

Employment

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**2023-present Senior Lecturer**  
Departments of History and Political Science  
Clemson University

EDUCATION

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**2023 Ph.D. *History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies*. New York University**  
Committee Members: Zachary Lockman, Arang Keshavarzian, Sara Pursley, Lior Sternfeld, Ervand Abrahamian

Exam committees: Zachary Lockman, Sara Pursley, Timothy Naftali

Dissertation title: Cold War From Below: A social history of Communist internationalism in the Middle East (1941-1983)

**2021 MPhil. *History & Middle Eastern Studies & Islamic Studies*; New York University**

**2017 M.A. *Global History*; Free University of Berlin and Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany**

**2013 B.A. Honors *Diaspora & Transnational Studies and Political Science, Minor in History*; University of Toronto, Canada**

PUBLICATIONS

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**A. Book**

1. *What Iranians Want: Women, Life, Freedom*. London: Oneworld, 2024.
2. *The Shadow Commander: Soleimani, the U.S., and Iran's Global Ambitions*. London: Oneworld, 2020.

**B. Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters**

1. "Iranians and the Vietnam War: Cold Warrior Enmities or Anti-Colonial Solidarities?" In *Iran and Global Decolonization*. Edited by Firouzeh Kashani-Sabet and Rob Steele. London: Gingko library's Iran Series, 2023.

**C. Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles under Revision**

1. "Tehran, Cairo, Tel Aviv: Iranian Communist Perspectives on Israeli Independence and Anti-Imperialist Unity (1951-52)." *Iranian Studies*, under review.
2. "Rangoon Wasn't Bandung: The Rise and Demise of the Asian Socialist Conference." *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, R&R.

**D. Book Reviews in Peer-Reviewed Journals**

1. “Review of Iran in Motion: Mobility, Space and the Trans-Iranian Railway by Mikiya Koyagi” *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review* (2022).
2. “Review of “‘Doomed to Good Relations’: The USSR, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Anti-Imperialism in the 1980s.” By Timothy Nunan.” *H-Diplo 1125*, July 8, 2022.
3. “Review of *America and Iran: A History, 1720 to the Present*, by John Ghazvinian.” *The Middle East Journal* 75, no. 3 (2021): 473–75.
4. “Review of *Contesting the Iranian Revolution: The Green Uprisings*, by Pouya Alimagham.” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 52, no. 1 (2021): 151–53.
5. “The Shah, the Islamic Revolution and the United States.” *Iranian Studies* 54, no. 1–2 (March 4, 2021): 309–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2019.1679590>.

#### **E. Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations (selected)**

1. *Cold War from Below: Iranian and Iraqi Communists in the Labor Strikes of 1946*. Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), Arlington, VA. (2023, June 15)
2. *The Global 1960s and the Pahlavi Era* [Roundtable in Pahlavi Studies]. Association of Iranian Studies (AIS). Salamanca, Spain (2022, August)
3. *Iranians and the Vietnam War: Cold War or Global South Connections?* New Scholars International Conference on Cold War, University of California, Santa Barbara (2022, April)
4. *Cold War From Below: A Social History of Communist Internationalism in the Middle East (1943-83)*, NYU Abu Dhabi Research Institute’s Inaugural Annual Graduate Student workshop, New Directions in the Study of the Arab World (2022, March)
5. *Iranians and the Vietnam War: Cold War or Global South Connections?* Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), online. (2021, December).
6. *Iranian and Iraqi Communists: Cold War and Limits of Sovereignty*. The State in Flux Graduate Winter School Program, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies Doha Institute. (2021, January).
7. *Iranian and Iraqi Communists: A Cold War Alliance (1941-83)*. Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), online. (2020, October).
8. *The Global 1960s and the Pahlavi Era* [Roundtable in Pahlavi Studies]. Association of Iranian Studies (AIS), online. (2020, August 25).
9. *Between Mecca, Moscow and Mao: Iranian Islamists and socialist countries in the Global Sixties*. Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), online. (2020, June).
10. *Between Mecca, Moscow and Mao: Iranian Left-Islamists and socialist countries in the Global Sixties*. LSE-Sciences Po Seminar in Contemporary International History, London, UK. (2019, November 27).
11. *Tebran, Cairo, Tele Aviv: Iranian Communist Perspectives on Israeli Independence and Anti-Imperialist Unity (1951-52)*. Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), Arlington, VA. (2019, June 20).
12. Masood Kimiyayis’ Qaisar and the Unlikely Iranian 68 Moment— *15th Annual*. Historical Materialism Conference, London, UK. (2018, November).
13. *If Only The Republicans Win”: Iran and the Spanish Civil War*. Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), San Antonio, TX. (2018, November).
14. “If Only The Republicans Win”: Iran and the Spanish Civil War. *New Research Agendas*. Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies NYU (2018, October).
15. *Tebran, Cairo, Tele Aviv: Iranian Communist Perspectives on Israeli Independence and Anti-Imperialist Unity (1951-52)*. Association of Iranian Studies (AIS), Irvine, CA. (2018, August 14)
16. “*Empire of Atheism*” or “*Friend of the oppressed?*” *Iranian left-Islamism and the ‘socialist camp’ in the global 1960s*. World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies, Seville, Spain. (2018, July 16).

## **F. Invited Talks (selected)**

1. *Americanizing the Israel-Palestine Conflict*. Fellowship & Summer Institute on Antisemitism & Jewish Inclusion in Educational Settings. The George Washington University. (2023, June 14)
2. *Holocaust Education in the Middle East [Guest lecture]*. Ilana Weltman's Class, The George Washington University. (2023, April 30)
3. *Woman. Life. Freedom. A Point of No Return for Iran?* [Panel participant]. University of Pennsylvania, History Department. (2023, April).
4. *Nobody's Periphery: Pablavi Iran and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Inagural Zahedi lecture. Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies, Stanford University. (2022, May 31).
5. *Shadow Commander (my book)* [Guest lecture]. Nahid Siamdoust's Class, The University of Texas at Austin. (2022, February 16).
6. *Pablavi Iran and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict (1967-1979)*. Hoover Institute Event, Palo Alto, CA. (2021, December 10).
7. *Iranians and the Vietnam War: Cold War or Global South Connections?* Middle East c.1960-1980 Global and Transnational Perspectives, University of Oxford (2021, November 8).
8. *Iranian Interventions in the Arab World*. University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK. (2021, October 11).
9. *IRGC in Iranian politics* [Guest lecture]. Sivan Balslev's Class, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. (2021, May 25)
10. *Iranians and the Vietnam War*. Iran and Global Decolonization: A symposium held jointly by University of Pennsylvania and UCLA. (2021, May 20).
11. *Revisiting the Northern-Tier: Syrian Reconstruction Inside-Out*. Webinar organized by National University of Singapore, Middle East Institute, Arabia Asia Research Cluster (May 12, 2021)
12. *Left in the Middle East* [Guest lecture]. Arnon Degani's Class, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. (2021, May 3).
13. *Shadow Commander* [Book Talk]. Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies NYU (2021, March 1).
14. *Book Review: "Call to Arms" by Ali Rabnema (2021)*. Seminar on the 50th Anniversary of Iran's Fadai movement, online. (2021, February 27).
15. *Shadow Commander* [Book Talk]. Mike Rogers Center for Intelligence and Global Affairs (2020, December 15).
16. *The Tebran Children: Iran's Unexpected Connection to the Holocaust* [Panel participant]. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (2020, December 8).
17. *Iran and the Cold War* [Guest lecture]. Roham Alvandi's class, Columbia University. (2019, March).
18. *82 Names: Syria, Please Don't Forget Us* [Panel participant]. Screening, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies NYU. (2018, September).
19. *Iranian intellectual history* [Guest lecture]. Ali Mirsepassi's seminar, New York University. (2018, March).
20. *Iranian protests* [Panel participant]. Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies NYU. (2018, February).

## **G. . Opinion and Commentary Articles (Selected)**

1. “Why Is Iran Kidnapping and Executing Dissidents?” *The New York Times*, January 12, 2021, sec. Opinion. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/12/opinion/iran-kidnap-execute-dissidents.html>.
2. “What a New Film Gets Right about the Iranian Hostage Crisis.” *Washington Post*, November 13, 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/11/13/what-new-film-gets-right-about-iranian-hostage-crisis/>.
3. “Azam Taleghani, Defiant Would-Be President of Iran, Dies at 76.” *The New York Times*, November 1, 2019, sec. World. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/01/world/azam-taleghani-dead.html>.
4. “Iran’s Cabinet of Hard-Liners.” *New Lines Magazine*, August 23, 2021. <https://newlinesmag.com/argument/irans-cabinet-of-hard-liners/>.
5. “We on the Left Need to Fix Our Broken Politics on Israel/Palestine.” *Newsweek*, May 14, 2021. <https://www.newsweek.com/we-left-need-fix-our-broken-israel-palestine-politics-opinion-1591585>.
6. “Who Is Afraid of Iran’s Faezeh Hashemi?” *Atlantic Council*, April 20, 2021. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/iransource/who-is-afraid-of-irans-faezeh-hashemi/>.
7. “Jennifer Lopez’s Performance at the Biden Inauguration Has a Complicated History.” NBC News, January 21, 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/jennifer-lopez-s-performance-biden-inauguration-has-complicated-history-ncna1255168>.
8. “You Don’t Need to Mourn Qassem Soleimani to Be Deeply Worried.” *+972 Magazine*, January 5, 2020. <https://www.972mag.com/qassem-soleimani-iran/>.
9. “From Mountains to Palaces: The Life of Jalal Talabani.” *IranWire*, October 4, 2017. <https://iranwire.com/en/features/4883>.
10. “Should IRGC Be Worried by Latest Iran Army Promotion?” *Al-Monitor*, December 1, 2016. <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2016/12/iran-army-appointment-pourdastan-deputy-head.html>.

#### HONORS, AWARDS & GRANTS

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1. New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) Global Dissertation Writing Fellowship, 12-month, USD 30,000
2. Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) 2-year Doctoral Fellowship, CAD 40,000
3. Zahedi Family Fellowship, Stanford University, USD 20,000
4. University of Oklahoma’s Farzaneh Family Center for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies Research Fellowship 2020, USD 3,000
5. Bemis Dissertation Research Grant, Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) 2020, USD 2,000
6. Global Research Institute Fellowship at NYU London, Three-months fully funded, Spring 2020
7. History Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, NYU, Summer 2019, USD 5,000
8. R. Bayly Winder Summer Language Fellowship for Arabic, 2019, USD 5,000
9. Global Scholars and Diversity Grants — Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) 2019
10. NYU’s Dean Student Travel Grant 2018
11. Middle East Studies Association Travel Grant 2018
12. “Exceptional Journalist” by the National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada, 2013

## TEACHING

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### **Instructor on Record**

*Clemson University*

Modern World History (Undergraduate), Fall 2023

Politics of the Middle East (Undergraduate), Fall 2023

*New York University (NYU)*

How to Change the World: Revolutionary Movements of the 20th century (Undergraduate), Summer 2022

Emergence of Modern Middle East (Undergraduate), Summer 2021

## RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY

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Consultant (selected)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2020-Present

Conducting original research on Iran and the Holocaust

Media in Cooperation and Transition Gmbh (MICT), 2016-18

Advising on Iran-Syria affairs, working with the German government

Impact Iran

Consulting on human rights campaigns in the UN, 2015-Present

Research Assistant

Professor Perin Gurel (University of Notre Dame), Assisting Professor Gurel with her manuscript on Iran-Turkey ties in the Cold War, 2022

Professor Ayse Baltacioglu-Brammer (NYU), Assisting Professor Baltacioglu with her manuscript on history of sect and sectarianism in the Middle East, 2019

Professor Lior Sternfeld (Penn State), Assisting Professor Sternfeld with his manuscript Between Iran and Zion: Jewish Histories of Twentieth-Century Iran, 2016-2017

## LANGUAGES

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Persian: Reading, Writing, Speaking

English: Reading, Writing, Speaking

Spanish: Reading, Writing, Speaking

Arabic: Reading, Speaking

Turkish: Reading

French: Reading

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICE

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**Service**

Steering committee member, Iranian Studies Initiative at NYU (2017-2023)

**Affiliations**

Member, Association of Iranian Studies (AIS)

Member, Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)

Member, Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)

Member, International Studies Association (ISA)