

Neda Bolourchi

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Rutgers University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, New Brunswick, NJ

Associate Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies	July 2021 – present
Undergraduate Chair, Middle East Studies Program	Sept. 2020 – present
Principle Investigator, Minorities in the Middle East Project	Sept. 2020 – present
Post-Doctoral Associate, Middle Eastern Studies Program	July 2018 – present

Princeton University, Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, Princeton, NJ

Visiting Research Associate, Aug. 2018–May 2019

Columbia University, Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics, New York, NY

Research Associate, May 2016–June 2018

Core Curriculum Preceptor, Contemporary Civilization, Aug. 2013–May 2014

Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, & African Studies, Teaching Fellow, Aug. 2009–May 2012

St. Francis College, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Brooklyn, NY

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Fall 2011 and 2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Modern Iran; political theology; religious minorities; ethnography; memory; socio-cultural history of the Middle East; classical and modern sociology of religion; Shi'ism; (counter)narratives of the Iran-Iraq War; diaspora and transnational studies; nationalism studies; Jewish Studies

EDUCATION

Columbia University, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, & African Studies, New York, NY

PhD, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

- Dissertation: *Contending Visions of Iran: The Battle for the Sacred Nation-State, 1941-1983*
- Conducted fieldwork in Syria, Lebanon, Iran, and Armenia (2009-2013)

Emory University, College of Arts and Sciences, Atlanta, GA

BA, History

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- “Overlooked but Not Forgotten: the Tehran Society of Jews and the Jewish Exemption Claim,” *History and Anthropology* (accepted and forthcoming)
- “Seeing Red, Hearing the Revolution: The Multisensory Appeal of *Shuresh*.” In *Losing Our Minds, Coming to Our Senses: Sensory Readings of Persian*. Ed. by Mohammad Mehdi Khorrami and Amir Mousavi. Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2021: 99-128 (solicited article)
- “The Sacred Defense: Sacrifice and Nationalism Across Religious and Political Communities in Post-Revolutionary Iran,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 86.3 (2018): 724-758

Review Essays and Book Reviews

- “Book Review of *The Scandal of Continuity in Middle East Anthropology: Form, Duration, Difference.*” *Anthropos*, 118.2022: 2xx-yy (solicited article). Expected in Oct. 2022
- “Shia Islam in Iran,” *Religion and Contemporary Politics*. Ed. By Timothy Demy and Jeffrey Shaw. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2019: 791-99 (solicited article)
- “Fedayeen.” In *Religion and Contemporary Politics*. Ed. By Timothy Demy and Jeffrey Shaw. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2019: 721-26
- “Syria,” *Religion and Contemporary Politics*. Ed. By Timothy Demy and Jeffrey Shaw. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2019: 802-807
- “Book Review of *The Petitioning System in Iran: State, Society, and Power Relations in the Late Nineteenth Century.*” *Iranian Studies Journal*, 49.1 (2016): 173-76

Articles in Progress

- “*Feda'* and *Fedayeen*: Textual and Contextual Analysis in the Qur'an and in Shari'a Cases”
- “The *Fedayeen*: The Genealogy of a Term and Its Ab/uses in Political Literature”
- “Historiography and Memory.” This is an NEH-funded project to co-author a chapter in an edited volume for the *Reimagining Jewish Life in the Modern Middle East* project

Book Manuscripts in Progress

- *Contending Visions of Iran: The Battle for the Sacred Nation-State, 1941-2010*
- *The Jewish Exemption Claim: Histories and Narratives about Jewish Iranians in the Iran-Iraq War*

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- American Council of Learned Society Fellowship Finalist, 2022-2023
- Aresty Research and Mentoring Grant, Rutgers University–New Brunswick, 2020 – 2023
- Luce-American Council of Learned Society Religion, Journalism, and International Affairs Fellowship Finalist, 2021-2022
- Andrew W. Mellon Interdisciplinary Fellowship, 2014 – 2016
- Columbia University Core Curriculum, Preceptor (Declined), 2014 –2015 and 2012 – 2013
- Columbia University Core Curriculum, Preceptor, 2013 – 2014
- Columbia University, GSAS, Travel Grant, Fall 2013
- Middle East Institute, Regional Travel Fellowship, Summer 2013
- Columbia University, MESAAS Summer Funding, Summer 2013
- Andrew W. Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2012 – 2013
- Columbia University, MESAAS Summer Funding, Summer 2012
- Middle East Institute, Regional Travel Fellowship, Summer 2011 and 2008
- Columbia University, MESAAS Summer Funding, Summer 2010
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Damascus University, Arabic, Summer 2009
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Columbia University, Persian, 2008 – 2009

INVITED LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

- “Iranian-Jewry and Its Representation in History and Historiography.” Penn State University, *Reimagining Jewish Life in the Modern Middle East* Workshop (NEH project), 2022 Apr. 25-29
- “Sacrificial Discourses: The Political Theology of 20th Century Iran and Its Elements in Jewish War Participation.” UCLA, *Minorities in the Middle East* Individual Lecturer (Mellon Foundation project), 2022 Apr. 12

- “The Jewish Exemption Claim and Possible Israeli-Iranian Implications.” Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, 2022 March. 31
- “Iranian-Jewry and Questions about the Jewish Exemption during the Iran-Iraq War.” UCLA, *Minorities in the Middle East* Conference (Mellon Foundation project), 2022 Jan 6-7
- “The Jewish Exemption Claim and the Question of Place in the Iran-Iraq War.” Penn State University, Jewish Studies Seminar, 2021 Oct. 25
- “Sights and Sounds of *Shuresh*: How a Radial Newspaper Attracted Multiple Literacies.” NYU, Iranian Studies Initiative, Book Talk for *Losing Our Minds, Coming to Our Senses: Sensory Readings of Persian Literature and Culture*, 2021 Sept. 30
- “Iranian Jews in the Iran-Iraq War.” Working Group Theme: Historiography and Memory. *Reimagining Jewish Life in the Modern Middle East* Workshop, 2021 Feb. 20-22, Virtual
- “Iranian Minorities Claim Their Place: Sacrifice Across Religious Communities During the Iran-Iraq War.” Cornell University, Near Eastern Studies Seminar, 2020 Mar. 11
- “Shia Visual and Auditory Cultures at Work: A System of Media Influence.” National Defense University, College of Information and Cyberspace, 2020 Mar. 4
- “Iranian Minority Communities During the Iran-Iraq War and After.” Princeton University, Near Eastern Studies Department Seminar, 2020 Feb. 24
- “Existential Threats, Security Risks, and the Law: Iranian Minority Communities During the Iran-Iraq War and After;” UCLA, Inaugural Workshop on Legal and Historical Studies of Minorities in the Middle East (Mellon Foundation project), 2020 Feb. 11
- “Shi’ism, Death, and Funerary Material Religion.” Isfahan University, Safavid Studies Center Workshop, 2019 Apr. 28 – May 4
- “The Sacred Iran: Sacrificial Discourse in Pre-Revolutionary Iran and the Shah as a Utopic Thinker.” Columbia University, Iranian Studies Seminar, 2016 Dec. 7
- “Minorities in the Iran-Iraq War.” Annual Meeting of the Society Supporting Victims of Chemical Weapons; Tehran Peace Museum, 2013 June 19

CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIA PARTICIPATION

- “Iranian-Jewry and Questions of Its War Participation;” Sherene Seikaly and Lior Sternfeld as Respondents; Panel Title: State Violence and Assimilation; *Reimagining Sephardic Studies: Provocations from Outside the Fold*, Columbia-UCLA Virtual Symposium, 2022 May 2
- “Riots and Revolution: The Forgotten Slogans and National Impact of *Shuresh*;” Mohammad Tavakoli-Targhi as Discussant; Panel Title: The Social Life of Texts and Textual Practices in Modern and Contemporary Iran; Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association; New Orleans, LA, 2019 Nov. 15
- “The Shah: Utopic Thinker and High Modernization Theory Advocate;” Joshua Batts as Respondent; Panel Title: Non-Bureaucratic Logistics in the Modern State; Mellon-Zuckerman Conference, INCITE; Columbia University, 2017 Apr. 6
- “Sacrifice and the Anti-Other: Iranian Minorities Claim Their Place in the Fantasy of the Nation;” Jennifer Burrell as Discussant; Panel Title: Another Solider is Born, The (Body of the) Nation is Safe; Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association; Minneapolis, MN, 2016 Nov. 18
- “*Shuresh* and Violent Nationalism: Understanding Radical Discourse in Images;” Azra Ghandeharion as Respondent; Seminar Title: Iran is Not as It Is Told: Contemporary Persian Art and Culture; Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association; Harvard University, 2016 Mar. 19

- “Re-Thinking Nationalists: Inciting and Inflaming Violence in Iran;” Oliver Bast as Respondent; Panel Title: Iran During the Reigns of Reza and Mohammad Reza Pahlavi; Biennial Symposia Iranica Conference, Cambridge University, 2015 Apr. 9
- “Islam, Modernity and Political Form: The Impossible State,” Invited Panel Moderator with Wael Hallaq as Respondent; Panel Title: Islam, Modernity, and Political Form: The Impossible State; Annual Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies Conference; Columbia University, 2014 Feb. 27
- “Qalibaf: Sacred Bureaucracy and a New Politics?;” Presenter and Panel Chair with Brinkley Messick as Respondent; Panel Title: The Bureaucratic and the Profane: Conceptualizing the Metaphysics of Governance; Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, 2013 Nov. 24
- “Terror & Torture: Building the Nation-State;” Presenter and Panel Chair; Setrag Manoukian as Respondent; Panel Title: Bodies in Motion, Bodies in Pain: Between the National, Corporeal, and Beyond in Contemporary Iran; Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association, Denver, CO, 2012 Nov. 19

ORGANIZED PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Seema Golestaneh of Cornell University on “Sufi Thought and Emergence of a Willful Amnesia in Iran;” Organizer and Discussant; Rutgers University-New Brunswick, 2021 Dec. 2
- Houchang Chehabi of Boston University on “The 1979 Iranian Revolution as Part of the World-Wide Populist Movement;” Organizer and Discussant; Rutgers University-New Brunswick, 2020 Apr. 21 (postponed)
- Lior Sternfeld of Penn State University on *Iran and Zion: Jewish Histories of Twentieth Century Iran*; Organizer and Discussant; Rutgers University-New Brunswick, 2020 Feb. 18
- Co-Organizer for Panel on The Social Life of Texts and Textual Practices in Modern and Contemporary Iran. Mohammad Tavakoli-Targhi as Discussant; Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association; New Orleans, LA, 2019 Nov. 15
- Michael Elleman of International Institute for Strategic Studies on “Iranian Missile Capabilities;” Organizer and Discussant; Rutgers University-New Brunswick, 2019 Mar. 28
- Organizer and Chair for Panel on Bodies in Motion, Bodies in Pain: Between the National, Corporeal, and Beyond in Contemporary Iran. Setrag Manoukian as Respondent; Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association, Denver, CO, 2012 Nov. 19

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Middle East Film and Cinema, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Spring 2022
- Religion(s) and Secularism(s), Spring 2021
- Modern Middle East, Spring 2021
- Theories of Revolution: The 1979 Iranian Revolution in Comparison, Spring 2020
- Laws of Islamic Warfare, Spring 2019
- Introduction to the Modern Middle East, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Fall 2018-2021
- Contemporary Western Civilization, Columbia University, Core Curriculum, 2013-2014
- Contemporary Islamic Civilization, Columbia University, Spring 2009, 2011, 2012
- Colonialism: Film, Fiction, History, and Theory, Fall 2010
- Early Islamic Civilization, Columbia University, Fall 2008, 2011
- Introduction to Islam, St. Francis College, Fall 2008 and 2011

SERVICE

- Investigator and Project Manager for Religious Minorities in the Middle East Project, Rutgers University–New Brunswick, Aresty Program, 2020–2023
- Capstone Honor Thesis Advisor and First Reader, 2021–2022
- Article Reviewer for the *American Historical Review*, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Article Reviewer for *Ethos: Journal for the Society of Psychological Anthropology*, 2021
- Article Reviewer for the *Journal of Political Violence and Terrorism*, 2019, 2020
- Article Reviewer for the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 2015, 2016, 2022 (declined)

TEACHING WORKSHOPS

- *Teaching and Learning with Technology*. Rutgers University-New Brunswick, School of Arts and Sciences, Office of Undergraduate Education, Special Pedagogic Projects (bi-weekly seminar), 2020 Summer
- *Pedagogy Colloquium on Teaching Contemporary Civilization*. Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), Core Curriculum (weekly seminar), 2013 – 2014
- *Fundamentals of College and University Teaching*. Columbia University, GSAS, Teaching Center, 2012 May 22-24
- *Highly Sensitive Matters: Issues Surrounding Sexuality, Race, Religion, and Gender in the Classroom*. Columbia University, GSAS, Teaching Center, 2011 Nov. 2
- *Teaching Assistant Workshop*. Columbia University, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Languages and Cultures, 2010 Aug. 25
- *Classics for an Emerging World: Classics from the Middle East and India*. Columbia University, Faculty Workshop Series for a Global Core Curriculum, University Committee for Asia and the Middle East, 2009 Jan. 12-16

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Historical Association
- Middle East Studies Association
- Iranian Studies Association
- American Political Science Association

REFERENCES

Gil Anidjar
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