

## BRIEF CV

*Dr.ir. Mokarram ABBAS*

*PhD in Engineering sciences- in the field of Urban Design: women and Public Spaces*

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Nablus Municipality, Nablus, Palestine (May 2017 -till now)  
**City Council Member, mainly responsible for Urban Development Projects and Urban Policy making.**
- Palestine Technical University-kadoorie (PTUK), Tulkarm, Palestine (Aug 2016 till now)  
**Assistant professor, Department of Building Engineering.**  
**Dean of Planning, Development and Quality (since July 2018).**  
**Dean of Engineering Faculty (2017-2018)**
- An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine (Aug. 2014-December 2015)  
**Adjunct assistant professor, Department of Architectural Engineering and Department of Building Engineering**
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL)-department of architecture & Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)- department of urban geography , Belgium (November 2008- June 2014)  
**PhD researcher**
- Design House (*architectural firm*), Ramallah, Palestine (Sep. 2006- Dec. 2007)  
**Architect, Interior Designer**
- An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine (Aug. 2005- May 2006)  
**Assistant Lecturer, Department of Architecture**
- Al-Aali Engineering Consultant, Abu Dhabi, UAE (June 2004-Aug.2004)  
**Internship-er**

## EDUCATION

### **PhD in Engineering Sciences- Urban Design (2008-2014)**

- Department of Architecture, Urban Design and Regional Planning, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL) & Department of Urban Geography, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)- joint PhD diploma, Belgium
- Dissertation: Thinking public spaces through the spatiality of Arab women, the case of Nablus, Palestine

### **Master in Architectural Engineering (2005-2008)**

- Department of Architecture, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine

- Dissertation: Urban Design: the psychological and physical aspects of women's safety in urban spaces. The case of Nablus, Palestine

### **Bachelor in Architectural Engineering (2000-2005)**

- Department of Architecture, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine
- Dissertation: Recreational Resorts: the design of a luxurious hotel. The case of an Island in Abu Dhabi, UAE

### **TEACHING EXPERTISE**

- Environmental Design- tutorial classes (academic year 2016-2017 - now)
- Principles of Architectural Design—a design studio (academic year 2014-2015 - now)
- Housing - tutorial classes (academic year 2015-2016)
- Supervising several graduation projects (academic year 2014-2015 & 2015-2016)
- Guest lecture on Urban Studies II (2013)
- Guest lecture on the perception of safety in public spaces (2009)
- Guest lecture on UNICA Europmaster in Urban Studies (2009)
- Descriptive Geometry (academic year 2005-2006)
- AutoCAD (academic year 2005-2006)
- Construction engineering: buildings (academic year 2005-2006)
- Engineering drawing techniques (academic year 2005-2006)

### **AREAS OF RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION**

- The 'safe space' for women: the socio-spatial dimensions
- Spatiality of women: analysis
- Spatial analysis: the socio-spatial approach to public spaces
- Spatial Justice
- Society and public spaces
- Spatial planning: social and physical oriented approaches
- Life quality in everyday urban spaces

### **SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

##### **Referred Journal Papers: 1**

Abbas, M. and van Heur, B. (2014). "Thinking Arab women's spatiality: the case of 'mutanazahat' in Nablus, Palestine". *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography* (Routledge), 21 (10), 1214-1229.

##### **Conference Papers Combined with Oral Presentations: 3**

Abbas, M. (2014). "The safe space for women: spatial and social dimensions. The case of the city center of Nablus, Palestine", in *EnGendering Cities; Designing Sustainable Urban Environments for All*. 25-26 September 2014. Rome, Italy.

Abbas, M. (2014). "Women's Rights in Public Spaces, the case of the city center in Nablus, Palestine", in the RSA European Conference. 15-18 June. Izmir, Turkey.

Abbas, M. (2013) "Women's Strategic Needs in Outdoor Recreational Spaces, the Case of Nablus-Palestine", in The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Mediterranean Studies. 25-29 March. Athens, Greece.

### **Popular-Science Magazines: 1**

Abbas, M. (2010). "Gender, samenleving en stedelijk ontwerp". *Agora*, 26 (1), 11-13

### **Science Popularization (Journal Interviews): 2**

Abbas, M. (2014, October). *"Looking at the city with the eyes of Arab women"*. (I. Benoit, Interviewer) Leuven, Belgium: Geniaal.

Abbas, M. (2013, November 27). *"Ik wil rechtvaardigheid in publieke ruimtes"*. (d. K. Verthé, Interviewer) Brussels, Belgium: Brussel Deze Week.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT**

Co-finder of the Independent Young Political Group. Being elected as a City Council Member in Nablus for the term of 2017-2021. The Group is calling for civil rights, women's involvement in decision making and building a rigid concept of citizenship.

## DETAILED CV

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Current address	Nablus, Palestine
Date of birth	23-01-1982
Gender	Female
Nationality	Belgian - Palestinian

### WORK EXPERIENCE

May 2017-now	City Council Member
	Nablus Municipality
	<b>Responsible for Urban Development Projects and Urban Policy Making</b>
July 2017-now	A member of PTUK Dean's Council
	Palestine Technical University (PTUK), Tulkarm, Palestine
	<b>Being part of the decision making process at PTUK, holding two main positions: Dean of Engineering Faculty and Dean of Planning, Development and Quality</b>
August 2016 - now	Assistant Professor of Architectural Engineering
	Palestine Technical University (PTUK), Tulkarm, Palestine
	<b>Teaching:</b> Principles of Architectural Design (design studio) Environmental Design (tutorial classes)
	Academia- Public sector
August 2014- December 2016	Adjunct assistant Professor of Architectural Engineering
	An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine
	<b>Teaching:</b> Principles of Architectural Design (design studio) Housing (tutorial classes)
	<b>Supervising:</b> Graduation Projects of different groups. The students design a building or a complex from different engineering perspectives: architectural, environmental, structural, mechanical and electrical.
	Academia- Public sector

November 2008- June 2014	<p>PhD scholar</p> <p>Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) &amp; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL)-joint PhD diploma, Belgium</p> <p><b>My doctoral dissertation is based on analyzing public spaces through the socio-spatial perspective of urban design. In particular, I investigate the effect of the social process and spatial configurations on the spatiality of women.</b></p> <p>Academia- Public sector</p>
January 2008- September 2008	<b>Finalizing my Master dissertation on women's safety in Public spaces.</b>
September 2006- December 2007	<p>Architect, Interior Designer</p> <p>Design House, Ramallah, Palestine</p> <p><b>Working on various Architectural projects, and interior design projects (<i>Residential, Commercial, TV Studios, and Booths</i>).</b></p> <p>Private sector</p>
August 2005- May 2006	<p>Assistant Lecturer</p> <p>An-Najah National University, Department of Architecture, Nablus, Palestine</p> <p><b>Preparing materials of some courses, carrying out some of the educational activities, managing students' results, assisting in preparing and conducting examinations, and offering assistance to low achievers.</b></p> <p>Academia-Public sector</p>
June 2004- August 2004	<p>Internship-er</p> <p>Al-Aali Engineering Consultant, Abu Dhabi, UAE</p> <p><b>Training Program: working Architectural drawings and details</b></p> <p>Private sector</p>

## EDUCATION

2008- 2014	<p>Doctoral in Engineering sciences- Urban design (Joint diploma)</p> <p>Department of Architecture, Urban Design and Regional Planning, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium</p> <p><b>and</b></p> <p>Department of Urban Geography, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels , Belgium</p>
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Thinking everyday public spaces through the urban experiences of Arab women: socio-cultural and spatial aspects

2005-2008	Master in Architecture
	Department of Architecture, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine
	Re-thinking urban design, investigating the physical and psychological aspects of women's safety in urban spaces
	89.3%
2000-2005	B.Sc. in Architecture
	Department of Architecture, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine
	82.7%

## ACADEMIC RELATED OUTPUTS

Publications	Abbas, M. and van Heur, B. (2014). "Thinking Arab women's spatiality: the case of 'mutanazahat' in Nablus, Palestine". <i>Gender, Place &amp; Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography</i> , 21 (10), 1214-1229.
	Abbas, M. (2013). "Women's Strategic Needs in Outdoor Recreational Spaces, the Case of Nablus-Palestine". Athens: ATINER'S Conference Paper Series, No: MDT2013-0442.
	Abbas, M. (2010). "Gender, samenleving en stedelijk ontwerp". <i>Agora</i> , 26 (1), 11-13.
Conferences	<i>"The safe space for women: spatial and social dimensions. The case of the city center of Nablus, Palestine (2014)"</i> . A conference paper presented in EnGendering Cities; Designing Sustainable Urban Environments for All. 25-26 September. Rome, Italy
	<i>"Women's Rights in Public Spaces, the case of the city center in Nablus, Palestine"</i> (2014). A conference paper presented in the RSA European Conference. 15-18 June. Izmir, Turkey.
	<i>"Women's Strategic Needs in Outdoor Recreational Spaces, the Case of Nablus-Palestine"</i> (2013), in The 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Mediterranean Studies. 25-29 March. Athens, Greece.

<hr/> Presentations of Different Contexts	<p>I was invited by Brussels Academy to present and run a discussion on the potential constraints Arab women are facing in both Arabic and Western contexts. May (2013).  <a href="http://brusselsacademy.wordpress.com/2013/05/23/stads-cafe-urbain-women-and-the-city/">http://brusselsacademy.wordpress.com/2013/05/23/stads-cafe-urbain-women-and-the-city/</a></p> <p><i>"Thinking Arab women's spatiality: the case of 'mutanazahat' in Nablus, Palestine"</i> (2012), in the seminar: Arab Islamic city-from poetry to politics. Leuven, Belgium.</p> <p><i>"The potential constraints on women in public spaces, the case of Nablus- Palestine and Brussels- Belgium"</i> (2010), in the PhD seminar: Gender, culture and space, sponsored by the VUB doctoral school of human sciences. Brussels, Belgium.</p> <p><i>"Arab women in Public spaces; the cases of Nablus-Palestine and Brussels- Belgium"</i> (2010), a scientific poster presented in the PhD Research Day. Brussels, Belgium.</p>
Science Popularization <i>(Journal Interview)</i>	<p>I've been interviewed for <i>Geniaal</i>, the magazine of the Engineering Faculty at KUL, Belgium, which is published on October (2014). Mainly I discussed the value of 'other' spaces in the spatial configuration of the city of Nablus.  <a href="http://eng.kuleuven.be/geniaal/geniaalg7nr27.pdf">http://eng.kuleuven.be/geniaal/geniaalg7nr27.pdf</a></p> <p>I've been interviewed for the weekly newspaper: <i>Brussel Deze Week</i>, Brussels, Belgium, which is published on November 27, (2013). Mainly, I discussed my research interests and my personal point of views on designing public spaces that resonate with the needs of women.  <a href="http://www.brusselnieuws.be/nl/nieuws/ik-wil-rechtvaardigheid-publieke-ruimtes">http://www.brusselnieuws.be/nl/nieuws/ik-wil-rechtvaardigheid-publieke-ruimtes</a></p>
Guest Lectures	<p>A lecture on Urban Studies II - KULeuven. The objective was to present my research methodology for International Master students. I discussed in details, theoretically and empirically, one case study of my research. April, (2013).</p> <p>A class on Criminology- VUB. The objective was to discuss the safety of women in urban spaces for Bachelor and Master students. I have prepared a material that is related to the victimization of women in public and linked it to the quality of urban spaces. November, (2009).</p> <p>A class on UNICA Europmaster in Urban Studies (4 cities)-VUB. The objective was to introduce the concept of gender planning to International Master students. I discussed the inter-relationship between gender, culture, and space. Then I reflected this mutual relationship on the urban experiences of Arab women in Western context. October, (2009).</p> <hr/>

Workshops and courses organized by the doctoral schools of VUB and KUL

- Academic English for the PhD Students, September 2013-January 2014;
- Effective Graphical Displays, November 2013;
- Course Skills: Doing a Job Interview, November 2013;
- Course Skills: Networking, October 2013;
- Effective Written Documents, May 2013;
- English for Academic Research purposes, April 2013;
- Presentation Skills in English, April 2013;
- Effective Scientific Communication, February 2013;
- Career Coaching Course, October-December, 2012;
- How to Make a Good PowerPoint Presentation, December 2009.

## PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue

Arabic

Other language(s)

English

French

Dutch

UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user
Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair
Basics	Basics	Basics	Basics	Basics

Communication skills

The administrative roles I have played either at PTUK or at Nablus Municipality in the last two years helped in developing from one side the ways of positively arguing my non-party political peers and on the other hand motivating my employees to get the best out of them.

Leadership skills

Enterprising: Co-finder of **the Independent Young Political Group**

Team player: the management approach I employ in any project is the team-based approach where the team leader share responsibilities with the whole team for the success and quality of the project.

Computer skills

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power point );
- Photoshop;
- AutoCAD;
- 3D Max-(Vray 1.5);
- Revit Building 9.1.
- SPSS ( Statistical Package for the Social Sciences)



### **NAMES OF THREE REFERENCES**

1. Mr.Munib Al-masri, the founder of Engineering and Development Group (Edgo) and founder of Munib and Angela Development Foundation, among others.  
<http://www.masrifoundation.org/about/about-munib-r-masri/>  
+972 599 653 653
1. Prof. Dr. Nour Aldeen Aburob, The President of Palestine Technical University-Kadoorie, Tulkarm, Palestine.  
+970 599 653 688
2. Prof. Dr. Marwan Awartani, The Minister of Education in West Bank.  
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