

# Maral Sahebame

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## **EDUCATION**

- 2021 (expected)      **Ph.D. Near and Middle Eastern Studies**  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
Working dissertation title: “Marriage across the ‘Color’ Spectrum: Making Commitment Palatable in the Islamic Republic of Iran.”  
Committee: Michael McCann, Arbella Bet-Shlimon, Arzoo Osanloo (chair)
- 2021 (expected)      **Certificate, Comparative Law and Society Studies**  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- 2012                    **M.A., Cultural Anthropology**  
California State University, Long Beach, CA  
Thesis title: “Marriage: An Authentic Iranian Experience of the Modern”
- 2011                    **Post-Baccalaureate CA Teaching Credential**  
California State University, Long Beach, CA
- 2007                    **B.A., Anthropology, Minor: Political Science**  
University of California, Irvine, CA

## **EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

- 2015-2016            Graduate School Research Assistantship, *University of Washington*  
2012-2015            Classroom Teacher, Aloha Elementary, *Lakewood, CA*  
2008-2012            K-12 Teacher, ABC Unified School District, *Cerritos, CA*

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

### **Fellowships**

- 2018-2019            Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Fellowship  
2017-2018            Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Arabic  
2016-2017            Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Persian  
2016                    Aryan Khorram Persian Studies Research Fellowship  
2016                    Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Arabic (summer)

### **Honors and Awards**

- 2019                    *Honorable Mention for Best Paper*, British Institute for Persian Studies, *Symposia Iranica, St. Andrews*

- 2019 *Best Paper Book Prize*, Combined Academic Publishers, *Symposia Iranica*, *St. Andrews*
- 2013 *Outstanding Master's Thesis Award*, College of Liberal Arts, *Cal State Long Beach*
- 2013 *Best MA Thesis Award*, Anthropology Department, *Cal State Long Beach*
- 2013 *Distinguished Graduate Student*, Anthropology Department, *Cal State Long Beach*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

“Rewriting Gender in Post-revolutionary Iran: How Cohabitation comes to embody the Affair between Law and Society.” May 2020. *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*. Special Issue: Forty Years of Gender and Sexual Politics in Iran: Marking the 40th Anniversary of the Iranian Revolution.

Review of *Women & Equality in Iran: Law, Society and Activism*, by Leila Alikarami, *Gender and Development*, July 2020.

“Marriage: An Authentic Iranian Experience of the Modern,” (Master's Thesis, CSULB). *Master's Abstract International*, 2012. (Publication No. 1522258).

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Conference Papers**

“Marriage as a Public Affair: What Cohabitation Unmasks about Civil-Religious Hybridity in Iranian Law,” Panel, “Perspectives on Gender in Modern and Contemporary Iran,” *Symposia Iranica*, *University of St. Andrews*, 12 April 2019.

“White or Temporary? An Alternative Marriage,” Panel “The Changing Nature of Family and Marriage in Contemporary Iran,” *Iranian Studies Initiative*, *UC Santa Barbara*, 3 November 2017.

“An Authentic Modern: Marriage in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Middle East Section Panel “Modernity and Nation through the Lens of Gender in the Middle East,” *American Anthropological Association Conference*, *Chicago*, 24 November 2013.

“Building a Student Internship Opportunity that Assesses the Negotiation of Identity among Iranian-American Muslim Youth,” Panel “Student-Centered Applied Research Projects: How Students Learn to be Applied Anthropologists,” *Society for Applied Anthropology Conference*, *Santa Fe*, 21 March 2009.

### **Presentations**

“Marriage across the ‘Color’ Spectrum: Making Commitment Palatable in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Selected scholar, *Iranian Studies Graduate Workshop*, *University of Pennsylvania*, 4 May 2018.

Co-organizer and Roundtable Panelist, “Sexing the Nuclear: Voices of the Iranian Diaspora Raising Awareness of Iranian Culture and Politics.” *Anthropology Graduate Student Association*, *Cal State Long Beach*, 24 September 2010.

Roundtable Panelist, “Iran’s Contested Elections – 2009: A panel of eyewitnesses and participants.” *History Department, Cal State Long Beach*, 19 November 2009.

### **RESEARCH/FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE**

- Jan. 2020-Mar. 2020      Collected and translated news sources on Iranian Jahadi group interventions in Covid-19 for a project on humanitarianism in Muslim societies.
- Oct. 2019-Dec. 2019      Conducting doctoral dissertation follow-up interviews and participant observation on “white marriage.” *Masbhad and Tebran, Iran.*
- Oct. 2018-Aug. 2019      Conducting doctoral dissertation interviews and participant observation on “white marriage.” *Masbhad and Tebran, Iran.*
- Summer 2017              Conducted pre-doctoral interviews with legal and scholarly experts on “white marriage.” *Masbhad and Tebran, Iran.*
- Summer 2016              Conducted pre-doctoral interviews/participant observation with “white marriage” cohabitants. *Masbhad, Iran.*
- Mar.-Jun. 2016            Translated, coded and analyzed Persian media sources for research project on forgiveness and forbearance in Iran.
- Mar.-Aug. 2010            Conducted 5-month Master’s fieldwork gathering narratives on courtship and marriage values. *Masbhad and Tebran, Iran.*
- Summer 2009              Conducted pilot study (interviews/participant observation) in preparation for Master’s fieldwork. *Masbhad, Iran.*

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES**

- 2017                      Co-organized with Samad Alavi panels for conference “Writing the Iranian Revolution: Memory, Testimony, Time,” *Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington, Seattle*, 12-13 May.

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

American Anthropological Association, since 2008  
Association for Iranian Studies, since 2015  
Society for Applied Anthropology, since 2009  
Middle East Studies Association, since 2020

### **LANGUAGES**

English-native  
Persian-native  
Arabic-advanced proficiency  
Spanish-intermediate proficiency

French-beginning proficiency

**COMMUNITY**

Member, UAW, UW, since 2015

Organizer, Academic Workers for a Democratic University, UW, since 2016

Organizing committee, Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights, UW, since 2016

Member, University Student Union Board of Trustees, CSULB, 2010-2012