

Imad Gebrael

M / 28.4.1990 - Lebanese / German
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Education

- 04.2020
→ 2026
PhD in European Ethnology - awarded *summa cum laude*
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin / Germany (disputation completed 02/2026)
– Dissertation Title: The Arab Street Negotiates: An Ethnography of Opacity on Sonnenallee, Berlin
- 09.2015
→ 06.2017
MA Graphic Design AKV|St.Joost / The Netherlands
– Thesis Title: Identity Representation: Self-Orientalism and Hyper-Nationalism in Arab Design
- 02.2009
→ 06.2013
BA Graphic Design
The American University of Science and Technology - AUST / Lebanon
– Thesis Title: Entangling Capitalism and Graphic Design Education in Lebanon
- 07.2008
Lebanese Baccalaureate - Sociology / Economy

Professional Experience (a limited selection)

- 07.2017
→ Present
Creative Director (Freelance)
– Working on design and communication projects for international clients
– Hosting design workshops with cultural institutions
- 10.2013
→ Present
Creative Director (Consultancy) - Mojo Ink - Beirut/Abu Dhabi
– Working on private and public accounts and directing a team of 5-8 designers
– Managing communication and design tasks from conception to delivery
- 04.2012
→ 04.2013
Facilitator - Creative Space Beirut
– Representing the space on media platforms
– Assisting with planning and management tasks

Teaching Experience

- WiSe/ SoSe
2025/2026
Sandberg Instituut Amsterdam:
– [MA] Thesis Tutor. MA Program Monstrous Futurities: (Un)learning, (Un)making, and (Un)worlding
- SoSe
2026
Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle:
– [MA+BA] Writing Design: Ethnographic Encounters and Situated Research
- WiSe/SoSe
2025/26
Anhalt University of Applied Sciences | COOP Design Research | Bauhaus Dessau:
– [MA] Research Colloquium I & II
Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle:
– [MA+BA] Ruptures and Reckonings: Limitations of Design, Politics, and Design Politics
- WiSe
2024/25
Anhalt University of Applied Sciences | COOP Design Research | Bauhaus Dessau:
– [MA] Field. Work. Fieldwork: Encounters of Design and Anthropology
- WiSe
2022/23
Humboldt University of Berlin (HU Berlin) | Department of European Ethnology:
– [MA] Multimodal Ethnography with Prof. Dr. Silvy Chakkalaka
- SoSe
2022
Humboldt University of Berlin (HU Berlin) | Department of European Ethnology:
– [BA] Mapping Othering: Intersections of Ethnography and Design with Lena Møller Christensen
- SoSe
2021
Humboldt University of Berlin (HU Berlin) | Department of European Ethnology:
– [MA] Multimodal Ethnography with Prof. Dr. Silvy Chakkalaka
University of the Arts Bremen (HfK):
– [MA+BA] The Design Turn: Decolonial Perspectives on Representation & Field Research (Theory)

WiSe
2020/21

University of Arts and Industrial Design Linz (UfG):
– [MA+BA] The Design Turn: Mapping, Othering and Affective Spaces
University of the Arts Bremen (HfK):
– [MA+BA] Disobeying Practices, Practicing Disobedience with Lisa Baumgarten
Berlin University of the Arts (UdK):
– [BA] Redesigning The Field: Research Methodologies for Critical Practices
Design Akademie Berlin (SRH):
– [MA] Qualitative Design Research | Social Design

Publications

- Gebrael, I. Gutierrez, M. & Hassandra. [Forthcoming 2026]. ADIRAT Berlin: Curating Queer Opacities.
In Abdelkarim, M., Maneval, S. & Reimer, J.A. (Eds.), *Forms of Migration Vol. 2*. Falschrum Books.
- Gebrael, I. (2026). Show Me Your Teeth, Berlin: Arab Drag, Dissent, and Despair.
In F. Faust, K. Nagel, A. Mazukatow & T. Sekular (Eds.), *Queer-ethnografische Potenziale*. Verlag Barbara Budrich.
- Gebrael, I. (2025). Die Unordnung durcheinander bringen: Über visuelle Taxonomien und Gegenarchive.
Transformative Archives Anthologie. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung.
- Christensen, L & Gebrael, I. [Forthcoming]. When Shadowplays Shadow Place: Migrant Agencies in Sonnenallee, Berlin.
In J. Albrecht & K. Kremmel (Eds.), *Hierarchies of Citizenship*. Berghahn books.
- Gebrael, I. (2023). (Im)possible Exits, Silenced Affects: Design Futures and Disciplinary Mobilities.
In J. Mehl & C. Höfler (Eds.), *Attending [to] Futures Matters of Politics in Design Education, Research, and Practice*.
Adocs. <https://doi.org/10.53198/9783943253726>.
- Gebrael, I. (2023). Who Gets to Design Arabic Typography? Futuress. <https://futuress.org/stories/arabic-typography>.
- Gebrael, I. (2022). The Design Exit: Don't Look Behind. In J. Van Der Veer (Ed.), *Ununimimidededesign*. Onomatopée.

Lectures & Keynotes (a limited selection)

- Gebrael, I. (2025). *Negotiating Bodies: Gendered Frictions and Fictions on Sonnenallee, Berlin*. EKW Institutskolloquium Queering Public. University of Hamburg, Germany.
- Gebrael, I. (2025). *Show Me Your Teeth, Berlin. Drag, Dissent, and Despair*. "Queeren - Engagieren - Schreiben" Symposium. Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.
- Gebrael, I. (2025). *Weaving Opacities: Podcasting Sonnenallee*. On the Seam: Anthropology, Design, and Situated Practices Symposium. Futuress & University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria.
- Gebrael, I. (2024). *Sonnenallee Speaks. Centering the Margins Panel*. BRISMES 2024 Conference. Proliferating Entanglements: Matter and Meaning in the Middle East. Lancaster University, United Kingdom.
- Gebrael, I. (2024). *Boys with Toys: Precarious Improvisations of Design (in) Anthropology*. Design Anthropology: Improvisations With and Against the Materialities of the World. SANT 2024 Conference. Uppsala, Sweden. Online.
- Gebrael, I. (2023). *Sonnenallee Speaks: Podcasting Fieldwork, Negotiating Refusal*. Experiment Ethnographie Conference. Tagung Gesellschaft für Ethnographie (GfE) 2023. Berlin, Germany.
- Gebrael, I. (2023). *Multimodal Exits, Ambivalent Encounters: Design(ers) and Anthropology*. Designwissenschaftliches Kolloquium. Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle, Germany.

- Gebrael, I. & Kim, Y. (2022). *On Design(ers), Anthropology and Multimodal Ambivalences*. Cluster of Excellence Matters of Activity. Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.
- Gebrael, I. (2022). *Delinking and New Futurities in the Context of Transformative Archives*. Transformative Archives Symposium. The Federal Agency for Civic Education (BPB). The GRASSI Museum for Ethnology. Leipzig, Germany.
- Gebrael, I. (2022). *When Shadowplays Shadow Place: Embodied Negotiations of Memories in Sonnenallee*. Unsettling Archives International Conference. Humboldt University of Berlin and Princeton University. Berlin, Germany.
- Gebrael, I. (2021). Conference Keynote. *(Im)Possible Exits and Silenced Affects: Design Futures and Disciplinary Mobilities*. Attending [to] Futures Design Conference. Köln International School of Design of TH Köln, Germany.
- Baumgarten, L. & Gebrael, I. (2021). *The Very Last (Design) Conference: Gendering Intersections, Towards an Actionable Criticality*. Creative Bodies Creative Minds Conference. University of Graz. Online.

Organizational Experience

- 2026 Abend, P., Gebrael, I., Gilbert, A., Maia, D., Recklies, M., & Westreicher, E.
Ruptures and Reckonings: A Decade of Critical Design Symposium.
Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design, Halle, Germany.

Language Skills

Fluent in Arabic (Native), English (C2), French (B2), and German (C1)

Berlin, 03/06/2026

