

# Driss Cherkaoui

## *Curriculum Vitæ*

### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

2/1/03

1. Office Address: Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures, Washington Hall 238  
College of William and Mary, Williamsburg VA 23187-8795  
Phone: 757-221-1723 (email: dxcher@wm.edu)  
Nationality : American.
2. Position: Assistant professor Dept. of Modern Languages & Literatures

### EDUCATION:

- 1997 Ph.D. in Classical Arabic Literature at La Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France.  
Dissertation title: *Le Roman de <sup>c</sup>Antar: Thèmes et Personnages*
- 1992 DEA (equivalent to M.A.) in Classical Arabic Literature at La Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France.
- 1989 Maîtrise (equivalent to B.A.) in Modern Arabic Literature at University Mohammed Ben Abdullah, Meknes, Morocco.  
Thesis on the contemporary Syrian novelist Hanna Mina

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

- 1998-present Assistant professor, Dept. of Modern Languages & Literatures,  
College of William and Mary.
- 1996-1998 Instructor, Dept. of Modern Languages & Literatures,  
College of William and Mary.
- 1994-1996 Visiting Lecturer in Arabic, Dept. of African Languages,  
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- Summers*  
2001, 02, 03 Director, Summer Intensive Arabic Program,  
American Institute for Maghreb Studies. Tangier, Morocco.
- Summers*  
1994, 95, 97, 98 Professor, Intensive Summer Language Program,  
Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

### COURSES TAUGHT:

#### *Courses taught at institutions other than William and Mary:*

Advanced Intermediate Arabic	2002	(AIMS, Tangier)
Advanced Arabic (Reading Advanced Texts)	2002	(AIMS, Tangier)
Moroccan Colloquial Arabic	2002	(AIMS, Tangier)
Advanced Arabic Listening Skills	2001	(AIMS, Tangier)
Advanced Intermediate Arabic	1998	(Middlebury College)

Intensive Advanced Elementary Arabic	1995, 97	(Middlebury College)
Classical Arabic Literature	1997	(Middlebury College)
Elementary Arabic	1994-96	(Univ. of Wisconsin)
Intermediate Arabic + drills	1994-96	(Univ. of Wisconsin)
Reading advanced Arabic texts	1994-96	(Univ. of Wisconsin)
Moroccan Colloquial Arabic	1994, 95, 97	(Middlebury College)
Arab world through movies	1995	(Middlebury College)
Advanced MSA* Conversation	1994	(Middlebury College)
Beginning Advanced MSA Conversation	1994	(Middlebury College)
Modern Arabic Literature	1994	(Middlebury College)

(\*MSA=Modern Standard Arabic)

*Courses taught at William and Mary (1996-2003):*

Arabic 101/01	Elementary Arabic (First semester)
Arabic 101/D01	Elementary Arabic Drill
Arabic 101/02	Elementary Arabic
Arabic 101/D02	Elementary Arabic Drill
Arabic 102/01	Elementary Arabic (Second semester)
Arabic 102/D01	Elementary Arabic Drill
Arabic 102/02	Elementary Arabic
Arabic 102/D02	Elementary Arabic Drill
Arabic 201-202	Intermediate Arabic Drill
Arabic 301-302	Advanced Arabic
Arabic 306	Directed Readings in Arabic
Arabic 411	Independent Study
Arabic 411b	Directed Readings in Arabic ( this course was not independent study)
Arabic 309	Arabic Literature in translation ("The word made real")

*FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS:*

2001	Semester Research Grant, American Institute for Maghreb Studies. Topic: <i>Voices of Morocco: Oral Stories of our Time</i>
2000	Summer Research Grant, College of William and Mary. Topic: <i>Oral Traditions in Morocco</i>
1999	Summer Research Grant, College of William and Mary. Topic: <i>Le Roman de <sup>c</sup>Antar; Une perspective historique et littéraire</i>
1993-1997	Moroccan government scholarship for Ph.D. preparation.

*RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP:*

*Refereed publications:*

*Articles*

- 1) "Historical Elements in the Si'rat <sup>c</sup>Antar." *Oriente Moderno* (special issue on medieval Arabic epics). Rome: Instituto per l'Oriente C.A. Nallino. Publication scheduled for 2003
- 2) "<sup>c</sup>Antar, Poet and Hero." A 6000-word entry in *The Dictionary of Literary Biography: Arabic Literary Culture, 500-925 AD*. Publication scheduled by Bruccoli Clark Layman Inc., for 2003.
- 3) "Le Parcours du Héros dans Le Roman de Chevalerie Arabe: L'Exemple de <sup>c</sup>Antar." *Bulletin d'Études Orientales*, LIII-LIV (2001-2002). L'Institut Français Des Etudes Archeologique de Damas, Damascus, Syria, pp 75-104. Forthcoming.

- 4) "Kings and Heroes as Friends and Foes: the Example of *Si\`rat cAntar*." *Al-Arabiyyah: Journal of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic*. (2001) 34:1-21.
- 5) "The Pyramidal structure in the Arabic Siyar, the Example of *Si\`rat cAntar*." *Al-cUs>u\`r al-Wust>a*, the Bulletin of Middle East Medievalists, Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago (April 2001) pp 6-9.
- 6) "Les Mu<sup>c</sup>allaqât dans *Le Roman de cAntar*." *Maknasa* (1998) 12: 21-29. University of Moulay Ismail, Meknes, Morocco.

#### Books

*Le Roman de cAntar : Perspective Littéraire et Historique*, Présence Africaine, Paris, 2001, pp 344.

#### Book reviews

- 1) *A Study of Eastern Moroccan Fairy Tales* by Maarten Kossmann. Helsinki, 2000, pp 156. Reviewd in *Journal of Arabic Literature*, XXXIII, 3. (2002): 300-303.
- 2) *Hédi Bouraoui: Iconoclaste et chantre du transculturel* Edited by Jacques Cotnam. Ottawa: Le Nordir, 1996. pp. 269. Review published in *Al-Arabiyya*, 1998

#### Work in Progress

##### Book

*Voices of Morocco: Oral Stories of our Time*. Fruit of several years of field research in Morocco, this book represents a natural evolution of earlier research on oral-based tales. I have sought out and recorded traditional tales still trasmitted orally in Morocco, and am in the process of translating them into English. These translations will be generously annotated to clarify possible ambiguities arising from cultural misunderstandings. Selected stories will also be published on the internet so that readers can listen to the original Moroccan dialect versions; this dialect does not exist in written form. Preliminary presentation of this project has been made to the University of Wisconsin Press, which has expressed an interest in pursuing negotiations to publish it. Présence Africaine has also recently expressed an interest.

#### Articles

- 1) "The Story of the Human Being, the Woodcutter.: the anatomy of a traditional Moroccan oral tale." The Moroccan dialect recording is already available on the internet, <http://faculty.wm.edu/dxcher>
- 2) "Was Ibn Qutayba Always Right? The case of cAntar's Mu<sup>c</sup>allaqa; an analysis of the poet's skills"

#### Book reviews

- 1) *Les Mu<sup>c</sup>allaqât: les sept poèmes préislamiques*. Translated and annotated by Pierre Larcher, preface by André Miquel. Fata Morgana, France, 2000. Review requested by the *Journal of Arabic Literature*.

#### Refereed conference papers

- 1) "*Si\`rat cAntar* as an example of the Arabic Oral Tradition in Literature." International conference on folklore and folk literature. Tunis, Tunisia. May 21-25, 2002.
- 2) "Traditional Themes of Oral Arabic Literature in Moroccan Oral Tales Told Today." International conference on folk literature in the Middle East and North Africa. Tunis, Tunisia. April 2-7, 2002.

- 3) "Ibn Qutayba and *ʿAntar*'s *Muʿallaqa*: Sources, Traditions and Structure", MESA, Orlando, Florida. November 15-19, 2000.
- 4) "*ʿAntar* Ibn Shaddad and Pre-Islamic Arabic Poetry", Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar. North Carolina. October 20-22, 2000.
- 5) "Themes in Medieval Arabic Literature" Tracking Culture Annual Conference, University of Al-Akhawayn, Ifran, Morocco. May 19-29, 2000.
- 6) "Evidence of African Influences in Classical Arabic Literature", Twenty Fifth International Congress on African Literature, Fez, Morocco. March 10-13, 1999.
- 7) "The Surprising Role of Women in Arabic Literature" MESA (Middle East Studies Association), San Francisco, November, 1997.

*Workshops*

- 1) "Teaching Arabic as a second language: the communicative approach." Center for Cross-Cultural Studies in Rabat, March, 2003.
- 2) "Teaching Arabic as a second language: the importance of the cultural component." Center for Cross-Cultural Studies in Rabat, April, 2002.
- 3) "Arabic Teaching Techniques Adapted to American Students" University of Al-Akhawayn, Ifran, Morocco, May, 2001.
- 4) "Demonstration of Oral Proficiency Testing Techniques." University of Al-Akhawayn, Ifran, Morocco, May, 2001.
- 5) "Teaching Arabic as a second language: the challenge of teaching listening skills" Center for Cross-Cultural Studies in Rabat, March, 2001.

*Upcoming refereed conference papers:*

- 1) "Voices from the Past, Voices from the Present: the tradition of orality in Morocco." International conference on folklore and folk literature, University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, spring 2004.

*Guest Lectures*

- 1) "The Legacy of colonialism in North Africa." Arabic Literature in Translation 311. College of William and Mary, January, 2003.
- 2) "Traditional Moroccan Stories and Tales." American School of Tangier, Morocco. July, 2002.
- 3) "The Challenge of Fieldwork in Documenting Moroccan Orality." Meknes, Morocco. April, 2002.
- 4) "The Cultural Components in Francophone Literature." Modern Languages Department, College of William and Mary, fall, 2000.
- 5) "The Place of *Sirat ʿAntar* in Arabic Medieval Literature." AIMS, Tangier, Morocco. July, 2000.
- 6) "The Educational System in Morocco." Arabic 202. College of William and Mary, April, 2000.

- 7) A survey on the modern History of the Middle East. Arabic Literature in Translation 311. College of William and Mary, March, 2000.
- 8) "The Description of Africa in Medieval Arabic Historical Texts." Modern Languages Department, College of William and Mary, fall, 1999.
- 9) "Beyond Sheherazade: The Story of <sup>c</sup>Antar." Tracking Cultures Annual Conference, University of Moulay Ismail, Meknes, Morocco. May, 1999.
- 10) "Beyond Sheherazade: the Story of <sup>c</sup>Antar." Charles Center, William and Mary College, April 20, 1999.
- 11) "The Arabic Hero in Medieval Arabic Epic: The Story of <sup>c</sup>Antar." Modern Languages Department, College of William and Mary, fall 1998.
- 12) "A Historical Survey of Moroccan Immigration and Emigration." School of Advanced International Studies, Washington. October, 1998.
- 13) "The Importance of *Sirat* <sup>c</sup>*Antar* in Medieval Arabic Literature." Middlebury College. August, 1998.
- 14) "Arabic Literature in the Middle Ages: The Story of <sup>c</sup>Antar, an Arabic Epic." Univ. of Moulay Ismail, Meknes, University of Moulay Ismail, Meknes, Morocco, May, 1998.
- 15) "The Storyteller: From the Desert to the Street Corners of Marrakech." Univ. of Moulay Ismail, Meknes Morocco, May 1997.
- 16) "The Story of <sup>c</sup>Antar: an Arabic Epic." Public lecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1996.
- 17) "Islamic Traditions in Morocco." Lecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1995.
- 18) "Popular Literature in Morocco." School of Arabic, Middlebury College 1994.

## SERVICE

### *Service to students*

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|----------------|---|
| 1996-present   | Advisor to students both in Arabic Language and Literature section, and in Middle East Studies.   |
| 2001           | Obtained \$5000 grant from Reves Center for International Studies for students participating in AIMS summer intensive Arabic program in Tangier, Morocco  |
| 1996-2003      | Coordinator of an Arabic conversational hour for students in the Arabic program   |
| 1996-2001      | Set up Arabic film series to expose students to the history and culture of the Middle East and Arab world. The objective of this activity is to open other worlds to the students, to help them understand other cultures, and to encourage student interest in Arabic language and culture. One indirect indication of this program's success is the dramatically increased enrolment in the Arabic section. Some of the movies shown have been: <i>Terrorism and Kabbab</i> , <i>Between Two Worlds</i> , <i>Bab el Oued City</i> , <i>Doors of the Sky are Open</i> , <i>History of Arabs</i> , <i>The Importance of Poetry in the Arab World</i> , <i>The Power of the Word</i> , <i>Boys and Girls</i> . |
| May, 2000      | Member of the Committee evaluating thesis defence, William and Mary College.  |
| 1998, 99, 2000 | Advisor to students organizing annual spring International dinners.   |
| 1999           | Advisor to students in the Middle East Music Ensemble, rehearsal with students reading poetry during this event.  |

1999 Translation of several poems from Arabic into English for the Middle East Music Ensemble led by Professor Anne Rasmussen.

*Service to Department*

2003 Arabic search Committee.  
1998-2003 Member, Professional Activities Committee.  
2001 Arabic search Committee.  
1998-99, 2001 Coordinator, Arabic section.  
1997, 99, 2001 Member, Policy Committee.  
1999-2001 Member, Library Committee.  
2000 Met with the candidate for the Japanese position.  
2000 Arabic search Committee.  
1999 Attended all lectures by applicants for the francophone position.  
1996-1999 Faculty representative at the WM and language lab open house.

*Service to College of Arts and Sciences*

2003 Invited guest lecturer from Center of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. to speak on the use of computer technology in teaching advanced Arabic.  
2000-2001 Chair, Middle East Faculty Advisory Committee.  
1996-2001 Member, Middle East Faculty Advisory Committee.  
2001 Preliminary planning and organization of a conference entitled Arabic Studies in the New Millennium, which was not funded but may be reconsidered at a future date.  
2001 Invited guest lecturer from Harvard University to speak on modern Arabic literature in North Africa.  
1998-2000 Detailed initial planning of the proposed Intensive Summer program in Morocco, including budget.  
1998, 2000 Purchase of books for the SWEM Library; this involved travel to several large Moroccan cities seeking books of suitable quality.  
2000 Invited Dean Driss Ouaouicha from Morocco to meet with the Reves Center and College administration and members of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures about a possible student and/or faculty exchange program.  
1999 Contact of other institutions (UVA) to evaluate interest in their joining the future W&M summer program.  
1998 Site visits in Morocco to determine their suitability for a William and Mary summer program.

*Service to the Profession*

2003 Member of the Unité de Formation et de Recherche (UFR), Meknes, Morocco.  
2001-2003 Director of the AIMS (American Institute for Maghreb Studies) Intensive Arabic Language Summer Program, Tangier, Morocco.  
1994-2003 Member of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA).  
1999-2003 Member of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA).  
2000-2003 Member of Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar (SERMEISS).  
1999-2003 Member of the African Literature Association (ALA).  
2002 Chair of a panel during international conference on folklore and folk literature. Tunis, Tunisia.  
2001, 2002 Chair of the AIMS acceptance committee for the summer program; reviewed student qualifications and recommended acceptance and placement levels, as well as amount of grant money to be awarded applicants.  
2001, 2002 Organized a series of lectures for Arabic Intensive Summer Program in Tangier.  
2001 Visiting scholar, Al-Akhawayn University, Ifran, Morocco.

- 2001 Gave a workshop on teaching Arabic as a second language at the Cross-Cultural Center in Rabat.
- 2001 Participated in presenting workshop on teaching Arabic to English-speaking students, University of Al-Akawayn, Ifran, Morocco.
- 2001 As an independent outside expert, gave the OPI (oral proficiency test) at the end of the intensive summer program at University of Al-Akawayn, Ifran, Morocco.
- 2000 Cultural preparation of several Moroccan professors going to Middlebury College to teach in the intensive summer program.
- 2000 Participated in presenting workshop on teaching Arabic to English-speaking students, University of Al-Akawayn, Ifran, Morocco.
- 2000 Member of the AIMS acceptance committee for the summer program; reviewed student qualifications and recommended acceptance and placement levels, as well as amount of grant money to be awarded applicants.
- 2000 Reviewed the American Institute for Maghreb Studies (AIMS) summer program in Tangier and proposed steps to be taken to improve the quality and the visibility of this program.
- 2000 Developed and presented workshop on the problems of teaching Arabic as a second language and techniques applicable to American students, Cross-Culture Center, Rabat, Morocco.
- 2000 As an independent outside expert, gave the OPI (oral proficiency test) at the end of the intensive summer program at University of Al-Akawayn, Ifran, Morocco.
- 1999 Provided final consultation and verification on Moroccan content in a book of linguistic analysis of various Arabic dialects.
- 1999 Member of the ALA (African Literature Association) and of the Organizing and Advisory Committee for the association's 25th Annual Meeting.
- 1994-96 Coordinator of the Arabic section, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

*Service to the community of Williamsburg*

- 1999-present I have been called upon by members of the City of Williamsburg community for advice concerning travel to Morocco, and in these cases I try to provide as much pertinent and helpful information as possible. I am frequently contacted by either members of the (surprisingly numerous) Moroccan community in the area or by members of the public dealing with these people asking for help translating and interpreting from Moroccan to English and vice versa. I have spent an afternoon at the hospital, for example, translating between the doctor and a young Moroccan couple with a sick baby; the Mariott hotel employing many of these Moroccans calls regularly with translation questions, as does the post office.