

RITA W. EL-HADDAD
Curriculum Vitae

College of Arts and Sciences
Liberal Arts Building, B433
American University of Kuwait
Salmiya, 20012
Kuwait
(+965) 180 2040 Ext. 3222

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Department of Psychology, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2017
- M.Phil. Department of Psychology, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2015
- M.A. Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, 2013
- B.S. Biology, American University of Beirut, 2008
Graduated with High Distinction

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020-Present Assistant Director, Center for Teaching Excellence, American University of Kuwait
- 2020-Present Assistant Professor of Psychology, First Year Experience Unit and Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, American University of Kuwait
- 2019-2020 Adjunct Professor, Counseling Psychology Program, Lehigh University
- 2016-2020 Educational Psychologist, Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network, Kuwait

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2021 Hadjisolomou, S. P., **El-Haddad, R. W.**, Kloskowski, K., Chavarga, A., & Abramov, I. Quantifying the speed of chromatophore activity at the single-organ level in response to a visual startle stimulus in living, intact squid. *Frontiers in Physiology*, 12, 675252. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fphys.2021.675252>.

Manuscripts in Submission

El-Haddad, R. W., Hayat, Y. I., Martin, N. A., & Hadjisolomou, S. P. Brief Report: Retrospective Analysis of Age and Treatment Intensity of Behavioral Intervention for Children with Autism in Kuwait, (first-round review). *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Coping, accommodations, and strategies: An interview study on academic and employment experiences with adults with dyslexia, *Journal of Learning Disabilities*

Conference Proceedings

- 2014 Kacinik, N. A., **El-Haddad, R. W.,** & Ro, T. Preferential involvement of the right hemisphere in metaphor comprehension: Evidence from TMS. Cognitive Neuroscience Society, p. 50. Boston, MA, April
- 2013 Kacinik, N. A., **El-Haddad, R. W.,** Eskine, K. J., Starr-Glass, L., & Salamon, S. Small elephants and big needles: Can perceptual information affect memory and judgments about the meaning of words? In M. Knauff, M. Pauen, N. Sebanz, & I. Wachsmuth (Eds.), Cognitive Science Society, p. 3994 Austin, TX, August
- 2011 Kacinik, N. A., **El-Haddad, R.,** & Cooley, B. A. Cerebral asymmetries in the generation of literal versus figurative meanings. Cognitive Neuroscience Society, p. 230. San Francisco, CA, April

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2014 Conference Presentation Support, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
- 2013 Conference Presentation Support, Psychology Department, Brooklyn College, City University of New York
- 2013 Second place award (tied) for graduate division poster competition at Annual Science Research Day, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 University Research Board Grant, American University of Kuwait
Awarded \$8,100
- 2020 Professional Development Grant, American University of Kuwait
Awarded \$285
- 2018 Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of the Sciences Research Grant
Awarded \$16,000

- 2018 University Research Board Grant (co-PI), American University of Kuwait
Awarded \$850
- 2014-2016 Writing Across the Curriculum Fellowship, Medgar Evers College Writing Center,
City University of New York
- 2014 Doctoral Student Research Grant Award, Competition Number 9, The Graduate
Center, City University of New York
Awarded \$1,352
- 2011 Doctoral Student Research Grant Award, Competition Number 7, The Graduate
Center, City University of New York
Awarded \$1,272
- 2010-2015 Enhanced Chancellor's Fellowship, The Graduate Center, The Graduate
Center, City University of New York

CONFERENCES

Discussant

- 2021 Hadjisolomou, S., **El-Haddad, R.**, & Alakhras, F. Integrating information literacy instruction in a First-Year Experience course. Annual Conference on the First Year Experience, Online, February

Posters

- 2019 Hadjisolomou, S. P., Kloskowski, K., Chavarga, A., **El-Haddad, R.** & Abramov, I. Using a flash stimulus to investigate the underlying visual and motor transformation of body patterning in intact, living squid. Society for Neuroscience, Chicago, IL, October
- 2016 **El-Haddad, R. W.**, & Kacinik, N. A. What is it like to grow up with dyslexia? All-Psychology Research Day, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, May
- 2015 **El-Haddad, R. W.**, Goldberg-Kay, A., Samouha, L. & Kacinik, N. A. What is it like to grow up with dyslexia? Science Research Day, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, May
- 2014 Kacinik, N. A., **El-Haddad, R. W.**, & Ro, T. Preferential involvement of the right hemisphere in metaphor comprehension: Evidence from TMS. Psychology Department In-House Convention, Brooklyn College of City University of New York, April

- 2013 Kacirik, N. A., **El-Haddad, R. W.**, Eskine, K. J., Starr-Glass, L., & Salamon, S. Large ants and small mansions: Perceptual information does not generally affect the representation of words, Psychonomic Society. Toronto, November
- 2013 Kacirik, N. A., **El-Haddad, R. W.**, Eskine, K. J., Starr-Glass, L., & Salamon, S. Small elephants and big needles: Can perceptual information affect memory and judgments about the meaning of words? Embodied & Situated Language Processing Conference, Potsdam, Germany, July
- 2013 **El-Haddad, R. W.**, Hadjisolomou, S. P., & Kacirik, N. A. When adult dyslexics perform better: evidence from comprehension and vocabulary tasks. International Workshop on Reading and Developmental Dyslexia, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, San Sebastian, Spain, May
- 2013 **El-Haddad, R. W.**, Hadjisolomou, S. P., & Kacirik, N. A. When adult dyslexics perform better: evidence from comprehension and vocabulary tasks. Science Research Day, Brooklyn College of City University of New York, May
- 2013 **El-Haddad, R. W.**, Hadjisolomou, S. P., & Kacirik, N. A. When adult dyslexics perform better: Evidence from comprehension and vocabulary tasks. Psychology Research Day, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, April
- 2013 **El-Haddad, R. W.**, Hadjisolomou, S. P., & Kacirik, N. A. When adult dyslexics perform better: Evidence from comprehension and vocabulary tasks. Eastern Psychological Association, New York City, NY, March
- 2012 Kacirik, N. A., **El-Haddad, R. W.**, Rodriguez, R. & Starr-Glass, L. Are there cerebral asymmetries in generating literal versus figurative meanings? Psychology Department In-House Convention, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, May
- 2011 Kacirik, N. A., **El-Haddad, R.**, & Rodriguez, I. Are there cerebral asymmetries in generating literal versus figurative meanings? Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Seattle, WA, November
- 2007 **El-Haddad, R.**, & Nohra, E. Preserving the *Murex trunculus* of Tyre through Synthetic Indigo Production and Stress Application. Initiative for Biodiversity in Arid Regions, International Day for Biological Diversity at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, May

INVITED TALKS

- 2017 Study strategies for students with learning disabilities. Learning Disabilities and Psychology Conference, Australian College of Kuwait, October
- 2017 Teaching students with learning disabilities. American University of Kuwait, May

2016 Differentiated instruction for students with dyslexia. Learning Difficulties Professional Association, Kuwait, October

CAMPUS TALKS

2021 How to integrate information literacy instruction in your course, Faculty Mini-Series, Center for Teaching Excellence, American University, of Kuwait, May

2021 Active learning in the online classroom, Faculty Mini-Series, Center for Teaching Excellence, American University, of Kuwait, May

2021 Developing student culture at AUK: Technology in the classroom. Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, American University of Kuwait, April

2020 Social and emotional wellbeing during COVID-19, Virtual Professional Development Sessions, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, April

2020 Understanding preschoolers, Preschool Faculty Meeting, Al-Bayan Bilingual School Kuwait, January

2019 Study skills for middle schoolers, Middle School Student Talk, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, October

2019 Pedagogical strategies for learning disabilities and ADHD. Middle School Faculty Meeting, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, October

2019 Overcoming test-taking anxiety, High School Student Talk, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, May

2018 Interpreting psychoeducational screenings and testing reports and basics of standardized testing. Counseling Department Meeting, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, January

2019 Stress management for teachers, Elementary School and Preschool Professional Development Days, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, April and October

2017 Developmental milestones for children ages 2-4 years old, Nursery and Preschool Parent Presentation, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, March

2017 Teaching strategies for children with learning differences. Professional Development Day, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, March and November

2016 Learning through play, Nursery School Parent Presentation, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, December

2013 When adult dyslexics perform better: evidence from comprehension and vocabulary tasks. Psychology Department In-House Convention Brooklyn College of City University of New York, May

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American University of Kuwait, Assistant Professor

Introduction to Psychology: 1 semester
Essentials of Learning: 1 semester
University, Community, and Citizenship: 2 semesters

Lehigh University, Adjunct Professor

Graduate Courses:

Education and Inclusion for Individuals with Special Needs: 1 semester (asynchronous, online)
Counseling and Therapeutic Approaches: 1 semester

Brooklyn College, City University of New York, Adjunct Lecturer

Introduction to Psychology: 2 semesters
Psychology of Language: 5 semesters
Cognitive Psychology: 5 semesters
Experimental Psychology Laboratory: 3 semesters
Psychological Statistics Laboratory: 1 semester

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020-Present NeuroDev Laboratory, College of Arts and Sciences, American University of Kuwait
Director: R. W. El-Haddad, Ph.D.
Project: Accommodations and strategies of people with dyslexia in Kuwait

2017-Present Soft Intelligence Laboratory, College of Arts and Sciences, American University of Kuwait
Project: Using a flash stimulus to investigate the underlying visual and motor transformation of body patterning in intact, living squid
Project: Technology, human health, and wellness
Project: Retrospective analysis of the efficacy of early behavior intervention in Kuwait

2010-2017 Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Laboratory, Psychology Department, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

Project: Cerebral asymmetries in metaphor comprehension: A Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) study

Funded by Professional Staff Congress Grant Award #65081-00 43 and served as research assistant

Project: Small elephants and big needles: Can perceptual information affect memory and judgments about the meaning of words?

Project: Are there Cerebral Asymmetries in Generating Literal versus Figurative Meanings?

2007-2008 Marine Biology Laboratory, Biology Department, American University of Beirut

Created procedure for analyzing reproductive cycle of a newly discovered species of marine parasite, *Anilocra pilchardi*

Identified fish species and measured, weighed, and stored fish in formalin solution for data collection and preservation for project on Lessepsian migration

Updated database of the marine section of the AUB Biology Museum

SERVICE

To Department/Institution

Chair, Institutional Review Board, American University of Kuwait, 2021-Present

Member, Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, Research and Scholarship Working Group, American University of Kuwait, 2021-Present

Trainer, Moodle, Center for Teaching Excellence, American University of Kuwait, 2021-Present

Trainer, Zoom, Center for Teaching Excellence, American University of Kuwait, 2020-Present

Member, University Computing and Technology Committee, American University of Kuwait, 2020-2021

Member, College Curriculum and Assessment Committee, American University of Kuwait, 2020-2021

Member, Steering Committee for Accreditation (Council of International Schools), Learning Support, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, 2019-2020

Coordinator, Kindness Campaign, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, 2019-2020

Coordinator, Health Week, Al-Bayan Bilingual School, Kuwait, 2017-2019

Graduate student teacher-mentor, The Graduate Student Teaching Association, City University of New York, 2014-2015

Doctoral Students' Council Program Representative and Student Academic Appeals Officer, Cognition, Brain, and Behavior subprogram, City University of New York, 2013-2014

Member, Psychology Council Committee, Doctoral Student Representative for the Cognition, Brain and Behavior subprogram, Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2011-2012

CO-CURRICULAR UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Presenter, Syllabus clinic, Center for Teaching Excellence, American University of Kuwait, 2020

Presenter, Common grammar errors, Medgar Evers Writing Center workshop, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, 2016

Presenter, Parts of speech, Medgar Evers Writing Center workshop, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, 2016

Presenter, Avoiding plagiarism, Medgar Evers Writing Center workshop, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, 2015

Presenter, Supporting your argument with data and expert testimony, Medgar Evers Writing Center workshop, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, 2015

Presenter, Core elements of critical analysis, Medgar Evers Writing Center workshop, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, 2015

Presenter, Brainstorming and freewriting techniques, Medgar Evers Writing Center workshop, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, 2015

Presenter, Writing personal statements for graduate school and scholarships, Medgar Evers Writing Center workshop, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, 2014

Panelist, A road map for admittance to graduate studies in psychology, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, 2012

IT support specialist, Psychology Laboratories, Psychology Department, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, 2010-2014

Statistics and Experimental Psychology tutor, Psychology Laboratories, Psychology

Department, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, 2010-2014

Officer, Secretary, The Neuron Club, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, 2010-2011

Member-at-large, Freethought Society, American University of Beirut, 2008-2010

Orientation guide, New Student Orientation Program, American University of Beirut, 2008-2009

Associate editor-in-chief, Outlook, American University of Beirut Newspaper, 2009
Copy editor, 2009
Staff writer, 2007-2009

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Co-Presenter, Stress Management, Lei Wa Lakom and the Italian Embassy in Kuwait, 2021

SKILLS

Standardized test and survey administration

Early Screening Inventory Revised
Gilliam Autism Rating Scale - Second Edition
Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence-II
Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III
Wide-Range Achievement Test 4
Woodcock Johnson IV Tests of Achievement
Woodcock Johnson IV Tests of Cognitive Abilities
Woodcock Johnson III Normative Update Tests of Achievement
Vanderbilt ADHD Diagnostic Rating Scale

LANGUAGES

English: native
French: fluent
Arabic: proficient
Greek: basic