



# AMECYS

## ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE EAST CHILDREN & YOUTH STUDIES

### **AMECYS 2026 Senior Scholar Award**

#### **The Association of Middle East Children and Youth Studies invites nominations for the inaugural AMECYS Senior Scholar Award**

The Association of Middle East Children and Youth Studies (AMECYS) is a 501 (c) (3) private, non-profit, international membership-based association for scholars with an interest in the study of children and youth in the Middle East, North Africa, Gulf and their diasporic communities. Through interdisciplinary programs, publications, and services, AMECYS promotes innovative scholarship, facilitates global academic exchange, and enhances public understanding about and by Middle Eastern, North African and Gulf children and youth in diverse times and places from any disciplinary and methodological approach.

The **AMECYS Senior Scholar Award** recognizes an outstanding scholar whose career has advanced the study of children and youth in the Middle East, North Africa, the Gulf, and their diasporic communities. In keeping with AMECYS's mission, the award honors sustained contributions that strengthen the field through innovative scholarship, interdisciplinary exchange, and the expansion of public understanding about and by children and youth in these regions.

Nominations for the award can be self-made or made by anyone who can speak to the credentials of the senior scholar, given they meet the following criteria:

1. Open to senior scholars (e.g., associate/full professor or equivalent, including independent scholars).
2. Nominees may come from any disciplinary or methodological approach.
3. The nominee's record must demonstrate sustained engagement with children and youth studies in MENA/Gulf and/or diasporic contexts.
4. Nominee must be an AMECYS member at the time the nomination is made.

## Selection Criteria

Nominees will be evaluated on the following:

- **Substantial Scholarly Contribution**—A significant body of work that has shaped knowledge and debate on children and youth in the Middle East, North Africa, the Gulf, and/or diasporic communities; evidence of impact (e.g., influence on the scholarship, teaching, methods, or research agendas of others).
- **Innovation and Interdisciplinarity**—Scholarship that is conceptually, methodologically, ethnographically or archivally innovative; work that advances interdisciplinary dialogue and helps build children and youth studies as a shared scholarly space across fields.
- **Global Academic Exchange and Field-Building**—Contributions that facilitate scholarly exchange across regions, institutions, and disciplines such as conference programming, collaborative network development, center/institute leadership, editorial leadership, academic association and other organizational leadership, or other forms of infrastructure-building.
- **Mentorship and Support for Emerging Scholars**—Demonstrated commitment to mentorship, especially toward graduate students and early-career scholars; concrete evidence may include teaching, advising, mentoring collaborative projects, co-publication, sponsorship, and community-building that expands participation in the field.
- **Public Understanding and Engagement**—Work that enhances public understanding about and by Middle Eastern, North African, and Gulf children and youth, whether through public scholarship, community partnerships, policy work, educational programming, and/or media engagement.

What nominators should send appended as one pdf:

- **1 Nomination letter**— mapping the nominee’s contributions based on the criteria
- **1 Supporting recommendation** - mapping the nominee’s contributions based on criteria
- A comprehensive **CV**
- Optional: **up to 2 representative items** (e.g., article, chapter, public essay, project link) that demonstrate contributions.

The winner of the AMECYS Award will receive \$300 and a certificate of award. In the event of co-winners, prize money will be divided evenly among the winners. Honorable mentions also receive a certificate of award. Winners will be announced during the 59th MESA Annual Meeting in Boston. The results will also be posted on the AMECYS website and in other publications as deemed appropriate by AMECYS.

**Nominations must be received by September 1, 2026** and be sent to the chair of the Awards Committee, [Dylan.Baun@uah.edu](mailto:Dylan.Baun@uah.edu)

### **Reviewers**

1. **Dylan Baun**, Department of History, University of Alabama in Huntsville
2. **Heidi Morrison**, Department of History, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
3. **Hilary Falb Kalisman**, Endowed Professor of Israel/Palestine Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder

For any questions, can email [Dylan.Baun@uah.edu](mailto:Dylan.Baun@uah.edu)

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