

## Catherine Abou-Khalil

Boston University  
Political Science  
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October 2025

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| <b>PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS &amp; AFFILIATIONS</b> | <b>Boston University, Center on Forced Displacement</b>                                                                                     | 2023-2024     |
|                                                  | Mellon Sawyer Seminar Graduate Fellow                                                                                                       |               |
|                                                  | <b>Boston University, Center for Innovation in Social Science</b>                                                                           | 2023-Present  |
|                                                  | Graduate Student Affiliate                                                                                                                  |               |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>                                 | <b>Boston University</b>                                                                                                                    | Present       |
|                                                  | Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Political Science                                                                                            |               |
|                                                  | Exams: International Relations, Political Theory                                                                                            |               |
|                                                  | <b>Dissertation:</b> Mobilized Networks: The Lebanese Diaspora and their Grassroots Efforts to Mobilize for Crisis Relief in Lebanon        |               |
|                                                  |                                                                                                                                             |               |
|                                                  | <b>Boston University</b>                                                                                                                    | 2023          |
|                                                  | M.A. in Political Science                                                                                                                   |               |
|                                                  | Graduate Certificate – Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality                                                                                       |               |
|                                                  | <b>University Massachusetts Lowell</b>                                                                                                      | 2020          |
|                                                  | B.A. in Political Science International Relations ( <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> )                                                                |               |
|                                                  | Double Minor – Arabic Studies and Writing                                                                                                   |               |
| <b>RESEARCH INTERESTS</b>                        | Migration and diaspora, Middle East, transnational politics, feminist political economy, gender, and international development              |               |
| <b>ADDITIONAL TRAINING</b>                       | <b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b>                                                                                                | Spring 2022   |
|                                                  | Feminist, Queer, and Indigenous Methodology – WGS 6.15                                                                                      |               |
|                                                  |                                                                                                                                             |               |
|                                                  | <b>University of Massachusetts Amherst</b>                                                                                                  | Summer 2021   |
|                                                  | Institute for Social Science Research – Introduction to R: Data Management                                                                  |               |
|                                                  | Institute for Social Science Research – Introduction to NVivo 12                                                                            |               |
| <b>PUBLICATIONS</b>                              | Khayrallah Center and <b>Catherine Abou-Khalil</b>                                                                                          | August 2025   |
|                                                  | <a href="#">“Lebanese Diaspora Philanthropy Report”</a>                                                                                     |               |
|                                                  | <i>North Carolina State University, Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies</i>                                                     |               |
|                                                  | <b>Abou-Khalil, Catherine</b>                                                                                                               | February 2024 |
|                                                  | <a href="#">“Reflections on Gender, Race, and Intersectionality in the Global Border Regime”</a>                                            |               |
|                                                  | <i>Boston University, Center on Forced Displacement</i>                                                                                     |               |
|                                                  | <b>Abou-Khalil, Catherine, Hanadi Amin, and Desiree Hartman</b>                                                                             | April 2022    |
|                                                  | <a href="#">“The Visible-Invisible Gate: Racism at Europe’s Borders”</a>                                                                    |               |
|                                                  | <i>Boston University International Relations Review</i>                                                                                     |               |
| <b>WORKING PAPERS</b>                            | <b>Abou-Khalil, Catherine.</b> “Beyond Financial Remittances: Transborder Care Remittances as a Tool for Community Development in Lebanon.” |               |

**Abou-Khalil, Catherine.** “War Making and Community (Re)Building: Diaspora Women Leadership in Transnational Development for Crisis Relief in Lebanon.”

**Abou-Khalil, Catherine.** “Women and War Narratives: An Analysis of U.S. Media Representation of Afghan and Syrian-Kurdish Women.”

**Abou-Khalil, Catherine,** Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, Ardeth Thawngmung, and Tun Tun Lynn. “Can Pandora’s Box Be Closed? How Myanmar’s Keyboard Fighters Circumvent the Military’s Efforts to Minimize Access to Online Information.”

**RESEARCH  
EXPERIENCE**

**Boston University, Center on Forced Displacement**  
*Graduate Fellow, Identity and Displacement* 2023-2024

**Brown 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

**ATTENDED  
CONFERENCES  
& WORKSHOPS**

**Pay It Forward: Women Helping Women Workshop**  
*Chicago, Illinois (Invitation only; Invited participant)* March 2025

**International Studies Association**  
*Chicago, Illinois (Proposal Accepted, Presenter)* 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**

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|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                                      | <i>Accepted, Cancelled-COVID (Presenter)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | April 2020                            |
|                                                      | <b>International Studies Association</b><br><i>Accepted, Cancelled-COVID (Presenter)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | March 2020                            |
|                                                      | <b>State Politics and Policy Conference</b><br><i>University of Maryland, Maryland (Presenter)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | May 2019                              |
| <b>ORGANIZED<br/>CONFERENCES<br/>&amp; WORKSHOPS</b> | <b>Sawyer Seminar: Gender, Race, and Intersectionality in the Global Border Regime</b><br><i>Boston University, Massachusetts (Organizer, Moderator)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | February 2024                         |
|                                                      | <b>Cease Fires: Temporality, Bordering, and Climate Mobilities, Dr. Elizabeth Cohen</b> <i>Boston University, (Organizer, Moderator)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                       |
|                                                      | <b>Feminist Roadmap for Sustainable Peace and Planet, Dr. Carol Cohn</b> <i>Boston University (Organizer, Moderator)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                       |
| <b>INVITED<br/>PANELS</b>                            | <b>Political Science Career Panel</b><br><i>University of Massachusetts Lowell, Massachusetts</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | April 2025                            |
|                                                      | <b>Framing Narratives: Sectarianism, Racism &amp; Displacement</b><br><i>Boston University, Massachusetts</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | October 2023                          |
|                                                      | <b>Emerging Scholars Panel</b><br><i>University of Massachusetts Lowell, Massachusetts</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | October 2023                          |
|                                                      | <b>Political Science Career Panel</b><br><i>University of Massachusetts Lowell, Massachusetts</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | March 2023                            |
|                                                      | <b>herNetwork Politics and Law Panel</b><br><i>Boston University, Massachusetts</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | February 2023                         |
| <b>TEACHING<br/>EXPERIENCE</b>                       | <b>Boston University</b><br><i>Introduction to International Relations</i> Fall 2021, 2022 (Lead TF)<br><i>International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa</i> Spring 2022, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                       |
|                                                      | <b>SayDayNar Community Development Center</b><br><i>Teaching Assistant, Citizenship Class</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Summer 2019                           |
| <b>GUEST<br/>LECTURES</b>                            | <b>Boston University</b><br><i>International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa</i> , Spring 2023. "Intersectionality: Refugee and Immigrant Rights."<br><br><i>International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa</i> , Spring 2022. "Intersectionality and Immigrant Rights."<br><br><i>Seminar on International Migration</i> , Spring 2022. "Intersectionality and Immigrant Reception." |                                       |
| <b>RELATED<br/>EXPERIENCE</b>                        | <b>Boston University Citizenship Hub</b><br><i>Graduate Coordinator</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Boston, MA<br>May 2022 - January 2024 |

- Co-Manage citizenship classes for 30 Syrian refugees with undergraduate coordinator.
- Recruit volunteers to run weekly class sessions with students.
- Maintain communications between volunteers, students, and undergraduate coordinator.

**Forced Migration and Human Trafficking Initiative** Boston, MA  
*Co-Chair* May 2021 - January 2024

- Strategize with initiative Directors to create succinct and feasible goals.
- Supervise, delegate, and mentor groups of undergraduate and graduate interns.
- Hire and recruit interns for the initiative.
- Coordinate and plan events related to forced migration, immigration, and human trafficking.

**SayDaNar Community Development Center** Lowell, MA  
*Volunteer Coordinator* May 2018 - July 2019

- Led the after-school homework help program at non-profit organization and managed a small team of volunteers to assist with tutoring as many as 25 Burmese refugee students, ages ranged from 4 – 20 years old.
- Recruited volunteers and maintained record of their attendance, CORI forms, and contact information.
- Organized and managed budget for program events, such as field days and fundraising events.

*Student Curriculum Supervisor* January 2019 - July 2019

- Determined an individualized learning curriculum for about 25 students based on established relationships with the students and their academic progress to identify their unique needs.
- Created a system to track each student's academic progress by keeping record of their work and progress reports.
- Created a form, "Progress Reports" that is filled out daily to track academic progress of each student.

## SERVICE & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**Boston University**  
*Graduate Student Speaker Series, Organizing Workshops* June 2022 - January 2024

*The Ice Cream Sellers, Documentary Screening, Moderator & Organizer* May 2023

**SayDayNar Community Development Center**  
*Tutor for after-school program for refugees* May 2018 - August 2019

**University of Massachusetts Lowell**  
*Service-Learning, Mentoring Students Applying to College* Fall Semester 2017

**SELECTED  
AWARDS AND  
FELLOWSHIPS**

**External**

International Studies Association Pay It Forward Stipend Award 2025  
NCSU Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies Dissertation 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)