

**My name is Salma Alshehri. I am a PhD candidate in the School of Education at Western Sydney University, Australia and working under the supervision of dr. Mohamed Moustakim and dr.Abby Mellick Lopes. My interests lie in improving my educational practice to live according to my values that help me live a peaceful and happy life.**

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**I draw on McNiff with Whitehead's (2002) 'Living Educational Theory research' as a framework for my following inquiry "How can I encourage Arabic speaking migrant artists to practice calligraphy and reflects their identity and culture?" My own values and ontological commitments as a Muslim woman inspired my quest to develop social and educational practices to promote a better understanding of Islamic culture. I am seeking to enhance the image of Islam in the West by providing a counter-narrative to negative representations of Islam and a tendency to associate it with violence and hate in mainstream media and in divisive Far-right political rhetoric. The aim of my living educational theorising is to help strengthen a sense of identity and belonging among Arab migrant artists who are settled in Australia, through the practice of Islamic calligraphy creatively whilst preserving the value of art and culture. The study identifies the challenges and opportunities that face artists while learning and practising calligraphy. Moreover, I am examining the effectiveness of using digital media as a way of calligraphy learning to encourage beginner artists to practice traditional Arabic calligraphy and reflect their culture. My aim is to design an electronic website that will be accessible to everybody who is interested in Arabic calligraphy. The website will be a self-directed learning resource that could develop beginners' independent learning skills to mitigate the continuing neglect of traditional Islamic art.**