



## CASA Fellows 2019-2020 in Cairo

**Aaron Boxerman** is a recent graduate of Northwestern University in history and African studies. Aaron has spent significant time in East Jerusalem and Jordan, where he interned for different publications and honed his Arabic. While at Northwestern, Aaron was awarded multiple grants to examine archives in Amman and Cape Town, South Africa. After CASA, he hopes to use his language skills to work as a journalist.

**Josh Calvo** is a Ph.D. candidate at Princeton University in the Department of Comparative Literature, focusing on modernist fiction in Hebrew and Arabic. He completed a bachelor's degree in written arts and Middle Eastern studies at Bard College in May 2015. Josh has studied Arabic at the American University in Beirut and the Mohammed V University in Rabat. Josh is interested in literary translation and original creative writing, and he is currently translating the early novels of Kurdish Syrian novelist and experimentalist Salim Barakat.

**Phoebe Carter** is a Ph.D. student in comparative literature at Harvard University. She received her B.A. from Kenyon College in modern languages and literatures. Previously, Phoebe studied Arabic and taught middle school English in Amman, Jordan. Her research interests include modern Arabic literature, literary circulation between Latin America and the Middle East, and translation studies.

**Sarah Elmongy** graduated from Emory University in 2019 with a B.A. in anthropology and Arabic studies. Her studies in anthropology have concentrated on cultural and applied anthropology, with a focus on her professional interests in humanitarian and development work. Sarah has a native background in Egyptian Arabic and has studied Modern Standard Arabic at Emory University for three years, and in Rabat, Morocco, for one semester. She hopes to combine her fields of study in her future career in the NGO and non-profit sectors.

**Indran Fernando** graduated from Truman State University with a B.A. in anthropology. He has studied Arabic at Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco and at the Qasid Institute in Jordan. Prior to CASA, Indran worked at the International Institute of St. Louis, where he helped refugees access health care and adjust to life in the US. After CASA, Indran is interested in pursuing a master's degree in public health and in working as an interpreter in mental health settings.

**Rebekah Grafton** graduated from Georgetown University in 2019 with a B.A. in linguistics and French, and a minor in Arabic. She spent the 2017-2018 academic year studying in Strasbourg, France, and Rabat, Morocco. In the future, Rebekah hopes to work in translation or refugee resettlement.

**Noa Gur-Arie** recently graduated from Barnard College, where she majored in Russian studies and Middle Eastern studies. Her thesis research focused on Cold War Soviet Islamic cultural diplomacy in the Arab world. Noa has studied in Russia and Morocco with scholarships from the US Department of State, and she has interned at PEN America and Human Rights Watch.

**Ethan Hartzell** received his B.S. in cognitive and brain sciences with a minor in computer science from Tufts University in 2018, where he completed a senior thesis on lexical variation in a village sign language of Turkey. Prior to CASA, Ethan researched ASL using computational methods at Boston University. Ethan has also taught Arabic to high schoolers at the Arabic Summer Academy in Boston. He previously spent a semester abroad in Cairo and is excited to return with CASA. After CASA, Ethan hopes to pursue a graduate degree that combines his varied research interests.

**Allison Holle** is a graduate student at the University of Oxford, where she is reading for a Master of Philosophy degree in modern Middle Eastern studies. She completed her undergraduate degree in Arabic studies at Williams College in 2017. Her current research focuses on architectural history and contestations over the preservation and restoration of Islamic cultural heritage under colonial occupation. Allison has studied Arabic in Cairo twice previously, and she is excited to return to Cairo with CASA.

**Eva Kahan** graduated from Tufts University with a B.A. in international relations and history, concentrating in the Middle East. She spent a year studying, volunteering, and researching demography and veterans' communities in Jordan. After CASA, Eva is excited to pursue public service and graduate study in security sector reform, with a focus on improving partnerships between the US government and Arab states.

**Rosa Klein-Baer** is a Ph.D. student at New York University's joint program in History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. She received a master's degree from the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University in 2016 and completed a bachelor's degree in sociocultural anthropology at the University of California, Davis, in 2013. Her research interests include the urban and environmental histories of early twentieth-century colonial Egypt.

**Cecilia Kuehnel** is a graduate student at the University of Michigan, where she studies Arabic pedagogy. Her academic interests include second language acquisition, Arabic socio-linguistics, and the intricacies of the trilateral root system. Cecilia has received the NSLI-Y, Boren, and Critical Language Scholarships. After her master's program, she will pursue a doctorate in Arabic applied linguistics.

**Juan Nunez Ledesma** is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he completed a degree in political science and a minor in Arabic. He has studied Arabic in Oman, Jordan, and Morocco. His interests include Arabic pedagogy, Middle East politics, and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Upon completing CASA, he hopes to pursue a master's degree in Middle East studies.

**Patrick McVee** graduated from Tufts University with a B.A. in economics and a minor in Arabic. He has researched topics related to the economics of development and water infrastructure. Patrick is also interested in exploring the complex relationships between the US and Arab countries through art and intercultural exchange.

**AJ Naddaff** graduated from Davidson College in 2019 with a B.A. in Arab studies and political science. He previously studied Arabic at the University of Jordan through Middlebury Language School and has also worked for Community Media Network in Jordan. AJ recently received recognition from the Overseas Press Club Foundation for his journalistic work, and he has been awarded a fellowship to spend winter break with the Associated Press in Beirut. He is interested in Islamic philosophy, philology, translation, exile, and migration in Arabic and French-speaking communities. After CASA, AJ hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern studies.

**Dylan Okabe-Jawdat** graduated from Columbia University in 2017 with a degree in history and political science. After completing his degree, Dylan completed a service fellowship through Princeton University, during which he taught English at a university in northern Thailand. He has worked and studied in Tunisia, Jordan, and Morocco through the National Security Language Initiative for Youth and the Critical Language Scholarship.

**Ashleigh Pearce** graduated with a B.A. in history from the University of Texas at Austin in 2019. Her research interests include the transnational intellectual history of the modern Middle East and North Africa, as well as Arabic language ideology. She is excited to return to Egypt with CASA before pursuing a Ph.D. in History.

**Nicolas Reeves** graduated from George Washington University in 2019 with a B.A. in international affairs and economics, and with a minor in Arabic. During his final year at GW, he completed a thesis on tribe-state relations in Jordan. By participating in CASA, Nicolas hopes to expand his cultural and linguistic horizons in Arabic by learning the Egyptian dialect, deepening his knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic, and developing his understanding of Egyptian culture and politics.

**Richard Solomon** completed his B.S. and a B.A. at Indiana University in 2018, where he studied international studies, political science, and philosophy. He completed the Arabic Flagship program in Meknes, Morocco, as a Boren Fellow in 2019. Richard has studied Arabic at Bethlehem University and Hebrew University, and with the National Security Language Initiative for Youth in Morocco. His research interests include bargaining theory, institutional analysis, and literature. After CASA, Richard plans to pursue a Ph.D. in political science or Middle Eastern studies.

**Ciara Taylor** graduated from the University of Southern California in 2019 with a B.A. in Middle East studies. She began studying Arabic in high school and has participated in immersion programs in Qatar and Jordan. After CASA, Ciara hopes to pursue a law degree and to work on humanitarian issues related to refugee and immigration challenges.