

CV of Arturo Monaco

Personal data

Name: Arturo Monaco

Date of birth: 12/06/1988

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Research interests and expertise

My area of expertise is modern and contemporary Arabic literature. My research interests include: the reception of Greek classics and mythology, the reception of surrealism in modern Arabic poetry; the reception of foreign trends in Arabic literature; Arabic periodicals; Arab modernism; intercultural exchanges between Arabic and foreign literatures. In my teaching experience as professor and assistant I have covered the following topics in Arabic literature: history of Arabic literature, the literature of the *nahḍah*, contemporary Syrian literature, Arab drama, Arabic short story, exile in contemporary Arabic literature. My recent teaching experience covers also Arabic language and translation.

Professional experience

- **1/12/2022-30/11/2025:** Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow, Sapienza University of Rome-American University of Beirut
- **1/06/2022-30/11/2022:** Translator (Arabic into English) of reports about the excavations at Qasr al-imara in Kufa between 1938 and 1967, Sapienza University of Rome
- **1/04/2020-31/10/2022:** Adjunct Professor of Arabic Language and Literature, University of Catania (Italy)
- **20/01/2022-30/06/2022:** Research Fellow for the MUR (Ministry of University and Research) project “Storia, lingue e culture dei paesi asiatici e africani: ricerca scientifica, promozione e divulgazione”, Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, Rome
- **18/10/2021-31/12/2021:** Trainer for teachers of Arabic as a foreign language, Sapienza University of Rome
- **1/05/2019-30/04/2021:** Post-Doctoral fellowship, Sapienza University of Rome
- **1/12/2017-30/11/2018:** Post-Doctoral fellowship, Sapienza University of Rome
- **1/09/2018-30/11/2018:** Cataloguer, Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, Rome
- **1/04/2018-30/06/2018:** Cataloguer, Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, Rome
- **1/05/2017-31/12/2017:** Cataloguer, Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, Rome

Education

- **1/11/2012-16/06/2016:** PhD in Civilizations, Cultures and Societies of Asia and Africa, Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
Thesis: *Il surrealismo in letteratura araba tra gli anni Trenta e Sessanta: storia, teoria e pratica poetica* (Surrealism in Arabic Literature between the Thirties and the Sixties: History, Theory and Poetic Practice). Classification: Excellent
- **1/11/2010-13/07/2012:** MA degree in Oriental Languages and Civilisations (Arabic curriculum), Sapienza University of Rome
Thesis: *Il movimento surrealista egiziano attraverso la sua rivista “al-Taṭawwur”* (The Egyptian Surrealist Movement through its magazine “al-Taṭawwur”). 110/110 cum laude
- **1/11/2007-13/07/2010:** BA degree in Oriental Languages and Civilisations (Arabic curriculum), Sapienza University of Rome
Thesis: *Yūsuf al-Muḥaymmīd: una voce della narrativa saudita contemporanea* (Yūsuf al-Muḥaymmīd: a voice from the Contemporary Saudi Fiction). 110/110 cum laude

Courses and research stays

- **8/11/2021-12/12/2021:** Online training course in strategies for digital learning “Train-the-Trainer”, Erasmus+ DigIT, Sapienza University of Rome
- **9-16-23/09/2021:** Online training course in teaching Arabic as a foreign language, University of Pavia (Italy). Topic: Integrated digital education: methods, resources, and materials
- **21/09/2020-23/09/2020:** Online training course in teaching Arabic as a foreign language, University of Pavia. Topic: Reading comprehension: teaching authentic materials
- **25/09/2019-26/09/2019:** Training course in teaching Arabic as a foreign language, University of Pavia. Topic: Oral comprehension and production in Modern Standard Arabic
- **17/06/2018-12/07/2018:** Research stay at Forum Transregionale Studien, Program: EUME (Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe, Berlin (Germany)
- **8/01/2018-21/02/2018:** Research stay at the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Philipps Universität Marburg, Marburg (Germany)
- **22/09/2017-24/09/2017:** AGYA International Bilingual Summer School: “Practicing Blickwechsel: Entangled Perspectives on Theory, Arts and History in the Field of Arabic Literary Studies”, American University of Beirut (Lebanon). Title of the presentation: الصوفية والسوريالية في شعر عصام محفوظ (Sufism and Surrealism in ‘Iṣām Maḥfūz’s poetry)
- **25/09/2016-18/01/2017:** Course in Arabic language for special purposes, Yarmouk University, Irbid (Jordan)
- **7/01/2017-4/02/2017:** Training course in teaching Arabic as a foreign language, Yarmouk University, Irbid
- **22/01/2015-25/02/2015:** Research stay in Beirut.
- **18/09/2013-18/07/2014:** Course in Arabic language (Advanced), Yarmouk University, Irbid
- **22/05/2014-31/05/2014:** Research stay in Paris (France).
- **23/01/2013-20/02/2013:** Course in Arabic language (8th level), Fajr Center for the Arabic Language, Cairo (Egypt)
- **28/09/2011-23/05/2012:** Course in Arabic language (Advanced), Alexandria University, Alexandria (Egypt)
- **4/01/2011-31/01/2011:** Course in Arabic language (6th level), University of Damascus, Damascus (Syria)
- **11/10/2010-15/01/2011:** Course in Arabic language (4th level), Institute of Arabic Language for Non-native Speakers, Damascus
- **14/03/2010-13/04/2010:** Course in Arabic language (4th level), University of Damascus, Damascus

Funding received so far

- **1/12/2022-30/11/2025:** Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, funded by the European Commission
- **1/05/2019-31/04/2021:** Post-Doctoral fellowship, funded by Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
- **1/12/2017-30/11/2018:** Post-Doctoral fellowship, co-funded by Sapienza University of Rome and Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, Rome (Italy)
- **1/05/2017-31/12/2017:** Cataloguer, funded by Regione Lazio (Italy)
- **18/09/2013-18/07/2014:** Erasmus Mundus scholarship. Yarmouk University, Irbid (Jordan)
- **28/09/2011-23/05/2012:** Erasmus Mundus scholarship. Alexandria University, Alexandria (Egypt)
- **11/10/2010-15/01/2011:** Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Scholarship. Institute of Arabic Language for Non-native Speakers, Damascus (Syria)

Other scientific contributions (research groups, journal and series boards)

- **1/06/2022-30/11/2022:** Member of the research project “Nuove prospettive sul complesso moschea-palazzo di Kufa” (P.I. Michelina Di Cesare), Sapienza University of Rome-Fondation Max van Berchem, Genève.
- **1/05/2022-current:** Member of the Editorial Board of the scholarly journal *DIVE-IN – An International Journal on Diversity and Inclusion* (editors-in-chief: Maria Chiara Gnocchi and Maurizio Ascari), edited by the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures – LILEC, Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

- **1/12/2020-current:** Member of the Editorial Board of the series “Traduzioni, studi e ricerche sulla *nahḍah*” (Translations, studies, and research about *nahḍah*) (editor-in-chief: Prof Isabella Camera d’Afflitto), edited by Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, Rome
- **1/12/2019-current:** Member of the research project “Negotiating Stories in Cohabitation: Dynamics and Narratives of Peace in the Great Empires of the Past (from Antiquity to Present Times)”, funded by Sapienza University of Rome
- **1/06/2018-current:** Editor in chief of the scholarly journal *La rivista di Arablit* (editor-in-chief: Prof Isabella Camera d’Afflitto), edited by Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, Rome

Publications

Monograph

- [*Surrealismi arabi 1938-1970. Il Surrealismo e la letteratura araba in Egitto, Siria e Libano*](#) (Arab Surrealisms 1938-1970. Surrealism and Arabic literature in Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon). Roma, Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, 2020, ISBN 978-88-97622-64-2.

Edited book

- [*Be Like Adam’s Son. Theorising, Writing and Practising Peace in the Arab Region*](#) (edited by Fernanda Fischione and Arturo Monaco), Equinox, Sheffield 2024

Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals

- [*Pittura e poesia negli scritti teorici e nella poesia efrastica del surrealista Ūrhān Muyassar*](#), in “Annali di Ca’ Foscari. Serie Orientale”, 58, 1 (2022), pp. 199-230, e-ISSN: 2385-3042
- [*A dialogue with turāth: the combination of journalism, adab narrative prose and drama in ‘Isām Mahfūz’s hiwārāt*](#), in “Rivista degli Studi”, XCIV, 2, pp. 71-90, ISSN PRINT: 0392-4866. E-ISSN: 1724-1853
- [*The Memory of the Great War in a Selection of Writings by Mārūn ‘Abbūd*](#), in “La rivista di Arablit”, IX, 17-18 (December 2019), pp. 81-96. ISSN: 2239-4168
- [*The Flux of a Mystical-Surrealist Trend through the Middle East and North Africa*](#), in “La Rivista di Arablit”, VII, 14 (December 2017), pp. 63-76. ISSN: 2239-4168
- [*Ispirazione romantica e sperimentalismo surrealista in due raccolte poetiche del siriano ‘Alī al-Nāsir \(1890-1970\): al-Zamā’ \(1931\) e Suryāl \(1947\)*](#), in “La Rivista di Arablit”, VI, 12 (December) 2016, pp. 29-50. ISSN: 2239-4168
- [*Kulluna lagi’ūn \(Siamo tutti rifugiati\): in onda la vita dei rifugiati siriani in Giordania*](#), in “Mondi Migranti”, 2015, 3, pp. 193-212. ISSN 1972-4888, ISSN e 1972-4896
- [*al-Ṣa’b al-Sūrī Wāhid \(The Syrian people are one\): Syrian Artists and Intellectuals against Sectarianism*](#), in “La Rivista di Arablit”, V, 9/10 (December) 2015, pp. 87-105. ISSN: 2239-4168
- [*Il contenuto italianistico nella rivista culturale egiziana “al-Risālah” nella prima metà del Novecento*](#), in “La Rivista di Arablit”, IV, 7/8 (December 2014), pp. 108-116. (co-author: Hussein Mahmoud) ISSN: 2239-4168
- [*L’esule algerino a Parigi nel romanzo Asābi’ Lūlūtā \(Le dita di Lolita\) di Wāsīnī al-A’raġ*](#), in “La Rivista di Arablit”, IV, 7/8 (December 2014), pp. 188-200. ISSN: 2239-4168
- [*Un contributo dimenticato al dibattito culturale nell’Egitto del 1940: la rivista “al-Tatawwur”*](#), in “La rivista di Arablit”, II, 4 (November/December 2012), pp. 19-32. ISSN: 2239-4168

Publications in peer-reviewed conference proceedings and volumes

- [*Ūrhān Muyassar’s pioneering role in translating surrealism into Arabic*](#), in Monique Bellan; Julia Drost (eds.), [*Surrealism in North Africa and Western Asia: Crossings and Encounters*](#), Ergon Verlag in Kommission, Beirut 2021, p. 117-135. ISBN: 978-3-95650-858-5
- [*The re-orientalisation of the myth of Adonis in ‘Ashtarūt wa-Adūnīs by Ḥabīb Thābit*](#), in Leonardo Capezone (ed.), [*Before Archaeology. The Meaning of the Past in the Islamic Pre-Modern Thought \(and After\)*](#), Artemide, Roma 2020, pp. 187-202. ISBN: 978-88-7575-366-5
- [*The Beginning of the New Age in Syro-Lebanese Poetry: the Case of the Revue al-Qūṭarah \(The Lyre, 1946-47\)*](#), in Maria Avino, Ada Barbaro; Monica Ruocco (Eds.). [*Qamariyyāt: oltre ogni frontiera tra letteratura e traduzione. Studi in onore di Isabella Camera d’Afflitto*](#), Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, Roma 2019, pp. 391-405. ISBN: 978-88-97622-291

- *Comic Folk Literature in the Time of Facebook: Luqmān Dayrakī and His Posts on Facebook*, in Stephan Guth, Teresa Pepe (Eds.), [Arabic Literature in a Posthuman World](#), Proceedings of the 12th Conference of Euramal, Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2019, pp. 331-353. ISBN: 978-3-447-11261-1
- *The surrealist contents published in the magazine “Ši‘r”*, in Marina Miranda (Ed.), [Dal Medio all’Estremo Oriente. Studi del dottorato di ricerca in Civiltà dell’Asia e dell’Africa](#), Carocci, Roma 2018, pp. 19-32. ISBN: 9788843091027
- *Syria and the reception of surrealism: Suryāl 1947 Vs. Radio SūriāLī (SouriaLi) 2012*, in Roger Allen, Tetz Rooke, Gonzalo Fernández Parrilla and Francisco Rodríguez Sierra (Eds.), *New Geographies: Texts and Contexts in Modern Arabic Literature*, Proceedings of the 11th Euramal Conference, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid 2018, pp. 115-133. ISBN: 978-84-8344-620-1

Book reviews

- [C. Ceyhun Arslan, The Ottoman Canon and the Construction of Arabic and Turkish Literatures, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh 2024, pp. 231](#), in “La rivista di Arablit”, XIV, 27 (June 2024), pp. 157-163. ISSN: 2239-4168
- [Tarek Shamma; Myriam Salama-Carr \(edited by\), Anthology of Arabic Discourse on Translation, Routledge, London and New York 2022, pp. 399](#), in “La rivista di Arablit”, XIII, 25 (June 2023), pp. 93-98. ISSN: 2239-4168
- *Literary Visions of the Middle East. An anthology of canonical masterpieces of Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hebrew fiction (mid-19th to early 21st centuries)*. Compiled, edited and commented by Stephan Guth, Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz, 2019, pp. 544, in [“Rivista degli Studi Orientali”, XCIII, 1-2 \(2020\)](#), p. 117-119. ISSN PRINT: 0392-4866. E-ISSN: 1724-1853.
- [Robyn Creswell, City of Beginnings. Poetic Modernism in Beirut, Princeton University Press, Princeton: Oxford 2019, pp. 259](#), in “La rivista di Arablit”, IX, 17-18 (December 2019), pp. 155-159. ISSN: 2239-4168
- [Sonja Mejcher-Atassi, Reading across Modern Arabic Literature and Art, Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden 2012, pp. 191, 15 tavv.](#), in “La Rivista di Arablit”, VIII, 15 (June 2018), pp. 115-119. ISSN: 2239-4168
- [Yāsīn al-Hāgg Sālih, Bi ‘l-halās yā šabāb! 16 ‘āman fī ‘l-suḡūn al-sūriyyah, \(Siamo salvi, ragazzi! 16 anni nelle carceri siriane\), Dār al-Sāqī, Bayrūt 2012](#), in “La Rivista di Arablit”, VI, 12 (December 2016), pp. 104-109. ISSN: 2239-4168
- [Yūsuf al-Muhaymmīd, Luḡt mawtā \(Il cicaleccio dei morti\), Al-Kamel Verlag, Köln 2003, pp. 86](#), in “La Rivista di Arablit”, III, 5 (June 2013). ISSN: 2239-4168

Translations

- [Sulaymān al-Bustānī. L’Introduzione alla traduzione araba dell’Iliade](#) (The Introduction to the Arabic translation of the *Iliad*). Edited by A. Monaco. Istituto per l’Oriente C. A. Nallino, Roma 2022, ISBN: 978-88-97622-83-3
- Nidhal Guiga. *Pronto Gagarine*, in [Federico Cruciani, Iliaria Carmen Restifo \(Eds.\), Nuovo Teatro Arabo](#), UniversItalia, Roma 2014, pp. 43-82. ISBN: 978-88-6507-567-8

Conferences

- **4-7/01/2024:** 2024 **Modern Language Association** Annual Convention, held in Philadelphia. Presentation title: *The reception of Greek classics and myths in the nahḍah periodicals*.
- **14-15/12/2023:** Co-organization (with Francesca Rondinelli and Morad Montazami) of the International conference **La volonté d’horizon of Georges Henein (1914-1973). Literature, Art, and Politics 50 Years Later**, held at Villa Medici – Académie de France à Rome and Istituto per l’Oriente C.A. Nallino in Rome. Presentation title: *Echoes of Georges Henein in the journalistic writings of Unsī al-Hājj*.
- **14-16/12/2022:** International conference **Thresholds to Arabic Literary Criticism**, organized by the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University of New York. Presentation title: *Theory in Use: Samples of Literary Comparativism in the Footnotes of Sulaymān al-Bustānī’s Translation of the Iliad*.

- **21/09/2022:** International conference **Insaniyyat 2022** (International Forum for Humanities and Social Sciences), Université de la Manouba, Tunis. Co-organizer (with Dr Fernanda Fischione) of the panel: How to face the socio-political crisis: reflections about Just Peace in the Arab cultural production. Presentation title: *‘Iṣām Maḥfūz and the illusions of (inhumane) peace in the era of the unipolar world.*
- **11-13/11/2021:** international workshop **The Journal as Form: Re-Thinking Approaches to the Study of Arabic Periodicals**, Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin. Presentation title: *The Form of the Arabic Surrealist Magazine: The Case of al-Ġurfah al-suryāliyyah (2020).*
- **23/09/2021-24/09/2021:** **Iraq after 2003. When Trauma becomes Art. Myth, History, and Literature**, Department Italian Institute of Oriental Studies, Sapienza University of Rome. Presentation title: *The Search for Solitude of the Iraqi Poet in Exile ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Ġanābī.*
- **20/01/2019-22/01/2019:** series of three conferences given at Qassim University and at the literary club of Buraydah (Saudi Arabia) with the following titles: *al-Ġīl al-ġadīd li-‘l-mustaṣriqīn al-īṭāliyyīn* (The new generation of Italian orientalist), *Dirāsāt al-adab al-‘arabī fī Īṭāliyā* (Studies about Arabic literature in Italy), *Dirāsāt al-adab al-sa‘ūdī fī Īṭāliyā* (Studies about Saudi literature in Italy)
- **16/07/2018-20/07/2018:** **WOCMES 2018**, held at the University of Sevilla. Presentation title: *The memory of the Great War in some writings of Mārūn ‘Abbūd.*
- **11/07/2018:** **The Berliner Seminar**, held at EUME-Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin. Presentation title: *The Rebellious in Tradition: Sufism and Surrealism in Issam Mahfouz’ Work.*
- **28/05/2018-1/06/2018:** **XIII EURAMAL Conference**, “Fiction and History: the Rebirth of the Historical Novel in Arabic”, held at University of Naples “L’Orientale”. Presentation title: *Ḥiwārāt ‘Iṣām Maḥfūz ma‘a al-turāt* (‘Iṣām Maḥfūz’s conversations with the literary heritage).
- **13/03/2018:** **Giornata di studi sulla narrative saudita**, held at Sapienza University of Rome. Presentation title: *La rivista “Ab‘ād” del Nādī al-Qaṣṣīm al-Adabī fī Buraydah.*
- **15/01/2018:** Seminar at the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Philipps Universität Marburg, Marburg. Presentation title: *Surrealism and its Arabic Interactions.*
- **5/07/2017-7/07/2017:** **BRISMES Conference 2017**, “Movement and Migration in the Middle East: People and Ideas in Flux”, held at the University of Edinburgh. Presentation title: *The Flux of a Mystical-Surrealist Trend through the Middle East and North Africa.*
- **23/03/2017-25/03/2017:** **Colloque International “La lecture des créateurs”**, organized by the University of Sfax and held at Hammamet (Tunisia). Presentation title: *الرسم في قراءة الشاعر السوريالي* (Painting in the reading of the Syrian surrealist poet Ūrḥān Muyassar).
- **14/11/2016-15/11/2016:** **Workshop “The Avant-Garde and its Networks. Surrealism in Paris, North Africa and the Middle East from the 1930s”**, held at Orient-Institut Beirut. Presentation title: *Syria and Surrealism: Urkhan Muyassar’s Pioneering Role in Translating Surrealism into Arabic*
- **30/05/2016-4/06/2016:** **XII EURAMAL Conference**, “Upholding Humanity in a Post-human World? Arabic Literature After the ‘Arab Spring””, held at Oslo University. Presentation title: *Mu‘āraḍat al-karāġāt: Luqmān Dayrkī and ‘Abbūd Sa‘īd together to tarnish writers’ reputation*
- **16/01/2015-17/01/2015:** **XII SeSaMo Conference**, “Beyond the Arab Uprisings rediscovering the MENA region”, held at Ca’ Foscari University in Venice. Presentation title: *al-Ša‘b al-Sūrī Wāḥid (The Syrian people are one): Syrian Artists and Intellectuals against Sectarianism*
- **24/05/2014:** **Conference “Construction des avant-gardes: Georges Henein, le surréalisme et l’Égypte”**, organized by Paris-Sorbonne and Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3 Universities. Presentation title: *Literature and Politics in Georges Henein’s Arabic production*
- **7/05/2014-10/05/2014:** **XI EURAMAL Conference**, “New geographies and genres: The function of literature”, held at Universidad Autonoma in Madrid. Presentation title: *Syria and the reception of Surrealism: Siryal 1947 vs. Radio SuryaLi 2012*
- **28/11/2013-29/11/2013:** **International Conference “Intercultural Studies: Theories and Practices of Cultural Exchanges with the Southern Coast of the Mediterranean”**, held at Sapienza University of Rome. Presentation title: *The Algerian Exile in Paris in Waciny Laredj’s novel Aṣābī‘ Lolita*

Honours and Awards

- Translator of the winning book of the **Turjuman Award 2022**, funded by the Sharjah Book Authority. Istituto per l’Oriente “C.A. Nallino” was awarded the prize for the publication of: Sulaymān al-

Bustānī. *Introduzione all'Iliade di Omero*. Introduzione e traduzione di A. Monaco. Istituto per l'Oriente C. A. Nallino, Roma 2022. ISBN: 978-88-97622-83-3

- **Shortlist for the Sheikh Zayed Book Award 2022** in the category “Arab Culture in Other Languages”

Languages

- **Italian:** native speaker
- **Modern Standard Arabic:** proficient
- **Colloquial Arabic:** proficient in Syrian and Jordanian, Intermediate in Egyptian
- **English:** proficient
- **French:** intermediate

Rome, 1/09/2024