

## ARABIC TO ENGLISH PARTICIPANTS



**Valentina Viene**

**Valentina Viene** is a translator from Arabic into English and Italian. She graduated from the University of Napoli, L'Orientale, and is now based in London. She works as a freelance editor, journalist and book reviewer focusing on Arab literature. Her work has appeared on a number of magazines and blogs, including *Arablit*, *Middle East Eye*, *Banipal*, *Qantara*, *World Literature Today* and *Exiled Writers*. Her translations of Nada Menzalji and Ali Jazo's poems have appeared in English translation and her Italian translation of a short story by Ibrahim al-Koni has been published with Edizioni E/O.



**Katharine Halls**

**Katharine Halls** is a freelance Arabic-to-English translator who specialises in theatre and film. She holds a BA in Arabic and Hebrew from the University of Oxford, an MA in translation from the University of Manchester and an MA in Middle East studies from the American University in Cairo. Her translations for the stage have been performed at the Royal Court in London and the Edinburgh Festival, and her translation, with Adam Talib, of Raja Alem's novel *The Dove's Necklace*, received the 2017 Sheikh Hamad Award and was shortlisted for the Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize.



**Nema Alaraby**

**Nema Alaraby** is an English<>Arabic translator with roughly 10 years of experience in translation, copyediting, proofreading, and creative writing. Alaraby's undergraduate degree was in Spanish and English languages at Ain Shams University, Egypt. She then studied the Professional Diploma in Media and Literary Translation at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. In 2018, she became a Qualified MITI, and, in 2020, she obtained her MA in Specialised Translation from the University of Roehampton, London, UK. Alaraby specialises in medical translations, humanities and social sciences, and business. She is also a creative writer who published an English collection of poetry and prose, and an Arabic collection of prose and very short stories. Alaraby is passionate about literature and her dream is to specialise in literary translation. She currently lives in London and works as a full-time freelancer in English<>Arabic translation.



**Raphael Cohen**

**Raphael Cohen** is a professional translator and lexicographer who studied Arabic and Hebrew at Oxford and the University of Chicago. His published translations include the novels *Guard of the Dead* by George Yarak, *Butterfly Wings* by Mohammed Salmawi, *Status Emo* by Islam Musbeh, *The Bridges of Constantine* by Ahlem Mostaghenemi, and *So You May See* by Mona Prince. He has also contributed translations of short stories and poetry to a range of anthologies and magazines, and translates books and articles in the humanities and social sciences. He is based in Cairo.



### **Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp**

**Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp** is a British literary translator working from Arabic, German and Russian into English. She has a particular interest in literature for children and young adults, and in translating history and historical fiction. She has translated novels by Ahlam Bsharat, Katja Fricke, Kathrin Rohmann, Hanna Winter, Yulia Yakovleva and Fadi Zaghmout, and short stories by several Arabic authors including Rania Mamoun and Basma Abdel Aziz. Her translation of *Farewell to the Horse* by Ulrich Raulff was shortlisted for 2019 Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize. Ruth graduated from the University of Oxford in 2003 and has been a professional translator since completing an MA in Translation and

Interpreting at the University of Bath in 2004.



### **Karen McNeil**

**Karen McNeil's** literary translations have appeared in *Banipal*, *World Literature Today*, and *al-Jadid*. She was revising editor of the *Oxford Arabic Dictionary* (2014) and she is currently a PhD student in Arabic at Georgetown University. She lives in Rhode Island.

## ENGLISH TO ARABIC PARTICIPANTS



### Watfa Alassafeen

**Watfa Alassafeen**, 29 years old, currently a freelance sworn translator. She has studied English language and literature at Damascus University, Syria. She has a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in English literary studies, in addition to a licence of translation from the Syrian Ministry of Justice. She has an experience in translation for over 6 years, and throughout that time she has worked on different types of texts in both languages (Arabic/English). She teaches in the Department of Translation at Damascus University, in addition to her experience as an EFL teacher. About two years ago, she interpreted a live radio interview with the American/British writer Charles Glass. She also participates in different conferences and workshops with NGOs as a notetaker and translator. She organises translation workshops to train new graduates, and currently she is studying French language (B1 level) aspiring to become a trilingual translator.



### Zuwaina Al Tuwayya

Nineteen years ago, **Zuwaina Al Tuwayya** started working as a translator in the Omani Ministry of Education, but her interest in translation, especially literary translation, goes back to late 1990s when she was a student at the University. In 2003, she had the chance to translate a book about birdwatching in Oman and that was her first published book in translation. Meanwhile, she continued writing short stories in Arabic and published a collection of short stories in 2005. Her journey with literary translation grew intensely as she proceeded with pursuing her Msc in translation studies at the University of Edinburgh in 2007. That was followed by publishing more books in translation such as *Bartleby the Scrivener* by Herman Melville (2010), *Does My Head Look Big in This?* by Randa Abdel-Fattah (2012), *Constitutional Experience in Oman* by Basma Mubarak Saeed (2013), *The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy and *The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje (2019).



### Omaima Sobhi

**Omaima Sobhi** is an Egyptian translator and writer. She graduated from Mass Communication department, Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University, 2005. She lives in Cairo, Egypt. She has started her career since 2009 up till now. She worked as Secretary at pharmaceutical company from 2006 to Dec. 2008, during that, she studied two semesters from Translation Diploma in Faculty of Arts, Cairo University. After leaving her work, she worked as English freelancer translator and writer. She translated Dutch book by Douwe Draaisma which was translated to English language by Barbara Fasting. It is called *Disturbances of the Mind* and published by Al Arabi Publishing and Distributing, 2013. Then she translated Norwegian novel by Ingvar Ambjørnsen which was translated to English language by Don Bartlett and Kari Dickson. It is called *Beyond the Great Doors* and published by Al Arabi Publishing and Distributing, 2015. In order to enhance her writing skills, she participated in Goethe-institut project Cairo Short Stories and won the first KFW Foundation promotional prize. Workshop was led by German-Iraqi author Abbas Khider in Cairo and discussed her winning story 'the unveiled head' in Frankfurt Book Fair, 2015. The story was translated to German language. She has translated & written dozens of short stories and articles which were published in several Arabian and Egyptian newspapers and magazines. And she published short story collection "رؤى المدينة المقدسة" by Elain Publishing House, 2018. She has been working as Editor at Elain Publishing House since April 2019, besides translating English author Ali Smith novel's *Hotel World* which will be published in 2020.



### **Samar Mahfouz Barraaj**

**Samar Mahfouz Barraaj** is a Lebanese writer and translator of young adults and children's books. She holds a BA degree and a Teaching Diploma from the American University of Beirut.

She works with different publishers and has so far more than 60 published books, many of which have been selected on honour lists, shortlisted and long listed for Awards. Four of them won "when my friend got sick *عندما مرضت صديقتي*," "my grandmother will always remember me *جدتي ستذكّرني دائماً*" both with Yuki press, "خط أحمر" Red line-" and *صديقي* My friend" with Dar Alsaki.

She has translated around 90 children and young adult's books from French, English and Italian.

She prepares and presents creative writing workshops for children, training workshops for teachers and librarians, and participates in activities to promote reading among children in book fairs and schools in Lebanon and outside Lebanon, as an author and an active member of LBBY.



### **Haifa Abu Al-Nadi**

**Haifa Abu Al-Nadi** is a fiction writer, translator, and university professor in Amman, Jordan. She received her M.A. in English language and literature from the University of Jordan, and is a member of the Jordanian Association of Translators and Applied Linguists (JATAL). Her publications include "On the Eve of a Dream" and "Propositions," published by Azminah in Jordan; "The World of Theater" in translation with Azminah and Fujairah Culture & Media Authority in the United Arab Emirates; *From Casks of My Wine: States of a Woman in Twenty Poems*, by Gabriela Mistral with Azminah; "Water: Nature and Culture" with the Kalima Project for Translation in the UAE; "Pupils as Playwrights,"

"Seeing Darkness. Hearing Silence," and "Imagination and Creativity in Childhood" with the A. M. Qattan Foundation's Educational Research and Development Programme (Palestine). A 2018 IWP Resident (Iowa, USA), representing Jordan, as a writer and translator, courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department.



### **Miled Faiza**

**Miled Faiza** is a Tunisian-American poet and translator. He is the author of *Baqāya l-bayt alladī*

*daḳalnāhu marratan wāḥidatan* (2004) and *Asabaṣ an-naḥḥāt* (2019) and translator of the Booker Prize–shortlisted novel *Autumn (al-Kharif, 2017)*, as well as *Winter (al-Shitā', 2019)*, both by Ali Smith. He teaches Arabic at Brown University.