

Chihab El Khachab

Curriculum Vitae

Address: Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology (ISCA), University of Oxford

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Academic Positions

- 2021-: Associate Professor in Visual Anthropology, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, and Fellow of Wolfson College, University of Oxford
- 2020-2021: British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and College Research Associate in King's College, University of Cambridge
- 2016-2020: Junior Research Fellow in Anthropology, Christ Church, University of Oxford

Academic Training

- 2012-2017: D.Phil. in Anthropology, Wolfson College, University of Oxford
- 2008-2012: Joint Honors B.A. in Anthropology and Sociology, awarded *summa cum laude*, University of Ottawa

Book

- 2021: [*Making Film in Egypt: How Labor, Technology and Mediation Shape the Industry*](#). Cairo & New York: American University in Cairo Press
 - Reviewed in [Al-Ahram Weekly](#) and [Borderlines](#) (*Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* blog)

Publications (Peer-reviewed articles)

- (Accepted): “Describing the Future: Predictability, Uncertainty and Imponderability” in D. N. Gellner & D. P. Martinez (eds). *Re-Creating Anthropology*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- 2021: “[Satire as Safety Valve: Moving Beyond a Mistaken Metaphor](#)”, *Humor: International Journal of Humor Studies*
- 2021: “[The Reification of Concrete Work in Egyptian Film Production](#)”, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 27 (3): 599-616.
- 2021: “[A Brief History of the Future of Culture in Egypt](#)”, *Journal of the African Literature Association*.
- 2021: “[Being a \(Muslim\) Worker in the Egyptian Film Industry](#)” in K. Petersen (ed.) *New Approaches to Islam in Film*. London: Routledge
- 2020: ““Est-ce que ça ne vaut pas mieux que d’être comme la Syrie et l’Irak?”” in R. Jacquemond & F. Lagrange (éds.) *Culture Pop en Égypte : Entre mainstream commercial et contestation*. Paris : Éditions Riveneuve
- 2019: “[The Sobky Recipe and the Struggle over ‘the Popular’ in Egypt](#)”, *Arab Studies Journal*, 27 (1): 34-61
- 2017: “[Compressing Scales: Characters and Situations in Egyptian Internet Humor](#)”, *Middle East Critique*, 26 (4): 331-353
- 2017: “[State Control over Film Production in Egypt](#)”, *Arab Media & Society*, 23
- 2016: “[‘What Does it Look Like?’: On the Use of Intermediary Images in Egyptian Film Production](#)”, *Visual Anthropology Review*, 32 (2): 167-179
- 2016: “[Living in Darkness: Internet Humour and the Politics of Egypt’s Electricity Infrastructure](#)”, *Anthropology Today*, 32 (4): 21-24

- 2016: “[Secular Preachers: Watching Television Pundits in Post-Revolutionary Egypt](#)”, *Anthropology Now*, 8 (1): 117-124
- 2013: “[The Logical ‘Goodness’ of Abduction in C. S. Peirce’s Thought](#)”, *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 49 (2): 157-177
- 2013: “[What Becomes of Bodies on Film?](#)”, *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, 30 (2): 173-189

Publications (Essays, in English)

- 2021: “[The Unpredictable Life of an Egyptian Film Set](#)”, *British Academy Blog*, April 20th
- 2021: “[The Anthropology of Cinema](#)”, *EASA Network for Contemporary Anthropological Theory (NCAT) Blog*, March 15th, 2021
- 2020: “[The Government of Culture](#)”, *Past & Present blog*, October 8th, 2020.
- 2020: “[When Did Afghan Cinema Begin? A History of Kabul’s Filmic Pasts](#)”, *Ajam Media Collective*, July 12th, 2020.
- 2020: “[Collective Consciousness, Real and Imagined](#)”, *Topline*, June 16th, 2020.
- 2018: “[The Underbelly of Capital in Cairo](#)”, *Jadaliyya*, June 12th, 2018.
- 2018: “[Two Questions to Marxist Anthropology](#)”, *TripleC: Communication, Capitalism & Critique*, 16 (2): 656-665
- 2018: “[Current Trends in the Anthropology of Bureaucracy – A Report](#)”, *Allegra Lab*
- 2017: “[El Khachab’s Technology, Labor, and Mediation in the Egyptian Film Industry](#)”, *CaMP Anthropology*.

Publications (Essays, in Arabic)

- 2019-: “[Mawsu‘at al-Malal](#)” (“The Encyclopedia of Boredom”), biweekly column on philosophical concepts in Arabic, published by the literary blog *Boring Books* (41 articles)
- 2020: “[Awraq Gududna: Min Agl Tarikh Gadid](#)” (“Our Ancestors’ Papers: For a New History”) published by the heritage magazine *Bab Masr*, December 30th
- 2020: “[Al-Tarjama wal-Tanwir](#)” (“Translation and the Enlightenment”). *Akhbar al-Adab*, 26th July 2020, p. 18; published online by *Al-Ketaba*, 27th July 2020
- 2019: “Al-Mu‘jam al-Uruppi fil-‘Amiyya al-Misriyya” (*The European Lexicon in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic*). *Akhbar al-Adab*, 14th July 2019, pp. 34-35
- 2016-2018: “[Al-Fahhama](#)” (“The Explanation Machine”), weekly column on philosophical concepts in Arabic, *Tahrir News* (91 articles).
- 2018: “Mat‘allemtesh haga fil-Ma‘had” (“I Didn’t Learn Anything at the High Cinema Institute”). *El-Film*, no. 13, pp. 29-31
- 2017: “Nahj al-Matahif fi Nashr al-Ma‘arif” (“The Method of Museums in Disseminating Knowledge”). *Ibdaa’*, 4th series, vol. 2 (November-December 2017)

Publications (Translations)

- 2021: Berardi, Franco. “[Ma Ma‘na al-Kugnitaria? Al-‘Amal wal-Raghba wal-Ikti‘ab](#)”. *Boring Books*, February 11th, 2021.
 - “What Does Cognitariat Mean?”, translated by Melinda Cooper, (2005).
- 2021 (with Hussein el-Hajj): Graeber, David. “[Eih el-Fayda Eza Makunnash ‘Adrin Nenbeset](#)”. *Boring Books*, published January 27th, 2021.
 - “[What’s the Point if We Can’t Have Fun?](#)”, (2014).
- 2020: Quijano, Anibal. “[Al-Kulunialiyya wal-Hadatha al-‘Aqlaniyya](#)”. *Boring Books*, September 18th, 2020.

- “Colonialidad y modernidad/racionalidad”, (1992).
- 2020: Walker, Alice. “[Bahthan ‘an Hada’iq Ummahatina](#)”. *Boring Books*, July 12th, 2020.
 - “In Search of our Mothers’ Gardens”, (1983).
- 2020: Armbrust, Walter. “[Al-Irhab wal-Kabab: Ru’ya Caprawiyya li-Misr al-Haditha](#)”. *Boring Books*, June 1st, 2020.
 - “Terrorism and Kabab: A Capraesque View of Modern Egypt”, (1998).
- 2020: Esposito, Roberto. “[Al-Ahزاب wal-Virus](#)”. *Boring Books*, April 29th, 2020.
 - “[Biopolitics and Coronavirus](#)”, translated by Antonio Cerella, (2020).
- 2020: Rodney, Walter. “[Al-Sulta lil-Sha’b, la lil-Diktator](#)”. *Boring Books*, January 22nd, 2020.
 - “[People’s Power, No Dictator](#)”, (1979).
- 2019: Editor and translator of [a special issue on Edwar al-Kharrat](#), *ArabLit.org*. Contributions by M. Shoair, M. Telmissany, M. al-Kaffash, F. Ghazoul, G. Alkassas. December 2nd, 2019.

Invited talks

- 2021 (August): “Hawl Ta‘lim al-Sinama wa Ibtikar Bada’il Mustaqilla” (“On Film Education and Inventing Independent Alternatives”), Behna el-Wekalah and Drossos (via Zoom).
- 2021 (May): “[Anmat Sina‘at al-Sinama fi-Misr](#)” (“Patterns of Film Production in Egypt”), Cairo Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CILAS, via Zoom)
- 2020 (February): “The Egyptian Film Industry: Labour, Technology, Mediation”, *Film, Media, and Culture Research Group*, University of Kent (UK)
- 2019 (September): “Notes à propos de la difficulté d’étudier les archives de l’État.” CEDEJ Research Seminar, Cairo (Egypt)

Conferences & Workshops (selected)

- 2019 (January): “A Bureaucracy without Bureaucrats: Inside the Egyptian Governmental Sector”, *Governance and Processes of Bureaucratization*, University of Leipzig.
- 2018 (September): “Reification and Recognition in Egyptian Film Production.” Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA), University of Oxford.
- 2018 (June): “What is ‘Egyptian’ about Egyptian Cinema”, British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES), King’s College, London.
- 2017: “Les caractères nationaux dans la caricature numérique égyptienne”, Congrès du Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique Moyen-Orient et Monde Méditerranéen, INALCO, Paris.
- 2017: “The Perennial ‘Crisis’ of Egyptian Film Production”, *Rethinking Media through the Middle East*, American University in Beirut (Lebanon)
- 2016: “Rethinking State Control over Media Production in Egypt”, Middle Eastern Studies Association, Boston.
- 2016: “Three Meanings of ‘Work’ in the Egyptian Film Industry”, European Association of Social Anthropologists Biennial Conference, University of Milano-Bicocca.
- 2016: “Managing Imponderable Problems in Egyptian Film Production”, Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth, University of Durham.

Languages

English: Fluent in reading, writing, and speaking

French: Fluent in reading, writing, and speaking

Arabic: Fluent in reading and speaking; Good writing knowledge

Spanish: Good reading and conversation; Basic writing knowledge

Persian: Good reading and conversation; Basic writing knowledge