

AMARA LAKHOUS  
[amara.lakhous@yale.edu](mailto:amara.lakhous@yale.edu)  
[amara.lakhous@gmail.com](mailto:amara.lakhous@gmail.com)

---

## EDUCATION

- 2008            PhD, Scienze Umanistiche (Humanities)  
University of Rome, La Sapienza  
Doctoral dissertation entitled: **Vivere l'Islam in condizione di minoranza. Il caso dei musulmani immigrati nordafricani in Italia**  
(Living Islam as a Minority: The Case of North African Muslim Immigrants in Italy)
- 2002            BA, Scienze Umanistiche (Humanities)  
University of Rome, La Sapienza  
Thesis entitled: **I musulmani e le rappresentazioni della sessualità, malattia e salute. Il caso dei giovani musulmani immigrati a Roma.**  
(Muslims and the Representation of Sexuality, Disease, and Health: The Case of Young Muslim Immigrants in Rome)
- 1994            BA, Philosophy  
University of Algiers, Algeria

---

## TEACHING

- 2023-present    Professor in the practice in Italian, Yale University
- 2015-2022      Instructor, New York University (NYU)  
\* Courses taught:  
    ▪ Translingual Writing in Italian  
    ▪ Italy and Africa  
    ▪ Narrating the Mediterranean  
    ▪ Narrating the Immigrant Experience
- 2016            Visiting Professor, University of Connecticut (UConn)  
\* Courses taught:  
    ▪ Narrating the Arab Spring  
    ▪ Leonardo Sciascia: Truth and Memory in the Mediterranean Context (graduates)
- 2014-2015      Visiting Scholar, Institute for European Studies, Cornell University, USA
- 2012            Visiting Professor, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

---

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Scholarly Essays**

- 2020 "Roma, Fellini, and Me." In F. Burke, M. Waller, M. Gubareva (eds.), *A Companion to Federico Fellini* (pp. 433-434). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
- 2004 I musulmani e la conservazione della natura: un approccio antropologico (Muslims and natural conservation: an anthropological approach). *Affari Sociali Internazionali* 2 (2004): 59-72.

### **Prefaces and Introductions**

- 2014 *Shifting and Shaping a National Identity: Transnational Writers and Pluriculturalism in Italy Today*, Bullaro, G. R. and Benelli, E. (eds.), Troubador Publishing.
- 2012 *Dove ho lasciato la mia anima (Where I Left my Soul)* by Jérôme Ferrari (Italian translation of *Où j'ai laissé mon âme*, winner of Prix Goncourt 2012), Rome: Fazi.
- 2011 *Indovina con chi mi sposo (The Art of Losing)* by Alice Zeniter, Italian translation. Rome: Edizioni e/o.

### **Photography Collections**

- 2009 Jim Goldberg and Amara Lakhous, *Open Sea*, Göttingen: Steidl. Winner, 2007 Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation Award with text "Like Uprooted Trees" by Amara Lakhous, translated from Italian by Michael Reynolds.

### **Novels**

- 2021 *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio/Scontro di civiltà per un ascensore a piazza Vittorio*. New York, NY: Europa Editions.  
\* Bilingual edition (Italian and English) for instructional use at universities and schools.
- 2019 *Tir al-lil (The Night Bird)*, Milan: Al-Mutawassit Publishing (Arabic).  
\* Longlisted in the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, 2021.  
\* Published in Algeria by Hibr, Algiers  
\* English, Italian, and French translations in progress
- 2014 *La zingarata della verginella di via Ormea (The Prank of the Good Little Virgin)*, Rome: Edizioni e/o (Italian).  
\* Translated into English and French
- 2013 *Contesa per un maialino italianissimo a San Salvario (Dispute Over a Very Italian Piglet)*, Edizioni e/o (Italian).  
\* Translated into English and French.
- 2011 *Un pirata piccolo piccolo (A Very Small Pirate)*. Rome: Edizioni e/o.
- 2010 *Divorzio all'islamica a viale Marconi (Divorce, Islamic-Style)*. Rome, Italy: Edizioni e/o.  
\* Winner of Fenice Europa Literary Award  
\* Translated into French, English, German, and Japanese

- 2010 *Al-qāhira al-saghira (Little Cairo)*. Algiers: Iqtilāf and Beirut: ‘arabīa ‘olūm. (Arabic)
- 2006 *Scontro di civiltà per un ascensore a piazza Vittorio (Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio)*, Edizioni e/o.  
 \* Winner of the:
  - Flaiano Literary Award
  - Racalmare
  - Leonardo Sciascia Literary Award
  - Algerian Booksellers’ Literary Award
 \* Translated into French, English, German, Dutch, Spanish, Japanese, Danish, Berber and Farsi.  
 \* This novel was adapted into a movie by the Italian director Isotta Toso in 2010 and into many theater productions.
- 2006 *Kayfa tartha’ min al-thi’ba duun in ta’thik (How to Nurse from a She-Wolf without Being Bitten)*. Algiers: Iqtilāf and Beirut: ‘arabīa ‘olūm. (Arabic).
- 1999 *Le cimici e il pirata (Bedbugs and the Pirate)*. Rome: Arlem editore (Arabic/Italian bilingual edition).

### **Short Stories**

- 2019 “A Premeditated Pregnancy.” In: C. S. Blum & D. L. Contrada (eds.), *New Italian Voices* (pp. 119-124). New York, NY: Italica Press.  
 \*Originally published in *La Repubblica*, October 19, 2008.
- 2011 “Issa,” *World Literature Today*, July/Aug.
- 2009 “Dreaming of Marilyn’s Golden Hair,” *Wasafiri* (a quarterly British literary magazine covering international contemporary writing). Autumn 59.
- 2009 “Piazza Vittorio: A Cure for Homesickness,” Review: *Literature and Arts of The Americas*, Volume 42, number 1, May.

---

### **SCREENPLAYS, FILMS and DOCUMENTARIES**

- 2014-2016 *Taranta on the Road*, directed by Salvatore Alloca (co-writer of the screenplay).
- 2011 *The Father and the Foreigner*, directed by Ricky Tognazzi (collaboration on the screenplay).
- 2007-2008 Collaboration with "Barbarians" on Italian television Chanel La 7.  
 \* TV program dedicated to immigrants in Italy  
 \* Two documentaries; one on Moroccans and one on the Roma.
- 1997-1998 *Kalimat (Words)*, Italian radio program, co-founder and co-producer.  
 \* Concerning the Muslim Arab world and the Muslim minority in Italy.
-

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATION AND TALKS

### *Keynote Speaker (Selected)*

- June 1, 2017 Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC) Graduation and ESU Founder's Award Ceremony–Open Society Foundations (New York)
- May 15, 2016 Canadian Society for Italian Studies, Toronto
- March 16, 2016 NEMLA (Northeast Modern Language Association) Hartford, CN
- Feb 26, 2016 California Interdisciplinary Consortium of Italian Studies
- Nov 27, 2015 “Burn this Mediterranean? Harraga: A Non-Conformist Narrative”  
*The Idea of the Mediterranean* Conference, Stony Brook University (SUNY)

### *Invited Talks (Selected)*

- May 14, 2022 Exporting Leonardo Sciascia to the Arab World: Notes on The Night Bird. Columbia University Seminar in Modern Italian Studies.
- April 6, 2022 Languages Belong to Those who Care for Them, Department of Italian Studies, Yale.
- Nov 17, 2021 On Writing in Italian, Migration/Mobility, and belonging. A dialogue between Jhumpa Lahiri and Amara Lakhous. Columbia University.
- Oct 15, 2021 Colonialism Extended and Post-Independence Algeria. Trans-Med Fall school 2021. *New Narrations on Diversity*, Università Roma Tre.
- Sept 4, 2021 Presentation of the bilingual edition of *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio*. Italian American Studies Association
- May 4, 2021 Migration as a Metaphor. The University of California, Berkeley, Italian Studies
- April 22, 2021 Dickinson's Stellfox Literary Master Classes
- March 21, 2021 Rome Spotlight Series. Temple University of Rome
- March 23, 2021 “Writing Between Cultures: The Creative Adventure of Literary Writing in Italian.” The Center for European Studies and the Department of French and Italian. University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.
- Feb 17, 2021 “Race and Translation.” Fordham University, New York
- Oct 28, 2020 “Mainstream Identity Is a Golden Cage.” University of Guelph (Canada)
- Oct 10, 2020 Discourses on Black Italia. The Narration of the Nation: Storytelling through Art and Journalism. Florence NYU

- Nov 23, 2018 Ninth Leonardo Sciascia Colloquium. 5 idee per il “mio” Sciascia (5 ideas about “my” Sciascia). Università per stranieri di Perugia.
- Nov 2, 2017 Crisis of Mediterranean Migration. The Center for European and Mediterranean Studies, NYU.
- Feb 28, 2017 “Narrating the Mediterranean with Originality: My Journey as a Bilingual Writer in Arabic and Italian.” Annual Giamatti Lecture. Mount Holyoke University
- April 7, 2016 “Migrants and Refugees Seeking a New Life” Georgetown University, Washington DC
- May 15, 2016 “The challenge of diversity: Italy and its immigrants.” The University of Toronto, Toronto, CA
- Nov 22, 2015 Presentation of my work at Italian Studies. Rutgers University
- Oct 22, 2015 “Why Europe Is Failing at the Issue of Immigration.” Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- April 17, 2015 “The Legacy of Assia Djebar” Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- April 6, 2015 Migrating Words: Writer. Amara Lakhous on Cultural and Literary Translation. Montclair State University, NJ
- Jan 22, 2015 “Amara Lakhous: Writing across Borders and Languages” Columbia University, New York

---

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2007-2012 Columnist and chief editor of the Arabic section of [resetdoc.org](http://resetdoc.org) “Dialogues on Civilizations.” Biweekly web-magazine published in Arabic, English, French, German and Italian
- 2007-2010 Columnist for the Italian weekly magazine *Internazionale*
- 2008-2010 Columnist for the Italian daily newspaper *L’Unità*
- 2003-2006 Journalist at *Adnkronos*, Italian news agency
- 2003-2008 Foreign newspaper correspondent in Italy for Algerian newspaper *El-Khabar*
- 2002-2010 Columnist for the monthly *Nur*. Arabic language publication in Rome for the Arab community in Italy
- 2002-2010 Collaboration with Forum Intercultura of Caritas in Rome. Discussing immigration and Islam in primary and secondary schools
- 1996-1997 Collaboration with the Italian Council for Refugees. Translator and interpreter

2001-2003	Translator from Italian to Arabic for <i>Rai Med</i> (Italian public television channel transmitting in Arabic and Italian)
1998 - 2003	Interpreter from Arabic and French to Italian for the Association <i>Medici contro la tortura</i> (Doctors against torture) in supporting asylum seekers.
1996-2001	Social worker for the Center for Immigrants and Refugees in Rome at the association <i>La Casa dei Diritti Sociali</i> (House of Social Rights).
1994-1995	Journalist for Algerian National Radio, Channel 1.

---

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

2022- present	Associate Member of the University Seminar (Studies in Modern Italy-Columbia University)
2021- present	Italian American Studies Association
2002-2011	Foreign Press in Italy
2003-2016	Italian Journalist Association

---

## SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COMMITTEES

2021	Scientific committee of journal <i>Interdisciplinary Studies on the Mediterranean</i> (I. S. Med)
2010	Medfilm Festival International, Member of the Jury
2011	Salina Doc Fest (Festival Internazionale del documentario narrativo), Member of the Jury

---

## AWARDS, HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021	Onorificenza Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia (Honorary Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy)
2020	Honorary Degree of Humane Letters, The American University of Rome
2017	The Summer Reading 2017—Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio, Rutgers University, USA.
2015	Messenger Lectureship, Cornell University, USA
2014	New Student Reading Project—Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio. Cornell University, USA.
2014	Los Angeles Public Library Book of the Month, Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio, April.
2011	Agora for Dialogue Between Cultures International Award, Italy.

- 2011 Fenice Europa Literary Award, Italy.
- 2010 Koiné of Medfilm Festival International Award—Italy.
- 2009 International Program for Leaders, Department of State, USA.
- 2008 Algerians Booksellers Literary Award, Algeria.
- 2006 Raccalmare, Leonardo Sciascia Literary Award, Italy.
- 2006 Flaiano Literary Award, Italy.

---

## **LANGUAGES**

Berber (native)  
Arabic (native)  
French (near-native)  
Italian (near-native)  
English (fluent)  
Spanish (intermediate in understanding and reading)

---