

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*

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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

LANGUAGES

French, Spanish, Italian, German, Arabic

CURRENT BOOK PROJECT

The Architecture of Freedom: Hegel, Subjectivity, and the Postcolonial State. Focusing on 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. Reading the figure of Memnon in the lecture courses, the *Phenomenology of Spirit*, and the *Encyclopedia*, the book comprehensively rereads Hegel's theories of the aesthetic, language, and history and calls for a reassessment of his legacy from the nineteenth century to the present.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECT

The Mamertine Group. 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 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 architecturally*, 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.

ARTICLES

1. "Hegel's *Werkmeister*: Architecture, Architectonics, and the Theory of History" *October*, MIT Press: 139, Winter 2012, 15-38
2. "Allegories of Ruin: The Architectural Poetics of Early Arabic Poetry." 20 page article, undergoing final editing before submission to *Journal of Arabic Literature* or *Arab Studies* in Fall 2016.
3. "Rending the Temple Veil: Mallarmé, Wagner, and the Mythology of Origin." 28 page article, undergoing final revisions before submission to *Nineteenth Century French Studies* in Fall 2016.

FUTURE BOOK PROJECTS

The Architecture of the Social: Mallarmé, Hart Crane, and Modernity. This book identifies the entanglement of architecture and language as the conceptual foundation of a "social" conception of modernity. The book first considers the critically neglected concept of "architecture" and the "universal" in Mallarmé's work. The study attempts a radical rereading of *Divagations* and of a number of Mallarmé's major poems, focusing on the wide implications of Mallarmé's notion that the aesthetic mode of built form, archetypally of a silent theater, underwrites all epistemological operations. The study then presents new evidence of Hart Crane's familiarity with the French poet, attending in particular to the engagement of Mallarméan notions of architecture, language, and history in Crane's Caribbean writings. While critics have considered Crane the architectural poet *par excellence*, they have neglected his critique, in *Key West: An Island Sheaf*, of the architectural poetics of his *White Buildings* and *The Bridge*. Written and set outside of the "West," the Caribbean "sheaf" – loose, unassimilated, peripheral – countervails the cultural synthesis articulated by *The Bridge* as an architectural "book." Against the intractable architectonic movement of history, I argue, Mallarmé and Crane identify the epistemological ground for a human agency that underwrites a radically universalist and "social" project for postcolonial modernity.

Building the Islamic State: 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 *qasida*, the *Qur'an*, and Arabic linguistic theory and their foundational role in the sonnet form emerging at the Arabized court of Frederick II in 13th century Palermo. The book will argue that major moments of innovation and rupture in literary form, such as of the Qur'anic *sura* and the Italian *stanza*, mask underlying historical continuities that belie both "Western" and "Islamic" 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 al-Akbar, and ‘Antara, Zuhayr, and Labid to the *Qur’an*, from abd al-Qahir al-Jurjani’s *Asrar al Balagha* and *Dala’il al-Ijaz*, Ibn Sina and Ibn Rushd to Giacomo da Lentino and other members of the *scuola siciliana*, al-Shafi 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.

CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL TALKS

1. "Les Fondations de la pensée arabe: entre la littérature pre-islamique et le Coran," Invited guest lecture delivered (in French) during the Arab Week Series at the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, May 2016
2. "L'État et le droit: La récupération du droit musulman," Invited guest lecture delivered (in French) during the Arab Week Series at the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, May 2016
3. "Hegel and the Postcolonial State: Aesthetics, Subjectivity, and the Idea of Freedom," Delivered at the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, February 2016
4. Islamic Law and Critical Legal Theory: Agency, Violence, and the Postcolonial Subject. Invited lecture given at the American University in Cairo, May 2014.
5. 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.
6. Le Chiasme et la forme chez Mallarmé: “Le Démon de l’analogie” avec le “sonnet en –yx.” Invited lecture at Harvard University, May 2011.
7. “Obsession”: Baudelaire’s Interiorities. Harvard University, March 2010.
8. Hegel’s Memnon: Architecture, Poetry, and History. Presented at the ACLA panel, “Beyond Jena: Literary History After Kant,” March 2009.
9. Nacreous Frames: From Mallarmé’s Orient to Hart Crane’s Caribbean. Presented at the Alphabetic conference, Harvard University Humanities Center, April 2003.

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**
Faculty, Department of History and Literature
(All teaching faculty in department at rank of Lecturer)
- 2003-2009** **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**
Teaching Fellow, Departments of Comparative Literature, English, and
Romance Languages and Literatures

COURSES TAUGHT

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

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

Comparative Literature 5302 / Italian 5337 / Spanish 5323. “**Introduction to Literary Theory,**” graduate seminar at the University of Connecticut, Spring 2014

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

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 at the University of Connecticut, Fall 2012

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Romance Languages 171, “**French and Spanish Literature of the Spanish Civil War**,” Harvard University. Teaching Fellow for Prof. Susan Suleiman and Prof. Brad Epps. Texts and assignments in French and Spanish.

Romance Languages A, “**Beginning French**,” Harvard University. Instructor. Offered position but declined due to prior commitments.

Women and Gender Studies / English 154, “**Literature and Sexuality**,” Harvard University. Teaching Fellow for Prof. Matthew Kaiser. Includes texts by Foucault, Bataille, Genet, Duras, and Réage.

Comparative Literature 210, “**Religion and Literature**,” Harvard University. Teaching Fellow for Prof. Luis Girón Negrón.

English 90, “**British Romanticism**,” Harvard University. Teaching Fellow for Prof. Leo Damrosch.

English 180, “**American Crime Narratives**,” Harvard University. Teaching Fellow for Prof. Jason Stevens.

English 185, “**Wit and Humor**,” Harvard University. Teaching Fellow for Prof. Leo Damrosch.

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.

Romance Languages, Harvard University. Research Assistant for Prof. Luis Girón Negrón.

ESL Teacher, Concilio Hispano, Cambridge MA

UNDERGRADUATE THESES SUPERVISED

Violence, Representation, and *Cinéma Vérité*: Goddard's *Le Petit Soldat* (Harvard University)

Torture and Fiction: The Novels of Assia Djébar (Harvard University)

The Literature of Reconstruction: Postwar Beirut in French and Arabic Discourse (Harvard University)

“Do Not Let This Olive Tree Fall from my Hand”: Mahmood Darwish and the Poetry of Nonviolence (Harvard University)

Prophet, Witness, and Poet in Khalil Hawi's “Lazarus 1962” (Harvard University)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Humanities Center Fellowship, University of Connecticut

Junior Faculty Fellowship, University of Connecticut

Jacob Javits Fellowship

University Fellowship, Princeton University

Mary Cross Award, Princeton University

Council on Regional Studies, Princeton University

Kahler Fellowship, Princeton University

Institute for International and Regional Studies Award

Near Eastern Studies Award for the study of Arabic

Persian Language Fellowship, American Institute of Iranian Studies

Committee for European Studies Grant, Princeton University

Senior thesis prize, Department of English, Yale University

Distinction in the major, Department of English, Yale University