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Book of Abstracts

Everything that Makes Us Human
The Potentials of Medical Humanities

Keynote Speakers

Zones of Indistinction or Memory trouble: Thinking about Dementia, Writing and Personhood

Lucy Burke

Manchester Metropolitan University

With close reference to Gerda Saunder's memoir, *Memory's Last Breath: Field Notes on My Dementia* (2017), this paper considers the ways in which first person life-writing by people living with dementia troubles the normative epistemologies and ethical claims that underpin much scholarship in the Medical Humanities. Lockean models of human identity that assert the integral role of memory to personhood implicitly suggest that personhood is irreparably eroded in the face of the cognitive and memorial losses of dementia. However, this paper argues that an engagement with memoirs by people living with dementia reveals strong evidential, political and ethical reasons for thinking differently about the role, meaning and significance of memory and narration to neuro-divergent ways of being in the world.

Lucy Burke is Principal Lecturer in English at Manchester Metropolitan University and a member of the Cultures of Disability research group. She is widely published in the field of literary and cultural dementia studies and literary disability studies. She is on the steering group of the Northern Network of Medical Humanities Research, the series advisory board of *Contemporary Cultural Studies in Illness, Health and Medicine* (Edinburgh University Press), the editorial board of the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, and an advisor to the Wellcome Trust funded LivingBodiesObjects project.

The Possibilities of the Medical Humanities: Re-Examining Romantic Literature and the Body

Matthew Reznicek
University of Minnesota

“Being rigorous about the tools particular fields bring,” Altschuler continues, “while also being humble about what each field cannot do or know is crucial for improving health care and the study of human health. It will expand the horizons of our health knowledge and has the potential to build a more dynamic, multifaceted, and ethical set of approaches to health in the future.” The argument that the Health Humanities demand a greater emphasis on our disciplinary expertise undermines claims we often hear that they “simply” put the humanities in service of medicine; instead, as I hope to show in a moment, suffusing the Health Humanities with our own expertise that we have honed in our analysis of text, film, fine art, history, theology better enables us to contend with the social factors that shape and determine health. When we bring our expertise to the conversation about health and medicine, we demonstrate the value of the humanities because we are able to explore, explain, and respond to the fact that our health and its care is overwhelmingly by the social, cultural, and political forces that medicine, without the humanities, is not equipped to address.

Matthew L. Reznicek is Associate Professor of Medical Humanities at the University of Minnesota, where he teaches in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Program. He has published widely on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British and Irish novelists, including Jane Austen, Walter Scott, and Maria Edgeworth. He currently serves as the President of the American Conference for Irish Studies and as the Editor-in-Chief of *Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine*.

Trapped in a Toxic Tango: Fictional Narcissistic Relationships Unraveled

Ahlam Ahmed Mohamed Othman

The British University in Egypt

A narcissistic relationship can best be described as a toxic tango dance with its stalking, sneaking, and cat-like moves. In a tango dance, the man struggles to gain dominance over the female partner. That is exactly what narcissistic men do to the female protagonists of *You* (2014) by Caroline Kepnes, told from the narcissist's perspective, and *The Flamingo Trick* (2022) by Nahla Karam, told by an unnamed victim. In this paper, an attempt is made to study how different narrative techniques and voices shape the reader's understanding of these toxic relationships. Through unraveling such fictional narcissistic relationships, the study aims to offer a better understanding of narcissistic personality disorder, raise awareness about the danger of entering such toxic relationships, and help victims of narcissists recover and regain their physical health and psychological well-being.

Ahlam Othman is an Associate Professor of English Language & Literature and Acting Head of the English Language and Literature Department at the British University in Egypt. She has a PhD in Comparative Literature and two MA degrees: one in English Literature from Al-Azhar University and another in TEFL from the AUC. She is currently working on another doctorate dissertation in Comparative Poetics. Dr. Othman's research interests are Comparative Literature, Literary Translation and Comparative Poetics. She is a reviewer for the National Center for Translation, Scopus indexed journals, as well as several International Conferences. Dr. Othman is a member of the Egyptian Writers' Union, a board member of the Egyptian Society of Comparative Literature, president of the Egyptian Circle of Comparative Poetics and Genre Studies, and an editorial board member of *Muqaranat*, an annual journal.

The differences between Knowledge and Attitude toward People with Mental Illness among University Students and Academic Staff

Ahmad M. Abd Al-Aziz

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The main aim of this research is to examine and compare the level of knowledge and attitude toward people with mental illness among university students and academic staff in Egypt. With the increasing mental illness prevalence in Egypt over time (now it is > 16%) and with the lack of awareness about mental health issues, evaluating the level of knowledge and assessing the attitude toward mental illness is crucial. The large body of literature shows that good knowledge and positive attitude toward people with mental illness can decrease the stigma and assist in creating a positive environment where early detection and support to students who are in need can be improved. To gauge the knowledge and attitude toward people with mental illness, an online survey was carried out to collect data from 124 students and 111 academic staff in the British University in Egypt (BUE) about their level of knowledge and their attitudes. Expected significance includes identifying and highlighting the differences between university students and academic staff in their level of knowledge and their attitude toward mental illness. Although results are pending, this research holds promise in addressing the urgent need to enhance the level of knowledge and reduce the negative attitude toward people with mental illness. In addition, mental illness stigma can be decreased, and student's help-seeking behavior can be promoted.

Ahmed Abdelaziz is an Associate Professor and the Acting Head of the Department of Basic and Applied Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British University in Egypt.

**Exploring Creative Thinking in Schizophrenic and Bipolar inpatients:
A Comparative Analysis**

Ali Mohy

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Creativity has been extensively studied across various fields, particularly psychology, due to its profound implications for human advancement. The relationship between creativity and mental illness, notably mood disorders and psychotic disorders, has been a topic of debate in the academic literature for decades. While studies show a solid relationship between creative thinking and milder bipolar disorder, findings on bipolar I are conflicting (Cruz et.al, 2022). Similarly, schizophrenia is linked to creative thinking, particularly in those with milder symptoms or family history, but

full-blown schizophrenia may hinder creativity (Acar et.al, 2018). However, there is a lack of research comparing both disorders on creative thinking using a standardized tool for creativity. This study will explore the differences in several dimensions of creative thinking between schizophrenic and bipolar I patients. A quantitative, comparative design, will be utilized. The sample will consist of one hundred psychiatric inpatients (50 with bipolar I and 50 with schizophrenia) and another 50 as a control group. The validated Arabic version of The Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking (Figural and verbal battery) will be used to measure creative thinking across several dimensions (originality, fluency, flexibility and elaboration). Additionally, MOCA will be used to exclude participants with severe cognitive dysfunction. ANOVA will be used in the statistical analysis to determine the level of significance in difference between the means of the three groups (Bipolar I, Schizophrenic, and Control). In this study, it is hypothesized that (1) there will be a significant difference in creative thinking between schizophrenic patients and bipolar I patients, (2) bipolar I patients will have higher levels of creative thinking, and (3) both disorder groups will have lower levels of creativity in comparison to the control group. This study intends to add relevant clinical findings that would help identify further differences between both disorders that would facilitate the direction of modern diagnostic classification for both disorders and fill the research gap mentioned above.

Aly Mohy is an undergraduate student at Department of Basic and Applied Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British University in Egypt. He is a volunteer in the Cognitive Science and Brain Research Centre (CSBR).

Emotive Language in Illness Narratives: Arabic Translation of *The Fault in our Stars*

Amal Abdelghani

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The present study aims to examine how the emotive language in Green's novel *The Fault in our Stars* is rendered into Arabic. The research adopts a qualitative approach employing the theoretical framework of Relevance Theory (RT) initially proposed by Sperber and Wilson (1988) and later adapted to translation by Gutt (1999, 2000). In view of such theory, a thorough investigation is conducted to identify the translator's employed techniques that render the cognitive and emotive

representation of suffering as a universal human experience in two cultures. A sample of the translated excerpts of various emotive expressions of fear, sadness, joy, frustration, and anger is analysed to discover whether the translated expression retain the core meaning of the source text, evoke the relevant mental and emotional effect intended in the source text and respect the target readers' cultural norms of expressing those emotions. The study would empirically prove whether the emotive force of the aforementioned expressions is effectively maintained or lost in translation. The findings would hopefully shed light on the intricate interplay between Humanities and Medicine through recreating in translation the various conflicting emotions in illness narratives.

Amal Abdelghani is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Arts & Humanities, BUE with a particular expertise in teaching Translation, Linguistics, Study Skills, Academic Writing, IELTS, TOEFL and ESP courses. She has earned her BA from the Faculty of Alsun, Ain Shams University, her Master degree in Translation from the Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University and her PhD with first class Honour from the Faculty of Alsun, Ain Shams University. Currently, she is a Lecturer in Translation and Linguistics at the Department of English Language and Literature teaching Translation and Interpretation modules. Besides teaching, she is the faculty's Language Support Services coordinator working with a team that aids students enhance their language and writing skills. Before joining the BUE, she has taught a variety of translation courses as an instructor and took part in the curriculum development of many courses at Arabic and Translation Studies Division (ATS), SCE, AUC. She previously worked as an English language instructor, coordinator of ESP and Business English courses and language and translation trainer in renowned academic institutions. Dr. Amal is currently interested in various research areas including Translation Quality Assessment, interdisciplinary translation research, Literary Translation, Critical Discourse Analysis and cultural studies.

**Healing Miracles in the Gospel of Luke: A Literary-Cinematic Paleopathological Reading
from the Gospel to the Screen**

Amgad Maher Mikhail Hanna
Ain Shams University

Paleopathology is the study of diseases, both human and unhuman, of antiquity based on mummified and skeletal remains, ancient literatures, and artifacts. It is underpinned by the hypothesis that environments are an integral part of both human and animal existence; subsequently, their diseases are responses to environmental factors, mirrored in environmental components, and products of everyday choices, including the worldview. The 21st century conception of the field emphasizes its interdisciplinary character, which marks the interplay between biomedical and social sciences and humanities. It is noteworthy that most paleopathological literature is geographically confined to Europe and the New World while the Middle East, despite its rich literary heritage, is almost consigned to oblivion by paleopathologists. Although not a medical text, the New Testament yields illuminating insights into first-century Palestine with the copious medical conditions it portrays. Consequently, this paper offers a literary paleopathological reading of the miracles of healing in the Gospel of Luke, who is originally a physician, via situating them in the medical context of 1st-century Palestine with a view to probe into what the Bible has to say about the healing powers of Jesus as well as his attitude towards the Old Testament conception of illness. It, then, examines how these aspects were technically moved to the big screen in the most translated and watched cinematic adaptation of the Gospel: *The Jesus Film* (1979) and its complementary sequel *Magdalena: Released from Shame* (2007).

Amgad Maher Mikhail Hanna is an Assistant Lecturer and a PhD candidate at the Department of English, Faculty of Al-Alsun, Ain Shams University. He is currently working on his dissertation in medieval drama entitled *Adaptations of Medieval Mystery Plays in Sight and Sound Theaters'* Noah (1999), Moses (2014), and Jesus (2018): A Study of Metatheatricity. He attained his MA in 2022 in the psycho-cinematics of filmic Faustian adaptations. His areas of interest include religious drama, film studies, and interdisciplinary research. Amgad has begun his career since he was a freshman (2012) by teaching English language at various charities and training centers. In addition, he worked as an interpreter and translator at the Coptic Orthodox Cultural Center (COCC) for two years (2017- 2018). In 2020, he got his first translated novel published by Dawen Publishing House, Cairo: Chad Luzki's *Of Foster Homes and Flies* (2016). He is also a Certified Career Services Provider (CCSP) by the American National Career Development Association (NCDA) and works as a Senior Career Development Specialist at the American University in Cairo since 2019.

Visual persuasion in Selected English and Arabic Covid-19 Editorial Cartoons (2020-2021): Vaccine Portrayal

Basma Ahmed Talaat

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Persuasion is an act aimed at creating a change in an audience; a change in their thought, attitude, beliefs and behavior. Visual persuasion is convincing someone to take a specific action mainly by employing an image. The detection of the novel Coronavirus in December 2019, its spread in other countries worldwide, and the WHO declaring the outbreak of the virus as a pandemic in March 2020 disrupted human life globally. As soon as a Coronavirus vaccine was introduced, campaigns of misinformation about the vaccine emerged. Given their significant role in reflecting and in shaping public opinion, the present study investigates visual persuasion in selected English and Arabic editorial cartoons related to Covid-19, attempting to dispel the misinformation associated with the vaccine in the years 2020-2021. By employing Cockroft and Cockroft's (1992) model of persuasion and complementing it with Wodak's (2001) topoi and van Eemeren and Hankemans' (2017) fallacies of argumentation to investigate logos; and Birdsell and Groarke's (2007) model of visual means of argument, the study at hand attempts to examine how the creators of the selected cartoons attempt to persuade their audience visually with their stance to promote the behavior of getting vaccinated. Data analysis shows that regarding ethos, in both data sets, cartoonists support vaccination, oppose antivaxxers, and warn against the consequences of being unvaccinated. Moreover, regarding pathos, it is achieved in the English data by means of the expressive positive evaluation of the vaccine, on the one hand, and the negative evaluation of antivaxxers and of being unvaccinated, on the other hand. Pathos is also maintained by appeal to hope- as regards the vaccine and getting vaccinated- and appeal to fear- as regards being unvaccinated and antivaxxers. Similarly, pathos is achieved in the Arabic data mainly by the expressive positive evaluation of the vaccine. In contrast, there is an expressive negative evaluation of those who rejected the vaccine as being Covid-19 victims. In addition, and unlike English cartoons, Arabic cartoons show appeal to pity over the world. With respect to logos, in both data sets the Topos of usefulness and advantage comes first in portraying the vaccine (21.7% English data - 22.7% Arabic data),

followed by the Topos of definition to introduce the vaccine to the readers in images they can grasp easily and relate to (17% English- 22.7% Arabic). Then comes the Topos of danger and threat to highlight the consequences of being unvaccinated (17% English- 18% Arabic). As for visual means of argument, in English cartoons, visual metaphors and visual demonstrations are equal (33%, each) followed by visual symbols (22%). In contrast, in Arabic cartoons, visual symbols are the most frequent (41.6%) followed by visual metaphors (33.3%) and visual demonstrations (25%). In both data sets, metaphors and symbols help to introduce the medical element (vaccine) in terms of visual elements the layman can relate to. Given the limited sample examined, analysis of more cartoons should support or refute these findings.

Basma Talaat is an Assistant Lecturer at the English Department, Faculty of Al-Asun, Ain-Shams University. Her MA Thesis is entitled, “Egyptian Economy in English and Arabic Economic Discourse: A Contrastive Study in the Light of Conceptual Metaphor Theory”. Her academic interests include contrastive linguistics, cognitive linguistics, critical discourse analysis, persuasion, and multimodality. She is currently working on Ph.D. dissertation (*Visual persuasion in English and Arabic Coronavirus Cartoons 2020-2021: A Contrastive Study*).

The Effect of Social Media Usage on Bulimia Nervosa on Egyptian Adolescents

Bakinam A. Alremaly - Dr. Ansam Alshaikh

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The use of social media has grown significantly over the last ten years and has ingrained itself into our daily lives. Nonetheless, the widespread use of social media may have been a reason behind psychological harm within adolescents. This research aims to investigate the impact of Instagram images of the "ideal" body on bulimia nervosa. Previous research conducted on the same topic used cross-sectional design which restricted the capacity to draw conclusions about causality. Another limitation was that the results cannot be applied to any other age group because the individuals in this sample were between the ages of 19 and 32. Lastly, the research was conducted on adolescents within the USA only (Sidani et al., 2016). We selected a sample of 120 Egyptian adolescents aged 13 - 17 who have been diagnosed with bulimia nervosa. Two groups of

participants, each with sixty members, will be formed based on age and gender. There will be two groups: those who use Instagram frequently and those who use it less frequently. The symptoms of bulimia nervosa and each group's general state of well-being will be evaluated using standardized measurements. Regression and T – tests will be used in order to analyze the results. Then, to evaluate their well-being and determine the extent to which social media has influenced their eating disorder, we will perform assessments that measure their well-being and assessments to measure the level of using social media. Those assessments are the Social Media Use Scale and the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS). As the participants are already diagnosed with bulimia, there is no need to assess them for it. We predict that, in comparison to adolescents with bulimia nervosa who use social media less, those who use Instagram frequently will report more severe symptoms. The findings of this research would raise greater awareness about the negative psychological impact of social media on young adolescents.

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Narratives as a Medical Resource: Transforming Patient Interviews into Fictional Stories about Blood Clots

Cintia Kozonoi Vezzani - Alfonso j. Tafur

University of Tokyo

We, scholars in the humanities and a vascular doctor, are working together in the creation of a book project entitled *Living with Blood Clots*. In this presentation, we will share the concept behind the book, which aims to provide an educational resource for patients who have been diagnosed

with or who are at risk of developing blood clots. Drawing on patient interviews and the latest medical research, this project consists of fictionalized accounts of the diagnosis and treatment of blood clots and thrombosis. The aim is to transform information from patients into an accessible, entertaining, and informative book that will alert readers to symptoms, summarize their treatment options, and help them process the emotional experience of being diagnosed with blood clots. I will divide my presentation according to three recurrent topics present in most of the interviews. 1) Misdiagnosis: many patients described how their symptoms were not correctly diagnosed until their conditions worsened. 2) Unfamiliarity: there is a marked contrast between the high number of vascular incidents worldwide and the limited public awareness about these conditions—particularly for those who are in high-risk groups. 3) Uncertainty: a common theme in these interviews is the anxiety that patients expressed about how their experiences with blood clots might shape their futures. In this paper, we explore how *Living with Blood Clots* aims to address each of these issues, contextualize the importance of thrombosis as a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the world, and demonstrate one potential method of collaboration between doctors and humanities scholars.

Cintia Kozonoi Vezzani is a postdoctoral fellow at Tokyo College (the University of Tokyo) and the co-translator of *The Bankruptcy* by Júlia Lopes de Almeida (UCL Press 2023), which won the English PEN Translates Award. She received her Ph.D. in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Northwestern University, where she was a fellow of the Buffett Institute and the Paris Program in Critical.

Alfonso J. Tafur is the Vascular Medicine Director at NorthShore University Health Systems and the founder of the PACO (Promoting Awareness of Clotting Outcomes) Foundation. He comes from a three-generation family of physicians from Ecuador, where he graduated from Medical School before moving to the US for his residency (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota). He works with Dr. Joseph Caprini in building risk prediction scores to empower patients.

Collaborating for Change: Linking Experiential Learning and Historical Evidence in First Year Medical Student Education

Emily Beck - Priya Sury - Lois Hendrickson - Liz Root
University of Minnesota

This paper argues for the inclusion of history of medicine in medical education as a collaborative method of teaching medical students about social determinants of health. Based on our work with the University of Minnesota [UMN] first year medical students, we will discuss a series of curriculum interventions that use historical documents, such as public health reports, case studies, and oral histories, from the Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology and Medicine [WHL] to ground conversations about structural inequities in medicine related to race, gender, and nationality. Our sessions have covered, for example, the history of tuberculosis in Minnesota, a bubonic plague outbreak in San Francisco, historical obstetrical images, and different ways of knowing about health. These sessions have been developed in close collaboration between curators of the WHL and the UMN Medical School, ensuring that there are clear connections between historical material and the students' future clinical practice. We have found that using historical evidence is a powerful method of depersonalizing challenging questions and issues related to healthcare practice. This allows students to feel safe as they examine themselves as part of a healthcare landscape that carries with it a complex past. These course sessions allow students to understand how knowledge systems are created, work toward dismantling inequities, and begin their professional identity formation. In this paper, we will provide an overview of our work, as well as sample lesson plans and course objectives so that attendees can build on what we have learned in their own institutions.

Emily Beck, PhD is a historian of medicine and the Associate Curator of the Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology & Medicine [WHL] at the University of Minnesota [UMN].

Lois Hendrickson, MLIS, is the Curator of the WHL at UMN.

Priya Sury, MD, DPhil, is an Assistant Professor in the Medical School at UMN and a physician for Health Partners in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Liz Root is a PhD student in the Program for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine at UMN and a Research Assistant at the WHL. We bring our unique backgrounds to collaborative curriculum development that emphasizes a decolonial framework for medical education that is grounded in historical inquiry and multiple ways of knowing.

**Representation Modes of Dementia in Eric Hill's *An Absent Mind* and Wendy Mitchell's
*Somebody I Used to Know***

Faten Ahmed Ramadan

Fayoum University

Dementia fiction can be considered a subgroup of neurofiction and mental disease narratives in a sense that it highlights the interconnections among neuroscience, cognitive psychology and literature. Dementia narrative investigates not only the plight of the afflicted person with dementia but also integrates other voices such as family members and caregivers. Prompted by the role of literature in enhancing empathy and understanding of dementia sufferers, the present research attempts to examine the narrative modes of representation in two selected dementia texts. The two chosen works are Eric Hill's *An Absent Mind* (2015) and Wendy Mitchell's *Somebody I Used to Know* (2018). The present research explores the narrative perspective in the two selected works through the model of narrative modes for the representation of dementia proposed by Susanne Katharina Christ in her book: *Fictions of Dementia* (2022). The model provides new horizons to the study of dementia as it navigates the narrative mode, the narrative techniques, the epistemic strategies through which the dementia plight is rendered as well as the mind style in the dementia narratives. Through applying Christ's Modes of Representation to the two selected dementia texts, the research highlights the ontological perspective of dementia narratives and their integration with multiple disciplines to enhance perception of mental illness in general and dementia in particular.

Faten Ahmed Ramadan is an Associate Professor of English language and literature at the Faculty of Arts, Fayoum University, Egypt. She is interested in critical theory and its application on literary texts. She also has interest in human rights, minority literatures and new horizons in fictional works.

In the Kingdom of the Sick: Susan Sontag's "Illness as Metaphor" and the Everyday

Gunner Lundberg
University of Minnesota

The lived 'everyday,' though differing from person to person, is a quintessential part of the human experience. We all wake up, nourish ourselves, and move about our day. However, there is an equally human experience that radically interrupts this routine, an experience that is sporadic, unplanned, and even contagious. It was Susan Sontag who wrote in her 1977 essay "Illness as Metaphor" that, "Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick. Although we all prefer to use only the good passport, sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place." Illness, no matter how mild, interrupts our everyday lives. This essay will examine the portrayal of tuberculosis (TB) in James Joyce's 1914 short story "The Dead", and Sylvia Plath's 1963 novel *The Bell Jar*. By looking at two portrayals of TB, a disease Sontag herself focuses on, one can evaluate the effect disease at large has on the everyday by analyzing the degree of interruption caused by illnesses, their respective treatments, and the public perceptions surrounding them. By using Sontag's essay as a guide, we can see how TB intrudes into daily life, and how a larger metaphorical reading of TB showcases how its effects linger beyond an individual's death or recovery.

Gunnar Lundberg is an English Literature PhD student at the University of Minnesota. His research interests revolve around ecocriticism, modernism, and the environmental humanities. He has previously studied at the University of Glasgow and Franklin University Switzerland.

**Interrogating the intersection between Disability and Gender Discourse in the context of
Medical Humanities: A Reading of Mahesh Dattani's play *Tara***

Habib Subhan
Diamond Harbour Women's University

Gender-based inequalities between men and women operate within a system of relationships, beliefs, and values which are embedded in political, social, cultural and economic systems of a

society or a country. Feminism as an ideological concept and movement tries to delegitimize any such claim that poetizes men over women. As a result, we could notice certain kind anxiety and urgency in patriarchy to refashion and refurbish its ideological apparatus to counter any possible gender liminality. It causes mutation within patriarchal discourse and by doing so, it tries to escape the rigid and more aggressive feministic gaze and thereby to continue its hegemony over the women. It engages itself in the production of different types of tropes to form, consolidate, and circulate a certain kind of gender-based identities. Such materialization of urgency helps patriarchy to adapt to the socio-cultural, political and economic changes in all spatial and temporal junctures and also makes it difficult for others to freeze the mechanism which perpetuates oppression against women. This paper aims at interrogating how patriarchy shapes the medical science and perpetuates the gender discrimination and gender vulnerability at a time when medical science is considered and believed to be the most sacred field of human knowledge. Using disability as a trope in Mahesh Dattani's play *Tara* (1991), the paper tries to explicate the intersection between medical science and gender discourse. In fact, Dattani's play *Tara* illustrates the horrific design of medical practitioners and how knowledge of medical science is applied in the perpetuation of gender discrimination and gender vulnerability. It amounts to the creation and sustenance of a gendered society, a disabled society where men and women are treated antithetically. The paper highlights the need for a more humane approach towards the patients.

Habib Subhan is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Diamond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal, India. He has done my Ph.D. from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (Central University), India. I He is interested in the field of postcolonial studies, gender studies and ecology and literature.

Unveiling Legitimacy: Analyzing the Power of Persuasion in WHO's Anti-Smoking Publications—A Critical Discourse Analysis

Hala Shaker

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Since children spend almost one-third of their day in schools, and much of the peer pressure arises in these educational settings, schools are in a powerful state to play a key role in decreasing smoking and other tobacco and nicotine use among children. In September 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) released two new publications: “Freedom from tobacco and nicotine: guide for Schools,” and the “Nicotine and Tobacco-Free Schools Toolkit” to urge schools around the world to take the necessary steps to create a smoke- and nicotine-free environment and implement policies that prevent young people from starting smoking. The language of policy documents usually conceals a high level of legitimation and persuasion to reach its target audience. The current study uses the Critical Discourse Analytical (CDA) approach to analyse the construction of legitimacy in the WHO’s latest publications. The analysis is performed based on van Leeuwen’s (2008) legitimation strategies. The analysis results indicate that the legitimation of the smoking ban discourse in the guides shows a continuity of the authoritarian attitude. Moreover, there is a shift toward a more rational, practical, and school-centred stance, a switch from “fighting the bad” to “protecting the good”. The utilization of legitimation techniques holds significant potential in enhancing the work of policy makers and official document creators. By employing these techniques, they can effectively persuade their audience and generate favorable outcomes. This practice brings attention to the crucial need for incorporating persuasive strategies within medical guides, thereby enhancing their ability to effectively communicate and achieve their intended objectives.

Hala Shaker is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities – English Language Department, with particular interests and long expertise in applied linguistics and teaching English as a second language. Hala obtained her BA from Faculty of Alsun, Ain Shams University and her Master degree and PhD from Tanta University in the field of Applied Linguistics with a specialization in Critical Discourse Analysis, analyzing media, political and gender discourses and hidden ideologies. Currently, she works on expanding her research in the field of Cognitive Linguistics and Corpus Linguistics. She is currently teaching Critical Discourse Analysis as well as Pragmatics to students in the English Language Department. She is also the Faculty Prep-year Coordinator. Hala joined the British University in 2010, having previously worked at Misr International University as a supervisor in the English Language Department. She also worked abroad for several years teaching English as a Second Language. She has been involved in developing

teaching strategies, curriculums and assessment methodologies. She has also worked in teacher training and delivering workshops.

The Impact of Perceived Social Support on Postpartum Depression: The Mediating Role of Psychological Capital and Sense of Coherence

Hana Khaled Aman

The British University in Egypt

The relationship between postpartum depression and social support is highly supported in research. However, few studies investigated the factors that could intervene with this relationship. The purpose of this research is to investigate how psychological capital and sense of coherence can mediate the relationship between perceived social support and postpartum depression. This study analysed data from 217 postpartum women with age range between 25- 41(M= 30.12 SD= 3.65). The sample was recruited from obstetrics/gynaecology and paediatric clinics in Cairo, Egypt. Data was collected using Arabic versions of the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale, the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support, the Psychological Capital Questionnaire, and the Sense of Coherence Scale. Mediation analysis was performed using multiple linear regression, Hayes' Process Macro via bootstrapping on SPSS-26. Perceived social support has a negative direct effect of postpartum depression ($\beta = -1.13$ ($\beta = -1.132$, $p < 0.001$, 95% CI [-1.675, -0.5891]) and is positively correlated with psychological capital ($\beta = 5.6077$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [3.41, 7.804]). Sense of coherence is positively related to perceived social support ($\beta = 0.287$, $p = 0.5699$, 95% CI [-0.707, 1.282]). Both variables have a significant indirect effect (-0.7186, 95% CI [-1.0804, -0.372]) on the relationship between perceived social support and postpartum depression, indicating significant mediation. Perceived social support influences postpartum depression through the positive traits of psychological capital (hope, efficacy, resilience, and optimism) and sense of coherence. These findings are crucial to designing interventions aimed at minimizing the risk for postpartum depression through developing psychological capital and sense of coherence.

Hana Khaled is a Teaching Assistant and an MA candidate at the Department of Basic and Applied Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British University in Egypt. She is a

masters' student currently conducting her thesis in the Masters of Clinical Psychology at the British University in Egypt. She formerly graduated with a BA in psychology from the BUE. She received certifications in cognitive behavioural therapy for depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, social anxiety, and personality disorders, as well as ethical practices in psychotherapy. She also received clinical training in mental health institutions in Egypt. She is well trained in multiple therapeutic schools like cognitive behavioural therapy and dialectical behavioural therapy for a range of mental health disorders. Hana has a genuine interest in women's mental health, specifically maternal mental health and is working towards becoming part of the scientific literature as well as practical implications in these areas.

The Impact of Sense of Loneliness on Geriatric Depression: The Mediating Role of Sense of Mattering and Psychological Adjustment

Haya Khaled Aman

The British University in Egypt

Depression is a highly prevalent mental disorder in older adults, and among its highest risk factors is loneliness. Although this relationship is commonly evident, the mechanisms underlying it, such as sense of mattering and psychological adjustment, lack exploration. The current research aims to examine the relationship between loneliness and geriatric depression and explore the mediating roles of sense of mattering and psychological adjustment. A sample of 200 older adults (63.5% females; mean age=75.6; SD=8.806) was recruited from 24 geriatric homes in Cairo, Egypt. Participants responded to the Arabic versions of the Mini Mental State Examination for excluding the severely demented, Geriatric Depression Scale-15, University of California, Los Angeles

Loneliness Scale-version 3, General Mattering Scale, and Brief Adjustment Scale-6. The mediation analysis was conducted using multiple linear regression and Hayes' process macro with bootstrapping on SPSS26. Results: Loneliness has a significant, positive direct effect with geriatric depression ($\beta = 0.0782$, $p = 0.0005$, 95%CI [0.0346, 0.1218]), a significant, negative correlation with sense of mattering ($\beta = -0.3409$, $p < .001$, 95%CI [-0.3672, -0.3145]), and a significant, positive correlation with psychological maladjustment ($\beta = 0.4008$, $p < .001$, 95%CI [0.3552, 0.4465]). Sense of mattering and psychological adjustment mediate the relationship between loneliness and geriatric depression with a significant indirect effect (0.4977, 95%CI [0.3776, 0.6152]). Loneliness significantly impacts geriatric depression through sense of mattering and psychological adjustment. These findings implicate substantial insight for interventions that can be targeted at the reduction of geriatric depression through reducing loneliness feelings and enhancing sense of mattering and adjustment.

Haya Khaled Aman is a Teaching assistant and an MA Candidate at the Department of Basic and Applied Psychology at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in the British University in Egypt. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts in psychology from both the British University in Egypt and London South Bank University, London-UK. She is currently pursuing her Masters' of Science in applied clinical psychology from the British University in Egypt and London South Bank University, London-UK. She has certificates in cognitive behavioral therapy for depression, social anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, personality disorders, and posttraumatic stress disorder as well as ethics of psychotherapy from authorized entities in Egypt, and has received training in reputable mental health institutes in Egypt. She has academic and clinical experience with different schools of psychotherapy, such as cognitive behavioral therapy and dialectical behavioral therapy, as well as in different mental disorders among different age groups. Haya is interested in conducting research and applying its findings to contribute to the scientific community as well as to interventions in fields like medical humanities and clinical psychology, in a variety of research topics such as elderly mental health, children's and adolescents' mental health, modern etiology of mental illness, and mental health psychoeducation.

Renal Failure: A Janus-Faced Illness Narrative

Hoda El Hadary
The British University in Egypt

Illness narratives have become a literary genre that possesses a special location being read as both literacy and literature. Nevertheless, many critics discredit these narratives as being subjective, often seeing them as ‘whining’ narratives. However, this paper aims at reading one illness narrative entitled *klby ālhīm klby ālh̄byb: ālnṣ wṣ āl akhāyra* or *My Aging Dog, My Beloved Dog: The Latest Manuscripts (2007/2021)* by the late Osama Eldanaswry as a shared experience of a patient/person/writer. The narrative portrays Eldanaswry’s last days and his long suffering from renal failure, which he had to endure for twelve years. In his narrative, he turns fate into an experience that he shares with the readers as “under conditions of adversity, individuals often feel a pressing need to re-examine and re-fashion their personal narratives in an attempt to maintain a sense of identity” (Bury, 264). Eldanaswry’s narrative provides hidden transcripts of emotional communities and insight into how he deals with the roller coaster of emotions (hope, despair, struggle, disappointment, etc.). In that sense, the narrative can be read as a “chaos narrative” as per Arthur Frank’s classification, in addition to portraying “biographical disruption” and “biographical continuation” as Mark Bury refers to such narratives. Thus, this paper traces the Janus-faced representation of Eldanaswry’s illness journey to investigate two main questions: What does the narrative reveal about healthcare communities in Egypt? What role does illness play in shaping the formation and maintenance of identity across different stages of the life course, from diagnosis to treatment and recovery, or adaptation to chronic conditions?

Hoda Elhadary is a Lecturer and the former Programme Director of the Department of English Language and Literature, The British University in Egypt. Dr. Elhadary has received her Ph.D. with distinction with the focus of her work on Interdisciplinary Studies. She was awarded Fulbright Award in 2016. Dr. Elhadary has participated in several international conferences in Germany, Italy, and England. In addition to that, she also participated in many international seminars and was invited as a colloquia leader at the Institute for World Literature, Harvard University, in 2022. Dr. Elhadary’s list of publications includes the following books: *Exile and Identity: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (2014); *Historiography of Partition: The Case of the Indian Subcontinent and Palestine* (2020); and *Cities with Personalities: An Anthropological Reading to Literary Representations of Arab Cities* (2022).

Rare: Stories of Dis-Ease

James CLoyd - Sonja Kuftinec - Paul Ranelli - Luverne Seifert

University of Minnesota

In the Fall of 2021, faculty in the Department of Theater Arts and Dance and the College of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota embarked on a project to create a play about rare diseases. The goal of the play was to help a regional audience gain greater awareness and a deeper understanding of the medical, economic, psychological, and social challenges facing people with rare diseases. The collaboration adapted the Greek tragedy, *Philoctetes*, to a modern context as the basis of the play. *Rare: Stories of Dis-Ease* toured throughout the Midwest in Fall 2022. Following each performance, healthcare experts along with people with rare diseases and their family members offered presentations on relevant topics. A post-show survey showed that most respondents, (95%) indicated that both *Philoctetes* and the stories of rare disease came through with great impact.

For the Medical Humanities conference, we propose to share a 5-min. edit of a documentary produced about the production and a 3-minute excerpt from the performance. We will offer brief framing remarks from members of the producing team. We will conclude with notes on how the production lives on in archived form and has informed our understandings of how arts and medicine can effectively collaborate.

[Rare: documentary cut \(4:30 min\)](#)

[Treatment Advances clip \(2 min.\)](#)

One can directly view the documentary and the play by clicking on these links:

[Documentary of the creation of the play](#)

[Film of live performance in Fargo ND, Act I](#)

[Film of live performance in Fargo ND, Act II](#)

James Cloyd, PharmD, is a professor of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacy and Director, Center for Orphan Drug Research at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. His research focuses on the development of therapies for rare epilepsy conditions, which has led to FDA approval of several orphan drugs. He is co-chair of the steering committee for the University of Minnesota Rare Disease Day and is a member of the rare disease play planning committee.

Sonja Arsham Kufinec, PhD is a professor of Theatre at the University of Minnesota. She has created and published widely on community-based theatre and theatre as a technique of conflict transformation. Her current research explores the intersection of theater with science education, health equity, and critical literacy. She has collaborated with Luverne Seifert on several science theater productions including *Pharmakon*, *Rare*, and *Humans are Relative(s)*.

Paul Ranelli, PhD, is a professor emeritus of social pharmacy at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. His teaching and research relate to factors influencing medication-use behavior. Recent projects include, *Go Ask Alice*, *Pharmakon*, *RARE*, and *To Really See*, which reflect his interest in using theater and visual arts to explore medication-use experiences of patients or consumers.

Luverne Seifert teaches performance at the University of Minnesota. He is also co-artistic director of Sod House Theater, whose mission has been to bring professional theater experiences to greater Minnesota communities, inspiring people to value and embrace theater as part of a reflective and thoughtful life. He has worked on several science-theater collaborations including *Pharmakon*, *Rare*, and *Humans are Relative(s)*.

Cultivating Empathy: Early Exposure to Person-Centered Art Interactions as Part of Medical Student Training

Jennie Vegt - Pamela Brett-MacLean

University of Alberta

The proposed presentation discusses the potential of early exposure to person-centered art interactions for medical students in a hospital environment. By providing opportunities for students to prioritize connection and creativity with the patient population outside of their clinical responsibilities, a mindset of empathy and curiosity is cultivated early on that could persist

throughout their medical careers. Drawing from the process and realist evaluation of a hospital-based art program called “Artists on the Wards”, this presentation explores the nuanced ‘context-mechanism-outcome’ (CMO) configurations of providing arts experiences in a hospital environment and how these same configurations could shape medical students' approach to patient care in the safe practice arena of arts engagement. By reframing the notion of art as a vehicle for personal expression and connection rather than a skill-based activity, medical students learn to engage with patients on a deeper level, prioritizing empathy over expectations and protocol. This approach not only enhances patient care but also enriches students' understanding of the human experience, preparing them to navigate the complexities of healthcare with compassion and insight. The presentation highlights the importance of integrating arts-based experiences with patients into medical education curriculum, providing students with opportunities to develop essential skills in empathy and communication from the outset. By conditioning students to enter patient rooms with curiosity and openness required in arts facilitation early in their training, we lay the foundation for a healthcare workforce that prioritizes holistic, person-centered care.

Pamela Brett-MacLean, BA (Hons), MA, PhD is an associate Professor at the Department of Psychiatry and is the Director, Arts & Humanities in Health & Medicine at the University of Alberta.

Jennie Vegt has BFA, MSc in Psychiatry Candidate, University of Alberta.

The Power of Storytelling: A Novel Curriculum Strategy to Re-engage Physician Interns, Residents, and Fellows in the Art of Medicine

Johnna P. Wellesley - Ava McGuire - Aleena Asaria - Carolyn S. Phillips - Tyler Jorgensen
University of Texas

When faced with illness, trauma, or death, storytelling facilitates meaning making and brings a sense of experiential coherence. Over time, physicians often learn to ignore or discount humanizing personal narratives of health and disease in favor of standardized medical templates and jargon, which may jeopardize empathy and clinical well-being. *Physician Storytelling* is a non-clinical, Graduate Medical Education (GME) elective at the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, focused on developing physicians' storytelling expertise. This presentation

describes the structure and experience of the inaugural cohort—a two-week writers’ workshop where learners explored various media for creative expression, including prose, poetry, song, improvisation, visual art, and graphic medicine. Encouraged to draw inspiration from various clinical and non-clinical settings and contexts, learners were in differing temporal and spatial environments. Writers workshopped 20 original poems, six pieces of creative non-fiction, two short stories, and one screenplay and wrote timed responses to nine creative prompts. Post-course analysis indicates that this elective had positive impacts on writer confidence, therapeutic vulnerability, and emotional processing, advancing creativity and empathetic humanity. This project builds on current research into the pedagogical and psychological effectiveness of narrative-based components for physician learners. GME learners are often less equipped with tools from the humanities to help them cope with the weight of life and death and burdensome clinical decision-making. The *Physician Storytelling* elective uniquely targets this high-risk group to facilitate personal expression, foster well-being, and improve patient care by enhancing the art of medicine.

Johnna Wellesley is a third-year PhD candidate in Bioethics and Health Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Johnna’s interests span clinical ethics, medical decision-making, narrative medicine, and the history of emotions. Her current research focuses on the patterns and production of shame and stigma in the dying and the dead.

The project was conceived and led by **Dr. Tyler Jorgensen**, a Palliative Care and ER physician and Assistant Professor with the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School.

**Postcolonial Crossroads of Care in Contemporary French and Francophone Literature:
A Research Project and Its Potentials for the Critical Medical Humanities**

Julia Pröll

University of Innsbruck

This paper aims to present a research project currently carried out at Saarland University and funded by the German Humboldt Foundation which, based on the medical anthropological concept

of medical pluralism (see, for instance, Hörbst, Gerrets, & Schirripa 2017: 7-26), seeks to illuminate zones of contact (and conflict) between healing traditions in contemporary French-language literature. Particular attention will be paid to authors of migration, as their double vision enables them to relate indigenous medical traditions and official, hegemonic Western medicine to each other in a tense way and to raise awareness of “shared medical history” (see Randeria 1999, 87-96). The discussion of these “crossroads of care” (Benoist 1993) or “medicoscapes” (Hörbst & Wolf 2014: 182-202) within a postcolonial theoretical framework – which leads to the insight inspired by Homi Bhabha that “[medical] cultures are not unitary in themselves” (Bhabha 1994: 54) – provides an opportunity to explore the following questions, among others, and to reflect on the potential of postcolonial theory for the medical humanities: How and for what purpose are which non-Western medical traditions or alternative therapies brought to representation in the text corpus? Do they remind hegemonic Western-style medicine of its own conflict-ridden history and sensitize it to the distortions, exclusions and repressions it has carried out? Are they therefore also important markers of identity for the (formerly) colonized ‘subalterns’ and in this respect an expression of agency in asymmetrical (medical) power constellations and power relations? Or do they rather see themselves associated with backwardness, sectarianism or charlatanism or thematized in the context of unequal access to the established Western healthcare system? What role does medical (auto-)exoticism play in the texts, a strategy which perceives indigenous healing arts as mere curiosities for a Western readership? What aesthetic strategies help to prevent this ‘risk’ and ‘side effect’?

Julia Pröll is an Associate Professor of French Literature and Cultural Studies at the Department of Romance Studies at the University of Innsbruck. She is (co-)editor of the peer-reviewed, open access online journal *Re:visit. Humanities & Medicine in Dialogue* (<https://journal-revisit.org/jr/index>) and currently Humboldt-Research-Fellow at Saarland University where she carries out the project: “Care in Contact: Postcolonial Medicoscapes in Contemporary French and Francophone literature”. Her main research interests in the field of the Medical Humanities currently concern French-speaking physician-writers as well as the depiction of illness and medicine in the texts of French-speaking migration authors, especially from Asia.

Conversion and Recovery Narratives in *Hard Times* and "Janet's Repentance"

Katie Brandit

University of Illinois

Throughout the nineteenth century, the topic of addiction was explored through medicine, psychiatry, politics, and fiction. In a genealogical sense, existing power structures, such as gender norms, marriage laws, imperial expansion, and the economy, influenced nineteenth-century discourses on addiction. On one hand, the tension between medicalization and moralization of the time meant that Victorian conceptions of addiction entailed both bodily (“disease”) and spiritual or psychological (“dis-ease”) components. On the other, because of their modes of production and reception, addiction was not merely a topic or theme on which these novels conversed; it is part of their very structures, the very fibers and tissues of their beings, particularly due to the demands of making a living writing at this time. This paper will ultimately examine *Hard Times* and “Janet’s Repentance” as iterations of the conversion and recovery narrative forms in which we see both successful and failed attempts at sobriety. In *Hard Times*, my focus will be on Louisa Gradgrind (although attention will be paid to lesser characters who drink, use drugs, or gamble, too) and her enticement by James Harthouse to show Dickens’s complicated feelings on temperance, female chastity, and marriage as well as to show the novel’s investment in using realist techniques to portray the addict. Moving on to “Janet’s Repentance,” I illustrate how the story showcases Eliot’s many uses of narration, using both religious fervor and Janet’s literal alcoholism to portray the addict’s ability to recover through a spiritual experience. Both texts give a picture of the female recovery narrative and employ different modes of narration and description to explore the addict’s journey from active use to spiritual experience to eventual sobriety.

Katie Brandit holds an MA in English literature from San Francisco State University and is currently a doctoral candidate in critical English studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is also the graduate assistant director of the UIC Writing Center. Her work has been featured on the Dickens Society Blog and published in *Victorian Popular Fictions Journal*. Her dissertation, *Addictive Practices: Realism and Substance Use in the Nineteenth-Century Novel*, focuses on the construction of the addicted subject in the nineteenth-century novel and how the form Victorian novel is reliant on themes of addiction.

Aphasia as Represented in the TV Show *House M. D.*

Marian Morcos

Ain Shams University

Aphasia is a language disorder that results from damage to portions of the brain that are responsible for language. It can affect the production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write. Aphasia is most commonly caused by stroke but can also result from other brain injuries such as trauma, tumors, or infections. The severity and scope of the problems depend on the extent and location of the brain damage. Individuals with aphasia may experience difficulties in speaking, understanding spoken language, reading, writing, or a combination of these. Aphasia does not affect intelligence, but it makes communication challenging. Treatment often involves speech and language therapy. This research paper delves into the portrayal of aphasia within the context of the popular television series *House M.D.*, with a specific focus on its accuracy, implications for public understanding, and the nuances of neurological disorders as depicted in mainstream media.

Through a detailed analysis of selected episodes featuring characters with aphasia, the paper examines the series' approach to the disorder, including symptom presentation, diagnostic processes, and therapeutic interventions. The study employs a multidisciplinary lens, incorporating perspectives from neurology, clinical linguistics, speech-language pathology, and media studies, to assess the realism of the portrayal and its impact on viewers' perceptions of aphasia. By exploring *House M.D.*'s representation of aphasia, the research aims to contribute to the broader discourse on the intersection of entertainment media and public health education, highlighting opportunities for enhancing awareness and understanding of aphasia among the general public.

Marian Morcos is an Assistant Professor at the English Department, Faculty of Languages, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt. Her academic field is Applied Linguistics. She is an Egyptian researcher who specializes in applied English linguistics. Among her research interests are pragma-dialectics, clinical linguistics, critical discourse analysis, cognitive linguistics, and forensic linguistics. She has been a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Languages, Ain Shams University since 2009. She has acquired her MA degree in 2013 with excellent with honors degree. After that, she has acquired her PhD degree in 2020 with an excellent with honors degree. Her

teaching philosophy is focused on the engagement of the students in the learning process through interactive learning. She has taught a variety of syllabi among which: ESL, ESP, IELTS, TOEFL, Morphology, Discourse Analysis, Grammar, and Syntax. Among her publications are “Language as a Lobbying Means: Argumentation in Russian Plane Crash Issue in English Written Media Discourse (October- December 2015)” and “A Study in the Language of Anti-Jewish and Anti-Black American Jokes in the Light of the General Theory of Verbal Humor” (2013).

Hunger from Fat Studies to Health Humanities: The Potential of the Humanities

Maha Mostafa

Helwan University

In 2003 the American Medical Association designated obesity a disease. As a result, a significant number of “autosomatographies” (self-body-writing) were written specifically by women recounting their experience with obesity became best sellers. One of these narratives is *Hunger: A Memoir of [My] Body* (2017) by Roxanne Gay. It is a memoir about being fat in a hostile, fatphobic world. In her illness narrative, Gay guides readers through the realities of her life as an overweight woman, following a cataclysmic rape trauma, and recording the reverberations that event has had on the rest of her life. Gay shares her experiences to document "what it's like to live in a world that tried to discipline unruly bodies," by shaming and blaming fat women who are relegated to the margins because they are regarded as an aberrational deviation from the “normal.”

As such the aim of the research aligns with the fat studies researchers' who utilize critical methods to subvert social attitudes and fatphobic practices prevailing society as bullying, disrespect, shaming and blaming without understanding, even by the very doctors who are supposed to heal. Some fat studies researchers believe that work within fat studies and fat activism intersects with the interests of the medical humanities in multiple ways and yet there has been little engagement between them. This could be because such work falls within the parameters of Health Humanities

rather than that of the Medical Humanities. In more recent years, there has been a move from medical to health humanities. The health humanities is a transdisciplinary field concerned with understanding the human condition of health and illness in order to create knowledgeable and sensitive health care providers, patients, and family caregivers. As a field the health humanities draws on the methodologies of the humanities, fine arts and social sciences to provide insight, understanding, and meaning to people facing illness including professional care providers, lay care providers, patients, policy-makers and others concerned with the suffering of humans. Moreover, the term health humanities place the humanities first, to be studied for their own sake, not simply as instrumental tools for helping doctors learn observation, communication, and other skills to promote their humanitarian bent. From this perspective the present research analysis Gay's *Hunger* through the lens of the health humanities to underscore the role of the humanities in today's scientized world.

Maha Mostafa is a Professor at the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, Helwan University. Her academic field is English Literature.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Zoulfa Katouh's *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow*

May El Gebali

The British University in Egypt

This paper aims to analyze the representation of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in Zoulfa Katouh's novel, *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow* (2022). Zoufla Katouh, a Canadian Syrian author who specializes in drug sciences, sets her debut novel against the backdrop of the war in Syria in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. The protagonist Salama, a teenage girl who is pursuing her undergraduate degree in pharmacy, faces the harrowing realities of war and volunteers as a surgical assistant amidst the chaos of bombings and sniper attacks. As a result of the war, Salama tragically loses her parents and brother, and in response to her fear and anxiety, she creates a hallucinatory male character named Khawf, an Arabic word for fear, which serves as a manifestation of Salama's post-traumatic stress disorder and a symbolic representation of her traumatic experience, blurring the lines between reality and imagination and highlighting the

psychological toll of living in a war-torn zone. Hence, this paper explores the nature of PTSD, as depicted in the novel, and examines how Salama's sense of responsibility towards her only living family member, namely, her pregnant sister-in-law, as well as her duty to tend toward injured civilians, influences her perception of Khawf and her coping mechanisms. Finally, this paper aims to present a deeper understanding of the psychological trauma inflicted by war and the complexities of human defense mechanisms in the face of adversity by analyzing Katouh's portrayal of the character of Khawf from a psychoanalytic perspective.

Mai El Gebali is a Lecturer and module leader at The British University in Egypt. She earned her PhD in Literature from Ain Shams University, specializing in comparative literature. Prior to her doctoral studies, she completed a Master of Arts in English Literature from Cairo University and an MBA in Human Resources Management from the Faculty of Commerce, Ain Shams University. Dr. Mai El Gebali has been actively involved in teaching various modules, such as English for Academic Purposes, Business English, and Technical Writing at the British University in Egypt. Her responsibilities include curriculum development, assessment design, student support, and e-learning management. Dr. Mai El Gebali has also contributed to academia through her publications, including a paper entitled "The Representation of Moriscos in Ildefonso Falcones *The Hand of Fatima*" in *Buhuth: Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences & Education* and a book titled *Southern Ontario Gothic in Selected Novels by Margaret Atwood* published by LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing. Her research interests encompass comparative literature, cultural studies, and interdisciplinary studies.

Balto: Comedic Representation of Medical Professionals in TV Drama

May Soliman

The British University in Egypt

Medical professionals have always been portrayed as hard working and serious characters in most Egyptian dramas. Recently, Egyptian TV shows have portrayed medical service providers highlighting different aspects of their personalities. This paper adopts a multidisciplinary approach

combining studies of humor, discourse analysis, and sociolinguistics to investigate the comedic representation of medical professionals in contemporary Egyptian television dramas, with special reference to a recent TV series called "Balto" [translates to Lab coat] (2023). Within the framework of the humor theories of incongruity and superiority, this paper aims to analyse elements of the comedic portrayal of health professionals in selected scenes of the TV series - Balto - to investigate how humor is employed to both humanize the long idealized depiction of doctors as well as critique societal perceptions of representatives of the medical sector in Egypt. The paper particularly focuses on analysing how the protagonist and other medical professionals practice their managerial power and operate/function with their peers and patients within a small health unit.

May Soliman is a Lecturer and Staff Development Coordinator at the faculty of Arts and Humanities at the British University in Egypt. She has a Master's degree in TESOL and a PhD in Applied Linguistics. Her research interests lie in Second Language Acquisition (SLA), technology enhanced language learning, discourse analysis and humour. She has several research papers published in the field of applied linguistics.

Mental Health Discourses of Medical Students within Kairotic Spaces

Melvin Mattew Thomas

Manipal Academy of Higher Education

This interdisciplinary paper critically delves into the discourse surrounding mental health among undergraduate medical students in India, emphasizing the intersection of academia's perception and reaction to individual narratives within kairotic spaces of medical education. By drawing from narratives of medical students from Karnataka, the study uncovers the intricate power dynamics shaping mental health experiences within academic settings. Employing critical discourse analysis, it meticulously examines five specific kairotic sites within medical education, shedding light on their pivotal role in identifying, labelling, and reacting to mental health concerns. The research advocates for a thorough re-evaluation of these spaces, positing them as potential catalysts for reshaping perceptions and accommodating actions within the medical fraternity. Grounded in

twenty semi-structured interviews, the study underscores the paramount importance of centring student reflections to nurture inclusive discourse and support systems within medical education. By delving into individual narratives and kairotic spaces, this paper contributes significantly to understanding how academia perceives and addresses mental health concerns among medical students, championing transformative approaches to enhance student well-being within medical education. Addressing a notable gap in scholarship, this research underscores the significance of amplifying student voices to foster a more compassionate and supportive environment within medical education, ultimately advocating for the holistic well-being of future healthcare professionals.

Melvin Mathew Thomas is a PhD scholar in Health Humanities. His/Her affiliation is Manipal Centre for Humanities, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka. India.

Examining the Concept of Beauty, Youth and Ethics through a Freudian Psychoanalytical Reading of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

Miral Hossam

The British University in Egypt

Medical humanities is still a relatively understudied area of research. This research will examine the concept of beauty and youth in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde through a Freudian psychoanalysis theory. People's fixation on beauty and youth can be considered a deep seeded issue in one's psyche caused by societal and social expectations. One's position in society can even be determine by their beauty and age. Moreover, to make sure one acquires a high position in society they must abide by the social expectation and fulfill the requirement of the expected beauty standards. Oscar Wilde presents this issue in the psyche of the characters in his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, which was published in 1890 during the Victorian era. Oscar Wilde had moved from Ireland to London in 1879, and was greatly influenced by Victorian values and traditions. Beauty and youth were some of the main concerns of the Victorian era as people prioritized appearances over safety and mental health. This can also be seen in modern-day individuals' obsession with altering their entire features through cosmetic surgeries. Modern-day

beauty standards differ from one culture to the other; however, they hold the same significance when it comes to social and societal statuses. People's strong desire towards meaningless superficial pleasures falls under Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical theory of his concept of the Ego. Moreover, a concept that was used by Wilde in his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* presenting Freud's idea of the 'Ego', 'Superego' and the 'Id', and how the main protagonist overtaken by the 'Id' obsesses over immortalizing his appearance. Furthermore, this research will be adding to the existing research, on medical humanities as well as resting on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical theory, more specifically his concept of the Ego. The paper will examine the main protagonist Dorian Gray who represents the idea of the 'Ego', Basil Hallward who denotes the 'Superego', as well as the significant character of Henry Wotton who embodies the idea of the 'Id'. The significance of each character and how one can affect the main protagonist more than the other will be discussed. Then the analysis will delve into Dorian Gray's obsession with eternal beauty and youth and how this relates to the Victorians' dangerous fascination with their appearances. In addition to discussing the ramifications of Dorian Gray's obsession with his appearance which led to the loss of his morality. Lastly, the research will attempt to link the novel with modern-day obsession with cosmetic surgery.

Miral Hossam is a senior student in the literature track in the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British university in Egypt. Miral is passionate about English Literature and exploring new areas of knowledge.

Perception, Action, and Executive Function: Understanding the Mechanisms behind Eating Disorders and OCD

Myar Khaled

The British University in Egypt

Traditional and prescriptive understandings of psychiatric illness such as eating disorders and OCD primarily depend on surface-level representation of symptoms. However, centering purely on the descriptive level of analysis as a means for treating these disorders discounts adequately explain the perpetuation of these disorders. The paper argues for a fundamental change by

exploring the role of executive functioning in these disorders. Through the standpoint of embodied and enactive cognition, this framework presents a more perceptive interpretation of the dynamic interplay between the body, brain and environment in defining cognition. A multi-level analysis is taken to examine the computational, biological, and philosophical perspectives of executive function in these disorders. The analysis aims to evaluate core dilemmas in biology, psychiatry and cognitive science, on which organisms actively adapt, behave and interact with their environment. Understanding human cognition, perception and adaptive behavior can provide a deeper examination of how these concepts appear in eating disorders and OCD. This analysis aims to bring together different positions of query, promoting a more wide-ranging understanding of executive function in these disorders, leading towards for more effective interventions that tackle the underlying mechanisms of these disorders.

Myar Khaled is a Teaching assistant and an MA candidate at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British University in Egypt. Her academic interests lie in the field of psychology, with a particular focus on clinical and cognitive neuropsychology. Her research centers on examining the intersection between cognitive processes and psychiatric disorders, aiming to shed light on the underlying mechanisms of these conditions. Her work includes examining mild cognitive impairment and contributing to the publication of Egypt's first cognitive training guidebook for professionals. Currently, her projects delve into brain health literacy in Egypt, the role of brain health attitudes in behavior, and the statistical measurement of time-varying functional connectivity. Myar's passion for cognitive neuropsychology led her to win the Best Research/Design Graduation Project Award in 2021 for her research on Gamma oscillations and cognition in schizophrenia. Her current research explores how integrating computational and philosophical perspectives on cognition can lead to a deeper understanding of human perception and action.

Symbolic Representations of Stigma of leprosy in *Yomeddine* (Judgement Day) Film

Nahed Meklash
Matroh University

In Egypt, the Leper's colony is a medical institution that treats leper patients, shown in the "Yomeddine" Film, directed by Abu Bakr Shawky. Beshay is looking for his family after recovering; however, he is subjected to many problems because of the scars of leprosy. This paper examines symbols used in the film to explore the sociopsychological impacts of Leper's Colony on Beshay's self-definition. As the film shows, the scars of leprosy are a metaphor for social stigma. They are symbolically highlighting the manifestations of social stigma and the stigma of leprosy. This paper selects Erving Goffman's social model of stigma (1963) and Wim H. Van Brakel's perspective of stigma related to leprosy (2014), for reading the bureaucratic role of the Egyptian medical institution in marginalising the leper patients, causing them to be socially stigmatised and excluded. In this film, the author presents symbolic items of exclusion, such as the veil, to present the attempts of Beshay's friend, Obama, to avoid the societal problems caused by the facial scars of leprosy. Even the name of the medical institution as 'colony' and the rubbish setting have its symbolic associations related to the discursive practices of marginalisation and exclusion among them. The author also uses animal imagery, such as the donkey and cows, to symbolise the inferior position Beshay occupies as a marginalised person. The importance of this paper lies in affirming the significance of cinematic representation in raising the Egyptian consciousness and challenging the Cultural myths of leprosy in the Arab world.

Nahed Mohammed Ahmed Meklash taught English Literature on the faculty of Sciences and Arts at Bisha University in Saudi Arabia. She has taught English literary studies at the Faculty of Education at Matrouh University. She is a member of ASLE-UKI. Her thesis writings represent Zora Neale Hurston's black folk culture and highlight the Africana womanist paradigm through selected novels She presented papers in 'Cross-Cultural Communication Studies in Literature, Linguistics, and Translation,' "Decentering the Irish World: Contemporary and New Directions in Global Irish Studies," British University, "Stories from Arab and /or African Perspectives: Language, Literature, and Beyond," and "Women of The World," Alex University. She has attended a workshop on "New Strategies for Teaching English as a Foreign Language." She is a peer reviewer for the LLIDS Journal and an editor of the Educational Journal. She has published "An Intersectional Reading of Women of Color's Multiple Identities and Differences in the Poetry of Audre Lorde" and "An Africana Womanist Reading of The Unity of Thought and Action". She has recently published "A Cultural Ecological Reading of Human-Nature Interconnectivity in

Mahmoud Darwish's "The Second Olive Tree." Her interests are intersectional feminism, Africana womanism, ecocriticism, and digital humanities.

Nature Sobs: A Poetic Exploration of Ecological Trauma

Nancy Ehab - Nora Khalil

The British University in Egypt

The time of the Covid-19 pandemic that emerged in 2020 represented one of the toughest times for the human race. Human beings were forced to face many difficult challenges for the first time in the modern age. While the Corona virus resulted in serious health crisis, resulting in the illness and death of millions of people, it also resulted in economic and social upheavals. Nonetheless, its most devastating consequences were the mental disruptions that the people suffered from, resulting in an escalated feeling of anxiety, stress and depression that amounted to trauma. However, the state of nature was completely the opposite; while human beings were suffering and dying from an unprecedented pandemic, nature and the environment were healing for the first time in years. Hence, Ecocriticism became the frame by which the relationship between man and nature is examined. It was also employed as an essential tool to raise awareness about the pressing issues of the environment and to promote a more sustainable approach towards nature. The poems "September" (2022) by Colm Tóibín, "Lines Written During My Second Pandemic" (2022) by Eduardo C. Corral and Richard Hendrick's "Lockdown" (2020) all portray the human experience during the time of the pandemic. They depict different themes of loneliness, isolation, fear, and hope. The poems reflect some of the social and emotional impacts of the pandemic, along with the portrayal of nature that has started to heal because of the absence of human activity as a result of imposed global lockdown. The study of the 3 poems delves into the traumatic effects of the pandemic that are portrayed in the poems. They will also be studied through the lens of Ecocriticism and the relationship between human beings and nature.

Nancy Ihab is a Lecturer in literature, with interests and expertise in Poetry. Dr. Nancy joined the BUE in 2009 Her current responsibilities include delivering Literature and Poetry classes as well as high quality English language learning and teaching using an appropriate range of up-to-

date methods, developing effective teaching materials in line with module aims, objectives and modes of assessment, and monitoring and evaluating students' progress and achievement and providing them with timely and informative feedback.

Nora Khalil: a Cambridge CELTA certified ESL teacher with more than 20-year experience. She worked at renowned universities like MIU, AUC and BUE, and is an MA in literature candidate. She has been doing teacher training for more than 10 years. She also participated in National and International Conferences with workshops and publications.

The intertwinement of Christian identity and psychological wellness in *Jane Eyre*

Natalie Maher

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Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* (1847) is a popular novel which has captured the interest of many. Bronte's novel has been explored across many disciplines for its rich contribution and for its female author. The character and life of *Jane Eyre* is a reflection of the author's beliefs, she was raised in an Evangelical Anglican household and by a father who was a devoted minister to the Church of England (Tompkins, 2024). *Jane Eyre* continues to this day to offer much to be explored within the medical humanities. The medical humanities can be explored in the novel not only in the portrayal of the deadly diseases of the 18th century, such as the Tuberculosis (which was the cause of the death of Bronte's many loved ones and herself), but also through the portrayal of psychology as a medical area to be studied. Martyr Evans (2018) highlights the importance of medical humanities within medical studies, he explains that clinical skills should involve "examining me (the patient) both physically and personally. By examining me 'personally', I mean here discovering and understanding what is individual about me, and how my individuality is necessary to treating me" (p. 2). Through this understanding, the study of psychology's vitality in medicine is more than an aspect of medical humanities, it is a foundation to be able to humanize any and all patients of other physical diseases. In retrospect of this, this research aims to first

examine the psychological wellness of the protagonist and then examine the impact of Christian faith on her identity and psyche. The study further aims to highlight the interdisciplinarity of medicine literature and psychology in Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre*. The research will adopt Jacques Lacan's theory of psychology to analyze the character of the protagonist. Lee Justin Rondina (1999) defines the theory saying: "Lacanian theory views identity formation as a function of "lack" or "desire." In the early stages of development in particular (i.e., the Imaginary/Mirror stage), identity is formed based on the unconscious perception of the chasm between how one perceives oneself to be and how one wishes to be seen by others." Although Lacan's theory covers many aspects in psychoanalysis, this research will primarily focus on his theory of "the mirror stage" and whether it applies or not to the development of Jane Eyre throughout the novel. The research should also explore the extent to which Christianity was able to defeat the complexities of the human psyche raised by Lacan, in the novel. Moreover, *Jane Eyre* has witnessed many scholarly publications that examine the notion of Christianity and psychology, and others in relation to feminism, romanticism, formalism, deconstruction, Marxism, colonialism, and social and culture justice. There have even been a few publications about the intersection of feminism and Christianity in *Jane Eyre*, as in the article "Charlotte Brontë's religion: faith, feminism, and Jane Eyre." Published in 2008 By Emily Griesinger, and "The Super-Natural, Christianity, and the Feminist Spirit in Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights" published in 2014 by Kaitlyn Abrams. Moreover, the most recent and relevant publication to Christianity, from which this research paper will adopt many ideas, is written and published by Haley Highfield in 2022 titled: "The Divine Consumptive: The Depiction of Tuberculosis in Jane Eyre." However, none of these scholarly publications or other ones to this date examine the intersection of Christianity and psychology in Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*.

Nathalie Maher is an undergraduate student at the Department of English language and literature, Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The British University in Egypt. Nathalie is a third-year student who enjoys literature and research.

Voices through Masks: A Stylistic Analysis of Selected Covid-19 Pandemic Poems

Neveen Galal-Eldin - Amal M. Zaki Eldin

Fayoum University

Times of pandemics usually witness a remarkable surge of interest among various poets who, in response to the impending threats and anxiety brought about by the uninvited guest, provide multiple ways of portraying the crisis and its inevitable impact. Pandemic poetry provides a fertile source of data for relating language to its poetic artistic function in general and for studying some linguistic and stylistic features that characterize language in pandemic poems in particular. This study seeks to depict and analyze the stylistic features employed in Covid-19 pandemic poems in order to display their functional significance for the comprehension and appreciation of the selected poems. The primary sources of the study have been selected from a number of e-books, online collections and anthologies on Covid-19. The qualitative approach is employed to collect, classify and analyze the selected poems to find out the distinctive stylistic features of Covid-19 pandemic poems. The samples of poems have been collected and then analyzed inductively moving from specific set of data to reach general conclusions and finally the researchers make interpretations of the whole meaning of the data. The framework of analysis employs Leech and Short's (2007) method of stylistic analysis in which four categories are tackled: lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech and context and cohesion. The foregrounding theory also serves as a strategy employed for analyzing the selected poems in order to highlight the prominent features in the text. The stylistic analysis serves as a tool for readers to comprehend the literary themes of the selected poems in relation to linguistic choices. It is anticipated to reveal deeper layers of interpretation and appreciation of the use of language in pandemic poems.

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Amal M. Zaki Eldin is a Lecturer at Department of English Language & Literature, Faculty of Arts, Fayoum University, Egypt. Her academic field is literature (Comparative Literature and Literary Theory). Her fields of interest are Comparative literature, literary theory, Stylistics, Interdisciplinary studies, Pandemic poetry, culture studies and translation studies.

Lived Experiences of Children with Intellectual Disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Pariz Pikul Gogoi

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

The disability studies scholarship and the UNCRPD suggest that people with intellectual disabilities must have equal access to opportunities in their social, physical, economic, and cultural environments as people without disabilities. However, due to their specific impairments, people with intellectual disabilities experience some social and cognitive incompetence, and thus, they are often excluded from the social process. The COVID-19 pandemic has further affected this population more than anything else. In the Global South, this problem is further compounded due to the lack of welfare-related services in the region. With this backdrop, this paper aims to explore how the pandemic has affected this population in the northeastern part of India. One of my efforts has been to identify the lived experiences of children with intellectual disabilities during the pandemic and how their parents and special educators associated with them. I discuss why it is essential to recognize disability studies scholars, parents of children with disabilities, and special educators who can collectively theorize, construct things they experience daily, and act upon them during a crisis. The study uses a qualitative research method to understand the personal and external aspects of children with intellectual disabilities. It employs in-depth interviews and participant observation in two settings- family and special schools. Based on the voices of parents and special educators of children with intellectual disabilities, this paper investigates the complexities that they face, and disability issues are discussed as social and structural issues rather than individual problems.

Pariz Pikul Gogoi is pursuing PhD in Sociology, August 2020- Till date, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. Master of Arts in Sociology, July 2018- May 2020, Tezpur University, Assam. Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, July 2015- May 2018, Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi. His/Her research area is Sociology of disability, sociology of health and illness, critical disability studies.

Cultural Visualization of Mental Disorders: Bipolar Disease and Paranoia in Select Texts of Jerry Pinto and Perumal Murugan

Prerona Das - Arif Ahammed

MLR Institute of Technology

Apart from all the stigma that is associated with opening up about mental health, there were various attempts made by authors to understand mental health within the Indian context. In Indian literature, there is a desire to visualize mental health within art, medicine, and popular culture. Indian history reflects a desire to control mental illness and protect the boundaries of presumed normality. While observing the Indian way of representing mental health, there is always a problem of understanding social stigma and the way of representation of mental health. This paper will attempt to explore the representation of mental health-related issues within a very Indian environment concerning Indian tradition and culture. In the select novels of Murugan, Jerry, and Pinto we come across characters' mental departure from their loved ones and family leading their life into misery. Unfulfilled desires, failures, and disappointment in life cause mental suffering in characters of the select novels. The inability to express those sufferings increases paranoia, bipolar, and many more diseases among characters. There is no accurate parameter to identify what mental illness is and what is not. Patients hardly get an insight into how their behavior is different or it does not adhere to culturally conceptualized 'normal behavior'.

Prerona Das is originally hailing from Assam, and currently pursuing her PhD from IIITDM Jabalpur in the Department of Liberal Arts. Prerona is a postgraduate in English Literature from The English and Foreign Languages University, Shillong Campus. She completed her BA in English Literature from Dibrugarh University of Assam. She also worked as an Assistant Professor at the H&S department of MLR Institute of Technology; Hyderabad teaching communicative English to B. tech first-year students. Her research interest lies in Diasporic Literature, Insurgency Narratives from the northeast, Trauma Narratives, Migration Literature, and Cultural Studies. She aims to throw light on the sufferings of people inflicted by various reasons like insurgency, partitions, migration, forceful eviction, etc.

Arif Ahammed, originally hailing from West Bengal and currently residing in Hyderabad, is a postgraduate in English Literature from Maulana Azad National Urdu University. He is also a

research scholar at the University of Hyderabad. He completed his BA in English Literature from Burdwan University. He is currently working as an Assistant Professor at the H&S department of MLR Institute of Technology; Hyderabad and teaching communicative English to B. tech first-year students. His research interest lies in Diasporic Literature, migration, and cultural studies.

Eco-trauma in Palestinian-American Fiction: Hala Alyan's *Salt Houses* as a Case Study

Pervine Elrefaei

Cairo University

Hala Alyan (1986) is a Palestinian American novelist, poet, and clinical psychologist who specializes in trauma, addiction, anxiety, and mood disorder. Her literary works have earned her many remarkable awards. Anchored in her personal experience and identity, Alyan's literary production, which is representative of the intersection of "healing and the creative arts", falls thus into the field of medical humanities. As she puts it in one of her interviews, in dealing with different ethnicities and populations, in "both (her) clinical work and in regular life", she experiences the drastic impact of displacement, loss, and intergenerational trauma on people. This proposed paper aims at scrutinizing Alyan's novel *Salt Houses* which depicts the interconnectedness between diasporic identity, the body, ecology, and trauma. The paper will examine the hierarchical power structures that impact the psyche of Palestinian Americans who are caught up between different spaces and times, through eclectically drawing upon postcolonial, decolonial, ecocritical, and trauma theories. The trauma of settler colonial/imperial violence on Palestine as a geopolitical periphery and the struggle for therapy and wholeness, are, therefore, major points of focus. The chapter argues that rooted in colonial oppression, hegemonic structures, and consecutive forced displacement, Alyan's writings, to use Rex Weyler's words, struggle "to restore the lost wildness in our world and in ourselves".

Pervine Elrefaei is Professor of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University. She participated in many international conferences; published on film studies, gender studies, border studies, food studies, and postcolonial literature; and supervised a number of MA and PhD dissertations. Amongst her publications are "Arabic

Literature and Ecofeminism” in *The Routledge Handbook of Ecofeminism and Literature*, edited by Douglas Vakoch, 2022, “Cultural Trauma and Scheherazade’s Gastro-national/Transnational Discourse in Tamara al-Refai’s Writings” in *Women, Voice and Identity: Muslim Women’s Writing from across the Middle East*, edited by Feroza Jussawala and Doaa Omran, Routledge, 2021,” “The cultural politics of food in selected Egyptian films,” *Journal of the African Literature Association*, Vol. 15, 3, 2021, “Egypt’s Borders and the Crisis of Identity in the Literature of Nubia and Sinai,” “Egypt and the Prison as a Dual Space of Repression and Resistance: The Dialectics of Power Relations in Literature and Film,” “Egyptian Women in the Cartoons and Graffiti of the January 2011 Revolution: A Janus –faced Discourse,” “Memory, Identity and Resistance in Susan Abulhawa’s *Mornings in Jenin*,” “Intellectuals and Activists Writing under the Sign of Hope: Radwa Ashour and Ahdaf Soueif’s Manifestos of the 2011 Revolution”.

Pervine Elrefaei: <http://ORCID.org/0000-0001-6535-5150>.

Making Room for Microbes: Syphilis and Morphine in Henrik Ibsen’s Ghosts

Rania M. Rafik Khalil

The British University in Egypt

In Henrik Ibsen’s play *Ghosts* (1882), syphilis, a hereditary disease is presented through a detailed description of the symptoms, and the protagonist Mrs. Alving is confronted with the difficult decision of euthanizing Oswald her son through a fatal dose of morphine. This paper aims to study Ibsen’s dramatic text *Ghosts* through Bruno Latour’s germ theory in order to examine the theme of venereal disease, incest, morality and euthanasia. The research argues that disease is not an individual calamity, it is organisms acting on each other, crossing the boundaries and plays a redemptive role. The play is a scathing commentary on 19th century society and an exemplary example of the playwright’s ability to conjure the theatre stage into a hospital. The paper argues that medical humanities as an intersection between theatre and medicine reconfigures the framework of society to make room for microbes.

Rania M Rafik Khalil is an associate professor of literature. She teaches in the Department of English Language and Literature and holds the position of Acting Vice Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the British University in Egypt. Dr.

Khalil's research interests are medical humanities, Irish studies, Indigenous art, Eco-critical and Non-human theatre studies. She has served as guest-editor on a number of international journals and serves on a number of research related committees

Trauma Talk: A Corpus-Based Cognitive Discourse Analysis of Selected Ted Talks

Rania Elwakil

Ain Shams University

Trauma is an emotional response to a distressing or life-threatening incident ranging from personal events like accidents or physical and emotional assaults to large-scale events such as wars, or natural disasters. Such negative events have immediate physical/psychological impact as well as long-lasting effects. A way of healing is trauma processing which means getting in touch with trauma-related emotions, thoughts, and conclusions drawn about oneself and the world. This allows the space to integrate a traumatic experience into one's life story, and move forward in a meaningful way. Speakers of the selected Ted talks present a purposeful manifestation of trauma processing. Speakers employ an array of linguistic strategies to express particular mental representations and cognitive processes. Tenbrink (2020) Cognitive Discourse Analysis (CODA) is adopted as the analysis framework. CODA is a meeting point of three disciplines: Cognitive Linguistics, Discourse Analysis and Functional Grammar. CODA studies cognition and mental representations in interaction as both give rise to and are reflected in particular linguistic structures. Areas of analysis include attention, perspective, granularity, certainty, inference, transformation, communication and cognitive strategies. Corpus analysis tools are also employed to enhance the qualitative analysis with a quantitative profile.

Rania El-Wakil is a Lecturer of Linguistics, Faculty of Languages, October University for Modern Sciences and Arts (MSA). She had her B.A. in English Language (Good), Faculty of Alsun, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt. 1998, M.A. in English Linguistics (Excellent with Honours) – Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt. 2007 and Ph.D. in English Linguistics (Excellent with Honours) – Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt. 2015. She has taught a number of

undergraduate linguistics courses including: Second Language Acquisition – Morphology & Syntax – Pragmatics & Semantics – Discourse Analysis - Corpus Linguistics – Contrastive Analysis in addition to postgraduate courses: Introduction to Corpus Linguistics & Corpus Linguistics for Translation Purposes (Faculty of Alsun, Ain Shams University), Innovation & Technology in Education (Faculty of Languages, MSA). She is also head of English for Research Writing Purposes Unit. Specific fields of research interest include Discourse Analysis and Computational Linguistics. She has participated in a number of international and national conferences.

Exploring Self and Language in Ali Smith's *Companion Piece*:

A Journey of Discovery during the COVID-19 Lockdown

Rania Salem

The British University in Egypt

The COVID-19 pandemic has ignited a growing interest in fictional narratives that delve into the intricacies of pandemics and plagues. Ali Smith's novel, *Companion Piece* (2022), set in a pandemic-ravaged, post-Brexit Britain, emerges as a timely exploration of the human experience amidst crisis. Within the novel, Smith vividly portrays the protagonist Sandy's journey of introspection during the lockdown period, intertwined with her father's illness. The novel's structure is divided into three parts: "You Choose," "Curlew," and "Curfew." In "You Choose," the protagonist Sandy grapples with despair as her father falls ill, while the world suffers from various forms of sickness. "Curlew" explores themes of freedom through the motif of a bird represented by the letter V; moreover, a ghostly girl with a curlew appears in Sandy's house. The final part, "Curfew," reveals the ghostly girl's identity and examines the restrictions imposed on one another. The novel's structure reflects the choices presented by "Curlew" and "Curfew," guiding Sandy's journey through despair, freedom, and imposed limitations. Thus, through the skillful use of words, Sandy finds solace and resilience, navigating the challenges of isolation and

uncertainty. This paper examines how Smith masterfully captures the reality of the COVID-19 through her clever use of language and symbolic motifs which prompts readers to contemplate the profound impact of communication and the potential for profound shifts in perspective during times of crisis. In conclusion, this paper aims to highlight how *Companion Piece* stands as a testament to the power of literature in illuminating the human condition, particularly in times of adversity.

Rania Salem holds a PhD and an MA in English and Comparative Literature from Ain Shams University and The American University in Cairo, respectively. Currently, Salem serves as a Lecturer in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at The British University in Egypt, Department of English Language and Literature. The responsibilities she carried since joining The British University in Egypt are related to teaching and being a Faculty Webmaster Coordinator and a Student Experience and Student Union Advisor Coordinator. Moreover, she has been a Programme Coordinator for the Turing Project Short-Study Abroad Programme since 2022. In 2023, Salem published a chapter titled "The Arab-African Cultural Identity in Idris Ali's Dongola" in the book *Narratives of Dislocation in the Arab World: Rewriting Ghurba*, published by Routledge Taylor & Francis Group (ISBN: 9781032294780).

Women's Health in Print: Medicine and Indigenous Knowledge in Colonial Assam

Raktima Bhuyan

Tezpur University

With the advent of print in colonial Assam, exhumation of older traditions in writing (such as premodern verse) and experimentation with western genres like romances and novels were simultaneous trends. This paper attempts to trace a lesser explored outcome of the advent of print in Assam: writings on women's health. This explored two terrains: a call for compassion and care towards women— specifically, pregnant women and (mis)readings of women's bodies and her physiological conditions. Focusing specifically on two texts—Govindaram Choudhury's *Sutika Patal* (1877), and Kushakanta Barkakati's *Prosutee or A Handy Guide for Assamese Ladies* (1897), the first category comprises of writings are modelled as manuals and primers. The charm

of the first text specifically rests on it being a translation of an original prose text in Bengali; the translation though is done in verse for easy retention by women in a predominantly aural culture. Such primers and manuals became pertinent taking into concern that colonialism, despite the introduction of western biomedicine— in terms of hospitals, vaccination, and funds such as the Dufferin—also unleashed inequities of accessibility to these resources and facilities in terms of gender and social taboo. For the indigenous population, their native knowledge of health and hygiene dictated a major part of their well-being, and these texts are a curious mixture of the indigenous knowledge systems and biology. While sanitization and cleanliness appeared to be a colonial mechanism hinging on their ‘civilizing’ mission, a second category of writings emerged which prescribed the ideas of “normal woman”— women who menstruated regularly and bear children. Treating a physiological event like menstruation as an aberration, these writings premised on subjecting women to bizarre restrictions on socializing (as regards talking with or seeing a man) and food habits. The intention, these writings boldly professed, were to make these women healthy mothers and ideal wives.

Raktima Bhuyan is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, Tezpur University, Assam. Her co-authored monograph, *Print Modernity in Colonial Assam* (December, 2023) is with Lexington Books. Her research interests are vernacular literature, modernity studies, and visual culture. Her article “Affective Photographs” is forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook on African American Women’s Writing*.

Gender and Emotional Expressivity in the Narratives of Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD)

Patients: An Appraisal Study of Selected Blogs

Rawda Ibrahim - Ghada Elsayed - Abeer Aly El-Attar

Ain Shams University

Social anxiety patients from both genders often resort to online blogging to practice emotional disclosure. This study attends to emotional expressivity in the blog narratives of social anxiety

male and female patients to examine gender-based similarities and differences. The data comprises 20 blog narratives written in English of males and females with social anxiety, ten for each gender. The study adopts a mixed methodology employing Labov's (1972/2006) narrative analysis model and Martin and White's (2005) appraisal theory. The findings are interpreted for gender-based differences in emotional expressivity in the light of Tannen's (1990) difference theory. The results indicate that patients of both genders structured their experience with the disorder similarly to include a struggle phase and a recovery phase. However, while both patients similarly structured the struggle phase to include a string of complicating actions and evaluations, females seemed to use more affect and appreciation values compared to males. Moreover, in structuring the recovery phase, males established more resolutions and evaluations and employed more judgement values than their female counterparts did. The study concludes that the experiences of females show more emotional immersion in the struggle with SAD whereas these of males are more oriented towards a positive representation of them especially after recovery. This study develops better understanding of mental illness through the linguistic expression of the patients.

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Autopathography in Memoirs by Female Writers

Reham Samir

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Disability/illness is a worldwide phenomenon; it is a problem that is experienced but not understood. Our selves and lives are fundamentally somatic; yet not until recently has the body been prominent in life writing. Attention is given to the body only when it is injured, ill or aging; thus, reminding us that we have a body. One type of life writing that has focused on illness and disability is illness/disability memoirs dubbed as autopathography. Autopathographies are

predominantly female-authored texts; in this sense they deal with the double marginalization that the authors face both as women and as ill/disabled individuals. Therefore, autopathography opens ways to discuss such marginalization which has been ignored by literary works that for long have rather focused on vulnerability based on race, class, gender, and sexual preference. The study focuses on a memoir written by a Palestinian/ Kuwaiti writer Shahd Alshammari. Her memoir *Head Above Water* was written in 2022. Alshammari takes us into the life of a woman who has an invisible disability and her sense of alienation within her body. Alshammari is a professor of English literature who utilized her profession to talk about what it feels like to have a disability. Alshammari reinterprets incidents in her life while writing about her experience. Few Arab women write about their body, especially if this body is disabled/ill. The memoir sheds light on the sense of alienation that one could feel towards his/her own body; besides, the sense of alienation for living in another country.

Reham Samir is currently an Assistant Lecturer at The British University in Egypt. She is working on her PhD in Disability Studies at Ain Shams University. Her academic fields of interest include life writing, illness, and disability.

Disability, Sexuality, and the Medical Apparatus in Indra Sinha's *Animal's People*

Rimjhim Bhattacharjee

Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya

Indra Sinha's *Animal's People* (2007) tells the story of nineteen-year-old Animal, a severely disabled survivor of a gas leak in the city of Khaufpur, a fictional rendering of Bhopal post the 1984 gas leak at the Union Carbide pesticide plant. Central to the novel is the portrayal of disability as a medical, physical, and social construct. Animal's disfigurement not only shapes his identity but also serves as a lens through which Sinha examines power dynamics and marginalization in a poverty-stricken 'third-world' society grappling with the consequences of

'first-world' industrial negligence. Claiming his body and his social status, Animal staunchly refuses to fit either into the narrative of victimhood often perpetuated by strictly medical understandings of disabilities or into neoliberal Eurocentric 'progressive' models of disability individuality and consumerism. However, this paper argues that his desire for a consensual sexual relationship dents his claimed animal identity to an extent. His interactions with the American doctor, Elli is a case in point where, despite differences with her views on the people of Khaufpur, he desires to be 'cured' by her to appear more sexually desirable. Thereby the novel urges a spectrum of questions on the complex interactions between ideas of desirable bodies, impairments, disability, and the medical establishment. This paper proposes to scrutinize the implications of the complex corporeality of a figure like Animal, probing the tangled relationships between the medical apparatus, disability, and sexuality in non-western contexts like India. By delving into Animal's experiences, the analysis seeks to unravel broader questions surrounding the representation and negotiation of disability within cultural, social, and medical paradigms, shedding light on the challenges and complexities inherent in navigating these realms.

Rimjhim Bhattacharjee is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Udaynarayanpur Madhabiliata Mahavidyalaya, Howrah (India). She has earned her doctoral degree from the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata, affiliated to the University of Calcutta.

Avoidant Attachment Style, Gender and Self-esteem as Predictors of Suicidal Ideation

Sama Amr Awad

The British University in Egypt

Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide, especially between younger individuals. Suicidal ideation (SI) is the first marker in the process that leads to suicide, thus this study focuses on some of its risk factors. SI was found to be strongly linked to the attachment styles, gender and self-esteem. Therefore, the goal of this study is to investigate this link. This study will be employing a quantitative correlational cross-sectional design, where data will be gathered from participants (aged between 15-24 years) through an online form that will be administered via social media platforms. This form will include the **Experiences in Close Relationships Scale – Short**

Form (ECR-S), the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES), and the Beck Scale for Suicidal Ideation (BSSI). Multiple regression analysis will be employed to investigate the collective contribution of (attachment styles, gender and self-esteem) in predicting suicidal ideation in Egyptian youth. It is hypothesized that, Avoidant attachment style, belonging to the Female Gender and Low Self-esteem significantly predict Suicidal Ideation (SI).

Sama Amr Awad is an undergraduate student at Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British University in Egypt. She is a volunteer in the Cognitive Science and Brain Research Centre (CSBR).

Would the “Real” Mona Lisa smile, please? Decoding the Different Smiles in Konner and Rosenthal’s Mona Lisa Smile 2003

Sarah Mahmoud Esamel
Suez Canal University

The film's title, *Mona Lisa Smile*, immediately evokes Leonardo da Vinci's renowned image of the *Gioconda*, in which Lady *Gioconda* is presumably smiling. However, in the artwork, is Lady *Gioconda* truly smiling? According to Dr. Kedar K. Adour, an otolaryngologist in San Francisco, and Drs. Luca Marsili, Lucia Ricciardi, and Matteo Bologna who are neurologists specialized in Movement Disorders, Lady *Gioconda* suffered from a famous pregnancy symptom that causes facial paralysis, which may look like a smile. Hence, the *Mona Lisa* smile can be described as a simulacrum, a hyperreal, not a real smile. The title that Lawrence Konner and Mark Rosenthal chose for the film is not a mere coincidence. With the background of both authors, who majored in art history, it can be inferred that they opted for encoding a message. Throughout the analysis, the paper traces how art, represented in the profession of the protagonist and the nature of the course she teaches, helps change the students' view of life, and, therefore, change the way they conform to some dogmatic, gender roles that are imposed over them. The analysis also demonstrates how art can help in creating an unreal status, a simulacrum, that, if not decoded, can lead to a constant state of hyperreality where truth is permanently lost.

Sarah Mahmoud Esmael is a lecturer of Literary Criticism at the Department of English, Faculty of Al-Alsun, Suez Canal University, Egypt. She received my MA in comparative literary criticism from the American University in Cairo in 2017. Currently, she is a PhD candidate at the Department of English, Faculty of Al-Alsun, Ain Shams University, and she is working on her PhD dissertation entitled *The Aesthetics of Late Style in the Late Works of Edward Said and Mahmoud Darwish: a Comparative Cultural Study*. My area of interest includes cultural studies, interdisciplinary studies, and cinematic studies.

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**The Psychology of the Stressed Psyche in Lee Blessing's Plays
Two Rooms (1990) and A Body of Water (2007): Coping Strategies Investigated**

Shaimaa Saeed

The British University in Egypt

Exploring the psychology of the stressed human psyche was given undivided attention by various psychology theorists, dating back to the research contributions of Sigmund Freud (1926), L.I. Pearlin and C. Schooler (1978), Richard Lazarus and Susan Folkman (1984), A.G. Billings and R.H. Moos (1984), S.C. Kobasa (1979), and Stevan Hobfoll (1989). Such contributions include but are not limited to researching the extent to which personality traits affect coping mechanisms, the ability of the psyche to manage external and internal life stressors, the effect of life stresses on individuals, the different types of stressors that can trouble the human psyche, and the human

cognitive, emotional, and behavioural responses to stressors. Not only does the interdisciplinarity of medical humanities interrelates medicine to unlimited humanities fields, boosting healthcare and caregiving and fathoming out the complexities of the human body, soul, and behaviours, but it also fosters the establishment of connections between the different medical sciences as well as literary genres, in general, and psychology as well as drama, in particular, underlining the role performed by dramatic works in portraying various human personalities to either provide human beings with clues to a psychologically healthy lifestyle in the face of challenges, i.e. problem-solving strategies, or at least alert them to potential internal and external life conflicts. This study aims to explore one necessary aspect of the human psyche, its coping mechanisms, as depicted in two of the plays written by the American dramatist Lee Blessing: *Two Rooms* (1990) and *A Body of Water* (2007). Moreover, it conducts a contrastive analysis of Blessing's two plays while utilising the Coping Circumplex Model (CCM), introduced by Krzysztof Stanisławski in 2019, as an analysis tool. In other words, it examines the psychological dilemma experienced by Blessing's characters in such plays and illustrates how each character manages to cope with its predicament in the light of the Stanisławski's eight CCM coping styles, ultimately highlighting the psychology of the stressed psyche in coping contexts through Blessing's character versions.

Shaimaa Saeed is currently a Lecturer of English language & literature, majoring in drama, and community service coordinator in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities (FOAH) at the British University in Egypt (BUE). She obtained her PhD degree in English literature from the Faculty of Arts, English Department, Ain Shams University. However, she completed her preliminary MA studies and obtained her M.A. degree in English literature from the Faculty of Alsun, Minia University. Additionally, Dr. Saeed is generally interested in drama, culture studies, translation, ESL, TEFL, and EAP. Her research reflects a high interest in interdisciplinary studies that correlate drama to psychology or culture studies. She is also a freelance English/Arabic/English translator and interpreter.

At the Wormholes of Madness: Neurodivergence and Radical World-Building

Steven T. Licardi

East Side Institute

This paper explores creative writing techniques that subvert tropes of the science fiction genre, and examines how mental health and madness manifest in collective visions for the future. Science fiction is understood as a genre of literature, but the author argues that its power for world-building can be applied as a way of being and orientation towards the world. The author discusses poetic tools used with diverse populations to engage in the embodied practice of worldbuilding to transform historical narratives around mental health and madness. One such tool, Blackout/Erasure—a method of scoring out pre-existing texts to excavate and reveal deeper meanings within such texts—is used to examine modern conjectures on current and emergent notions of mental illness. The paper further pulls from the works of Mad authors, such as Mia Mingus and Philip K. Dick, as well as personal correspondences with Mad scholars Elaine Ballantyne and Fady Shanouda. In doing so, the paper illustrates how science fiction empowers communities to reorient visions around collective futures and liberation amid changing conceptualizations of mental health. The paper encourages engagement in collective visioning that serve to shift away from reactionary futures towards a deeper imagining of what is (im)possible. This approach emboldens and engenders communities towards relationships that contextualize our bodies and minds as tokens of (im)possible futures embodied in the present. The author concludes by making a case for the use of these poetic tools in academic and public environments as a means of shifting and transcending current paradigms toward expansive worlds.

Steven T. Licardi (he/him) is an Autistic social worker, spoken word poet, science fiction writer, and performance activist based in the United States working at the intersections of art and social policy. He travels internationally using the power of performance to create empathic dialogue around, to confront the realities of, and to assist communities in dismantling historic narratives of mental health and madness. He is passionate about building alternative worlds and revolutionary futures with people across time and space. His work can be found at thesvenbo.com/books and thesvenbo.substack.com.

My PalliMed Mixtape—An Original Physician Storytelling Project Harnessing the Power of Classic Rock Music and the Accessibility of Blog-based Publishing

Tyler Jorgensen
University of Texas

During his palliative medicine fellowship, which came after practicing emergency medicine for over a decade, the author wrote a series of original stories about his experiences and his transition from a front-line emergency physician to a hospice and palliative medicine physician. As he wrote, he realized that many of the stories involved sharing music with patients or could be told more impactfully with the aid of popular music. He then used a theme song as the title for each story, incorporated that songs' lyrics, and arranged the stories in a particular order as if they were songs on a metaphorical mixtape. He then published the stories in sequence on a Substack blog feed, embedding into each story a Spotify file from which the reader could play the story's song. He included an article about AI's attempt to replicate his mixtape.

My PalliMed Mixtape gained a diverse medical and non-medical readership. Leading each story with music drew readers into material that they otherwise might avoid—practicing at a hospice house, death and dying, prejudice and grief. This presentation focuses not solely on the content of the published *My PalliMed Mixtape*, but on the idea of using novel strategies for developing medical narratives and novel places for publication in our democratized publishing landscape. The presentation would encourage clinicians to tell their stories creatively and well and have fun doing it, while harnessing the power of story to humanize, promote community, and connect clinicians to meaning. Our stories matter. Let's tell them well! Learning objectives include the following: Discuss an innovative work of original narrative medicine / physician storytelling and its potential for impact across a spectrum of readership; explore novel storytelling strategies in our new era of democratized publications platforms as a means to build community and connect to meaning.

Tyler Jorgensen, MD is an Assistant Professor of internal medicine at Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin. He practices and teaches palliative medicine now after over a decade practicing emergency medicine. He has developed novel strategies to incorporate music into inpatient clinical care, and is passionate about physician storytelling. He has published original creative writing pieces in many outlets including *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, and *Examined Life Journal*. His series of original stories, *My PalliMed*

Mixtape can be found on his blog, *Crash Cart Campfire* at <https://tylerjorgensen.substack.com/p/my-pallimed-mixtape>.

Mad Women: Representations of Madness in Contemporary Latin American Women's Literature

Velebita Koričančić

Anahuac University Mexico/ National Autonomous University of Mexico

This study critically examines representations of madness in Latin American women's fiction from the 20th and 21st centuries. Employing an interdisciplinary perspective that integrates literary studies and medical humanities, it explores a wide range of emotions and the societal impact of mental illness in the selected narrative accounts. By probing into characters' subjective and material experiences with madness, my analysis addresses the complexities of the human condition, utilizing intersectionality and postcolonialism as interpretive frameworks. Madness is depicted not only as clinical symptoms and assigned diagnoses but also as a literary trope to delve into topics such as the “madwoman in the attic” —a symbol of resistance against patriarchal norms and a way to assert female agency against gendered violence— alongside various mental health challenges. It serves as a lens for exploring colonial legacies, bodily autonomy, pressures of motherhood and family, and feelings of unrest and social disconnection, sometimes incorporating autobiographical elements that foreground mental illness as both a personal and political issue. Furthermore, this research deals with portrayals of psychiatric institutions and the medicalization of mental health, calling for their reassessment in the context of medical humanities. Focusing on women's narratives, it invites a reflection on the implications of mental well-being, underscoring how narrative and culture significantly shape and influence our understanding of mental illness. Overall, this study of contemporary women's literature from Latin America advocates for a

reevaluation of mental illness from a gender-informed viewpoint, emphasizing the need for a culturally sensitive approach to mental health paradigms.

Velebita Koričančić is a Professor, researcher, and literary translator in Literature and Arts, Anahuac University Mexico, School of Communication/National Autonomous University of Mexico, School of Philosophy and Literature, Latin American Studies Department, Area: Literature; Member of National System of Researchers in Mexico.

Empowering Women and Non-Judgmental Linguistic Patterns in Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Case Study of Egyptian Borderline Personality Disorder Female Patients

Walaa A. Hassan

The British University in Egypt

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) is a type of psychotherapy that was developed by Marsha Linehan in the 1970s. It is specifically designed to assist individuals who struggle with emotional regulation, often associated with mental health conditions such as borderline personality disorder (BPD), self-harm behaviors, and eating disorders. DBT employs a therapeutic program that incorporates an educational component aiming to equip patients with the necessary skills to manage intense emotions and navigate social relationships effectively. In the context of DBT mindfulness exercises, language is crucial during mindfulness practices and can significantly impact the quality and effectiveness of the therapy. The researcher hypothesizes that employing certain linguistic patterns within DBT can empower patients and help them develop a non-judgmental attitude toward their thoughts and emotions. The study adopts a qualitative methodology that delves into the subjective experiences of individuals diagnosed with BPD by conducting semi-structured interviews. The study aims to identify specific linguistic patterns that are conducive to promoting a sense of empowerment and non-judgmental awareness during mindfulness practices. The sample of the study comprises Egyptian female patients aged between 18 and 28 years clinically diagnosed with BPD. All participants are native speakers of Egyptian Arabic and have a good to excellent command of the English language. The findings are expected to contribute to our understanding of the influence of language on mindfulness practices within

the framework of DBT. The research may provide valuable insights for therapists to enhance the effectiveness of DBT interventions.

Walaa Hassan is an Associate Professor of Linguistics and Translation, holding a Ph.D. in Linguistics (2010) from Assiut University and Michigan State University (MSU). She specializes in linguistics, translation, ESL, and Arabic for non-native speakers. With 23 years of experience in academia, Dr. Hassan is a respected teacher and researcher. Her research focuses on the comparative analysis of Arabic and English, exploring syntax-semantics interface, lexicalization of loanwords in Arabic, and their implications in translation. Currently, Dr. Hassan is studying the relationship between language and identity, as well as conducting a longitudinal research on language acquisition among young Egyptian children exposed to different linguistic inputs.

Preferred Learning Styles of Egyptian English Language Learners Post Covid-19 Pandemic

**Wesam Morsi - Farida Mohamed - Tasbeeh Yasser
The British University in Egypt**

The closure of educational learning institutions during the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 has disrupted students' traditional learning process worldwide. Students have been challenged to adapt to receiving instruction and learning remotely via online platforms and adjust their preferred learning styles in accordance with this context. This research paper aims to investigate the learning styles of 211 Egyptian learners of English as a foreign language using Fleming VARK's model which refers to four sensory modalities: visual, aural, read/write and kinesthetic learning styles and to examine their perception of learning using technology versus the traditional methods. The study also examines the effect of age and gender on their learning preferences post Covid-19 pandemic. A structured questionnaire was distributed to the sample of the population. Findings were analyzed quantitatively using descriptive statistical tests. Preliminary results showed that the auditory and visual learning styles were mostly favored by Egyptian learners of English; the variables age and gender were found to be factors that affect students' choice of their preferred

learning styles; traditional, in-person methods of learning were preferred to technology-mediated learning.

Farida Mohamed is an undergraduate student enrolled in the linguistics track at the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British University in Egypt. She is keen on learning about second language acquisition, teaching methods, sociolinguistics and CALL.

Wesam Morsi is a Lecturer in applied linguistics at the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, The British University in Egypt. She earned her master's degree in TESOL from the American University in Cairo, and her PhD in applied linguistics from Cairo University. Her research interests include fields of sociolinguistics, sociology, pragmatics, educational technology, and second language acquisition.

Tasbeeh Yasser is an undergraduate student enrolled in the linguistics track at the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British University in Egypt. She is a passionate learner of pragmatics, teaching methodology and second language acquisition.

The Impact of Selected Children Pandemic Poems on English Department Undergraduate Students at the Faculty of Al Alsun (Languages), Minia University

Yasser K. Aman

Minia University

This paper investigates the impact of selected children's pandemic poems on English department undergraduate students at the Faculty of Al Alsun (Languages), Minia University. The poems crystallize three modes of feelings: happiness, sorrow and hope representing three stages in the children's, as well as the readers', lives respectively, viz., life before the pandemic, life during the pandemic and life after the pandemic. I argue that reading the selected poems leaves a varying impact on undergraduate students. A mixed group of 25 undergraduates whose ages range from 18 to 22 agreed to participate in this study. After conducting a Quantitative analysis to an

evaluation form filled by the participants the findings prove that the impact of the pandemic poems has been varying from one age group to another.

Yasser K. R. Aman is Professor of English literature currently working at the Faculty of Al Alsun, Minia University, Egypt. He has published more than 33 papers and monographs His latest book publications are a translation into English of a novel titled *The Bustle of Whisper*; a paper titled “What Does a Poet’s Voiced Performance Contribute to the Process of Translating Poetry?”, *New Voices in Translation Studies*, vol. 28, 2023 and a book titled: *Modern African American Poets: From Hughes to Parker* published in 2019. He is interested in poetry, literary theory, literary translation and comparative literature. Of his publications in classified Scopus and ISI journals are: three papers at CLCWEB: vols. 9:3 (<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol9/iss3/5/>), 11:4 (<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol11/iss4/4/>) and 20:1 (<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol20/iss1/8/>), “The Apocalyptic Image of the Beast in William Blake’s “The Tyger” and W. B. Yeats’s “The Second Coming” is published in *Critical Survey* in the Fall issue 2021 and “ The Importance of Instapoetry in light of Dominant Forms With Special Reference to Rupi Kaur’s Milk and Honey”. <https://doi.org/10.5539/ells.v12n2p46> . What Does a Poet’s Voiced Performance Contribute to the Process of Translating Poetry? *New Voices in Translation Studies* Vol. 28 No.1 (2023) is the latest publication.

Visual Imagery and Logical Analysis: Exploring Phantasia's Influence on Deductive Reasoning and Gender Dynamics

Yassin El Senoussi- Kenzy Alruwaini - Ansam Elshaikh
The British University in Egypt

Phantasia is defined as an individual’s capacity to produce mental visual imagery (Zemanet al., 2020). Thus, it has been found to be involved in abstract thinking, which is essential for deductive reasoning and mathematics (Bolognesi & Vernillo, 2019; Keating et al., 2019 and O'Mahony et al., 2017). This study aims to explore the relationship between phantasia and deductive reasoning, with a particular interest in gender differences. Therefore, we hypothesize that males will have higher scores when screened for deductive reasoning than females regardless of their phantasia

level (Essa et al., 2016). Furthermore, we expect to find a positive correlation between an individual's level of phantasia and their deductive reasoning abilities informed by previous research suggesting such disparities. We recruited participants from Egyptian universities through volunteer sampling [n=50]. The Vividness of Visual Imagery Questionnaire (VVIQ) will be used as a measure of the individuals' level of phantasia (Mohamed, 2011 also see CJ et al., 2022 and Zoe et al., 2022), while Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices (RSPM) will be administered to measure their deductive reasoning skills (Salaheldin et al., 2015, also see Waschl N., 2017). We will explore the connections among the variables, investigating the proposed relationships. We will look at the relationships between the variables and examine the hypothesized relationships and potential gender moderation. This can considerably contribute to our understanding of the cognitive processes behind deductive reasoning and the role phantasia plays in molding cognitive abilities. This can be especially helpful to those who experience aphantasia, as we gain a better understanding of what processes may be affected due to their condition. Furthermore, the findings related to the difference in deductive reasoning in gender could enhance the intervention and practices in education that pertain to logical reasoning.

Yassin El Senoussi is an undergraduate student at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British University in Egypt.

Kenzy Alruwaini is an undergraduate student at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British University in Egypt.

Ansam El Sheikh is an Associate Professor at the Department of Basic and Applied Psychology at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the British University in Egypt. She is currently the Head of the Head of Cognitive Science and Brain Research Centre.

A Lacanian reading of Essam Youssef's *A ¼ Gram*

Youssef El Khashab

The British University in Egypt

Literature and addiction have been an interesting research area internationally, however, the subject of addiction in Egypt is viewed as taboo and is not talked about as much as it should be.

Not much Egyptian literature has tackled addiction in the way *A ¼ Gram* by Essam Youssef has. It explores an addict's journey from the very start all the way until recovery and takes readers through the psychological and physical challenges experienced. Youssef's *A ¼ Gram* was a bestseller in 2008 and 2009. This research aims to examine Essam Youssef's novel *A ¼ Gram* through Jacques Lacan's theory of psychoanalysis. Lacan's theory revolves around the concepts of The Imaginary, The Symbolic, and The Real. Lacan's approach emphasized the structural nature of the unconscious mind. Lacan believed the unconscious mind to be structured like a language, highlighting the importance of signifiers and the symbolic in order to understand human subjectivity. Lacan's work not only influenced the field of psychoanalysis but influenced the field of literary criticism as well. His approach to literary texts involved viewing them as a metaphor for psychoanalytical concepts, rather than offering traditional literary criticism. This study further aims to trace the psychological impact of addiction on the protagonist of the novel, Salah.

Youssef El Khashab is a senior student at the Department of English Literature, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the British university in Egypt. Youssef is keen on exploring the concept of addiction and how the subject is treated.

The Relationship between Problematic Mukbang Watching, Unhealthy Eating Patterns, Distorted Body Image, and Eating Disorders among Egyptian Young Adults

Yomna Sabry Balabel

The British University in Egypt

Mukbang videos, featuring YouTubers consuming large amounts of food, have gained significant popularity (365,000 US searches in 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic led to a surge in internet usage, particularly on platforms like YouTube. Confined to their homes, millions turned to YouTube for entertainment, including Mukbang videos (Song, 2023). Consequently, new associations manifested between problematic Mukbang watching (including denial of unhealthy reliance on Mukbang videos, compulsion, and loss of control over Mukbang viewership), unhealthy eating patterns, distorted body image, and symptoms of Anorexia nervosa, Bulimia nervosa, and Binge eating disorder (Von Ash et al., 2023). The study aims to investigate a

potential link between problematic Mukbang watching, unhealthy eating patterns, distorted body image, and eating disorders in Egyptian young adults. It is hypothesized that there is a relationship between problematic Mukbang watching, unhealthy eating patterns, distorted body image, and eating disorders in Egyptian young adults. To explore this, a Multiple regression analysis will be conducted. Simple random sampling will be applied to recruit 50 participants from private and public universities Afterwards, 4 questionnaires will be administered. The Problematic Mukbang Watching Scale (PMWS) (Kırcaburun et al., 2023), The Unhealthy Eating Patterns Questionnaire (Turconi et al., 2003), and The Body Image Questionnaire (Sandoz et al., 2013) will be utilized. In addition, The Eating Disorder Diagnostic Scale (EDDS) will screen the Anorexia nervosa, Bulimia nervosa, and Binge eating disorder symptoms (Stice et al., 2000). The study expects a positive relationship between problematic Mukbang watching, unhealthy eating patterns, distorted body image, and eating disorders. This research topic will be the first one conducted in Egypt which helps understand how different the phenomenon is in the Egyptian settings and it encourages future research to examine new clinical treatments for eating disorders.

Yomna Sobhy is an undergraduate student at the Department of Basic and Applied Psychology, Faculty of Arts and humanities, The British University in Egypt. She has conducted this research under the supervision of Dr. Ansam Alshaikh, the Head of Cognitive Science and Brain Research Centre.