

RITA MUFARRIJ MERHEJ

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▪ Email: rita_merhej5@hotmail.com ▪ Nationality: **Lebanese, French**

EDUCATION

Université Libanaise / Lebanese University Doctoral School of Literature, Humanities & Social Sciences Doctorate in Psychology	Lebanon	September 2022
Université René Descartes, Sorbonne, PARIS V Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées (DESS) in Clinical Psychology and Psychopathology	France	February 1985
American University of Beirut (AUB) Masters of Art in Psychology	Lebanon	February 1981
American University of Beirut (AUB) Bachelor Degree in Psychology	Lebanon	June 1977
Collège Protestant Français de Beyrouth (CPF) Baccalaureate Parts I and II	Lebanon	June 1974

WORK EXPERIENCE

Haigazian University Assistant Professor	Lebanon	September 2011 till present
<i>Academic (courses taught)</i>	Psychology: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- General Psychology- Cognitive Psychology- Psychology of the Child- Abnormal Psychology- Social Psychology- Child Abnormal Psychology- Industrial-Organizational Psychology- Special Topics: The Psychology of Evil- Special Topics: Psychology of Extremism- History and Systems in Psychology	

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- Senior Seminar in Psychology
 - Psychopathology for Adults (Graduate level)
 - Psychopathology for Children (Graduate level)

Education and Special Education:

- Trends in Early Childhood Education
- Educational Administration
- Introduction to Special Education
- Curriculum and Methods in Special Education
- Senior Seminar in Special Education

Social Work:

- Social Work: Working with Groups
- Social Work: Working with Individuals and Families
- Senior Seminar in Social Work

Other functions at Haigazian University

- Coordinator of Training for the Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology (2017 till present)
- Head of the Research Ethics Committee for the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences (present)
- Chair of the Faculty Assembly (2019 till 2021) and Member of the President’s Emergency Cabinet
- Orientation Program Moderator (for new undergraduates – 2012 till present)
- Faculty Advisor for Psychology students (present)
- Advisor and Reader for Masters’ theses in Psychology and Special Education (present)

Ministry of Education and Higher Education / UNICEF.
Senior Consultant for Pilot Project on Inclusive Education in the Public Sector

Lebanon

March 2020 till present

Lebanese American University (LAU) / Social Sciences Department.

Part-time Lecturer in Psychology
Courses taught:

Lebanon

February 2011 till June 2019

- Child Development
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- Social Psychology		
Friends of the Disabled Association / I'dad Center for Children and Youth with Special Needs. Director and Clinical Psychologist	Lebanon	October 2004 till August 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training workshops for special educators (behavior modification techniques, writing IEPs) - Supervision of Department of Specialized Therapies (physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy) - Parental guidance and counseling - Clinical assessment of children upon admission - Founded the Early Intervention Unit at the Center (2006) - Created a Nucleus Group of Self-Advocates for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities (2010-2011) 		
International Labor Organization (ILO). Consultant for Mission on Employment of People with Disabilities: Carried out research on Good Practices for the Employment of People with Disabilities in Lebanon	Lebanon	June 2012 till December 2013
American University of Beirut (AUB) / SBS Department. Part-time Lecturer in Psychology <i>Courses taught:</i>	Lebanon	October 1993 till June 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Psychology - Development over the Lifespan - Abnormal Child Psychology - 		
United Nations Relief Agency for Western Asia (UNRWA). Clinical Psychologist on Consultancy basis for diagnosis of learning disabilities and difficulties in young Palestinian children toward their integration in regular schools of UNRWA.	Lebanon	2000 – 2006
The Educational Center for Research and Development (CRDP) / Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Consultant for Teacher Training Program in private and public schools in Lebanon for the detection and treatment of learning difficulties in the Elementary classes	Lebanon	1991-1993
United Nations Development Program (UNDP), New York and Kuwait.	Kuwait	1989 – 1990

Consultant (two expert missions) in Rehabilitation Programs Design and Staff Training for institutions dealing with intellectually disabled children and youth in affiliation to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Social Affairs, and centers for children with multiple disabilities in the private sector in Kuwait		
Friends of the Disabled Association, “Marie Rose Boulos Center for Curative Education”. Director of the Day Care Center for children and youth with intellectual disabilities / Clinical Psychologist in charge of assessment, diagnosis and design of individualized educational plans for children	Lebanon	1987 – 1993
Al Amal Institute for Children with Intellectual Disabilities Director of the Psycho-educational programs at the Institute: Assessment, diagnosis and design of treatment plans for children and youth with intellectual disabilities, and follow up reporting	Lebanon	1984-1986
United Nations, Statistical Office (New York, UN Plaza) Consultant on Disability Statistics for the Middle East Participant in Experts Group Meeting on Disability Statistics (November 1983)	New York	July-August 1983
Haigazian University Instructor in Psychology and English Communication Skills <i>Courses taught:</i> - General Psychology - Abnormal Psychology - Psychology of Learning - Experimental Psychology <i>Other functions:</i> - Editor-in-chief of College Yearbook (“Focus”) – (1981-1982), (1982-1983) - Director of Student Life Office	Lebanon	1981-1983

PUBLICATIONS

ريتا مرهج، الأبعاد النفس-إجتماعية للذهنية المتطرفة في خطاب نماذج مختلفة من التنظيمات المتطرفة (مراجعة الدكتور طلال العتريسي)، مجلة المعارف	In press
ريتا مرهج، التطرف في لبنان من عدسة علم النفس الاجتماعي، مجلة المستقبل العربي	In press

Merhej, Rita. The Extremist Cognitive and Psychosocial Dimensions of Sectarianism in Lebanon. <i>The Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication</i> .	Under review
Merhej, Rita. Grandmothers of the Twenty First Century: Safety Nets and Stress Buffers. <i>Journal of Aging and Health</i> .	Under review
Merhej, Rita. Integrating Social Psychology and Psychoanalysis for the Understanding of the Extremist Mindset. <i>International Forum of Psychoanalysis</i> .	Under review
Merhej, Rita. Prejudice in Children and Extremism in Adults: Intriguing Mindset Convergences. <i>Social Science Information</i> .	Under review
Amkieh, Noura and Merhej, Rita (Master's Thesis Publication), The Narratives of the Survivors of the Beirut Port Blast in Relation to their Recollections of Past Tragedies in Lebanon. In <i>Dealing with the Past, Memory for the Future</i> . Haigazian University Press.	2022
Amkieh, Noura and Merhej, Rita, The Narratives of the Survivors of the Beirut Port Blast in Relation to their Recollections of Past Tragedies in Lebanon. <i>9th International Student Research Conference (ISRC)</i> , May 13, 2022, Conference Proceedings, University of New York in Prague.	2022
UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, <i>Case Study of the Pilot Project of Inclusive Education in the Lebanese Public Sector</i> . https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/media/8391/file	2021
الجذور النائمة للتطرف في الطفولة: متى يجب التدخل؟ المجلة العربية لعلم النفس، حزيران 2021 Merhej, Rita (2021). The Dormant Roots of Extremism in Childhood: When to Interfere? <i>Arab Journal of Psychology</i> , Vol. 6, No. 1	2021
Merhej, Rita (2020). Visibility, contact and market-competence: Keys to the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in the Lebanese market-place. <i>International Journal of Disability Management</i> , Volume 15, e2, 1-8. doi:10.1017/idm.2020	2020

Merhej, Rita (2019), Dehydration and Cognition: An understated relation, <i>International Journal of Health Governance</i> , Vol. 24, Issue 1, pp. 19-30. https://doi.org/10.1108/IJHG-10-2018-0056	2019
Merhej, Rita (2019), Mental Illness Stigma in the Arab world: Beyond socio-cultural factors. <i>International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare</i> , Vol. 12, No. 4, pp. 285-298. doi.10.1108/IJHRH-03-2019-0025	2019
Merhej, Rita (2014), <i>Awareness Program for fighting Gender-Based Violence in Schools: Teacher's Manual</i> , YWCA/Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon	2014
Merhej, Rita (2001, 2012, 2016), <i>Our Children from Birth to Adolescence</i> , (Arabic), Academia International, Beirut, Lebanon. Winner of the Souad Al Sabbah Award for Best Cultural Achievement for (in coordination with AUB Alumni Association)	Editions 2001, 2012, 2016
Merhej, Rita (2010), <i>Manual for Psycho-social support for Children in Emergency Situations</i> (Arabic), Arab Resource Collective ARC, Beirut, Lebanon 2010	2010
Merhej, Rita (2009), <i>The Educational Kit for Teachers of Children with Intellectual Disabilities</i> , (Arabic), For "Lana Al Mostaqbal" Association in cooperation with OXFAM-Quebec, 2009	2009
Merhej, Rita (2001), <i>Autism: diagnosis, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation manual</i> . Ministry of Social Affairs / Lebanese Organization for the Rights of the Disabled, (in Arabic), 2001	2001
Merhej, Rita. The Disabled in the Family, <i>Al-Raida Journal: Women in the Arab Family</i> - Issue 76, 28-30. https://doi.org/10.32380/alrj.v0i0.792	1997
Merhej, Rita (1990), Rehabilitation of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, UN/TCD Project, Kuwait/85/001 Technical Reports (2)	1990
Merhej, Rita, Chouaib, Jamal and Za'za', Rima (1990), " <i>The Hadikat as Salam Programme for Special Education</i> ", First Steps: Stories on Inclusion in Early Childhood Education, UNESCO, Paris.	1990
Chamie, Mary and Mufarrij Rita (1983). <i>Development of Statistics of Disabled Persons: Case Studies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria</i> [Working paper]. United Nations. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Statistical Office, New York.	1983

LOCAL, REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Lebanese University, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Conference on "Man and Water". Delivered paper on "Impact of dehydration on cognitive performance in children and adults" – Beirut, Lebanon, December 2018	Beirut, 2018
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Lebanese University, Doctoral School of Literature, Humanities & Social Sciences, Conference on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders. Moderator – Beirut, Lebanon, October 2018	Beirut, 2018
Haigazian University, Department of Education, Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Delivered presentation on Special Education at Haigazian University: A case study. Beirut, Lebanon, January 2018	Beirut, 2018
Haigazian University, Nutrition Department, Conference on Healthy Nutrition for Healthy Schools. Delivered presentation on Nutrition and Psychological Well-Being in School Children, Beirut, Lebanon, May 2017	Beirut, 2017
Haigazian University, Seminar on Interreligious and Intercultural Relations in a Time of Conflict and Migration in the MENA Region. Delivered presentation entitled: A cognitive-behavioral analysis of terrorist extremism. Beirut, Lebanon, April 2017	Beirut, 2017
Ministry of Social Affairs, Dubai. Delivered a 3-day workshop for Social Workers from the Ministry about Counselling for Families of Child with Disability. Dubai, May 2016	Dubai, UAE, 2016
National YWCA (Young Women Christian Association of Lebanon), Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Project. Conducted workshop for a core group of 15 school counselors from the public sector as part of the YWCA “Communities Free of Violence” project. Beirut, Lebanon, October 2014	Beirut, 2014
Arab Organization for Disabled Persons (AODP) Conference on UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Speaker on Employment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Beirut, Lebanon, July 2012	Beirut, 2012
American University of Beirut, Media Studies Program, 16th annual conference of the Arab-US Association of Communication Educators (AUSACE 2011): Digital and Media Literacy: New Directions. Speaker on the Role of Media Psychology: Presentation entitled “Fifteen Minutes of Child Education” – Beirut, Lebanon, October 2011	Beirut, 2011
American University of Beirut Alumni Association. Keynote Speaker for the AUB Alumni Association Legacy Ceremony Beirut, Lebanon, October 2010	Beirut, 2010
The Shafallah Third International Forum, Shafallah Center, Doha. Presentation on Media and Disability. Doha, April 2009	Qatar, 2009
The Shafallah Third International Forum, Shafallah Center, Doha. Presentation on Art and Disability. Doha, April 2008	Qatar, 2008
Kuwaiti Guardians' Association, Kuwait. Workshop for Parents and Professionals on Autism: Diagnosis, Educational Programs and Behavioral Management. Kuwait, 2008	Kuwait, 2008
Parents of Handicapped Association – Sharjah, UAE. Workshop on Disability and the Family. Sharjah, UAE, November 2008	Sharjah, UAE, 2008
The Open Art Seminar, The Levuk Center for Disabled Youth, Hillerod, Denmark.	Denmark, 2007

Presentation on the Importance of Art Therapy in the Education of Children and Youth with Intellectual Disabilities. Denmark, April 2007

Global Investment House, Kuwait.

Kuwait, 2002

Guest Speaker for the Seminar on Women and Achievement. Kuwait, 2002

Abu Dhabi 8th Annual Conference by the U.A.E. Women's Federation (Theme: Nutrition and Challenges Ahead)

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2001

2 presentations on: "Relationship between Nutrition and Behavioral and Learning Problems in Children", and "Anorexia and Bulimia in Adolescents". Abu Dhabi, 2001

MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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- Lebanese Psychological Association/LPA (Former Board member - Member)
 - American Psychological Association (APA) (International Affiliate)
 - Autism Coordination Committee (Member)
 - Arab Resource Collective / ARC (Consultant)
 - Association for Volunteer Services/AVS (Volunteer)
 - AUB Alumni Association (Member)
 - Ex-Director of VSA (Very Special Arts) of Lebanon Program
 - Delegate of the Shafallah International Forum (Qatar)
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REFEREES

Upon request
