

Doctoral Candidate  
Visual Studies Program  
2000 Humanities Gateway  
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# Layah Ziaii-Bigdeli

## Education:

- 2017-Present **PhD. Candidate**, University of California, Irvine. Department of Art History, Visual Studies Program (Advisor: Matthew P. Canepa)  
(Advanced to Candidacy, June 2020)
- 2015-2017 **M.A.**, Rutgers University. Department of Art History, CHAPS (Advisor: Katharine Woodhouse-Beyer). Thesis: *Nishapur Buff Ware Pottery: Facing Unprovenanced Objects*.
- 2010-2013 **B.A.**, Columbia University in the City of New York. Department of Art History (Advisor: Zainab Bahrani). Thesis: *Touch of the Celestial: The Beneficent Powers of an Elamite Helmet*.

## Curatorial and Research Experience:

- 2021 **Curatorial Intern**. Philadelphia Museum of Art. Provenance research on their Gandharan art collection.
- 2020 **Curatorial Research Consultant**. Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. Assist with the bibliographic research of on-display collections artworks. Review and assess existing and new descriptions and labels, and translate text into modern standard Persian. Study a subset of objects on-display at the Museum with the goal of ensuring that the database accurately reflects prior exhibition and publication histories.
- 2019 **Curatorial Intern**. Smithsonian's Freer Sackler Galleries. Iconographic research on some of the imagery found on Sasanian silver and creating corpus of related material.
- 2016-2017 **Research Assistant**. Researcher for Dr. Layla S. Diba (Hagop Kevorkian Curator of Islamic Art Emerita, Brooklyn Museum of Art). Preparing materials for submission. Maintaining accurate records of interviews, lectures, and publications. Assisting with research projects.
- 2016-2017 **Curatorial Intern**. Metropolitan Museum of Art. Compiling data and working with the Islamic Dept. Collaborating with a fellow in the Ancient Near Eastern Dept. on the Ctesiphon project.
- 2016 **Curatorial Intern**. Brooklyn Museum. Labeling objects for the re-opening of the permanent Islamic exhibit. Compiling and editing information on objects in the Islamic and Near Eastern. Collection and edited data; Input collected information into TMS.

## Professional Development:

- 2018 Middle Persian Summer School. Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, University of California, Irvine.
- 2017 Eric P. Newman Summer Graduate Seminar. American Numismatic Society, New York.

## Grants and Fellowships:

- 2021 University of California, Irvine. Razi Family Foundation Graduate Fellowship in Ancient Iranian Studies.
- 2020 University of California, Irvine. Razi Family Foundation Graduate Fellowship in Ancient Iranian Studies.
- 2019 University of California, Irvine. Farzaneh Family Summer Fellowship.
- 2019 University of California, Irvine. Vincent Steckler Curatorial Internship Award.
- 2019 American Institute of Iranian Studies Travel Fellowship.
- 2018 University of California, Irvine. Andrew. W. Mellon Humanities Teaching Fellowship Program.
- 2017 Eric P. Newman Graduate Seminar Fellowship.

## Publications:

- \_\_\_\_\_ “Shahr-i Gholghola: A Saffarid Fortress City in Sistan.” *ACSAA Bulletin* 79 (2020): 6-9.
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Ceramic Assemblage of Sistan, Afghanistan: From Late Antique to the Early Modern Period,” in *Archaeology of Southwest Afghanistan: Report of the Smithsonian Institution/ Afghan Institute of Archaeology Helmand Sistan Project, 1971-1976*, ed. Mitch Allen, Vol. I and II (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming).

## Web Publications:

- \_\_\_\_\_ “Medieval Globalism: Fragments of Chinese Ceramics in Nishapur, Iran.” The Metropolitan Museum of Art, RumiNations (blog). August 31, 2017. <https://bit.ly/2VungJm>
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Ladies of the East: Representation of Women on Sasanian Ewers.” Freer|Sackler (blog). April 13, 2020. <https://s.si.edu/34A1FWs>

## Conference Presentations:

- 2019 **Broadening Horizons 6**  
Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology and the Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Freie Universität  
Berlin, June 24-28, 2019  
Paper: “Deconstructing Masculinities: the Male Body in Sasanian Material Culture”  
(Session 3: Visual and Textual Forms of Communication)
- 2019 **Symposia Iranica's Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies**  
University of St. Andrews, Scotland  
April 12-14, 2019  
Paper: “New Perspectives on Indo-Iranian Visual Culture Exchange”

- 2018      **Association for Iranian Studies 12th Biennial Conference**  
 UC Irvine, at the Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture  
 Irvine, August 14-17, 2018  
 Paper: “Bodies, Nudity and Sexuality in the Sasanian World”
- 2018      **The Eighth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)**  
 Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies at Ilia State University  
 Tbilisi, March 9-13, 2018  
 Paper: “Nishapur ‘Buff ware’: Effects of the art market and collecting on restoration”
- 2017      **The Iranian World in Late Antiquity: A Graduate Student Workshop**  
 The Chicago Initiative for Global Late Antiquity, the University of Chicago Center in Paris, the Oriental Institute, and the EPHE Paris, September 18-19, 2017  
 Paper: “Nīshāpūr Figural Buff Ware Pottery: The Problem of Provenance” (The Eastern Iranian World)

### Teaching Experience:

- Fall 2021      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Ancient Greece and Rome.” Instructor: Matthew P. Canepa
- Spring 2021      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Classical Greece.” Instructor: Aleana Hernandez. (Online)
- Winter 2021      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Fall of Roman.” Instructor: Andrew Zissos. (Online)
- Fall 2020      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Early Rome.” Instructor: Andrew Zissos. (Online)
- Spring 2020      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Classical Greece.” Instructor: Aleana Hernandez. (Online)
- Winter 2020      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Roman Republic.” Instructor: Andrew Zissos.
- Fall 2019      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Ancient Roman Society: Origins to Roman Republic.” Instructor: Richard Snyder.
- Spring 2019      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Classical Greece.” Instructor: James Brusuelas.
- Winter 2019      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Ancient Roman Society: Origins to Roman Republic.” Instructor: Richard Snyder.
- Fall 2018      **Teaching Assistant.** University of California, Irvine. “Early Greek.” Instructor: James Brusuelas.
- Spring 2018      **Teaching Assistant.** University of Minnesota. “Art of India.” Instructor: Anna Seastrand.
- Fall 2017      **Teaching Assistant.** University of Minnesota. “Arts of Islam.” Instructor: Sinem Arcak Casale.

### Field Experience:

- 2013      **Field School Participant.** Prastio-Mesorotos Archaeological Expedition--Cyprus (Director: Andrew McCarthy)

## **Languages:**

<b>New Persian</b>	Speaking: <i>Native</i> ; Reading: <i>Native</i> ; Writing: <i>Native</i>
<b>Middle Persian</b>	Speaking: <i>n/a</i> ; Reading: <i>Intermediate</i> ; Writing: <i>n/a</i>
<b>Ancient Greek</b>	Speaking: <i>n/a</i> ; Reading: <i>Intermediate</i> ; Writing: <i>n/a</i>
<b>Arabic</b>	Speaking: <i>Intermediate</i> ; Reading: <i>Intermediate</i> ; Writing: <i>Intermediate</i>
<b>French</b>	Speaking: <i>Advance</i> ; Reading: <i>Advance</i> ; Writing: <i>Advance</i>
<b>German</b>	Speaking: <i>Intermediate</i> ; Reading: <i>Intermediate</i> ; Writing: <i>Intermediate</i>
<b>Russian</b>	Speaking: <i>Beginner</i> ; Reading: <i>Beginner</i> ; Writing: <i>Beginner</i>

## **Professional Affiliations:**

The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)  
The Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA)  
Association for Iranian Studies (AIS)  
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

## **Computer Skills:**

Geographic Information System (GIS)  
Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)  
Adobe Software (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat)  
Collection Management System (TMS)  
Online Teaching (Canvas, Zoom, Kahoot)