

KATHRYN BABAYAN

*Department of Middle East Studies
Department of History
4012 South Thayer Building
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
babayan@umich.edu*

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1993 Princeton University
M.A. 1987 Princeton University
M.A. 1983 Georgetown University
B.A. 1981 Wellesley College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020- Professor, Middle East Studies/History, University of Michigan

2018- Affiliate, Comparative Literature & Program in History & Anthropology,
University of Michigan

2002-2020 Associate Professor, Department of Middle East Studies/History,
University of Michigan

Spring 2005 Visiting Associate Professor, Department of History, Harvard University

1996–2002 Assistant Professor, Department of Middle East Studies

1992–1995 Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of North Texas

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2018 Richard Hudson Research Professorship Award, Department of History,
University of Michigan
2017-2018 Fellow, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of
Michigan
2012-2014 Associate Professors Support Fund Award, University of Michigan
2011-2012 Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
2008 University of Michigan Humanities Award
2006 Rackham Spring/Summer Research Grant
2004 Honorable Mention, Said Sirjani Book Award, International Society for
Iranian Studies for my book, *Mystics, Monarchs & Messiahs*.
May 2000 Fellow, École des Hautes Études en Science Sociales, Paris,
France
1999–2000 Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
1995-1996 Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University

LANGUAGES

Persian, Arabic, Turkish, French, Italian, Russian, Speaking knowledge of Armenian

PUBLICATIONS - *Books*

Mystics, Monarchs and Messiahs: Cultural Landscapes of Early Modern Iran (Cambridge: Harvard Middle Eastern Monographs, 2002), Reprint 2017.

Slaves of the Shah: New Elites of Safavi Iran. Joint monograph with Sussan Babaie, Ina Baghdiantz-McCabe, and Massumeh Farhad (London: I. B. Tauris, 2004,) Paperback 2017.

Islamicate Sexualities: Translations Across Temporal Geographies of Desire. Co-editor with Afsaneh Najmabadi (Cambridge: Harvard Middle Eastern Monographs, 2008).

An Armenian Mediterranean: Words and Worlds in Motion. Co-editor with Michael Pifer (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, Mediterranean Perspectives, 2018).

The City as Anthology: Eroticism and Urbanity in Early Modern Isfahan (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2021).

PUBLICATIONS – *Selected Journals and Book Chapters*

“The Safavi Synthesis: From Qizilbash Islam to Imamite Shi’ism,” *Iranian Studies* 27 (1994)

“Sufis, Darvishes, and Mullas: The Controversy Over Spiritual and Temporal Dominion in 17th Century Safavi Iran,” *Safavi Persia*, ed. Charles Melville (London: I.B. Tauris, 1996)

“The ‘Aqa’id al-Nisa’: A Glimpse at Safavi Women in Local Isfahani Culture,” *Women in the Medieval Islamic World*, ed. Gavin Hambly (London: St. Martin's Press, 1998)

“The Safavid Household Reconfigured: Concubines, Eunuchs, and Military Slaves,” *Slaves of the Shah: New Elites of Safavi Iran*, Joint monograph with Sussan Babaie, Ina Baghdiantz-McCabe, and Massumeh Farhad (London: I. B. Tauris, 2004)

“The Ever-Tempting Return to an Iranian Past in the Islamic Present: Does Lotman’s Binarism Help?” *Lotman and Cultural Studies: Encounters and Extensions*, eds. Andreas Schönle (Madison: Wisconsin University Press, 2006)

“In Spirit We Ate of Each Other’s Sorrow:” Female Companionship in Seventeenth Century Safavi Iran, *Islamicate Sexualities: Translations Across Temporal Geographies of Desire*, eds. Babayan & Najmabadi (Cambridge: Harvard Middle Eastern Monographs, 2008)

“The Cosmological Order of Things in Early Modern Safavi Iran,” *Book of Omens: The Falnama*, ed. Massumeh Farhad (Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Exhibition Catalogue, 2009).

“The Safavi Chapter in Iranian History,” *Iranian Civilization, from Antiquity to Present*, ed. Touraj Daryaee (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012)

“Topographies of Travel in Early Modern Persianate Landscapes,” in Elio Brancaforte, Sonja Brentjes, *EXHIBITION CATALOGUE. From Rhubarb to Rubies: European Travels to Safavid Iran (1550-1700)*; Houghton Library, Harvard College Library; The Lands of the Sophi: Iran in Early Modern ... *Library Bulletin* (Cambridge, MA, 2012)

“Shah Isma’il,” *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013)

Special Iran Issue, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, Guest Editor, Spring 2019

In Progress:

Articles:

“Abu Muslim Name;” “Junayd;” “Kizilbash;” “Lahijani Sufis.” Encyclopedia of Islam, Third Edition, Brill, The Netherlands.

Website: With fellow historian Nuzhat Ahmadi, at the University of Isfahan, we have begun to collect and generate tables of contents for numerous *majmu’a* (anthology) that are housed in the capital’s most prominent public libraries of Majlis, Malik, Milli and Tehran University. Indexing the various genres of texts that comprise each *majmu’a*, we have taken account of the content and organization of these miscellanies, and plan to create a Safavi blog where scholars across the world may have access freely to these Persianate-world sources.

CONSULTANCY

Historian-consultant for exhibition on the *Book of Omens: The Falname*, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, D.C., October 2009

PAPERS and COLLOQUIA

Co-organizer of webinar series, *Dialogues in Iranian Studies: Exchange between scholars in Iran & the U.S.*; a joint initiative of the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan. Moderated first webinar on Safavi History, March 2021.

Panelist, *EIHS Symposium: Thinking with the Country and the City: Revisiting the Raymond Williams classic*, University of Michigan, January 2021.

Organizer and Moderator of Roundtable on Race, Sexuality, and Ethnicity in ME Studies, Middle East Studies Department, December 2020.

Panelist on the discussion of *Persianate Selves: Memories of Place and Origin Before Nationalism* by Mana Kia, The Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University, October 2020.

“Urbanity and the Early Modern,” *The Global City Represented Project*, Islam and the Humanities, Brown University, ~~Fall 2020~~. **Postponed due to pandemic**

“Anthologizing the City of Isfahan,” Connectivity in the Premodern Mediterranean Research Focus Group, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, ~~April 23, 2020~~.
Postponed due to pandemic

“Reading Desire in Early Modern Isfahan,” George Washington University, Institute for Middle East Studies Lecture Series, ~~February 27, 2020~~. **Postponed due to pandemic**

“The small gap equivalent to the width of the Safavi domain,” India and the Early Modern World, Symposium on Sanjay Subrahmanyam’s latest books: *Europe’s India* and *Empires Between Islam and Christianity*, UCLA, October 29th, 2018.

"The Word, the Image, and the City of Isfahan in Seventeenth Century Iran," Anthropology-History Workshop Series, University of Michigan, April 13, 2018.

"Love and Tragedy in Shi’a Thought and History," MEDan: Middle East and Arab Network, University of Michigan, November 30, 2017.

"Assembling a Nomadic Archive," Nomadic Empires Workshop, Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University, October 16, 2017.

"A Social map of the City of Isfahan," Cities & Urban Life in the Caucasus, Iran and Central Asia Lecture Series, Brasenose College, Oxford University, October 17, 2017.

"Generation 9/11: The Future of Islamic history in America," EIHS Symposium: *The Future of the Past*, University of Michigan, September 8, 2017.

“Isfahan’s Cityscape: Masculinity and its Desires,” UCLA History Department, April 6, 2017.

“The City as Anthology,” School of Oriental and African Studies, Near and Middle East History Series on Cities, February 27, 2017.

“An Education of the Senses: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Male Desire in early modern Isfahan,” Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Columbia University, April 7, 2016.

“Disturbing the City of Isfahan,” 2016 Fereidoun and Katharine Mirhady Endowed Lecture, Simon Fraser University, February 4, 2016.

“Sovereignty and Amity: Masculinity at the Safavi Court in Isfahan,” Workshop on *Political Theologies*, UC Santa Barbara, October 29, 2015.

“The Body of the Friend in early modern Isfahan,” University of Zurich, Seminar on *Conceptions of the Body in Muslim Societies*, October 15, 2014.

“Libraries of the Mind: Cultures of Literacy in 17th Century Isfahan,” Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies, University of Michigan, April 10, 2014.

“The *Adab* of Reading and Collecting in Early Modern Isfahan,” paper presented at MESA in a pre-organized panel by Noah Gardiner on the *Ethics of reading in Islamic Manuscript Culture*. October 2013.

“The Unfolding of the Self/Friend in Early Modern Isfahan,” John E. Boswell Memorial Lecture, Department of History, the Program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association, and the College of William and Mary, October 25, 2013.

“Histoire Croisée: Ottoman-Persian Exchanges in the context of World Literatures & Histories,” Keynote Speaker for Symposium on Ottoman-Persian Exchanges, organized by the Middle East Center at the University of Pennsylvania, April 2013.

“Libraries of the Mind: Objects of Memory & Community in Early Modern Isfahan,” Stanford University, March 2013.

“Communities of Literacy in Early Modern Isfahan,” UC Berkeley, October 2012.

“Literary Cultures and Social Practice in Early Modern Isfahan,” Keynote speaker for the *Middle East History and Theory Conference*, University of Chicago, May 2012.

“The Waning of the Qizilbash Reconsidered,” *Alevi-Bektashi Conference*, Bogazici University, Istanbul, December 2011.

“Safavi Early Modernities” *NEH Workshop on the Legacy of Muslim Societies in Global Modernity 1300-1900*, George Mason University, March 2011.

“The Emerging Self in Early Modern Isfahan,” *The Annemarie Schimmel Memorial Lecture*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, January 7, 2011.

SERVICE RECORD

University-Level:

2018-2019	Yasmin Moll, Department of Anthropology, Launch Committee
2012-2019	Armenian Studies Program, Director
2007-2012	Armenian Studies Program, Executive Committee
2010-2011	Rackham Graduate School, Executive Board
2010-2011	Medieval & Early Modern Studies, Executive Committee
2011-2012	Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, Steering Committee
2007-2008	Institute for the Humanities, Executive Committee

Department-Level:

2020-2021	Executive Committee (MES)
2020-2021	Member, PRP Christian De Pee (History)
2019-2021	Director of Graduate Studies (MES)
2019-2020	Member, Colloquium Committee (MES)
2020-2021	Jessie De Grado, Launch Committee (MES)
2019-2020	Member, Third Year Review, Hakem al-Rustom (History)
2018-2019	Chair, Third Year Review, Cameron Cross (MES)
2016-2017	Executive Committee (MES)
2017-2018	Executive Committee (History)
2016-2017	Member, JTP, Erdem Cipa (MES & History)

2014-2015 Executive Committee (MES)
 2014-2015 Member, Search Committee, Alex Manoogian Chair of Armenian History (History)
 2014-2015 Chair, Third Year Review, Melanie Tanielian (History)
 2013-2015 Curriculum Committee (MES)
 2014-2015 Chair, Search Committee for Iranian Literature & Culture (MES)
 2013-2014 Member, Third Year Review, Erdem Cipa (MES & History)
 2012-2013 Member, Third Year Review, Hussein Fancy (History)
 2010-2011 Executive Committee (MES)
 2007-2008 Chair, Persian Lecturer I Review Committee (MES)
 2008-2011 AAPTIS Undergraduate Advisor (MES)
 2009-2010 Graduate Committee Member (MES)
 2010-2011 Search Committee, Alex Manoogian Chair of Armenian History (History)

National

2018-23 Editorial Board, *Journal of Women's History*
 2016- Senior Member of the Editorial board *Iranamag*
 2016- Advisory Board, I.B. Tauris, *Islam and Gender Series*
 2009-2019 Member of the Board, American Institute of the South Caucasus
 2009- Member of the Board, American Research Institute for Iranian Studies
 2015-2018 Member of the Board, Association for the Study of Persianate Studies
 2009-2010 Berkshire Conference on Women's History, Sub-Committee:
 "Beauty and the Body"
 2009-2011 ACLS Graduate Fellowship Committee
 2006-2012 Editorial Collective, *Gender & History*