



# Guide to the miriam cooke papers, 1981-2017

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This collection guide was produced in **2016**.

This PDF version was created on **April 14, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Duke University

Durham 27708

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

miriam cooke papers, 1981-2017

**Creator:**

cooke, miriam

**Abstract:**

After joining the faculty at Duke in the 1980s, miriam cooke served as a professor in the Department of Asian and African Languages and Literature (now Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies), was founding director of the Duke University Middle East Studies Center, and established an exchange program between Duke and Cadi Ayaad University in Morocco. The miriam cooke papers include materials documenting the faculty exchange program as well as other projects related to Islam and the Middle East, such as the Duke Islamic Center (DISC) and a draft of the book *Mediterranean Passages: Readings from Dido to Derrida* (2008). The papers also include materials about Duke faculty operations, particularly within the Department of Asian and African Languages and Literature (AALL), and correspondence.

**Extent:**

2 Linear Feet  
14.8 Gigabytes

**Language:**

Materials are in English, French, and Arabic.

**Collection ID:**

UA.29.02.0257

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1h121>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], miriam cooke papers, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

This collection documents the professional and administrative activities of miriam cooke, professor in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (formerly AALL, Asian and African Languages and Literature) of the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences.

Professional activities documented include the development of a faculty exchange program between Duke and Cadi Ayaad University in Marrakesh, Morocco, beginning with a festival of Moroccan culture held at Duke in 1985. Several files contain correspondence with the United States Information Agency (USIA), which provided grant funding for the program, and journals from faculty members in the United States and Morocco detailing their exchange experiences. Other files in this series contain information relating the Center for Study of Muslim Networks, which formally developed into the Duke Islamic Center (DISC) in 2006; and a project on War and Gender conducted in the early 1990s with Duke University History professor Alex Roland. Also includes materials related to events like the MESA conference and the faculty and student exchange program between Duke University and Universite de Tunis I.

Administrative activities documented focus on cooke's role as a Duke professor. Files include records about faculty and courses in the AALL Department; correspondence with three deans of Arts and Sciences at Duke: Richard White, Hans Hillerbrand, and Malcolm Gillis; and correspondence with other Duke administrators such as Richard Brodhead and Nannerl Keohane. Also includes general correspondence from faculty, students, and colleagues. Some materials relate to cooke's time on committees monitoring the interests of women faculty and non-regular faculty at Duke.

Publications files include correspondence with members of the Mediterranean Study Committee, information about the Oceans Connect project between Duke and Middle Eastern faculty, and draft chapters for the book *Mediterranean Passages: Readings from Dido to Derrida*.

Materials are largely textual, comprising correspondence, minutes and agendas, faculty travel journals, clippings, publications, and related printed matter. VHS tapes, a few photographs, and optical discs are also in the collection.

### Biographical/Historical

miriam cooke was born in Colorado on August 30, 1948. (cooke uses lowercase letters in her name.) She received her M.A. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1971; and her D.Phil. from the University of Oxford, U.K., in 1980. From 1981-1987, she was assistant professor at the Duke Center for

International Studies. In 1987, she founded Duke's Department of Asian and African Languages and Literature (AALL), later known as the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. She was chair of AALL from 1987-1999 and from 2001-2004, teaching classes in Arabic language, literature, and culture. Beginning in 1985, miriam cooke was instrumental in establishing an exchange program between faculty at Duke and at Cadi Ayaad University in Marrakesh, Morocco. She was a Mellon Fellow at the Gender and War Institute at Dartmouth College (1990) and was awarded two Fulbright Scholarships, which allowed her to conduct research in Lebanon and Yemen (1982) and in Syria (1995-1996). In 2007, she was founding director of the Duke University Middle East Studies Center. In 1983, cooke married Bruce Lawrence, fellow Duke professor and founding director of the Duke Islamic Center. She served on the executive committee of Duke's Middle East Studies Center, and from 2012 to 2017, she was the Braxton Craven Distinguished Professor of Arab Cultures at Duke University. cooke retired as emerita faculty in 2017.

### Bibliography

The Anatomy of an Egyptian Intellectual: Yahya Haqqi Washington, D.C.: Three Continents Press, 1984

Good Morning! (translation and edition of stories by Yahya Haqqi). Washington, D.C.: Three Continents Press, 1987

War's Other Voices: Women Writers on the Lebanese Civil War, London/New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988

Opening the Gates: A Century of Arab Feminist Writing (co-edited with Margot Badran), London: Virago/ Indiana University Press, 1990

Gendering War Talk (co-edited with Angela Woollacott), Princeton University Press, 1993

Blood into Ink: 20th Century South Asian and Middle Eastern Women Write War (co-edited with Roshni Rustomji-Kerns), Westview Press, 1994

Women and the War Story, University of California Press 1997

Hayati, My Life: A Novel, Syracuse University Press 2000

Women Claim Islam: Creating Islamic Feminism Through Literature, New York: Routledge 2001

Muslim Networks. From Hajj to Hip Hop (with Bruce Lawrence), UNC Press 2005

Dissident Syria: Making Oppositional Arts Official, Duke University Press 2007

Mediterranean Passages from Delos to Derrida (with Grant Parker & Erdag Goknar), UNC Press 2008

Nazira Zeineddine: Biography of an Islamic Feminist Pioneer, Oxford: Oneworld Press (Makers of the Muslim World Series) 2010

Tribal Modern: Branding New Nations in the Arab Gulf, Berkeley: University of California Press 2014

Dancing in Damascus: Creativity, Resilience and the Syrian Revolution, NY: Routledge 2017

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## Arrangement

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Organized into the following series: Professional Materials, Administrative Materials, and Publications.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

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[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### Access Restrictions

Access restricted. Collection contains Duke University administrative materials. For a period of twenty-five years from the origin of the material, permission in writing from the office of origin and the University Archivist is required for use of administrative records. After twenty-five years, records that have been

processed may be consulted with the permission of the University Archivist. Contact Research Services for more information.

Access restricted. Some materials in this collection are personnel records. Records pertaining to employment where individuals are identified are closed for 70 years.

Access restricted. Some materials in this collection include student records. In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended, Duke University permits students to inspect their education records and limits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records. Contact Research Services for more information.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are original audiovisual items that need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are digitized audiovisual materials that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

### **Acquisition Information**

The miriam cooke papers were received by the Duke University Archives as a gift from miriam cooke in 2016, 2023, and 2026.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Erin Ryan, July 2016.

Accessions described in this collection guide: UA2016.0016, UA2023.0050, UA2026.0004

Accession UA2023.0050 added and finding aid updated by April Blevins, September 2023

Accession UA2026.0004 added and finding aid updated by April Blevins, 2026 April

### **Use Restrictions**

Copyright for Official University records is held by Duke University; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Material

[Bruce Lawrence Papers, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.](#)

[Morocco at Duke scrapbook, 1985 Sept., Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.](#)

[Miriam Cooke papers, Ms. 2014.019, Brown University Library.](#)

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## Names and Subjects

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- Asian languages -- Study and teaching
- Islamic countries -- Study and teaching
- Middle East -- Study and teaching -- United States
- Morocco -- Study and teaching
- Morocco -- Description and travel
- Audiovisual materials
- electronic records (digital records)
- cooke, miriam
- Duke University -- Faculty
- Duke Islamic Studies Center
- Duke University. Department of Asian and African Languages and Literature
- Duke University. Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

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## Collection Inventory

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### Professional Materials, 1984-2017

#### Access Restrictions:

Access restricted. Some materials include student records. In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended, Duke University permits students to inspect their education records and limits

the disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records. Contact Research Services for more information.

Access note. Some materials in this series are electronic records that need to be reformatted. Access copies of electronic records require special equipment. Contact Research Services for access.

Access note. Some materials are digitized audiovisual materials that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Morocco Festival: Morocco Summer Program, 1984-1985	Box 1
Morocco Festival: Association of Grand Atlas Telexes, 1985	Box 1
Morocco Festival, 1985-1987	Box 1
Morocco Festival: Press Coverage, 1985	Box 1
Morocco Festival: Morocco at Duke, circa 1985	Box 2 > Video-cassette UA2902020257-VHS-0001 Digital-materials UA2902057- SET-VHS0001 > Video-file UA2902057-VHS-0001.mkv
USIA (United States Information Agency) Proposal, 1986-1990	Box 1
Moroccan Committee, 1986-1997	Box 1
Moroccan Committee: Cadi Ayaad Conference, 1992-1993	Box 1
USIA Periodical Reports, 1987-1988	Box 1
USIA Periodical Reports, 1987-1989	Box 1
USIA Periodical Reports, 1989-1990	Box 1
USIA Periodical Reports, 1990-1991	Box 1
USIA Periodical Reports, 1991-1994	Box 1
War and Gender Project with Alex Roland, 1990-1994	Box 1

Islam in S. Asia (NYU Course on CBS), 1980	Box 3 > Video-cassette UA29020257-VHS-0002
Lecture at Al Jasrah Culture & Social Club (in Arabic), undated	Box 3 > Optical-disc UA29020257-OP-0001
"The World," Prof. Bruce Lawrence, bin Laden writings, 2005 September 9	Box 3 > Optical-disc UA29020257-OP-0003
Anton Volskyi; CBN Scott Ross; Class Discussion; CNN on Bin Laden; Enemy Uncovered; Is God in Cyberspace?; Islam Past Glories & Present; Moracco@Duke; North Carolina Now Interview; Religion & Ethics Weeks; ThinkTank Islam, undated	Box 3 > Optical-disc UA29020257-OP-0004
12th Night; Cooke Nation, Identities Culture; Women Writers 1 & 2, undated	Box 3 > Optical-disc UA29020257-OP-0005
God's Resgination (Play); Living History; Miriam Cooke NTSC; Today's Show on Islam, undated	Box 3 > Optical-disc UA29020257-OP-0006
Anton Volskyi; CBN Scott Ross; Class Discussion; CNN on Bin Laden, undated	Box 3 > Optical-disc UA29020257-OP-0007
Invitation and brochures, 1994, 2008	Box 3
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes invitation to attend the opening of Museum of Islamic Art and brochures for Genocide: Memories of Sarajevo event.	
Morocco at Duke: Moroccan Cultural Festival, 1985 September 9-13	Box 3
miriam cooke statement of activities and bios, 1983-1993	Box 3
Ferida Benlyazid visit, 1989	Box 3
"Identity" Conference, 1998 March	Box 3

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Tunisia, 1997-1998	Box 3
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**Scope and Contents**

Includes correspondence, brochures, and publications related to faculty and student exchanges between Duke and Universite Tunis I.

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MESA: Women and Human Rights Plenary, 1992-1993	Box 3
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Nawal El-Saadawi, 1993-2021	Box 3
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Sidra Ezrahi, 2003	Box 3
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Hind Al-Thani, 2005	Box 1
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**Access Restrictions:**

FERPA information restricted until approximately 2075.

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Dissident Subjects: A Conference in Honor of miriam cooke, poster, 2017	Oversize-folder 1
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Summer program photo and inscriptions, 2004	Oversize-folder 1
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**Scope and Contents**

Photo and inscriptions of participants of a 2004 summer program led by miriam cooke and Bruce Lawrence following the footsteps of Leo Africanus (character in novel by Amin Maalouf) in Europe and North Africa.

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## **Administrative Materials, 1981-2013**

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Access restricted. Some materials are personnel records. Records, such as search committee files or others pertaining to employment where individuals are identified, are closed for 70 years.

Access restricted. Some materials include student records. In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended, Duke University permits students to inspect their education records and limits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records. Contact Research Services for more information.

Access note. Some materials in this series are electronic records that need to be reformatted. Access copies of electronic records require special equipment. Contact Research Services for access.

DISC - Originally "Center for Study of Muslim Networks", 2000-2001 Box 1

**Access Restrictions:**

Administrative records restricted until 2026

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DISC - Originally "Center for Study of Muslim Networks": Consortium Meeting Oct. 4-5, 2002, 2001-2002 Box 1

**Access Restrictions:**

Administrative records restricted until 2027

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DISC - Originally "Center for Study of Muslim Networks": Consortium Meeting, January-February 2004 Box 1

**Access Restrictions:**

Administrative records restricted until 2029

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DISC - Originally "Center for Study of Muslim Networks", 2006 Box 1

**Access Restrictions:**

Administrative records restricted until 2031

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DISC (Duke Islamic Studies Center), 2007-2013 Box 1

**Access Restrictions:**

Administrative records restricted until 2038

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DISC (Duke Islamic Studies Center): Advisory Board Meeting, 2008 November Box 1

**Access Restrictions:**

Administrative records restricted until 2033

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AALL (Asian and African Languages and Literature), 1988, 1996-1997 Box 1

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AALL (Asian and African Languages and Literature): Minutes and Proposals, 1987-1992 Box 1

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AALL (Asian and African Languages and Literature): Meeting, 1999 February Box 1

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AALL (Asian and African Languages and Literature): Faculty Meetings, 1997 Box 1

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AALL (Asian and African Languages and Literature), 1989-1992 Box 1

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AALL (Asian and African Languages and Literature): Retreat, 1998 Box 1

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AALL (Asian and African Languages and Literature): Asian International University, 1996 Box 1

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AALL (Asian and African Languages and Literature), 1998 Box 1

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AALL (Asian and African Languages and Literature), 1997 Box 1

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Correspondence with Dean of Arts and Sciences: Richard White, 1981-1993 Box 1  
Box 3

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**Access Restrictions:**

Personnel information restricted until 2063

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Correspondence with Dean of Arts and Sciences: Hans Hillerbrand, 1985-1987, 1989-1991 Box 1

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**Access Restrictions:**

Personnel information restricted until 2061

Correspondence with Dean of Arts and Sciences: Malcolm Gillis, 1989, 1991-1993 Box 1

**Access Restrictions:**

Personnel information restricted until 2063

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Faculty Women's Network - Non-Regular Faculty, 1986-1992 Box 1

**Access Restrictions:**

Personnel information restricted until 2062

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In the Footsteps of Leo, Duke Summer Abroad-Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Italy, 2004 Box 3 > Optical-disc  
UA29020257-OP-0002

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Correspondence with Director of the Center of International Studies: A. Kenneth Pye, 1982 Box 3

**Access Restrictions:**

Personnel information restricted until 2052.

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General correspondence, 1988-2003, undated Box 3

**Scope and Contents**

Includes correspondence of miriam cooke, colleagues, and former students.

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Administrative correspondence, 1983-2010 Box 3

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

**Access Restrictions:**

Administrative records restricted until 2035.

**Scope and Contents**

Includes correspondence with A. Kenneth Pyle, Richard Brodhead, William Chafe, Karla Holloway, George McLendon, Lee D. baker, and Nannerl Keohane.

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Hakirevic, Alma, 1994-1998 Box 3

**Access Restrictions:**

FERPA information restricted until approximately 2068.

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## **Publications, 1997-2008**

MSG (Mediterranean Study Group), 1997-2001, 2006, 2008	Box 1
MSG (Mediterranean Study Group): Mediterranean Faculty, 1997-1998	Box 1
Mediterranean Passages - Draft (1 of 6), 2003-2004	Box 1
Mediterranean Passages - Draft (2-6 of 6), 2003-2004	Box 2

**Physical Description:** 5 folders

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