



CASA Fellows 2018-2019 in Cairo

Jermaine Butler is a current Master's student at Indiana University studying Arabic and Persian in the departments of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and Central Eurasian Studies. His research interests include ethnomusicology and Middle Eastern minorities, as well as Arabic and Persian pedagogy. He has previously studied Persian in Tajikistan through the Critical Language Scholarship program and studied Arabic in Morocco. Upon completing CASA, he plans to pursue his PhD in ethnomusicology.

Kevin Chao graduated from Georgetown University in 2018 with a B.A. in government and in Arabic language. His interests include medieval Islamic philosophy and the politics of the modern Middle East. He is excited to return to Cairo, where he has had many memorable experiences.

Molly Courtney is a PhD student at the University of California-Los Angeles in the department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. She specializes in modern Arabic literature and is particularly interested in recent Syrian and Iraqi fiction. Molly received her Bachelor's degree in Arabic studies and international studies from the University of Richmond in 2015 and her Master's degree in Near Eastern languages and cultures from the University of California-Los Angeles in 2017. After CASA, Molly plans to finish her PhD and to pursue a career teaching and conducting research in her field.

Amina Fahmy graduated from Brandeis University in 2017 with a B.A. in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies and in international studies. She studied Arabic for three years at Brandeis University, and for one semester in Rabat, Morocco. Amina worked as a paralegal in immigration law prior to beginning CASA and hopes to earn her PhD in Middle Eastern Studies.

Michaela (Micki) Gallien graduated from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 2017 with a B.S. in global health and a concentration in contemporary Arab studies. She currently works as a legal intake caseworker in Beirut with the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP). Micki briefly lived in Egypt in 2015 and is incredibly excited to return to Cairo.

Lorenzo Greenbaum graduated from Middlebury College in 2018 with a major in Arabic linguistics. He spent approximately one and a half years working and studying in Morocco, and he is interested in dialectal variation as well as in language dynamics, identity, and Islam in the Arab world. Following CASA, Lorenzo hopes to work in translation or a related field for a few years before pursuing a graduate degree.

Madeleine Hall completed her degree in Middle Eastern history at West Virginia University in 2017. She has studied Arabic through the Critical Language Scholarship Program in Oman and through the Boren Scholarship in Jordan. Madeleine spent 16 months in Amman and worked in Arabic to English translation before she became the Middle East Editor at *The Jordan Times*. Madeleine hopes to pursue research on Palestinian identity in Jordan.

Hajara Masood is an M.A. candidate in Near Eastern studies at New York University. She previously studied in Oman through the Critical Language Scholarship Program. Her research interests encompass Arabic sociolinguistics, Arab and Asian-American identity formation, and language pedagogy. After CASA, Hajara hopes to research the religious use of Modern Standard Arabic in the Arab World.

Seth McCombie majored in linguistics and Arabic at Brigham Young University. His research has focused on corpus linguistics and on developing tools for Arabic students, such as a corpus of Spoken Levantine Arabic. Seth most enjoys teaching Arabic 201. He plans to study applications of spoken corpora to Arabic pedagogy in graduate school.

Alejandra Padin-Dujon graduated from Yale University in 2018 with a B.A. in modern Middle East studies as well as in mathematics and philosophy. Alejandra previously studied Arabic as a Critical Language Scholarship Program and National Security Language Initiative for Youth fellow. Her primary research interest is in modern Arabic political thought.

Cara Piraino recently completed her M.A. in Middle Eastern studies at the University of Chicago. After the CASA program, she is interested in working as a translator or for a refugee resettlement organization in the U.S.

Taha Poonawala studied at Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah, the Arabic institute of the Dawoodi Bohra community. After completing the rigorous 11-year curriculum in 2015, he pursued an M.A. in Middle Eastern studies at the Graduate Center of The City University of New York. Taha is passionate about Arabic-English translation and Fatimid studies.