

**The Middle East in America: Expect the Unexpected**  
**Yale Council on Middle East Studies Summer Institute 2021**  
**A Virtual Zoom Program**  
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Compiled by **Ulla Kasten**

- Ulla Kasten was the associate curator and museum editor of the Yale Babylonian Collection until 2016. She has been visiting scholar at the Yale Council on Middle East Studies since 2016 and is a dedicated supporter and co-organizer of the Summer Institute for Teachers.

**Books/Publications by Summer Institute Faculty**

Leslie Gross-Wyrtzen, *Bordering Blackness: The Production of Race in the Morocco-EU Immigration* (PhD Dissertation and forthcoming book), 2019  
([https://www.academia.edu/31122392/Bordering\\_Blackness\\_The\\_Production\\_of\\_Race\\_in\\_the\\_Morocco\\_EU\\_Immigration](https://www.academia.edu/31122392/Bordering_Blackness_The_Production_of_Race_in_the_Morocco_EU_Immigration))

Sarah Seekatz, *Indio's Date Festival* (Arcadia Publishing, 2016)

Maryanne Rhatt, *Representations of Islam in United States Comics, 1880-1922* (Bloomsbury, 2021)

Toufic El Rassi, *Arab in America* (Last Gasp, 2008)

Toufic El Rassi, *Baghdad is Burning* (Last Gasp, 2019)

Hadi Pir, "Opinion | Trump's Syria Exit Puts Yazidis in Peril." *The Wall Street Journal*, 17 Oct. 2019  
([www.wsj.com/articles/trumps-syria-exit-puts-yazidis-in-peril-11571351665](http://www.wsj.com/articles/trumps-syria-exit-puts-yazidis-in-peril-11571351665))

Saba Soomekh, *From the Shahs to Los Angeles: Three Generations of Iranian Jewish Women between Religion and Culture* (SUNY Press, 2012)

Saba Soomekh (ed.), *Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews in America* (The Jewish Role in American Life: An Annual Review Book 13), (Purdue University Press, 2015)

**Selected Bibliography and Teaching Resources**

Gregory Orfalea, *The Arab Americans: A History* (Olive Branch Press, 2006)

Alia Malek, *A Country Called Amreeka: U.S. History Retold through Arab-American Lives* (Free Press, 2009)

Jehan Beseiso and Becky Thompson (eds.), *Making Mirrors: Writing/Righting by and for Refugees* (Olive Branch Press, 2019)

Viet Thanh Nguyen (ed.), *The Displaced: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives* (Abrams Press, 2018)

Suketu Mehta, *This Land is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2019)

Dina Nayeri, *The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You* (Catapult, 2019)

Jonathan Curiel, *Al' America: Travels Through America's Arab and Islamic Roots* (The New Press, 2008)

Moustafa Bayoumi, *How Does it Feel to a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America* (Penguin Books, 2009)

David A. Gerber, *American Immigration: a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

Toufic El Rassi, *Arab in America* (Las Gasp Publications, 2016)

Jasmine Warga, *Other Words for Home* (Balzer & Bray - An Imprint of Harper Collins, 2019)

Souvankham Thammavongsa, *How to Pronounce Knife* (Little Brown & Co., 2020)

Sejal Shah, *This is One Way to Dance* (University of Georgia Press, 2020)

Thomas Borstelmann, *Just Like Us – The American Struggle to Understand Foreigners* (Columbia University Press, 2020)

Ayser Salman, *The Wrong End of the Table – A Mostly Comic Memoir of a Muslim American Woman Just Trying to Fit in* (Skyhorse Publishing, 2019)

Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, *The Undocumented Americans* (One World - An Imprint of Random House, 2020)

Jake Halpern & Michael Sloan, *Welcome to the New World* (Metropolitan Books, 2020)

Jessica Gudeau, *After the Last Border: Two Families and the Story of Refuge in America* (Viking, 2020)

Syed M. Masood, *The Bad Muslim Discount (A Novel)* (Doubleday, 2021)

Sara Saedi, *Americanized: Rebel without a Green Card (A Memoir)* (Ember, 2018) (For Young Readers)

Susan Kuklin, *We are Here to Stay: Voices of Undocumented Young Adults* (Candlewick Press, 2019)

Roya Hakakian, *A Beginner's Guide to America* (Knopf, 2021)

Nikesh Shukla and Chimene Suleyman (eds.), *The Good Immigrant: 26 Writers reflect on America* (Little Brown and Company, 2019)

Safia Elhillo, *home is not a country, (Make Me a World - Random House Children's Books, 2021)*

Ahmed M Badr, *While the Earth Sleeps We Travel* (Andrew McMeel Publishing, 2020)

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah (A novel)* (Anchor Books, 2014)

Imbolo Mbue, *Behold the Dreamers (A Novel)* (Random House, 2016)

Ayad Akhtar, *Homeland Elegies (A Novel)* (Little Brown and Co., 2020)

Birgül Açıkyıldız, *The Yezidis: The History of a Community, Culture and Religion* (I.B. Tauris, 2017)

Nadia Murad, *The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and my Fight against the Islamic State* (Tim Duggan Books, 2017)