



Guide to the Refugee Lives Oral History Project, 2015-2022

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Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	3
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	5
Interviews	5
Interviews	6
Interviews	8
Interviews	10
Interviews	11
Interviews	13

Summary

Collection Title:

Refugee Lives Oral History Project, 2015-2022

Creator:

Kalow, Nancy; Duke University. Center for Documentary Studies

Abstract:

Oral histories, transcriptions, videos, and fieldnotes created by students in Doc Studies 321S-01/ AMES 320S at Duke University/Center for Documentary Studies, 2015-2022. The courses were facilitated by CDS Faculty member Nancy Kalow, AMES faculty member miriam cooke, and AMES faculty member Maha Houssami.

Extent:

834 Files (Electronic documents, including Microsoft Word files, JPG files, MP3 files, Apple MOV files, MP4 files, M4A files, and Adobe PDF files.)
31 Gigabytes

Language:

Materials in English, Arabic, Aramaic.

Collection ID:

RL.11095

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1z368>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Refugee Lives Oral History Project, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Forty oral history interviews created by students in the Duke University course AMES 320S, in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, led by instructors Nancy Kalow, Maha Houssami, and Miriam Cooke. Interviewees included refugees from Iraq, Sudan, and Syria. Interviews were conducted in person and via Skype. Interviews were in English or translated to English, and

students transcribed the audio and wrote fieldnotes. The public-facing edited versions (approximately four minutes each) of the interviews were posted on Duke Service-Learning's Arabic Communities website.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Chronological by year, alphabetical by name.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Refugee Lives Oral History Project was received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022.

Processing Information

Processed by Craig Breaden, December 2015, February 2018, May 2020, March 2022.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2015-0194 2018-0083, 2022-0029, 2023-0076.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Audiovisual materials
- Oral histories
- Refugees -- Sudan
- Refugees -- Iraq
- Refugees -- Syria

Collection Inventory

Interviews, 2015

Scope and Contents

For the spring semester 2015, Nancy Kalow, Maha Houssami, and miriam cooke were awarded an Innovation & Entrepreneurship Course Innovation Grant for AMES 320S: Refugee Lives. In this course, eleven undergraduates conducted oral history interviews with local refugee families from Iraq and Sudan. The AMES 320S final documentary projects were posted on Duke's Languages in Durham website and shared during Middle East Refugee Awareness Week in April 2015 that was dedicated to the life and work of Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu Salha and Razan Abu Salha, the three Muslim students murdered in Chapel Hill in February 2015.

Adam, Saad Omar (Sudan), 2015 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0001 > E-folder Adam, Saad Omar

Digital Object: [Adam, Saad Omar \(Sudan\), 2015](#)

Daud, Bakhit Fadul (Sudan), 2015 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0001 > E-folder Daud, Bakhit Fadul
Digital Object: Daud, Bakhit Fadul (Sudan), 2015	
Ghofran (Iraq), 2015 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0001 > E-folder Ghofran
Digital Object: Ghofran (Iraq), 2015	
Laith (Iraq), 2015 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0001 > E-folder Laith
Digital Object: Laith (Iraq), 2015	
Sufyaan (Iraq), 2015 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0001 > E-folder Sufyaan
Digital Object: Sufyaan (Iraq), 2015	
Yakob, Mohamed (Sudan), 2015 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0001 > E-folder Yakob, Mohamed
Digital Object: Yakob, Mohamed (Sudan), 2015	
Course materials, 2015 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0001 > E-folder Course materials
Digital Object: Course materials, 2015	

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Interviews, 2016

Scope and Contents

In the Spring 2016 AMES 320S: Refugee Lives course, students carried out interviews with refugees and asylees from Syria, Sudan, and Iraq. Syrian refugees, Ghoson and Ammar, are residing in Paris and Syrian refugee Sanaa Domat resides in Montreal. Sudanese refugee Hamid Bejeen resides in North Carolina. Iraqi refugees Fanar Al-Badwani, Suhama Ali (known as Um Mustafa), Hanaa Aljashamy (known as Um Bashir), Sarah Bashi, Suzan Gwarges, Sahlam Hasan, and Jaffar Lani reside in North Carolina. Iraqi asylee Abdul Sattar Jawad resides in North Carolina. Interviews with Sanaa Domat, Ghoson, and Ammar were conducted by Skype or telephone. The other interviews were recorded in person. The Skype interview with Ghoson was done in Arabic by Refugee Lives instructor Maha Houssami during class; English interpretation by Maha. The

interview with Hamid Bejeen was done in Arabic and was partially translated by the student interviewers. The other eight interviews were in English. Some of these materials appear in public-facing edited versions on Duke Service-Learning's Arabic Communities website.

Al-Badwani, Fanar (Iraq), 2016 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Al-Badwani, Fanar

Digital Object: [Al-Badwani, Fanar \(Iraq\), 2016](#)

Ali, Suhama (Um Mustafa) (Iraq), 2016 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Ali, Suhama (Um Mustafa)

Digital Object: [Ali, Suhama \(Um Mustafa\) \(Iraq\), 2016](#)

Aljashamy, Hanaa (Um Bashar) (Iraq), 2016 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Aljashamy, Hanaa (Um Bashar)

Digital Object: [Aljashamy, Hanaa \(Um Bashar\) \(Iraq\), 2016](#)

Ammar (Syria), 2016 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Ammar

Digital Object: [Ammar \(Syria\), 2016](#)

Bashi, Sarah (Iraq), 2016 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Bashi, Sarah

Digital Object: [Bashi, Sarah \(Iraq\), 2016](#)

Bejeen, Hamid (Sudan), 2016 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Bejeen, Hamid

Digital Object: [Bejeen, Hamid \(Sudan\), 2016](#)

Domat, Sanaa (Syria), 2016 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Domat, Sanaa

Digital Object: [Domat, Sanaa \(Syria\), 2016](#)

Ghpson (Syria), 2016 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Ghpson
Digital Object: Ghpson (Syria), 2016	
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Gwarges, Suzan (Iraq), 2016 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Gwarges, Suzan
Digital Object: Gwarges, Suzan (Iraq), 2016	
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Hasan, Sahlam (Iraq), 2016 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Hasan, Sahlam
Digital Object: Hasan, Sahlam (Iraq), 2016	
<hr/>	
Jawad, Abdul Sattar (Iraq), 2016 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Jawad, Abdul Sattar
Digital Object: Jawad, Abdul Sattar (Iraq), 2016	
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Lani, Jaffar (Iraq), 2016 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0002 > E-folder Lani, Jaffar
Digital Object: Lani, Jaffar (Iraq), 2016	
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Course materials, 2016 (online item available)	Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0001 > E-folder Course materials
Digital Object: Course materials, 2016	

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Interviews, 2017

Scope and Contents

In the Spring 2017 AMES 320S: Refugee Lives course, eighteen undergraduates conducted oral history interviews via Skype with Syrian refugees now residing in Canada, Brazil, Lebanon, Germany, and Italy. To support undergraduate documentary research, Nancy Kalow and Maha Houssami were awarded two grants: a David Paletz Innovative Teaching award and an award from the Vice Provost for the Arts. The AMES 320S final documentary projects were posted on Duke's Languages in Durham website: <https://sites.duke.edu/arabiccommunities/stories/syria/>. The final projects consist of a four-minute

audio documentary, edited from the three long-form oral history interviews, along with an image chosen by the refugee interview partner, a transcript of the four-minute piece, and a brief written introduction by the student team who carried out the interviews. All interviews were conducted in English.

Alaktaa, Saeed (Syria), 2017 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0003 > E-folder Alaktaa, Saeed

Digital Object: [Alaktaa, Saeed \(Syria\), 2017](#)

Alaziz, Ghayath Abd (Syria), 2017 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0003 > E-folder Alaziz, Ghayath Abd

Digital Object: [Alaziz, Ghayath Abd \(Syria\), 2017](#)

K (Syria), 2017 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0003 > E-folder K

Digital Object: [K \(Syria\), 2017](#)

Kouja, Abdulkader (Syria), 2017 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0003 > E-folder Kouja, Abdulkader

Digital Object: [Kouja, Abdulkader \(Syria\), 2017](#)

Omr, Carmen (Syria), 2017 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0003 > E-folder Omr, Carmen

Digital Object: [Omr, Carmen \(Syria\), 2017](#)

Shanko, Gueya (Syria), 2017 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0003 > E-folder Shanko, Gueya

Digital Object: [Shanko, Gueya \(Syria\), 2017](#)

Course materials, 2017 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0003 > E-folder Course materials

Digital Object: [Course materials, 2017](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Interviews, 2018

Scope and Contents

For the Spring 2018 AMES 320S: Refugee Lives class, students worked in groups of two and three to carry out oral history interviews with refugees from Syria and Iraq. The Syrian refugees were residing in Erbil (Iraq), Greece, and Germany, and the Iraqi refugee was currently residing in Turkey. Interviews were conducted by Skype and recorded on wav files. Two interviews of approximately one hour duration were recorded over the semesters with each refugee. Interviews were in English, and students transcribed the audio and wrote fieldnotes. Two of the interviewees wished to be known by their first name only (Mahmoud) or by an initial (T). The interviews were open-ended and relationship-based, with the refugee directing the conversation if they chose to. Students avoided topics that the refugee wanted to avoid, such as T not wanting to share her story of why she had to leave Iraq. The public-facing edited versions (approximately four minutes each) of the interviews were posted on Duke Service-Learning's Arabic Communities website.

Ahmed, Hadiya (Syria), 2018 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0004 > E-folder Ahmed, Hadiya

Digital Object: [Ahmed, Hadiya \(Syria\), 2018](#)

Khaled, Shadi (Syria), 2018 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0004 > E-folder Khaled, Shadi

Digital Object: [Khaled, Shadi \(Syria\), 2018](#)

Mahmoud (Syria), 2018 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0004 > E-folder Mahmoud

Digital Object: [Mahmoud \(Syria\), 2018](#)

T (Iraq), 2018 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0004 > E-folder T

Digital Object: [T \(Iraq\), 2018](#)

Zedin, Jan (Syria), 2018 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0004 > E-folder Zedin, Jan

Digital Object: [Zedin, Jan \(Syria\), 2018](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Interviews, 2021

Scope and Contents

Sixteen Duke students worked in pairs to carry out oral history interviews with refugees from Syria and Sudan. The Syrian refugees are currently residing in Italy, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Jordan, Canada, and Turkey. The Sudanese refugee is currently residing in Jordan. Interviews were conducted by Skype and recorded on wav files. Two interviews of approximately one hour duration were recorded over the semester with each refugee. Interviews were in English. Students transcribed the audio, wrote fieldnotes, and edited a three-minute audio piece from each full-length interview. At the end of the semester, students edited a four-minute final edit for public presentation. The refugees and the students signed release forms. The interviews were as open-ended and relationship-based as possible, with the refugee directing the conversation if they chose to. The four-minute public-facing final edits are posted on Duke Service-Learning's Arabic Communities website.

Ahmed, Hadiya (Syria), 2021 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0005 > E-folder Ahmed, Hadiya

Digital Object: [Ahmed, Hadiya \(Syria\), 2021](#)

Scope and Contents

Hadiya Ahmed is a Syrian Refugee and a wife and mother of two currently living in a refugee camp in the Netherlands.

Ali Adam, Faisal Babiker (Sudan), 2021 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0005 > E-folder Ali Adam, Faisal Babiker

Digital Object: [Ali Adam, Faisal Babiker \(Sudan\), 2021](#)

Scope and Contents

Faisal is a refugee from Darfur, a region in South Sudan.

Alkasseer, Noor (Syria), 2021 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0005 > E-folder Alkasseer, Noor

Digital Object: [Alkasseer, Noor \(Syria\), 2021](#)

Scope and Contents

Noor Alkasseer is a 30 year old Arabic teacher from Salamiyah, Syria currently living in Milan, Italy with her husband.

al Massalmeh, Kinda (Syria), 2021 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0005 > E-folder AlMassalmeh, Kinda

Digital Object: [al Massalmeh, Kinda \(Syria\), 2021](#)

Scope and Contents

Kinda al Massalmeh is a Syrian refugee currently living in Amman, the capital of Jordan.

al Merstany, Mona (Syria), 2021 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0005 > E-folder Almerstany, Mona

Digital Object: [al Merstany, Mona \(Syria\), 2021](#)

Scope and Contents

Mona al Merstany is a 26-year-old artist, musician, and activist from Damascus, Syria who is currently living in Montreal, Canada with her husband.

Khouli, George (Syria), 2021 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0005 > E-folder Khouli, George

Digital Object: [Khouli, George \(Syria\), 2021](#)

Scope and Contents

George Khouli is a Syrian refugee who currently lives in Beirut, Lebanon.

Razzuk, Faraj (Syria), 2021 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0005 > E-folder Razzuk, Faraj

Digital Object: [Razzuk, Faraj \(Syria\), 2021](#)

Scope and Contents

Faraj Razzuk is from Salamiyah, a city in the Homs Province of Western Syria.

Zakanda, Tarek (Syria), 2021 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0005 > E-folder Zakanda, Tarek

Digital Object: [Zakanda, Tarek \(Syria\), 2021](#)

Scope and Contents

Tarek Zakanda works as an Arabic tutor for NaTakallam language service in Istanbul, Turkey.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Interviews, 2022

Scope and Contents

In the fall semester 2022, students in AMES 106FS: Documenting the Middle East carried out oral history projects with community partners who are refugees from Syria and Yemen. The Syrian refugees are currently residing in Canada and the Netherlands. The Yemeni refugee is currently residing in Ethiopia. Interviews were conducted by Skype. Two interviews of approximately one hour duration were recorded over the semester with each refugee. Interviews were in English. Students transcribed the audio, wrote fieldnotes, and edited a three-minute audio piece from each full-length interview. At the end of the semester, students edited a four-minute final edit for public presentation. The community partner and the student signed release forms. The interviews were open-ended and relationship-based, with the refugee directing the conversation if they chose to. The four-minute public-facing final edits are posted on Duke Service-Learning's Arabic Communities website. Duke Service-Learning, the Focus Program, the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and the Center for Documentary Studies supported these projects.

al Merstany, Mona (Syria), 2022 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0006 > E-folder Almerstany, Mona

Digital Object: [al Merstany, Mona \(Syria\), 2022](#)

Hazizi, Abdul Aziz (Yemen), 2022 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0006 > E-folder Hazizi, Abdul Aziz

Digital Object: [Hazizi, Abdul Aziz \(Yemen\), 2022](#)

Khaled, Shadi (Syria), 2022 (online item available)

Digital-materials RL11095-SET-0006 > E-folder Khaled, Shadi

Digital Object: [Khaled, Shadi \(Syria\), 2022](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)