

Emerging Scholar Recipient

ISLS 2021-22



Claire Alkoutli

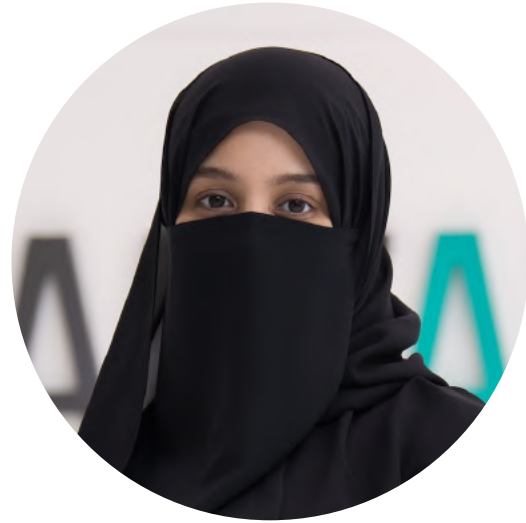
Adjunct Research Fellow University of South Australia

Claire Alkoutli completed a PhD in Human Development, Learning, and Culture at the University of British Columbia and is an Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of South Australia. She is currently engaged in research projects and collaborations in Australia, Canada, England, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. Her research focuses on the roles of culture, relationships, and pedagogies in human development across the lifespan, including imaginative play, dialogue, inquiry, and challenge.

EMERGING SCHOLAR PROJECT

Although the learning and developmental benefits of imaginary play are widely recognized, most research has been conducted in Western cultural contexts; much less has explored imaginary play in Muslim communities, featuring culturally relevant material and pedagogies. This study inquires into how children engage in imaginary play and how adults support imaginary play in four Muslim communities in Toronto, Beirut, Riyadh, and Abu Dhabi. As a collaborative design experiment (Brown, 1992), we will offer an initial playgroup design and refine it in collaboration with mothers and the children themselves at each site over the course of ten weeks. The playgroup design is organized around a 10-session playgroup program that we collaboratively designed for children under 7 years old, based on traditional stories from Muslim cultural contexts with invitations for imaginary play.

Brown, A. L. (1992). Design experiments: Theoretical and methodological challenges in creating complex interventions in classroom settings. *The Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 2(2), 141–178. https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327809jls0202_2



Mariam Alhashmi

Assistant Professor
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Mariam Alhashmi completed her PhD at the British University in Dubai specializing in Educational Management and Leadership with a focus on the philosophy of Islamic education. Her academic interests include Islamic education, Arabic teaching and learning, personalized learning, learning beyond classrooms, and innovative learning spaces. As a head of the national UAE curriculum for Arabic, Islamic Studies, and Social Studies, Mariam has trained hundreds of teachers and principals in the UAE, Kuwait, KSA, and Kenya.



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