

Dr Fatema S. Alhalwachi

Applied Linguist · Sociolinguist · Educator

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Profile

Applied linguist and sociolinguist with a PhD from Birkbeck, University of London, and fourteen years of university-level teaching across UK and Gulf higher education. Research sits at the intersection of sociolinguistics, narrative and discourse analysis, and digital communication, with teaching across discourse analysis, second language pedagogy, academic writing, and English language description. A thoroughly qualitative research practice — discourse, narrative, thematic, and autoethnographic analysis — underpins a peer-reviewed publication record, an active external practice in knowledge exchange, and a UK teaching qualification (PCAP, FHEA).

Research Interests

Sociolinguistics · health communication · narrative & discourse analysis · medical humanities · digital communication · language, identity & religion · qualitative methodology.

Education & Credentials

PhD, Applied Linguistics — Birkbeck, University of London (2018–2021)

MA, TESOL — Murray State University, USA

PCAP (Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice) — York St John University (2009)

FHEA — Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

Academic Experience

Honorary Research Fellow — Birkbeck, University of London

October 2026 – September 2029

- Conducting collaborative research in sociolinguistics, health communication, and medical humanities, including joint work with Professor Lisa McEntee-Atalianis.
- Developing externally funded research on infertility, language, faith, and culturally responsive healthcare communication.
- Contributing to the Faculty's research environment through publications, seminars, grant development, and public engagement.

Teaching and Research Assistant — University of Bahrain

2004 – 2018

- Taught undergraduate English language, academic writing, and ESP across mixed-proficiency cohorts, including English for Business, Writing for IT, and English for Specific Purposes.
- Coordinated Writing for IT across a multi-section cohort — syllabus planning, examination design, and grade-analysis reporting.
- Helped establish the University of Bahrain Writing Centre; provided academic-writing guidance for Master's and PhD students across disciplines.
- Delivered blended teaching using Moodle and Blackboard alongside face-to-face lectures and workshops.

Teaching Areas

Discourse & Narrative Analysis · Sociolinguistics · Second Language Acquisition & Pedagogy (TESOL) · Academic Writing & EFL · Describing English Language · Qualitative Research Methods · Digital / Computer-Mediated Communication · Blended Learning (Moodle, Blackboard)

Selected Publications

- Alhalwachi, F. (2026). “WTF Uterus?” Metaphors of the body as positioning in infertility blogs by Muslim women. *Qualitative Health Research*.
- Alhalwachi, F., & McEntee-Atalianis, L. J. (2025). From offline to online stigma resistance: Identity construction in narratives of infertile Muslim women. *Narrative Inquiry*, 35(2), 261–294.
- Seven further articles currently under review (*Health Communication*; *Communication & Medicine*; *Critical Discourse Studies*; *Discourse, Context & Media*; *Gender and Language*; *Journal of Sociolinguistics*; *Qualitative Research*); full list on request or at fatema-alhalwachi.com/publications.html
- Book chapter in preparation for *Digital Intimacies* (Bloomsbury, provisionally accepted).

Grants & Fellowships

- Honorary Research Fellowship, Birkbeck, University of London (October 2026 – September 2029) — awarded.
- Active development of externally funded research on infertility, language, and culturally responsive healthcare communication.

Academic Leadership & Service

- Led on the original concept, theme, and overall planning for the 2026 Health in Our Hands conference, Birkbeck, as part of a four-person organising team; opened the day with the welcome address.
- Presented at international conferences (IGALA, Botswana; ACI 2020, Université de Bourgogne, France; BAAL Annual Conference and Special Interest Groups, UK and Italy) and as an invited Birkbeck seminar speaker.
- Peer reviewer and member, BAAL and IGALA.

External Practice & Knowledge Exchange

- Founder, **Intertext Language Consultancy** — Arabic–English literary, academic, and cultural translation.
alhalwachi-translation.com
- SEC-registered educational consultant, advising international students on UK university applications.

Affiliations

BAAL (British Association for Applied Linguistics) · IGALA (International Gender and Language Association) · Society of Educational Consultants · Society of Authors

Languages

Arabic — bilingual proficiency · English — bilingual proficiency

References available upon request.