

## DR. HAMSA MAHAFZA



### CAREER OBJECTIVE

Building a long-term career as a college professor dedicated to teaching courses in teacher education programs, with opportunities to conduct educational research with emphasis on heritage language education, as well as culturally responsive teaching, specifically in relation to teacher preparation.

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

**Ph.D. Culture, Literacy and Language (CLL)**

Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies

College of Education and Human Development

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), May 2012

**Dissertation Title:** *“Enrolling Arabic Heritage Language Learners in Texas Community-Based Schools: Examining the Attitudinal and Motivational Factors Impacting Parental Choices.”*

Cumulative GPA: 4.00

**M.A. Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Concentration**

Department of Interdisciplinary Learning & Teaching

College of Education and Human Development

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), May 2007

Cumulative GPA: 4.00

Nominated for the Outstanding Graduate Student Award – fall 2006

**Thesis Title:** *“Learning about Cultures Other than your Own. Arab-American Students in U.S. Public Schools: Assessing Educators’ Cultural Awareness and Perceptions.”*

**B.S. Bachelor of Science in Mathematics**

The University of Jordan, Amman-Jordan

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Two interrelated areas, Heritage Language (HL) Education and School Choice (Private vs. Public Schools). Specifically, examining aspects of language attitudes and motivation and their relationship to HL choice, use, and learning, as well as identity construction. The broader research agenda includes:

- Multicultural Education/Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT)
- Applied Linguistics to Foreign Language Teaching and Learning
- Differentiated Instruction/Assessment
- Curriculum Integration-Interdisciplinary Studies

### AWARDS

- **Fellowship Award:** Culture, Literacy and Language (CLL) Program-UTSA, 2009-2012
- **First Place Doctoral Award:** Student Research Colloquium-UTSA, 2011

## CERTIFICATION(S)

### **The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) - College of Education**

- **CITI Training**
  - Human Subjects Researchers
  - Responsible Conduct of Research for All Researchers
- **Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP)**

### **The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) - College of Education and Human Development (2005-2007)**

- **Teacher Certification Program (EC-4)**
  - Distinguished Achievement Candidate
  - TEXES 100: Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) EC-4
  - TEXES 101: Generalist EC-4
- **Teacher Certification Program (ESL, EC-12)**
  - TEXES 154: ESL/Supplemental (EC-12)
- **Texas Certification to Teach Languages Other Than English (EC-12)**
  - ACTFL 605: LOTE: Arabic Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)
  - ACTFL 600: LOTE: Arabic Writing Proficiency Test (WPT)
- **Teaching Assistant Certificate, The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)**

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

### **Fall 2016 – Present: Full-time Lecturer in Teacher Education College of Education- Department of Curriculum and Instruction The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), Alabama**

- Honors Capstone Project
- ED 307: Multicultural Foundation of Education
- ED 425: Methods Teaching Foreign Languages (MID & HS)
- ED 530: Applied Multiculturalism
- ED 535: Introduction to Applied Educational Research
- ED 635: Using Assessment to Guide Differentiated Instruction
- ED 565: Introduction to Differentiated Instruction
- ED 696: ESOL P-12 Internship

### **2015- summer 2016: Part-time Lecturer College of Education- Department of Curriculum and Instruction The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), Alabama**

- ED 565: Introduction to Differentiated Instruction, Spring 2015 and Summer 2016
- ED 530: Applied Multiculturalism, Summer 2016
- ED 696: ESOL P-12 Internship, Fall 2015

### **2012–2013: Instructor of Record College of Education and Human Development - Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies**

#### **The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), Texas**

Taught a major undergraduate core course for pre-service teachers in the UTSA teacher certification program:

- BBL 3403: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in a Pluralistic Society
  - Designed creative syllabi to embody course goals, standards, policies, and expectations

- Planned and implemented online and computer-based activities
- Applied the principles of culturally responsive teaching & learning
- Organized a field placement activity
- Managed Service-Learning Projects
- Designed and implemented various CRT teaching methods
- Established collaborative relationships with professors/scholars who are interested in linking their academic work to my research agenda

**2005 – 2012: Teaching / Research Assistant**

**College of Education and Human Development - Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies**

**The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), Texas**

- Instructed and taught two sections (in total 60 undergraduate pre-service teachers)
- Assisted in grading and developing course exams and assessment/evaluation
- Created effective online activities for students
- Assisted in conducting educational research
- Worked collaboratively with professors in publishing research-based manuscripts
- Assisted in conducting performance evaluations/writing suggestions for improvements
- Assisted in writing educational departmental reports

**2010 –2012: Adjunct Professor of Arabic**

**The Department of Modern Languages**

**St. Mary's University-San Antonio, Texas**

- Topics in Language-Advanced I: Arabic (LN3311IS-FL11)
- Topics in Language-Advanced II: Arabic (LN3312IS-SP12)
- Introduction to Arabic I – (AB1311)
- Introduction to Arabic II (AB1312)
- Second Year Arabic I (AB2311)
- Second Year Arabic II (AB2312)
  - Developed culturally responsive curriculum
  - Designed effective teaching strategies in language learning (e.g., field trips, technology)
  - Constructed theory-based measure to assess students' language proficiency levels
  - Served as an academic advisor for the Muslim Student Society (MSS)

**2003– 2005: The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), Texas**

**Second Grade and Kindergarten classrooms – UTSA Teacher Certification Program (EC-4)**

- Planned and taught lessons in the areas of reading, math, science, and social studies using a variety of instructional methods and curriculum models including cooperative learning, motivation, learning centers, service-learning curriculum, differentiated instruction, individualized web-based curriculum, and integrated curriculum
- Implemented principles of student-centered approach. Promoted motivation, creativity, and positive engagement in learning among students
- Applied group mentoring, and provided individualized tutoring, motivation, reinforcement for daily lessons
- Solved discipline problems / applied effective classroom management plans
- Demonstrated knowledge of human development and its application in teaching
- Developed and implemented lesson plans that fulfilled the State academic standards

- Worked cooperatively with faculty and staff as needed to meet classroom goals and curriculum objectives
- Developed and conducted a variety of assessment methods

## **PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **2015 – 2016: Principal of a Community-Based School in Huntsville, Alabama**

- Dedicated to provide leadership that facilitates effective implementation of the school policies, instructional programs, educational services, professional development, and learning environment that in order to meet the educational needs of all students, and support HL teaching/learning.

### **2005 – 2013: Consultant**

#### **The Bilingual/ESL Department at the NISD**

#### **North-side Independent School District (NISD) – San Antonio, Texas**

Collaboratively worked with NISD specialists in developing an Arabic-English bilingual curriculum, instruction, and activities, and the following educational tasks and duties:

- Provided research-based teacher training and effective workshops at more than 10 public schools under the jurisdiction of the NISD (2006-2012), such as:
  - Walking in the Shoes of ESOL/ESL Students: Comprehensible Input Strategies
  - Fostering the Richness and Diversity of the Arab Civilization
- Reviewed and provided academic translation to the following official/academic documents into Arabic:
  - Portions of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) & NISD Academic Standards (KG-1st grade)
  - Chapter 89, “Adaptations for Special Populations (ESL students)”
  - The “Student Code of Conduct” manual
  - Northside district’s policies and procedures for parents and students
  - Official correspondence and documents, brochures and flyers
  - Home Language Survey (HLS)
- Item-analyzed and evaluated the Bilingual Verbal Abilities Tests (BVAT)
- Administrated formal testing and conducted performance evaluations for ESL students
- Contributed to the following district-wide events:
  - “Parents’ Night” meeting in November, 2007 hosted by three specialized academies (ALAMO, ITSA, & MTA) that offer two-year training programs
  - “Title III Parent Conference” in October, 2007 and 2008
  - “Parents’ Night” meeting in November, 2005 hosted by the Bilingual ESL department
  - “Arabic Advisory Council Meeting” in the fall of 2005
- Assisted in selecting and evaluating Arabic books and instructional materials for public schools
- Solved problems related to students’ behavior and discipline and wrote official reports and recommendations in this regard
- Shared ideas about using Arabic songs in curriculum for choral music
- Suggested and planned the multicultural district-wide school museum
- Provided assistance for parents:
  - Conducted “The Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC): Parents’ Training” workshop at the NISD

- Conducted meetings with parents of English language learners (ELLs) to resolve school problems and academic issues in relation to their children's education

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer Reviewed Articles

- **Aburumuh, H.**, Smith, H. L., & Ratcliffe, L. G. (2009). Educators' cultural awareness and perceptions of Arab-American students: Breaking the cycle of ignorance. *The Journal of Multiculturalism in Education*, 4, 1-29.
- Cuero, K. K., & **Aburumuh, H.** (2007). Concurrent translation method. In J. M. Gonzalez (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Bilingual Education*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

### Links

- **Aburumuh, H.** (2008a). The Arabic-Speaking Population in Texas. Retrieved April 25, 2008, from <http://saheritagelanguages.wikispaces.com/Arabic>

### In progress

- **Mahafza, H.**, & Smith, H. (in progress). **Article:** The 4-C's Model: Care Theory in action. San Antonio.
- **Mahafza, H.** (In progress). **Article:** Educators' Cultural Awareness and Perceptions (E-CAP) Survey: Reliability and Validity Analysis.
- **Mahafza, H.** (in progress). **Children's picture book:** Arabella: The Arabian Cinderella.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

- **2018 - Lead Presenter:** ACTFL Convention held November 16, 2018 in New Orleans, Louisiana
- **2018- Presenter:** ALAHEDO 7th Annual Fall Conference: "Beneath the Surface: Achieving Excellence and Opportunity through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." Friday, November 2, 2018- University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama
  - Presentation— Supporting Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners in the Mainstream Classroom.
- **2018 - Presenter:** Alabama Association of Teacher Educators Conference. May 01, 2018-Athens State University, Athens, Alabama
  - Presentation— Walking in the Shoes of ESOL Students: Moving Theory into Practice
- **2017- Presenter:** ACTFL 2017 Annual Convention & World Languages Expo. November 17-19, 2017, Nashville -Tennessee
  - Research-Based Presentation—Arabic Heritage Language: Examining the attitudinal/Motivational Factors Impacting Parental Choice
- **2017 - Presenter:** ALAHEDO 6th Annual Fall Conference: "Seize the Day-Change the Future: The Power of Equity, Inclusion, and Community." November 10, 2017, Birmingham, Alabama
  - Poster presentation— Arabic Heritage Language Learning in Community-Based Schools: Examining the Attitudinal & Motivational Factors Impacting School Choice.

- **2017 - Presenter:** TexLER Conference: February 17-18, 2017, San Antonio, Texas
  - Research-Based Presentation—Arabic Heritage Language: Examining the Attitudinal/Motivational Factors Impacting Parental Choice.
- **2014 - Chair:** Roundtable Session at AERA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - April 7, 2014
  - Roundtable Session: “Arab and Muslim Experiences in School Contexts”
- **2013 - Presenter:** The American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference. March 16-19, Dallas, Texas
  - Poster Presentation— Arabic Heritage Language Learning in Community-Based Schools as Opposed to Public Schools: Examining the Multiple Factors Impacting Parental Choice.
- **2012 - Presenter:** Extolling Arabic Heritage Language Learners in Texas Community-Based Schools: Examining the Attitudinal and Motivational Factors Impacting Parental Choice. December 2012, Arizona State University, Arizona
- **2012 - Presenter:** TABE Conference
  - Presentation: Sheltered Instruction: An Effective Approach for Developing Language Proficiency and Increasing Core Content Comprehensibility. Trinity University. October 26, 2012, San Antonio, Texas
- **2012 - Presenter:** TABE Conference. October 26, 2012, San Antonio, Texas
  - Arabic Heritage Language Learning in Community-Based Schools: An Examination of Factors Impacting Parental Choice.
- **2012 - Presenter:** Third Annual Student Research Colloquium at UTSA. April 25, 2012 San Antonio, Texas
  - Poster Presentation—Enrolling Arabic Heritage Language Learners in Texas Community-Based Schools: Examining the Attitudinal and Motivational Factors Impacting Parental Choices
- **2011 - Presenter:** Student Research Colloquium, Students showcase research with faculty, and students. UTSA, San Antonio, Texas. April 21 -22, 2011.
  - Poster Presentation— Educators’ Cultural Awareness and Perceptions (E-CAP) Survey: Reliability and Validity Analysis. **FIRST PLACE DOCTORAL AWARD**
- **2010 - Presenter:** Dual Language: A Wave of New Instruction Connecting Education ~ Connecting Languages ~ Connecting Lives. Region 20. November 2010, San Antonio, Texas
  - Presentation— Walking in the Shoes of ESL Students.
- **2009 - Presenter:** TexTESOL II Fall Conference TESOL – The Field of Dreams! UTSA, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, San Antonio, Texas
  - Presentation— Walking in the Shoes of ESOL Students.
- **2007 - Presenter:** The 3rd Annual Research Symposium at the University of Texas at San Antonio. November, 2007, San Antonio, Texas
  - Presentation— Learning about Cultures Other than your Own: Arab-American Students in U.S. Public Schools

## WORKSHOPS

- **2019 - Participant:** The ALEX Educator Preparation Summit. March 07, 2019 at Hoover City Schools Board of Education, Alabama
- **2019 - Participant:** Continuous Improvement in Educator Preparation (CIEP). February 05, 2019 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), Alabama

- **2018 - Participant:** Dr. Sandra McGuire Workshops: (1) Increasing Student Motivation: Strategies that Work, and (2) Get Students to Focus on Learning Instead of Grades. August 24, 2018 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), Alabama
- **2018 - Participant:** Workshop on collaborative learning with Dr. Mark Taylor. August 8, 2018 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), Alabama
- **2018 - Participant:** The ALEX Educator Preparation Summit. September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at The University of Montevallo, Alabama
- **2012 - Presenter:** Sheltered Instruction: An Effective Approach for Developing Language Proficiency and Increasing Core Content Comprehensibility. October 27, 2012, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas
- **2012 - Presenter:** Sheltered Instruction: An Effective Approach for Developing Language Proficiency and Increasing Core Content Comprehensibility. Trinity University. September 07, 2012, San Antonio, Texas
- **2012 - Presenter:** Fostering the Richness and Diversity of the Arab Civilization: Arab-American Students in U.S. Public Schools at the North-side Independent School District (NISD). 2006-2012, San Antonio, Texas
- **2012 - Presenter:** Walking in the Shoes of ESOL/ESL Students: Comprehensible Input Strategies at the North-side Independent School District (NISD). 2006-2012, San Antonio, Texas
- **2007- Participant:** "Celebrating Arab Cultures" Conference and workshops held by Texas A&M: in Spring of 2007, College Station, Texas
- **2014-2015:** Volunteered as a former Board member at a community-based school in Huntsville, AL

## **SERVICE**

- **University Service**
  - **2018 – present: Faculty Advisor** at INCLUDE Club – Registered Student Organization–The University of Alabama in Huntsville
  - **2018 – present: Faculty Advisor** at Perpetua – UAH Journal of Undergraduate Research. The University of Alabama in Huntsville
- **Professional Service**
  - **2018 – present: Chair** of the Heritage Languages (HL) SIG at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
- **Community Service**
  - **2019 – present: Board Member**–International Society of Huntsville (ISH)
  - **2018 – present: Board Member**–Treasure Land Learning Center (TLC) in Huntsville, Alabama

## **VOLUNTEER WORK**

- **2011:** Volunteered in an Event: HAND IN HAND. October 28, 2011. University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas
- **2009:** Volunteered in Parent Connection Program Meeting: Helping refugees – Rudder Middle school- NISD, San Antonio, Texas
- **2005-2012:** Proficient college guest speaker about the Arab/Islamic cultures and AHL Education at graduate and undergraduate courses at UTSA, such as:
  - IDS 2712: Modes of Inquiry
  - ESL 3023 Second Language Teaching and Learning

- BBL 5013: Multicultural Groups in the U.S.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Alabama Association of Teacher Educators (AATE)
- The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- The National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME)
- Association of Teacher Educators (ATE)
- American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TexTESOL)

### **LANGUAGES**

- Classical and Modern Standard Arabic, and English

### **COMPUTER SKILLS**

- Microsoft Office, Endnote, SPSS, Nvivo, Canvas