

AHMED AL MATA'NI, PhD.

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Career Profile

Highly motivated and dedicated educational professional with almost two decades of local and international experience in both administrative and academic positions.

Qualifications Include:

- Devotion to constantly growing through the experience of teaching
- Successful experience teaching a range of ages and language levels
- Successful experience in leadership and management

Career Objectives

I am a highly dedicated upper echelon professional in higher educational administration and teaching with almost 2 decades of experience. I am keen on supporting the mission of your institution as a focused self-starter who doesn't mind taking on difficult both academic and administrative tasks in order to bring creative solutions to problems.

Short Bio

My name is Ahmed Al Mata'ni, and I hold a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with an ESOL/Bilingual Education specialization from the University of Florida. I have a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the University of Missouri St. Louis. Since 2003, I have been teaching ESL, EFL, Critical Thinking, Public Speaking as well as Interpersonal Communication in Oman and USA. My areas of expertise are accreditation, applied linguistics and assessment. My transdisciplinary research agenda draws from multiple strands include Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL), teacher education, curriculum development, social justice, and Critical Race Theory (CRT). More recently, my research examines topics that are centered around Raciolinguistic Perspective and Decolonial Turn. I have presented his research on numerous local and international platforms. I am also a member of some specialized professional associations such as TESOL, TESOL Arabia, Florida Association for Bilingual Education (FABE) and American Association of Colleges

for Teacher Education (AACTE). Last but not least, I am also a reviewer in Journal of Language, Identity and Education, who assesses research article submissions to the journal.

Personal Skills

- Creative mindset
- Self-motivated, quick learner
- Targeted ability to bring closure to tasks and meet required deadlines
- Leadership, communication, and team-building skills
- Mediation & negotiation skills that focus on ameliorating issues
- Highly enthusiastic and collaborative

Education and Training

2017-2022 PhD, Curriculum and Instruction, Bilingual Education and ESOL,
School of Teaching and Learning, College of Education,
University of Florida

PhD Dissertation Summary:

The Decolonial Turn (DT) challenges the invisible intellectual power matrix that perpetuates asymmetrical relations between the Global North and South. While extensively explored in South America, DT's application in African, Eastern Asian, and Gulf Arab contexts, including Oman, remains underexplored. The study, informed by DT, addresses this gap by investigating how Omani TEFL teacher educators navigate Western epistemes and epistemologies. Findings, drawn from in-depth interviews, document analysis, and reflective journals, reveal participants' efforts to adapt Western education to the local context. However, despite attempts, Western epistemologies still dominate, leading to a fascination with the West and a negative view toward non-Western ways of knowing and learning. The study urges challenging hegemonic policies, valuing non-Western knowledge, and integrating diverse perspectives. Offering practical implications, the research contributes to dismantling Western hegemony in knowledge production, especially in the overlooked Gulf Arab region.

2017-2022 UF Holmes Scholar

2013 Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship, Syracuse
University, New York (Spring Semester)

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| 2008-2009 | Master of Education (M.Ed.), Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Faculty of Education, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO, summa cum laude; with a 3.97 GPA |
| 1998-2003 | Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), Teaching English, Faculty of Education, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman |

Employment Background

Modern College of Business and Science, Muscat, Oman

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|-----------|--|
| 2022-Now | Director of the Center of ESL & Academic Preparation & Assistant Professor, General Education Department |
| 2014-2016 | Head of Department, General Education |
| 2010-2013 | Director of General Foundation Program |
| 2005-2007 | Senior Coordinator, Academic Advisor, and Lecturer in the General Foundation (EFL) Program |
| 2003-2007 | EFL Lecturer in the EFL department |

Other Teaching Experiences

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|-----------|--|
| 2008-2009 | Research and Teaching Assistant, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO |
| 2004-2005 | Adjunct Lecturer, English Department, College of Banking and Financial Studies, Muscat, Oman |

Administrative Responsibilities

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|------------|---|
| 2011- 2016 | Chair: Examination Administration: designing and implementation of exam evaluation and procedures |
| 2009- 2015 | Chair of the Graduation Committee |
| 2010- 2014 | Member of the Marketing & Fundraising Solicitations |
| 2009- 2015 | Supervisor of the American Corner |
| 2012- 2016 | Administrator for Quality Assurance Coordinators |

Summary of the working experiences

Leading and Managerial Expertise and Experiences:

Director, General Foundation Program and General Education Department, Modern College of Business and Science, Muscat, Oman, August 2009 – now

I am responsible for:

- Budgeting
- Hiring
- Compliance
- Training new teachers

- Developing and presenting ELT workshops for professional development purposes inside and outside the college

EFL Coordinating Responsibilities

- Working closely with the CEAP Director of Studies to insure the smooth daily running of departmental operational activities and EFL programs.
- Revising all CEAP courses' syllabi
- Supporting all EFL teachers
- Arranging venues and schedules for meetings
- Write internal communications documents, including handouts and emails, to inform team members of important notices
- Reviewing materials created by other teachers and offering suggestions for improvement
- Following up with the teachers regarding covering the assigned materials
- Writing mid-terms and final exams
- Supervising the marking processes for mid-term and final exams.

Teaching Expertise

- Utilizing written, oral, visual and real-world experiences to teach English as a EFL and ESL at the territory level.
- Teaching language acquisition skills through Communication Skills courses designed for students to acquire receptive and expressive communication dexterities.
- Supporting an active learning environment by integrating technology into all realms of EFL and ESL instruction.
- Teaching English with a strong emphasis on oral, analytical, and written competency.
- Implementing student-centered and differentiated instruction targeted to enhance curricula and student aptitudes.

Classroom & Interpersonal Skills

- Remarkable ability to effectively communicate with educators from varied nationalities, ethnicities, and social economic backgrounds.
- Remarkable ability to effectively engage students in whole classroom and group discussions in an effort to promote cognitive development through peer learning.
- Strong ability to connect intellectually and culturally with students from varied nationalities, ethnicities, and social economic backgrounds.
- Possesses keen aptitude for making in-class materials culturally relevant, student-centered, and relatable to the student population.

Accreditation Experience

Modern College of Business and Science

- Before going for my PhD,
 - I was in charge of standard 7: Students and Student Support Services as part of the institutional accreditation for the Modern College of Business and Science's Submission for Accreditation) supervised by the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority and Quality Assurance (OAAAQA). The submission was successful and the college was accredited.
 - Also, I was involved in General Foundation Program Accreditation supervised the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority and Quality Assurance (OAAAQA).
 - Most recently, upon my Ph.D. completion, I have been asked to contribute actively to the accreditation process, with a particular focus on criteria within Standard 6.

Here are some of the activities and tasks that I have been in charge and involved in:

- Planning developing, coordinating, and implementing required activities for Students and Student Support Services Standard and General Foundation Program Accreditation.
- Monitoring progress toward identified goals and objectives.
- Collecting, compiling, and analyzing data collected for each criterion and process
- Serving as the primary point-of-contact for Students and Student Support Services Standard and General Foundation Program Accreditation in the college
- Ensuring adherence to the college policies and guideline for Students and Student Support Services Standard and General Foundation Program Accreditation in the college.
- Checking the prepared reports by the involved members.

Awards, Honors, & Recognitions

1. Awarded University of Florida (UF) Finish Line Awards, UF Graduate School, University of Florida, 2022.
2. Awarded the awarded the Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives, Supplemental Retention Scholarship by UF Division of Graduate Student Affairs, University of Florida, 2022.
3. Awarded the UF Holmes Scholarship to present at 2019 Holmes Preconference at AACTE Annual Meeting from 2017-2022.
4. Granted one of His Majesty the Late Sultan Qaboos Scholarships supervised by Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation to USA to pursue a PhD in ESOL and Bilingual Education, 2016.
5. Awarded the Civic Education & Leadership Fellowship (CELF) Scholarship by Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Syracuse University, New York, USA, 2013.

6. Fully funded scholarship by the Modern College of Business and Science and University of Missouri St. Louis to USA to complete a Master's in education (M.Ed.) in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), University of Missouri St. Louis, 2008.
7. Awarded the Student Horizons Project by Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), USA, 2005.

Academic Papers Presented at Conferences

In Progress Papers and Chapters

Velyka, O., & Al Mata'ni, A..(2024). *Exploring EFL Teacher Identity in the Omani Context: Perception, Agency, and Advocacy for Criticality, Agency, and Language Teacher Identities: Research and Praxis from Global Teacher Education*. In B. Yazan (Ed.), *Critical Approaches and Innovations in Language Teacher Education*. Bloomsbury, San Antonio, USA. Manuscript (Accepted) in preparation.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2024). *Parental language ideologies towards minoritized languages spoken in Oman by two Omani families* for *Journal of Language, Identity & Education*. Manuscript in preparation.

Presentations at Conferences

International conferences

Al Mata'ni, A (2023, March). *Western Hegemony in Omani TEFL Academics' Lives*. Paper presented at TESOL Arabia 27th International Conference and Exhibition, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2022, February). *Illuminating Western Epistemologies and epistemes in the Omani TEFL Teacher Education via Decolonial Turn*. Poster session presented at the 2022, Holmes Preconference at AACTE's 74th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2019, November). *Racism in the Arab Context through CRT and Fanon's Psychological Oppression Lenses*. Poster session presented at the 29th Annual Conference for the National Association for Multicultural Education, Tucson, Arizona.

Al Mata'ni, A., Li, J (2019, May). *E-Jigsaw Collaborative ESL Learning Platform*. Poster session presented at the Annual Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) Conference Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Al Mata'ni, A., Li, J (2019, March). *International Partnership Programs of Teacher Preparation: China, Oman with America*. Paper presented at the 48th Annual Conference of the National Association for Bilingual Education, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2019, February). *Omani Teacher Educators' Beliefs and Practices regarding Cultivating Critical Thinking in the Preparation of Omani Teachers of English*.

Roundtable session presented at the 2019 Holmes Preconference, Louisville, KY, USA.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2018, November). *The Omani Educational System: Challenges and Ways forward*. A seminar presented at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2018, October). *Breaking the silence of the hidden racism in the Arab world through CRT*. Poster session presented at the 2nd Annual Diversity Graduate Research Symposium, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA.

Al Mata'ni, A., Li, J, Zhu, J. (2018, April). *E-Jigsaw Collaborative ESL Learning Platform*. Poster session presented at the Annual Graduate Student Research Day, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA.

Local Conferences

Al Mata'ni, A (2023, March). *Illuminating Western Epistemologies and Epistemes in the Lives of Omani West-Educated TEFL Teacher Educators Via Decolonial Turn* [Conference presentation]. Oman 22nd International ELT Hybrid Conference, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2023, March). *Parental language ideologies towards minoritized languages spoken in Oman by two Omani families* [Conference presentation]. Oman 22nd International ELT Hybrid Conference, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2022, December 13). *Being invited as a keynote speaker* for Rustaq College of Education External Workshop Series, UTAS, 13th December 2022.

Al Mata'ni, A., Badoola, M. (2011, April). *Heightening Transferability through Meaningful Objectives*. Paper presented at the Oman 10th International ELT Conference, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman.

Al Mata'ni, A.(2009, April). *Having a native-like accent : Is it a bonus or an obligation for learning English*. Poster session presented at the Annual Student Research Day, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman.

Service

Service to the College

- A. Conducted a workshop to faculty members titled Research in Education: Essential or Optional, 21/10/2022.
- B. Conducted several workshops to students on how to successfully handle college life, 2008-2016
- C. Chaired the Accreditation Team for Standard 7, 2014-2016
- D. Served as the head of examination committee, 2013-2016
- E. Annually Conducting orientation sessions to foundation students, 2008-2016
- F. Annually Conducting orientation sessions to new faculty members, 2008-2016

G. Serving as a member in the Accreditation Team for Standard 6; 2022-present
Service to the Public

Al Mata'ni, A. (2022, December 12). *Illuminating Western Epistemologies and epistemes in the Omani TEFL Teacher Education via Decolonial Turn*. Keynote speech presented at University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS), College of Education, Rustaq, Oman.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2023, May). *Re-envisioning an Equitable World with Different Perspectives through the Decolonial Turn*. Keynote speech presented at the 5th Annual 5th ELT Forum, University of Technology and Applied Science, Nizwa, Oman

Al Mata'ni, A. (2015, March). *Turning the class upside down: Is flipped class a myth or a possibility for effective EFL learning*. Keynote speech presented at the 7th Annual Educational Leadership Symposium, College of Technology, Shinas, Oman.

Al Mata'ni, A. (2014, April). *How to improve your English*. A seminar presented at the Annual Open Day, Arab Open University Muscat, Oman.

Professional services

Invited member, board of reviewers, *Journal of Language, Identity and Education*, international, double-blind, peer-reviewed & indexed journal published by Taylor & Francis, January 2020-present.

Membership of Professional Societies

Member, TESOL: 2010 -Present

Member, TESOL Arabia: 2013: present

Member, Florida Association for Bilingual Education (FABE): 2018-2022

Member, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE): 2017-2022

Computer Proficiency:

Digital Assessment Tools:

- Utilize Google Forms for creating digital quizzes and formative assessments that gauge students' language proficiency.
- Utilize Moodle for creating digital quizzes and formative assessments that gauge students' language proficiency.

Online Teaching Platforms:

- Zoom: Highly proficient in conducting virtual classes, facilitating group discussions, and organizing language practice sessions.
- Microsoft Teams: Experienced in using Teams for virtual office hours, collaborative language projects, and student consultations.

Learning Management Systems (LMS):

Learning Management Systems (LMS):

- Familiar with Blackboard, managing course content, assignments, and grading efficiently.
- Experienced in Moodle, creating interactive quizzes and discussion forums for student engagement.
- Familiar with Blackboard for managing course content, assignments, and grading efficiently.
- Experienced in Moodle for creating interactive quizzes and discussion forums for student engagement.

Microsoft Office

- Familiar and experienced in using the different tools (e.g., *Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher*).

Multimedia Tools:

- Familiar and Skilled in editing audio exercises and creating listening comprehension activities.

Adaptive Learning Platforms:

- Familiar with Khan Academy, leveraging adaptive learning features to tailor language content to individual student needs.

Interactive Smart Boards:

- Successfully integrated Smart Board technology into language instruction for engaging and interactive classroom sessions

Language Proficiency:

-Arabic:

- Native language
- Proficient in both spoken and written forms

- English:

- Fluent in both spoken and written forms

- Translation Experience:

- Served as an official translator from 2005 to 2015 at the Modern College of Business and Science and my responsibilities included:
 - Translated official documents and college publications
 - Proficient in translating between Arabic and English
 - Modern College of Business and Science, Muscat, Oman

References

Available upon request

Ahmed Al Mata'ni Summary of Accomplished Task for 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 Academic Years

CEAP Management Report

Guided by MCBS mission, vision, strategic plan, and department objectives, I managed with the help of my deputies to accomplish the following:

- Enhancing the Academic integrity in online assessments (increased focus on education and prevention)
- Promoting independent learning (development of student study booklets)
- Enhancing quality of feedback to students (standardized guide for error correction)
- Coordinating with Cambridge Press to integrate EduOasis with with Cambridge online resources and platforms
- Enhancing faculty recruitment procedures (implementation of target candidate profile and interview questions)
- Enhancing Teaching quality (class observations, post-observation feedback, reflective teacher framework)
- Developing a level coordinator guide for CEAP coordinators
- Enhancing and creating Job descriptions (creation of descriptions for CEAP deputy director roles)

Teaching Expertise (2022-2023 & 2023-2024)

- Utilized various teaching methods (written, oral, visual, real-world experiences) for EFL and ESL instruction (all years).
- Integrated technology into all aspects of EFL and ESL instruction (all years).
- Emphasized oral, analytical, and written competency in English language teaching (all years).
- Implemented student-centered and differentiated instruction (all years).
- Taught courses in both CEAP and General Education Department

Leadership and Management (2022-2023 & 2023-2024)

2023-2024

- Prepared CEAP operation plan with the support of my deputies.

- Managed budgeting, hiring, compliance, and training of new teachers as Director of the General Education Department.
- Led the academic advising workshops for faculty members.
- Led the team for developing Postgraduate Qualifying Programs 1 and 2 (bridging courses) – Accepted by MOHERI, awaiting final approval for implementation (Al Mata’ni, in progress).
- Introduced MOCK IELTS exam as an exit exam for the General Foundation Program (GFP) students in collaboration with Hawthorn Muscat English Language Center.
- In charge of Accreditation Experience for Standard 2.2: Student Admission and Orientation and Standard 2.9: Academic Skills Enhancement.
- Before changing the accreditation standards, I was in charge of Criterion 6.6: Student Learning Support and Criterion 6.7: Teaching and Learning Resources
- Participated in the interview and selection processes for BTEC teachers.
- Assisted in creating the syllabi for the BTEC program (English components).
- Participated in evaluating BTEC teachers and preparing a report for the Ministry of Education.
- Participated in a Workshop on Academic Advising for Freshman Students

2022-2023

- Led the team in restructuring the GFP program to a 3-level program ([approved by the ministry of higher education, research and Innovation] (MOHERI).
- Led the review process for the MCBS GFP curricula to the new structure.
- Participated in the interview and selection processes for BTEC teachers (ongoing in 2023-2024).
- Participated in evaluating BTEC teachers and preparing a report for the Ministry of Education.

Additional Evidence (2022-2023 & 2023-2024)

- Conducted a workshop for faculty members titled "Research in Education: Essential or Optional" (2022).
- Delivered a keynote address at the Brain Trainers' Day III on the theme "The Latest Teaching Trends in Education" (2024).

- Conducted orientation sessions to foundation students (2022-2023 & 2023-2024): annually done.

Publications:

- In Progress:

- Velyka, O., & Al Mata'ni, A. (accepted manuscript but in progress). Exploring EFL teacher identity in the Omani context: Perception, agency, and advocacy for criticality, agency, and language teacher identities. In B. Yazan (Ed.), *Critical approaches and innovations in language teacher education*. Bloomsbury.
- Al Mata'ni, A. (under review). Parental language ideologies towards minoritized languages spoken in Oman by two Omani families. *Journal of Language, Identity & Education*.

Professional Services:

- Al Mata'ni, A. (2020-present). Board of reviewers, *Journal of Language, Identity, and Education*.

Presentations at Conferences

International Conferences:

- Al Mata'ni, A. (2023, March). *Western hegemony in Omani TEFL academics' lives* [Paper presentation]. TESOL Arabia 27th International Conference, Dubai, UAE.
- Al Mata'ni, A. (2022, February). *Illuminating Western epistemologies and epistemes in the Omani TEFL teacher education via decolonial turn* [Poster session]. Holmes Preconference at AACTE's 74th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Local Conferences:

- Al Mata'ni, A. (2023, March). *Illuminating Western epistemologies and epistemes in the lives of Omani West-educated TEFL teacher educators via decolonial turn* [Conference presentation]. Oman 22nd International ELT Hybrid Conference, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman.

Keynote Speeches:

- Al Mata'ni, A. (2024, June 10). Keynote speaker [Keynote address]. Brain Trainers' Day III, *Oman Tourism College*, Oman.
- Al Mata'ni, A. (2023, May). *Re-envisioning an equitable world with different perspectives through the decolonial turn* [Keynote speech]. 5th Annual ELT Forum, *University of Technology and Applied Science*, Nizwa, Oman.
- Al Mata'ni, A. (2022, December 13). Keynote speaker [Keynote address]. Rustaq College of Education External Workshop Series, *UTAS*, Oman.

Previous accomplishments before 2022:

Research and Presentation

International conferences

- Al Mata'ni, A. (2019, November). *Racism in the Arab context through CRT and Fanon's psychological oppression lenses* [Poster session]. National Association for Multicultural Education, Tucson, Arizona, USA.
- Al Mata'ni, A., & Li, J. (2019, May). *E-Jigsaw collaborative ESL learning platform* [Poster session]. Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Al Mata'ni, A., & Li, J. (2019, March). *International partnership programs of teacher preparation: China, Oman with America* [Paper presentation]. National Association for Bilingual Education, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA.
- Al Mata'ni, A. (2019, February). *Omani teacher educators' beliefs and practices regarding cultivating critical thinking in the preparation of Omani teachers of English* [Roundtable session]. Holmes Preconference, Louisville, KY, USA.
- Al Mata'ni, A. (2018, November). *The Omani educational system: Challenges and ways forward* [Seminar]. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA.
- Al Mata'ni, A. (2018, October). *Breaking the silence of the hidden racism in the Arab world through CRT* [Poster session]. 2nd Annual Diversity Graduate Research Symposium, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA.
- Al Mata'ni, A., Li, J., & Zhu, J. (2018, April). *E-Jigsaw collaborative ESL learning platform* [Poster session]. Annual Graduate Student Research Day, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA.

Local conferences

- Al Mata'ni, A., & Badoola, M. (2011, April). *Heightening transferability through meaningful objectives* [Paper presentation]. Oman 10th International ELT Conference, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman.
- Al Mata'ni, A. (2009, April). *Having a native-like accent: Is it a bonus or an obligation for learning English* [Poster session]. Annual Student Research Day, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman.

Keynote speeches:

- Al Mata'ni, A. (2015, March). *Turning the class upside down: Is flipped class a myth or a possibility for effective EFL learning?* [Keynote speech]. 7th Annual Educational Leadership Symposium, College of Technology, Shinas, Oman.
- Al Mata'ni, A. (2014, April). *How to improve your English* [Seminar]. Annual Open Day, Arab Open University Muscat, Oman.