

Musa al-Gharbi

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EDUCATION

Columbia University

Ph.D in Sociology (2023)
M.Phil in Sociology (2020)
M.A. in Sociology (2017)

University of Arizona

M.A. in Philosophy (2013)
BA in Near Eastern Studies (2012, Magna Cum Laude with Honors)
BA in Philosophy (2012, Magna Cum Laude with Honors)

Cochise College

AA in Philosophy (2009, with Honors)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

al-Gharbi, Musa (forthcoming). *We Have Never Been Woke: Social Justice Discourse, Inequality and the Rise of a New Elite*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Published Articles

Rozado, David, **Musa al-Gharbi** & Jamin Halberstadt (2021). "[Prevalence of Prejudice-Denoting Words in News Media Discourse: A Chronological Analysis](#)." *Social Science Computer Review*. DOI: 10.1177/08944393211031452

Rozado, David & **Musa al-Gharbi** (2021). "[Using Word Embeddings to Probe Sentiment Associations of Politically-Loaded Terms in News and Opinion Articles from News Outlets](#)." *Journal of Computational Social Science*. DOI: 10.1007/s42001-021-00130-y

al-Gharbi, Musa (2021). "[People of the Book: Empire and Social Science in the Islamic Commonwealth Period](#)." *Socius* 7. DOI: 10.1177/23780231211021200

Smith, Benjamin, Andrea-Figueroa-Caballero & **Musa al-Gharbi** (2020). "[Do You Know Your Enemy? The Role of Known Actors as Framing Devices in News Media](#)." *International Journal of Communication* 14: 4717-4738.

al-Gharbi, Musa (2019). "[Resistance as Sacrifice: Towards an Ascetic Antiracism](#)." *Sociological Forum* 34 (S1): 1197-1216.

Smith, Benjamin, Michael Stohl & **Musa al-Gharbi** (2019). "[Discourses on Countering Violent Extremism: The Strategic Interplay Between Fear and Security After 9/11](#)." *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 12(1): 151-68.

al-Gharbi, Musa (2018). "[Race and the Race for the White House: On Social Research in the Age of Trump.](#)" *The American Sociologist* 49(4): 496-519.

al-Gharbi, Musa (2016). "[From Political Liberalism to Para-Liberalism: Epistemological Pluralism, Cognitive Liberalism & Authentic Choice.](#)" *Comparative Philosophy* 7(2).

al-Gharbi Musa (2013). "[Syria, Contextualized: The Numbers Game.](#)" *Middle East Policy* 20(1): 56-67.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 **Daniel Bell Research Fellowship:** Heterodox Academy
- 2022 **Lead Teaching Fellowship:** Columbia University, Center for Teaching and Learning
- 2020 **Mellon-Sawyer Fellowship on Trust and Mistrust of Experts:** Columbia University, Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics (INCITE) in partnership with The American Assembly.
- 2020 **Interfaith America Racial Equity Media Fellowship:** Interfaith Youth Core
- 2016 **Provost Diversity Fellowship:** Columbia University, GSAS
- 2012 **Graduate Access Fellowship:** University of Arizona Graduate College
- 2011 **Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship:** U.S. Dept. of Education

PRESENTED RESEARCH

2022

- September 19* "The U.S. Divided: Inequality and Symbolic Conflicts in America (and Beyond)." Fall 2022 History Department Colloquium Series, Carleton College.
- March 3* "The Social Life of Social Justice Discourse" delivered on behalf of the Department of Sociology in partnership with the Department of Political Science at U.C. Riverside.

2021

- May 14* "Social Justice Discourse, Inequality and the Rise of a New Elite" presented at SNF Agora Spring 2021 Seminar series at Johns Hopkins University.

2019

- March 16* "Towards an Ascetic Antiracism" presented at the 2019 annual conference of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS).

2018

- October 18* "Resistance as Sacrifice (and Vice Versa)" presented for the Brown University Political Theory Project PPE Research Seminar.
- August 13* "How to better engage skeptics on civil rights legislation" presented at "Inequality, Policy and Affirmative Action" panel of the 113th American Sociological Association conference.

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| <i>February 22</i> | “Want to Change Attitudes About Affirmative Action? Look to Cultural Cognition and Moral Psychology” presented at the 2018 Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) conference. |
| <i>January 20</i> | “Legitimacy, Securitization and the ‘War on Terror’” presented at the workshop, “Is there an After 9/11? Terrorism, Threats, Challenges and Responses” hosted by the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, UC Santa Barbara. |
| 2017 | |
| <i>November 21</i> | “Interpreting Narratives of ISIS’ Western Sympathizers” presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA). |
| 2016 | |
| <i>November 12</i> | “Al-Qaeda in the American Consciousness” presented at the 102nd Annual Conference for the National Communication Association (NCA). |
| <i>February 26</i> | “Who Joins ISIS (and Why)?” delivered at “Security Populisms & Insecure Transmissions: Global Security Workshop,” hosted by the Orfalea Center for Global Studies at University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). |
| 2015 | |
| <i>March 28</i> | “Five U.S. Policies That Contributed to the Rise of ISIS (And are now being rehashed to combat them)” delivered at the 15th Annual Conference in Middle East and North African Studies, hosted by UA MENA Graduate Student Organization. |
| 2014 | |
| <i>April 11</i> | “From the Numbers Game to the End Game in Syria,” delivered at the 14th Annual Conference in Middle East and North African Studies, hosted by UA MENA Graduate Student Organization. |
| 2013 | |
| <i>September 27</i> | “Contextualizing Justice and the Good,” delivered at the 2nd Annual Saguaro Symposium on Governance hosted by the UA School of Government and Public Policy. |
| 2012 | |
| <i>October 27</i> | “Diplomacy, Geopolitics, and the Syrian Civil War” presented at the “Syria Bleeds” panel hosted by UA STAND. |
| <i>September 28</i> | “Against Ethics,” presented at the 1st Annual Saguaro Symposium on Institutions hosted by the UA School of Government and Public Policy. |
| 2011 | |
| <i>November 4</i> | “Philosophical Reflections on Christ and America: How Would Jesus Vote?” presented in the 2011 Student Showcase at the University of Arizona. |

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Communication, Journalism and (by courtesy) Sociology

Stony Brook University: 2023- Present

- Designed and taught courses at the graduate and undergraduate level. Provided formal grading and evaluation of students. Maintained course records and tracked student progress. Advised and mentored students.
- Courses:

JOURN 603

“Storytelling and Narrative Design”

Teaching Fellow, Sociology

Columbia University: 2017-2023

- Facilitated undergraduate courses, as well as provide formal grading and evaluations of students; maintained course records and statistics; tracked student progress; led weekly discussion sections; delivered course lectures as needed.
- Managed a team of junior TAs and graders in order to ensure that all students were being properly evaluated and sufficiently assisted (Global Urbanism had more than 300 students in 2017 and over 200 in 2019).
- Taught weekly sections to help cover material that was not addressed in class, go into greater depth on topics touched upon in readings or lectures, reinforce key points or ideas, and address student questions and concerns.
- Courses:

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| <i>SOCI UN1000</i> | “The Social World” |
| <i>SOCI UN3009</i> | “Contemporary Social Theory” |
| <i>SOCI UN3324</i> | “Global Urbanism” |

SNF Agora Institute Visiting Fellow

Johns Hopkins University: Fall 2021

- Taught a class based on my research (The Knowledge Economy and Inequality) as part of the JH SOUL program.
- Worked with JH scholars in adjacent fields to advance my research and participated in SNF Agora Institute events and initiatives.

Adjunct Instructor, Government and Public Service

University of Arizona South: 2014-15

- Developed course syllabi and assignments according to university and discipline standards; designed and delivered lectures and instructive exercises; provided formal grading and evaluations of students; tracked student progress and provided constructive feedback; maintained course records and statistics. TCEs available upon request.
- Courses:

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| <i>GPSV 314</i> | “National Security Policy” |
| <i>GPSV 341</i> | “International Organizations” |

Teaching Assistant, Philosophy

University of Arizona: 2011-13

- Taught and developed for a range of class sizes, to include small group structure and larger auditorium settings (500+ students).
- Courses:

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| <i>PHIL 160D</i> | “Mind, Matter & God” |
| <i>PHIL 233</i> | “Philosophy of Religion” |
| <i>PHIL 263</i> | “Medieval Philosophy” |
| <i>PHIL 344</i> | “Issues & Methods in Analytic Philosophy” |
| <i>PHIL 347</i> | “Neuroethics” |
| <i>PHIL 463/563</i> | “Philosophy of Language” |

ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

Senior Fellow, Criminal Justice

Niskanen Center: 2021- Present

Director of Communications, Heterodox Academy

New York, NY: 2016-20

Heterodox Academy (HxA) is a non-profit membership organization that provides tools and resources to improve research and pedagogy. In my capacities as director of communications:

- I oversaw the blog, podcast and weekly bulletin, managed our social media channels and writers' group. I also developed and tracked metrics to gauge organizational impact, and spearheaded strategic communications for the organization (press releases, marketing, standards and guidelines, grant applications, etc.). We saw significant growth in our membership, readership, engagement, donations, and attendance of our events as a result of these efforts.
- I represented HxA at events and public talks, and served as the primary point of contact for media inquiries and interviews about HxA and its mission, including spots with *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *EdSurge* and *Reason*. I also published essays for popular outlets to promote the organization, its work, and its ideals in *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Times Higher Education*, *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, *Open Democracy*, *AlterNet*, *Huffington Post* and other outlets.
- I also assisted with fundraising. During my time in the comms role, I helped write an edit a successful [\\$2.9 million grant](#) from the Templeton Foundation, negotiate a \$50k grant from the Ford Foundation. I also co-authored a successful \$45k grant from the Thomas W. Smith Foundation that was paid to my department.

Managing Editor, Southwest Initiative for the Study of Mideast Conflicts

University of Arizona: 2012-16

SISMEC brought together academics from a wide variety of specializations, Middle East natives, and military combat veterans to explore Middle East conflict from rich, diverse and nuanced perspectives—and to foster greater interaction between these groups, and between these groups and the communities they live in.

As the managing editor I advanced this mission by:

- Soliciting, editing and posting contributions from within and without our SISMEC network for our bi-weekly bulletins; coordinating and preparing submissions to external publications by SISMEC researchers, making use of my extensive editorial experience and connections.
- Helping our researchers develop and execute long-term and collaborative research projects.
- Administering the organization's website and social media pages, which saw dramatic increases in traffic, as well as our listserv which has also saw a large increase in subscriptions.
- Engaging in community and media events on behalf of the Initiative; composing and delivering press releases to promote our events.
- Assisting with tailored fundraising and grant-writing from within the campus community and beyond—commensurate with SISMEC's innovative pay-as-you-go model.
- Assisting with organization of highly-successful events, including:

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| 2015, March 3 | "Women, Writing and War" |
| 2015, October 30 | "Arid Lands, Agriculture, Food Security & Public Health." |
| 2014, January 1 | "Ethics & Methods in Conflict: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Promise and Peril of Research/Reporting in Conflict Zones" |
| 2013, October 24 | "Afghanistan 2014: Will the U.S. Exit Strategy Work?" |
| 2013, March 20 | "Trajectories of American Diplomatic & Military Policy: A Conversation with the Eisenhower Fellows (U.S. Army War College)" |
| 2013, February 27 | "10 Years Later: Lessons from Iraq" |

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| 2012, October 25 | “In the Crucible of Geopolitics: Cutting Through the Fog of War in Syria” |
| 2012, April 23 | “Ripple Effects of the Arab Spring” |
| 2012, March 8 | “Drones: The Past, Present & Future of the New American Way of War” |

Outreach Scholar, UA Center for Mideast Studies

University of Arizona: 2012-13

- Responded to speaking engagements in the community on behalf of UA CMES to engage and inform the public on issues related to the broader Middle East, including:

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| 2013, September 25 | Delivered a talk to a discussion group at Trinity Presbyterian Church titled, “Obstacles to a Negotiated End to the Crisis in Syria.” |
| 2013, February 28 | Delivered a primer on Mali and facilitated discussion of a Malian film at the 5 th Annual Cinema Africa Village of Nations Culture Celebration, co-hosted by the University of Arizona South, Cochise College, and the U.S. Army Culture Center |
| 2013, February 14 | Delivered a talk to a southern AZ senior citizen community titled, "Getting to the Facts of the Syrian Civil War." |
| 2012, October 27- November 3 | Facilitated a workshop series for gifted high school students: "War, Conflict Resolution, and Reconstruction in the Modern Middle East" |

I am also an occasional reviewer for *Journal of Communication*, *Social Science Computer Review*, *Routledge* and *The MIT Press*, and a member of the American Sociological Association, Eastern Sociological Society, National Communication Association, and the Scholars Strategy Network.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Beyond my publications in scholarly journals, essays have been published in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *New Republic*, *The Nation*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Wilson Quarterly*, *The Conversation*, *NBC Think*, *Al-Jazeera*, *The Baffler*, *Salon* and elsewhere. I am currently a columnist with *The Guardian*. I’ve done interviews with *NPR*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *CNN*, *Slate*, *Reason*, *Mic*, *Voice of America* and many other outlets to contextualize current events. My research has been featured in stories for *Bloomberg*, *New York Magazine*, *Times of London*, *The Intercept*, *Foreign Affairs* and more. Both my scholarly work and my publicly-oriented essays have been cited in publications by the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations, the U.S. Army War College, the Countering Terrorism Center at West Point and beyond. I’m also regularly invited to give talks to more generalized audiences on a range of sociopolitical and cultural topics. A selection follows below:

2022

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| September 26 | “The Bifrucation of America (and Other Countries).” University of New England, Center for Global Humanities 2022-2023 Lecture Series. |
| May 6 | “Most Diversity Trainings Don’t Work. How Can We Do Diversity Training More Effectively?” 2022 State of Mind Festival, University of Toronto. |

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| <i>April 20</i> | Featured discussant for event, “Equity of Class Conflict: Social Justice and the Language of the Elite.” Heterodox Academy. |
| <i>February 25</i> | Discussant for symposium “Renewing America’s Civic Compact.” Arizona State University, School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. |
| <i>January 20</i> | “We Have Never Been Woke” delivered for the Menard Family George Washington Forum on American Ideas, Politics and Institutions. Ohio State University. |
| 2021 | |
| <i>September 29</i> | Discussant for event, “Race, Identity, and Ideology,” part of the “SNF Agora Conversations: Diversity and Democracy” series. Johns Hopkins University, SNF Agora Institute |
| <i>June 3</i> | Moderator for panel, “DEI Training Programs: What Do They Aim For? What Should they Aim For?” Heterodox Academy. |
| <i>April 19</i> | Discussant for author roundtable for Richard Alba’s book, “The Great Demographic Illusion: Majority, Minority, and the Expanding American Mainstream.” AEI. |
| <i>April 8</i> | Discussant for panel, “Intellectual Diversity: What is to Be Done?” Michigan State University, The LeFrak Forum |
| <i>March 30</i> | Lead a New York Law School Faculty Workshop on Viewpoint Diversity in Higher Ed |
| <i>February 18</i> | Discussant for panel, “Are People of Color Becoming Swing Voters” for virtual event, “The 74 Million Voter Question.” USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future. |
| 2020 | |
| <i>November 20</i> | “The Role of Education in America’s Civic Crises” delivered for the Department of Education, Reform Lecture Series. University of Arkansas, Department of Education Reform |
| <i>November 8</i> | Discussant for panel, “Election Reflection” for the 2020 Decolonizing International Relations Conference hosted by the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. |
| <i>October 13</i> | Discussant for event, “Socially Distant: How Our Networks Shape Our Politics” hosted by AEI. |
| 2019 | |
| <i>May 9</i> | Discussant for symposium, “Academic Freedom Under Threat: What Is To Be Done?” Oxford University, McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics and Public Life |
| <i>April 16</i> | Discussant for event “The State of Debate on Campus.” The Village Square/ Florida State University |
| <i>April 4</i> | Discussant for event, “Whose Freedom? Whose Speech?” PEN America/ Columbia University |
| <i>March 13</i> | “Getting Good at Disagreeing” University of Southern California, Institute for Digital Civic Culture |
| <i>March 7</i> | Discussant for panel, “Open Inquiry, Viewpoint Diversity, and Constructive Disagreement: Pathways for Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?” 2019 National Association for Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) conference |
| <i>February 22</i> | Discussant for symposium, “Polarization and Disagreement: Combatting America’s Civic Crisis.” Arizona State University, School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. |

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| <i>January 26</i> | Moderator for “In Conversation” series discussion on “The Niceties.” McCarter Theater Center at Princeton University |
| 2018 | |
| <i>August 17-19</i> | Discussant for colloquium, “Modernity and Its Discontents.” UC Berkeley, Critical Review Foundation |
| <i>April 21</i> | Moderated panel, “Bridging the Political Divide: Lessons from Leaders Who Take Risk.” Bridge USA/ Earth X Conference (Dallas, TX) |
| <i>February 13</i> | “How Minds Change.” University of Southern California, Institute for Digital Civic Culture |
| 2017 | |
| <i>September 27</i> | Participated in a dialogue on academic freedom alongside former U.C. Berkeley Chancellor Nic Dirks. Times Higher Education U.S. Student Success Forum |