

Nancy Roberts
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ATA-certified Arabic-to-English translator, editor and proofreader

Education and Qualifications

- 1994 Accreditation, Arabic-to-English, American Translators Association (Accreditation No. 420300, Membership No. 210145)
- 1993 M.A., Arabic Language and Literature, Indiana University, Bloomington
- 1981 M.S., Applied Linguistics, Indiana University, Bloomington
- 1978 B.A., Psychology and Religious Studies, Summa cum Laude, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green

Experience in the Arab World

- 2015-to present Have free-lanced back and forth between Chicago, IL and Amman, Jordan.
- 1994-2015 Made my home in Jordan, where I taught English as a Second Language at AL al-Bayt University in Mafraq, Jordan (1994-1997), translated free-lance (1998-2015), raised a family, and soaked up and appreciated the Arabic language and culture.
- 1982-1987 Lived in Kuwait, where I taught ESL at Kuwait University, the Faculty of Commerce.
- 1981-1982 Lived in Beirut, Lebanon, where I taught ESL at the American University of Beirut's University Orientation Program.

Selected Professional Experience

I have 27 years' experience translating, editing and proofreading materials in the fields of politics and education; international development; Arab women's economic and political empowerment; Islamic jurisprudence and theology; Islamist thought and movements; interreligious dialogue; modern and ancient literature with a variety of *institutions, agencies and individuals*, including:

* The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha, Qatar

* Al-Bayan Center for Research and Studies, Doha, Qatar

- * Strategic Agenda, London
- * Lionbridge Translations, New York/San Francisco/Mumbai
- * The International Institute of Islamic Thought, London
- * Seprotect Multilingual Solutions
- * US Legal Support / Legal Interpreting and Translation Services
- * The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- * The Foreign Broadcasting Information Service

And publishers, including:

- * Lynne Reinner Publishers, Boulder, Colorado
- * The American University in Cairo Press
- * Syracuse University Press
- * Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, London
- * Darf Publishing Ltd., London
- * The British Council, London
- * Fons Vitae Publications, Louisville, KY
- * Neem Tree Press, London
- * Quartet Books, Ltd., London

Other Relevant Experience

- * 2017-present Have volunteered doing consecutive interpretation and advocacy work for Arabic-speaking refugees with Exodus World Service and other service organizations.
- * 1998 Translated articles from a variety of Arabic newspapers relating to political, economic, religious, and social trends and current events in the Middle East for the Foreign Broadcasting Information Service [FBIS] Jordan Bureau.
- * 1994-1997 Taught English as a Second Language at AL al-Bayt University, Mafraq Jordan.
- * 1992-1993 Taught first-year Arabic for Indiana University Bloomington's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literature.

- * 1982-1987 Taught ESL at Kuwait University, Faculty of Commerce.
- * 1981-1982 Taught English as a Second Language at the American University of Beirut, University Orientation Program.
- * 1980-1981 Taught ESL to incoming international students at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Presentations, Interviews, Workshops

- June 23, 2021. "Translating Palestinian Literature: Challenges and Aspirations." Guest presentation for Dr. Husam Ramadan, Translation Studies Program at Najah University, Nablus (online presentation not recorded)
- February 19, 2021. Al Jazeera, Interview on Arabic-English translation with Dr. Abdulwahid Lu'lu'ah on Al Jazeera's cultural program, *al-Mashshá'*:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsQKkLe2MNw&ab_channel=AlJazeeraChannel%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A9
- February 3, 2019. Autobiographical statement invited by organizers of the Sheikh Hamad Prize for Translation and International Understanding:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBhLijwnaZE&ab_channel=%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%B2%D8%A9%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%AE%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A9%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A.
- October 21, 2016. "The Use of Colloquial vs. Classical Arabic in Arabic Literature: Issues and Challenges Relevant to the Arabic-English Translator," workshop presented at the First Dubai Translation Conference, organized by the Emirates Literature Foundation, October 20-22, 2016.

Honors and Awards

- 2018. The Sheikh Hamad Prize for Translation and International Understanding for my translation of *Gaza Weddings* by Ibrahim Nasrallah.
<https://aucpress.com/auc-press-blog/nancy-roberts-wins-2018-sheikh-hamad-award-for-translation-prize/>
- 2008. Commendation from the judges presiding over the 2008 Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation, for my translation of *The Man from Bashmour* by Salwa Bakr (American University in Cairo Press, 2007).
<http://www.banipaltrust.org.uk/prize/award2008.cfm#commended>
- 1994. The University of Arkansas Translation Prize for my translation of *Beirut '75* by Ghada Samman.
https://ipfs.io/ipfs/QmXoyvizjW3WknFiJnKLwHCnL72vedxjQkDDP1mXWo6uco/wiki/Arkansas_Arabic_Translation_Award.html
- 1991. Second Place in the 1991 Translation Contest of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic for my translation of passages from Ahmad Tayfur's "Instances of the Eloquence of Women" (published in *Al-'Arabiyyah*, Vol. 25 (1992), pp. 51-72).

<https://www.jstor.org/action/doBasicSearch?Query=Instances+of+the+Eloquence+of+Women&cc=on&wc=on&fc=off&group=none>

- 1991. Rajih Haddawi Scholarship Award, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Indiana University, Bloomington.

Professional Associations

- The American Translators Association, lifetime member, Arabic Literary Division
- Society for International Development-DC Chapter, member
- ACES, The Society for Editing, member
- *Banipal: Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, Consulting Editor

Book-length Literary Translations, Arabic to English

- The Night Will Have Its Say* (كلمة الليل في حق النهار) by Ibrahim al-Koni (Cairo: Hoopoe, forthcoming).
- The Slave Yards* (زرائب العبيد) by Najwa Bin Shatwan (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2020).
- Farewell, Damascus* (يا دمشق، وداعاً: فسيفساء التمرد) by Ghada Samman (London, Darf Publishing Ltd, 2018).
- Gaza Weddings* (أعراس آمنة) by Ibrahim Nasrallah (Cairo: Hoopoe, 2017).
- Codename: Butterfly* (اسمي الحركي فراشة) by Ahlam Bsharat (London: Neem Tree Press Ltd., 2016).
- Kilimanjaro Spirits* (أرواح كلمنجارو) by Ibrahim Nasrallah (Doha: Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing).¹
- The Dust of Promises* (عابر سرير) by Ahlem Mostaghanemi (London: Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2016).
- Chaos of the Senses* (فوضى الحواس) by Ahlem Mostaghanemi (London: Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2015).
- Lanterns of the King of Galilee* (قناديل ملك الجليل) by Ibrahim Nasrallah (Cairo: AUC Press, 2014).
- House of the Wolf* (بيت الذئب) by Ezzet Kamhawi (Cairo: AUC Cairo Press, 2013).
- Days of Ignorance* (جاهلية) by Laila Aljohani (Doha: Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing, 2012).
- Earth Weeps, Saturn Laughs* (تبكي الأرض يضحك زحل) by Abd al-Rahman Farsi (Cairo: AUC Press, 2012).
- Time of White Horses* (زمن الخيول البيضاء) by Ibrahim Nasrallah (Cairo: AUC Press, 2012).
- Love in the Rain* (الحب تحت المطر) by Naghib Mahfouz (Cairo: AUC Press, 2010).
- The Mirage* (السراب) by Naguib Mahfouz (Cairo: AUC Press, 2008).
- The Man from Bashmour* (البشموري) by Salwa Bakr (Cairo: AUC Press, 2007).
- Muntaha: A Village Novel* (منتهى) by Hala El Badry (Cairo: AUC Press, 2007).
- Over the Bridge* (الخالدية) by Muhammad al-Bisati (Cairo: AUC Press, 2006).
- The Night of the First Billion* (ليلة المليار) by Ghada Samman (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2005).

¹ The translation was completed, but problems between the author and the publisher resulted in an indefinite delay in the work's publication.

Beirut Nightmares (كوابيس بيروت) by Ghada Samman (London: Quartet Books, Ltd., 1997).

Beirut '75 (بيروت 75) by Ghada Samman (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1995).

Non-Fiction Translations, Arabic to English

Daesh (aka the Islamic State): A Critical Framework for Understanding the Phenomenon of Violent Jihadism (تنظيم الدولة الإسلامية المكنى داعش: إطار عام ومساهمة نقدية في فهم الظاهرة) by Azmi Bishara (Doha: The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 2019).

The Theory of Islamic Art: Aesthetic Concept and Epistemic Structure (نظرية الفن الإسلامي) by Idham Mohammed Hanash (London: International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2017).

Qur'anic Terminology: A Linguistic and Semantic Analysis (المفاهيم المفتاحية لنظرية المعرفة في القرآن الكريم) by Balil Abd al-Karim (London: IIIT, 2017).

"A Tribute to the Late Khaled al-Asa`ad, Martyr of Palmyra," by Waleed Khaled al-Asa`ad, in *Palmyra: Mirage in the Desert: The Metropolitan Museum of Art Symposia* (New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2017).

Reviving the Balance: The Authority of the Qur'an and the Status of the Sunnah (إشكالية التعامل مع السنة) (النسبية), by Taha Jabir Alwani (London: IIIT, 2017).

Ijtihad and Renewal (الأجتهاد والتجديد) by Said Shabbar (London: IIIT, 2017).

The Murjite Phenomenon: A Response (اختصار ظاهرة الإرجاء) by Dr. Safar al-Hawali, abridged by Dr. Ahmad Ibn Abdullah al-Ammari al-Zahrani (as yet unpublished).

Communicating with Allah: Rediscovering Prayer (Salah) (إدارة الصلاة) by Dr. Bassam Saeh (Leicestershire: The Islamic Foundation, 2015).

The Miraculous Language of the Qur'an: Evidence of Divine Origin (لغة القرآن الكريم: إعجاز أم مجرد عبقرية؟) by Dr. Bassam Saeh (London: IIIT, 2015).

Epistemological Integration: Essentials of an Islamic Methodology (منهجية التكامل المعرفي) by Dr. Fathi Hasan Malkawi (London: IIIT, 2014).

Glimpses into the Murshidiyah Movement: Memories, Testimonies, Documents (لمحات حول المرشدية: ذكريات) (وشهادات ووثائق) by Nur al-Mudhi' Murshid (Beirut: Karaki Publishing House, 2013).

My Memoirs: Half a Century of the History of Iraq and the Arab Cause (مذكراتي: نصف قرن من تاريخ العراق) (والقضية العربية) by Tawfiq al-Suwaydi (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Reinner Publishers, 2013).

Apostates, Islam & Freedom of Faith: Change of Conviction vs. Change of Allegiance by AbdulHamid Sulayman (an extract from *al-Islah al-Islami al-Mu'asir: Qira'ah Manhajiyah Ijtima'iyah*, expanded and Revised Version, Cairo: IIIT and Dar al-Islam, 2011), (London: IIIT, 2013).

The Qur'anic Worldview: A Springboard for Cultural Reform (الرؤية القرآنية الحضارية: المنطلق الأساس للإصلاح) by AbdulHamid AbuSulayman (London: IIIT, 2011).

Al-Shura: The Qur'anic Principle of Consultation (الشورى في معركة البناء) by Ahmad Raysuni (London: International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2011).

Apostasy in Islam: A Historical and Scriptural Analysis (لا إكراه في الدين: إشكالية الردة والمرتدين من صدر الإسلام إلى اليوم) by Taha Jabir Alwani (London: International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2011).

Toward Realization of the Higher Intent of Islamic Law: A Functional Approach (نحو تفعيل مقاصد الشريعة) by Gamal Eddin Atiyah (Kuala Lumpur: IIIT, 2010).

Islamic Jurisprudence According to the Four Sunni Schools, Vol. I. Forms of Islamic Worship (الفقه على المذاهب) (الأربعة: الجزء الأول: العبادات), by Sheikh 'Abd al-Rahman al-Jaziri (Louisville, KY: Fons Vitae, 2009).

Islamic Thought: An Approach to Reform: An Introduction to the Structures of Discourse in Islamic Thought (إصلاح الفكر الإسلامي) by Taha Jabir Alwani (London/Washington: IIIT, 2006).

The Jurisprudence of the Prophetic Biography with a Brief History of the Orthodox Caliphate (فقه السيرة) (النبوية مع موجز لتاريخ الخلافة الراشدة), by Muhammad Sa'id Ramadan al-Buti (Damascus: Dar al-Fikr, 2006).

Imam al-Shatibi's Theory of the Higher Objectives and Intent of Islamic Law (نظرية المقاصد عند الإمام الشاطبي) by Ahmad Raysuni (London/Washington, DC: The International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2005).

The Subtle Blessings in the Saintly Lives of Abū al-'Abbās al-Mursī and his Master, Abū al-Hasan (لطائف المنن في مناقب أبي العباس المرسي وشيخه أبي الحسن), by Ibn 'Ata' Allah al-Iskandari (Louisville, KY: Fons Vitae, 2005).

Books Edited for Publication

- Abdulla Galadari, *Spiritual Meanings of the Hajj Rituals: A Philological Approach* (Louisville: Fons Vitae Publishing, 2021).
- Azmi Bishara, *Understanding Revolutions: Opening Acts in Tunisia* (London: I.B. TAURIS, forthcoming, 2021)
- _____, *On the Question: What is Salafism?* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, forthcoming, 2022)

Novel Excerpts and Short Stories

A Sky So Close to Our House, by Shahla Ujayli, in *Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, No. 55—Spring 2016.

Cold White Sun (شمش بيضاء باردة), by Kafa Al-Zou'bi, in Excerpts from the 2016 Shortlist, The International Prize for Arabic Fiction.

“When Shakespeare Thought I Was Cleopatra,” by Ahlem Mostaghanemi, in *Living Shakespeare: A Collection of Essays* (London, The British Council, 2016).

Hymns of Temptation (ترانيم الغواية), by Laila al-Atrash, in *Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, No. 58—Spring 2017.

The Second War of the Dog (حرب الكلب الثانية), by Ibrahim Nasrallah, in *Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, No. 61—Spring 2018.

Lovers, a Phonograph and Times (عشاق وفونوغراف وأزمنة), by Lutfiya al-Dulaimi, in *Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, No. 62—Summer 2018.

“Lost in Mecca,” a chapter from *Maps of the Labyrinth* (خرائط التيه), in *Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, No. 70—Spring 2021, with introduction by Nancy Roberts.

The Bag of Wheat (كيس القمح) by Kafa Al-Zou'bi, in *Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, No. 66—Autumn/Winter 2019.

The Tank (الدبابة) by Alia Mamdouh, in *Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, No. 67—Spring 2020.

Free Fall (سقوط حر), by Abeer Esber, in *Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, No. 68—Summer 2020.

To Love Life (أن تعشق الحياة), by Alawiya Sobh, in *Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature*, No. 70—Spring 2021.

Contributions to The Short Story Project (<https://www.shortstoryproject.com/>) include:

“Karim the Romantic: Bather of the Dead,” by Ziad Khadash.

<https://www.shortstoryproject.com/stories/karim-the-romantic-bather-of-the-dead/>

“Globalization” by Suheil Kiwan. <https://www.shortstoryproject.com/stories/globalization/>

“Lucerne Tunnel” by Khalil Nasif. <https://www.shortstoryproject.com/stories/lucerne-tunnel/>

“A Pleasant Countenance” by Jan Dost.

<https://www.shortstoryproject.com/stories/a-pleasant-countenance/>

Article Publications

"Reflections on the Virgin Birth of Jesus," *Syndicate Theology*, Issue 3.5, September/October 2016, pp. 148-151.

"A Muslim Reflects on Christ Crucified: Stumbling-Block, or Blessing?" *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 24.3, July 2013.

"Imitatio Christi, Imitatio Muhammadi, Imitatio Dei," *The Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 47:2, Spring 2012, pp. 227-248.

"Reflections on Conversion," *Studies in Spirituality*, Vol. 21, 2011, pp. 273-296.

"Trinity vs. Monotheism: A False Dichotomy?" *The Muslim World*, Vol. 101, Number 1, January 2011, pp. 73-93.

"God as Father-Mother, and More," *The Muslim World*, Vol. 99, Number 1, January 2009, pp. 102-123.

"Reopening the Christian-Muslim Dialogue of the 13-14th Centuries: Critical Reflections on Ibn Taymiyyah's Response to Christianity in *Al-Jawab Al-Sahih li man Baddala Din Al-Masih*," *The Muslim World*, Vol. LXXXVI, No. 3-4, July-October 1996. (Reprinted in Averil Cameron and Robert Hoyland, eds., *Doctrine and Debate in the Eastern Christian World, 300-1500*, London: Ashgate, 2011).

"A Parable of Blessing: The Significance and Message of the Qur'anic Account of 'The Companions of the Cave,'" *The Muslim World*, Vol. LXXXIII, No. 3-4, July-October 1993.

LINKS TO REVIEWS OF LITERARY TRANSLATIONS

Gaza Weddings by Ibrahim Nasrallah

<https://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/2018/march/gaza-weddings-ibrahim-nasrallah>

<https://www.thenational.ae/arts-culture/books/book-review-women-s-stories-and-wordplay-abound-in-ibrahim-nasrallah-s-gaza-weddings-1.690237>

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1280426/books>

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180124-gaza-weddings/>

Lanterns of the King of Galilee by Ibrahim Nasrallah

<https://electronicintifada.net/content/romance-and-adventure-eighteenth-century-palestine/14265>

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/features/light-your-own-lantern>

Chaos of the Senses by Ahlem Mosteghanemi

<http://www.vista.sahafi.jo/art.php?id=64397957433e49750ed3e067f16bf0a395efd4af>

Codename: Butterfly by Ahlam Bsharat

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20171115-code-name-butterfly/>

<https://socialjusticebooks.org/code-name-butterfly/>

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/arts-culture/book-review-ahlam-bsharat-s-code-name-butterfly-shows-a-girl-s-many-dilemmas-in-occupied-palestine-1.158127>

<https://u.osu.edu/yaliteraryglobetrotters/2018/11/27/review-of-code-name-butterfly/>

<http://richincolor.com/2017/11/mini-review-code-name-butterfly/>

<https://arabiconline.eu/code-name-butterfly-ahlam-bsharat-book-review/>

<https://autolingual.com/codename-butterfly-bsharat/>

<https://www.thepiratetree.com/2016/10/19/on-the-other-side-of-the-wall-a-review-of-code-name-butterfly/>

The Dust of Promises by Ahlem Mosteghanemi

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/the-dust-of-promises-by-ahlam-mosteghanemi-book-review-allegories-of-erotic-love-and-acts-of-a6819926.html>

<http://bythebookreviews.blogspot.com/2016/02/the-dust-of-promise-ahlem-mosteghanemi.html>

House of the Wolf by Ezzat Kamhawi

<http://arablit.org/2014/09/20/review-house-of-the-wolf-a-multigenerational-novel-with-womens-lives-at-the-center/>

Days of Ignorance by Laila Aljohani

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/features/price-difference>

<http://www.thenational.ae/arts-lifestyle/books/laila-aljohanix2019s-debut-novel-in-english-is-about-difficult-relationships-in-saudi-arabia>

Earth Weeps, Saturn Laughs by Abd al-Rahman Farsi

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/News/3467/23/Accursed-backwater.aspx>

<http://ayearofreadingtheworld.com/tag/nancy-roberts/>

Time of White Horses by Ibrahim Nasrallah

<https://electronicintifada.net/content/magic-realism-footnotes-novelist-nasrallah-creates-genre-his-own/11537>

<http://www.bookfabulous.com/the-book-reviews/time-of-white-horses-by-ibrahim-nasrallah>

<http://www.warscapes.com/reviews/palestinian-odyssey>

Love in the Rain by Naguib Mahfouz

<http://www.complete-review.com/reviews/mahfouz/love.htm>

Muntaha by Hala El Badry

<http://www.raintaxi.com/muntaha/>

Over the Bridge by Mohammed El Bisatie

<http://www.complete-review.com/reviews/egypt/bisatie2.htm>

Night of the First Billion by Ghada Samman

<http://www.aljadid.com/content/ghada-samman%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98-night-first-billion%E2%80%99>
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Beirut Nightmares by Ghada Samman

<http://www.aljadid.com/content/woman-point-zero-bid-survival-review-ghada-sammans-beirut-nightmares>

Beirut '75 by Ghada Samman

<http://www.aljadid.com/content/ghada-sammans-beirut-75-unmasks-gender-and-class-post-colonial-society>

Farewell, Damascus by Ghada Samman

<https://glli-us.org/2018/02/22/farewell-damascus/>

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1277256/books>

The Slave Yards by Najwa Bin Shatwan

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1697256/lifestyle>

<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/society/2020/10/14/the-slave-yards-by-najwa-bin-shatwan>

<https://themarkaz.org/tmr-weekly/three-north-african-novels-dance-between-colonial-amp-postcolonial-worlds>