

Ghada AlMuhanna Abalkhail

Visual Anthropologist

CONTACT

Berlin, Germany
gabalkhail@protonmail.com
+49 178 930 4532

LANGUAGES

Arabic — Native
English — Near-native
German — B2

EDUCATION

MA Media & Visual Anthropology
Media University, Berlin
2022–2024 · 1.5

LL.M International Law
University of Michigan
2015–2016

BA in Law
Prince Sultan University
2009–2014

FELLOWSHIPS

KASP Full Scholarship 2010–2016
ifa Fellowship, IfA Berlin 2018
Global Shapers, WEF 2014–2017
IVLP, U.S. Dept. of State 2013
MEPI, Georgetown DC 2012

Trained visual anthropologist and strategic communications professional specialising in Arabian Peninsula heritage, politics, and contemporary culture. Interdisciplinary background spanning international law, policy research, media studies, and archival practice. Author of three books including a title with Assouline. MA thesis produced a 36-minute companion film on Arab media representation. Regular speaker at major cultural institutions across the Gulf, Europe, and Japan. Full CV available upon request.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head of Public Diplomacy, Media & Communications · *Danubia Group, Berlin* · Nov 2024 – Present

- Direct strategic public diplomacy initiatives strengthening international relationships and cultural dialogue across bilateral and multilateral contexts.
- Lead crisis and reputation management; develop comprehensive communication strategies for diplomatic stakeholders.

Cultural Advisor · *Independent Consultancy, Berlin* · Apr 2021 – Present

- Expert consultation on authentic visual content and cultural accuracy for high-profile international clients including Hermès, King Abdulaziz Foundation, Diriyah Gate Development Authority, MiSK Foundation, Saudi Heritage Preservation Society, and Red Sea Development Authority.

Advisor & Acquisitions Committee Member · *King Abdulaziz Foundation (Darah)* · 2025 – Present

- Advising on archival acquisitions strategy and the Hajj and Haramain Project, strengthening Saudi visual and cultural memory.

Advisor · *Ministry of Culture, Saudi Arabia* · Oct 2020 – Aug 2022

- Founding team member of the National Cultural Archive (Saudi Memory Centre); contributed to policy design, institutional frameworks, and strategies for building a national archival body. Advised on endangered language preservation.

Media & Communications Officer · *Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Berlin* · May 2019 – Apr 2022

- Developed and executed media strategies amplifying diplomatic communications and cultural exchanges; managed high-level media relations enhancing the Embassy's international visibility.

Researcher · *Gulf Research Center, Geneva / Berlin* · Jul 2016 – May 2019

- Produced commissioned policy papers on foreign policy, the Yemen crisis, counter-terrorism, and women's involvement in terrorism for European and international audiences.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Homeland Collection: Our People, Our Land, Our Belongings AlObeikan, Riyadh 2025

Three-volume series, 600 archival and contemporary photographs documenting Saudi heritage and material culture.

Camels from Saudi Arabia Assouline, Paris 2024

Luxury art book tracing the camel's presence in poetry, art, legend, and history as a symbol of Saudi identity.

"Echoes of Expression: The Overlooked History of Saudi Women" Venice Biennale, Saudi Pavilion 2024

Essay situating Saudi women's visual narratives within debates on gender, memory, and archival representation.

La Tansoon Podcast Asharq Podcasts 2024

Documentary-style Arabic podcast exploring Saudi visual heritage through archival photographs and storytelling.

"The Arab Visual Identity" Ithra Editions, Dammam 2022

Essay on visual markers, Orientalist tropes, and the call for authentic Arab representation in contemporary global media.

SELECTED SPEAKING & TEACHING

Human Capability Initiative (HCI) · Riyadh, 2025

Her Influence Exhibition, Saudi Pavilion, Expo 2025 · Osaka, 2025

Diriyah Gate Summit – International Diriyah Forum · 2024

Riyadh & Jeddah International Book Fairs · 2024

Visual Narratives of the Arabian Peninsula – Masterclass (4 editions) · Berlin Art Institute, 2023–present

Visual Arab Identity – Masterclass · Sciences Po Grenoble, 2022

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Visual Anthropology & Archival Research
- Arabian Peninsula Heritage & Politics
- Cultural Heritage Preservation
- Public Diplomacy & Strategic Communications
- Media Representation & Decolonial Frameworks
- Documentary Photography & Visual Storytelling