**Sanaa SH Al Sarghali**

*Curriculum Vitae*

Associate Professor at An-Najah University-Nablus/Palestine

Place/DoB: Palestine, 2 Feb 1987 [s.alsarghali@najah.edu](mailto:s.alsarghali@najah.edu)

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D. in Law**, Lancaster University, Law School, 2015

* **Thesis:** "Once Powers are Concentrated, Are They Likely to Remain So? An Analysis of the Palestinian Basic Law in Light of Constitutionalism Theory"

Supervisors: Dr. James Summers and Dr. Amanda Cahill

Examiners: Professor Christina Murray and Professor Simon Mabon

Achievements: First woman to earn a Ph.D. in Constitutional Law in Palestine

Funding: An-Najah National University and Lancaster University

**LL.M. in International Trade and Commercial Law**, Durham University, 2010

* **Thesis:** "Freedom of Expression in Emerging States: A Case Study of Palestine"

Supervisor: Professor James Sweeney

Funding: An-Najah University, Nablus, Palestine

**B.A. in Law**, An-Najah National University, 2009

Rank: First out of 250 students

**Awards**

**2018 Recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award**, Lancaster University, UK.  
[Link to Award](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-awards/)

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**SELECTED ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

***Employment and Fellowships***

Current Position**Associate Professor of Constitutional Law**, An-Najah National University, Palestine.

December 2024 **Non-Resident Senior Fellow**, The Middle East Centre, Indiana-USA.

Sept. 2023 - June 2024 **Visiting Professor**, Sciences Po Law School, Paris.

The fall semester of the visiting fellowship was supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the French Consulate, where I was awarded the Senior Scientific High-Level Visiting Fellowship.

The spring semester was supported by a research grant from An-Najah National University for enhancing humanities research. During my stay, I taught a Master class for second-year students titled "Constitutional Challenges in the Contemporary Middle East." I also gave lectures on many of the undergraduate campuses of Sciences Po while working on my book.

July 2020-Present **Chair Holder**, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, An-Najah University.

I was nominated by An-Najah University and my nomination got officially approved by UNESCO in July 2020. The role involves running the chair, creating further research and collaboration with local and international institutions in the field listed.

July 2019-August 2019 **Kathleen Fitzpatrick Visiting Fellow**, Melbourne Law School.

During the visit, I conducted research on *The role of Palestinian women in constitutional drafting*. I was also invited by the Palestinian ambassador in Australia to give a talk at the Parliament in Canberra regarding the future constitutional design for the future state.

January 2019- Present **Director and Co-founder**, An-Najah Constitutional Studies Centre< <https://ncsc.najah.edu/en/> >.

The center is the first of its kind in Palestine and has launched various educational constitutional campaigns.

June 2018-August 2018 **Visiting Research Fellow, The Richardson Institute for Peace Studies, Lancaster University**

During my visit, I worked on sectarianism in the Middle East and constitutional identity. Particularly Bahrain, Lebanon and Tunisia.

Feb. 2016- Feb. 2024 **Assistant Professor** in Constitutional Law, An-Najah Law school.

May 2017-August 2017 **Visiting Research Fellow**, The Richardson Institute for Peace Studies, Lancaster University.

Sept. 2012 -Jan. 2015 **Associate Lecturer** of the English Legal System –Lancaster University.

Sept. 2010- Jan. 2011 **Associate Lecturer**, An-Najah National University, Nablus /Palestine.

**SELECTED PRACTICAL POSITIONS/EXPERIENCES**

June 2024 - June 2025 **Advisory Board Member**, Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO

Representing the Arab States. The Advisory Board of the Global Education Monitoring Report is composed of representatives from UN multilateral agencies, bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and networks, directors of UNESCO education institutes, and individuals from developing countries in all world regions with expertise in education issues. It meets once a year to provide guidance and feedback to the report team. Topics covered range from the outline of upcoming editions to the overall development of the report, future themes, and communication strategies.

May 2016-May 2024 **Chairwoman for Women Media and Development** (TAM)

An NGO for changing the stereotypical image of Palestinian women in the media.

February 2024  **Member of the Palestinian Curriculum National Council**

Appointed as an expert member of the Palestinian Curriculum National Council, which was formed to review the Palestinian curriculum from both educational and political standpoints.

July 2019 **Member of the Palestinian Drafting Committee**

Appointed as ninth member of the Palestinian Drafting Committee, appointed by the legislative arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

January 2019- December 2022 **Lead of the Constitutional Awareness Campaigns,**

**Palestine.**

The educational campaign was in partnership with Women Media and Development (TAM) and Miftah, focusing on constitutional principles. In September 2020, the ConTransNet team at Melbourne partnered with the Constitutional Studies Center at An-Najah University to host two expert sessions with members of the Palestinian Constitutional Court. The sessions were designed to support the judges in gathering comparative perspectives on the role of constitutional courts in other jurisdictions and their methodological approaches to fulfilling their constitutional mandates. The campaign also provided various lectures and training sessions to grassroots organizations and students in West Bank universities and Gaza.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

***Articles:***

-Sanaa Alsarghali &Nathan J.Brown “ Building Palestinian Constitution” in Comparative Constitutional Studies (In review).

-Sanaa Alsarghali, ‘Semi-Presidential System in a Semi-Constitution: Political Experiments in Palestine’ Middle East Law and Governance (MELG) forthcoming 2024.

-Sanaa Alsarghali ‘The ‘State of Emergency’ or the ‘State of Exception’? Bahrain and COVID19’ (2020) 10 (445-454) Bristol University Press.

-Sanaa Alsarghali, ‘Sectarianism and Constitutional Identity’ (2020) 18 (1) The Review of Faith & International Affairs, 97.

-Sanaa Alsarghali, ‘An (un)constitutional hangover? An analysis of the current Palestinian Basic Law in light of Palestine’s constitutional heritage’ (2017) 2 University of Illinois Law Review.

***Books:***

-Sanaa Alsarghali, Simon Mabon and Adel Rushaid (eds) *States of Exception or Exceptional States: Law, Politics and Giorgio Agamben in the Middle East* (I.B.Tauris, London, August 2022).

-Sanaa Alsarghali (2025) *Square Pegs and Round Holes: The Story of the Palestinian Political System*. (In writing).

-Sanaa Alsarghali, *Constitutional Topics Women Do Not Talk About Much* (Women Media and Development Publication November 2021) In Arabic.

***Book Chapters:***

-Sanaa Alsarghali, ‘Palestine and the State of Exception’ in States of Exception or Exceptional States: Law, Politics and Giorgio Agamben in the Middle East (Sanaa Alsarghali, Simon Mabon and Adel Rushaid, eds) (I.B.Tauris, London 2022).

***Reports and case studies:***

- Nathan J.Brown and Sanaa Alsarghali, (2024) ‘Why an Interim Constitution Could Help Palestine: The Domestic and International Payoffs’ <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2024/04/why-an-interim-constitution-could-help-palestine-the-domestic-and-international-payoffs?lang=en>

- Sanaa Alsarghali, (2024) ‘Palestinian Reforms: International Expectations vs. Local Realities’ in “ Governing Gaza after the War : Palestinian Debates” <https://carnegieendowment.org/2024/02/09/governing-gaza-after-war-palestinian-debates-pub-91605>

-Sanaa Alsarghali, Newar Bidar, Saja Majdobeh and Farah Attatrah (2022) ‘Palestine Report 2021’ in The I·CONnect-Clough Center 2021 Global Review of Constitutional Law. The I·CONnect-Clough Center 2021 Global Review of Constitutional Law (Richard Albert, David Landau, Pietro Faraguna, and Simon Drugda, eds) Published by the Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy.

-Sanaa Alsarghali, (2021) ‘Palestine Report 2020’ in The I·CONnect-Clough Center 2020 Global Review of Constitutional Law (October 14, 2021). The I·CONnect-Clough Center 2020 Global Review of Constitutional Law. ISBN: 978-0-692-15916-3 (Richard Albert, David Landau, Pietro Faraguna, and Simon Drugda, eds) Published by the Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy.

- Asem Khalil & Sanaa Alsarghali (2019), ‘Palestine Report 2019’, The 2019 I·CONnectClough Center Global Review of Constitutional Law. (Richard Albert, David Landau, Pietro Faraguna, and Simon Drugda, eds) Published by the Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy.

***Conference/workshop proceedings:***

-Sanaa Alsarghali (2019) The Constitution We Desire? A Women’s Perspective. Constitutional Principles in Palestine. Conference paper. <http://www.miftah.org/Publications/Books/Constitutional_Priniciples_in_Palestine_wrokshop_proceedings_June_2019_English.pdf>

***Academic blogs:***

***-*** Sanaa Alsarghali, ‘Navigating Uncertainty: Reforming Palestinian Institutions Through Constitutional Reform Amid War’, ConstitutionNet, International IDEA, 12 July 2024, https://constitutionnet.org/news/voices/navigating-uncertainty-reforming-palestinian-institutions

-Sanaa Alsarghali, “The dissolution of the Palestinian Legislative Council by the Palestinian Constitutional Court: a missed opportunity for reform” IACL-AIDC Blog (1 July 2021) <https://blog-iacl-aidc.org/menaregion/1-7-21the-dissolution-of-the-palestinian-legislativecouncil>.

-Sanaa Alsarghali, (2021) ‘Reflections on the Palestinian Identity’ (Academic Blog) <https://www.sepad.org.uk/announcement/reflections-on-the-palestinian-identity>.

-Sanaa Alsarghali, ‘A State of Emergency’ or the ‘State of Exception’? Bahrain and Covid-19’ (Academic Blog) <https://globaldiscourseblog.co.uk/2020/12/14/a-state-of-emergency-or-thestate-of-exception-bahrain-and-covid-19>

***Articles on SSRN:***

- Alsarghali, Sanaa, فلسطين وحالة الاستثناء: حل أم حاجة لابد منها؟ (Palestine and the State of Exception) (March 31, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3565092> or [http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3565092](https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3565092)

-Alsarghali, Sanaa, Interpreting Palestine’s Basic Law: A Question of History and Gender Sensitivity (July 29, 2019). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3477360> or [http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3477360](https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3477360)

**SELECTED CONFERENCES**

**March 2024 Invited Speaker**, CSW-United Nations Headquarters, New York

February 2024 **Key Speaker** as UNESCO Chair Holder Career Conference, Manchester University, UK.

**January 2024 Invited Guest Speaker** on Palestinian Government Reform HIAS, Hamburg, Germany.

**November 2023 Keynote speaker,** State of Exception in the Middle East-Book Launch, Sciences Po, Paris.

**December 2023 Speaker and Organizer**, SEPAD Annual Conference, Lancaster University, UK.

**Key Speaker**, Public Lecture on Reforming the Palestinian Government, Science Po-Menton.

**September 2023 Key Speaker**, Women Judges from Arab Countries Gather at IU for First-of-its-Kind Conference with Indiana University.

**March 2023 Invited Speaker,** CSW-United Nations Headquarters, New York.

**December 2022 Speaker and Co-Organizer**, SEPAD Annual Conference, Lancaster.

December 2022 **Panel key Speaker**, World Constitutional Law Congress, J Johannesburg, Paper Presenter, South Africa.

**November 2022 Invited Speaker** by the Palestinian Embassy, "Does Palestine Need a Constitution?" Kenya.

**May 2022 Organizer,** "Art: An Ongoing Culture," UNESCO Chair Workshop, An-Najah National University.

**December 2021 Invited Speaker,** "Constitutional Identity in MENA," SEPAD Annual Conference, UK.

**January 2021 Speaker,** "States of Emergency in the MENA Region," The Global Summit Conference, University of Texas in Austin, USA.

**May 2020 Organizer and Speaker,** "What is Left of the Basic Law?" Constitutional Studies Center Webinar, Palestine.

**April 2020 Speaker,** Sectarianism Webinar, Richardson Institute, Lancaster, UK

**September 2019 Speaker,** Sectarianism Workshop, London, UK.

**March 2019 Speaker,** Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations, New York, USA.

**July 2018 Co-organizer**, State of Exception Workshop, Lancaster, UK.

**June 2018 Paper Presenter,** World Constitutional Law Congress, Seoul, South Korea.

**May 2018 Main Organizer,** Second Constitutional Law Conference in Palestine, An-Najah University, Palestine.

**July 2017 Co-organizer and Presenter,** State of Exception Conference, Lancaster University, UK.

**May 2017 Organizer and Presenter,** Constitutional Building Conference, An-Najah University, Palestine.

**April 2016 Paper Presenter,** International Conference on "Constitutional History: Comparative Perspectives," Chicago, USA.

**July 2014 Paper Presenter,** Eleventh Annual International Conference on Law, Athens, Greece.

**June 2014 Paper presenter,** WG Hart Legal Workshop on Legal Education and Training and the Professions, IALS, London.

**June 2014 Paper Presenter,** World Congress, "Constitutions and Illiberal Democracies," Oslo University, Norway.

**October 2013 Paper Presenter**, Research Conference, Liverpool, UK.

**April 2013 Organizer,** 5 Broken Cameras Workshop, Lancaster University, UK.

**Funding**

**2023** Senior Scientific High-Level Visiting Fellowship (SSHN), Consulate General of France in Jerusalem

**2022** UNESCO Chair Workshop: Art an On-going Mirror of Culture, Fund from Paltel Company ($6,000)

**2020** Constitutional Awareness Fund with Women Media and Development (TAM) ($28,000)

**2018** Zamalah Fund from Palestine National Bank for Early Career Researchers (£3,000)

**2017** Project Coordinator at An-Najah for Rutherford Fund, Northumbria University, UK (£145,000)

Fund from the Swedish Government through TAM NGO for Strengthening Female Roles in Student Unions at An-Najah University (€8,000)

Richardson Institute and Erasmus Fund Recipient (£4,000)

**Professional Affiliations**

Member of the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL)

Fellow at SEPAD: Sectarianism, Proxies & De-sectarianisation Project

**Languages**

Arabic (native)

English (fluent)

French (beginner)

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**Referees**

**Professor** Marie-Joelle Zahar

**[marie-joelle.zahar@umontreal.ca](mailto:marie-joelle.zahar@umontreal.ca)**

**Professor Susan Williams**

[**shwillia@indiana.edu**](mailto:shwillia@indiana.edu)

**Professor** Adrienne Stone

[**a.stone@unimelb.edu.au**](mailto:a.stone@unimelb.edu.au)

**Professor** Simon Mabon

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