

**Amanda Tapp**  
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## **BIOGRAPHY**

I am a Chinese-British researcher, journalist, and writer, currently based in Egypt. My current research interests include the Islamic intellectual tradition, Islamic mysticism (Sufism), and the history of religion, to which I come with cross-disciplinary expertise in sociology, literature, and war studies. In my written work and research, I endeavor to thread these disciplinary strands together to shed new light on various aspects of Islamic culture and its intellectual and mystical traditions. I have intermediate linguistic skills in Arabic, having lived and studied Arabic in Cairo for three years, that enable me to engage with original sources and complex texts. I have published a series of articles as a journalist, and am currently focusing on studying the mystical legacy of Ibn ‘Arabī (d. 1240), with the aim of establishing myself as a scholar in the field Islamic mysticism.

## **EDUCATION**

B.A. (Major) Sociology, (Minor) in English & World Literature, 2013-2017, Pitzer College (Claremont Colleges)

- Study Abroad in Netherlands (3.9/4.0 GPA)
- Dissertation “The Media, the War on Terror, and the Public Sphere” (Hons.)
- Relevant coursework: Islamic Philosophy; Islam: Beyond Ideological Narratives; Munroe Center for Social Inquiry related conferences and seminars; Quantitative Research Methods; Wicked Problems in Society, Culture and Economy; Transformation of the Public Sphere; Modern Philosophy; Qualitative Research Methods; Literary Theory; Sociology of Secularity

M.A. War Studies (Terrorism & Counterterrorism), 2017-2018, King’s College London (University of London)

- Dissertation “Manuel Castells’ ‘Network Society’ and the War on Terror”
- Relevant coursework: War and Insurgency in the Middle East; Evolution of Insurgency; Terrorism, Security and Society (with a focus on the Middle East)

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

Arabic training: University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies); summer course, 2017

King’s College London; standard Arabic course, one semester, 2018

Hedayet Institute for Arabic Studies (HIAS), Cairo, Egypt; 3-month courses, 2018, 2021

- Relevant coursework: *tafsīr* (Qur’anic exegesis), Islamic Philosophy, Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian Colloquial Arabic

International House in Cairo (IH), Cairo, Egypt; Classical Arabic course, Oct – Dec. 2022

“With which Eye do I see Him?” course by the Muhyiddin ibn ‘Arabī Society (MIAS), 2022

Ibn Arabi Interreligious Research Initiatives’ (IAI) Kashmir-MIAS Asia Pacific Reading Group on Ibn ‘Arabī’s *Fusus al-Hikam*, 2022

Ibn Arabi Interreligious Research Initiatives’ (IAI) Arabic Study Group on Ibn ‘Arabī’s *Mawaqī’ al-Nujum*, 2022

Certified by Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL): Level 5, TEFL Academy, 2021

## **PUBLISHED WORKS**

(see [amandatapp.com](https://amandatapp.com/) for writing portfolio)

April 2019 - Aug. 2020; *The Cairo Review*, Journal of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the AUC (American University in Cairo)

- “COVID-19: America, China and the Conspiracy War”, COVID-19 issue
- “Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the Middle East”, Fall 2019 issue

- “Our Future as Climate Refugees”, Winter 2020 issue

May 2019; Egyptian Streets Magazine (Cairo)

- “China-Africa Relations: Parasitism or Mutualism?”

2018; R.I.G.H.T.S Collective NGO (London)

- “The Middle East: A Brief Analysis”
- “A Close Examination of Human Trafficking in the Sinai”

August 2018; Dialogue Magazine (London)

- “Social Movements and Asymmetrical Warfare in an Information Era”

## **JOURNALISM AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

March – Present; Writer for *AUC Today* (Office of Marketing Communications and Affairs at the American University in Cairo)

Sept. 2019 – Present; Cultural (research) correspondent for Kantar, UK Global Consultancy

April 2019 – March 2021; Assistant-Editor and Writer at AUC’s *The Cairo Review*

<https://www.thecairoreview.com/contributors/amanda-tapp/>

- Editing articles written by (and not limited to): Iranian Ambassador in Germany Seyed Hossein Mousavian; the chairman of Al-Masry Al-Youm Publishing House and former chairman of Al-Ahram Newspaper, Abdel Monem Said Aly; journalist Bruce Pannier

March 2019 – September 2019; Research Assistant under Dr. Marco Pinfari

Aug. 2019 – March 2020; Writer for Cairo West Magazine

June 2019 – Aug. 2020; Writer and Researcher for Corporate Communications and Media Services (Cairo)

- Clientele: World Bank, Egyptian Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation (MIIC), Egyptian Ministry of Transport (Intelligent Transportation System), African Development Bank

## **TEACHING AND EDUCATION EXPERIENCE**

Oct. 2021 – Present; English tutor at Preply

- Drafting lesson plans, objectives, and teaching materials, conducting needs analysis, adapting to students with differing needs

Aug. 2019 – Sept. 2020; Community Liaison Officer and School Editor at Malvern College Egypt, a British International School in Cairo

- Coordinating and serving as PR representative for the College in all events internally and externally
- Creating press-release statements and publications

Summer 2014 and 2016; internships as English teacher and project coordinator for Stepping Stones China,

Acted as main teacher for three classes implemented lesson plans, and was responsible for two community centers, managing over 60 volunteers, 20 staff, and 100 children. Awardee of the Pitzer College Internship Fund from my undergraduate university to cover all costs for summer 2016.

Jan. 2015 – May 2015; teacher’s assistant at The Children’s School (California)

June 2011 – Aug. 2011; summer English teacher internship at Kid Castle Educational Institute (Shanghai)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Language: English (Native), Mandarin (Fluent), Arabic (Intermediate – MSA and ECA)

Technical: Proficient in SPSS, HyperResearch, Excel, PowerPoint, Quantitative Analysis, Qualitative Analysis, Grant Writing, Conducting Research, Editorial skills, Content Development, Survey Methodology, Statistics, Proofreading Skills, Photojournalism skills, Media Analytic skills, Communication skills, Networking

Background: British citizen, currently residing in Egypt