

Laila Abed Rabho

Dr. Laila Abed Rabho
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[Site](#)

Position:

2006- today: Research fellow at the Harry S. Truman Institute for the advancement of Peace.

Education:

PhD 2010. *Hebrew University at Jerusalem*, Department of Islam and Middle East Studies, Dissertation entitled “The Discourse of Women in the Muslim Sharia Courts in Jerusalem and Taibeh: claims for alimony and child custody,” under the supervision of Prof. Ruth Roded, Hebrew University and Dr. Bryna Bogosh, Bar Ilan University.

MA 1999. *Hebrew University at Jerusalem*, in Department of Islam and Middle East Studies, Thesis: “The Claims for Alimony in the Sharia Court in West Jerusalem: Interviews with Women and Men, Lawyers and Judges, 1997-1999,” supervised by Dr. Ruth Roded.

BA 1985. *Bir Zeit University*, Ramallah, in Middle Eastern History, 1981-1985

Teaching Certificate for elementary classes, 1980. *Women’s Training Center*, Ramallah. Two years practice teaching in elementary school and school for blind.

Awards and Honors:

Honored at the Awards Ceremony for “Women who Pave the Way in Social Justice,” ACRI, Khan Theater, Jerusalem, December 16, 2007.

Scholarships:

Lafer Center For Gender Studies Scholarship, Hebrew University, 2012

Research Assistants, Hebrew University, 2012

Professional editing, Hebrew University, 2009

Professional editing, Truman Institute, 2009

Research Assistants, Hebrew University, 2007

Palestinian-American Research Center Scholarship, 2006

Na’amat scholarship for women, 2005

Lafer Center For Gender Studies Scholarship, Hebrew University, 2004-2005

Levi Eshkol Institute Scholarship, Hebrew University, 2004-2005

Immanuel Naveh Scholarship, Israel Oriental Society, 2002

Department of Islam and Middle East Studies Scholarship, 2001-2002

Institute of Asian and African Studies Scholarship, 2000-2001

Association of University Women of Israel Scholarship, 2000-2001

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Scholarship for Blind Students, The Center for the Blind, Hebrew University, 1997-1998

Publications:

Abed Rabho L. 2015. 'My Mother-in-law Ruined my Life': the Jealous Mother-in-law and the Empowerment of Palestinian Women, *Contemporary Islam*, Online First™, 12 September.

Abed Rabho L.2012. '[Problems No Longer Solved Over a Cup of Coffee](#)': Arab Women Speak of Their Claims to the Muslim Court ,*Hawwa*, Volume 10, Issue 1-2.

Abed Rabho L. 2012. [Card Instead of Love: Interest Marriage in the Arab Society in Israel](#), *Migdar*. (Hebrew).

Abed Rabho L .2012. [From Victimhood to Empowerment: Muslim Women's Narratives in the Shari'a Courts of Jerusalem and Taibe](#), *Contemporary Islam*, Online First™, 3 August.

Abed Rabho L. 2011. Shari'a Court and Women Empowerment, in *Facing the Shari'a Court – Transformations in the Status of Muslims Women in Israel and the Middle East*, edited by Liat Kozma, Tel-Aviv: Resling. (Arabic & Hebrew)

Abed Rabho L. 2011. I Decided to Take Care of myself and my Rights: Women's Empowerment in the Shari'a Courts, *In Her Own Eyes – Female Researches Write from a Gendered Point of View* in Na'amat, edited by Merav Peretz (2011). (Hebrew).

Work in Progress:

Abed Rabho L. Failing to Finish: Dropping out of School among Palestinian Youth in East Jerusalem.

Krauss V., Yonay Y. & Abed Rabho L. Women in the Labor Market in East Jerusalem.

Current Research:

2014-2016 Agents of Social and Gendered Change? The Role of Women Journalists in Palestinian Society in East Jerusalem.

2012- 2014 The Appointment of Palestinian Women to Shari'a Judges, Fellowship Truman Institute, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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Conferences:

“The Appointment of Palestinian Women to Shari'a Judges”: A lecture given at the Panel of “Women in the Arab Spring of the Middle East”, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, December 15 2015.

“The difficulties for Muslims in Jerusalem”: A lecture given at a conference in the Jerusalem Center for Interreligious Encounter, December 9 2015.

“Legal Pluralism in the personal law in the Palestinian society”: A lecture given at the conference of “Legal Pluralism in the Holy City: Forum Shopping, Competing Courts and Institutional Dynamics in Jerusalem”, University of Haifa, November 16 2015.

“Women Judges (Qadi) at the Sharia Courts in the West Bank: Social Change and Public Discourse”: A lecture given at the seminar **Israel and the Middle East, Truman institute, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 3 2015.**

"Health and Medicine in Islam": A lecture given at the symposium of "Inter-cultural and Inter-Religion Relationships in the Health Services in Israel", Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, April 27 2015.

"My Life Story- How did I Become a Doctor?": a Talk given at the Girls High school in Sur Baher, the talk was part of a cultural event organized by the school and the Jerusalem municipally, April 15 2015.

"The Historical Appointment of Palestinian Women to Shari'a Judges", Levzion Center and Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. March 9 2015.

"Can Women serve as arbitrators? The role of women in the Palestinians Sharia courts", Sha'arei Mishpat Law School, Hod Hashron, January 14, 2015.

"The Appointment of Palestinian Women to Shari'a Judges", Al-Qassemy College, Baka Al Garbiayh, Israel. March 9, 2014.

"The Appointment of Palestinian Women to Shari'a Judges", Program on Religion, Diplomacy, and International Affairs of Princeton University's Liechtenstein Institute in Vienna, Diplomatiche Akademie, June 7-9, 2013. (Vienna, Austria).

"The Discourse of Women in the Muslim Sharia Courts", *Lafer Institute*, Hebrew University at Jerusalem, December 19, 2012.

"Women Rights in Islam and the Reasons for their Approaches to the Shari'a Courts", Truman institute, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, May 10, 2012.

"Early Marriages in the Arab Society ", *Van Leer Institute*, Jerusalem, April 4, 2012.

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"The Discourse of Women in the Muslim Sharia Courts in Jerusalem and Taibeh", Hebrew University of Jerusalem, January 10, 2012.

"Polygamy in the Shari'a Courts," presented at Conference in honor of Prof Ruth Roded on Women and Gender Study in the Middle East: A Contemporary Examination, Truman Institute, Hebrew University, March 8, 2011.

"From Victimhood to Empowerment: Women sued their husbands in the Israeli Shari'a Court," presented at Conference on Change Family Laws for the Muslims in Israel? Historical, Comparative and Contemporary Discussion, *Truman Institute*, Hebrew University, May 7, 2009.

"A Palestinian Woman in the Shari'a Court: the Researcher and those Researched," Conference on Researchers' Stories: Gender, Space, and Multiple Identities in Studying the Middle East, Truman Institute, Hebrew University, April 30, 2007.

"The Most Undesirable Union: Muslim Women, Patriarchy and "Exchange Marriages" in Palestine/Israel," presented at World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, Amman, Jordan, June 11-16, 2006.

"Claims for Alimony in the Sharia Courts: Interviews with Women," presented at the Ninth Annual Conference on Women and Gender Studies and Feminist Theory, Tel Aviv University, April 1-3, 2001.

"The Reasons for Alimony for Muslim Women in the Sharia Court in Jerusalem," presented at the International Conference on Women and Society in the Middle East, Emek Israel College, May 22-25, 2000.

Nonacademic presentations:

"The Appointment of Palestinian Women to Shari'a Judges", Track Center for Democracy, BethLehem, March 15, 2014.

"The status of women in Arab society". The Interreligious Coordinating Council of Israel (ICCI) and Kol HaIsha - Center for Women in Jerusalem. January 29, 2013

"Women rights in the Shari'a Courts", Nisa'a wa-Afak Organization, Lod, January 2, 2013.

"The House of Obedience", Conference on Muslim woman's rights and man's rights, Kafr Qara, December 26, 2012.

"Women rights in the Shari'a", Nisa'a wa-Afak Organization, Kafr Qara, June 2012.

Conference on Woman's Inheritance Right – Between the Law and the Society, Arabah, October 27, 2011.

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"Women in Islam," Muslims Teach about Islam at Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI), Jerusalem, July 5, 2001.

"Introduction to Islam ," Muslims Teach about Islam at Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI), Jerusalem, May 31, 2011.

Lecture on my dissertation in the course "Citizens for Equality" at Sapir College, May 24, 2011.

Five sessions under the title "Women can make the change" at Kfar Qara', Nissa Wa Afaq, July-August 2011.

Professional Experience:

Shari'a Litigator (*murafa'a*) Certificate, awarded by the Israeli Ministry of Justice, March 2004

Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Justice. 2005

Board member of Arab Society for the Physically Handicapped, Jerusalem

Teacher at the Peace Institute for blind women in Shuafat, East Jerusalem. 1986-1993.

Languages and Skills:

Native Arabic speaker

Fluent in Hebrew and English, reading knowledge of French and Persian

Knowledge of Braille