

Gokh Amin Alshaif Project Description

At the intersection of Middle East Studies, Indian Ocean Studies, and Black Studies, "Native Outsiders: The Black Muhamasheen of Yemen" is a social history of Yemen's diverse and marginalized Black community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The dissertation uses archival sources, dance, rumors, and digital humanities tools to trace these actors' subjectivity, labor relations, and lived experiences. The project introduces an "Oceanic Yemen" framework and historicizes the racializing processes unfolding in this global space. Its central aim is to untangle the historical and systematic anti-Blackness that continues to shape the lifeworlds of Yemen's Black Muhamasheen community today.