Huda Akef

huda.akef＿uconn.edu

████████ ⬛, Vernon, CT 06066
████████

Education

University of Connecticut (UConn), Storrs, CT
PhD, Human Development and Family Sciences
• Focus on: parenthood and parent child relationships

August 2017-present

Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), Cambridge, MA

August 2015-May 2016

Master of Education, Human Development and Psychology
• Focus on: child rearing and culture, child development, moral development, school and family
  partnerships.

International Montessori Foundation, Cairo, Egypt

October 2014-June 2015

Attended classes for the International Diploma in Montessori Education (focus on children 2.5-6 years of age)
• Accredited by Modern Montessori International (MMI), London.

The American University in Cairo (AUC), Cairo, Egypt

September 2005-June 2010

Bachelor of Science, Electronics Engineering. (High Honors)
• Minor: Computer Science.

Experience

University of Connecticut, Human Development and Family Studies Department, Storrs, CT
Instructor, HDFS2004W: Research Methods in HDFS (synchronous online modality)

January 2020-present

• Designing syllabus and preparing course materials for online instruction of 22 students.
• Conducting weekly online synchronous classes and discussions through Webex.
• Grading formative assessments and creating online multiple choice exams.
• Guiding students through the writing process of a 15 page research proposal with multiple feedback
  cycles utilizing Google Assignments on the Blackboard platform.

Teaching Assistant, HDFS2001: Diversity Issues in HDFS

August 2017-present

• Responsible for 50-75 undergraduate students taking the class.
• Leading 2-3 weekly discussion sections.
• Grading assignments and supporting students throughout the course.
• Guest lecturing 200 students once or twice per semester.
• Supporting the instructor in transferring the course online through editing course content and
  creating online assessments.

Teaching Assistant, HDFS2004W: Research Methods in HDFS (asynchronous online modality)

August 2020-December 2020

• Grading student assignments and providing support.
• Providing feedback to students on research paper drafts and guiding them in developing a research
  proposal.

Teaching Assistant, HDFS2300: Family Interaction Processes

August 2019- May 2020

• Assisting in grading, documenting grades, filing assignments, lecturing, and supporting students.
• Creating and managing online exams on Blackboard (HuskyCT) online platform.

Stanford University, Psychology Department, Social Learning Lab, Stanford, CA
Research Assistant

August 2016 - June 2017

• Recruited child participants (aged 3 to 6), discussed and collected consent from parents, and ran
  different studies at the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo.
• Ran different studies with children (aged 3 to 5) at Bing Nursery School.
• Collected and coded data for multiple research studies and prepared stimuli for different study games.
• Learned the principles of fMRI analysis.

Etisalat (Telecom Operator), Cairo, Egypt
RF Capacity Planning Engineer *November 2010 - May 2015*
- Analyzed 2G network capacity through processing large sets of network data, mainly using **Microsoft Excel,** to identify sites with deficit capacity and find solutions, and produced a periodic expansion list.
- Troubleshooted areas with 2G network congestion and investigated potential causes.
- Trained 5 engineers to perform 2G network wide studies and create quarterly expansion lists.
- Programmed several automated tools, using **VBA** and **C++,** to perform repetitive tasks.

Poster Presentations

Akef, H. & Super, C.M. (2021, April 7-9). *Egyptian parents' ethnotheories about moral "Tarbeya" (Upbringing) and the role of religion* [Poster]. SRCD 2021 Biennial Meeting, Online.

Subiani, S., Abbas, I., **Akef, H.**, & Sahin, E. (2020, November 11-13). *Envisioning Spaces for International Students: Challenges and Opportunities* [Poster]. NCFR 2020 Annual Meeting, Online.

Awards

2021 SRCD Strategic Plan Poster Winner *April 2021*
Poster titled "*Egyptian Parents' Ethnotheories About Moral "Tarbeya" (Upbringing) and the Role of Religion*" received a special designation as a Strategic Poster, exemplifying International Research related to children's development.

UConn Graduate School Doctoral Student Travel Fellowship *February 2020*
Received funding in the amount of $1000 to cover travel expenses to the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development Conference in June 2020 (conference canceled due to COVID).

UConn Predoctoral Graduate School Fellowship Award *May 2019*
Received funding in the amount of $400 to support summer research efforts in the doctoral program.

UConn HDFS Departmental Financial Support *March 2019*
Received funding in the amount of $1000 to be used towards research activities for a project titled "An Exploration of Parenting in Egypt".

Certifications

Human Subjects Research (Social/Behavioral) Basic Course *November 2018*
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI program)

Graduate Certificate in Culture, Health, and Human Development *In progress*
Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Graduate Certificate in College Instruction *In progress*
Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Research Interests

Parenting in Cultural and Religious Contexts
I'm interested in studying parenting from an ethnographic perspective in its own context. Specifically, I'd like to explore how culture and religion shape parenting practices, and what parents draw from when they formulate their parenting identity. I'm particularly interested in Egyptian and Arab speaking populations.

Parental Resilience and Parent Education
I'd like to study parents as individuals, not merely as a channel for children's development. Resilience has traditionally been studied in contexts of trauma, however, it emerges with the inevitable stressors that parents face. I'm interested in studying the factors that promote parental resilience and how they can be incorporated in designing parent education programs.

Research Projects

"An Exploration of Parenting in Egypt"   *IRB Approved: March 27, 2019*
This research project is an exploration of parenting in Egypt. It was in the form of semi-structured interviews with 20 parents living in Egypt, spanning different topics relating to child rearing and parenting practices, and parent-child relationships. By exploring parental ethno-theories through qualitative methodology, we are developing information useful for later developing culture-specific measures and future directions of study. Data was collected in Summer 2019. Transcription and analysis are ongoing.

Memberships

Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD)   *March 2021 - present*
Student Member

International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD   *January 2020 - present*
Student Member

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)   *March 2018 - present*
Student Member

American Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Psychological Association (AMENA-Psy)   *March 2018 - present*
Student Member

Development and Volunteer Work

Ihyaa Academy   *August 2013 - February 2014*
Program Leader
• Co-created, planned and established a framework for a program that targets undergraduate university students, to support them in self-discovery and enable them to become effective citizens/leaders/members of society through education.

Qeemah(قيمة)   *March 2012 - August 2013*
• Worked with a team of 4 to create and manage an online page that promoted behavioral values.
• Created an online campaign to raise awareness on ongoing elections at the time, through information that would help citizens make an educated vote, and promoting the importance of voting participation.

Glow, AUC   *July 2009- June 2010*
Glow is a community development club at AUC, aiming to develop a generation of proactive and responsible leaders.
Co-Founder and Media Director

- Trained and led 3 committees each composed of 3-7 members to create documentaries and short movies (using **Adobe Premiere Pro** and **After Effects**, **Final Cut Pro** and **Motion**) to raise awareness about various issues, and support on campus campaigns.
- Planned the structure and operation of the Media Directory.

Trainer and Organizer, I-Glow Development Camp, December 2009
- Planned and prepared for a 4 day development camp program within a team of 8 students. The camp took place in AUC's Desert Development Center (DDC, Alexandria Road).
- Conducted training sessions on different developmental topics.

Alashanek Ya Balady (AYB), AUC

February 2007- June 2008

AYB is a community service and development club at the AUC that aims to develop a poor area in Masr AlQadima called Ain Al-Sira, through 6 educational and developmental programs.

Head-Media Committee, September 2007 - June 2008
- Created, solely, several brief documentaries describing AYB to recruit members.
- Led a team of 6 members in presenting AYB's programs through photography and videography.
- Participated in writing the story and script of a 30 minute movie about community service.

Computer, Language and Other Skills

- Proficient use of **Microsoft Excel**, **Powerpoint** and **Word.**
- Proficient in use of **C++** and **VBA**, good knowledge of **SQL, Matlab, Stata, SPSS, SAS, and Dedoose**
- Proficient in use of Video Editing Programs : **Final Cut Pro, Apple Motion, Adobe Premiere Pro.**
- Effective in use of **Soundtrack Pro**, **Adobe After Effects**
- Proficient in Digital **Photography** and manual control of a professional DSLR camera.
- Excellent in written and fluent in spoken Arabic and English, basic understanding of French and Spanish.