

Omar Sayfo
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Personal Information

Nationalities: Hungarian
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Education

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| 2012-2016 | Research Institute for History and Culture of the Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University, PHD studies |
| 2003-2008 | Eotvos Lorant University, Budapest, Hungary, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Political Sciences and International Studies (MA in political sciences) |
| 2002-2006 | Budapest College of Communication and Business, BA in Business Communication |
| 2001-2006 | Eotvos Lorant University, Budapest, Hungary, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Semitic Philology and Arabic Language (MA in Arabic studies) |

Employment

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| 2020- | Researcher, Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies |
| 2016- | Affiliated Researcher at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Utrecht University |
| 2014 | Visiting researcher at the HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World, University of Cambridge |
| 2011- 2013 | University of Debrecen, Department of Media and Communication, Faculty of Humanities, – Lecturer of ‘Intercultural Communications’ and ‘Media Economics’ |

Selected Non-Academic Employment and Work Experience

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| 2019- | External Research Fellow, <i>Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade</i> (Külügyi és Külgazdasági Intézet) |
| 2018 | Consultant for <i>Bukra fil Mish-Mish</i> a documentary on the early years of Egyptian animation (2019, Cassis Films) |
| 2017 | Cultural Consultant for <i>Robin Hood</i> (2018, Appian Way Productions) |
| 2015, 2016 | Cultural Consultant at the set of <i>Tyrant</i> , FX Channel’s Middle East themed TV series (2014-2016) |
| 2015- | Editor of foreign affairs, Magyar Demokrata |

- 2010-2012 Advisor at the at the Hungarian Ministry of Economics's Arab Strategic Group
- 2006-2008 Editor at the Foreign Desk of Hungarian News Television (Hir TV)

Publications

Books

- 2023 *Allah's Spacious Earth* (novel), Syracuse University Press
- 2021 *Arab Animation: Images of Identity*, Edinburgh University Press.

Peer-reviewed Articles

- 2022 *Identity Matters: The Cultural Logics of Animation Production and Distribution in the Arab World*, 'International Journal of Communication', Vol.16, 1109–1126.
- 2021 *A Celebrity from the Sky: 'Abd al-Bāsiṭ 'Abd al-Ṣamad's Journey to National and International Fame in 'Abd al-Nāṣir's and al-Sādāt's Egypt*, 'Die Welt Des Islams', Vol.62, 53–77.
- 2020 *Set for Success: Hollywood Runaway Productions in Socialist and Post-Socialist Hungary*, 'Media Industries Journal', Vol.7, 43–63.
- 2020 Hollywood (Mis)representations of Arabs and the Middle East From a Production Perspective – The Case of FX Channel's Tyrant, 'Series', Vol.6, 43–55.
- 2018 *Mediating a Disney-style Islam: The Emergence of Egyptian Islamic Animated Cartoons*, 'Animation', Vol.13, 102–115
- 2017 *From Kurdish Sultan to Pan-Arab Champion and Muslim Hero: The Evolution of the Saladin Myth in Popular Arab Culture*, 'The Journal of Popular Culture', Vol. 50, 65–85
- 2016 *Why an anti-Islam campaign has taken root in Hungary, a country with few Muslims?*, 'V4revue'. Joint article with Zoltan Pall.

Book Chapters

- 2018 *Animation and Identity in the Gulf*, in 'Arab Identities images in film, (Special issue of The Media Majlis at Northwestern University in Qatar) 84–92.
- 2017 *Arab Animation: Between Business and Politics*, in 'Children's Television and Digital Media in the Arab World', eds. Naomi Sakr and Jeanette Steemers, (London: I.B.Tauris) 74–91.
- 2017 *Local Minds, Foreign Hands: Animation in Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf*, in 'Animation in the Middle East', ed. Stefanie Van de Peer, (London: I.B.Tauris) 69–83.
- 2015 *Arab Sitcom Animations as Platforms of Satire*, in: 'The Power of Satire', ed. Sonja De Leeuw, (Amsterdam: John Benjamins) 81–94.

- 2014 *The Emergence of Arab Children's Televisions and Animation Industry in the Gulf States*, in: 'State-society Relations in the Arab Gulf States', eds: Mazhar Al-Zo'oby and Birol Baskan, (Berlin: Gerlach Press), 77–101.

Book Reviews

- 2018 *Re-Imagining the Other: Culture, Media, and Western-Muslim Intersections*, Karim H. Karim and Mahmoud Eid (eds), 'Journal of Global Analysis'.

Selected Popular Articles

- 2019 *La televisión infantil en el mundo árabe*, Afkar ideas, No.59.
- 2016 *Clash of Syrian Clans: How an Online Game Reflects the Syrian Conflict*, The Huffington Post, 7 January.
- 2014 *Drawing Politics: Arab Animated Cartoons, Then and Now*, The Middle East in London, Vol 11, No.1, December.
- 2013 *Syria's Music Wars*, al-Monitor, 6 May.
- 2012 *Another Casualty of War: Soap Operas*, The New York Times, 16 August.
- 2012 *Mock Homs at Your Own Risk*, Foreign Policy, 17 February.

Hungarian

- 2003-2021 More than 600 analytical newspaper articles and opinion pieces on Middle-Eastern culture and politics in leading Hungarian newspapers. (HVG, Mandiner, Demokrata, Magyar Nemzet, etc)
- 2019 'Az iszlámmellenesség mint új politikai korrektség' Kommentár, 2019/2.
- 2018 Allah tágas földje (Budapest: KMTG)
- 2009 'A tájékoztatás Szíriában és a szír közvéleményt döntően befolyásoló fórumok' Kul-Világ, March 2009.
- 2009 *Allah vendégei*, (Budapest: Geopen)
- 2008 *Közeli Kelet*, (Budapest: Magyar Haz)

Selected Conference Presentations and Seminars

- 2022 *Napoleon on Egyptian Screens*, Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Iceland, September 2022.
- 2022 *Notions of Whiteness in Egyptian Film: The Case of the Khawaga*, British Society for Middle Eastern Studies, University of St Andrews, July 2022.
- 2021 *Transnational networks of media production and distribution in the Arab and Muslim world*, Transnational religious flows between the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Europe, The Austrian Academy of Sciences, October 2021.
- 2020 *Online Revolutionary Animation of the Arab Uprisings and Its Impact on the Arab Mediascape*, Media Infrastructures in the Middle East, American University of Beirut, January 2020.

- 2019 *Trajectories of Online Revolutionary Animation Production Since the Arab Uprisings*, Politics and Popular Culture in the Middle East: Power and Resistance Post-2011, University of Warwick, April 2019.
- 2016 *From Friends and Neutral Others to Foes: Shifting Hungarian Attitudes Towards Arabs and Muslims*, Talking about Arabs, Oriental Institute-Czech Academy of Science, May 2016.
- 2016 *What do animated cartoons tell us about Egypt's politics?*, The University of Cambridge, FAMES, February 2016.
- 2015 *The Jewish and Christian Roots of Egyptian Animation Production*, Minorities and Popular Culture in Modern Middle East: Representation and Participation, Woolf Institute and SOAS, June 2015.
- 2014 *Web Animation as a Liberal Space for Political Criticism: the Case of 'Captain Khobza*, Media in Political Transition: Focus on Tunisia, University of Cambridge, UK, July 2014.
- 2014 *Arab Animated Cartoons as Vehicles for Nationalist and Religious Nostalgia*, The Future of Nostalgia in the Middle East, University of Copenhagen, June 2014.
- 2014 *The Evolution of the Saladin Myth in Arab Popular Culture*, Mediated Pasts: Visual Cultures and Collective Memory, Leicester, UK, June 2014.
- 2014 *Mediating the Arab Uprisings in Animated Cartoons – The Case of Kharabeesh*, Arab Documentaries - Recording Whose 'Reality' Conference, Westminster University, April 2014.
- 2013 *Religious identity in Arab Animated Cartoons*, Netherlands Interuniversity School for Islamic Studies (NISIS) Autumn School, Utrecht, The Netherlands, October 2013.
- 2013 *Religious Education in Arab Children's Channels and Animated Cartoons*, NISIS Tunisia Spring School, Tunisia, Hammamet, March 2013.
- 2013 *Arab Sitcom Animations as Tools of Social and Political Criticism*, International Conference Satire Across Borders, Utrecht, The Netherlands, January 2013.
- 2012 *Transnational Networks in Arab Animation Industries*, NISIS Autumn School, Leiden, The Netherlands, October 2012.
- 2012 *The Emergence of Arab Children's Televisions and Animation Industry in the Gulf States*, Cambridge Gulf Research Council, Cambridge, UK, July 2012.
- 2011 *The Rise of Muslim Superhero Comics and Cartoons*, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA, December 2011.

Language Skills

English: fluent, Arabic: native, Hungarian: native, German: reading, French: reading

Fields of Research

Arab Media and Politics, Arab Media Industries, Arab Television, Arab Cinema, Arab Identity Politics, Contemporary Art of the Arab World, Popular Culture in the Arab World