



Dr. MERFAT ALARDAWI

Assistant Professor of Drama and Film Studies
Visual and Audio Production Department
Faculty of Communication and Media

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Biography

Dr. Merfat Alardawi is an Assistant Professor in Drama and Film Studies at the Faculty of Communication and Media at King Abdulaziz University, where she also held the position of Supervisor of the Communication Department. She received her PhD from Dublin City University, Ireland, in 2023 for her research examining [\[the impact of Turkish drama on Saudi women's attitudes and perception patterns\]](#). In addition, Dr. Alardawi holds a Master of Arts in Communication and a Bachelor of Arts in Food and Nutrition, both from King Abdulaziz University. Dr. Alardawi's research interests are diverse, encompassing drama and film studies, content analysis, and audience studies, with a particular emphasis on the representation of women in media. Her scholarly work investigates the complexities of foreign dramas and employs innovative qualitative methods, including opinion mining and mixed-method content analysis, to understand cultural narratives and their impact on audiences.

Beyond her research, she has delivered numerous workshops covering topics such as screenplay writing, film criticism, podcast production. Her courses on serial dramas and critical cinema inspire budding filmmakers and writers to push boundaries and challenge conventions. Merfat is also the visionary behind the Student Film Festival at King Abdulaziz University, an initiative that cultivates a dynamic community of aspiring filmmakers and storytellers while promoting artistic expression and collaboration within media studies. With her expertise in adaptation and hybridity in screenwriting, she champions the representation of women in media, advocating for more nuanced portrayals in visual storytelling. Her commitment to bridging academia and practical application makes her a compelling figure in drama and film studies, driving a new generation of creatives to explore the power of storytelling.

Work Experience

- 2025 – Present: Part-time Consultant, Center of Research Excellence in Renewable Energy and Power Systems, King Abdulaziz University.
- 2024 – 2026: Supervisor, Department of Communication, Faculty of Communication and Media, King Abdulaziz University.
- 2018 – 2023: Lecturer, Department of Visual and Audio Production, Faculty of Communication and Media, King Abdulaziz University.
- 2011 – 2018: Lecturer, Department of Communication, Faculty of Communication and Media, King Abdulaziz University.
- 2006 – 2011: Office Director of the Vice Dean's, Faculty of Art and Humanities, King Abdulaziz University.

Professional Associations

- 2024 – Present: Member of the General Assembly and Representative for the Western Region, Animation Society, Film Commission, Ministry of Culture, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Key Initiatives and Achievements

- 2025 – Present: Founder and Creator of the Filmmaking Diploma Program, Department of Visual and Audio Production, King Abdulaziz University.
- 2025 – Present: Founder and Creator of the Student Scientific Seminar on Film Criticism, Department of Visual and Audio Production, King Abdulaziz University.
- 2023 – Present: Founder and Creator of the Student Film Festival, King Abdulaziz University.

Research Interests

She welcomes inquiries from prospective students interested in pursuing a Master's by Research or Ph.D. in a range of fields, including television, film, and radio studies; media, drama, and soap opera studies; audience studies; gender studies; comparative cultural studies; and cultural analysis. Her research encompasses both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including ethnographic approaches. Additional areas of focus include mass communication, the role of artificial intelligence in the film industry, and the study of podcasts.

Supervision

- Supervisor of a master's student Mrs. Dhelal Al-Qurashi, and her thesis entitled: The Media Elite Perspective Towards the Social-Cultural Contents of the Saudi Podcast (a case study of the Finjan podcast).

Reviews

Journal	Role
Culture, Health & Sexuality – Taylor & Francis [Link]	Reviewer
Cogent Arts & Humanities – Taylor & Francis [Link]	Reviewer
Contemporary Islam – Springer Nature [Link]	Reviewer
Print, Radio, TV & Film Studies – Human Nature Research Publisher [Link]	Editorial Board
Arab Journal of Media and Communication – King Saud University [Link]	Reviewer

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal

Year	Publication
2025	Berg, M., Alardawi, M. and Al Obeidli, N. (2025) 'Cultural skimming, authenticity, and streaming preferences: Turkish serials (Dizi) among young audiences in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE', <i>Critical Studies in Television: The International Journal of Television Studies</i> , 0(0), pp. 1–21. [Link]

Peer Reviewed Journal

Year	Publication
2025	Alardawi, M. (2025) 'Saudi women and Turkish dramas: Identity and media influence', <i>World Journal of Social Science</i> , 12(1), pp. 12–21. [Link]
2025	Al–Qurashi, D. and Alardawi, M. (2025) 'The Social–cultural frameworks embedded in Saudi podcasts: A case study of “Fingan” podcast', <i>King Abdulaziz University: Journal of Communication and Media Studies</i> , 2(1), pp. 106–142. [Link]
2025	Alardawi, M. (2025) 'A Historical Analysis of the Genesis of the Television in Saudi Arabia', <i>Asian Social Science</i> , 21(2), pp. 10–19. [Link]
2025	Alardawi, M. and Brereton, P. (2025) 'Squid Game: Pleasure and consumption of Korean drama by young Saudi audiences', <i>Mediatization Studies</i> , 8, pp. 69–89. [Link]
2024	Alardawi, M. (2024) 'Exploring challenges and opportunities for Saudi podcasters: A qualitative study', <i>Management and Marketing</i> , 22(2), pp. 164–178. [Link]
2024	Alardawi, M. and Brereton, P. (2024) 'Arabic script television formats between adaptation and cultural identity: A case study of the Killing', <i>International Journal of Psychological Studies</i> , 16(4), pp. 1–15. [Link]
2024	Alardawi, M. et al. (2024) 'Saudi viewers watching foreign medical dramas: A uses and gratification approachd', <i>Global Journal of Health Science</i> , 16(10), pp. 23–36. [Link]
2024	Alardawi, M. (2024) 'Cultural identity through the televised Italian drama: A case study of My Brilliant Friend', <i>Josh Journal of Human Studies</i> , 1(8), pp. 9–27. [Link]
2023	Alardawi, M., Saqah, F. and Zakari, H. (2023) 'The representation of women in Saudi film: The case of Amra and the second marriage', <i>Asian Social Science</i> , 19(6), pp. 123–134. [Link]
2023	Alardawi, M. (2023) 'Cinema and audience culture', <i>Saudi Society for Comparative Literature: Syag Journal</i> , (5), pp. 1–5. [Link]
2022	Qutub, A. and Alardawi, M. (2022) 'Saudi viewers' perceptions of Attack on Titan Japanese animation online series', <i>Asian Social Science</i> , 18(1), pp. 65–77. [Link]
2021	Alardawi, M., Bajnaid, I.A. and Brereton, P. (2021) 'The influence of Turkish drama on socio-cultural values of Saudi women', <i>Modern Applied Science</i> , 15(4), pp. 47–59. [Link]
2021	Alardawi, M., Brereton, P. and Bajnaid, I. (2021) 'Turkish dramas and Saudi female perceptions of socio–cultural values', The Asian Conference on Arts and Humanities 2021 Official Conference Proceedings. Osaka University, Tokyo, Japan, 24–26 May 2021. Osaka, Japan: The international academic forum (Iafora), pp. 143–156. [Link]
2020	Alardawi, M. (2020) 'The impact of exposure to the game of thrones on Saudi male identity', <i>Asian Social Science</i> , 16(11), pp. 56–65. [Link]
2014	Alardawi, M. (2014) 'The role of new media in the formation of cultural identity for Saudi adolescents: A survey of Facebook users in Jeddah city', <i>Faculty of Arts and Humanities Journal at the University of Zagazig</i> , 71(1), pp. 257–298. [Link]

Online Article

Year	Publication
2025	Alardawi, M. (2025) 'Saudi women's empowerment in 20230 Vision', <i>Academy</i> , 29 May. Available at: https://online.fliphtml5.com/yvxei/wenv/#p=38 . [Link]
2022	Alardawi, M. et al. (2022) 'Cultural media and community thinking development', <i>Al Riyadh Newspaper</i> , 2 July. Available at: https://www.alriyadh.com/1959582 . [Link]

Book

Year	Publication
2015	Alardawi, M. (2015) <i>New media between rooting and endoscopy</i> . Irbid, Jordan: Modern books world. [Link]

PhD Thesis

Year	Publication
2023	Alardawi, M. (2023) <i>The impact of watching Turkish Drama on Saudi women's attitudes and perception patterns: An audience study</i> . Unpublished PhD thesis. Dublin City University. [Link]

Conferences & Seminars Participation

- Delivered a workshop titled "Screenwriting According to Syd Field's Model," at the University Education Development Center, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 14 May 2026.
- Delivered a workshop titled "Research Methodology and Theory in TV & Film Studies," organized by the Research Committee in the Visual and Audio Production Department, Faculty of Communication and Media, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 27 April 2026.
- Participated in the 13th Career Fair in a panel session titled "Media Presence Charisma," as part of the Career Fair events sponsored by King Abdulaziz University, Superdome, Jeddah, 6–8 April 2026.
- Presented and organized the third Student Seminar on Film Criticism, titled "Film Criticism: Tools and Techniques of Analysis", Visual and Audio Production Department, Faculty of Communication and Media, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 15 April 2025.
- Attended a workshop of "Television Drama: Between Creativity and Influence", Majallat Al-Ghurfa 19, San Diego, California, USA, 7 April 2025.
- Participation in a workshop of cinematic films, and practical applications, in addition to judging the shows participating in the activities of the Compass program (Bosala) organized by the Red Sea and the West of Saudi Arabia History Centre, with the participation of an elite group of academics, researchers and interested parties, King Abdulaziz Foundation (Darah), King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 21–25 July 2024.
- Attended the Postgraduate Student Forum Events, which was held by the Seminars and Conferences Unit at the College of Arts and Humanities, King Faisal Conference Center, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 19–20 May 2024.
- Participation in the 2nd Illuminations Research Meeting on the occasion of World Radio Day and presented a paper entitled "Podcasts, Saudis podcasters and digital marketing", College of Communication and Media, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 13 February 2024.

Conferences & Seminars Participation

- Presented and organized the initiative to hold a festival entitled "We dream through their eyes: The first students' film festival of Visual and Audio Production Department", King Faisal Conference Center, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 14 November 2023.
- Attended a workshop on strengthening cooperation mechanisms between the Film Commission (Ministry of Culture) and Saudi universities entitled "The role of Saudi universities in developing talents in the film sector", Crowne Plaza Hotel – Digital City, Riyadh, 27 September 2023.
- Presented a workshop for students of dramatic and documentary production entitled "Foreign drama and documentary", Visual and Audio Production Department, Faculty of Communication and Media, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 1 February 2023.
- Presented a workshop entitled "A critical vision with Saudi eyes about culture of films hybridization", Visual and Audio Production Department, Faculty of Communication and Media, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 29 January 2023.
- Presented a workshop on the major foundations for establishing a critical opinion of any cinematic work entitled "How to criticize a cinematic film", Jeddah Book Fair 2022, Jeddah, 12 December 2022.
- Attended the internal audit workshop on the quality management system according to a specification of 9001:2015 ISO, Deanship of Quality and Academic Accreditation, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 2022.
- Participation in the 12th Asian Conference on Arts and Humanities (ACAH2021) and presented a paper entitled "Turkish dramas and Saudi female perceptions of socio-cultural values", Toshi Center Hotel, Tokyo, Japan, 24–26 May 2021.
- Attended the 11th Asian Conference entitled "Media, Communication and Film (Media Asia 2020)", IAFOR Research Centre, Kyoto, Japan, 11–14 November 2020.
- Attended a workshop of "Creating a Research Video – Introduction to Digital Storytelling", Dublin City University, Ireland, 2020.
- Attended a workshop of "Research methods theory: Realist evaluation methods", Postgraduates Studies Research Service Unit, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 2020.
- Attended a doctoral qualification program for "The Joint Supervision Program", University Education Development Center, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 2017.
- Participation in the 1st conference on new media: reality and challenges, with a paper entitled "The social and psychological effects of internet addiction", Faculty of Communication and Media, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 2015.
- Participation in the 3rd communication seminar and presented a paper entitled "New media studies: an analytic and theoretical survey (2010–2014)", Communication Skills Department, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 2015.
- Presented a workshop on the mechanism of electronic tests to faculty members' staff, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 2011.
- Attended a workshop on curriculum and training portfolio for the female students bisected, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 2011.
- Attended a workshop on the Academic Ccredititation, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, 2011.

Training & Relevant Skills

- Academic Promotion Regulations and Procedures: File Preparation and Points Calculation.
- Screenwriting with Artificial Intelligence.
- Video Games: Educational and Social Impacts and Opportunities.
- Academic Promotion Procedures for Humanities and Social Sciences.
- CITI Program: Human Subjects Research Certification.
- Artificial Intelligence in Education and Scientific Research: An Applied Model of ChatGPT.
- Artificial Intelligence in Scientific Research.
- Strategies for Starting a Research Project for Publication in ISI Journals.
- Completion of 100 training hours in the Professional Teacher Diploma.
- International Computer Driving License (ICDL).
- Administrative Report Writing Skills.
- Using Virtual Classroom Systems.
- Coordination of General Administrative Tasks.
- Scholarship Preparation Program.
- Technology Integration in Education.
- Creative Thinking and Problem Solving.
- Professional Writing in Public Relations.
- Fundamentals of Public Relations.
- Production of Media and Information Materials.
- Journalistic Information Systems.
- Journalistic Writing Practice.
- Academic Accreditation.
- Introduction to Digital Storytelling.
- Basic Statistical Analysis using MegaStat.
- Training Course in Research Methods using Sage.
- Training Course in Information Management using Zotero.
- Training Course in Research Enhancement Strategies.