

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Sharifah Masturah Alatas  
Email: [alatas@unimc.it](mailto:alatas@unimc.it)

Surname: Alatas  
First names: Sharifah Masturah  
Goes by: Masturah  
Languages: English (mother tongue), Italian, Malay

### EMPLOYMENT

1992-present: Collaboratrice ed esperta linguistica (CEL) di lingua inglese/English Language lecturer, University of Macerata, Italy.

2004-2011: Cambridge ESOL examiner.

1990-1994: Journalist, *The Star* newspaper (Malaysia).

### EDUCATION

2015 Mphil English and Creative Writing, Lancaster University, UK.

Research areas: Biographical/historical novel; post-colonial novel; essay writing, migrant writing; cultural translation; creative writing theory; Emilio Salgari.

2004: MA in Culture and Media Studies, Open University, U.K. Thesis topic: The Global Savage: constructions of national and transnational identities on *Tourism Malaysia*. Thesis supervisor: Martin Moloney (SOAS).

1990: BA Honours in English and Comparative Literature, Rutgers University, New Jersey, U.S.A.

1986: Cambridge Advanced Level Certificate, 3 A-Levels, Raffles Junior College, Singapore.

### SELECT PUBLICATIONS

#### **Books:**

*The Life in the Writing-Syed Hussein Alatas*, Marshall Cavendish International, 2010. Biography.

*The Girl Who Made it Snow in Singapore*, Ethos Books, Singapore, 2008. Children's/Young Adult reader.

*Italiani per Vocazione* (co-authored with Igiaba Scego and other authors), Cadmo/Casilini, Florence, 2005. Migrant writing. Winner of XXXI Emigration Prize.

### Short stories:

‘Traditrici’, *Lingua Madre* 2006, Seb 27, Torino, 2007.

‘Sensitip issues’, *Living Rights Anthology: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in stories and poems*, Flame Books, Manchester, 2004.

### Select book chapters/articles/essays/reviews:

1. “The Midlife of an Idea: Syed Hussein Alatas’ Captive Mind after Fifty Years” in *Syed Hussein Alatas and Critical Social Theory*, Brill, November 2022, pp. 22-50.  
[https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004521698\\_004](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004521698_004)
2. “Guglielmo Ferrero (1896), Ibn Kaldoun: an Arab Sociologist of the Fourteenth Century” in *Historical Sociology*, Vol. 35, Issue 3, September 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12376>
3. “Arif’s Gift” in *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, 22:4, 630-636, DOI: [10.1080/14649373.2021.1995174](https://doi.org/10.1080/14649373.2021.1995174)
4. ‘Hair Conditioning’ in *Will the Flower Slip Though the Asphalt: Writers Respond to Capitalist Climate Change*, Left Books, 2017. Edited by Vijay Prashad. With contributions from Naomi Klein, Amitav Ghosh, Susan Abulhawa and others.
5. “Becoming Italian” in *CounterPunch*, 21 July 2017.
6. “The name of the eco” in *CounterPunch*, 16 February 2016.
7. “The Italian botanist and the misshapen phallus” in *CounterPunch*, 10 August 2016.
8. “Sometimes it really is about Islam” in *CounterPunch*, 16 January 2015.
9. “Malaysia’s Dog issue” in *CounterPunch*, 27 October 2014.
10. “Malaysian Mandela” in *Boundary 2*, 2014) 41(2): 21-23
11. “Becoming Native: Notes on Malaysian Trees and the Roots metaphor” in *Der Baum als Symbol und Strukturelement in der Literatur und Kunst/L’albero come simbolo e come elemento strutturale nella letteratura e nell’arte,”* Iudicium, 2012.
12. Prefazione a *Italiano-Melayu Manuale di Conversazione* di Rita Ruggeri, Marshall Cavendish International, 2012. Il primo dizionarietto bilingue Italiano-Bahasa Melayu. First Italian-Malay bilingual conversation handbook.
13. “Finding the Clarity” hosted by *University Ranking Watch* blog/Richard Homes, 26 January 2012.
14. ‘Examining Rem Koolhaas’ prologue to *Singapore Songlines’*, Quarterly literary Review Singapore, Vol.9 No.4 October 2010.
15. ‘Una riflessione sulla traduzione inglese di *Le Tigri di Mompracem* di Emilio Salgari’, El-Ghibli, Numero 27, March 2010.
16. ‘Emilio Salgari meets his first Malaysian Reader’, *Heteroglossia*, Macerata EUM, No. 10, 2009.
17. ‘Storie Personali/Personal Stories: Intervista a Theodore Zeldin’, *Iperstoria*, 26 Aprile 2009.
18. ‘Brave ragazze e brutte parole: l’influenza di Sex and the City su due scrittrici mussulmane’, *Acoma*, Milan, Numero 36, Summer 2008.

19. 'Dentro un enigma chiamata Malaysia', *L'Unita*, 15 May 2006. Review of Italian translation of Tash Aw's *The Harmony Silk Factory*.
20. 'My son's school books', *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore*, October 2004.
21. 'La liberta' e' una malattia europeo', *L'Indice dei Libri*, February 2001. Review of Italian translation of Pramoedya Ananta Toer's novel *Bumi Manusia*.
22. 'True picture of the rights of Muslim women' in *Studies on Women Abstracts* Vol 10, Taylor and Francis 1992.

#### WORK REVIEWED BY:

Salil Tripathi in *Global Asia*, December 2010.  
 Bernard Koh in *The Sunday Times*, Singapore, 17 February 2008.  
 Alessandro Portelli in *Il Manifesto*, Italy, 21 September 2008.  
 Filippo La Porta in *Il Messaggero*, Italy, 30 June 2005.  
 Maria Antonietta Saracino in *Lo Straniero*, Italy, December 2005.  
 Enrico Valenzi in *Rivista Omero* 08 July 2005

#### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS AND CONFERENCES

Oasis American Studies International School 2016. MA Workshop on the topic: Cultural Imperialism and Intellectual Captivity: U.S.-Malaysian Connections, 29 May 2016.

Singapore Writers Festival, 8 December 2007. Presentation of book *The Girl Who Made it Snow in Singapore*.

'Authors for Rome' theatre festival, Teatro Eliseo, 11-12 June, 2007. Reading of short story 'La Cartolina'.

'Multiculturalism in the United States and Europe: Immigration, Integration, Identity. Conference speaker. Sirmione, Lake Garda, 9-11 May, 2001. Conference organised by the Cultural Office of the United States Embassy in Italy.

'Policy into Practice for Lesser used languages in Europe'. Conference speaker. Cardiff, Wales, 30 September – 5 October, 2001. Conference organised by the British Council, U.K.

'The many voices of Migrant Writers'. Conference speaker. Rome, 14 December 2001. Conference organised by the International Organization for Migration.

#### INVITED SEMINARS

'1Malaysia and the 'United States of Europe': The concept of social and cultural integration in different national contexts', Università' politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Dicembre 2010.

Master di Primo Livello in Religioni e Mediazione Culturale, Sapienza Università di Roma 2009-2010.

'Intercultural communication and Managing Cultural Diversity: the case of Malaysia', Istituto Adriano Olivetti (ISTAO) 2008, 2009.

#### AWARDS:

First prize, Singapore Unbound First Flash Fiction Contest 2021.

Nominee, D.K. Dutt Memorial Award for Literary Excellence 2015.

Nominee Non-Fiction category Readers' Choice Awards 2011 for the book *The Life in the Writing*

Commendatory Prize, Oxbridge Sunway Essay Competition 1990. Awarded by the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Malaysia.

#### TELEVISION AND RADIO APPEARANCES

Radio 3 Suite 'Il mormorio del sangue, il tumulto dei sogni', 27 agosto 2009

Shukran Rai 3 June 2001