

CURRICULUM VITAE HASSANALY LADHA

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2010 Princeton University, Ph.D., Comparative Literature
B.A. 1993 Yale University, B.A. English
(*magna cum laude*, distinction in the major, Senior thesis prize)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Literary theory and philosophy; aesthetics; 19th and 20th century French poetry and fiction; North African and sub-Saharan francophone literature; postcolonial Caribbean literature; classical Arabic poetry; Islamic studies; German idealism.

LANGUAGES

French, Spanish, Italian, German, Arabic

BOOK

The Architecture of Freedom: Hegel, Subjectivity, and the Postcolonial State (Bloomsbury Academic, release date December 2020, 320 pages). Attending to Hegel's copious but neglected lectures on Oriental and African art, philosophy, and literature, the book examines Hegel's syncretic blend of ethnic, cultural, and linguistic categories in the service of a subversively fluid "architectonics." Hegel repeatedly figures the architectonic as the colossus of Memnon, an African warrior memorialized in ancient Egyptian architecture and then appearing in Greek myth and art from the *Iliad* to the Hellenistic period. Reaching for freedom, the Memnon marks the architectonic modality through which the "African" slave, at the telos of history, will fulfill the spiritual promise of the human and bring about the politically mature state. Reading the figure of Memnon and slave in the lecture courses, the *Phenomenology of Spirit*, the *Encyclopedia*, and *The Philosophy of Right*, the book comprehensively rereads Hegel's theories of the aesthetic, language, history, mastery and servitude, and the state and calls for a reassessment of his legacy from the nineteenth century to the present.

ARTICLES

1. "Hegel's *Werkmeister*: Architecture, Architectonics, and the Theory of History," *October*, MIT Press 139 (2012): 15–38 (24 pages)
2. "Allegories of Ruin: Architecture and Knowledge in Early Arabic Poetry." *Journal of Arabic Literature* 50, no. 2 (2019), 89–122 (34 pages)
3. "From *Bayt* to *Stanza*: Arabic *Khayāl* and the Advent of Italian Vernacular Poetry," under consideration at *Exemplaria* (30 pages)

4. "The Franco-Haitian Revolution: Hegel, Fanon, and the Problem of Recognition," preparing final manuscript

CURRENT BOOK PROJECT

Solomon and the Caliphate of Man. This book focuses on the epistemic foundations of Arabo-Islamic thought, its contemporary applications in legal and political theory in the Muslim world, and the resistance in those discourses to the cultural specificity so frequently attributed to them by Orientalists and Islamists. The book begins by historicizing the architectural conception of literary form from early Syriac poetry, the pre-Islamic *qaṣīdah*, the *Qur'ān*, and Arabic linguistic theory and their foundational role in the sonnet form emerging in the "Sicilian school" of poets attached to Frederick II at the turn of the thirteenth century. The book will argue that major moments of innovation and rupture in literary form, such as of the *Qur'ānic sūrah* and the Italian *stanza*, mask underlying historical continuities that belie both "Islamic" and "Western" narratives of their own originality, integrity, and authenticity, with serious consequences for contemporary attempts to articulate a global, yet culturally marked modernity. The book then proceeds to classical and contemporary theories of Islamic law and attempts to articulate an "Islamic state." Ranging from al-Muraqqish the Elder, 'Antarah, Zuhayr, and Labīd to the *Qur'ān*, from 'Abd al-Qāhir al-Jurjānī's *Asrār al-Balāghah* and *Dalā'il al-I'jāz*, Ibn Sīnā and Ibn Rushd to Giacomo da Lentino and other members of the *scuola siciliana*, and from al-Shāfi'ī to contemporary Islamic legal and political theorists, the book proposes to recuperate the radically "social" conception of both language and subjectivity in Islamic thought, with practical applications in contemporary discourses in the Muslim world. 30,000 words of estimated 90,000 words complete.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECT

The Mamertine Group. Disseminating my theoretical work through virtual architecture projects under the aegis of a new experimental design lab called the Mamertine Group. The first project, entitled The Prison-Wall, included a web site I designed with ten pages of text based on my research, fifteen architectural images, and a video. The Prison-Wall was covered by over two hundred publications internationally, including The New York Times and other media outlets and major architectural journals. I was interviewed by CNN Spanish's premier anchor, The Guardian, Univision, and UConn Today. As a vehicle for collaboration with other artists and architects, the Mamertine Group intervenes in state projects that implicate architecture in the political imaginary, relating monumental form to questions of sovereignty, citizenship, culture, and history. Interrogating the relationship between architecture and political philosophy, the project aims to bridge a longstanding disciplinary divide, bringing theoretical insights to bear on state projects ranging from museums, prisons, and libraries to levees and dams. The long-term project aims to produce architecture both virtually and concretely, leveraging a range of platforms from digital

images, sketches, text, photography, film, and essays. On the premise that thought materializes architectonically, the project argues that its architectural interventions – broadly conceived as the notional demarcation of space and time – can challenge existing conceptions of sovereignty and political subjectivity.

CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL TALKS

1. “The Architecture of Freedom,” invited keynote speech presenting my book at the conference “Qu’est-ce que Être Africain,” Sorbonne, Paris, March 2020 (delayed due to pandemic)
2. “Islamic Law and the Postcolonial State.” Presented at Middle East Studies Association in New Orleans, November 2019.
3. “Hegel’s Africa: Aesthetics and Sovereignty.” Invited keynote speech to be delivered at the “Biennale Conference on Law and Society in Africa,” American University in Cairo, Egypt, April 2019 (unable to attend).
4. “L’architecture dans la poésie pré-islamique.” Invited guest lecture delivered during the week on “La Ville Arabe” at the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, April 2017.
5. “From Bayt to Stanza: New Approaches to the Scuola Siciliana.” Presented at “Sicily, Al-Andalus, and the Maghreb: Writing in times of Turmoil,” Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, May 2017.
6. “Les Fondations de la pensée arabe: entre la littérature pre-islamique et le Coran.” Invited guest lecture delivered during the Arab Week Series at the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, May 2016.
7. “L’État et le droit: La récupération du droit musulman,” Invited guest lecture delivered during the Arab Week Series at the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, May 2016.
8. “Hegel and the Postcolonial State: Aesthetics, Subjectivity, and the Idea of Freedom,” Delivered at the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, February 2016.
9. Islamic Law and Critical Legal Theory: Language, Judgment, and the Postcolonial Subject. Invited lecture given at the American University in Cairo, May 2014.

10. The Caliph's Tower: Mallarmé's "Method of Langage." "Literary Texts: The Power and the Possible" conference at Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, May 2013.
11. Le Chiasme et la forme chez Mallarmé: "Le Démon de l'analogie" avec le "sonnet en -yx." Invited lecture at Harvard University, May 2011.
12. "Obsession": Baudelaire's Interiorities. Harvard University, March 2010.
13. Hegel's Memnon: Architecture, Poetry, and History. Presented at the ACLA panel, "Beyond Jena: Literary History After Kant," March 2009.
14. Nacreous Frames: From Mallarmé's Orient to Hart Crane's Caribbean. Presented at the Alphabetics conference, Harvard University Humanities Center, April 2003.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- 2019- Advisory Board, *Journal of Arabic Literature*
- 2018- Director of Graduate Studies, French and Francophone Studies
- 2018-2019 Liaison, UCONN in Paris
- 2019 Search Committee, Visiting Assistant Professor in French and Francophone Studies (Member)
- 2018-2019 Search Committee, Political Science and Arabic and Islamic Studies (Member)
- 2017-2018 Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Arabic and Islamic Studies (Member)

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015-2016 UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES INSTITUTE**
Faculty Fellow in Residence
- 2012-** **UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**
Assistant Professor
Department of French and Francophone Studies
- 2010-2012 HARVARD UNIVERSITY**
Lecturer, Department of History and Literature

2003-2009 HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Teaching Fellow, Departments of Comparative Literature, English, and Romance Languages and Literatures

COURSES TAUGHT

Arabic and Islamic Studies 1211, “**An Introduction to Islam**,” to be taught Spring 2020

Comparative Literature 5302 / German 5385 / Italian 5337 / Spanish 5323, “**Introduction to Literary Theory**,” graduate seminar at the University of Connecticut, Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2014; to be taught Spring 2020

French 5380, “**On the History of the Future: The Francophone World and its Contexts**,” graduate seminar, University of Connecticut, Fall 2017

Comparative Literature 6020 / French 5307, “**Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*: Aesthetics, Subjectivity, and the Postcolonial State**,” University of Connecticut, Spring 2016

French 3272, “**Critique et théorie littéraires en France**,” University of Connecticut, Spring 2014

French 3270W, “**French Literature and Civilization: Deceit and Scandal from Molière to Duras**,” University of Connecticut, Fall 2013, Fall 2016, Fall 2017

French 3224, “**La Littérature, la culture, et l’idée de la liberté**,” University of Connecticut, Spring 2013

French 5380, “**The Philosophy of Desire**,” graduate seminar, University of Connecticut, Fall 2012

French 1176, “**Literatures and Cultures of the Postcolonial Francophone World**,” University of Connecticut, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019

Romance Languages 152, “**La Poésie française au XIXe siècle**,” Harvard University, Spring 2010, taught as Lecturer

Romance Languages 164, “**Voyages of Self-Discovery: The 19th Century French Novel from Balzac to Zola**,” Harvard University, Spring 2010, taught as Lecturer

History and Literature 98, “**French Colonialism, Francophone Postcolonialism**,” Harvard University, Fall 2010 – Spring 2011, taught as Lecturer

Freshman Seminar, “**Islam and Revolution: From the Algerian War for Independence to the Arab Spring**,” Harvard University, Spring, 2012, taught as Lecturer

History and Literature 90, “**A Clash of Civilizations? France and Islam on Both Sides of the Sahara**,” Harvard University, Spring, 2012, taught as Lecturer

History 43b, “**Slavery, Capitalism, Imperialism: The U.S. and the Caribbean in the Nineteenth Century**,” Harvard University, taught as Teaching Fellow

Romance Languages 171, “**French and Spanish Literature of the Spanish Civil War**,” Harvard University, , taught as Teaching Fellow

Women and Gender Studies / English 154, “**Literature and Sexuality**,” Harvard University, taught as Teaching Fellow

Comparative Literature 210, “**Religion and Literature**,” Harvard University, taught as Teaching Fellow

English 90, “**British Romanticism**,” Harvard University, taught as Teaching Fellow

English 180, “**American Crime Narratives**,” Harvard University, taught as Teaching Fellow

English 185, “**Wit and Humor**,” Harvard University, taught as Teaching Fellow

Harvard Law School, Research Assistant. Conducted research enlisting medieval Islamic privacy law to further current efforts at Egyptian legal reform. Conducted research for a theoretical paper on comparative law.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Humanities Book Support Award, University of Connecticut, 2019

Provost Award for New Course, University of Connecticut, 2017–2018

Humanities Center Fellowship, University of Connecticut, 2015–2016

Provost Commendation for Teaching Excellence, Spring 2019, University of Connecticut

Provost Commendation for Teaching Excellence, Spring 2018, University of Connecticut

Provost Commendation for Teaching Excellence, Fall 2018, University of Connecticut

Provost Commendation for Teaching Excellence, Fall 2017, University of Connecticut

Provost Commendation for Teaching Excellence, Fall 2016, University of Connecticut

Junior Faculty Fellowship, University of Connecticut, 2013

Jacob Javits Fellowship, 1999–2003

University Fellowship, Princeton University, 1999–2003

Mary Cross Award, Princeton University, 2000

Council on Regional Studies, Princeton University, 2001

Kahler Fellowship, Princeton University, 2001

Institute for International and Regional Studies Award, 2002

Near Eastern Studies Award for the study of Arabic, 2003

Persian Language Fellowship, American Institute of Iranian Studies, 2000

Committee for European Studies Grant, Princeton University, 2000

Senior thesis prize, Department of English, Yale University, 1993

Distinction in the major, Department of English, Yale University, 1993