

Antón Shammás (March 2019)

Professor of Modern Middle East Literature
Departments of Middle East Studies and Comparative Literature
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Employment, Fellowships

- 1997- present: Professor of Modern Middle East Literature, Department of Middle East Studies and Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan.
- 2010-2011: Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan.
- Fall 1999: Acting Chair, Program in Comparative Literature, University of Michigan.
- 1996: Visiting Literary Translator, The International Institute, University of Michigan.
- 1989-1998: Intermittently, Adjunct Professor in the Departments of English, Near Eastern Studies, and Program in Comparative Literature, University of Michigan.
- 1988-1989: A Visiting Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan.
- 1987-1988: A Rockefeller Fellow, The Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan.
- 1982-1987: Free-lance journalist and columnist for the Hebrew newspapers *Kol- Ha 'ir*, Jerusalem, and *Ha 'ir*, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- 1970-1975: Editor of the monthly, Arabic literary magazine *Al-Sharq*, Jerusalem.

Education

1968-1972 The Hebrew University in Jerusalem: English and Arabic literatures, and History of Art.

Published Essays, Articles, and Book Reviews: <https://umich.academia.edu/AntonShammas>

- “*Bāb al-Wa 'rah*” (Arabic fiction), *Majallat al-Dirasāt al-Filistīniyyah* (Journal of Palestine Studies), Beirut, No. 116, Autumn 2018, p. 41-62.
- “Torture into Affidavit, Dispossession into Poetry: On Translating Palestinian Pain,” *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 44 No. 1, 2017.
https://www.academia.edu/26021858/Torture_into_Affidavit_Dispossession_into_Poetry_On_Translating_Palestinian_Pain_Critical_Inquiry_44_Autumn_2017
- “The Drowned Library” (Arabic), *Majallat al-Dirasāt al-Filistīniyyah* (Journal of Palestine Studies), Beirut, No. 101, Winter 2015.
- “The Size of a Cloud: on the Poetry of Ṭāhā Muḥammad ‘Alī” (Arabic), *Majallat al-Dirasāt al-Filistīniyyah* (Journal of Palestine Studies), Beirut, No. 96, Fall 2013, p. 21-29.
- “Palestine: Writing on the Move,” a short introduction to the special issue of *Banipal* (London) on Palestinian literature, No. 44, Fall 2012.
- “Palestine Mapped Out: A Passport Story” (a photo-essay in Arabic), *Majallat al-Dirasāt al-Filistīniyyah* (Journal of Palestine Studies, Arabic), Beirut, No. 92, Fall 2012, p. 13-29.
- “Looking for Some Place to Call Home,” a short essay on Edward Said, *The New York Times Magazine*, Dec. 29, 2003.
- “Returning to Beirut: Nostalgia, Cities of Language and Capitals of Fantasy” (Arabic), *An-Nahār Cultural Supplement*, Beirut, Nov. 16, 2003. (Keynote speech given at “Home Works II,”

- a Forum on Cultural Practices, organized by “Ashkāl Alwān,” The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts, Beirut, Lebanon. Nov. 1, 2003).
- “The Ropes of Rabee Jaber,” a short essay, *Banipal*, No. 17, Summer 2003.
- “Introduction,” to *Passage to Dusk*, a novel by Rashīd al-Da‘īf, tr. from Arabic by Nirvana Tanoukhi, The University of Texas at Austin, 2001, p. 1-10.
- “The Poet Goes Back Home,” a short essay on Mahmoud Darwish, *Banipal*, No. 4, Spring 1999.
- “Literature As Pretext: The Image of the Absent Palestinian in Modern Hebrew Literature” (Arabic), *An-Nahār Cultural Supplement*, Beirut, May 16, 1998.
- “West Jerusalem: Falafel, Cultural Cannibalism and the Poetics of Palestinian Space” (Arabic), *An-Nahār Cultural Supplement*, Beirut, August 23, 1997.
- “The Reality of Palestine,” Op-Ed page, *The New York Times*, Jan. 24, 1996.
- “Autocartography,” *The Threepenny Review*, Fall 1995. (Excerpted in the June 1996 issue of *Harper's Magazine*.)
- “Palestinians in Israel,” *The Journal of the International Institute* (University of Michigan), Fall 1995.
- “Presumed Guilty,” Op-Ed page, *The New York Times*, May 4, 1995.
- “Palestinians Must Now Master the Art of Forgetting,” *The New York Times Magazine*, Dec. 26, 1993.
- “The Once and Future Egypt” (a review of Amitav Ghosh, *In An Antique Land*. Knopf, 1993), *The New York Times Book Review*, August 1, 1993.
- “A Lost Voice,” *The New York Times Magazine*, April 28, 1991.
- “Amérka, Amérka,” *Harper's magazine*, February 1991.
- “Dust, Gas, Desert Storm,” Op-Ed page, *The New York Times*, January 27, 1991.
- “Arafat's Types of Ambiguity,” *Harper's Magazine*, March 1989.
- “On a Camel Moving Forward in Time” (a review of Amin Maalouf, *Leo Africanus*. Norton, 1989), *The New York Times Book Review*, March 12, 1989.
- “The Shroud of Mahfouz,” *The New York Review of Books*, February 2, 1989.
- “When Israel Spoke to the PLO,” (a review of Amalia and Aharon Barnea, *Mine Enemy*. Grove Press, 1988), *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, December 4, 1988.
- “Palestinians Liberate a Dream,” Op-Ed page, *Los Angeles Times*, November 21, 1988.
- “The Morning After,” *The New York Review of Books*, September 29, 1988.
- “A Stone's Throw,” *The New York Review of Books*, March 31, 1988.
- “Arab Walls, Reflecting Change,” *Harper's Magazine*, November 1987.
- “Kitsch 22,” *Tikkun Magazine*, September-October 1987.

Some of the above essays, and others, not published in English, were translated into Arabic, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Swedish, and published in different European papers and magazines: *Sirene* (German); *Liberation*, *Gulliver*, *Revue d'études Palestiniennes* (French); *Lettre Internationale* (published in French, German, Italian and Spanish); *Moderna Tider* (Swedish).

Published Essays in Edited Volumes:

- “De la torture à l'affidavit: traduire la douleur palestinienne,” traduit de l'anglais par Hélène Boisson, in *Palestine: territoire, mémoire, projection* (Rasha Salti, ed.; Marseille: Édition du Mucem, 2017).
- “The Nightmare of the Translator,” in *Reflections on Islamic Art* (a collection of essays, in respective English and Arabic editions, on the Museum of Islamic Art, Qatar), ed. Ahdaf Soueif (Qatar: Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing, 2011).
- “The Meeting That Was, the Meeting That Wasn't,” in *Hebrew Writers: on Writing*, trans. and ed. by Peter Cole (San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 2008; the original Hebrew essay was published in 1984).

- “Mixed as in Pidgin: The Vanishing Arabic of a ‘Bilingual’ City,” in *Mixed Towns, Trapped Communities: Historical Narratives, Spatial Dynamics Gender Relations and Cultural Encounters in Ethnically Mixed Towns in Israel/Palestine*, ed. by Rabinowitz and Monterescu (London: Ashgate, 2007).
- “Returning to Beirut “ (English and Arabic), *Home Works II*, published by “Ashkal Alwan,” The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts (Beirut, Lebanon. Summer 2005).
- “The Drowned Library,” in *Lives in Translation: bilingual writers on identity and creativity*, edited by Isabelle de Courtivron (Palgrave Macmillan / St. Martin’s Press, 2003).
- “Geister,” and “Autokartographie: Der Fall Palestine, Michigan,” in Rafik Schami, ed., *ANGST: im eigenen land* (Zurich: Nagel & Kimchi, 2001), p. 32-41, 114-125.
- “Autocartography: The Case of Palestine, Michigan,” in *The Geography of Identity*, ed. by Patricia Yaeger (The University of Michigan Press, 1996).
- “Arab Male, Hebrew Female: The Lure of Metaphors,” in *Reconstructing Gender in the Middle East*, ed. by Göçek and Balaghi (Columbia University Press, 1994).
- “Amérka, Amérka,” in *Visions of America*, ed. by Wesley Brown & Amy Ling (New York: Persea Press, 1993).
- “Cultural Identity and the Crisis of Representation,” in *Critical Fictions: The Politics of Imaginative Writing*, ed. by Philomena Mariani (Seattle: Bay Press, 1991).
- “At Half Mast,” in *New Perspectives on Israeli History*, ed. by Laurence Silberstein (New York University Press, 1991).
- “Arafat's Types of Ambiguity,” in *What's Going On Here: The Harper's Magazine Book of Annotations*, ed. by Colin Harrison (New York: Delta Press, 1991).
- “Exile from a Democracy,” in *Literature in Exile*, ed. by John Glad (Duke University Press, 1990).
- “Diary,” in *Every Sixth Israeli*, ed. by Alouph Hareven (Jerusalem: The Van Leer Foundation, 1983).

Papers, Panels and Readings

- Keynote Speaker, and a panelist, “1948 in Palestine and Israel: New Approaches and Interpretations,” Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, October 5-6, 2018.
- Panelist, “Palestine: Territory, Memory, Projections,” Marseille, Mucem, March 16-19, 2017.
- “Blind Spots: a millennium of Arabic in translation,” The Inaugural Annual Lecture of the Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation, at the British Library, Oct. 14, 2016.
- Discussant, Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, “Explorations in Translation Theory and Armenian Literature,” Feb. 19-20, 2016.
- Panelist, MLA, “Palestinian Literature: Conditions of Possibility, Conditions of Justice,” January 9, 2016. (In absentia)
- Authors Forum – a conversation with Khaled Mattawa, University of Michigan, March 25, 2015.
- Authors’s Forum – a conversation in Arabic with Lebanese novelist Elias Khoury, University of Michigan, April 3, 2014.
- Authors’s Forum – a conversation in Arabic with Lebanese novelist Hoda Barakat, University of Michigan, Nov. 21, 2013.
- Lecture, The Cooper Series at Swarthmore College, “Torture into Affidavit, Dispossession into Poetry: on Translating Palestinian Pain,” Oct.28, 2013.
- Authors’s Forum – a conversation with Amitav Ghosh, Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan, Dec 7, 2012.

- Lecture, *in Arabic*, Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, April 26, 2012, "Palestine Mapped Out: A Passport Story."
- Two Lectures, Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University, April 25, 2012, "An Order of Things in Perspective"; April 26, 2012, "While Waiting, in Arabic and Hebrew, for Godot: a Translator's Afterthoughts."
- Panelist, Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, mini-conference on "Re-Reading the Binding of Isaac and Israeli Society in Albert Swissa's *Aqud*," March 28, 2012.
- Lecture, Near Eastern Studies – Colloquium on Translation in the Near Eastern Context, University of Michigan, March 5, 2012, "A Millennium in Perspective."
- The Author's Forum – a conversation with Hisham Matar, Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan, Nov 4, 2011.
- Lecture, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke University, October 19, 2010, "Palestine Mapped Out: A Passport Story"; "Torture into Affidavit: On Translating Palestinian Pain."
- Panelist, a conference on "Translating Testimony: Negotiating Rights Across Languages," Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, Nov. 9, 2009: "Torture into Affidavit: On Translating Palestinian Pain."
- Lecture in The Human Rights Series, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, Oct. 31, 2006: "A Passport for an Internal Diaspora."
- Lecture, Comparative Literature, Stanford University, May 9, 2005: "Ibn Al-Haytham Puts Cervantes in Perspective, Literally."
- Keynote Speaker, "Home Works II," a Forum on Cultural Practices, organized by "Ashkal Alwan," The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts, Beirut, Lebanon, Oct. 31-Nov. 6, 2003: "Returning to Beirut: Nostalgia, Cities of Language and Capitals of Fantasy" (Arabic).
- Keynote Speaker, and panelist, a conference on "Mixed Cities / Trapped Communities: Historical Narratives, Spatial Dynamics and gender relations in Palestinian-Israeli Mixed Towns," International Workshop, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, June 13-15, 2003: "Mixed as in Pidgin: The Vanishing Arabic of a 'Bilingual' City."
- Speaker, the Department of Asian and African Languages and Literatures, University of Florida, a mini-conference on "The Literature of Minorities within Hegemonic Cultures," April 8, 2002: "Whose Hebrew is It, Anyway?"
- Panelist, a conference on "Partition and Memory: Ireland, India and Palestine," University of Notre Dame, Dec. 6-9, 2001: "Palestine Mapped Out; Israel Mapped In."
- Keynote Speaker, and panelist, a conference on "Language, Literature and Peace in the Middle East," Baker Peace Conference, Ohio University, Nov. 8, 2001: "Language and Colonialism: A Jewish Translator of Arabic Goes West with Columbus"; "The Drowned Library: how I lost my Arabic and--come to think of it--my Hebrew too."
- Panelist, a Teach-In on Nine Eleven, The University of Michigan, Sept. 25, 2001: "Rubble for Rubble, and Back to the Stone Age."
- Speaker, at The Seminar in Comparative Cultures, Columbia University, April 25, 2001: "Ibn Al-Haytham Puts Cervantes in Perspective, Literally."
- Panelist, at Chicago Humanities Festival, November 5, 2000: "Four Border Crossings: Literature and Cultural Translation."
- Reading, and public interview, at Chateau de Voltaire, Ferney, France, May 30, 2000.
- Panelist, and reading, a conference on "Fear in One's Own Country: Palestinian and Israeli Intellectuals in Dialogue," a conference organized by Collegium Helveticum, Zurich, Switzerland, May 28-29, 2000: "Ghosts."

- Panelist, Middle Eastern Studies Association's conference, Providence, Nov. 20-24, 1996: "West Jerusalem: Cultural Cannibalism and the Poetics of Palestinian Space."
- Panelist, conference on "Displaced Literatures," The International Parliament of Writers, Strasbourg, France, Nov. 3-5, 1994.
- The Littauer Foundation Lecture, Duke University, Feb. 22, 1994: "Translation Goes up in Smoke."
- Panelist, University of Michigan's Institute for the Humanities, conference on "Remapping Identities," Nov. 5, 1993: "Autocartography: The case of Palestine, Michigan."
- Panelist, conference on "The Writer in Politics," The International Writers Center, Washington University in St. Louis, October 18-21, 1992.
- Keynote speaker, international conference at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, on "Translation as Cultural Transmission," October 16-18, 1992.
- Keynote speaker, a conference on "Emerging Literatures," Dept. of Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, April 25-26, 1992.
- Reading, The Brockport Writers Forum (Suny College at Brockport, NY), April 3, 1992.
- Reading, Detroit Public Library, The Arab American Arts Council, November 9, 1991.
- The Chancellor Dunning Trust Lecture, 1991-1992, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, November 7, 1991.
- Panelist, conference on "New Perspectives on Israeli History: The Early Years of the State," Lehigh University, PA, May 1990: "At Half Mast."
- Lecture, Harvard University, Dept. of Comparative Literature, March 22, 1990.
- Panelist, The Wheatland Foundation International Writers' Conference, Budapest, Hungary, June 18-24, 1989.
- Panelist, University of Michigan's Institute for the Humanities, conference on "Translation: Cultural Confrontation and Transformation," March 30-April 1, 1989: "Left and Right in Translation."
- Reading, the 9th International Festival of Authors at Harbourfront, Toronto, Canada, October 14-22, 1988.
- Reading, "The Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y," New York, December 7, 1987.
- Panelist, The Wheatland Foundation International Exiled Writers' Conference, Vienna, Austria, December 2-5, 1987.

Books:

- Arabesques*, a novel written originally in Hebrew (*Arabeskot*) and published in Israel in 1986, was since published in the following translations and editions:
- Arabesques*, tr. into English by Vivian Eden (New York: Harper&Row, 1988; London: Viking, 1988; Harper&Row Perennial Fiction Library, 1989; Penguin International Writers, 1990; University of California Press, 2001).
- Arabesques*, tr. into French by Guy Séniak (Paris: Actes Sud, 1988).
- Arabescos*, tr. into Spanish by Isabel Cardona (Madrid: Mondadori, 1988).
- Arabesken*, tr. into Dutch by Mirjam Lumkeman and Tamir Herzberg (Amsterdam: Bert Bakker, 1989).
- Arabesken*, tr. into German by Magali Zibaso (München: Piper Verlag, 1989).
- Arabeschi*, tr. into Italian by Laura Lovisetti Fuà (Milan: Mondadori, 1990).
- Arabescos*, tr. into Portuguese by A.L. Faria (Lisbon: Dom Quixote, 1991).
- Arabeskler*, tr. into Turkish by Jülide Degirmenciler (Istanbul, 2005).
- ΑΡΑΜΙΕΣΚ*, tr. into Greek by Chryssoula Papadopoulou (Athens: Kastaniotis Editions, 2018).

The Biggest Liar in the World (*hashakrān hakhī gadol ba 'olām*, a children's book in Hebrew. Jerusalem, 1982; 2nd edition published in 2011).

Three volumes of poetry:

Asīr yaqzatī wa-nawmī (Arabic. Jerusalem, 1974).

Krikhāh kashshāh (Hebrew. Tel-Aviv, 1974).

Sheṭaḥ hefkair (Hebrew. Tel-Aviv, 1979).

English translations of poems were published in:

Banipal, No. 3, Oct. 1998; International Quarterly, vol. 1, No. 3, 1994; *Anthology of Modern Palestinian Literature*, ed. S.K. Jayyusi (Columbia University Press, 1992); *Modern Poetry in Translation* (London), No. 44, Winter 81-82; Ariel [a literary quarterly, Jerusalem], No. 45-46, 1978 (Published also in French, German and Spanish.); *New Writing From Israel*, ed. Jacob Sonntag (London: Corgi Books, 1976); *New Writings in Israel*, ed. Ezra Spicehandler (Tel-Aviv: Sabra Books, 1976).

Original Plays:

Ghassil wijkak yā amar (*Wash your Face, Moon* - Arabic), for "The Arab Theater," Haifa, 1997.

Stuffed Ducks, a play in progress (Hebrew and English), for River Arts, Woodstock, 1989.

Tā'ah bil-ḥeiṭ (*A Hole in the Wall*), a bilingual play for young adults, in Arabic and Hebrew, "Haifa Theater," 1978-79.

Fiction:

"Arabesque," Harper's Magazine, March 1988.

"The Retreat From Galilee," *Granta* 23 (London), Spring 1988.

Translations (partial list):

Hebrew into Arabic:

M.Y. Schtekilis, *Selected Poems and Stories* (for children), Jerusalem, 1972.

Ka-Zetnik, *Star Eternal*, Jerusalem 1975.

David Rokeah, *Selected Poems*, Jerusalem, 1977.

David Avidan, *Selected Poems*, Tel-Aviv, 1982.

The Doe Hunt, an anthology of 12 Hebrew short stories, Tel-Aviv, 1984.

Arabic into Hebrew:

Taha Muhammad Ali: *Selected Poems* (a bilingual edition; Tel Aviv: Andalus, 2006, 1ST and 2ND editions).

Three novels by the Palestinian writer Emile Ḥabībī: *The Opssimist* (1984), *Ekhtayyeh* (1988), *Sarāya* (1993).

Arabic into English:

Poems by Bassām Ḥajjār, 'Ināya Jāber and 'Akl 'Awit (Banipal, No, 28, Spring 2007).

"Faint Hints of Tranquility," a short story by Adania Shibli, in *The World Through the Eyes of Writers*, ed. by Salierno et al. (New York: Anchor Books, 2007).

Six Poems by Abbās Beyḍoun (Banipal, No. 22, Spring 2005).

Thirteen Poems by 'Ināya Jāber (Banipal, No. 22, Spring 2005).

Three poems by Hilmy Salem (Banipal, No. 7, spring 2000).

Three poems by Salmān Masālḥa (Banipal, No. 7, spring 2000).

Two poems by Mahmoud Darwish (Banipal, No. 4, spring 1999).

Three Poems by Tāha Muḥammad Ali (Banipal, No. 2, summer 1998).

English into Arabic and Hebrew:

Dario Fo, *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, an adaptation, for "The Arab Theater," Haifa, 1996.

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*, a bilingual translation into Arabic and Hebrew, for “Haifa Theater,” Haifa, 1984, 1994.

Harold Pinter, *The Dumb Waiter* and *Victoria Station*, 1986; Edward Albee, *The Zoo Story*, for “Beit Hagefen's Theater,” Haifa, 1987 (Arabic).

Athol Fugard, *The Island*, for “Haifa Theater,” Haifa, 1983.

Editing:

The Hebrew translation of Mahmoud Darwish's *Matsor* (Siege), published by Andalus, Tel-Aviv 2003.

The Hebrew translation of Elias Khoury's novel *Bāb al-Shams*, published by Andalus, Tel-Aviv, 2002 (544 pages).

The English translation of Emile Ḥabīby's novel *Sarāya*, published by Ibis Editions, Jerusalem, 2006.

Literary Awards (English)

Lila Wallace Writers' Award, 1993-96.

A Whiting Writer's Award, 1991-92.

The International Writing Program, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, 1981.

Literary Distinctions

“Amérka, Amérka,” an essay published in Harper's Magazine (February 1991), was chosen by the editors of *The Best American Essays 1992* as one of the “Notable Essays of 1991.”

Arabesques, a novel, was reviewed upon its American publication on the front page of The New York Times Book Review (by William Gass), April 17, 1988. It was chosen later by the editors of The New York Times Book Review as one of the best seven fiction works of 1988.

Extramural

2002- 2005 Member, Editorial Committee, Journal of Palestine Studies.

1994 Founding Member, “The International Parliament of Writers,” Strasbourg, France.

1992 Juror, the Neustadt International Prize for Literature, awarded biennially by the literary quarterly World Literature Today, the University of Oklahoma.

1992-2009 Member, Editorial Board, Michigan Quarterly Review.

1992 Guest-editor, a special issue of the Michigan Quarterly Review on the Middle East, Fall 1992.

1991-2000 Member, the Advisory Board of the International Writers Center, Washington University in St. Louis. Ω