Yara Shaban

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Summary

A learning scientist working in human security and social justice. Research interests lie in nuclear security education, knowledge-building in informal learning settings, and the role of culture and language in learning. I have led the design and implementation of several national research projects that required complex data analysis and reporting. The projects addressed high-impact programmes such as the future of education and capitalization exercises related to reintegration programmes to address extreme violence in vulnerable communities.

Education

Tufts University — Massachusetts, USA

PhD in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education — *May 2019*

Dissertation: *Looking at Conceptual Change Dynamic in a Knowledge-Building Classroom*

Singularity University — California, USA

Graduate Solutions Program — *June 2010 – August 2010*

Studied Exponential technologies at NASA Ames Research Park.

The University of Jordan — Amman, Jordan

Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering — *February 2006*

Graduation project: Designing an Autonomous Vehicle

Research Work

West Asia-North Africa Institute — Amman, Jordan

Manager — *February 2023 – Present*

Responsible for formulating the strategic direction and the day-to-day operations of the Human Security and Social Justice Pillars, including fostering relationships with key stakeholders and donors, proposal writing, setting KPIs, project management, budgeting, and developing and ensuring the quality of research reports.

Head of Human Security and Social Justice Division — *February 2023 – Present*

leading the conceptualisation of human security and social justice projects and capacity-building programmes, responsible for multi-national project design and implementation with local and regional partners.

Senior Researcher — *January 2022 – January 2023*

Responsible for designing and leading projects addressing the Prevention of Extreme Violence, public policy writing on issues related to economic inclusion of refugees, minorities and workers' rights, and gender-based violence. The main target groups are underrepresented groups and refugees out of conflict areas.

Independent Consultant — *January 2017 – Present*

Educational and research consultant and trainer on topics related to policies, curricula design, language in instruction, agile governance, and academic writing. Conducting desk research to map the customer's need on the topic of research.

Middle East Scientific Institute for Security — Amman, Jordan

Learning and Development Manager — *November 2019 – December 2021*

Research, design, and implementation of security threat reduction projects including nuclear and biological threats. Contributed to the localisation of the nuclear security curriculum and mapping and prioritising Jordan's biosecurity needs.

Moore Project — Tufts University

Research Assistant — *September 2017 – June 2019*

Project showcases episodes where students engage in doing science. Contributed to analysis, and presented research on teacher's role in supporting students' engagement in various conferences.

SiMSAM — Tufts University

Research Assistant — *September 2013 – August 2017*

Investigated how technological toolkits can assist pre-teens' exploration of complex patterns and scientific phenomena such as evaporation and condensation.

Selected Teaching Experiences

Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning — Tufts University

Group Study Leader — *Fall 2015 & Spring 2017*

Designed and taught two 4-week seminars on understanding Arabic and Muslim Cultures in response to the rising anti-Muslim sentiments.

Engineering

Utility Networks Information Systems Consultants — Amman, Jordan

Senior Engineer — *October 2010 – August 2013*

Specialized in development and implementation of GIS-based computer software solutions for data management in telecommunications.

King Abdullah II Design & Development Bureau — Amman, Jordan

Junior R&D Engineer — *July 2006 – June 2010*

Designed and built electronic and RF circuits.

Selected Publications

Shaban, Y., Auda, J. (2025). The role of human security in addressing the inclusion of women: Nuclear security and the women, peace and security agenda in Jordan and Egypt. *The International Journal of Nuclear Security, 9*(3) Article 16. https://doi.org/10.7290/ijns09324158

Homan, Z. S. ,Shaban, Y., Rane, S., Özkan, F. Ö. & Yun, E. (2023). The Language of nuclear security: New case studies exploring online open-source information from Turkey, India, and Jordan. *The International Journal of Nuclear Security, 8*(1). Doi: 10.7290/ijns

Shaban, Y., & Alblui, A.(2022). Designing tabletop exercises as a knowledge-building tool in nuclear security. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management* (INMM 2022).

Homan, Z. S., Shaban, Y., & Rane, S.(2022). The language of nuclear security: Language diversity in open source internet searchers. *The International Journal for Intelligence and CounterIntelligence*. Doi: 10.1080/08850607.2022.207482

Homan, Z. S., Sha'ban, Y., Rane, S., Özkan, F. Ö., Javed, A., & Lelong, A. (2021). The language of nuclear security - New case studies. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management* (INMM 2021).

Shaban, Y., & Wilkerson, M. (2019). Co-Construction of epistemological framing in clinical interviews and implications for research in science education. *International Journal of Science Education, 41*(12), 1579-1599. https://doi.org/10.1080/09500693.2019.1620972

Shaban, Y., & Gravel, B. (2019, April). Structuring class conversation about condensation to position students as active sense makers. In Hammer, D. (Chair), *Eliciting and supporting students' doing science in school*. Symposium conducted at NARST, Baltimore, Maryland.

Shaban, Y., & Gravel, B. (2019, April). Structuring class conversation to allow variations in students' ideas about condensation. In Gouvea, J.(co-chair), & Hammer, D.(co-chair), *Designing for and engaging with heterogeneity in students' thinking in science*. Poster Symposium at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.

Wilkerson, M., Shareff, B., Gravel, B., Shaban, Y., & Laina, V. (2017). Exploring computational modelling environments as tools to structure classroom knowledge building. *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Learning* (CSCL 2017). Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Wilkerson, M. H., Andrews, C., Shaban, Y., Laina, V., & Gravel, B. E. (2016). What's the technology for? Teacher attention and pedagogical goals in a modeling-focused professional development workshop. *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, 27(1), 1-27. Doi:10.1007/s10972-016-9453-8

Volunteer and Community

International Society of the Learning Sciences Membership Committee member 2019-2022

Served as a reviewer for the American Educational Research Association in Learning Sciences and Complexity Theories in Education since 2020

Delivered TEDxtalk in Arabic titled "Accelerating Technologies and the Challenges of the 21st Century" at TEDxRasAlEinSquare.

Curator for TEDxRamallah@Amman: first TEDx event broadcasted from three different cities (Bethlehem, Beirut, and Amman) with 400+ audiences in Amman.

Languages

Natural: Arabic (*mother tongue*), English (*fluent*), French (*limited working proficiency*), German(*limited working proficiency*).