

KAREEM ESTEFAN

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Brown University

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EDUCATION

PhD **Brown University**, Department of Modern Culture and Media, expected May 2022

Dissertation: “Witnessing as Worldbuilding: Imagining Decolonization in Palestinian Visual Culture, 1982-2021”

Committee: Ariella Aïsha Azoulay (director), Wendy Chun, Beshara Doumani, and Bonnie Honig

Collaborative Humanities Certificate, Cogut Institute for the Humanities
Reflective Teaching Certificate, Sheridan Teaching Center

MA **Brown University**, Department of Modern Culture and Media, 2018, Providence, RI

MFA **School of Visual Arts**, Department of Art Criticism and Writing, 2012, New York, NY

BA **New York University**, Department of Comparative Literature, 2008, New York, NY

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS (selected)

- Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2021-2022)
- Darat al Funun Dissertation Fellowship for Modern and Contemporary Arab Art (2020-2021)
- Mellon Graduate Fellowship in Collaborative Humanities, Brown University (2017-2018)
- Paula Rhodes Memorial Award for Exceptional Achievement in Art Criticism at SVA (2012)
- Highest departmental honors for undergraduate thesis in Comparative Literature at NYU (2008)

PUBLICATIONS**Books**

- *Assuming Boycott: Resistance, Agency, and Cultural Production* (OR Books, 2017). Co-edited with Carin Kuoni and Laura Raicovich. Essays on artists’ activism, cultural boycotts, and transnational solidarity by Noura Erakat, Naeem Mohaiemen, Ann L. Stoler, Eyal Weizman, Frank Wilderson, and others.

Refereed Journal Articles

- “Narrating Looted and Living Archives: Reparative Fabulation in Azza El-Hassan’s *Kings and Extras*,” *Feminist Media Histories* 8:2 (Spring 2022)

Book Chapters

- “Virtual Returns: Digital Imaginaries of a Potential Palestine.” *Producing Palestine: New Visions, New Technologies, New Knowledge* (Eds. Dina Matar and Helga Tawil-Souri). Stanford University Press, 2023.
- “Between Boycott and Abolition: Tactical Interventions in Museum Politics from Gulf Labor to Strike MoMA,” *The Borders of Art: Migration, Mobility, and Artistic Practice* (Eds. Dina Ramadan and Sarah Rogers). Sternberg Press, 2022.
- “Introduction: Boycotts as Openings.” *Assuming Boycott: Resistance, Agency, and Cultural Production* (Eds. Kareem Estefan, Carin Kuoni, Laura Raicovich). OR Books, 2017, pp. 11-18.
- “Extending Co-Resistance: An Interview with Eyal Weizman.” *Assuming Boycott*. pp. 101-112.

Book Reviews

- “Nadia Yaqub’s *Palestinian Cinema in the Days of Revolution*,” *Journal of Palestine Studies* 49:4 (Summer 2020), pp. 138-140
- “Chad Elias’ *Posthumous Images: Contemporary Art and Memory Politics in Post-Civil War Lebanon*,” *Third Text* [online] (May 2019)
- “The Art of Receiving: Afaf Zurayk’s *Return Journeys*,” *H-Net* [online] (April 2019)

Non-Refereed Essays (selected)

- “Fables of Feminist Revolt: Heiny Srour’s *Leila and the Wolves*,” *Liberating History: Arab Feminisms and Mediated Pasts* catalogue for Northwestern University’s Block Museum (forthcoming)
- “Spotlight: Middle East Caucus,” *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 61:2 (Winter 2022), co-authored with Viviane Saglier
- “Spaces of Exception: An Interview with Malek Rasamny and Matt Peterson,” *e-flux* [online] (September 2021)
- “A Gathering Place for Objects That Have No Place: Nour Bishouty’s *1-130*,” *Journal of Visual Culture* 20:2 (August 2021), pp. 325-330
- “Witnessing the Worldly within the Imperial Commons: Yazan Khalili’s *Hiding Our Faces Like a Dancing Wind*,” *World Records* Vol. 4 [online] (Fall 2020)
- “Bodies Are Always Transmitting’: An Interview with Radio Earth Hold,” Beirut Art Center’s *The Derivative* [online] (October 2020)
- “Opacity, Repair, and Relation in an Age of Telepresence,” Darat al Funun’s *Immune Systems and Antibodies* catalogue (August 2020), pp. 54-67
- “Seeds of a Postcolonial ‘New World’ in Octavia E. Butler’s ‘Bloodchild,’” Sharjah Biennial 13’s *Tamawuj* [online] (May 2017)
- “Walking the Hyphen in Palestine-Israel,” *Movement Research Performance Journal* #49 (Fall 2016), pp. 11-12
- “Exhibit A: How a Team of Artists, Architects, and Theorists is Exposing State Violence,” *Frieze* #177 (March 2016), 37-38
- “When Artists Boycott,” *Art in America* (December 2014), pp. 37-38
- “A Cute Idea” [on Ryan Trecartin], *The New Inquiry* [online] (February 2014)
- “Deep Code: Artists and Poets Are Manipulating Language in Ways That Challenge Digital Culture’s Most Persistent Myths,” *Art in America* (September 2013), pp. 122-129

Non-Refereed Reviews and Entries (selected)

- “Larissa Sansour,” *Artforum.com* (February 2020)
- “Lawrence Abu Hamdan,” *4 Columns* (September 2019)
- “Inhabiting Modernism: Renée Green at the Carpenter,” *Art in America* [online] (March 2018)
- “Reparative Criticism,” *The Brooklyn Rail* (December 2016)
- “Accented” [group exhibition at Sharjah’s Maraya Arts Centre], *Ibraaz* (July 2015)
- “Mika Tajima,” *BOMB Magazine* Issue #128 (Summer 2014)
- “Charles Gaines: ‘Notes on Social Justice,’” *Art in America* (January 2014)
- “Iran Modern,” *The Art Newspaper* (October 2013)
- “Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige: ‘The Lebanese Rocket Society,’” *Art-Agenda* (April 2013)
- “Liz Magic Laser’s Armory Show Souvenirs,” *The New York Times Magazine* (March 2013)
- “Andra Ursuta: ‘Magical Terrorism,’” *Art in America* (January 2013)
- “Sharon Hayes: ‘There’s So Much I Want to Tell You,’” *The Brooklyn Rail* [online] (November 2012)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

Invited Lectures

- “Opaque Proximity: Mediating Solidarity with Palestine,” Photography and the Ethics of Witnessing Guest Lecture, Middlebury College, January 2022
- “Witnessing as Worldbuilding in Palestinian Visual Culture,” Darat al Funun, November 2021
- “Boycott, Strike, Unionize, Decolonize: Art Worker Activism Today,” Art and Protest guest lecture, Middlebury College, November 2021
- “Palestinian Media Archives, Looted and Living,” guest lecture for Studies in National and Regional Media: Palestine/Israel, University of Southern California, November 2021
- “Drone Visuality from Above and Below,” Theories of Modern Culture and Media guest lecture, Brown University, March 2021
- “Witnessing as Worldbuilding: Fabulation, Speculation, and Opacity in Palestinian Visual Culture,” guest lecture for Migrant Media graduate seminar, University of Wisconsin – Madison, October 2020
- “Opacity, Repair, and Relation in an Age of Telepresence,” Darat al Funun, Amman, June 2020
- “Decolonizing Futurity: Afrofuturism, Arabfuturism, and Beyond,” guest lecture for Imagining the Future, American University of Beirut, November 2019
- “From the Institutionalization of ‘Political Art’ to the Politicization of Art Institutions,” guest lecture for Art Now, American University of Beirut, November 2019
- “Cameras Armed with Missiles: Drone Warfare and the View from Above,” Theories of Modern Culture and Media guest lecture, Brown University, April 2018
- “The Dancer and the Drone (Pilot), or, How to Play the Cloud,” *Ordinary Media* series, Northwestern University, February 2017
- “Theories of the Drone,” Intro to Digital Media guest lecture, Brown University, October 2016
- Visiting lecturer, MFA Digital & Interdisciplinary Art seminar, City College of New York, Oct. 2014
- Visiting lecturer, MFA Art Criticism and Writing seminar, School of Visual Arts, January 2014

Conference Papers

- “Opaque Witnessing: Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rahme’s Figures of Palestinian Fugitivity, Return, and Relation,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference (virtual), April 2022
- “Opaque Witnesses and Future Returns: Figures of Palestinian Fugitivity in Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rahme’s Video Installations,” College Art Association conference (virtual), February 2022
- “Fabulating Hope: Speculative Narrative and the Reparative Imagination,” Insaniyyat – Society of Palestinian Anthropologists third biennial conference, Bethlehem, Palestine, January 2022
- “Opaque Witnessing: Figures of Palestinian Fugitivity in Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rahme’s *At Those Terrifying Frontiers...*,” Visible Evidence XXVII conference, online, December 2021
- “Narrating Looted and Living Palestinian Archives,” as chair of “Imagining Alternative Commons from the Levant: Digital Archives, Images, Documents, Ecologies,” Middle East Studies Association conference, virtual, November 2021
- “Permission to Fabulate: Plundered Archives and Reparative Fabulations in Azza El-Hassan’s *Kings and Extras*,” Exile Dreams and Anti-Fascist Cinema conference, UC San Diego (virtual), June 2021
- “Permission to Fabulate: Archival Speculations in *Kings and Extras*,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference, virtual, March 2021
- “Speculative Documents of Palestine: Larissa Sansour’s *In the Future...*,” as chair of “Visual Documents and Speculative Histories” panel, Visible Evidence XXVI conference, USC, July 2019
- “Posthumous Images and Witnesses to Come: Beyond the ‘Post-War’ Generation in Lebanese Contemporary Art,” as chair of “Mediated Memory in Lebanon” panel, Middle East Studies Association conference, San Antonio, November 2018
- “Appropriating the View from Above: Drone Logic and Diaspora as Telepresence,” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, New Orleans, October 2018

- “Decolonial Futures: Metaphor, Repair, and Speculation in the Colonial Present,” American Comparative Literature Association, UCLA, March 2018
- “Opacity, Speculation, and Other Visual Rights: Post-Documentary Images from Palestine,” *Rethinking Media through the Middle East* conference, American University of Beirut, Jan. 2017
- “The Dancer and the Drone (Pilot),” *Subjected to Play* grad student conference, USC, October 2016

Panel/Roundtable Discussions

- Chair, “Challenging the Status Quo in Middle Eastern Film and Media,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference (virtual), April 2022
- Co-Chair, “Archival Imaginaries and Futurities in Contemporary Art from SWANA,” College Art Association conference (virtual), February 2022
- Chair, “Imagining Alternative Commons from the Levant: Archives, Images, Documents, Ecologies,” Middle East Studies Association conference (virtual), December 2021
- In conversation with Dr. Nadia Abu El-Haj and artist Tali Keren, MOCAD (virtual), August 2021
- Facilitator and moderator, “Decolonization and Transnational Solidarity in Film/Media Studies: A Workshop Towards Action,” Society for Cinema and Media studies conference (virtual), March 2021
- In conversation with filmmaker Kamal Aljafari, Mosaic Rooms (virtual), March 2021
- In conversation with artist Larissa Sansour, ArteEast/Mizna Arab Film Fest (virtual), Dec. 2020
- Chair, “Visual Documents and Speculative Histories” panel, Visible Evidence XXVI conference, University of Southern California, July 2019
- Chair, “Mediated Memory in Lebanon” panel, Middle East Studies Association conference, San Antonio, November 2018
- Panelist for artist Tali Keren’s exhibition “The Great Seal” at Eyebeam, Brooklyn, Nov. 2018
- In conversation with Beirut Art Center director Marie Muracciole about artist Marie Voignier’s exhibition “International Tourism (Staging Real Life),” Beirut Art Center, August 2018
- Panelist, “Permission to Speak: Boycott and the Politics of Solidarity,” Brown University, Mar. 2018
- Panelist, book launch for *Assuming Boycott: Resistance, Agency, and Cultural Production*, The Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University, October 2017
- Panelist, book launch for *Assuming Boycott*, The New School, May 2017
- Speaker and moderator, “The Archive of Gestures,” Brown University, April 2016
- Panelist, “The Art of Feeling: Contemporary Art Writing and the Internet,” The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum, May 2014
- Panelist, “Art Writing as Craft, Labor and Art,” Housing Works, October 2012
- Moderator, “The Future of Signs” panel, at the *Critical Information: Mapping the Intersection of Art and Technology* graduate student conference, School of Visual Arts, New York, December 2011

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Lecturer, Darat al-Funun Summer Academy, September 2021

- Taught series of workshops, “Witnessing and Worldbuilding in the Wake” to interdisciplinary artists and writers in the Summer Academy of Jordan’s leading arts nonprofit, via Zoom

Instructor, American University of Beirut, Spring and Fall 2019

- Taught “Palestinian Film/Media,” undergraduate course in Media Studies
- Taught “Visual Cultures of Repair and Resistance,” undergraduate course in Media Studies

Instructor, Brown University, Fall 2018

- Taught “Visual Cultures of Repair and Resistance,” undergrad seminar in Modern Culture and Media

Instructor, Rhode Island School of Design, Fall 2018

- Co-taught MFA Sculpture studio course (combining lectures, studio visits, and group critiques)
- Taught independent study with MFA Sculpture students, focusing on critical theory related to archives, witnessing, speculation, (post-)colonialism, digital media and visual culture

Instructor, School of Visual Arts, Fall 2014 and Spring 2015

- Taught Reading, Writing, Thinking, the core humanities course for Visual & Critical Studies BFA

Teaching Assistant, Brown University, Fall 2016 through Spring 2018

- Theories of Modern Culture and Media, Profs. Ariella Azoulay and Bonnie Honig (spring 2018)
- Intro to Digital Media, Visiting Assistant Prof. Hannah Goodwin (fall 2017)
- Theories of Modern Culture and Media, Prof. Phil Rosen (spring 2017)
- Intro to Digital Media, Visiting Assistant Prof. Diego Semerene (fall 2016)

Teaching Assistant, School of Visual Arts, Fall 2011 and Spring 2012

- Modern Philosophy 1 and 2, BFA honors, Prof. Tom Huhn

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Co-Chair of Middle East Caucus, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, 2020-2023
- Graduate Student Representative, Modern Culture and Media, Brown University, 2018-2019
- Co-organized *The Afterlives of Witnessing: Moving Images from the Levant and the Political Imagination* (with Dr. Hanan Toukan), a Brown University symposium featuring 15 speakers, predominantly scholars of film, visual culture, and Middle East Studies, as well as artists and curators, November 3-4, 2017. Co-delivered symposium introduction, moderated panel “Speculative Images, Potential Histories,” and led post-screening discussion with artists Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou Rahme.
- Served as peer reviewer for *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Spring 2021, Summer 2019

CURATORIAL AND EDITORIAL WORK

- Co-editing forthcoming issue of the documentary media journal *World Records*, on the theme of “Overlapping Generations, Technologies, and Struggles,” with Stefan Tarnowski
- Curated talk series “Worldbuilding in the Wake” for Darat al-Funun, March – Oct. 2021, introducing and conversing with speakers TJ Demos, Rijin Sahakian, Vivien Sansour, Nadya Sbaiti, and others.
- Member of Mizna screening committee for Arab Film Fest, Dec. 3-13, 2020
- Edited portions of Ariella Aïsha Azoulay’s *Potential History: Unlearning Imperialism* (Verso, 2019) and several essays by Azoulay, including in *Cercle d’art des travailleurs de plantation congolaise* (Sternberg, 2017)
- Selected essays, copy edited, and proofread for *Artists on the News: Selections from Creative Time Reports 2012-2017* (Paper Chase Press, 2019)
- Revised 18 essays in *Assuming Boycott: Resistance, Agency, and Cultural Production* (OR Books, 2017), from first comments to copy edits, and commissioned authors in collaboration with co-editors.
- Co-curated “The Afterlives of Witnessing,” a screening of short experimental film/video by artists from Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon, List Art Center, Brown University, November 2017
- Curated selections of *Film Culture* for UbuWeb, March–September 2007

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (NON-ACADEMIC)**Associate Editor, Creative Time Reports, Apr. 2013 – Mar. 2015**

- Edited essays, podcasts, and videos, shaping artists’ ideas into lucid and persuasive pieces and writing

editorial introductions to contextualize their responses to international political issues.

- Collaborated with well-known artists including Emily Jacir, Dread Scott, Trevor Paglen, Shirin Neshat, James Bridle, Molly Crabapple, Boots Riley, and David Byrne
- Fact checked pieces rigorously before co-publishing with *The Guardian*, *The Intercept*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Slate*, *Salon*, and other major media outlets

Program Associate, Arts Writers Grant Program, Mar. 2010 – Mar. 2013

- Selected leading art historians, critics, and journalists to evaluate the grant applications submitted by several hundred arts writers each year, together with the program director
- Planned conference at the University of Pennsylvania, curating lectures on the state of art writing, facilitating group discussions, and organizing logistics for the program's 100+ grantees
- Wrote and edited press releases, board reports, application forms, web pages, and social media

Editorial Assistant, National Public Radio, Dec. 2008 – Nov. 2009

- Researched news stories, pitched ideas, wrote, and edited for syndicated daily show *Talk of the Nation*
- Drafted host intros and question lines, distilling extensive research into compelling copy
- Interviewed well-known academics, journalists, and policymakers prior to on-air discussion

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)

Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

College Art Association (CAA)

LANGUAGES

- Advanced proficiency in Arabic (Modern Standard and Levantine dialect)
- Advanced proficiency in French

REFERENCES

Ariella Aisha Azoulay, Professor of Comparative Literature and Modern Culture and Media, Brown University
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Beshara Doumani, Joukowsky Family Distinguished Professor of History and Mahmoud Darwish Chair in Palestinian Studies, Brown University
Beshara_Doumani@brown.edu

Bonnie Honig, Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Modern Culture and Media and Political Science, Brown University
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Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, Canada 150 Research Chair in New Media, Simon Fraser University
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