

Charlotte Karem Albrecht

Associate Professor of American Culture & Women's and Gender Studies

OFFICE:

Department of American Culture
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
505 S. State Street
3700 Haven Hall
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045

EMAIL:

charka@umich.edu

WEBSITE:

charlotteka.com

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Arab American and Arab Diaspora Studies, Relational Ethnic Studies, Queer of Color Critique, Women of Color Feminist Theory, Transnational Feminisms, Histories of Gender and Sexuality, Interdisciplinary and Historicist Research Methods

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023-present Associate Professor, Departments of American Culture and Women's and Gender Studies
Core Faculty, Arab and Muslim American Studies Program
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Middle East and North African Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Program in Race, Law, and History
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

2015-2023 Assistant Professor, Departments of American Culture and Women's and Gender Studies
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

2014-2015 Visiting Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Program, Denison University

2013-2014 Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow, Women's Studies Program, Denison University

EDUCATION

2013 Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Feminist Studies; Minor Field: American Studies

2003 B.A., Women's and Gender Studies, French Studies, Rice University (*cum laude*)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2023 *Possible Histories: Arab Americans and the Queer Ecology of Peddling*. American Crossroads Series. Luminos Open Access. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Honors:
Evelyn Shakir Academic Non-Fiction, Honorable Mention, Arab American Book Awards

Journal Articles

- 2018 “Why Arab American History Needs Queer of Color Critique.” *Journal of American Ethnic History*. Vol. 37, No. 3 (Spring): 84-92.
- 2016 “An Archive of Difference: Syrian Women Peddlers and U.S. Social Welfare, 1880-1935.” *Gender & History*. Vol. 28, No. 1 (March): 127-149.
- 2015 “Narrating Arab American History: The Peddling Thesis.” *Arab Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 37, No. 1 (Winter): 100-117.

Book Chapters

- 2022 “Narrating Arab American History: The Peddling Thesis.” *Sajjilu Arab American: A Reader in SWANA Studies*. Cainkar et al, eds. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 136-144. (Reprint)
- 2021 “An Archive of Difference: Syrian Women Peddlers and U.S. Social Welfare, 1880-1935.” *Arab American Women: Representation and Refusal*. Cainkar et al, eds. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 134-165. (Reprint)
- 2010 “The Myth of the Great White North: Claiming Queer People of Color Histories in the Twin Cities.” Co-authored with Brandon Lacy Campos and Jessica Giusti. *Queer Twin Cities*, Knopp et al, eds. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 90-118.

Book Reviews

- 2022 “*Arab Routes: Pathways to Syrian California*. By Sarah M. A. Gualtieri.” Book review. *Southern California Quarterly*. Vol. 104, No. 1 (Spring): 132-134.

PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS**Invited Guest Lectures**

- 2023 “Possible Histories: Arab Americans and the Queer Ecology of Peddling,” Scripps College, November 8.
- 2023 “Possible Histories: Arab Americans and the Queer Ecology of Peddling,” Stonehill College, October 30.
- 2023 “Perspectives on Feminist and Queer Research in Arab American History,” William & Mary University, October 16.
- 2023 “Perspectives on Feminist and Queer Research in Arab American History,” Texas Christian University, September 28.
- 2023 “Arab Americans, the U.S. Census, and Race.” Presentation given to Cooley Law Firm, April 24.
- 2023 “Queering Critical SWANA Studies,” University of Southern California, April 14.
- 2022 “MENA & the Queer Community.” Presentation given to General Motors, hosted by the Middle Eastern and North African and LGBTQ Employee Resource Groups, November 17.
- 2022 “Queer MENA: Histories and Contemporary Concerns.” Presentation given to Gannett journalists, hosted by the Middle Eastern and North African and LGBTQ Employee Resource Groups, October 27.
- 2020 Roundtable on Refugee Lifeworlds, “The 1980 Refugee Act after 40 Years: Is There a

Minnesota School of Refugee Studies?" Symposium Organized by the Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, April 17. *Canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic.*

- 2016 "Racing and Gendering Arab America: History, Culture, Politics," Bates College, October 17.
- 2015 "Peddling an Arab American History," University of Kentucky, January 26.
- 2014 "Peddling an Arab American History," University of Michigan, November 18.

Organized Conference Sessions, Roundtables, Workshops, and Moderations

- 2020 Roundtable Organizer, "Approaches to Arab American Studies Marginalization in the Age of Anti-Muslim and Anti-Black Racisms." Arab American Studies Association Triennial Conference, San Diego, April 3-5. *Canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic.*
- 2017 Invited Panel, "Arab American Studies: State of the Field," Organization of American Historians Conference, New Orleans, April 6-9.
- 2015 Session Organizer, "Arab American Studies: A Roundtable Discussion on the State of the Field." Immigrant America Conference, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, October 24.
- 2011 Session Organizer, "Not So Disciplined: Challenging Ethnic and Area Studies through Queer, Arab/SWANA Scholarship." Critical Ethnic Studies Conference, University of California, Riverside, March 10-12.
- 2008 Discussant for "Motions" panel at Queer Motions Conference, University of Minnesota, April 5.

Papers Presented at Professional Conferences

- 2024 "Historical Sites of Arab American Queerness, Queer Sites of Arab American History." Arab American Studies Association Conference, April 13.
- 2023 "Queering the Question: Rethinking Middle East Studies through Queer Methodologies" Roundtable. Middle East Studies Association Conference, November 4.
- 2023 "For the Love of Teaching: Arab American and SWANA Studies" Roundtable. American Studies Association Conference, November 2.
- 2023 "Women Wanderers: Syrian Immigrants, Public Space, and Sexual Normativity." Association for Asian American Studies Conference, April 6.
- 2022 "Wandering in Diaspora: The Syrian American Elite and Sexual Normativity." Middle East Studies Association Conference, Denver, CO, December 1-4.
- 2022 "Historicizing Arab Immigrant Relationships to Indigenous Sovereignty in the United States and Canada." Arab American Studies Association Conference, San Diego, CA, March 25-27.
- 2017 "The Refusal to Be Known." American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 9-12.
- 2016 "Seeking Pleasure Queerly in the Early Arab American Diaspora." National Women's Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, November 10-13.
- 2014 "Imaging and Imagining Pleasure in Early Arab American Communities." American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, November 6-9.
- 2014 "Arab Americans and U.S. Settler Colonialism: Migrants and Intermediaries." Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 16-19.

- 2014 “Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Early Arab American History: Alixa Naff’s Peddling Thesis.” Arab American Studies Association Conference, Dearborn, MI, April 4-6.
- 2013 “Untenable Lives: Arab Women Peddlers and the Social Welfare Archive.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH, November 7-10.
- 2013 “Finding Arabs in the Archive: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Strategy,” Arab American History and Literature Symposium, University of Minnesota, October 25.
- 2012 “Narrative Structures of Arab American History.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18.
- 2012 “The Visual Traces of a Queer Arab Past?” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA, November 8-11.
- 2012 “Arab America Obscura: The Racial Intimacies of Working Class ‘Syrian’ Migrants in the Early 20th Century.” The Center for American Studies and Research 4th International Conference, “Shifting Borders: America and the Middle East/ North Africa,” American University - Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, January 11-14.
- 2011 “Peddling Encounters: ‘Syrian’ Migrants and the Intimacies of Race in Early Arab American History, 1880-1948.” Conference: “Contemporary Research in Arab American Studies: New Trends and Critical Perspectives,” Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, MI, November 4-6.
- 2011 “Peddling Encounters: Sex, Gender, and Racial Formation in the Border Spaces of Early Arab American Migration History.” Conference: Critical Ethnic Studies and the Future of Genocide: Settler Colonialism/Heteropatriarchy/White Supremacy, University of California, Riverside, March 10-12.
- 2010 “Peddling Encounters: Sex, Gender, and Racial Formation in the Border Spaces of Early Arab American Migration History.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 18-21.
- 2009 “Theorizing Asian American Studies East of California.” Teaching roundtable with Doug Jensen and Jasmine Kar Tang (University of Minnesota) for Crossroads: IU-Purdue Asian American Studies Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, September 25-26.
- 2009 “Engagements with U.S. Orientalism: Early ‘Syrian’ Immigration and Philip Hitti’s *The Syrians in America*.” Southwest Graduate Conference in Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 25-27.
- 2009 “Picking Up the Pieces: Explorations of Immigration, Assimilation, and Arab-American Identity.” Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, February 24-28.

INTERVIEWS & MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2023 “What Can Queer Arab American History Teach Us? with Dr. Charlotte Karem Albrecht.” *Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness* podcast. January 25.
- 2023 “Charlotte Karem Albrecht, Possible Histories: Arab Americans and the Queer Ecology of Peddling (New Texts Out Now).” Interview with *Jadaliyya* magazine. May 25.
- 2023 “Possible Histories: Arab Americans and the Queer Ecology of Peddling.” New

Books in Asian American Studies, *New Books Network* podcast. August 11.

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

- 2024-27 Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians
- 2024 Evelyn Shakir Non-Fiction Award, Honorable Mention, Arab American Book Awards
- 2024 LSA- Leading for Equity and Diversity (LEAD) Fellow, University of Michigan
- 2024 Race & Ethnicity Course Development Summer Grant, University of Michigan.
- 2024 Women's and Gender Studies Mellon Affirming Multivocal Humanities Grant, University of Michigan.
- 2024 Global Islamic Studies Center Research and Travel Grant, University of Michigan.
- 2024 Inclusive History Project Course Development Grant, "We Remember: Arab American History," University of Michigan.
- 2023 Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2022 Provost's Early Tenure-Track Faculty Research Support Initiative, ADVANCE Program, University of Michigan
- 2022 Supporting Careers and Cultivating Excellence, Engagement and Diversity Faculty Grant, ADVANCE Program, University of Michigan
- 2019 Richard and Lillian Ives Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
- 2018 Seed Grant, "The Sexual Politics of Settling: Arab Americans, Settler Colonialism, and the United States," Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan
- 2017 Faculty Summer Writing Grant, ADVANCE Program, University of Michigan
- 2017 Large Course Initiative Grant, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan
- 2016 Faculty Communities for Inclusive Teaching Grant, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan
- 2014 Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize, American Studies Association, *Nominee*
- 2013 Consortium for Faculty Diversity in Liberal Arts Colleges, Postdoctoral Fellowship at Denison University
- 2013 College of Liberal Arts Ethnic Studies Summer Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Summer
- 2011 Francis Maria Graduate Fellowship in Arab American Studies, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, Fall
- 2010 Francis Maria Graduate Fellowship in Arab American Studies, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, Summer
- 2009 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, Academic Year
- 2008 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, Academic Year
- 2007 Graduate Research Partnership Program, Collaborative research with Professor Lisa Albrecht, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, Summer

COURSES OFFERED**Undergraduate**

Arab America: Art, Cultural Politics, and Activism
 Arab American Feminisms
 Feminist Research Methods
 Gender and Sexuality in American Orientalism
 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
 Queering U.S. Immigration History
 Transnational Sexualities
 We Remember: Arab American History

Graduate

Intersectionality
 Queer and Trans Historicisms
 Feminist Research Methods

University Invited Talks

- 2023 "Methodo(ologies)." Critical Conversations series, Department of English, University of Michigan, November 16.
- 2023 "Reconstructing History and Challenging Canons." LSA Student Government, University of Michigan, March 27.
- 2023 "Possible Histories: Arab Americans and the Queer Ecology of Peddling" Book Launch with Dr. Nayan Shah, respondent. Global Islamic Studies Center and Arab and Muslim American Studies, University of Michigan, March 9.
- 2023 "AMAS Presents 'Sajjilu Arab American: A Reader in SWANA Studies.'" University of Michigan, February 9.
- 2021 "Queer Arab American Histories: Methods of Possibility." Department of American Culture Workshop, University of Michigan, April 7.
- 2019 "Critical Conversations: Sexualities." Department of English, University of Michigan, October 4.
- 2017 "Lightning Talk." Critical Intersectionality Mini-Conference, Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Michigan, November 8.
- 2016 "Seeking Pleasure Queerly in the Early Syrian American Diaspora." Women's Studies Spring Seminar, University of Michigan, April 19.
- 2014 "Peddling an Arab American History: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Early Syrian American Communities." Global Studies Seminar, Denison University, March 10.
- 2012 "'From Peddling it is Only a Step to Begging': 'Syrian' Migrants and the Social Welfare Archive." Global Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Series Talk for Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, April 5.
- 2012 "'Syrian' Peddlers and the Intimacies of Race in Early Arab America." Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies Department Colloquium Talk, University of Minnesota, February 24.
- 2011 "Peddling Encounters: 'Syrian' Migrants and the Intimacies of Race in Early Arab

- American History." Research-in-Progress Talk for Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, March 21.
- 2009 "Borders and Belonging." "Critical Dialogues: Crossings in American Studies" Speaker Series with Rodrigo Sanchez and Marisa Carr, University of Minnesota, November 2.

ADVISING

Graduate Students

Current

- Henry Chen, Co-chair, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Spring 2026
- Sena Duran, Chair, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Spring 2025
- Adrian King, Co-chair, American Culture, University of Michigan, Expected Spring 2025
- Alice Mishkin, Co-Chair, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Spring 2025
- Loveleen Brar, Dissertation Committee Member, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Spring 2025
- Kelly Hannavi, Dissertation Committee Member, Women's and Gender Studies and History, University of Michigan, expected Spring 2025
- Cassandra Weston, Dissertation Committee Member, History, University of Michigan, expected Spring 2025
- Kerry White, Dissertation Committee Member, American Culture, University of Michigan, expected Spring 2025

Past

- Belquis Elhadi, Advisor and Dissertation Co-chair, "Precarious Exceptions: Representations of Visibly Muslim Women in Western Media," American Culture, University of Michigan, Ph.D. 2023
- Yahya Hafez, Advisor, American Culture, University of Michigan, M.A. 2019
- Christina LaRose, Dissertation Committee Member, "Anglophone Arab Women's Poetry: Women of Color Genealogies, Transnational Subjectivities, and Trauma Recovery," English and Women's Studies, University of Michigan, Ph.D. 2018

Undergraduate Students

- Nadia Shebli, Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor, "Deconstructing the Gendered Binary of Cultural Identity Through Arab-Muslim American Women's Experience with Marital Traditions," University of Michigan, 2021-2022
- Darcey Babikian, Senior Research Reader, "Voluntourism as Gendered Colonialism," Denison University, Fall 2014

SERVICE

Professional

- 2024 Manuscript Reader, Wayne State University Press
- 2017-2024 Editorial Board Member and Peer Reviewer, *Mashriq & Mahjar: A Journal of Middle East and North African Migration Studies*

- 2023 Manuscript Reader, Syracuse University Press
- 2021 Peer Reviewer, *American Periodicals*
- 2020 Peer Reviewer, *Gender & History*
- 2017 Peer Reviewer, *Amerasia Journal*
- 2016-2018 Member-at-Large, Arab American Studies Association
- 2015-2017 Peer Reviewer, *Kohl: A Journal for Body and Gender Research*
- 2014 Peer Reviewer, *Feral Feminisms*

Institutional

- 2024-2027 Member, Faculty Senate Assembly, Humanities Division Representative, University of Michigan
- 2024-2027 Member, Student Relations Advisory Committee, Faculty Senate, University of Michigan
- 2024 Reviewer, Seed Grant Committee, Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG), University of Michigan
- 2022-2023, Reviewer, Boyd/Williams Dissertation Grant Committee, Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG), University of Michigan
- 2018
- 2021 Reviewer, Institute for the Humanities Graduate Fellowship Committee, University of Michigan
- 2015-present Steering Committee Member, Colonialism, Race, and Sexuality Initiative, IRWG, University of Michigan
- 2013-14 Member, Human Rights Film Festival Committee, Denison University
- 2011-13 Mentor, GLBTA Programs Office, University of Minnesota
- 2010-12 Department Representative, Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota
- 2007-09 Member, Facilities Working Group, Transgender Commission, University of Minnesota

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

- 2020-2023 Women's and Gender Studies Department Liaison, Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholar Program (MICHHERS), Rackham Graduate School
- 2020-2023 Rackham Graduate School Faculty Ally for Diversity, Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan
- 2019-2020 Member, University Musical Society, Arab Advisory Council, University of Michigan
- 2017-2021 Mentor, Women's Studies, MICHHERS, Rackham Graduate School
- 2017-2018 Rackham Graduate School Faculty Ally for Diversity, American Culture, University of Michigan
- 2017-2018 Rackham Graduate School Faculty Ally for Diversity, Women's Studies, University of Michigan
- 2016-2017 Member, Islamophobia Working Group, University of Michigan
- 2016 Discussant for *Facing Mirrors* film screening. Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum, University of Michigan, October 20.
- 2016 "Can We Talk About It? Sexuality, Gender, Race, and Labor in the Early Syrian American Diaspora." Keynote address for MEDAN (Middle East Action Network,

- student group) Community Dinner, University of Michigan, February 19.
 2013-2015 Member, Faculty of Color and International Faculty (FOCIF) Working Group, Denison University

Departmental

- 2024-2026 Executive Committee, American Culture
 2024 Salary Committee, Women's and Gender Studies
 2024 Salary Committee, American Culture
 2024 Lecturer IV Major Review, Committee Member, Women's and Gender Studies
 2024 Assistant Professor Third Year Review, Committee Member, Women's and Gender Studies
 2022-2023 Foundational Course Initiative Team Member, Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Center for Research on Teaching and Learning Department Grant, Women's and Gender Studies
 2022 American Culture Workshop Coordinator, American Culture
 2020-2021 Executive Committee, American Culture
 2020-2021 Salary Review Committee, American Culture
 2017-2018 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Women's Studies
 2015-present Advisory Board, Arab and Muslim American Studies, University of Michigan
 2017 Muslim American Studies Search Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan
 2017 Lecturer Review Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan
 2016 Society of Fellows and Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellowships Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan
 2016 Society of Fellows and Collegiate Postdoctoral Fellowships Committee, Women's Studies, University of Michigan
 2016 Junior Faculty Representative, Executive Committee, Women's Studies, University of Michigan
 2015-2016 Member, 80th Anniversary Committee, American Culture, University of Michigan
 2013-2015 Member, Women's Studies Committee, Denison University
 2011-2012 Graduate Student Representative, Executive Committee, Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS), University of Minnesota
 2011-2012 Co-chair, Feminist Studies Graduate Student Association, University of Minnesota
 2009-2010 Graduate Student Representative, Curriculum Committee, Department of GWSS, University of Minnesota
 2007-2008 Member, Colloquium Committee, Department of GWSS, University of Minnesota
 2006-2007 Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of GWSS, University of Minnesota

Community

- 2024-2025 Member, DIWAN Advisory Committee, Arab American National Museum
 2024-2025 Consultant, Philly Arab History Project, Al Bustan Seeds of Culture
 2014-2017 Chair, Board of Directors, Mizna (Arab American arts organization)
 2011-2014 Member, Board of Directors, Mizna
 2007-2011 Volunteer, Mizna (Arab American arts organization)

CREATIVE PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, & HONORS

- 2015 “Foreword: Intersectionality” *Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America*. Minneapolis, MN. Vol. 16, No. 2.
- 2014 Session Organizer, “Writing self, community, history, memory.” Radius of Arab American Writers (RAWI) National Conference, Minneapolis, MN, September 18-20.
- 2009 Jerry Bradley Award for Creative Writing, Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2008 “The Sweetness of Hauntings.” *Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America*. Minneapolis, MN. Vol. 10.
- 2008 “Lovelessness and Extinguished Spirits.” *¿Nation of Immigrants? Minnesota spoken word artists and poets question the world*. Dir. Bao Phi. The Loft Literary Center.
- 2007 Latitudes Artist Fellowship, Mizna, St. Paul, MN.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association
Arab American Studies Association
Committee on Lesbian and Gay History
Middle East Studies Association
National Women’s Studies Association
Organization of American Historians