publications and reviews on tribal identity and customary law.

**Gender and Reproductive Health** PRA on gender livelihoods, World Bank Country Social Analysis (2005). Mainstreaming gender and health, DfID/RNE Yemen Study Report (2004). Literacy pilot for rural women in Yemen (2000-2003). Established "Women in Development" position, UNICEF, Sanaa: authored *Situation Analysis, Women*; collaborated with Yemen Gov. and NGOs on gender issues; workshop for media producers on communicating health messages (1984-86). Social scientist, project design team for reproductive health program, Yemen (1984). Field research on women's roles in food production (1983-84) and on breastfeeding and fertility in rural Yemen (1983). Invited participant, UNIFEM/UNDP/Gender at Work initiative on Gender and Democratic Governance in Development, New York (December 2008), comments on early draft of *A User's Guide to Measuring Gender-Sensitive Basic Service Delivery*. Lectures and publications on gender in ME.

**Literacy and Diversity in Education** Literacy pilot for rural women in Yemen utilizing their own oral poetry as text, funded by the World Bank and Social Fund for Development, Sanaa: project design, curriculum development, teacher training, assessment of existing education sector programs in Yemen, monitoring and evaluation, outcomes assessment, field visits to rural areas, focus group discussions and interviews with rural stakeholders, workshops (2000-2003). Education report: DfID/RNE Yemen Study Report (2004). In-depth understanding of education theory and expertise on adult literacy approaches and methods.

**Culture and Development / Indigenous Arts** Field research: **intangible heritage** in Yemen (2005, 2001, 1983-86, 1978-79). Chapters in UNESCO manual on Safeguarding Oral Traditions and Expressions (in press). Invited participant, Inventory of Yemen's Cultural Heritage Workshop (2005). Literacy through Poetry pilot (2000-2003). Diversified applicant and panel pools, New York Foundation for the Arts: compiled database and network of artists of color in New York State (1999-2002).

**Editing** Co-editor, *Visual Anthropology Review* (January 2004-December 2006). Co-editor, Middle East Section column, *Anthropology News* (1998-2002).

**Languages** Arabic (fluent), French (spoken and written), Turkish (spoken)

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*Curriculum Vitae, April 2010*  
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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  
Education courses (non-matriculated): Long Island University, C. W. Post Campus, Graduate School of Education, 1970

**SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII), May 2009 - June 2011)**  
Research Fellow (part time) with the Iraqi Oral History Project (IOHP). Interviews with Iraqis in diaspora on the social history of Iraq since the 1930s.

**UNESCO, April–June 2007**

Consultant. *Manual on Safeguarding Oral Traditions and Expressions* (OTE). Contributed several chapters on Yemeni OTE and their functions in society, and on the relevance of OTE to development.

**DFID, Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, November-December 2005**

Consultant Yemen Justice Sector Reform – Informal/Formal Dispute Resolution. With a team of consultants in Sanaa, identified linkages between informal and formal legal systems; proposed project to strengthen linkages and transfer information on constitutional rights to marginalized communities; lectured on tribal relations at DFID briefing.

**DFID and World Bank, August-December 2005**

Consultant Joint Social Exclusion Analysis for DFID Yemen Country Assistant Plans (CAP) and World Bank Country Social Analysis (CSA). Report based on desk study. Analysis of the causes and impacts of social exclusion on poverty reduction in Yemen and identification of entry points, potential actions, and stakeholders to address social exclusion.

**World Bank Country Social Analysis, Yemen, January 2005**

Researcher PRA with a team of Yemeni researchers. Investigated gender and livelihoods issues.

**American Institute for Yemeni Studies, January-March 2005**

Field research on tribalism and dancing in Al-Ahjur, Republic of Yemen. Update of research conducted in 1978-79 in the same highlands community.

**The Policy Practice Limited, September-October 2004**

Consultant Social development specialist/anthropologist on DfID/RNE Yemen Study team. Participated in team travel to Yemen. Conducted interviews and focus group discussions with representatives of NGOs and CSOs, including tribal leaders. Contributed to the final report; responsible for sections on gender, health, education and children and youth.

**The World Bank Group, September 2000-March 2003; Social Fund for Development, Sanaa, April-July 2003.**

Project Coordinator Piloted a literacy project designed to empower rural women in Yemen, that utilizes their own oral poetry and oral literature to teach reading and writing skills. New York-based consultant proposed and designed the project and was responsible for research, facilitating implementation, designing and coordinating monitoring and evaluation strategy, preparing evaluation report and publicizing the pilot. Initially funded by the World Bank, the pilot is currently funded by the Social Fund. This project was featured in *National Geographic News*, January 27, 2004, and UNESCO's *Information Kit on Intangible Cultural Heritage*. It was cited as an example of best practice in *Improving Women's Lives: World Bank Actions Since Beijing*, p. 21. In 2007 it was chosen as an example of "best practice" by the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and was featured at *Literacy Challenges in the Arab Region: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches*, a regional conference sponsored by UNESCO and Qatar Foundation, Doha, March 12-14.

**New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), New York, NY. October 1999-January 2002**

Outreach Coordinator Diversified the applicant and panel pools for NYFA fellowships. Reached out to communities of artists of color in 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, NY) December 1995-June 1996; December 1994-May 1995**

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 by the Office of Human Resources, Ford Foundation.

**UNICEF (Sanaa, Yemen) October 1984-March 1986**

Consultant. Women in Development Developed framework for job description and recruited Yemeni National Project Officer for Women in Development. In cooperation with Yemeni NGOs and government agencies, advocated and planned policies and programs aimed at enhancing women's participation in national development. Planned and implemented *Creativity Workshop in Health Education for Sanaa Radio and Television Programmers*. Prepared *Situation Analysis* on women (with Bilqis al-Dabbi) including annex on the situation of children in Yemen and bibliography on women and children in Yemen.

**Consortium for International Development (Oregon State University) April-June 1984**

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

**Pritech (Washington, DC) March-April 1984**

Consultant. Project Design Social scientist on project design team for a mother and child health/family planning program in the Yemen Arab Republic. Social soundness analysis according to USAID guidelines.

**FAO (Rome, Italy) September-October 1983**

Consultant. Women in Agriculture Conducted field research in Yemen Arab Republic on the impact of male emigration 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. Presented report in Arabic at the Inter-Country Experts Meeting on Women in Food Production, Amman, Jordan, October 22-26, 1983.

**Population Council, ME Awards (New York, NY) January-April 1983**

Field research on local perceptions of breastfeeding, fertility and infant care in al-Ahjur in the rural northern highlands of Yemen.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

**2010** Literacy through Poetry/Heritage. **Anthropology News**, 51(4):40-41.

**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)

**2008** Book review: *The Rules of Barat. Tribal Documents from Yemen*, by Paul Dresch. Centre Français d'Archéologie et de Sciences Sociales and Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Sanaa, 2006. **Middle East Journal**, 62(3):531-533.

**2007** Book review: *A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen*, by Shelagh Weir. University of Texas Press, 2007. **Middle East Journal**, 61(4):739-740.

**2006-2007** Articles for the **Encyclopedia of Women in Islamic Cultures**. Suad Joseph, ed. Leiden: Brill: The Gulf and Yemen Law: Customary. Yemen (Volume II:418-419, 2006). Body: Female. Yemen (Volume III:47-48, 2006); Economics: Agricultural Labor. Yemen (Volume IV:136-137, 2007); Economics: Land Reform. Yemen (Volume IV:215, 2007).

**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: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. Højbjerg: Intervention Press.

**1993 Tribal Dancing and Yemeni Nationalism: Steps to Unity.** *Revue du Monde Musulmane et de la Méditerranée*, 67(1):161-168. Translated into Arabic in, **Al-Yaman Kama Yarah al-Akhar.** L. Taminian and A. al-Auj, eds. Sanaa: American Institute for Yemeni Studies (1997).

**1986 Situation Analysis - Women.** UNICEF, Sanaa, Yemen Arab Republic (with Bilqis al-Dabbi). Includes, Bibliography of Women and Children in YAR, and an annex, The Situation of Children in YAR.

**1985 Report on The Creativity Workshop in Health Education for Sanaa Radio and Television Programmers,** Sanaa, November 5-11. Report prepared for UNICEF, Sanaa, Yemen Arab Republic.

**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.

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

**1983 The Impact of Emigration on Women's Roles in Agriculture in the Yemen Arab Republic.** Report prepared for FAO, Rome.

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

#### **SELECTED SEMINARS, PROFESSIONAL PAPERS AND LECTURES**

**2010 The State of the Tribe in Yemen: Development and Gender Beyond Politics.** The World Bank Group. Sponsored by the Arabic Language and Culture Program and Middle East and North Africa Knowledge and Learning. Washington, DC, May 3.

**2008 UNIFEM/UNDP/Gender at Work initiative on Gender and Democratic Governance in Development.** Invited participant. Comments on early draft of *A User's Guide to Measuring Gender-Sensitive Basic Service Delivery*. New York, NY, December 11, 12.

**2008 Oral Poetry, Women's Empowerment and Literacy in Yemen.** Presented at the panel, The Diversity of Yemeni Poetry. Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. Washington, DC, November 23.

**2008 Literacy and Empowerment in Yemen, Participatory Approaches in Development, The Impacts of Socio-Economic Change in al-Ahjur, Yemen.** Alumni Lectures at Grinnell College sponsored by the Global Development Studies Concentration and the Anthropology Department. Grinnell, Iowa, October 27, 28.

**2008 The Role of International Agencies in Promoting Education.** The Second Annual Conference of the American Association of Yemeni Scientists and Professionals. Arlington, VA, April 19.

**2007 Shifting Hierarchies: A Case Study from Northern Yemen**, Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, November 28.

**2007 Invited presenter.** Panel on “Reading Promotion.” UNESCO/Qatar Foundation Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy: Literacy Challenges in the Arab Region. Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches, Doha, 12-14 March.

**2007 Invited presenter. Literacy through Poetry.** The Regional Meeting of Dynamics of Social Practices and Beliefs and Gender Equity: Lessons Learned in the Last 20 Years in Arabic Speaking MENA. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), Tunis, 27-28 February.

**2007 II/Literacy: Sana’a, Yemen and Borough Park, Brooklyn.** Panelist. Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 5 February. (Presented again at SABA, Association of Yemeni Americans 10 February.)

**2006 Mediating Culture: Customary Law in Yemen.** Presented at the Conference on Customary Law. Princeton University, 13-14 May.

**2006 Aspects of Yemen’s Heritage Relevant to the Yemeni Women in Diaspora.** Women’s Networking Event. Saba – Association of Yemeni Americans, 1 April.

**2005 Literacy through Poetry: Empowering Women through their Own Traditions.** Paper presented at, Literacy, Power, and Identity: Finding a Way Forward by Challenging and Understanding Past and Current Ideologies. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 4 December.

**2005 Yemen’s Intangible Heritage.** Lecture, UNDP Workshop on Inventory of Yemen’s Cultural Heritage. Sanaa, 29-31 May.

**2005 Qabyala Revisited: The Yemeni Tribe as Civil Society.** Lecture, American Institute for Yemeni Studies. Sanaa, 19 March.

**2004 Fighting Illiteracy Through Poetry.** Powerpoint presentation. A Celebration of Diversity in Honor of International Women’s Month. World Bank, Washington, DC, 30 March.

**2002 Participant. Problems of Translation Forum,** Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. New Orleans, 20-24 November.

**1998 Unveiling Gender: Three Middle East Dialogues** (with Daniel M. Varisco). Chicago Humanities Festival, 5-8 November.

**1993 Filmic Representation of the Muslim and Arab “Other”.** Organizer and chair of Invited Session. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Washington, DC, November.

**1985 Cultural Factors that Could Facilitate Women’s Participation in Development.** Paper presented at the Regional workshop on Young Girls, UNICEF. Amman, Jordan, March.

**1984 Participant at the Technical Consultation on Food and Nutrition Policies and Programmes in the Near East.** University of Jordan and FAO. Amman, Jordan, December.

**1983 The Impact of Emigration on Women's Roles in Agriculture in the Yemen Arab Republic.** (In Arabic). Inter-Country Experts Meeting on Women in Food Production. Amman, December.

**1983 Local Perceptions of Breastfeeding, Fertility and Infant Care in Al-Ahjur.** (In Arabic). Mother and Child Health/Family Planning Conference. Ministry of Health and the Yemen Family Planning Association. Sanaa.

### FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

**President of the Borough of Brooklyn, July 12, 2006.** Citation for work with the Yemeni American Association. **American Institute for Yemeni Studies (2005, 2007), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1983), Population Council Middle East Awards in Population and Development (ME Awards) (1983), National Science Foundation Grant for Improving Doctoral Dissertation Research (1992-1996), Temple University Graduate Fellowship for Support of Dissertation Research (1978-1979).**

### SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

#### **American Anthropological Association**

Appointed to the **Commission on Race and Racism in Anthropology, 2008-2010.**

Elected to **Minority Issues Committee, 2003-2006.**

#### **Society for Visual Anthropology:**

Co-editor (with Andrea Walsh), *Visual Anthropology Review* (2004-2006). Treasurer (1998-2001). Board of Directors (1994-2000). Chair, Nominations Committee (1994-1996). Juror, Ethnographic Film Festival (1996).

**Middle East Section, 1998-2002.** Co-editor (with Daniel M. Varisco), Middle East Section Column in *Anthropology News*.

**American Institute for Yemeni Studies, Board of Directors (1992-1996).** Reviewed fellowship applications (1992-1996, 2006, 2010).

### LANGUAGES

**Arabic** (fluent), **French** (spoken and written), **Turkish** (spoken)