Yousef W. Sabbah, PhD, Associate Professor of ICT/ Cybersecurity

Contact Information & Personal Details

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Address:	40 John the Baptist Str., Ramallah, Palestine
Birthday:	November 2, 1974
Marital Status:	Married, with 3 kids

Main Achievements

- The **first** to develop a **National Digital-Transformation Policy**, Approved by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** and the **Palestinian Ministers Council**, 2020.
- Awarded the **Scientific Research Excellence Prize** 2020 from the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
- Awarded **Palestine Scientist Prize** 2017 from His Excellency **President of Palestine Sate Mahmoud Abbas**, nominated by the Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence.
- The **first** to develop a **Web Application for Quality Assurance Evaluation of HEIs** and Academic Programs, 2017.
- The **first** to develop a **Secure Exam-Proctoring System** for online exams, 2012.

Education

- PhD in ICT (Cybersecurity), Cairo University, Egypt, 2012. (Scholarship, QOU University Board).
- M.Sc. in Computing/Information Retrieval, Birzeit University, Palestine, 2005.
- B.Sc. in Computer Engineering, Baghdad University, Iraq, 1997. (Scholarship, Palestinian Higher Education Council).

Training and Certificates

- RedHat Certified Engineer (RHCE), QOU, ICTC, Palestine, March 2007.
- Microsoft Certified System Engineer (MCSE), Microsoft, August 2000.
- Web-Application Developer with PHP and MySQL, Cairo University, Scientific Computing Center, October 2011.
- ISO 14001 Lead Auditor, Environmental Management System (EMS), Go Global, PECP, December 2019.
- Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation of Academic Programs and Colleges, the Association of Arab Universities (AArU), June 2013.
- Excellence Assessment of Organizations based on EFQM Excellence Model, SCOPI and the Association of Arab Universities (AArU), April 2013.
- Best practices in training needs assessment, planning, design, material development, delivery, and master training. Tamkeen, Ramallah, Palestine, September 2004.
- Human Resources and Training Management, the Arab Academy for Financial and Banking Sciences, July 2005.
- Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS), Microsoft, May 2008.

Fellowships

- **December 2015**: Zamala Fellowship organized by Welfare and funded by Bank of Palestine. Visiting researcher in the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (OPNZ).
  Activities: Several workshops, meetings and focus groups for a research titled "Secure model for cheating-free online examination".
- **November 2013**: Staff Exchange Program Fellowship by the Association of Asian Open Universities (AAOU). Visiting researcher Wawasan Open University (WOU), Malaysia.
  Activities: conducted a research titled "A Proposed Electronic Self-Evaluation Model Based on the AArU and MQA Standards for ODL Universities and Programs".

Work Experience

- Associate Professor of ICT, Faculty of Technology and Applied Sciences, QOU, 2005 (Current). Teaching the following graduate courses:

Cybersecurity, 6463	Project Management, 6507
Information Systems and e-Government, 6225	Modern Business Communication Skills, 6537

Master Theses Advisor in the following topics:
1. Information Security and its effect on the Performance of the Insurance Sector in Palestine. Al-Quds Open University, 2020.
2. The Role of the Palestinian Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology (MTIT) in Promoting E-Commerce in Palestine. Al-Quds Open University, 2021.
3. Readiness for Digital Transformation (DX) at the Palestinian Land Authority (PLA) as a strategic choice from the point of view of high ranked officers and beneficiaries. Arab American University Palestine, 2020.
4. The Influence of Digital Transformation on Human Resource Management Practices in the Palestinian banking sector. Arab American University Palestine, 2020.
5. The Influence of Digital Transformation on the Quality of Services in the Public Sector: The Case of the Palestinian Land and Water Settlement Authority (PLWSA). Al-Quds Open University, 2020.
6. The Experience of the Palestinian Ministry of Education (MoE) in Online Education and its Influence on the Performance of Teachers during the Corona Pandemic. Al-Quds Open University, 2021.
7. A Proposed Model for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Standards of the Academic Programs in the Palestinian Higher Education Institutions. Arab American University, 2019.

Teaching the following undergraduate courses:

Cryptography Essentials, 1374	Computer Networks, 1486
Computer Systems and Database Security 1466	Computer Networks Design, 5380
Wireless Networks Security with Kali Linux 2022.1, 1376	Local Area Networks (LANs) and Intranet, 137
Info. Security Tools & Apps with Kali Linux 2022.1, 1272	Digital Communication Networks, 1375
Information Security Essentials, 1171	Data Communication, 1470
Information System Security and Auditing, 1485	e-Commerce, 1477 and e-Business, 4215
Networks Administration and Security, 1475	Web Application Essentials, 7215
ICT Term Projects, 1497 and 1498	Programming of Personal Computers, 1382
System Analysis and Design, 1380	Project Management with MS Project, 4451
Management Information Systems (MIS), 1481	Computer Essentials, 0102
Computer Applications in Business Administration, 4307	

- Secretary of the Board of Trustees, QOU, 2018 (Current).
- Consultant, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), Jun.-Dec. 2019. Development of National Digital Transformation Policy for the Palestinian Ministry of Telecommunication and IT (MTIT).

- Consultant, GoGlobal, 2019 (Current). ICT Development, Information Security, and Risk/Quality Management,
  - ➢ Internal/External Implementation and Auditing of QMS including EMS (> 200 hrs.)
- President Assistant/Director, Quality and Planning, QOU, 2013-2018.
  - ➢ Internal Implementation and Auditing of QMS including EMS (> 500 hrs.)
- Director, Open Learning Center (OLC), QOU, 2009-2010.
- Director Assistant, ICTC, QOU, 2004-2009.
- Network Administrator and System Engineer, Information and Communication Technology Center (ICTC), Al-Quds Open University (QOU), 2001-2004.
- IT Manager and GIS Expert, United Nations for Development Programme (UNDP) and the Palestinian Ministry of Environmental Affairs (MEnA), 1998-2001.

Specialties

- Networks security, cryptography and emerging authentication techniques.
- Digital Transformation Policy/Strategy Development.
- Development of Policy Papers on ICT in Education, M-Learning, Digital Educational Resources (DER), Teacher Training and Professional Development, E-Learning and e-Assessment.
- Web Applications and Information System Development
- Quality Assurance and QMS (Implementation and Auditing: Certified ISO 14001 LA).
- Strategic Planning and Project Management.
- Training and Training of Trainers (TOT).
- Business Process re-Engineering, and ISO-based Procedure/Workflow Development.

Projects

Project Coordinator:
- RE-enforcing Access to Cross-border employment at the HEIs (REACH), funded by the EU Erasmus+, 2019-2021.
- Establishing Business and Economic Research Centers (BERC) in the PHEIs, funded by the EU Erasmus+, 2015-2017.
- International Credit Mobility (ICM) projects between QOU and several European universities for student and staff exchange, the EU Erasmus+, 2016-2018.
- Capacity Building at QOU through Self-Assessment, funded by the QIF program, the World Bank, 2010.

Lead Researcher/ Project Manager:
- The e-learning intervention action-research project for Palestinian primary and secondary schools. Funded by the Belgian Cooperation Agency (BTC) for MoEHE, 2014-2015

Team Leader:
- Institutional-Evaluation project 2014-2016, assessing institutional performance of QOU.
- Quality Manual Development project 2014-2016, process re-engineering, procedure and workflow development of QOU operations and processes.
- Program-Evaluation project 2017-2018, quality assessment of academic programs at QOU.

Team Member:

- Research Output Management through Open Access Institutional Repositories (ROMOR) in the PHEIs, funded by the EU Erasmus+, 2016-2019.

Consultancies

- Consultant, Business Impact Analysis (BIA) and Developing a Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) for Palestine Capital Market Authority (PCMA). GoGlobal, 2021.
- Consultant, Development of National Digital Transformation Policy for Palestine, UN-ESCWA, for the Palestinian Ministry of Telecommunication and IT (MTIT), 2019.
- Consultant and Trainer, for Directors of Quality in the Arabian Universities, the Association of Arab Universities (AArU), Quality and Accreditation Council (QAC), Jordan, 2018.
- Consultant and Reviewer, Evaluation of a Quality Management Diploma, the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC), MoEHE, 2017.
- Consultant, Development of QOU's institutional action plan for governance and quality assurance, the World Bank, "University Network to Support Governance Reforms", strengthening Higher Education in MENA, 2014-2017.
- Consultant and Trainer, for Directors of Quality in the Palestinian Universities, the Palestinian Faculty Development Program (PFDP), AMIDEAST, 2015.
- Consultant and Reviewer, Evaluation of research projects in the field Information Security, Qatar Charity, Gaza Strip, 2015.
- Consultant and Reviewer, Quality Improvement Fund (QIF) projects funded by the World Bank, 2014.

Research and Publications

- Digital Literacy in the Palestinian Public Schools: The Influence of Gamification-Based Learning. The 3rd International Conference on Learning and Teaching in the Digital World, 2022.
- Developing a Smart IoT-based Traffic Management System. The Palestinian Journal of Technology & Applied Sciences (4), 2021.
- e-Learning and ICT in Education at the Palestinian Schools: Towards 21st Century Skills. The PJOE 8(14), 2020.
- Computer Networks, Textbook, Al-Quds Open University, 2019.
- Events Extracting From Stock Markets on the Web, The Palestinian Journal of Technology and Applied Sciences (PJTAS), 1(2), 2019.
- A Proposed Web Application for Quality Improvement of Academic Programs in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The PJTAS 1(2), 2018.
- Development and Implementation of a Web-based Institutional Evaluation System (WIES), IAJeT 5(3), 2019.
- Security of Online Examinations, for the Springer edited book "Data Analytics and Decision Support for Cybersecurity". Springer 2017.
- A Hole-Filling Model with Triangular Meshing based on Reverse Engineering. The International Journal of Digital Image Processing (2017), 9(3), 49-54.
- Bedwetting Handler for People with Special Needs. The International Journal of Programmable Device Circuits and Systems (2017), 9(1), 1-6.

- Implementing Quality Assurance and Accreditation Standards for Open Universities. The 4th International Conference on Higher Education in the MENA, Beirut, May 12-14, 2015.
- A Three-Dimensional Action Plan for Quality Assurance: Procedures, Self-Evaluation and University Governance. In the 5th International Arab Conference on Quality Assurance in HE, UAE, Sharja, March 2015.
- Online Self-Evaluation Report Generator for ODL Universities. NNGT Journal: International Journal of Internet and Web Application, 1(1), July 30, 2014.
- A Smart Approach for Bimodal Biometric Authentication in Home-Exams (SABBAH Model). The CiiT International Journal of Biometrics and Bioinformatics, 2012.
- Synchronous Authentication with Bimodal Biometrics for e-Assessment: A Theoretical Model. Sousse, Tunisia: SETIT/IEEE Xplore, 2012.
- An Interactive and Secure E-Examination Unit (ISEEU). In the RoEduNet, Romania: IEEE Xplore, 2011.
- e-Learning Status at Al-Quds Open University: Evaluation study. The IJEEL, Dubai, 2010.
- Automatic term extraction using statistical techniques: a comparative in-depth study and application. The international ACIT 2005.

Membership

- Member of the International Association of Engineers (IAENG), Hong Kong, 2020.
- Member of the founding body of the Palestinian Faculty Development Association (PFDA), Palestine, 2016.
- Member of the Human and Technology Development Foundation (HDF), Cairo, 2011.
- Member of the Palestinian Association of Engineers (PALENG), Palestine, 2008.
- Member of JOIN-MED, ACM, ACIT conference, Elsevier and IEEE ICALT on LinkedIn.

Awards

- **Palestine Scientist 2017**: for Innovative Institutional-Evaluation project, Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence (HCIE), Palestine, Aug. 2017.
- **The 2nd Award in Technological Innovation Domain** for supervising graduate project "Bedwetting handler for people with special needs", the AArU, Arab Council for Student Training (ACTASU), 18th Student Forum, South Valley University, Egypt, Nov. 2016.
- **The 2nd Award**, Palestine Level, The World Champion in Microsoft Word, May 2008.
- **Exclusive Step** for my Exceptional efforts in organizing the 1st ICT day, Al-Quds Open University, 2005.
- **Exclusive Step** for excellent annual appraisal, Al-Quds Open University, December 2004.

References

- **Eng. Adnan Samara**, Chairman, the Board of Trustees, Al-Quds Open University, Chairman, Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence (HCIE). Ramallah, Palestine, samara.chie@gmail.com, +970599258383

- **Prof. Samir Najdi**, President of Al-Quds Open University, Palestine, snajdi@qou.edu, +970597777299.
- **Dr. Nael Abu Halaweh**, Dean, Faculty of Technology and Applied Sciences, Al-Quds Open University, Palestine, nabuhalaweh@qou.edu, +970595883231.
- **Prof. Imane Aly Saroit**, Dean, Faculty of Computers and Artificial Intelligence, Cairo University, 5 Ahmed Zewail Str., Postal Code: 12613, Orman, Giza, Egypt, iasi63@hotmail.com, +201117833894.
- **Prof. Hussein Jaddu**, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Al-Quds University, P. O. Box: 20002 Jerusalem, Abu Dies Palestine, jaddu@eng.alquds.edu, +970595736798.