

Samia Costandi

Dr. Samia Costandi is a Canadian of Palestinian origin who was born in Cyprus and grew up in Lebanon. In 1988 she travelled with her two sons, Khaled, aged 10, and Omar, aged 8, to Montreal to pursue her masters and then her doctorate at McGill University in the Faculty of Education. She made Canada her country of choice and obtained her citizenship in 1997. Her doctorate (Doctorem Philosophiae, 2006) was a *narrative inquiry* in the area of *philosophy of education* http://digitool.library.mcgill.ca/R/-?func=dbin-jump-full&object_id=99923¤t_base=GEN01 ; her Masters of Arts was in *culture and values* <http://www.libsearch.com/visit/384464> ; and her undergrad degree was in *philosophy*.

Dr. Costandi has twenty five years of teaching experience in higher education. She taught at McGill Faculty of Education from 1990-2001 as well as at several colleges in Montreal; she has extensive experience in teacher training. She holds the Margaret Gillett Award from the Centre for Research & Teaching on Women at McGill University (2000); she also obtained the Helen Prize for Women (1999) for merging her academic work with her community work in Motreal; while engaging in her doctoral research she was one of fifty select researchers who held the most prestigious Quebec Government Doctoral Award FCAR for the academic years 1997-1998 & 1998-1999/

Dr Costandi joined Ahlia University in 2009 and is a passionate teacher, a prolific writer, a rigorous researcher, and a committed educator whose mentoring has inspired many students over the years including Ahlia students whom she inspired to establish the Psychology Club at Ahlia University during the past year; she believes in student centered learning, interdisciplinary research as well as life-long learning that is embedded in community work. Dr. Constandi teaches in the areas of *philosophy of education* and *the humanities*; among the courses she has taught over the years are: *Philosophical Foundations of Education, Multicultural Education, Mythology in Education, Introduction to Psychology, Introduction to Sociology, Culture, Drama & Education, Education Biography, Introduction to Educational Psychology, Ethics in Practice, World Views, Classroom Management, Contemporary Issues in Education and many others.*

One of Dr. Costandi's greatest strengths is her ability to provide educative insights on the relationship between the Western cultures and the Arab Middle Eastern culture. This is because she finds herself placed on the periphery, having been born a Palestinian Christian Arab whose civilization is Arab Muslim while at the same time identifying with Western ideals through studying in Western schools and universities. She is known for taking initiatives in creating important conversations between these two cultures.

Publications

1. *Meandering through My Epistemological Patchwork Quilt: A Narrative Inquiry of my Landscapes of Learning.* Journal of Philosophy & History of Education Vol. 60, 2010, pp. 86-100.
2. (Invited) Article: *First Author* of article entitled: *Justice across Cultures: Personal Narratives from the Near East and the South East.* Journal of Interdisciplinary Education (Journal of the World Council for Curriculum & Instruction) Vol. IX, 2010, pp. 29-47. Second author: Mrs. Kamala Louvelle.

3. (Invited) article entitled: *The Poetics of Conflict & Reconciliation: A Narrative of Palestinian Dispossession*. Dulia et Latria Journal Volume II, 2009.
4. In Press: Concurrently: Article in the Mediterranean Journal of Education Studies (MJES-Special Issue) as well as a chapter in Andres Elias Mezzawi and Ronald Sultana's forthcoming edited book on *Academic Governance in the Arab World- post Cambridge Confernece-* to be published by <http://www.sensepublishers.com>
5. Proceedings of the International Conference, AHLIA University, Kingdom of Bahrain, 3-4 June 2007: *Higher Education in the Twenty-First Century: Issues & Challenges*. Editors Abdulla Y. Al-Hawaj, Wajeeh Ali, & E.H. Twizell. London, UK: CRC Press: Taylor & Francis Group (2008).
6. Invited contributing author in edited book entitled: *Women and the Politics of Military Confrontation: Palestinian and Israeli Gendered Narratives of Dislocation*; co-editors Dr. Ronit Lentin, Professor of Ethic and Racial Studies (University of Dublin) and Dr. Nahla Abdo, Professor of Sociology (Carleton University, Ottawa) Berghahn Press, Oxford & New York (Spring 2012).
7. Book Review in the McGill Journal of Education. Spring/Summer 2002. Author Grace Feuerverger, ToutledgeFalmer, 2001, ISBN 0-4159-2938-3: Oasis of Dreams: *Teaching & Learning Peace in a Jewish-Palestinian Village in Israel*.
7. Inkshed: Newsletter of the Canadian Association for the Study of LAnguage and Learning, Spring 2001, title of my front page article: *Multicultural Hues: Using Writing to Discover Self and Other*.
8. Inkshed, summer 1999. Title of article: *Cultural Bridges& Student Testimonies*.