Samer Al-Kiswany

Associate Professor – University of Waterloo

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Education

- PhD, Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of British Columbia (July 2013)
- MSc, Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of British Columbia (Dec. 2007)
- BSc, Computer Engineering, Jordan University of Science and Technology (June 2003)

Experience

• Associate Professor. University of Waterloo, School of Computer Science.	Apr. '22 – present
 Assistant Professor. University of Waterloo, School of Computer Science. 	Oct. '16 – Apr. '22
• Postdoc. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Computer Sciences Department.	Nov. '13 – Aug. '16
Research Intern. Microsoft Research, Mountain View, CA.	Apr. '13 – July '13
Research Intern. NEC Laboratories America, Cupertino, CA.	June '12 – Oct. '12
• Software Egineering Intern. Microsoft, Redmond, WA.	June '11 – Aug. '11
• Research Intern. IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose, CA.	June '10 – Oct. '10
• Research Intern. Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago, IL.	May '08 – Sep. '08
• Research Assistant at UBC.	Sept. '06 – Dec. '13
• Research Associate. Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan.	June '05 – June '06
• Network and Database Admin., King Abdullah University Hospital	Feb. '03 - Sept. '03

Awards, Honors, and Competitions

■ Elevated to the rank of <i>IEEE Senior Member</i>	Jun. '19
 Best UWaterloo CS Paper Award 	Dec. '18
 NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship National award, Value: \$40,000/year for 2 years. I ranked 4th Canada-wide (su 	Apr. '13- Aug. '15 ccess rate of 8%).
 Best Talk Award at the ECE Department Systems Workshop 	Sep. '11
■ Best Talk Award at ACM HPDC '11 conference	Jun. '11
 Killam Doctoral Fellowship National award, Value: \$29,500/year + tuition, for 3 years. 	Sep. '09 – Jan '12
 BC Industrial Innovation PhD Fellowship Provincial award, Value: \$20,000/year + tuition, for 3 years 	Sep. '07 - Sep '10
 Second place in IBK Ivey Business Plan Competition Canada's premier competition for commercializable innovative ideas. Value: \$\frac{9}{2}\$ 	Mar. '09

 ACM-IEEE George Michael Memorial HPC Fellowship Award International award. 	Nov. '08
 UBC University Graduate Fellowship UBC award, Value: \$16,000 + tuition 	Jun. '08 – Jun. '09
 Second place in the BCNET Broadband Innovation Challenge Competition Provincial competition. Value: \$2000 	Apr. '08
 JUST University Graduate Fellowship National award, Value: \$20,000/year for 5 years 	Sep. '04 – Sep. '09
 Ministry of Education Excellence Scholarship National award, Value: tuition for 5 years. 	Sep. '98 – Jun. '03

Publications

The list includes the Microsoft Academic Search (MAS) ranking of the corresponding venues. Compared to other rankings MAS most accurately reflects the prestige of the venues as perceived in the research community. Conference acceptance rates are indicated when publicly available.

Key Conference Papers

- [1] Toward a Generic Fault Tolerance Technique for Partial Network Partitioning, M. Alfatafta, B. Alkhatib, A. Alquraan, S. Al-Kiswany, USENIX Sym. on Operating Systems Design and Implementation. 2020.
- [2] FLAIR: Accelerating Reads with Consistency-Aware Network Routing, H. Takruri, I. Kettaneh, A. Alquraan, S. Al-Kiswany. USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI). 2020.
- [3] An Analysis of Network-Partitioning Failures in Cloud Systems. A. Alquraan, H. Takruri, M. Alfatafta, S. Al-Kiswany, USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI). 2018. Best UWaterloo CS paper award for 2018.
- [4] NICE: Network-Integrated Cluster-Efficient Storage, S. Al-Kiswany, S. Yang, A. Arpaci-Dusseau, R. Arpaci-Dusseau, ACM Symposium on High Performance Distributed Computing (HPDC), 2017.
- [5] Split-Level I/O Scheduling, S. Yang, T. Harter, N. Agrawal, S. Kowsalya, A. Krishnamurthy, S. Al-Kiswany, A. Arpaci-Dusseau, R. Arpaci-Dusseau, ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP '15), Oct. 2015.
- [6] All File Systems Are Not Created Equal: On the Complexity of Crafting Crash-Consistent Applications, T. Pillai, V. Chidambaram, R. Alagappan, S. Al-Kiswany, R. Arpaci-Dusseau, A. Arpaci-Dusseau, Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI '14), Oct. 2014.
- [7] Physical Disentanglement in a Container-Based File System, L. Lu, Y. Zhang, T. Do, S. Al-Kiswany, A. Arpaci-Dusseau, R. Arpaci-Dusseau, Symp. on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI), Oct. 2014.
- [8] Supporting Storage Configuration for I/O Intensive Workflows, L. Costa, S. Al-Kiswany, H. Yang, M. Ripeanu, ACM International Conference on Supercomputing (ICS '14), 191-200, June 2014.

OSDI MAS top 1% Accept. rate 16%

NSDI MAS top 1% Accept. rate 18%

- OSDI MAS top 1% Accept. rate 18%
- ACM HPDC MAS top 2% Accept. rate 18%
- SOSP MAS top 1% Accept. rate 16%
- OSDI MAS top 1% Accept. rate 18%
- OSDI
 MAS top 1%
 Accept. rate 18%
- ICS
 MAS top 3%
 Accept. rate 21%

- [9] Cost Exploration of Data Sharings in the Cloud, S. Al-Kiswany, H. Hacigumus, Z. Liu, J. Sankaranarayanan, International Conference on Extending Database Technology, 601-612, March 2013.
- [10] VMFlock: VM Co-Migration for the Cloud, S. Al-Kiswany, D. Subhraveti, P. Sarkar, M. Ripeanu, ACM/IEEE Symposium on High Performance Distributed Computing (HPDC 2011), June, 2011. Best Talk Award.
- [11] A GPU Accelerated Storage System, A. Gharaibeh, S. Al-Kiswany, S. Gopalakrishnan, M. Ripeanu, ACM/IEEE Symposium on High Performance Distributed Computing (HPDC 2010), 167-178, Chicago, IL, June, 2010.
- [12] A Case for Versatile Storage System, S. Al-Kiswany, A. Gharaibeh, M. Ripeanu, Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems (HotStorage), October, 2009. Also as ACM SIGOPS OS Review, January 2010.
- [13] StoreGPU: Exploiting Graphics Processing Units to Accelerate Distributed Storage Systems, S. Al-Kiswany, A. Gharaibeh, E. Santos-Neto, G. Yuan, M. Ripeanu, ACM Symposium on High Performance Distributed Computing (HPDC), June, 2008.
- [14] stdchk: A Checkpoint Storage System for Desktop Grid Computing, S. Al-Kiswany, M. Ripeanu, S. Vazhkudai, A. Gharaibeh, Int. Conf. on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS), 613-624, June '08.
- [15] Beyond Search and Navigability: Custom Metadata Can Enable Cross-Layer Optimizations in Storage Systems, E. Santos-Neto, S. Al-Kiswany, N. Andrade, S. Gopalakrishnan, M. Ripeanu, ACM/IEEE Symposium on High Performance Distributed Computing (HPDC) - Hot Topics Track, June, 2008.

Journal Publications

- [16] Partial Network Partitioning, Basil Alkhatib, Sreeharsha Udayashankar, Sara **TOCS** MAS top 1% Qunaibi, Ahmed Alquraan, Mohammed Alfatafta, Wael Al-Manasrah, Alex Depoutovitch, Samer Al-Kiswany, ACM Transactions on Computer Systems, Impact factor: 4.27 2022
- [17] Network-Accelerated Consensus for Read Intensive Workloads, Ibrahim Kettaneh, Ahmed Alguraan, Hatem Takruri, Ali Mashtizadeh, Samer Al-Kiswany, IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking, Oct. 2021
- [18] Scalable, Near-Zero Loss Disaster Recovery for Distributed Data Stores, Ahmed Alquraan, Alex Kogan, Virendra Marathe, Samer Al-Kiswany, Proc. MAS top 1% Accept. rate 16% VLDB Endowment. Sept. 2020. (acceptance rate 16%) Impact factor: 2.9
- [19] The Network-Integrated Storage System, I. Kettaneh, A. Alquraan, H. Takruri, **IEEE TPDS** S. Yang, A. Arpaci-Dusseau, R. Arpaci-Dusseau, S. Al-Kiswany. IEEE MAS top 1% Impact factor: 2.6 Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems (TPDS), Aug. 2019.
- [20] A Cross-Layer Optimized Storage System for Workflow Applications. S. Al-**FGCS** Kiswany, L. Costa, H. Yang, E. Vairavanathan, M. Ripeanu. J. on Future Impact factor: 5.7 Generation Computer Systems. Feb 2017.
- [21] Crash Consistency, T. Pillai, V. Chidambaram, R. Alagappan, S. Al-Kiswany, CACM A. Arpaci-Dusseau, R. Arpaci-Dusseau, Communications of the ACM, MAS top 1% Impact factor: 7 58(10): 46-51, October 2015.

EDBT MAS top 2% Accept. rate 20%

ACM HPDC MAS top 2% Accept. rate 13%

ACM HPDC MAS top 2% Accept. rate 22%

HotStorage Accept. rate 20%

ACM HPDC MAS top 2% Accept. rate 17%

IEEE ICDCS MAS top 1% Accept. rate 16%

ACM HPDC MAS top 2% Accept. rate 17%

ToN MAS top 1% Impact factor: 3.56

VLDB

- [22] Crash Consistency: Rethinking the Fundamental Abstractions of the File ACM Queue System, T. Pillai, V. Chidambaram, R. Alagappan, S. Al-Kiswany, A. Arpaci-Dusseau, R. Arpaci-Dusseau, ACM Queue, 13(7), pages 9, July 2015.
- [23] Support for Provisioning and Configuration Decisions for Data Intensive IEEE TPDS Workflows, L. Costa, S. Al-Kiswany, H. Yang, M. Ripeanu, IEEE MAS top 1% Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems (TPDS), June 2015.
- [24] *The Case for Workflow-Aware Storage: An Opportunity Study*, L. Costa, A. JGC Barros, H. Yang, G. Fedak, D. Katz, M. Wilde, E. Vairavanathan, M. Impact factor: 1.6 Ripeanu, S. Al-Kiswany. Journal of Grid Computing, June 2014.
- [25] GPUs as Storage System Accelerators, S. Al-Kiswany, A. Gharaibeh, M. IEEE TPDS
 Ripeanu, IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems (TPDS), MAS top 1%
 24(8): 1556-1566, May 2012.
- [26] ThriftStore: Finessing Reliability Tradeoffs in Replicated Storage Systems, A. IEEE TPDS Gharaibeh, S. Al-Kiswany, M. Ripeanu, IEEE Transactions on Parallel and MAS top 1% Distributed Systems (TPDS), 22(6): 910-923, April 2010.
- [27] On GPU's Viability as a Middleware Accelerator, S. Al-Kiswany, A. JCC Gharaibeh, E. Santos-Neto, M. Ripeanu, Journal of Cluster Computing, Impact factor: 2 Springer, 12(2): 123-140, 2009.
- [28] Beyond Music Sharing: An Evaluation of Peer-to-Peer Data Dissemination JGC Techniques in Large Scientific Collaborations, S. Al-Kiswany, M. Ripeanu, Impact factor: 1.6 A. Iamnitchi, S. Vazhkudai, J. of Grid Computing, 7(1): 91-114, April 2009.

Other Refereed Conference and Workshop Papers

- [29] Falcon Low Latency, Network-Accelerated Scheduling, Ibrahim Kettaneh, Sreeharsha Udayashankar, Ashraf Abdel-hadi, Robin Grosman, Samer Al-Kiswany, P4 Workshop in Europe (EuroP4), Dec. 2020
- [30] RocketBufs: A Framework for Building Efficient, In-Memory, Message-Oriented Middleware, Huy Hoang, Ben Cassell, Tim Brecht, Samer Al-Kiswany, ACM International Conference on Distributed and Event-Based Systems (DEBS), July 2020.
- [31] COOL: A Cloud-Optimized Structure for MPI Collective Operations, Mohammed Alfatafta, Zuhair AlSader, Samer Al-Kiswany, In the Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Cloud Computing (Cloud), July 2018 (acceptance rate 20%)
- [32] A Software-Defined Storage for Workflow Applications, S. Al-Kiswany, M. Ripeanu, IEEE Cluster Conference 2016, Sept. 2016. (acceptance rate 24%).
- [33] Interacting with Large Distributed Datasets Using Sketch, M. Budiu, R. Isaacs, D. Murray, G. Plotkin, P. Barham, S. Al-Kiswany, Y. Boshmaf, Q. Luo, A. Andoni, Eurographics Symposium on Parallel Graphics and Visualization, 2016.
- [34] Active Data: A Data-Centric Approach to Data Life-Cycle Management, A. Simonet, G. Fedak, M. Ripeanu, S. Al-Kiswany, Parallel Data Storage Workshop (PDSW), 39-44, Nov.'13.
- [35] Predicting Intermediate Storage Performance for Workflow Applications, L. Costa, S. Al-Kiswany, A. Barros, H. Yang, M. Ripeanu, Parallel Data Storage Workshop, 33-38, Nov. '13.
- [36] *A Workflow-Aware Storage System: An Opportunity Study*, E. Vairavanathan, S. Al-Kiswany, L. Costa, Z. Zhang, D. Katz, M. Wilde, M. Ripeanu, International Symposium on Clusters, Cloud, and Grid Computing (CCGrid), 326 334, May 2012.

- [37] Assessing Data Deduplication trade-offs from an Energy Perspective, L. Costa, S. Al-Kiswany, M. Ripeanu, R. Lopes, Workshop on Energy Consumption and Reliability of Storage Systems (ERSS), 1-6, Orlando, FL, July, 2011
- [38] *A Case for Versatile Storage System*, S. Al-Kiswany, A. Gharaibeh, M. Ripeanu, Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems (HotStorage), October, 2009. Also appeared as ACM SIGOPS Operating Systems Review, 44(1):10-14, January 2010. (acceptance rate 20%)
- [39] *GPU Support for Batch Oriented Workloads*, L. Costa, S. Al-Kiswany, M. Ripeanu, IEEE International Performance Computing and Communications Conf. (IPCCC), 231-238, Dec. '09.
- [40] Configurable Security for Scavenged Storage Systems, A. Gharaibeh, S. Al-Kiswany, M. Ripeanu, 4th International Workshop on Storage Security and Survivability (StorageSS), 55-62, Alexandria, Virginia, October 2008.
- [41] Beyond Search and Navigability: Custom Metadata Can Enable Cross-Layer Optimizations in Storage Systems, E. Santos-Neto, S. Al-Kiswany, N. Andrade, S. Gopalakrishnan, M. Ripeanu, ACM/IEEE Symposium on High Performance Distributed Computing (HPDC) Hot Topics Track, Boston, MA, June, 2008. (acceptance rate 17%)
- [42] Are Peer-to-Peer Data-Dissemination Techniques Viable in Today's Data Intensive Scientific Collaborations?, S. Al-Kiswany, M. Ripeanu, A. Iamnitchi, S. Vazhkudai. The 13th International Euro-Par Conference, European Conference on Parallel and Distributed Computing, 4641: 404-414, Rennes, France, August, 2007.
- [43] A New Algorithm for Arabic Optical Character Recognition, O. Al-Jarrah, S. Al-Kiswany, B. Al-Gharaibeh, M. Fraiwan, H. Khasawneh, WSEAS Transactions on Information Science and Applications, 4(3): 211-224, April 2006. (Undergraduate project)

Patents

- [P1] Cost Exploration of Data Sharings in the Cloud, S. Al-Kiswany, H. Hacigumus, Z. Liu, J. Sankaranarayanan. US patent US20140122374 A1, May 2014.
- [P2] Deduplicated Virtual Machine Image Transfer, S. Al-Kiswany, M. Ripeanu, Patent CA-821335-02-US-NAT, May 2012.
- [P3] Virtual Machine Image Co-migration, S. Al-Kiswany, C. Constantinescu, P. Sarkar, M. Seaman, D. Subhraveti, US patent. 8,442,955. Mar 2011.

Talks

- Department Computer Science, Polytechnique Montréal, QC, Canada. Seminar, Feb. 2022 Title: On the Complexity of Modern Network Failures
- Department Computer Science, University of Toronto, ON, Canada, Seminar, Jan. 2022 Title: On the Complexity of Leveraging Modern Networks
- Dagstuhl Seminar on Serverless Computing, Panelist, May 2021.
- Workshop on High Availability and Observability of Cloud Systems (HAOC) @EuroSys '21, Invited talk, Apr. 2021
 - Title: On the Art of Wielding a Double-Edged Sword (or, Finessing Modern Networks),
- Trends in HPC workshop, Invited talk, Mar. 2021 Title: Understanding Partial Network Partitioning
- *University of Cambridge, England*, Systems Group Seminar, **Invited talk**, Nov. 2020. Title: On the Art of Wielding a Double-Edged Sword (or, Finessing Modern Networks)
- *Qatar Computing Research Institute,* **Invited talk,** Oct. 2020. Title: On the Art of Wielding a Double-Edged Sword (or, Finessing Modern Networks),

- Ontario Engineering Society, Toronto, Canada, Panelist, Dec. 2020
- ACM High Performance Distributed Computing PC Workshop, Invited talk, Mar. 2018. Title: Impact of Network Partitioning on Cloud Systems,
- *NetApp*, Lecture series, **Invited talk**, Sept. 2017. Title: NICE: Network Integrated Cluster Efficient Storage
- ACM High Performance Distributed Computing PC Workshop, Invited talk, Mar. 2017. Title: NICE: Network Integrated Cluster Efficient Storage
- *IBM Almaden Research Center*, USA, **Invited talk**, Feb. 2016. Title: The Old Systems and the Sea
- *Simon Fraser University*, Canada, System Engineering Seminar, **Invited talk**, Feb. 2016. Title: The Old Systems and the Sea
- Colorado School of Mines, USA, CS Seminar, Invited talk, Feb. 2016. Title: The Old Systems and the Sea
- *University of Victoria*, Canada, CS Seminar, **Invited talk**, Mar. 2016. Title: The Old Systems and the Sea
- Florida International University, USA, CS Seminar, Invited talk, Mar. 2016. Title: The Old Systems and the Sea
- *North Carolina State University*, USA, CS Seminar, **Invited talk**, Mar. 2016. Title: The Old Systems and the Sea
- *University of Waterloo*, Canada, CS Seminar, **Invited talk**, Apr. 2016. Title: The Old Systems and the Sea
- *Oak Ridge National Lab*, USA, CS Seminar, **Invited talk**, Apr. 2016. Title: The Old Systems and the Sea
- *University of Alberta*, Canada, CS Seminar, **Invited talk**, Apr. 2016. Title: The Old Systems and the Sea

Ph.D. Students

- 1. Ahmad Alquraan (Jan. '19)
- 2. Sreeharsha Udayashankar (May. '21)

Masters Students

- 1. Sara Qunaibi (Jan. '21)
- 2. Vijay Ravi (Jan. '21)
- 3. Daniel Erhabor (with Mei Nagappan) (Jan. '21)
- 4. Ashraf Abdel-hadi (Sept. '19)
- 5. Saif Zabarah (with Raouf Boutaba) (Jan. '20)
- 6. Wael Al-Manasrah (Jan. '20)
- 7. Omar Naman (Sept. '20)
- 8. Lily Hijazi (Sept. '21)
- 9. Abdallah Elshamy (Sept. '21)
- 10. Rizwan Shahid (with Bernard Wong) (Sept. '21)

Past Students

- 1. Basil Alkhatib, MMath, Aug. '21
- 2. Sreeharsha Udayashankar, MMath, May. '21 (PhD at UWaterloo)
- 3. Ibrahim Kettaneh, MMath, Apr. '20 (Google)
- 4. Zuhair AlSader, MMath, Dec. '19 (with Tim Brecht) (Seagate)
- 5. Mohammed Alfatafta, MMath, Dec. '19 (Amazon)
- 6. Hatem Takruri, MMath, Sept. '19 (Qlik)
- 7. Ahmed Alquraan, MMath, Dec. '18 (PhD at UWaterloo)

Awards Received by My Students

- Ahmed Alguraan received an IBM PhD fellowship for 2021
- Ahmed Alquraan is a finalist (top 3 candidate worldwide) for the Facebook Fellowship (success rate < 1%)
- Saif Zabarah NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship 2021
- Basil Alkhatib and Omar Naman win the second place in the Hacking Hokey 5G Hackathon 2020
- Ahmed Alquraan receives the best student paper award from CS@UWaterloo for 2018

Service (selected)

- Organizing committee member:
 - Review board member of IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems (2021-)
 - Publicity chair (SOSP '19)
 - Travel awards chair (HPDC '14)
 - Judge for the Fusion Conference competition (2021)
- Program committee member:
 - ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems (HotStorage '22)
 - IEEE The International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS '22)
 - USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies (FAST '21)
 - ACM Asia-Pacific Workshop on Systems (APSys) (APSys '21)
 - ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP '19)
 - International Conference on Massive Storage Systems and Technology (MSST '19, '20)
 - ACM Sym. on High-Performance Parallel and Distributed Computing (HPDC '17, '18, '20, '21, '22)
 - IEEE International Symposium on the Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation of Computer and Telecommunication Systems (MASCOTS '17, '18, '19)
 - IEEE International Conference on Software Defined Systems (SDS '17, '18, '19)
 - IEEE/ACM International Conference on Big Data Computing, Applications and Technologies (BDCAT '16, '17, '18, '19, '20, '21)
 - IEEE International Conference on Cloud Computing Technology and Science (CloudCom) ('14, '15, '16, '17)
 - IEEE/ACM Big Data Computing (BDC '14 and '15)
 - Workshop on Scientific Cloud Computing (ScienceCloud) ('12, '13, '14, and '15)
 - International Workshop on Data-Intensive Computing in the Clouds (DataCloud '12, '13, and '14)
 - IEEE International Conference on Parallel and Distributed Systems (ICPADS '13)
 - IEEE International Symposium on Parallel and Distributed Processing with Applications (ISPA '12 and '13)
 - Workshop on Cloud Computing Systems, Networks, and Applications (CCSNA '13)

- External reviewer for numerous other conferences including ISPAS '13, CCGrid '13, EuroPar '10, and VTDC '09.
- *Reviewer for the following journals:*
 - ACM Operating System Reviews (OSR)
 - ACM/IEEE Transactions on Networking (ToN)
 - IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems (TPDS)
 - IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing (TDSC)
 - IEEE Transactions on Multi-Scale Computing Systems (TMSCS)
 - IEEE Transactions on Cloud Computing (TCC)
 - IEEE Transactions on Computers (TC)
 - IEEE Transactions on Architecture and Code Optimization (TACO)
 - Journal of Cluster Computing (JCC)
 - Journal of Systems Architecture (JSA)
 - Journal of Parallel and Distributed Computing (JPDC)
 - Multiagent and Grid Systems (MGS)
- *Invited speaker* at the Sauder MBA School Entrepreneur Luncheon '09.
- Scribe for the SOSP '09 conference and LADIS '09 workshop.
- Student Volunteer for the Supercomputing SC '08, and '07 conferences.
- Volunteered at the ECE department Open House '07, and '09.