

Dalia Abu Sbitan, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Researcher (CNRS) Thalim – CRFJ | Comparative Literature
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle

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Languages: English, French, Arabic, Hebrew

Current Academic Position

From February 2026 – Postdoctoral Researcher, CNRS – (THALIM / CRFJ)

Research Focus: Madness, Political Violence, and Contemporary Writing – Comparative research on trauma and madness in 21st-century literature (French, English, Arabic, Hebrew).

Education

2022–2025 – Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris

Supervisors: Professors Alexandre Gefen and Christine Lorre

Dissertation: “Le tiers-espace de la folie : vers une nouvelle compréhension de la folie dans les écritures de soi contemporaines françaises et américaines (2008-2025)”

2018–2021 – Master’s Degree in English Literature, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Supervisors: Professors Louise Bethlehem and Karin Berkman

Master’s Thesis: “Coming to Terms: Representations of the After-Man in J.M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace* and *Slow Man*”

2012–2016 – Bachelor’s Degree in English Literature and Latin American and Romance Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

2010–2012 – Preparatory Program, Rothberg International School, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Research Interests

Literary Representations of Madness

Autopathography, Life Writing, and Testimony

Comparative Literature

War, Trauma, and Displacement in Literature

Narrative Medicine, Mad Studies, and Medical Humanities

Research Training and Internships

July–August – 2024 Clinical Internship, Sainte-Anne Psychiatric Hospital, Institut Hospitalier de Psychanalyse, GHU Paris & Neurosciences.

Supervisor: Professor Luc Faucher.

2019–2021 – Graduate Research Assistant, Department of English, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Supervisor: Professor Louise Bethlehem

Research focused on the reception of J.M. Coetzee's work in the Middle East (comparative study of Hebrew and Arabic translations). *Resulted in the co-authored book chapter.*

Teaching Experience

2023–2025 – Doctoral Teaching Assistant

Department of Anglophone Studies (UFR LLCSE), Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris

Course: *Postcolonial Literatures* (undergraduate)

- Led seminar groups on contemporary postcolonial literature from Australia, the United States, and South Africa.
- Emphasized the comparative dimension of postcolonial theory, encouraging students to analyze continuities and divergences across regions, genres, and historical contexts.
- Facilitated critical discussions on East–West relations, hybridity, race, and language in literary and cultural narratives.
- Guided students in developing analytical and interpretive skills through interdisciplinary approaches, integrating literary studies with cultural theory and political thought.
- Evaluated student performance through written assignments, presentations, and final examinations.

2023–2024 – Adjunct Lecturer

School of Management (UFR EMS), Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Paris

Course: *Business English* (undergraduate)

Course Content:

- Instructed students in practical English skills for the job market.
- Covered recruitment techniques and conducted exercises on communication strategies.
- Explored professional roles, remuneration structures, and workplace rights, workplace productivity, equal opportunity policies, and contemporary issues shaping the future of work.
- Integrated analysis of current economic news to enhance language learning in a real-world context.
- Evaluated student performance through written assignments, presentations, and final examinations.

2020–2021 – English Instructor, Rothberg International School, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Course: *Academic English for Pre-University Students*

Publications

Articles

Abu Sbitan, Dalia. « ‘On n’y arrive pas seul, il faut le psychiatre et un ange’ : Une autopathographie de la folie dans *Puisque voici l’aurore* (2020) d’Annie Cohen. » *La Revue Chameaux* (Chameaux Review), No. 16, “La Folie” (Madness), June 2025 (In French; English title: “‘One Cannot Manage Alone, It Takes a Psychiatrist and an Angel’: An Autopathography

of Madness in *Puisque voici l'aurore* (2020) by Annie Cohen”).

Abu Sbitan, Dalia. “From Mad Scientist to Mad Congregation: Subverting Tropes in Kurt Vonnegut’s *Cat’s Cradle* (1963).” *Les Cahiers Linguatek* (Linguatek Notebooks), Vol. VIII, Issues 15–16, “Madness”, December 2024

Abu Sbitan, Dalia. “The Book That Made Me Vegan.” *Eco-Critique: Leaves of Grass – Nature and Life in Times of Corona*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, July 2020.

Book Chapters

Abu Sbitan, Dalia, Louise Bethlehem, and Shir Dannon. “Coetzee, Israel, Palestine.” *The Bloomsbury Handbook to J.M. Coetzee*. Bloomsbury Academic, August 2023, p.337-347

Conference Presentations

“Young, Mad, and Writing Back: Emancipatory Narratives in France and the United States.” 65th Annual Conference of the Société des Anglicistes de l’Enseignement Supérieur (SAES), University of Poitiers, theme “Emancipation,” Poitiers, 3–5 June 2026

“Beyond the Asylum: Collective Healing and the Social Dimensions of Madness in Contemporary French Literature.” 42nd Annual 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, University of North Carolina Greensboro, Greensboro, March 2025

“From Mad Scientist to Mad Congregation: Subverting Tropes in Kurt Vonnegut’s *Cat’s Cradle* (1963).” International Interdisciplinary Conference Mad Science: Innovation, Genius, Madness, Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iași, Iași, May 2024

“Reading (After) Rape: The Response of the Suffering Body.” Doctoral Seminar, THALIM (UMR 7172 – Theory and History of the Arts and Literatures of Modernity), CNRS / Université Sorbonne Nouvelle / École Normale Supérieure, Sorbonne Nouvelle Université, Paris, May 2024

“Coming to Terms: Representations of the After-Man in J.M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace* and *Slow Man*.” Student Symposium, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, May 2021

“Becoming Other: The Subversion of Identity in Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.” Student Symposium, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, May 2019

“Reading (After) Rape: The Response of the Suffering Body in the Work of J.M. Coetzee.” Student Symposium, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, June 2018

Invited Talks and Seminars

“Can We Read Together Across a Fractured Land?” *The Memorial for Those Who Did Not Fall in War*, Columbia University Global Center for Peace Innovation, Paris, February 2026.

“Writing ‘I’ under Psychiatric Diagnosis: *The Mad Third Space* in Contemporary Life Writing.” “*Écritures de soi*” Seminar, THALIM (UMR 7172 – Theory and History of the Arts and Literatures of Modernity, CNRS / Université Sorbonne Nouvelle / École Normale Supérieure), Sorbonne Université, Paris, January 2026.

« Écrire avec le diagnostic : récits contemporains de la folie » [*Writing with the Diagnosis: Contemporary Narratives of Madness*]. Séminaire de Philosophie de la Psychiatrie, Laboratoire de Psychopathologie et Processus de Changement, Université Paris 8 Vincennes–Saint-Denis; Centre de Recherches « Psychanalyse, Médecine et Société », Université Paris Cité; in association with the Institut d’Histoire et de Philosophie des Sciences et des Techniques, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne / CNRS, Paris, 15 April 2026.

“The History of the Concept of Madness: From Greek Mythology to the Present.” Invited talk delivered in Hebrew at Reut, a community-based organization supporting individuals living with mental health challenges, presented to psychologists and social workers in training, November 2025.

“Exploring Literature and Empathy in the Jerusalem Context.” Seminar delivered in Hebrew, *Masaot Daat (Intellectual Journeys)*, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, September 2025.

Academic Service

Member of the Organizing Committee, International Conference *Raconter autrui : biographies et biofictions*, University of Chicago John W. Boyer Center in Paris, May 5–7, 2026

Member of the Organizing Committee, Triennial Conference of the European Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (EACLALS), “Imagining Environmental Justice in a Postcolonial World,” Paris, June 6–10, 2023

Research Affiliations

2025–present – Affiliate Researcher, Centre de Recherche Français à Jérusalem (CRFJ)

2022–present – Member, THALIM Research Unit (UMR 7172: Theory and History of the Arts and Literatures of Modernity), CNRS / Université Sorbonne Nouvelle / ENS, Paris

2021–2022 – Fellow, Intellectual Incubator Program, The Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem. Interdisciplinary research on the cultural, political, and societal issues of East Jerusalem

Fellowships and Grants

September–December 2025 – International Mobility Grant, French Research Center in Jerusalem (CRFJ)

March 2025 – Conference Travel Grant, Doctoral School of Comparative Literature and THALIM (UMR 7172), Sorbonne Nouvelle University, for participation in the 42nd Annual 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, Greensboro, North Carolina

April 2025 – International Mobility Grant, Société des Anglicistes de l'Enseignement Supérieur (SAES), for a research visit to New York libraries

May 2024 – Conference Travel Grant, Doctoral School of Comparative Literature and THALIM (UMR 7172), Sorbonne Nouvelle University, for participation in the *Mad Science: Innovation, Genius, Madness* conference, Iași

2022–2025 – Campus France Doctoral Fellowship, Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris

2021–2022 – Intellectual Incubator Fellowship, The Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem

2018–2021 – Master's Research Scholarship, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Community Engagement and Educational Leadership

2020–2022 Jerusalem Municipality – Arab Education Sector – Director and Coordinator of the Higher Education Promotion Program in East Jerusalem

- Conceived and led municipal initiatives to expand access to higher education for Arab students in East Jerusalem.
- Developed strategic partnerships with schools, universities, and community organizations to build sustainable support networks for students.
- Launched and directed a multimedia campaign, including a series of short films highlighting local success stories, designed to motivate youth and reshape public perceptions of higher education pathways.
- Oversaw program planning, staff coordination, and outreach efforts, ensuring measurable increases in student participation and awareness.

2018–2020 Higher Council for Education – Rowad Higher Education Program – Academic Consultant, East Jerusalem

- Provided tailored academic consultation and mentoring for students and underrepresented groups in East Jerusalem, guiding them in navigating pathways to higher education.
- Designed and facilitated workshops on admissions, scholarships, and academic preparedness, addressing both structural and linguistic barriers.
- Contributed to program strategies promoting equity and access for marginalized communities within the higher education system.

Creative and Interdisciplinary Practices

April–July 2021: Training in Visual Theater, Jerusalem School of Visual Theater

- Engaged in an interdisciplinary program combining performance, visual storytelling, and embodied expression.
- Developed skills in non-verbal communication, dramaturgy, and collaborative creation, enhancing my understanding of narrative forms beyond the written word.