

Nomination Letter of Prof. Mona Diab

Doha, May 31 2023

To the attention of : **the King Salman Global Academy Prize for the Arabic Language**

I am an Associate Professor in Digital Humanities within the Middle Eastern Studies department of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU).

I received my Ph.D. in Natural Language Processing from the University of Paris Nanterre, and an M.A in Linguistics from the University of Montreal. My research interests span several areas of computational linguistics: Arabic Data Analytics, Linguistic Annotation, Language Resources and Evaluation, Fake News Detection, Sentiment Analysis, Lexical-Semantics and Computational Morphology. Over the years, I participated in multiple large scale human language technology projects such as the Penn Arabic TreeBank and PropBank, the Multi-Arabic Dialect Applications and Resources project (MADAR), The Qatar Arabic Language Bank in several universities and research institutions such as the University of Colorado Boulder, the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, the University of Montreal, Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pennsylvania. I worked as a consultant in various international companies specialized in Big Data and Information Management such as Nuance, OpenText, Nstein Technologies, Temis France and Lionridge. I co-organized several international conferences and workshops such as Arabic Natural Language Processing workshops, the Social Media Analysis in the Arab World SocInfo 2019 workshop, The QICC Fake News Detection Contest, the CheckThat! Fact Checking CLEF Lab, The Arabic Author Profiling and Deception Detection FIRE 2019 Task, and the Association of Computational Linguistics (ACL) Conference. I have published over 80+ peer-reviewed journal and conference publications cited 2200 times with an h-index of 27.

It is my great pleasure to nominate **Professor Mona Diab** for induction into the King Salman Global Academy Prize for the Arabic Language. Professor Diab has made

pioneering and unique contributions to advancing the Arabic language through her work in natural language processing and computational linguistics.

Professor Diab has been instrumental in enabling new technologies for the Arabic language. Her research has addressed foundational challenges like morphological analysis, part-of-speech tagging, and parsing for Arabic, which had long been thought intractable. The tools and resources Professor Diab has created, like the first morphologically-analyzed corpus of Arabic dialects, have been crucial in overcoming the scarcity of resources for Arabic and have opened up new possibilities for Arabic NLP. These contributions have promoted the use of Arabic in technology and spurred progress that benefits Arabic speakers worldwide.

Beyond her research, Professor Diab is dedicated to spreading knowledge of and passion for the Arabic language. She has mentored over 17 Ph.D. students in Arabic NLP, helping to build the next generation of researchers and technologists working to support the Arabic language. Professor Diab has also worked to make the field of Arabic NLP more open and accessible to researchers from across the Arabic-speaking world and beyond. Through her work organizing conferences, workshops, and shared tasks, as well as her service on program committees, Professor Diab has created platforms to share knowledge about Arabic and build connections between researchers.

Professor Diab's significant contributions to enabling technologies for Arabic and her effort to spread knowledge of the language embody the mission of the King Salman Global Academy Prize. Her work has promoted the use of Arabic in groundbreaking new ways and inspired others to advance the language. For these unique and impactful contributions, I cannot imagine a more deserving candidate for induction into the Academy. Professor Diab would be an invaluable nominee, and I give her my strongest recommendation.

Regards,



Wajdi Zaghouni, Ph.D.

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