

## Education

- D. Phil in Social Anthropology, Somerville College, Oxford University, 1984-1989
- Masters in Social Anthropology, Somerville College, Oxford University, 1980-1982
- Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology: Honours and summa cum laude, Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, 1975-1979
- Château Mont-Choisi, Lausanne, international baccalaureate, 1968-1975

## Academic & Professional Experience

- **Since 2020, working on forthcoming book on culture and politics in Iraq**
- **Visiting Professor, Mosul University, 2017-2020**  
Contributed to the rebuilding of Mosul University Library and delivering lectures and supervising graduate students
- **Member of Iraq British Business Council, 2017-2020**  
Led high-profile missions with senior business and government representatives to Baghdad, Erbil and Mosul
- **Visiting Senior Fellow, Middle East Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2015-2017**  
Led research on Yemen, from Arabia Felix to Yemen in crisis
- **Member of Editorial Board, Journal of International Affairs, Chatham House, 2011- 2015**
- **Board Member, Middle East Institute, London University, 1992-2012**  
Successfully fundraised in support of scholarships and academic institutions
- **Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Middle East Centre, Beirut 2008-2009**  
Research focused on Kingdom on Alert: Saudi Arabia and the New Middle East Cold War
- **Policy Fellow, Brookings Institute, Washington D.C., 2007-2008**  
Research on the dynamics and the political economy of reform in Saudi Arabia
- **Research Fellow, Middle East Programme, Chatham House, 1997-2007**  
Research focused on the new generation in Arab countries, Muslim youth in Britain and the Arab money elite in London (see list of publications)  
  
Briefings to government and private sector leaders, House of Commons and House of Lords Keynote addresses to Defense Academy of the United States, Council of Foreign Relations, National Endowment for Democracy, National Democratic Institute, Freedom House, U.S. Senate and State Department
- **Research Fellow, Centre of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University, 1992-2000**  
Series of lectures and publications on status of women in the Muslim world and on rule of law and human rights in the Middle East and the Islamic world  
  
Regular contributor to the Judicial Studies Board of Great Britain
- **Academic Advisor, Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., 1990-2000**
- **Research Fellow, Centre for Cross Cultural Research, Oxford University, 1990-1991**  
Research and publications on the dynamics of identities in Arab countries
- **Lecturer in Anthropology and Sociology, King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, 1981-1984**  
First Saudi Arabian female lecturer at a Saudi university

## Publications

### Books:

- 'Cradle of Islam: The Hijaz and a Quest for Arabian Identity', 2004
- 'Changed Identities: The Challenge of the New Generation in Saudi Arabia', 2000
- 'The Rule of Law and Human Rights in the Middle East and the Islamic World: Human Rights and the Judicial Process', 2000
- 'Feminism and Islam: Legal and Literary Perspectives', 1996



**Academic & Policy Publications (selected)**

'Saudi Youth: The Illusion of Transnational Freedom', Contemporary Arab Affairs, Routledge, 2010

'From Fragility to Stability: A Survival Strategy for the Saudi Monarchy', Contemporary Arab Affairs, Routledge, 2009

'The Two Faces of Saudi Arabia', Survival: Global Politics and Strategy, International Institute for Strategic Studies, 2008

'The Latent Arab Democratic Revolution', The Middle East and North Africa, Routledge, 2007

'Mecca: Islam's Cosmopolitan Heart', Open Democracy, 2006

**Broadcast Experience**

Frequently on CNN, Al Jazeera, BBC World, BBC Newsnight, Channel 4 News, Bloomberg, CBS, ANB, ABC.

**Languages**

Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Italian (fluent), Hebrew, Persian, Maltese (working knowledge).



## **Biography**

Dr. Mai Yamani was born in Cairo during the Suez war. Yamani's mother, Laila Suliman Faidhi, is from Mosul, Iraq and her father, Ahmed Zaki Yamani, is from Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Her early education included schooling in Baghdad, Mecca, and Lausanne. She completed her B.A. in Anthropology from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania and her M.St. and D.Phil. in Social Anthropology from Oxford University. She was the first Saudi Arabian to receive a doctorate from Oxford.

She started her career as lecturer at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah and then at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She was a scholar and senior researcher at leading international think tanks including Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Brookings Institution, Chatham House, Georgetown University, London School of Economics and Mosul University.

She has advised governments and parliaments in the US, Middle East, Asia and Europe as well as senior management of large multinationals including Goldman Sachs, Shell and BP.

Dr. Yamani is author of several books including *Changed Identities: The Challenge of the New Generation in Saudi Arabia*, and *Cradle of Islam: The Hijaz and the Quest for an Arabian Identity*. Her articles were published in over 100 newspapers around the world including the New York Times, the Guardian, the Independent, el Pais and al Hayat. She has been frequently interviewed on CNN, BBC World, Al Jazeera, Bloomberg, CBS and ABN.

Languages: Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Italian (fluent), Hebrew, Persian, Maltese (working knowledge).