



# Sami BASHA

"Sciences of Education"

Guidance and Counseling & Special Education

Fulbright Senior Scholar / Northwestern University / Searl Center for research **USA**  
 "2011 Teaching and Learning **Award**" AMIDEAST

Member of the Italian Society for Special Education (**SIPES**)

Member of **ANPEC** (National Association of Italian clinical Pedagogists)

2013 **DISES award** from the Council for Exceptional Children in the United States

Date of birth: 26/06/1969 – Citizenship: Italian / Social status: Married

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## Education:

- Ph.D. in Sciences of Education, Guidance and counseling / Salesian Pontifical University – Rome/Italy (2002). *Contributions and involvements of the Christian Palestinian community in the educational work.*
- Master (MA) in Sciences of Education / Salesian Pontifical University – Rome/Italy 1998.
- Bachelor (BA) in Sciences of Education / Salesian Pontifical University – Rome/Italy 1996.

## Consultancy Experience:

- Palestinian Higher Education Reform Expert's team "HEREs 2018.
- Consultant for WHO (World Health Organization) 2012-2014.
- Consultant member for the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education to implement the agreement signed by Palestine and Italy 2013.
- Consultant on Disability in the Middle East for UNDP (2010).
- President of the Bible Society High Advisory Committee in Palestine (2011-2016).
- Coordinator for training courses on disabilities in Palestinian territory for AVSI (since 2011).
- Coordinator for training courses on disabilities in Palestinian territory for ATS (Association of the Holy Land) (2010).
- Consultant on families issues OPCY Program / PBS.
- Pedagogical advisor of the Latin Patriarchal Seminary of Jerusalem (2008-2017).
- Consultant for the Latin Church's ecclesiastical Court in Jerusalem / 2015.
- Member of the High Commission for the Intercultural and Welfare of the Italian Ministry of Justice and for officers training, (2005-2006).

## Personal initiative

- Founder of the Palestinian Pedagogy of liberation theory PPL, and the human functionality in context of conflict.
- Promotor of the Critical Thinking in Higher Education in Palestine.
- Inventor of "Basha Behavioural Autism spectrum Disorder Screening test" (**BAT**)© - 2006.
- Developed of the very first Ma Academic program in special education published as a national document in Palestine in 2012, by the Catholic University of Milan EDUCAT.
- Founder of the first initiative for special education "ANAINSAN" in the Palestinian Territory. (2011).
- Director and founder of the Special Education Center and program At Palestine Ahliya University. 2011.

## Work Experience

- President of the Association; American University of Sicily – AUSSR. 2018 – Now.
- Head of Accreditation and Quality of higher education institutions HEIs (AQAC). Palestine National Authority. 2017 – 2018.
- Minister Advisor for Accreditation and Quality of higher education institutions HEIs. Palestine National Authority. 2017-2018.
- Vice president for International affairs at Palestine Ahliya University College / Bethlehem. 2016 - 2017

- Assistant Professor at the faculty of Arts and Sciences. Palestine Ahliya University College / Bethlehem 2011- 2017
- Director of the Special Education Program and Center 2011- 2017
- Senior Fulbright scholar / Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching at Northwestern University / Evanston – IL /USA (2014). *Focusing on the Evidence: Motivating University Faculty in the Palestinian Territories to improve student critical thinking skills, using the Critical Thinking Assessment Test (CAT).*
- Vice President for Planning and development at Palestine Ahliya University College / Bethlehem / Palestine Since 2012 - 2016.
- Vice President for Quality and scientific Research at Palestine Ahliya University / Bethlehem / Palestine 2011 – 2012.
- Assistant Prof. at Hebron University / Faculty of Education / Palestine 2010.
- Director of collaborative project in Teaching – Inclusive Education / AMIDEAST 2008 – 2011. *This project is addressing special needs education and focusing on developing the first university curricula in special education for students enrolled in in-service teacher education program.*
- Professor at the Patriarchal seminary in Bethlehem of Psychology of religion (2008-2017).
- Assistant Prof. at Birziet University / Faculty of Education / Palestine (2009-2011).
- Assistant Prof. at Bethlehem University / Faculty of Education / Palestine (2006-2010).
- Project Coordinator ATS / AVSI for social workers in schools in Bethlehem, (2008-2010).
- Pedagogical consultant at Ephpheta Paul VI° Institute - For Audio-phonetic Rehabilitation – Bethlehem (2006-2009).
- Teaching at the Catholic University of Milan: *Towards a Culture of Peace in the Holy Land.* Advanced training course (April 2009).
- Teaching at the University of Catania: Summer School June 14 to 20, 2008 (Intercultural dialogue and educational training for integration and development in the Mediterranean).
- Education office at Al Faro Foundation in Rome for Occupational integration of young people and for pedagogical orientation (2003-2006).
- Coordinator for intercultural dialogue project in schools – Gregorian University – Rome / Culture studies institute in collaboration with the “Centro Astalli Foundation – Onlus” (2002-2004).
- Assistant Prof. at the University of Central Italy, Florence (2003-2004).
- Assistant Prof. Salesian Pontifical University - Rome Faculty of sciences of Education (Educational Technologies) 2002-2004
- Assistant program at the international broadcaster "ORBIT", based in Rome, for the cultural and educational programs (2003-2004).
- Apprenticeship “*application of clinical pedagogy*” in the department of Nephrology / “Bambin Gesù” Pediatric Hospital in Rome (2003).
- Coordinator and counselor for disturbed children program, Holy Family Center-Bethlehem/Palestine (1998-1999).

#### **Activities as trainer**

- *Promoting Critical thinking in Higher Education.* Symposium “Sharing our experiences” Organized by the center for excellence in teaching and learning at Palestinian Polytechnic University PPU / Hebron. 29/05/2016.
- Trainer from the AMIDEAST – USAID – Palestinian Universities/ Improving teaching and learning in higher education. 2015.

- Trainer for Community Based Learning (CBL) at Polytechnic University in Hebron June 2014.
- Advanced grieving therapy course, at the Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem, aimed at medical and paramedical staff (2010-2011).
- Training sessions in Autism and Special Education, addressed to 150 teachers in 3 Palestinian cities in collaboration with Ce.SI - Catholic University of Milan - Milan Rotary Club, (2010).
- Advanced workshops on PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System/Autism), in collaboration with ATS/Jerusalem and "La Nostra Famiglia\_Italy), (October 2010).
- Workshop on Autism in the Palestinian territory, targeting the Disability Network in Palestine, in collaboration with ATS/Jerusalem (2008-2009).
- Advanced training workshop targeting the Disability Network in Palestine on the use of screening tests for autistic children BAT in collaboration with ATS/Jerusalem (2007-2008).
- A cycle of conferences aimed at students and teachers on peace education at the Agricultural Technical Institute in Florence/Italy, (2003-2004).

**Special  
attended**

- courses**
- Tuning / Middle East and North Africa – (2-5 May 2014 / Amman) (28Sept – 02Oct 2014 / Bilbao) (27Sept – 01 Octo 2015 / Malta).
  - Seminar for **Senior administration** of universities in developing countries. Ministry of Commerce & East China Normal University / Republic of China – Shanghai 13 October – 2 November 2015.
  - Critical Thinking Assessment Test (CAT) / Train-the-Trainer Workshop organized by Tennessee Technological University in Santa Fe “USA”. October 27 - 28, 2014.
  - **IRB (Institutional Review Board) / ERB (Ethical Review Board)** Certificate in human subjects protection after having completed.
  - Social/Behavior Science based course - Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program provides research ethics education to the research community 2014.
  - 3 year Master Trainers course at the Central European University (CEU) curriculum resource center (CRC) / Sponsored by AMIDEAST, (2008-2011). Recognized by the Palestinian ministry of higher education MOHE.
  - Second Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (SET), AMIDEAST, under the sponsorship of USAID, (2008-2009).
  - ESRC Seminar Series / Challenging the orthodoxy of School effectiveness and school improvement: Toward new theoretical perspectives. University of Manchester / (26, November 2009).
  - First Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (SET), AMIDEAST, under the sponsorship of USAID, (2007-2008).
  - Realizing an “On line” blended course on special Education - Center for Continuing Education / Birzeit University, (2009).
  - Post-Doctorate in Clinical pedagogy/Special Education. Post Università delle Professioni “ISFAR” – Florence / Italy 2003 – 2006.
  - *Master in Cooperazione e politica internazionale* / SPICeS, Volontari nel mondo FOCSIV /Italy (2003).
  - *Advanced Counselling course for new growth*. Part I. Holy family care center – Bethlehem/Palestine (October 1999).
  - *Advanced course on Creative language teaching and speech therapy workshop*. Holy family care center –Bethlehem/Palestine (February1999).
  - *Advanced course on Counselling and bioenergetics workshop*. Part IV. Holy family care center– Bethlehem/Palestine (January1999).
  - Seminar of “New Age between psychology of the comfort and Religious ideology” – Pontifical Salesian University / Rome (April 1996).

**International contribution, conferences and workshops**

- International Forum “**Policy, Research and Practice in Higher Education**” Bilbao, / Spain. University of Deusto, 22-27 May 2016
- Showcase - ***Becoming International: Benefits of Reaching Out Around the World***, CEC 2015. San Diego.
- American Educational Research Association (**AERA**) annual conferences: Chicago Illinois 2015.
- La persona “funzionante”, esempio positivo in un contesto di conflitto – QUARANTENNALE DELLA PEDAGOGIA CLINICA Congresso Mondiale IL DIVENIRE DELLA PEDAGOGIA CLINICA SCENARI E PROSPETTIVE PROFESSIONALI IN AIUTO ALLA PERSONA FIRENZE, 25-26 OTTOBRE 2014.
- Paper *To provide the tools for a new approach in Palestinian schools to improve the wellbeing of children (eight to twelve years old) with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by utilizing expressive laboratories - art therapy* - 2014 Braga Conference -- Embracing Inclusive Approaches for Children and Youth with Special Education Needs. This was organized by The Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).
- Paper *Autism in Palestine and Bat screening Test* at Research Autism Event: A Future Made Together: Shaping the Future of Autism Research in the UK, Organized by Wales Autism Research Centre (WARC) at Cardiff University UK. 03/04/2014.
- Keynote Speaker at the Special Education Conference in Amman – 12 – 13/11/2012 under the patronage of the Arab university leagues and Prince Raed President of the higher commission for disability in Jordan.
- Invited speaker at the International Autism Conference / Global Perspective held in Jerusalem / 1-2, August 2012.
- Paper at the Annual Conference on learning difficulties between reality and ambition – Ramallah 07-08/05/2012.
- Workshop on Teaching and learning: Policy Tools and practice in faculty development of the 2010-2011 CEU Higher Education Policy and Management series. 6-10 June at the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.
- SoTL without borders: from professional development to scholarly teaching at Palestinian universities. At Issotl II – International Society for the Scholarship of teaching and learning – 20-23 October 2011 – Milwaukee. Wisconsin USA.
- Toward Special and Inclusive Educational Programs in Palestinian Universities / Unique Community based approach experience. At the “Embracing Inclusive Approaches for Children and Youth with Special - Education Needs” Conference, Riga, Latvia (July 2010). Sponsored by UNICEF /UNESCO / Latvian Ministry of Education and Science. This was organized by The Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).
- MTC Master Trainer Course at the Central European University in Budapest, organized by Central European University Budapest Foundation, (23-28 March 2010).
- Workshop on Training on Quality of Internationalization, LUND University / Sweden, (April 2011).
- Educational workshops for educational strategy at the University of Oslo, Norway / member of a delegation sent from the ministry of education sponsored by UNESCO (November 2007).

- Seminar on Learning Disability and Developing services to support people with complex learning and physical disabilities / Manchester University / faculty of Special Education, with Prof. Peter Farrel, (November 2009).
- Conference on Israel and Palestine: Peace is possible. The main cathedral / Milan, (April 15, 2009).
- *The academic challenges of the fresh students in faculties. Experience of Bethlehem University.* The Arab Association of Collegiate for Registrars and Admissions Officers (ACRAO) At the American University, Cairo, (April 2008).
- Peace and freedom, conference on *Pacem in Terris*, Foligno/Italy (May 30, 2003).
- The dialogue in a context of conflict, Gregorian University, Rome/Italy, (February 5, 2003).
- Conference on destroyed Childhood. In collaboration with UNICEF, Municipality of Rome - Campidoglio, Rome (February 4, 2003).

### Conferences and workshops

- Scientific committee member of the National Conference of the Palestinian Ministry of Education entitled “Palestinian Student in in knowledge and digital - based world” Ramallah, 6-7 November 2016.
- Organizing a conference for the ministry of education – District office of Ramallah on “Self-diagnosis self-improvement SDSI” This is a conclusion of 2 years work where I was the main coordinator of the project. 22 October 2014.
- Organizing the third national conference on Special Educational programs in Palestinian Universities, *Persons with Disabilities... ACT, Vision and Implementation for sharing the future* / Bethlehem, (October 7-8, 2013).
- Organizing the Second National Conference on Special educational programs in Palestinian Universities, AUTISM / Bethlehem, (April 1-2, 2012).
- Workshop on children with special needs and learning disabilities, Bethlehem University, in collaboration with the Catholic university of Freiburg, (12-15 October 2009).
- Organizing the First National Conference on Special educational programs in Palestinian Universities, Ramallah, (August 10, 2009).
- Conference "Towards better disabled students Between reality and future aspirations, Qader for community development and Bethlehem University, (03 June 2009).
- Conference "The role of education as a means of developing dialogue into positive territory in Palestine. Al Najah University, Nablus, (August 27, 2008).
- Conference "Delivery of alternative educational services in Palestine, SEEDS, Lasallian Social Networking for delivery of Services, Bethlehem University, (6-7 May 2008).

### Publications (Papers)

- *Pedagogy of Liberation, A Palestinian perspective. Cultivating new ways to engage each other in a context of conflict.* Erickson, Orientamenti Pedagogici. Vol. 64, n. 1, January – March 2017. Pp. 53-69.
- *Educative network’s role in reinforcing the academic development in the Palestinian universities. Reflective model toward productivity and innovation in teaching and learning.* The Education and Science Journal. Vol. 7, 2016.
- *Adapting the Critical Thinking Assessment Test for Palestinian Universities.* Journal of Education and Learning. Vol. 5, No. 2, 2016.
- *La persona funzionante, esempio positivo in un contesto di conflitto,* in “Pedagogia clinica”, n. 17 (n. 32 - anno XVI), (2015, pp. 57-68).

- S. BASHA, *First National Public Opinion Survey: Palestinians Knowledge and Understanding of Autism*, 2014. Italian Journal of Special Education for Inclusion, anno I | n. 3 | 2014.
- *BAT – Basha Autistic Test, Modello diagnostico per l'autismo in lingua arab*, in "Pedagogia clinica", n. 30 (n. 1 - anno XV), (2014, pp. 16-24).
- S. BASHA, *Christian Inclusion in Educational and Economical Development in Palestine Socio-Cultural and Economical Challenges in a Context of Conflict*. Italian Journal of Special Education for Inclusion, anno I | n. 2 | 2013. Pp. 149 – 164.
- *Scelte civili e non violente in Terra Santa. Verso una pedagogia della liberazione*, in *Per una cultura di pace in Terra Santa*, Unicatt-Università Cattolica di Milano, (Dicembre 2009).
- *Centro di pedagogia clinica in Betlemme*, in "Pedagogia clinica", n. 17 (n. 2 - anno VIII), (2007, pp. 25-26).
- *"Diagnosi di un popolo – Il caso Palestina". Un percorso di intervento pedagogico clinico in un contesto di conflitto*, in "Pedagogia clinica", n. 15 (n. 2 - anno VII), 2006, pp.8-12.
- *Giustizia, sviluppo e pace: dalla Populorum progressio una proposta educativa per la Palestina*, in "La Terra Santa", anno LXXX, genn./feb. 2004, pp. 20-25.

#### **Publications (Books)**

- *BASHA Behavioral Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening (BAT)* Dar Al Shamel, Palestine (in printing) 2018.
- *Leadership and the forty*, Dar Al Shamel, Palestine 2018.
- *Una pedagogia olistica e di frontiera; Jacqueline Sfeir (2016).in, Storia della Pedagogia Speciale. L'origine, Lo sviluppo, la differenziazione. A cura di, Piero Crispiani. ETS. (ISBN: 9788846743596).*
- *Self-Diagnosis self-improvement. SDSI. Ministry of the Palestinian Education.2014.*
- *Academic master in Special and Inclusive Education*, EDUCatt. Milano 2012. ISBN: 978-88-8311-904-0.
- *Parents, teachers and professionals working together for an inclusive policy. Teachers' handbook for children with special education*. EDUCatt. Milano 2011. ISBN: 978-88-8311-851-7.
- *UNIVERSITY PROGRAM, Special and Inclusive Education with specialization in mild and moderate disabilities / Master of Education. Collaborative Projects in Teaching (CPT) Palestinian Faculty Development Program (PFDP) AMIDEAST / USAID (2011).*
- *BASHA Behavioral Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening (BAT). Teachers' handbook for children with special education*. EDUCatt. Milano 2010. ISBN: 978-88-9311-793-0.
- *Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening Test in Arabic*. Latin Patriarchate Ed, Jerusalem 2010.
- *Contributions and involvements of the Christian Palestinian community in the educational work*, UPS, Roma 2002.
- *Analisi critica di alcune tematiche importanti trattate dalla rivista "Via verità e vita" nell'ultimo decennio 1985-1996*. UPS 1998.
- *L'esperienza del pedagogo clinico nella formazione professionale. Orientamento per giovani disagiati*. Tesi di post-dottorato ISFAR, (luglio 2006).
- *I am an Autistic Child*. Arabic (Book distributed to the Palestinian a school as part of the awareness campaign in favor of autism). 2014

#### **Publications (Articles)**

- Various articles on socio-educational study in the journal "Confronti" / Italy (2003-2009).

- *La situazione dei giovani arabi cristiani in Palestina*, in “Amicizia”, anno XXXIV, n. 1/2 genn./feb. 2003, pp. 13-14.
- Reviewer and scientific committee member for Scientific Journals**
- *Reviewer - Journal of International Special Needs Education*. multi-disciplinary journal for reporting original and theoretical contributions concerning disability and the delivery of special education programs and services to individuals with disabilities throughout the world. DISES – CEC. Since 2014.
  - Scientific committee - The Italian Journal “NUOVI ORIZZONTI”, New Orisons – ISFAR / Florence University of Postgraduate studies.
- Books and articles in publications**
- Leadership Models / Autism, a daily challenge / New strategies for dealing with behavioral disorder in schools / Pedagogy of liberation.
- Research progress in**
- *Focusing on the Evidence: Motivating University Faculty in the Palestinian Territories to improve student critical thinking skills, using the Critical Thinking Assessment Test (CAT)*.
  - *Counting the uncounted: Developing an autism surveillance system in West Bank, Gaza, and Nazareth*.
  - "The five behavioral characteristics for the Autism disorder in Palestine which were detected through Basha scale for behavioral diagnosis, and its correlation with the demographic, biological and environmental variables" in collaboration with 10 university teachers from four Palestinian universities (2011-2018).
- Research interests and skills**
- Critical thinking, higher education, Internationalization, intercultural studies and minorities. Inclusive Education, Faculty development, Social transformation project, family discomfort in growing children youth education, youth counseling. Modern technology and education. Developing a more dynamic and independent culture.
- Language skills**
- Fluent in English, Italian and Arabic, proficient in French and Hebrew.
- Computer skills**
- Excellent command of MS office (Word, Excel, Power point, Front page). Graphic packages (Video studio, Paint shop) Website development and Moodle E-learning ability.
- University Courses taught**
- Critical Thinking and dialogue / Evolutionary Psychology / Educational Psychology / Clinical Psychology / Special Education (Special and inclusive education) / Counseling / Fundamentals of Psychology / Psychology of the disabled child / Children talents / Psychopathology / Learning Disabilities / Educational Sociology / Psychology of religion / Anthropology of Diversity.
- Memberships**
- Member at WHO / Genève – Committee for Near Miss in Neurodevelopmental delay in the MEMRO Area 2012 – 2014.
  - Member of the Italian Society for Special Education (**SIPES**).
  - Director of the committee for Planning and development at Palestine Ahliya University college / Bethlehem / Palestine 2012.
  - Director of the committee for Guidance and counseling at Palestine Ahliya University college / Bethlehem / Palestine 2012.
  - Membership of the quality assurance committee at Hebron University (2010-2011).
  - Member of the Professional board for clinical pedagogy and educators association in Italy.

- Honorary President of the Association Onlus in Palestine (www.etiportoinafrica.it).
- Member of Think Tank committee for Cardinal Martini leadership Institute – Bethlehem University / Catholic Relief. 2007-2008.
- Member of the Quality Assurance Committee for education at Bethlehem University 2006-2007.
- Member of Team work / UNDP and Bethlehem University on development project for auto-Evaluation for 15 schools in Bethlehem area.
- Member of the Organizing Committee for the second international conference entitled “The influence of Education and Media on Christian Muslim relations” Bethlehem University 2007
- Committee international conference Bethlehem University 2008
- Committee international conference Bethlehem University 2010
- Vice-president of the Italian cultural center in Palestine 2008 –
- Member of the Christian Family High Commission in the Middle East for the Catholic churches 2008 -
- Member of the “GROWING PEACE TOGETHER” cultural association in Florence / Italy.
- Member of the “*Italian Educational federation*” FIPED

## References

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- **Rebecca I. Hopkins, Ed.D. PhD.**  
 Associate Dean of Learner Support and Transition  
 Western Technical College / USA



- **Prof. Fabio Bocci**  
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I hereby authorize the handling of my personal data according to Italian  
Legislative Decree 196/2003.

Autorizzo il trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Digs 30 giugno  
2003. N. 196. Codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali.

Data: Saturday, November 30, 2019

Sami Basha:\_\_\_\_\_