

CATHERINE ABOU-KHALIL

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS & AFFILIATIONS

Boston University, Political Science Department Teaching Associate	Present
Boston University, Center on Forced Displacement Mellon Sawyer Seminar Graduate Fellow	2023-2024 2023-Present
Boston University, Center for Innovation in Social Science Graduate Student Affiliate	

EDUCATION

Boston University Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Political Science Exams: International Relations, Political Theory Dissertation: Remittances Across Time: The Lebanese Diaspora and their Grassroots Efforts to Mobilize Remittances for Lebanon	2026 Care
Boston University M.A. in Political Science Graduate Certificate – Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality	2023 2020
University Massachusetts Lowell B.A. in Political Science International Relations (<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>) Double Minor – Arabic Studies and Writing	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Migration and diaspora; transnational mobilization and politics; gender; Middle East; feminist international political economy; international development; post-conflict recovery; media and technology

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Feminist, Queer, and Indigenous Methodology – WGS 6.15	Spring 2022
University of Massachusetts Amherst Institute for Social Science Research – Introduction to R: Data Management Institute for Social Science Research – Introduction to NVivo 12	Summer 2021

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

“Can Pandora’s Box Be Closed? How People in Myanmar Access and Identify Trustworthy Information After the

Coup” with Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, Ardeth Thawnghmung, and Tun Tun Lynn *International Journal of Communication* (Spring 2026)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“ Lebanese Diaspora Philanthropy Report ” with the Khayrallah Center <i>North Carolina State University, Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies</i>	August 2025
“ Reflections on Gender, Race, and Intersectionality in the Global Border Regime ” <i>Boston University, Center on Forced Displacement</i>	February 2024
“ The Visible-Invisible Gate: Racism at Europe’s Borders ” with Hanadi Amin and Desiree Hartman <i>in Boston University International Relations Review</i>	April 2022

WORKING PAPERS

“Beyond Financial Remittances: Transborder Care Remittances as a Framework for Community Development in Lebanon.” <i>Data collection complete; data analysis in progress.</i>
“It’s in Our Blood: How Lebanese Diaspora Remittances Transcend the Boundaries of Time and Borders.” <i>Manuscript in progress.</i>
“War Making and Community (Re)Building: Diaspora Women Leadership in Transnational Development for Crisis Relief in Lebanon.” <i>Data collection and analysis complete.</i>
“Women and War Narratives: An Analysis of U.S. Media Representation of Afghan and Ukrainian Women.” <i>Manuscript in progress (updating data and analysis).</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Boston University, Center on Forced Displacement Graduate Fellow, Identity and Displacement	2023-2024
Brown University and Boston University, Costs of War Research Assistant, Independent project: Women and War Narratives	Summer 2021
University of Massachusetts Lowell, Emerging Scholar Research Assistant, Information Access in Myanmar	2019 - 2020
University of Massachusetts Lowell, Honors College Honors Fellow, Independent project: Refugee Student Learning	Spring 2019

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

American Political Science Association Boston, Massachusetts (Paper Accepted)	Forthcoming September 2026
Pay It Forward: Women Helping Women Workshop Chicago, Illinois (Invitation only; Invited participant)	March 2025
International Studies Association Chicago, Illinois (Proposal Accepted)	March 2025

What Matters? The Politics of Narrating War

University of Massachusetts Lowell (Presenter)

May 2024

International Studies Association

San Francisco, California (Presenter)

April 2024

American Political Science Association

L.A. Convention Center, California (Presenter)

September 2023

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

United Nations Headquarters, New York (Delegate)

March 2023 **The Empirical Study of Gender Research****Network (EGEN)**

Harvard University, Massachusetts (Workshop)

September 2022

Broadening our Approach: Comparative Political Communications

Duke University, North Carolina (Presenter)

March 2022

International Studies Association

Virtual (Presenter)

April 2021

American Political Science Association

Virtual (iPoster)

September 2020

New England Political Science Association

Cancelled-COVID (Paper Accepted)

April 2020

International Studies Association

Cancelled-COVID (Paper Accepted)

March 2020

State Politics and Policy Conference

University of Maryland, Maryland (Presenter)

May 2019

ORGANIZED CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & OTHER ACADEMIC EVENTS

Sawyer Seminar: Gender, Race, and Intersectionality in the Global Border Regime

Boston University, Massachusetts (Organizer, Moderator)

February
2024***The Ice Cream Sellers*, Documentary Screening**

Boston University, Massachusetts (Organizer, Moderator)

2023

Cease Fires: Temporality, Bordering, and Climate Mobilities, Dr. Elizabeth Cohen

Boston University, (Organizer, Moderator)

2023

Feminist Roadmap for Sustainable Peace and Planet, Dr. Carol Cohn

Boston University (Organizer, Moderator)

2023

INVITED PANELS

Political Science Career Panel

University of Massachusetts Lowell

April 2025

Framing Narratives: Sectarianism, Racism & Displacement

Boston University

October 2023

Emerging Scholars Panel
University of Massachusetts Lowell

October 2023

Political Science Career Panel
University of Massachusetts Lowell

March 2023

herNetwork Politics and Law Panel
Boston University

February
2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston University

Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2021, 2022 (Co-Head TF)

International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa

Spring 2022, 2023

SayDayNar Community Development Center

Teaching Assistant, Citizenship Class

Summer 2019 **GUEST LECTURES**

Boston University

International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa
"Intersectionality: Refugee and Immigrant Rights."

Spring
2023

International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa
"Intersectionality and Immigrant Rights."

Spring
2022

Seminar on International Migration
"Intersectionality and Immigrant Reception."

Spring
2022

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Boston University Citizenship Hub

Boston
, MA

Graduate Coordinator

May
2022 -
January
2024

- Co-coordinated the Citizenship Hub which held Arabic language, US citizenship prep courses for 30 refugees from Syria.
- Recruited volunteers to run weekly office hour sessions with students.
- Maintained communications between volunteers, students, and undergraduate coordinator.

Forced Migration and Human Trafficking Initiative

Boston, MA

Co-Chair

May 2021 - January 2024

- Strategized with initiative Directors to create succinct and feasible goals for the initiative.
- Mentored and hired undergraduate and graduate student interns.
- Organized events such as panels and a documentary screening.
- Coordinated the bi-weekly newsletter.

Graduate Student Speaker Series

Workshop Organizer

June 2022 - January 2024

SayDayNar Community Development Center

Tutor, After-School Program for Immigrants & Refugees

May 2018 - August 2019

University of Massachusetts Lowell

Student Mentor for College Applicants

Fall Semester 2017

RELATED EXPERIENCE

SayDaNar Community Development Center

Lowell, MA

Volunteer Coordinator and Student Curriculum Supervisor

May 2018 - July 2019

- Led the after-school homework help program at this non-profit organization.
- Managed a small team of volunteers to tutor 25 refugee and immigrant students, ages 4 - 20 years old.
- Recruited volunteers in collaboration with course instructors at UMass Lowell.
- Assessed student curriculum and implemented new activities to provide diversified and individualized learning for students.

SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

External

NCSU Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies Dissertation Research Grant 2024

American Political Science Association First Generation Scholars Travel Grant 2023

WILPF United Nations Practicum Grant 2023

Christian A. Herter Memorial Scholarship 2016

Syrian-Lebanese American Scholarship 2016

Abigail Adams Scholarship 2016

Internal, Boston University

Henry S. Newman Graduate Student Fellowship 2025-2026

Political Science Department Dissertation Research Grant 2024

Graduate Student Organization Dissertation Research Grant 2024

Center on Forced Displacement, Sawyer Seminar Fellow 2023-2024

Center for Innovation in Social Science, Travel Grant 2023

Teaching Fellowship 2021-2023

Dean Fellowship 2020-2021

Internal, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Research Excellence 2020

Outstanding Academic Achievement 2020

Dean's List 2016 – 2020

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society 2019

Honors College Fellowship 2019

Roger Cressey Endowment Fund Award recipient 2018

SKILLS

Language Skills

Arabic (Fluent), French (Novice)

Program Softwares

NVivo (Proficient), Qualtrics (Proficient), Latex (Intermediate), R (Basic), Stata (Basic), SPSS (Basic)