

Islam Issa

Senior Lecturer, School of English at Birmingham City University

Birmingham, , GB

Islam Issa's research focuses primarily on the modern-day reception of Renaissance and Early Modern English literature in global contexts.

Biography

Islam Issa received his PhD in English Literature from the University of Birmingham, where he worked as a Visiting Lecturer and Teaching Fellow before joining Birmingham City University in 2015. He teaches across all periods and genres of literature, especially the Early Modern. His research has focused primarily on the modern-day reception of Renaissance and Early Modern English literature in global contexts, with wider interests in literary translation, cultural studies, reception studies, disability studies, and censorship. Islam is the Outreach Officer for the School of English. An award-winning writer and curator, Islam's book, *Milton in the Arab-Muslim World*, won the Milton Society of America's 'Outstanding First Book' award. His exhibition, *Stories of Sacrifice*, won the Muslim News Awards 'Excellence in Community Relations' prize. He has also been a finalist at the British Muslim Awards 'Services to Education' category and BCU's 'Researcher of the Year'. Islam has an extensive media and public presence, having appeared on TV and radio around 100 times on over 40 different stations worldwide. He has given public lectures internationally, including a TEDx talk and speeches on behalf of the British Foreign Office. In 2017, he was selected as an AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinker for Radio 3 and BBC Four, making him one of 'the ten academics whose research will be made into radio and television programmes for the BBC'.

Areas of Expertise

Disability Studies, Cultural Studies, English Literature, Early Modern Literature, John Milton, Literary Translation, Reception Studies, Censorship

Affiliations

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Member of the Milton Society of America, Member of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies, Member of the Emerging Literary Translators' Network, Member of the Birmingham Translation Studies Research Forum, Member of the Birmingham Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies

Selected Event Appearances

Public Poetry Reading, 'Eden'

Oxford Foundation: United for Peace Event, Birmingham, May 2017

Invited panel: 'Who owns Shakespeare?' (with Michael Buffong, Artistic Director of Talawa Theatre Company)

Global Shakespeare, SOAS, May 2017

Invited paper: ?Discreet Readers: Censorship and Freedom in the Arab World?

Authority and Ignorance, Birmingham Law School, June 2015

Plenary paper: ?Milton?s ?Areopagitica? in the Arab World Today?

Reading Milton through Islam, Beirut, May 2014

Invited paper (in Arabic): ?Our Relationship with the Nile Today: A Consideration Through Romantic Poetry?

Translation and Cultural Identity, Cairo, May 2014

Education

Birmingham

Ph.D. English Literature

Birmingham City University

PgCert Learning and Teaching in HE

Birmingham

B.A. (Hons.) English

Accomplishments

AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinker

Radio 3 and BBC Four

British Muslim Awards, Services to Education

Finalist

Researcher of the Year

Birmingham City University

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