

cmes

Center of Middle Eastern Studies

Volume 19 | No. 01 | June 2026 Edition

E-ISSN: 2502-1044

P-ISSN: 2085-563X



<https://jurnal.uns.ac.id/cmcs>



Published by:
Arabic Literature Department
Faculty of Cultural Sciences
Universitas Sebelas Maret

In Cooperation with:
Ittihad Mudarrisil
Lughatil 'Arabiyyah





Center of Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) is a scholarly journal published by the Arabic Literature Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS), Surakarta, Indonesia. CMES Journal is published biannually, in June and December.

CMES Journal features research articles and literature reviews on various topics related to Middle Eastern studies, including language, literature, culture, society, religions, and politics. All papers submitted to the journal may be written in English, Indonesian, or Arabic. However, starting from Volume 18, Number 2, 2025, all accepted manuscripts will be published in English.

Starting from Volume 16, Number 1, 2023, CMES Journal has introduced a new journal layout and design. This update aims to refresh the appearance of the CMES Journal, align it with modern international journal standards, and provide readers with an enhanced reading experience.

Since that point, the CMES Journal has kept on updating its template and formatting standards in a series of subsequent issues, most recently in Volume 16, Number 1 (June 2023) and Volume 18, Number 1 (2025). The changes were made to enhance the readability, enhance the visual consistency, and adhere to the best practices of the international scholarly publication. The changes are also based on the willingness of the CMES Journal to embrace emerging scholarly norms, increase the level of digital accessibility, and aid the indexing and assessment needs of established international databases.

Since its inception, the journal has aimed to facilitate scholarly discussions and disseminate research related to Middle Eastern studies, with contributions from academics and researchers both nationally and internationally. Over the years, CMES Journal has consistently improved its quality and broadened its scope, covering various disciplines such as literature, linguistics, history, politics, religions, and socio-cultural studies of the Middle East. In recognition of its growing academic impact and adherence to rigorous publication standards, as of August 30, 2024, based on the Decree of the Director General of Higher Education, Research, and Technology, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia Number 177/E/KPT/2024, CMES Journal has been upgraded from SINTA-4 to SINTA-3.

Historically, CMES Journal was initially published as part of the academic activities of the Center of Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Literature and Fine Arts, UNS, established under the Decree of the Dean of FSSR Number 2545/H27.1.1/KP/2009 on April 16, 2009. The establishment of the journal was a driving force behind the creation of the Arabic Literature Department. With the establishment of the Arabic Literature Department under the Decree of DIKTI Number 1762/02.2/2010 on July 2, 2010, the publication of CMES Journal became a regular academic activity organized by the department.

Center of Middle Eastern Studies (CMES)
Vol. 19, No. 1, June 2026

Publisher

Arabic Literature Department,
Faculty of Cultural Sciences,
Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

Editor in Chief

Khabibi Muhammad Luthfi, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

Person in Charge

Reza Sukma Nugraha, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

Editorial Boards

Ismail Fajrie Alatas, New York University, New York, United States
Abdul-Bashid Shaikh, University of Leeds, England
Sherif El-Gayyar, Beni Suef University, Egypt
Md. Noor bin Hussin, Selangor Islamic University, Malaysia
Bayu Permana Sukma, Lancaster University, United Kingdom
Arifuddin, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia
Muhammad Yunus Anis, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia
Mohamed Ali Bardi, Macquarie University, Australia
Sayed Mohamed Ahmed Korayem, International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan
Gamal Shaqrah, Ain Shams University Kairo Mesir
Hasan Abdul Alim Yusuf, Canal Suez University Ismailiyyah Mesir
Sangidu, Universitas Gadjah Mada Yogyakarta Indonesia
Syamsul Hadi, Universitas Gadjah Mada Yogyakarta Indonesia
Siti Mutiah Setiawati, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Makmur Harun, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia
Achmad Yani, University Islam Sultan Syarif Ali, Brunei Darussalam
Ibnu Burdah, Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga, Indonesia
Hamza Ethelb, University of Tripoli, Libya
Yayan Rahtikawati, Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati, Indonesia

Editor Secretariat

Afnan Arummi, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

IT Support

Dwi Suryani, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia
Joko Purwanto, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

Editorial Office

Arabic Literature Department,
Faculty of Cultural Sciences,
Universitas Sebelas Maret
Jl. Ir. Sutami No. 36-A Kentingan, Surakarta, Indonesia
E-mail: cmes@mail.uns.ac.id
Website: <https://jurnal.uns.ac.id/cmes>
Whatsapp: +6282240002313

PREFACE

Dear Esteemed Researchers.

We are delighted to announce the publication of Volume 19, Issue 1 (June 2026), a collection of eight scholarly articles that showcase the diversity and dynamism of current research in the study of the Middle East and Arabic literature. This issue is organized into two large topical sections. The first three articles deal with problems which are relevant to Middle Eastern studies, with religion, politics, identity and cultural change as specific concerns. The five other articles in this volume examine different aspects of Arabic literature in modern, theoretical and critical perspectives.

The first article, *State Religious Policies and the Emergence of Atheism in Saudi Arabia, 2000–2022*, by Yahya and Mahmudah on the connection between the restrictive religious governance and the emergence of atheist identities in Saudi Arabia. The study, by analyzing both policy and intellectual history, illustrates the role of social control, religious regulation and digital exposure in religious skepticism and intellectual resistance. Syaifullah et al.'s second article, *Digital Transformation of Nabati Poetry: Remediation, Audience Role, and Authenticity Negotiation*, explores the adaptation of the Nabati poetry to TikTok culture. Authors emphasize the processes of remediation, audience participation, and the continuous negotiation of authenticity in digital literary spaces. In the third article, *Religious Identity and Religious Legitimacy in International Politics: The Case of the Israel-UAE Abraham Accord*, Tonapa et al. examine the strategic construction of religious identity and legitimacy by both states to advance political normalization and international recognition.

The literary section starts with the exploration of women's struggle to exist in the eyes of Simone de Beauvoir's existential feminism in Sukisman's work, *The Path to Self-Definition: The Construction of Women's Existence in Muḥammad Jibrīl's Sikkat al-Manāshirah*. In conjunction with this discussion, *A Woman's Subjectivity in Ḥanīn al-Ṣāyigh's Mithāq al-Nisā': An Existential Feminist Perspective* by Bahriyyah explores the shift from objectification to authentic subjectivity of a female character. Rifa'ī et al., *Deconstructing 'Poverty' in Alwān min al-Faqr: Islām Ṣādiq's Perspective*, shows how messy the word 'poverty' is, as it is read through the lens of deconstruction, by Jacques Derrida. In *Interculturalism in Middle Eastern Literature: Representation of Identity, Cultural Conflict, and Intercultural Awareness* by Khomisah, broader literary and cultural perspectives are introduced, in which literature as a means of promoting intercultural understanding is put to use. Article titled *The Introverted Typology of The Main Character in The Short Story "Laysa Lahā Makān fī al-Jannah"* by Nawāl al-Sa'dāwī: *Carl Gustav Jung's Analytical Psychology* explored by Muna el al. These articles collectively illustrate the depth and breadth of modern scholarship on the Middle East and Arabic literature, and their insights provide important understanding of issues of identity, religion, culture, gender and literary expression in shifting social settings.

These contributions reflect the CMES Journal's commitment to fostering critical dialogue, multidisciplinary inquiry, and scholarly exchange in Middle Eastern and Arabic studies. The editorial team extends sincere appreciation to all authors, reviewers, and partners who have made this publication possible.

Sincerely,

Khabibi Muhammad Luthfi
Editor in Chief

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Center of Middle Eastern Studies (CMES)

Vol. 19, No. 1, June 2026

State Religious Policies and The Emergence of Atheism in Saudi Arabia, 2000–2022

Yuangga Kurnia Yahya, Umi Mahmudah, 1-14.

Digital Transformation of Nabati Poetry: Remediation, Audience Role, and Authenticity Negotiation

Syaifullah, Ahdiyati Mahendra, Khasanah, 15-32.

Religious Identity and Religious Legitimacy in International Politics: The Case of the Israel-UAE Abraham Accord

Farrel Yano Tonapa, I Made Anom Wiranata, Ni Made Primar Yuliantarini, Cindy Aulia Sari, 33-48.

The Path to Self-Definition: The Construction of Women’s Existence in Muḥammad Jibrīl’s *Sikkat al-Manāṣirah*

Nur Desyanti Sukisman, 49-64.

Deconstructing ‘Poverty’ in *Alwān min Al-Faqr* by Islām Ṣādiq: Jacques Derrida’s Perspective

Muhammad Husain Rifa’i, Ummi Hasanah, Alif Zakaria, Maulana Nurul Izza, Muhammad Fahmi, 65-82.

A Woman’s Subjectivity in Ḥanīn al-Ṣāyigh’s *Mithāq al-Nisā’*: An Existential Feminist Perspective by Simone de Beauvoir

Laili Ni’matun Bahriyyah, 83-96.

Interculturalism in Middle Eastern literature: Representation of Identity, Cultural Conflict, and Intercultural Awareness

Khomisah, 97-108.

The Introverted Typology of The Main Character in The Short Story “*Laysa Lahā Makān fī al-Jannah*” by Nawāl al-Sa’dāwī: Carl Gustav Jung’s Analytical Psychology

Zahrotul Muna, Ali Hasan Al Bahar, Abdur Rosyed, Anisa Faridhotun Nurfatwa, Faika Maida Nabila, Najmatul Auliya, 109-124.