

FORMATO EUROPEO
PER IL CURRICULUM
VITAE



INFORMAZIONI PERSONALI

Nome **BLATHERWICK, HELEN (ELIZABETH)**

I

ESPERIENZA LAVORATIVA IN
AMBITO EDITORIALE

(2020 – in corso)
Freelance

Freelance Editorial. I primarily work with academics working in Arabo-Islamic studies and Qur'anic studies, but do not exclusively undertake academic projects. In addition to working with individual authors, regular clients include the GloQur project, led by Johanna Pink (<https://gloqur.de/> 2020–2025), and *Al-Uşūr al-Wuṣṭā: The Journal of Middle East Medievalists* (<https://journals.library.columbia.edu/index.php/alusur/about>).

(2006 – 2024)
Journal of Qur'anic Studies,
Centre of Islamic Studies, SOAS,
University of London

Managing Editor. *JQS* is a peer-reviewed academic journal that publishes in both Arabic and English, and I was responsible for both long term strategy and all aspects of the day-to-day running of the journal. The practical side of the job involved reviewing, editing, copyediting, and proofreading, and preparing camera-ready copy. Many contributors wrote in English as a second language, and required editing for language use.

(2003 – 2006)
Journal of Qur'anic Studies,
Centre of Islamic Studies, SOAS,
University of London

Editorial Assistant. Responsibilities included locating peer reviewers, editing, copyediting, and proofreading, and preparing camera-ready copy. Many contributors wrote in English as a second language and required editing for language use.

ESPERIENZA LAVORATIVA IN AMBITO ACCADEMICO

(2012 – in corso)

School of Languages, Cultures
and Linguistics,
SOAS, University of London

Research Associate

Fields of research: Classical and popular premodern Arabic literature; epic; emotions studies/history of emotions; intertextual dialogue in narrative; the oral and written transmission of knowledge; gender in premodern literature; literary approaches to religious literature and scripture; translation theory and practice.

(2005 – in corso)

School of Languages, Cultures
and Linguistics, Department of
Linguistics,
SOAS, University of London

Senior Teaching Fellow

BA Introduction to Classical Arabic Literature (155901236)
BA Arabic Popular Literature (155901239)
MA Arabic Popular Literature: Themes, Genres & Theory (15PNMC045)
MA Practical Translation from and into Arabic (15PLIC001)
MA Practical Translation: Other Languages into English (15PLIH072)
MA Dissertation in Linguistics (Translation Theory) (15PLIC994)

ISTRUZIONE E FORMAZIONE

2002

SOAS, University of London

PhD in Arabic Literature

1994

SOAS, University of London

BA (Hons) in Arabic with Middle Eastern History

PUBBLICAZIONI

Monographs

Prophets, Gods and Kings in Sīrat Sayf ibn Dhī Yazan: An Intertextual Reading of an Egyptian Popular Epic (Leiden: Brill, 2016).

Articles and Contributions to Edited Volumes

“Like a dead land we were that once had a water bearer”: The Emotional Politics of Arabic Panygeric Poetry’, in progress.

“The Emotional Lives of Prophets in al-Kisā’ī’s *Qiṣaṣ al-anbiyā*”, in Alexander Key and Letizia Osti (eds), *A Life in Adab: Essays in Honour of Julia Bray* (forthcoming).

Jesus in Islamic Stories of the Prophets’, in S.R. Burge (ed.), *Jesus in the Qur’an and Muslim Thought* (SBL Press, forthcoming).

“The Arabic Epic of *Sīrat Sayf ibn Dhī Yazan* and the Prophetic *Königsnovelle*’, in

Pamela Lothspeich (ed.), *The Epic World* (Routledge, 2024), pp. 189–200.

“And the Light in His Eyes Grew Dark”: The Representation of Anger in an Arabic Popular Epic’, *Cultural History* 8:2 (2019), pp. 226–247.

‘Literary Choices and Textual Silences in al-Kisā’ī’s Accounts of the Annunciation and the Birth of Jesus’, *Arabica* 66 (2019), pp. 1–42.

‘Solomon Legends in *Sirat Sayf ibn Dhi Yazan*’, *Mizan: Journal for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations* 2:1 (2017) [open access at <http://www.mizanproject.org/journal-post/solomon-legends-in-sirat-sayf-ibn-dhi-yazan/>].

An Anthology of Qur’anic Commentaries – Vol. 1: On the Nature of the Divine, ed. Feras Hamza, Sajjid Rizvi and Farhana Mayer (Oxford University Press in association with The Institute of Ismaili Studies, 2008). Translation of selected material from al-Ṭabarī’s *Tafsīr*, al-Zamakhsharī’s *al-Kashshāf* and al-Rāzī’s *al-Tafsīr al-kabīr*, with detailed annotation and introductory material.

Guest-Edited Journal Special Issues

‘Emotions in Premodern Arabic Literature’, special issue of *Cultural History* (8:2, 2019), co-edited with Julia Bray

‘The Qur’an in World Literature’, special issue of *Journal of Qur’anic Studies* (16:3, 2014), co-edited with Shawkat M. Toorawa

CONFERENZE

Conference Papers

‘Conquest and Conversion: The Emotional Manipulation of a Narrative Convention in *Sirat Sayf ibn Dhi Yazan*’, Conference of the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean, Ghent University, 10–12 July 2017.

‘Gender and Anger in Arabic Popular Epic’, Annual Conference of the International Society for Cultural History, Umeå, 26–29 June 2017.

‘Literary Choices and Textual Silences in al-Kisā’ī’s Accounts of the Annunciation and the Birth of Jesus’, SBL & IQSA joint panel, San Antonio, 18–21 November, 2016

‘Solomon Legends in *Sirat Sayf ibn Dhī Yazan*’, ‘Islamic Stories of the Prophets: Semantics, Discourse, and Genre’ conference, Università degli Studi di Napoli L’Orientale, 14–15 October 2015

‘Islamic Prophetic Legend and the *Prophetic Königsnovelle* in Egyptian Popular Epic’, ‘Arabic Pasts: Histories and Historiography’ conference, Aga Khan University and SOAS, University of London, 26–27 September 2015

‘Brothers, Friends, and Enemies: Conquest, Conflict, and Assimilation in *Sirat Sayf ibn Dhī Yazan*’, American Comparative Literature Association, 29 March–1 April 2012

‘Islamic Prophetic Legend in *Sirat Sayf ibn Dhī Yazan*’, American Oriental Society,

Chicago, 11–14 March 2011

Panel Chairs and Conference Convening

Invited Panel Chair, ‘Tafsir, Rhetoric, and the Study of the Qur’an’, International Qur’anic Studies Association Annual Meeting, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, 16 July 2024.

Panel Chair, ‘Translation I: Translation as Process’, ‘Qur’an: Text, Society and Culture’ conference, SOAS, University of London 9–10 November 2018

Co-convenor, ‘Qur’an: Text, Society and Culture’ conference, SOAS, University of London 10–12 November 2016; panel chair ‘Political Dimensions of Interpretation and Translation’

Invited Panel Chair, ‘Approaches and Theories on the Translation of the Qur’an’, International Qur’anic Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, 22–24 November 2013

Co-convenor, ‘Qur’an: Text, Society and Culture’ conference, SOAS, University of London 7–9 November 2013; panel chair ‘Literary Readings’

Co-convenor, ‘Qur’an: Text, Society and Culture’ conference, SOAS, University of London 10–12 November 2011; panel chair, ‘Qur’an and Literature’

INVITED SEMINARS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Plenary Session: Conversation with Prof. Wen-chin Ouyang and Dr Helen Blatherwick, ‘The Hidden in Performance, Visual, and Literary Culture Conference’, 10 September 2021.

‘Readings from 1,001 Nights and Arabic Popular Epic: A Reading and Discussion of Two Stories in English Translation’ as part of the ‘Thieves, Tricksters and Heroes: Storytelling in Arabic Medieval Literature’ panel at Edinburgh Arab Festival, 26–29 August 2015

‘Literary Approaches in Qur’anic Studies’, Oriental Institute, Oxford University, May 24 2013

‘Intertextual Dialogue in *Sirat Sayf ibn Dhi Yazan*’, Centre of Islamic Studies Seminar Series, SOAS, March 2012

‘Islamic Prophetic Legend in *Sirat Sayf ibn Dhi Yazan*’, Centre of Islamic Studies Seminar Series, SOAS, March 2011

‘Epic as Identity: The Subjectivity of Genre Definition’, CCLPS Critical Forum, SOAS, February 2011

AFFILIAZIONI PROFESSIONALI

Editorial Advisor Board, *Journal of Qur’anic Studies* (since January 2025)

Core Editorial Board, *Journal of Qur’anic Studies* (2003–2024)

Member, Centre for Translation Studies, SOAS, University of London (since 2016)

Editorial Board, *Journal of Comparative Islamic Studies* (since January 2015)

Member, Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies, SOAS (since 2012)

External Examiner, Westminster University (2015–2019)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Classical and popular premodern Arabic literature; epic; emotions studies/history of emotions; intertextual dialogue in narrative; the oral and written transmission of knowledge; gender in premodern literature; literary approaches to religious literature and scripture; translation theory and practice.

PRIMA LINGUA ENGLISH (MOTHER TONGUE)

**ALTRE LINGUE ARABIC: FLUENT (C2)
FRENCH: PROFICIENT (C1)
ITALIAN: BEGINNER (A2)**

**CAPACITÀ E COMPETENZE
TECNICHE MICROSOFT PACKAGE; ADOBE ACROBAT**

PATENTE O PATENTI DRIVING LICENSE

dichiaro che tutto quanto qui indicato corrisponde al vero ai sensi dell'art. 46 del D.P.R. 445/2000 e che le eventuali fotocopie allegate sono conformi all'originale ai sensi dell'art. 47 del D.P.R. 445/2000.

Data: 04/07/2025

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