**Leila Pourtavaf**

Department of History

York University

lpourtav@yorku.ca

 (416) 902-7580

**EDUCATION**

PhD, Department of History, University of Toronto, May2018.

MA, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, 2010.

MA, Media Studies, Concordia University**,** 2006.

BA (Joint Honors), Cultural Studies and Asian Studies, McGill University, 2000.

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Modern Iranian and Middle East History, Visual Culture, Public History, Women and Gender Studies, Archival Studies

**SELECTED WORK EXPEREINCE**

**Academic Appointments**

2020-present Assistant Professor in Public History:

Department of History, York University (Fall 2020)

2020-2021 Visiting Scholar:

Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University

2018-2020 Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Middle East History:

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University

**Course Instructor**

2015-2018 Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto Mississauga

2017 Department of Historical and Cultural Studies (UTSC)

2014-2017 Women and Gender Studies Institute, University of Toronto

**Graduate Student Supervision**

Golaleh Pashmforoosh, “From lenj Boats to Nuclear Reactors: the Rise of Modern Bushehr, 1881- 1989,” PhD dissertation, Department of History, York University, ongoing (co-supervisor).

Niloo Inalouei, “Narratives of the Self: a Walk Through a Labyrinth,” MFA Thesis, Graduate Program in Visual Arts, York University, ongoing (external committee member).

Corinne Curtis, “Palestine, But Make it Queer: Decolonization and Transnational Exchange in Black and Palestinian Queer Activism,” M.A. Thesis, Hagop Kevorkina Center for Near Eastern Studies, NYU, completed spring 2020 (primary supervisor).

Fatemeh Serajzadeh, “Culture and Identity of Qajar Women in the Courtyard House,” Gallatin Master of Arts Program, NYU, completed fall 2019 (committee member).

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**Academic**

**Book Manuscripts (in progress)**

*The Cosmopolis Harem:* *Power, Intimacy, and Liminal Family Formation in the Late-19th Century Qajar Court*, Cambridge University Press: Global Middle East Series.

**Refereed Articles**

“Gulistan in Black and White: The Racial and Gendered Legacies of Slavery in 19th Century Qajar Iran,” *American Historical Review* (under revision).

“Reimagining Royal Domesticity: Intimacy, Power and Familial Relations in the Late-Qajar Harem,” *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*, Volume 15, Number 4, Spring 2020.

“Running Commentary: On Spectatorship, History and Surveillance,” *INCITE Journal of Experimental Media*, Issue 7, January 2018.

“Interiority and the City Center: Locating the Gulistan Harem During Nassir al-Din’s Reign,” *Iran Namag: Bilingual Quarterly of Iranian Studies,* Volume 2, Number 3*,* Fall, 2017.

**Book Review**

“*Familial Undercurrents: Untold Stories of Love and Marriage in Modern Iran,* Afsaneh Najmabadi,  Duke University Press, 2022.” *The Journal of Family History.* (forthcoming)

“Iran in Motion: Mobility, Space, and the Trans-Iranian Railway, Mikiya Koyagi, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2021.” *Iranian studies* (2022): 1–2. Web.

“Conceiving Citizens: Women and the Politics of Motherhood in Iran, Oxford University Press, 2011.” *Iran Nameh: Persian Quarterly of Iranian Studies*, Volume 27, Number 2-3, 2012.

**Cultural**

**Edited Collection**

*Feminsites Electrique*, Les Éditions Remue-Ménage, Montreal, 2012.

**Essays and Public Writing**

“The Gulistan Archives,” *Iran and Persian Studies Dissertation Review*, May 2015.

“The Bookmobile Project: Then, There, Now,” *ArtEast*, Summer 2014.

“Will Munro Believes in Magic” in *Will Munro: History, Glamour, Magic*, AGYU, 2013.

“Inside the Solar Temple of the Cosmic Leather Daddy,” *No More Potlucks*, Volume 9, April 2010.

“Border Control/Border Movements,” HTMelles 8: Crowd Control of the Masses, [www.htmlles.net](http://www.htmlles.net), October 2007.

“Cracking the Sky: Montreal 2007 Biennale,” C Magazine, Issue 95, Fall 2007.

“Wonderland,” co-written with Andria Hickey, Capital Magazine, [www.capitalmag.com](http://www.capitalmag.com), Feb, 2007.

“Cracking Up The Nation: Afshin Matlabi’s Terrorism, Democracy, Leisure,” Fuse Magazine, Volume 30 Number 1, January 2007.

“Village People No More,” feature article, The Hour, June 29th, 2004.

**SPEAKING ENGAGMENTS**

**Academic**

“The Servant Class of Gulistan: Gender, Race and Affective labor in the Late-Qajar Harem,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Denvor, CO, (forthcoming, November 2022).

“From Court Eunuch to Wealthy Urbanite: The Life and Afterlife of Aziz Khan,” Association for Iranian Studies Conference, Salamanca, August 2022.

“Gender and Sexuality in the Archives,” *Sexuality Research Seminar*, Concordia University, March 2021.

“*Highlighting Hidden Stories: Examining the Relationship Between the African Continent and the Middle East,*" Transnational Movements: Modernity, Enslavement and Domestic Labor Symposium, Near and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Toronto, January 2021.

# “Reversing the Colonial Gaze: Persian Travelers Abroad,” with Hamid Dabashi and Lior Sternfeld, Iranian Studies Initiative, NYU, Spring 2020.

“Labor, Intimacy and Power: The Servant Class of Gulistan Harem in Late-Qajar Iran,**”** Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, November 2019.

“Everyday Royal Harem Lives,” Iranian Studies Initiative*,* NYU, Spring 2019

“Iranian Encounters,” Iranian Studies Initiative, NYU, Fall 2018

“In the Shadows of Gulistan: The Servant Class of Nasir al-Din Shah’s Court and Harem,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, October 2017.

“Inside Out: Locating Gulistan Harem in the City Center,” *Toronto Initiative for Iranian Studies Seminar Series*, University of Toronto, Fall 2016.

“Interiority and the City Center: Locating the Gulistan Harem,” *New Mappings: Zoning Gender, Sexuality and Space in the Modern Iranian City,* Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO, November 2015.

“Reimagining Domesticities in late Qajar Iran,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, November 2014.

“Affective Bonds and Familial Relationships in Nasser al-Din Shah’s Harem,” International Society of Iranian Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, August 2014.

“Harems, Households and Gendered Residencies: Revisiting the Women’s Quarter in Late 19th Century Gulistan Palace,” Berkshire Conference on Women and Gender History, University of Toronto, May 2014.

“Navigating the Archives: Historical Research in Iran,” Iranian Studies Seminar Series, University of Toronto, January 2014.

“Gendering Modernity: The Rise of Women’s Movement in Iran,” Iranian Modernity Symposium, University of Toronto, Toronto, April 2010.

“The Pirates Leave the Village: Performing New Forms of Queer Space,” *R/EvolutionIII: Pop*, An International Graduate Conference, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, March 2004.

"Sex'in the City:The Social Production of Space in Montreal’s Lower Main," Canadian Communications Association Conference, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, May 2003.

"Embodying National Narratives: A Critique of Representations of Islamic Femininity in the Works of Shirin Neshat", R/Evolution II: Gender, Sexualities, Ideologies, An International Graduate Conference, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, March x2003.

"Crisis and Constituency", Canadian Communications Association Conference, University of Toronto, Toronto Ontario, May 2002.

**Cultural**

“Facing the Crisis: In Conversation with Dean Spade,” Toronto Queer Film Festival, virtual event, April 2022.

“Jumana Manna: Musical Movements, Historical Deposits,” Mercer Union, Toronto, 2017.

“Larissa Sansour: Sci-Fi Trilogy” a Q&A with the artist, *Toronto Palestine Film Festival,* TIFF Bell Lightbox, Toronto, 2016.

“Gender in the Archives, Archiving Gender”, *Hello Guggenheim* program presented by Bidoun project as part of *But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise: Contemporary Art of the Middle East,* Guggenheim Museum, New York, 2016.

“Decolonizing the Archive”, roundtable discussion with **Jennifer Bajorek, Sameer Farooq, John Greyson, and Julie MacArthur, part of *The Day After* exhibition by Maryam Jafri, Blackwood Gallery, Toronto, February 2016.**

“Visualizing the Arab Spring,” *kaf,* Tehran, May 2015.

“The Bookmobile Book Launch”, Q&A with Jon Davies, Art Metroploe, Toronto, 2015.

“Coming After, Looking Back”, The Power Plant Sunday Scene presented as part of *Coming After*, curated by Jon Davies, Toronto, 2012.

“Queer Resistance and the War on Terror,” Culture Shock, McGill University, November 2007.

“Montreal as Contested Space”, RAD FROSH Panel, McGill University, September 2006.

“Pride, Shame and Occupation: queer in the Middle East,” Out Against Occupation, McGill University, August 2006.

**Public Programming**

Toronto Initiative for Iranian Studies, committee member, University of Toronto and York University joint collaboration (2020-present): speaking series featuring contemporary scholars in Iranian Studies.

Iranian Studies Initiative at NYU, steering committee member, New York City (2018-present): event series aimed at providing an intellectual space for NYU faculty, students, and the general public to engage with Iranian history, culture and society.

*kaf*, collective member, Tehran (2010-2015): a Tehran-based underground cultural space with a mandate to serve Tehran’s intellectual, artistic and culture community through experimental programming and pedagogical models, as well an archive and library.

La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse, programming committee member, Montreal (2006-2010): oldest feminist art gallery in North America.

Culture Shock McGill, founding member and programmer, Montreal (2006-2009): an annual two-week long series of lectures, panel discussions and film screenings aimed at highlighting critical voices from the margins.

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill University, programming coordinator, Montreal, (2005-2009): **QPIRG is a resource center for student and community research and organizing that strive to raise awareness and support grassroots organizing around diverse social and environmental issues.**

The BOOKMOBILE project, founder and collective member, Montreal (2000-2005): An annual curated traveling library of independent publications, zines and artist books which toured across North America visiting libraries, universities, galleries and other public institutions

**Selected Curatorial Work**

# *Leila and The Wolves*, Heiny Srour, screening and discussion on history of women in Middle Eastern revolutionary movements, Hagop Kevorkian Center, NYU, fall 2019.

*Iranian Encounters,* screening and discussion with Tiffany Malakooti of Bidoun project, Hagop Kevorkian Center, NYU, Spring 2019.

*These Monsters Are Real*, screening co-curated with Azar Mahmoudian, featuring Sahej Rahal, Kush Badhwar, Tala Madani, Payal Kapadia, Anjana Kothamachu, Maharidka Yudha, Chulayarnon Siriphol, Laleh Khorramian. Monitor 11, SAVAC, Toronto, 2015.

*Incident Light,* exhibition featuring Tara Najd Ahmadi & Hannah Darabi, Ala Dehghan, Maryam Jafri, Jumana Manna, Nahed Mansour, The Otolith Group & Tejal Shah. Blackwood Gallery, Toronto, 2014.

*Rebels Rule*, screening, co-curated with GB Jones and Alex McClelland, as part of *Will Munro, History, Glamour, Magic*. Art Gallery of York University (AGYU), 2012.

Will Munro, *Inside the Solar Temple of the Cosmic Leather Daddy*. La Centrale, Montreal 2011.

Amy Lockheart, *Give Up the Ghost*. La Centrale, Montreal, 2009.

GB Jones, *Là-Bas*. La Centrale, Montreal, 2008.

*Gender Alarm!,* exhibition co-curated with Onya Hogan-Finlay, featuring Lynne Chan, Jacinthe Loranger, Will Munro, Noam Lapid, Fereshteh Toosi, Anthea Black, Arwa Abouon, Insoon Ha, The After Party. La Centrale, Montreal, 2008.

*Feminist Film Cells*, screening co-curated with Onya Hogan-Finaly, featuring Lisa Steele, Martha Rosler, Annie Brunette, Mirha-Soleil Ross & Mark Karbusicky, Les Reines Prochaines, Alanis Obomsawin. La Centrale, Montreal, 2008.

*Border Movements*, exhibition featuring Nahed Mansour, Ayesha Hameed and Tatiana Gomez. La Centrale, Montreal, 2008

*Paperwall*, exhibition featuring over 20 artists including Emily Roysdon, Helen Reed, JJ Chinois, Kate Sorensen, Lesbians on Ecstasy, LTTR, The Third Leg, Luis Jacob and more. La Centrale, Montreal, 2006.

**SELECTED AWARDS AND GRANTS**

**Academic**

LA&PS Minor Research Grant, 2022

SSHRC Connection Grant, 2021

LA&PS Research Events Fund, York University, 2021

Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Department of History, University of Toronto, 2012-2015

School of Graduate Studies, Research Travel Grant, University of Toronto, 2013-2014

FAS Study Elsewhere of Less Commonly Taught Languages for Research Purposes, 2011

Avie Bennett Scholarship, Department of History, University of Toronto, 2010-2011

Rona and Davis Scholarship for Achievements in Academic Excellence, Concordia University, 2004.

**Cultural**

Curatorial Grant, Canada Council for the Arts, 2013.

Publication Grant, Quebec Council for Arts and Letters, 2009.

Project Development Grant, Canada Council for the Arts, 2008.

**LANGUAGES**

English – primary language

Persian – fluent speaking reading and comprehension, intermediate writing

French – fluent speaking, reading and comprehension, intermediate writing