

### A year on from its launch ... a word of appreciation from the BATA President!

Dear members and colleagues,

It's been a year since we launched BATA and on behalf of the BATA Council, I would like to thank you for your contributions, suggestions and engagement with BATA activities. Over the last 12 months, a dedicated team of colleagues from different universities and schools have worked tirelessly to get the Association up and running, and I am very delighted to report that BATA has generated a great deal of interest and positive feedback. Over **200** colleagues have subscribed to the BATA newsletter and membership, and over **180** subscribed to its webinars and activities during the past year. The series of webinars on the teaching of Arabic online has brought colleagues together and allowed greater collaboration for sharing, promoting and disseminating best practices and resources across the wide network of teachers in the UK and abroad. This has culminated in developing a resource pack to help and support colleagues in the field (Please visit [our website](#) for further information on this).

In the next 12 months, BATA will continue to support colleagues and facilitate greater interaction and collaboration, which, we hope, will be enhanced by our second series of webinars introduced in this newsletter and by BATA rescheduled conference to be held at the [University of Leeds, 24-25 June 2021](#).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the BATA Council for their hard work and commitment over the past year. I would also like to extend our thanks to our members who have joined BATA, and I wish to take this opportunity to encourage other colleagues to join the Association. BATA is a collective endeavour and joining it will make it a success for the benefit of all. Please subscribe online at <https://britisharabicteaching.org/membership/>. If you have any questions or comments, please drop us a line at [bata@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:bata@leeds.ac.uk). We look forward to seeing you at BATA activities!

**Prof. Mustapha Lahlali, BATA President**

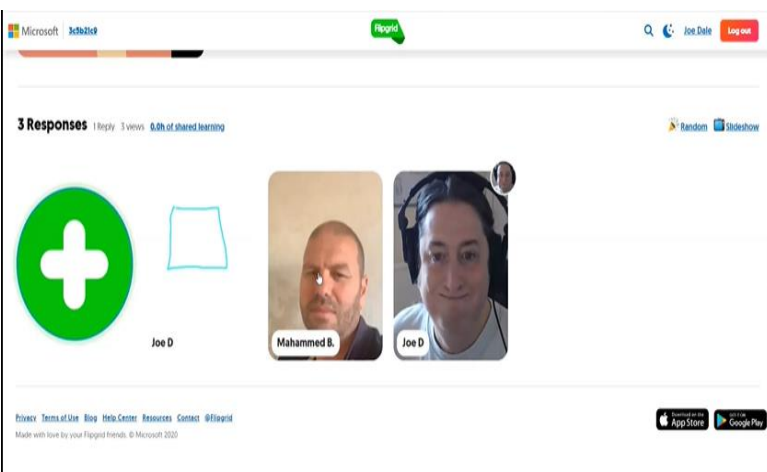




## BATA Webinars

BATA has successfully organised its first series of webinars on the theme of *Teaching Arabic Online: Opportunities and Challenges*, which has attracted a great deal of interest from colleagues in the UK and beyond. Following the very positive and encouraging feedback we received, we have decided to run a second series of webinars on the provisional theme of *Blended Learning and the teaching of Arabic language, culture, literature and translation*.

In the first series, our colleagues have delivered three stimulating and interactive webinars. **Dr. Dayoub** demonstrated how to develop online assessment and create a range of Arabic tasks to enhance learning and teaching online. Delegates were introduced to new tools and platforms for developing such activities. **Joe Dale** explored how different cross-platform tools can promote collaboration, independent learning, creativity and assessment opportunities. Delegates were given the opportunity to explore the power and potential of web tools and apps for enhancing learning in and out of the classroom. **Mahammed Bouabdallah** showed excellent examples of using Twitter in teaching General Arabic and Arabic for special purposes. Bouabdallah explored how Twitter can be used as facilitator to maximise students' performance and motivation.



Over 100 colleagues have attended BATA webinars. Below are screenshots from the webinars.



### Textbooks:

You may find the following list of textbooks very useful. Please click [HERE](#) for the list.

### Webinars – Materials and Recordings:

Webinar 1: Designing and Conducting Assessment Online by Dr. Mohammed Dayoub.

Live interaction between Colleagues

Check our resources on BATA website

## Second Series of BATA Webinars

### *Blended Learning and the teaching of Arabic language, culture and literature.*

The second series will focus on Blended learning, and this will offer colleagues a platform to explore the opportunities and challenges of delivering Arabic teaching inside and outside the classroom. It comprises several online webinars delivered by experienced educators in Language Teaching. Webinars are **free** for BATA members and subscribers, so please subscribe if you have not done so!

To apply for BATA membership, or subscribe to BATA newsletter, please visit our website at: <https://britisharabicteaching.org/membership/>



### First webinar of the 2<sup>nd</sup> series hosted by BATA

#### *Teaching Online: Levelling up Language Proficiency through Stories*

by *Susan Wicht* on 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 at 5pm.

Registration for this webinar is now **OPEN**. To register for this webinar, please click [HERE](#)

**Susan Hanna Wicht** has taught Arabic language and culture at different institutions in the United States and in Europe. She holds a Master of Arts in Bilingual Bicultural Education from Teachers College Columbia University (2015). She has worked with the Research Center at City University New York (CUNY) on the Arabic curriculum content for Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE). She is currently working on an Arabic language curriculum exploring Arab cultures, and incorporating stories by Arab authors. In 2019/2020, she co-led the New York Arabic Teachers' Council (NYATC), organising events and activities for Arabic teachers. She has presented a number of webinars on best practices in teaching Arabic. Susan's interests center on bilingual education, language and culture in curriculum design, Arabic instruction development, and Arabic stories as a source of language acquisition.



## Second webinar of the 2<sup>nd</sup> series hosted by BATA

For further information please follow the link

<https://britisharabicteaching.org/bata-webinars/>

*Developing Online Language and Translation Teaching Materials: A Reflective account of preparing materials on and during Covid-19*

**Dr Mariam Aboelezz on 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 at 5pm.**

**Dr Mariam Aboelezz** is a Lecturer (Education) in Arabic translation at UCL. She has a PhD in Linguistics and MA in Language Studies from Lancaster University. She taught sociolinguistics and applied linguistics at Lancaster University and Birkbeck College prior to her current appointment. Her research falls within the field of Arabic linguistics. Mariam is also a practising translator and interpreter: She is a Chartered Linguist with a Diploma in Translation from the Chartered Institute of Linguists, and is certified Legal Translator by the UAE Ministry of Justice. She has been a Translation Officer at the British Library / Qatar National Library Partnership Programme since 2016.



**Third webinar of the 2<sup>nd</sup> series hosted by BATA**  
For further information please follow the link below  
<https://britisharabicteaching.org/bata-webinars/>

**Dr Muntasir Al-Hamad in January 2020 (Date & title TBC).**

**Dr Muntasir Al-Hamad** worked as a lecturer of Arabic and Oriental Studies at the Manchester Metropolitan University, before moving to Qatar University to teach Arabic at the Arabic for Non-Native Speakers Centre. He provides training and consultancies for various universities, schools, educational firms and publishers in the field of teaching Arabic as a second/foreign language.





## BATA Inaugural International [Conference 24 – 25 June](#)

### [2021: Call for Papers](#)

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, BATA made the decision to postpone its June 2020 conference, at the University of Leeds, to 24-25 June 2021. For further information on the conference, key dates and the call for papers, please check our website [HERE](#) and send your abstracts to [bata@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:bata@leeds.ac.uk)

Below are key themes and keynote speakers:

#### **Keynote speakers:**

Professor Zahia Salhi, University of Manchester

Professor Jane Wightwick, Co-author of *Mastering Arabic*

#### **Key themes:**

1. Teaching Arabic and Culture
2. Arabic Translation
3. Arabic Literature and Literary Criticism
4. Arabic Linguistics

For more details on sub-themes, please check our website [HERE](#)

The BATA Conference Proceedings  
will be considered for publication  
by *Cambridge Scholars and other  
Journals.*

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