

Ayaat Ismail

PhD Student in English, Michigan State University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Spring 2023

Adjunct Instructor, English Program
Department of English, Bellarmine University

2022 – 2023

Adjunct Instructor, Composition Program
Department of English, University of Louisville

EDUCATION

2023

Ph.D. English, Michigan State University (In Progress)
Specialization: Women and Gender Studies
Graduate Certificates: Film Studies, Global Studies, Digital Humanities

2022

M.A. English, University of Louisville
Culminating Project: “Separate Lives” (a collection of personal essays on identity, race, and gender)

2018

B.A. English, University of Louisville
Dean’s List

2015

A.A. and A.S., Elizabethtown Community and Technical College

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Ismail, Ayaat. “A Digital Roundtable Interview on Eco-poetry in the Face of Climate Change.” *Miracle Monocle*. Issue 19, Spring 2023.

Ismail, Ayaat. “A Journey of Introspection and Decolonial Resilience: A Review of a Translation by Kristen Renee Miller of Marie-Andrée Gill’s *Heating the Outdoors*.” *Miracle Monocle*. Issue 20, December 2022.

Ismail, Ayaat. “A Uniquely American Vision in Kiki Petrosino’s *Bright*.” *Miracle Monocle*. Issue 19, May 2022.

Ismail, Ayaat. "Exploring Womanhood: A Review of Siân Griffiths's *The Sum Of Her Parts*." *Miracle Monocle*. Issue 18, December 2021.

Ismail, Ayaat. "A Digital Roundtable Interview with Gabrielle Ione Hickmon, Lena Mahmoud, and Ellen van Neerven." *Miracle Monocle*. Issue 18, May 2022.

Ismail, Ayaat. "The Definition of Goodness in Hayan Charara's *These Trees, Those Leaves, This Flower, That Fruit*." *Miracle Monocle*. Issue 17, May 2021.

Graduate Manual for the English Graduate Organization, University of Louisville, 2022.

Ismail, Ayaat. "Self-Care Before Burning Out." Writing Center at the University of Louisville. 2021. Blog Entry.

Digital Projects

Cinematic Counter-Cartographies. CHI Fellowship Project, Michigan State University, 2025–2026, awisma01.github.io/cinematic-refusals/.

"Surveilled Spaces: Exploring Memory, Borders, and Resistance in Palestinian Cinema." StoryMaps, Michigan State University, April 2025.

"Exploring Academic Freedom: A Historical Journey." Wix, Michigan State University, April 2025.

"A Palm Oil Project" (with April Best). StoryMaps, Michigan State University, March 2024.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2026

Research Enhancement Award, Michigan State University

2026

Graduate Travel Award, Michigan State University

2026

College of Arts and Letters Travel Award, Michigan State University

2025

The Somers Award for Excellence in Teaching (IAH)
Michigan State University

2025

Summer Mentoring Fellows Award, Michigan State University

2023

Research Enhancement Award, Michigan State University

2021

Student Champion, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Louisville

FELLOWSHIPS AND FUNDING

- 2026
DH@MSU Seed Grant Funding
- 2026
CHI (Cultural Heritage Informatics) Fellowship, Michigan State University
- 2025
FLAS Summer Fellowship, Michigan State University
- 2023 – 2028
University Fellowship, Michigan State University
- 2020 – 2022
Graduate Teaching Assistantship Tuition Grant, University of Louisville

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Ismail, Ayaat. "Critical Ephemera: Palestinian Social Media Documentation and the Weaponization of Impermanence." Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, Boston, MA, November 2026.
- Ismail, Ayaat. "An Aesthetics of Urgency: Palestinian Social Media Documentation as Counter-Archive." University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK, June 2026.
- Ismail, Ayaat, Rebecca Karam, Jennifer Goett, Salah D. Hassan, Najib B. Hourani, Rachel Winter, and Waseem El-Rayes. "Palestine on Campus: Mapping Research, Advocacy, and Institutional Opposition in Higher Education." Roundtable, MESA Annual Conference, Boston, MA, November 2026.
- Ismail, Ayaat. "Documenting Palm Oil." Roundtable, AIFIS Conference, Online, June 2024.
- Ismail, Ayaat. "Documenting Palm Oil in Indonesia." MSU Museum, East Lansing, MI, March 2024.
- Ismail, Ayaat. "Feminine Writing and Resistance: A Palestinian Insight into Sahar Khalifeh's *The Inheritance*." 51st Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture, Louisville, KY, February 2024.
- Ismail, Ayaat and Neleigh Olson. "Reimagining Student Assignments Digitally: Creating a More Inclusive, Student-Centered Learning Environment." Celebration of Teaching and Learning Conference, February 2023.
- Williams, Bronwyn, Cassandra Book, Amber Yocum, and Ayaat Ismail. "Our Stories Make Us Who We Are: Creating an Oral History Project for Your Writing Center." Roundtable, International Writing Center Association Conference, Online, October 2021.
- Ismail, Ayaat. "Writing Personal Statements." Workshop, Writing Center, University of Louisville, March 2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Summer 2026

ENG/WS 153 Introduction to Women Authors

Instructor of Record | Online | Michigan State University

Summer 2025

WGS 201 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Instructor of Record | Online | Michigan State University

2024 – Present

IAH 207 Race & Cinema

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Supervisor: Professor Jeffrey Wray

IAH 207 Monsters

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Supervisor: Professor Bradley Deane

Spring 2023

ENGL 225 African American Literature

Adjunct Instructor | In-person | Bellarmine University

2022 – 2023

ENGL 101 Introduction to College Writing: Local Community and Social Identity

Adjunct Instructor | In-person | University of Louisville

ENGL 102 Intermediate College Writing: Research and Argument

Adjunct Instructor | In-person | University of Louisville

2021 – 2022

ENGL 101 Introduction to College Writing: Writing about Writing

Graduate Teaching Assistant | In-person | University of Louisville

ENGL 102 Intermediate College Writing: Monster as Other

Graduate Teaching Assistant | In-person | University of Louisville

ENGL 405 Special Topics: Editing, Publishing, and Document Design

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Co-taught with Dr. Sarah Strickley | University of Louisville

RESEARCH AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

2025 – Present

Research Assistant, Graduate Editor, MSU Press

Michigan State University

2023 – Present

Graduate Editor

Italian Feminism: A Transnational Praxis for Today and Tomorrow

2021 – 2022

Assistant Editor and Social Media Manager

Miracle Monocle (Issues 17–20)

Fall 2021

Managing Editor, Miracle Monocle Mini-Anthology MONSTER

Spring 2022

Instructional Editor, Cardinal Composition

University of Louisville

2020 – 2021

Writing Consultant, University Writing Center

University of Louisville

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2024 – 2026

Social Events Coordinator, Association of English Graduate Students (AEGS)

English Department, Michigan State University

2021 – 2022

Student Representative, Graduate Committee

Department of English, University of Louisville

2020 – 2022

Secretary and Social Media Manager, English Graduate Organization

University of Louisville

2021

Chair, Creative Writing (Fiction) Panel

Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture (LCLC), University of Louisville

WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

Ismail, Ayaat, Pedro Rodriguez, and Rutuja Deshmukh, coordinators. "Moving Image Workshop Series." Department of Film Studies, Michigan State University, Wells Hall, East Lansing, MI.

Fall 2025:

- "Oil-Built Worlding: Prospecting, Prehistory, and (Post)Colonial Time in the Sahara," 2 Oct. 2025
- "Additive Voices, Timbral Currencies, and the Work of Localization," 24 Oct. 2025
- "Mulholland Drive: BFI Film Classics," 7 Nov. 2025
- "Mountains of Light: Virtual Aesthetics and the Imperial Imagination," 17 Nov. 2025
- "Fandom and the Nonfiction Impulse: Videographic Approaches to Star Studies," 21 Nov. 2025

Spring 2026:

- "Dig Our Graves First: On Hauntology and Spectral Return in Black Atlantic Horror Cinema," 22 Jan. 2026
- Special presentation of *Vieques: Archivo Vivo* (2025), 20 Feb. 2026

- "Cantamos sin miedo, pedimos justicia: Embodiment, Mourning, and Remembrance in Barrileras del 8M's Yubá Performance," 13 Mar. 2026
- "Federal Narratives: The Hollywood Lives of the Bureau of Prisons," 2 Apr. 2026
- "The Combined and Uneven Development Film in East Asia," 3 Apr. 2026

Ismail, Ayaat, Salah Hassan, and Jessica Saba, coordinators. "Generations: Palestine, Trauma, & Arab American Subjects." Research Workshop, Michigan State University, Wells Hall B342, East Lansing, MI, Spring 2026.

- Session 1: "Violence, Generational Trauma, and Arab American Subjecthood," 29 Jan. 2026
- Session 2: "Palestine and Arab American Testimonials," 20 Feb. 2026

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Arab American Studies Association (AASA)

American Studies Association (ASA)

International Writing Center Association (IWCA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Middle East Studies Association (MESA)