

CURRICULUM VITAE  
Sulafa Abou-Samra  
400 Bello Dr. Leander, TX 78641  
(512) 799-2849

Adjunct Assistant Professor  
Community Development  
School of Architecture  
Prairie View A& M University  
Sabou-samra@pvamu.edu

## EDUCATION

2002 - 2004: Completed two years of course work towards the PhD degree in the department of History, The University of Texas in Austin.

2002: Master of Arts, Middle Eastern Studies. Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, The University of Texas in Austin.  
(Thesis title:) "The Rights of Women in the Post-Ottoman Syrian Personal Status Law". The thesis explores the distinction between women's rights concerning divorce and child custody in Qur'anic exegesis literature, and their rights according to the man-made personal status law. (primary source: Arabic)

1998: Bachelor of Arts: English Literature, University of Damascus; Damascus, Syria.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2006- Present: Adjunct Assistant Professor, (Graduate Program in Community Development) School of Architecture Prairie View A&M University. Prairie View, Texas

Courses taught at Prairie View A& M University:

Code 5743: Community Political Structure Spring

Code: 5303: Global Community Development in the United States.

Code 5013: Community Development Seminar.

Code 5753: International Community Development Policies and Practices.

Code 5303 : Community Development Research

2004: Teaching Assistant. University of Texas at Austin / *American History:1865-1965*) Department of History.

2002: Spring & Fall : Teaching Assistant, Arabic Language, The Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures; University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- **2000-02:** Center For Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin Outreach Assistant (provided a wide array of community services, Arabic/English translation, library and video cataloging, exhibition at the Children's Museum and secondary school lectures on Middle Eastern Societies, Cultures & Languages)
- **2000-02:** Consultant, Catholic Charities Organization Community Services (CARITAS); working with refugees; attending health appointments; Arabic/English; translating documents and interpreting in court cases.

2000-03: Arabic/English Interpreter and court translator for the Catholic Archdiocese of Texas organization.

## PUBLICATIONS

1. Sulafa Abou-Samra and Kaukab Khalid, "What about the kids?: When divorce splits the Muslim family unit", *Azizah Magazine*.
2. "The Islamic Calendar" (forthcoming) entry for the *Muslim World Encyclopedia*. The Brown Reference Group in the UK (2008) 11,000 words. March 2008.
3. "Gender Roles in Islam" (forthcoming) entry for the *Muslim World Encyclopedia* The Brown Reference Group in the UK : 18,000 words April 2009.
4. "Muslim Family Life in the USA" (forthcoming) entry for the *Muslim World Encyclopedia* The Brown Reference Group in the UK : 18,000 words March 2009.
5. Sulafa Abou-Samra and Ann El Moslimany , "A Marriage, Interrupted. *Azizah Magazine*. Vol.5, Issue 2.

## LECTURE/PRESENTATIONS

1. September 26<sup>th</sup> 2003: Presented a paper on "Muslim Women's Rights in Medieval and Modern Qur'anic Interpretations", *Papers-In-Progress Medieval Graduate Symposium, University of Texas*.
2. January 2001: Lectured on "Death and Dying in Islam" The *Austin Hospice*
3. October 2000: Lectured on "Women and Islam" at the *Texas Dept. of Health*
4. October 2001: Interviewed by *The Austin American Statesman* on Muslims in Austin, Texas.
5. April 2010: Lectured on "Muslim Female Architect: Zeynep Fadhlı Ughlu", at the School of Architecture. Prairie View A&M University

## TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Integration and development of Immigrant Communities in North America.
- Micro-finance and Entrepreneurship, discovering the most successful methods to eradicate poverty.
- Research area: International cultures, and Muslim Women's Issues.

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- Native speaker of Arabic; French and English; working knowledge of Persian.

## **References:**

1-Dr. Rick Baldwin, E-mail: [ribaldwin@pvamu.edu](mailto:ribaldwin@pvamu.edu); Professor, College of Business, Prairie View A&M University

2-Dr. Fidelma O'leary, E-mail: [fidelmao@stedwards.edu](mailto:fidelmao@stedwards.edu); Associate Professor, St Edwards University

3-Professor Kevin Riles, E-mail: [kvriles@pvamu.edu](mailto:kvriles@pvamu.edu); Director, Community Development Program, School of Architecture; Prairie View A&M University.