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Academic positions

July 2024-present: Associate Researcher, Center for International Studies (CERI) - Sciences Po Paris.

September 2020-June 2024: Doctoral researcher, CERI-Sciences Po.

January 2024-present: Lecturer, Sciences Po.

October 2025-present: Visiting Lecturer, Université Paris Dauphine.

September 2020-September 2024: Affiliated Researcher, Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain (IRMC) - Tunis.

August 2017-December 2020: Teaching and Research Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

January 2016-June 2017: Lecturer, Parsons Paris - The New School.

September 2015-June 2017: Lecturer/Teaching Assistant, Sciences Po Paris - Campuses of Poitiers and Reims.

Education

2020-2024 (Summer): **Dual Ph.D.** in Political Science and Sociology, Sciences Po Paris and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dissertation: "Mirages of Race: Blackness, Racialization, and the Black movement in Tunisia."

Supervisors: Charles Kurzman, Nadia Marzouki, Daniel Sabbagh.

2021: Duke-UNC Graduate Certificate in Middle East Studies.

2017-2020: M.A. Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Thesis: "Conceptualizing Narratives of Religious Generational Gap between Muslim Immigrants and their French-Born Descendants."

Committee: Charles Kurzman (chair), Jacqueline Hagan, and Rahsaan Maxwell.

2013-2015: M.Res. Economics, Sciences Po Paris.

2010-2013: B.A. Social Sciences, Sciences Po Paris - Campus of Menton.

2012-2013: Undergraduate exchange, American University of Beirut.

Research and teaching interests

Race and ethnicity, Migration and citizenship, Comparative Politics, Qualitative methods, Middle East and Africa, Social movements, Political and Social Theory.

Publications

Selected journal articles

2026 (forthcoming). La "loi populaire" comme mirage de la justice démocratique : médias sociaux, populisme et la production de la (in)justice en Tunisie. L'Année du Maghreb.

2024. Within and outside the Black-Maghrebi binary: A conversation with Maha Abdelhamid. *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism.* 23(2): 490-509.

2023. Comment la Tunisie produit des "migrants irrèguliers." Plein Droit n.139: 35-38.

Earlier draft published in English as: 2023. How Tunisia Produces "Irregular" Migrants. *The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy*.

2023. In search of the Black "ghetto:" Racial and spatial stigma in Tunisia. *POMEPS Studies* 49: Urban Politics in the Middle East. p.73-80.

Updated version published in French as: 2024. A la recherche du "ghetto" noir - race, classe et espace en Tunisie. *Revue Tumultes*. n.63: 109-125.

2023. Remembering Jamila Debbech Ksiksi - An Interview with the Late Tunisian Lawmaker and Anti-Racist Activist. *Middle East Report*.

Reprinted in El Intérprete Digital (in Spanish)

2023. Making Tunisia non-African again - Saied's anti-Black campaign. Review of African Political Economy.

Interviewed for POMEPS Middle East Political Science Podcast S12 Episode 19

2021. The Limits of Confronting Racial Discrimination in Tunisia with Law 50. *Middle East Report*. 299.

Book chapters

2025 (forthcoming). Race, xenophobia, and populist authoritarianism: The case of violence against Sub-Saharan migrants in Kais Saied's Tunisia *Handbook on Arab Authoritarianism*. edited by Dana El Kurd. Bloomsbury.

2025. 'Too many Africans': Racializing Urban Peripheries in the Face of Tunisia's Economic Precarity. In *Inequality and Mobility: Eroding Capabilities and Aspirations in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia* edited by Jörg Gertel and Katharina Grüneisl. Bielefeld, Germany: Transcript Verlag. p. 221-232.

Ongoing Book project

I am adapting my dissertation, which examines the construction and contestation of Blackness in contemporary Tunisia, into a scholarly monograph tentatively titled *Black Tunisia: Race, Migration, and Post-Revolutionary Citizenship.*

Collective research projects with students

2025 (forthcoming). Researching race, migration, and citizenship in the contemporary Middle East-North Africa. *Program MENA - Sciences Po Paris*.

Edited collection of essays by master's students from 'Race, Migration, and Citizenship in the Middle East and North Africa' course which I taught at Sciences Po in Fall 2024.

2022. Fieldnotes from Bhar Lazreg: Research methods from the margins of Tunis. *Jadaliyya*.

Essay-series emanating from collective research project with students from École Nationale d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme de Tunis over Spring 2022.

Parts of this essay-series were reprinted in *Middle East Studies Pedagogy Initiative* and *El Intérprete Digital* (in Spanish)

Selected essays

- 2025. In search of Saadia. Africa is a country. 14 April.
- 2024. Saadia Mosbah, Black Tunisian Activist, Arrested on 6 May 2024. Jadaliyya. 19 June.
- 2024. From Dignity to Racial Purity? Saied's Anti-"African" Agenda. Nawaat. 7 May.
- 2023. A double standard. Africa is a country. 12 July.

Reprinted in ZAM Magazine

- 2023. The humiliating weight of Frenchness in Tunisia. Africa is a country. 31 January.
- 2023. Under Surveillance: Testimony from a Global South migrant in Tunisia. *Nawaat*. Tunis. 25 January.

Reprinted in French by Nawaat.

- 2022. Being excess bodies: Shame in the age of climate coloniality. *Review of African Political Economy*.
- 2022. Blue Borders, Dark Bodies: The Mediterranean as a Site of Racist Murder. *The Wire*. New Delhi, India. 11 August.
- 2022. A Woman in the Public Space: Ramadan in Tunis' Bab Souika. *The Markaz Review*. Los Angeles, USA. 9 May.
- 2022. 'Islamic World': The Problems With India's Construction of West Asia as Uniformly Muslim. *The Wire*. New Delhi, India. 24 February.

Reprinted in Nepali in Naya Patrika Daily (Nepal).

- 2021. Borders live on dark bodies, even in Tunisia. Nawaat. Tunis, Tunisia. 29 November.
- 2021. Tunisia: On Moments of Political Uncertainty and Attempts to Negotiate the Meaning of Democracy. *The Wire*. New Delhi, India. 6 August.
- 2021. The Covid catastrophe isn't about India being "poor", Tunisia neither. *Nawaat*. Tunis, Tunisia. 11 May.
- 2021. From Farmers' Stir in India to Tunisian Protests, it is a Story of Masses Left Behind. *The Wire*. New Delhi, India. 14 February.
- 2021. La construction et la contestation de la blackness autour de la Méditerranée : cas de la Tunisie et de la diaspora tunisienne en France. *Le Carnet de l'IRMC*. Tunis, Tunisia.

2020. By Hanging the Nirbhaya Case Convicts, Did India Kill Patriarchy? *The Wire*. New Delhi, India. 23 March.

- 2019. No Country Needs a Burqa Ban. *The Wire*. New Delhi, India. 27 October.
- 2019. Not just Mexicans, more and more Indians are entering Donald Trump's US illegally. *ThePrint*. New Delhi, India. 21 September.
- 2019. Not just Sanskrit, Gujarati owes a lot to Arabic and Persian languages too. *ThePrint*. New Delhi, India. 18 August.

Reprinted in Dawn (Pakistan).

Selected book reviews

- 2023. Review of Translating Blackness: Latinx Colonialities in Global Perspective by Lorgia Garcia Peña (2022). Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association.
- 2022. Review of *Tunisia's Modern Woman: Nation-Building and State Feminism in the Global 1960s* by Amy Aisen Kallander (2021). *Research Africa Reviews.* 6(3): 49-52.
- 2019. Review of Europe, India, and the Limits of Secularism by Jakob de Roover (2015). Reading Religion: American Academy of Religion.
- 2018. Review of What is Political Islam? by Jocelyne Cesari (2018) The Maydan.

Reprinted in Arabic in *Hekmah* (translation by Reem Alameri) and in Somali in *Geeska* (translation by Aadan Ducaale)

Recent teaching experience

Sciences Po Paris

Spring 2025, Spring 2024: Minorities and minoritization in contemporary Middle East and North Africa.

Fall 2025, Fall 2024: Revolutions and their afterlives: The case of Middle East and North Africa.

Fall 2025, Fall 2024: Race, migration, and citizenship in the Middle East and North Africa (graduate).

Université Paris Dauphine

Fall 2025: International Political Sociology (graduate).

École Nationale d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme de Tunis

March-April 2022: "Public spaces and inequalities" research workshop on qualitative methods, co-taught with Cyrine Bouajila.

Fellowships, grants, & awards

External grants and awards

2022–2024: Beyond Borders Ph.D. Scholarship, Zeit-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius Foundation (Euro 33,600).

2023 (March-April): Research Residence at Villa Salammbô, Institut français de Tunisie (declined).

2022: Bourse de terrain - Fieldwork scholarship, Noria Research (Euro 1,500).

2022: KLF Research Fellowship, Kamel Lazaar Foundation - Tunisia. (declined)

2022 (Spring): Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) Fellow - Identities and Beliefs program (Euro 13,000).

2020–2021: Global Religion Research Initiative (GRRI) Project Launch Grant, University of Notre Dame and Templeton Foundation. (\$9,100).

2019–2020: Religions and Public Life Fellowship, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University. (\$1,250).

2007 (Fall): AFS-JENESYS Scholarship, Government of Japan.

2006–2007: Kennedy-Lugar AFS-YES Scholarship, U.S. Department of State.

Internal grants and awards

2025: Nominee - UNC Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award (nominated by the Department of Sociology).

2021–2024: Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship (tuition waiver), UNC-CH.

2022: Bourse de terrain - Fieldwork scholarship, CERI-Sciences Po (Euro 2,000).

2021-2022: Global Partnership Award, UNC Global (\$3,000)

2021 (Summer-Fall): Digital Dissertation Fellowship 2021, Carolina Digital Humanities, UNC-CH (\$4,000)

2021 (Summer): Graduate School Summer Fellowship, UNC-CH (\$5,000)

2020-2021: Pilot Research Grant, Department of Sociology, UNC-CH (\$1,000)

2020 (Summer): Humanities for the Public Good Initiative Award, UNC-CH and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (\$5,000)

2020 (Summer): Pre-Dissertation Exploration Award, Carolina Global Initiative, UNC-CH (Awarded without funds because of travel restrictions related to COVID-19)

2019-2020: Maynard Adams Fellowship, Carolina Public Humanities, UNC-CH (\$2,000)

2019: The Graduate and Professional Student Federation Travel Grant, UNC-CH (\$600)

2018: Ruth Mitchell-Pitts START Fellowship, Center for European Studies, UNC-CH (\$2,000)

2018 (Summer): Pilot Research Grant, Department of Sociology, UNC-CH (\$500)

2010-2015: Émile Boutmy Scholarship, Sciences Po Paris.

2012: Babel Initiative Grant for research in Morocco, Sciences Po Paris.

Selected conference presentations and invited lectures

Conferences co-organized

- 2025. "Sh'hili: Documentary projection and discussion with Habib Ayeb," convener, Sciences Po Paris MENA Program. 14 March.
- 2025. "Junior researchers' conference: Race, migration, and citizenship in the Middle East and North Africa," convener, Sciences Po Paris MENA Program. 14 March.
- 2025. "Thinking race in/through Africa" roundtable, co-convener and speaker, Sciences Po Paris Africa Program. 12 February.
- 2023. "Populisme, politique migratoire et racisme en Tunisie" roundtable, co-convener and speaker, Centre d'histoire, Sciences Po Paris, 9 March.
- 2022. "Public spaces and inequalities" public conference, co-convener, École Nationale d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme de Tunis.
- 2020. 7th Annual Duke-UNC Middle East and Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, co-convener, UNC-CH, February.

International professional conferences

- 2025. "Researching blackness in Tunisia: Limits and possibilities" *Relational Racisms in Global Prespective* Conference, Global Racisms Institute for Social Transformation (GRIST) at the University of Cambridge. 30 June-2 July.
- 2025. "Genre, Classe et Race dans les mondes arabes pendant et après 2011" panel, co-convener and speaker, *Congrès du GIS Moyen-Orient et mondes musulmans*, Strasbourg. June.
- 2024. "Reflecting race through the law criminalizing racial discrimination in Tunisia," *Annual Graduate Student Research Conference*, NYU-Abu Dhabi, March.
- 2023. "Governing sub-Saharan migration in Tunisia," *CIVICA Conference*, European University Institute-Italy, September.
- 2023. "Etre noir.e dans le monde arabe." panel, co-convener and speaker, *Congrès du GIS Moyen-Orient et mondes musulmans*, Lyon, July.
- 2023. "L'impossibilité d'étudier le tiers monde avec un passeport du tiers monde," Groupe de réflexion sur le (non-)accès au terrain, Association française de science politique, Paris, June.
- 2022. "Tracer la ségrégation raciale urbaine : le cas de l'arrondissement de Bhar Lazreg dans le Grand Tunis," *Insaniyyat: International Forum for Humanities and Social Sciences*, Tunis, September.
- 2022. "Mapping urban racial segregation: the case of Bhar Lazreg in Greater Tunis,"

Deutscher Orientalistentag, Berlin, September.

- Congrès national de l'Association Française de Science Politique, Lille, July.
- 2022. "Hindaoui/a: The Racialized Imaginations of South Asian bodies in the MENA," *Deutscher Orientalistentag*, Berlin, September.

2022. "Conceptualizing Black Masculinity/ies: Reading with and through silences," *Minorities in the Maghreb Conference*, Tunisia, May.

- 2021. "The 2011 revolution as a moment of cultural renaissance? The case of Stambeli in Tunisia," *Middle East Studies Association* Annual Conference (online), December.
- 2021. "Talking about racism in the Arab world in the context of global Islamophobia," *Islamophobia and/in Post-Secular States* Conference, University of Alberta (online), November.
- 2019. "Conceptualizing generational differences in religion among Muslim immigrants and their descendants in France." North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies 48th Annual Conference, Boston University, September
- 2018. "Church-state relations and pluralistic values in the Middle East and North Africa region," *Middle East Studies Association* Annual Conference, Texas, November.

Selected invited lectures and workshops

- 2025. "The two Black movements in Tunisia: Comparing Black Tunisian (women)'s activism with sub-Saharan students' movement post-2011," *Tubman Talks*, The Harriet Tubman Institute, York University (online), September.
- 2025. "How sub-Saharan migrants in Tunisia negotiate Muslimness to lessen the stigma of their 'Africanness'" CamPo *Religion and race* workshop University of Cambridge. June.
- 2025. "Mediterranean slavery since the 18th century and the historical study of race," discussant to M'hamed Oualdi, CMENA University of California at Santa Cruz (online), February.
- 2025. "Thinking race, facing space: The case of *quartiers des africains* in Tunisia," invited talk as a part of *Cities are Back in Town* research group, Urban School Sciences Po Paris, 18 February.
- 2024. "A la recherche du "ghetto" noir en Tunisie," invited talk as a part of the launch of *Revue Tumultes* special issue on anti-black racisms in North Africa, CAREP-Paris, November.
- 2024. "Ghettos, banlieues, and everything in between: Dis/entangling race and space in Tunisia," invited talk as a part of *Race, racism, and xenophobic violence at the tips of Africa*, Africa Program, Sciences Po Paris, October.
- 2024. "Migration, race, and populism in Tunisia," invited talk as a part of *How we Talk about Tunisia: Interrogating Dominant Narratives*, Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, University of California Santa Barbara, June (online).
- 2024. "A lifetime of racial stigma in Tunisia." *Interdisciplinary Exchange Colloquium for Scholars in Social Sciences and Humanities*, Zeit Stiftung Bucerius-Hamburg, April.
- 2023. "L'impossibilité d'étudier le tiers monde avec un passeport du tiers monde," *Retour de terrain*, CERI-Sciences Po, June.
- 2023. "Surveillance de l'Etat et racialisation en Tunisie," Noria Research, Paris, April.
- 2023. "Producing Bhar Lazreg as 'African'" guest-lecture, in *Cities and migration* taught by Thomas Lacroix, Sciences Po Paris, April.
- 2023. "Tunisie: Un racisme d'etat assumé?" invited by African Futures Lab, April.
- 2023. "Inequality and racism in Tunisia: Historical precedents and present day crisis," ASU-

- Center for Maghrib Studies (online), 6 April.
- 2023. "The social construction of a neighborhood as Black: The case of Gahbaya in Gabes, Tunisia" presented at *Project on Middle East Political Science* workshop, Lebanon, February.
- 2022. "The making and application of the law criminalizing racial discrimination (Law 50) in Tunisia." *Centre d'Études Maghrébines à Tunis*. December.
- 2022. "Ya Hasra? Le passé nostalgique comme une construction racialisée," *Du racisme anti-Noirs en Tunisie*, CAREP-Fondation Frantz Fanon-IRMC, October.
- 2022. "Entangled Histories: The Black movement in Tunisia and the criminalization of racial discrimination through Law 50," MECAM Spectrum Talks, June.
- 2022. "De/constructing "disorder" in Bhar Lazreg," *Inequalities and mobilities in Tunisia* workshop hosted by MECAM, Nabeul-Tunisia, June.
- 2022. "Parler de race en étant racisé," *Terrains*, Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain, Tunis, April.
- 2022. "Mapping urban racial segregation: the case of Bhar Lazreg in Greater Tunis,"
 - Politics of the Middle East Interdisciplinary Seminar Series, May.
 - Cities in the Middle East workshop. University College London and Sciences Po Paris, April
- 2022. "De/constructing mental maps of Tunis governorate," *AlterLab* series, École Nationale d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme de Tunis, March.
- 2021. "Ahmedabad, India: Making city out of discourses," *AlterLab* series, École Nationale d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme de Tunis, October.
- 2021. "Populism and inequalities in the MENA region" guest-lecture series, in *Political Economy* taught by Hamza Meddeb, South Mediterranean University, Tunis, February-May.
- 2021. "La construction et la contestation de la Blackness en Tunisie," *Doctoral workshop*, Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain, Tunis, May.
- 2021. "Conceptualizing race in/through North Africa" guest-lecture, in *Race, religion, and politics* taught by Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Northwestern University (online), March.
- 2021. "La discrimination des noir.e.s en Tunisie et le mouvement contre le racisme après la révolution de 2010." Rencontre internationale UMA/ULB 2010–2020, une décennie de changements dans le monde arabe, Tunis, January.
- 2020. "Ethno-racial stratification and religion: The case of Black Muslims in France and Tunisia." *Atelier de jeunes chercheurs*, Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain, Tunis, October.
- 2020. ""Islam/ophobia is for the Arabs": The non-comprehensibility of Black Muslims by the State." *Religions and Public Life conference on Church and State*, Duke University (online), April.
- 2020. "Making Muslims speak in the age of the 'veil debates' in France." 17th Annual Duke-UNC Middle East and Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, UNC-Chapel Hill, February.
- 2020. "Being and the Body: Facing 'self' on the field." invited talk for Ethical Concerns and

Global Research: Contemporary Europe in Focus, Center for European Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, January.

Selected public-facing talks and interviews

Televised and radio interviews for: BBC, CNN, AlJazeera, France Inter, Radio France Internationale, France Culture.

2025. "Advocacy, Journalism, and Social Sciences in an Ever More Divided World" panel, Festival of Complexities at the European Capital of Culture, Nova Gorica - Slovenia. November.

2024. Public conference "Devenir une fille à l'école en Inde," Colloque pour la Journée internationale de la fille, Mairie du Xème arrondissement, Paris, October.

2023. Public lecture "La politique étrangère de la France en Afrique," Europe Ecologie Les Verts. *La Fête de l'Humanité*, Paris, September.

2023. Interviewed by Wassila Belhacine in "Racisme anti-noirs dans le monde arabe : le difficile dévoilement d'un tabou." *Libération.* 29 August.

2023. Public lecture "Blackness in Tunsia," *Education Abroad Program*, AMIDEAST-Tunisia, June.

2023. Interviewed by Gérald Papy in "Le migrant, commode bouc emissaire." Le Vif. Belgium. 27 April.

2022. Public conference "Constructing and contesting race in Tunisia," US Embassy in Tunisia and Libya, February.

2021. Interviewed by Moinuddin Ahmad in "Explained: Why Tunisia, Birthplace Of The Arab Spring, is Witnessing Protests Once Again" *Indiatimes*. India. 4 August.

2020. Public lecture "Understanding Racism in the Arab World and Beyond," International Education Week: Social Justice and Human Rights around the World, UNC-CH, November.

Skills

Languages:

Fluent in English, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Tunisian Arabic, and Urdu.

Advanced-level skills in Modern Standard Arabic, Lebanese and Egyptian Arabic

Basic skills in Kiswahili and Turkish.

Programming and coding: Atlas.ti, R, Stata, and LATEX. Developing my skills in QGIS.

Academic Services

2025: Jury member for Grand Oral, Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po Paris.

2024-present: Elected member of the Scientific Council, Middle East North Africa Program, Sciences Po Paris.

2024-present: Member, Africa Program, Sciences Po Paris.

2025-present: Member, Cities are Back in Town research group, Sciences Po Paris.

2019–2024: Built the first Sciences Po Paris-UNC Chapel Hill Dual Doctoral program.

2017-2020: Committee member, Islamicate Graduate Student Association (IGSA), UNC-Chapel Hill.

2012–2013: Volunteer English teacher, Migrant Workers' Task Force, Lebanon.

2011-2012: Student Council Representative, Sciences Po Paris (Menton).

2010-2011: President, Bureau of Arts (BDA), Sciences Po Paris (Menton).

Professional Associations

American Sociological Association (ASA).

Association Française de Science Politique (AFSP).

Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique - Moyen-Orient et Mondes musulmans (GIS-MOMM).

Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA).

Referees

Charles Kurzman, Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Nadia Marzouki, Research Fellow, French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)-CERI Sciences Po Paris.

Daniel Sabbagh, Senior Research Fellow, CERI Sciences Po Paris.

Last updated: September 16, 2025