

NAHID SIAMDOUST

Curriculum Vitae

Middle Eastern Studies
The University of Texas at Austin
204 W 21st Street Stop F9400
Calhoun Hall (CAL) 528
Austin, TX 78712
USA

nahid.siamdoust@austin.utexas.edu
+1-512-471-3881

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Aug 2021 – present – Assistant Professor of Media and Middle East Studies, Department of Middle East Studies, University of Texas at Austin

- Member of the *Provost's Cluster in Global Media Flows and (Dis)Information*

2020-2021 – Visiting Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Anthropology of Religion, Women's Studies in Religion Program Research Associate, Harvard Divinity School

- Seminar: Islam, Gender, and Representation in the Middle East HDS 3076

2017-2020 – Postdoctoral Associate in Iranian Studies, Lecturer in Anthropology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, MacMillan Center for International & Area Studies, Yale University

- Inaugural Ehsan Yarshater Fellow in Iranian Studies
- Planned and organized Yale's Iranian Studies Program with regular colloquia and film screenings as well as special events and conferences
- Seminar: The Politics of Culture in Iran MMES 376 / ANTH 389 / NELC 385 / PLSC 469 / SOCY 359
- Seminar: Society and Politics of the Middle East MMES 313 / ANTH 129

2016-2017 – Adjunct Professor, Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, NYU Steinhardt

- Lecture: Middle East Media

2015-2016 – Research Scholar, The Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University

- Completed writing of "Soundtrack of the Revolution" (Stanford University Press, 2017)

2013-2014 – Associate Sub-Faculty of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford

- Graduate Anthropology Seminar: The Public Sphere in the Middle East

2011-2014 – Tutor, University of Oxford (Colleges: New, Magdalen, Hertford, University, and St. Benet's Hall)

- Middle East History and Politics
- History of Modern Iran

EDUCATION

2013 – D.Phil. in Modern Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford, St. Antony's College, Oxford, UK

- Dissertation: "Iran's Troubled Tunes: Music as Politics in the Islamic Republic" | Advisor Prof. Walter Armbrust (Middle East Anthropologist)
- Awarded the 2014 British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize for the best Ph.D. dissertation on a Middle Eastern topic
- Awarded the 2014 Middle East Studies Association Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award for the best Ph.D. dissertation in the humanities

2008-2009 – Visiting Scholar at Columbia University's Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures Dept

2005-2006 – M.Phil. in Modern Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford, St. Antony's College, Oxford, UK

2001 – Master of International Affairs, Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, NY, US

- Concentration: International Media & Communication; Middle East Regional Focus
- Coursework at Columbia School of Journalism
- Recipient of the only Middle East Institute Fellowship

2000 – Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Art History Minor), Barnard College, Columbia University

- Magna cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa
- Senior Thesis: “The Snowball Effect: Impact of US Media Coverage of Iran on US Foreign Policy, 1979-1999”

1996 – Abitur in Classics, Philosophy, English, Fine Arts, Matthias-Claudius-Gymnasium, Hamburg, Germany

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Soundtrack of the Revolution: The Politics of Music in Iran (Stanford University Press, 2017)

Edited Volumes

- The Nightingale Rebels: Popular Music & Society in Modern Iran (co-edited with Houchang Chehabi, book contract with Ilex Foundation, Harvard University Press, forthcoming 2022)
 - My own contributions: Introduction and a chapter titled “Women Who Sing: Female Vocalists and Cultural Securitization in Iran”

Refereed Journal Articles

- “Tehran’s Soundscape as a Contested Public Sphere: Blurring the Lines between Public and Private” in the Special Issue “Divercities: Competing Narratives and Urban Practices in Beirut, Cairo and Tehran,” *Orient Institut Studies 3* (2015); http://www.perspectivia.net/publikationen/orient-institut-studies/3-2015/siamdoust_soundscape

Book Chapters

- “Neither Islamic nor a Republic: Discourses in Music” in Cultural Revolution in Iran: Contemporary Popular Culture in the Islamic Republic, A. Sreberny & M. Torfeh (eds.), I.B. Tauris, 2013.
- “The Re-emergence and Evolution of Pop Music in the Islamic Republic of Iran: From Heavenly to Earthly Love” in Social Change in Post-Khomeini Iran, M. Monshipouri (ed.), Hurst & Co. Press, 2016.

Manuscripts in Progress

- “Introduction” and “Women Who Sing: Female Vocalists and Cultural Securitization in Iran” for co-edited volume The Nightingale Rebels: Popular Music & Society in Modern Iran (forthcoming 2022)
- “Iran’s Counterpublic of Joy,” intended for *International Journal of Middle East Studies*
- “Theorizing Iran’s Hyperground,” Intended for *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*
- Chapter on “Music and the Politics of Culture” in the Oxford Handbook for the Sociology of the Middle East, co-written with Mark Levine & Ted Swedenberg
- Conclusion to “Heavy Metal Islam” (M. Levine), co-written with Pierre Hecker, M. Levine, Jeremy Wallach

Book Reviews

- *Arab Studies Journal* (forthcoming): Nazanin Shahrokni, Women in Place: The Politics of Gender Segregation in Iran (University of California Press, 2020)
- *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (Aug 2020): Narges Bajoghli, Iran Reframed: Anxieties of Power in the Islamic Republic (Stanford, 2019)
- *LSE Review of Books* (Spring 2015): Fawaz Gerges, The New Middle East: Protest and Revolution in the Arab World (Cambridge UP, 2014)
- *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (2011, vol. 43, Issue 01): Pardis Mahdavi, Passionate Uprisings: Iran’s Sexual Revolution (Stanford UP, 2009)
- *The National*: Homa Katouzian, The Persians (Yale UP, 2009) – 2011
- *International Journal of Communication* (2008, vol. 2): Mehdi Semati (ed.), Media, Culture and Society in Iran: Living with Globalization and the Islamic State (Routledge, 2007)

Web-Based Publications

- “Silence Falls on Iran’s Protest Movement: Despair Turns to Indignation in the Shadow of War,” *Foreign Affairs*, 6 Jan 2020; <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/iraq/2020-01-06/silence-falls-irans-protest-movement>
- “A revolution of culture” in *IPPR Progressive Review* (August 2019); <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/newe.12163>
- Jadaliyya (NEWTON: New Texts Out Now): “Nahid Siamdoust, Soundtrack of the Revolution: The Politics of Music in Iran” (5 Jan 2019); <https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/38273>

Other Publications

- “A Musician Revered by Iranians, But Banned by the State,” *New York Times* Op-Ed (17 Oct 2020); <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/17/opinion/shajarian-death-iranian-singer.html>
- “Why Iranian Women Are Taking Off Their Head Scarves,” *New York Times* Op-Ed (3 Feb 2018); <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/03/opinion/sunday/iran-hijab-women-scarves.html>
- **Selected *Time Magazine* & *The Los Angeles Times* articles:**
 - TIME cover stories: “Power of the People” (29 Jun 2009), “The Return of Rafsanjani” (13 Jun 2005)
 - Selected other articles: “In Iran, Conspiracy Theories Flourish on State TV” (2 Jul 2009), “In Tehran, a Rallying Cry: We are the People” (15 Jun 2009), “Iran’s Presidential TV Debates” (4 Jun 2009), “Rock Me, Ahmadinejad!” (6 Jun 2008), “Messiah vs. Ahmadinejad” (7 May 2008), “Tehran’s Filmmakers under Fire” (14 Mar 2008), “Iran Cleric Struggles to Get Alternative Views to TV Screens” (9 Jan 2006), “Iranian Blogger Returns from Exile to Vote” (23 Jun 2005), “Neo-Cons take Tehran” (5 Mar 2004), “The Critical Cleric” (3 May 2004)

AWARDS & HONORS

- Fellowship in the Women’s Studies in Religion Program, Harvard University – 2020
- The Mirhady Endowed Lecture, Simon Fraser University – 2019
- Inaugural Ehsan Yarshater Fellowship, Iranian Studies Program, Yale University – 2017
- MESA Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award in the Humanities – 2014
- BRISMES Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize, best Ph.D. dissertation on a Middle Eastern topic – 2014
- Warden’s Pre-Doctoral Award, St. Antony’s College, Univ. of Oxford – 2010 & 2012
- Carr and Stahl Travel Grant – 2009
- Barnard College Alumnae Award – 2008
- British Institute for Persian Studies Fellowship – 2008
- Oxford University Oriental Institute Research Fellowship – 2007
- The Soudavar Fund Research Fellowship – 2007
- Columbia University Middle East Institute Fellowship – 2000-2001
- Phi Beta Kappa, Barnard College – Inducted May 2000

INVITED TALKS

- “Social Media, Music, and Poetic Worldmaking in Iranian Publics,” Univ. of British Columbia, 16 Oct 2021
- “Female Vocalists, Social Media, and Cultural Policy in Islamic Iran,” Harvard Divinity School, 17 Dec 2020
- “Ethical Scholarship: Gender, Religion, and Difference,” Harvard Divinity School, 27 Aug 2020
- Webinar Panelist, “Democracy & the Rise of Authoritarianism in Covid-19 World,” Yale Univ., 24 Apr 2020
- “Won’t the ‘Real Iranians’ Please Stand Up? Publics, Counterpublics, and Disinformation in the Global Iranian Mediascape,” UT Austin, 12 Feb 2020

- “The Post-2009 Securitization of Online Spaces and Media Content in Iran,” Media Infrastructures in the Middle East Conference, American University of Beirut, Jan 2020
- Book Talk “Soundtrack of the Revolution,” Johns Hopkins, SAIS, Oct 2019
- “Singing in Fear: Female Vocalists and Cultural Securitization in Iran,” Oklahoma State Univ, Sept 2019
- “Joy Against the Odds: Iran’s VHS Counterpublic of the 1980s, Forty Years & More: International Conference on Iranian Diaspora Studies, SF State, Mar 2019
- “Soundtrack of the Revolution,” Mirhady Endowed Lecture & Seminar in Iranian Studies, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Feb-Mar 2019
- “Iranian Media: Revolutionary Impact, Lagging Scholarship,” Symposium: Iranian Revolution and its Disciplinary Aftereffects, University of Michigan, Feb 2019
- “Tactics of Language and Affect in the Undoing of State Propagated ‘Moqāvēmat’ (Resistance),” SeSaMo: Paths of Resistance in MENA, University of Turin, Jan-Feb 2019
- “Islam and Music: The Case of Iran,” Festival of Cultures, New Haven, Jun 2018
- Book Talk “Soundtrack of the Revolution,” across California at Stanford, UC Berkeley, San Francisco State University, UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, UCLA, Apr-May 2018
- Book Talk “Soundtrack of the Revolution,” Northwestern University: New Directions in MENA, Mar 2018
- “In Search of an Islamic Avantgarde,” CMES Colloquium, Yale University, Mar 2018
- Book Talk “Soundtrack of the Revolution,” University of Toronto, Feb 2018
- Book Talk “Soundtrack of the Revolution,” University of Pennsylvania, Nov 2017
- Book Talk “Soundtrack of the Revolution,” New York University Bookstore, May 2017
- “Digital Media and Social Change in Iran,” Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Oct 2016
- “Being or Not Being Muslim in New Iranian Music,” *Being Muslim/Muslim Being: Mobilities and Practices*, Sarah Lawrence College, Apr 2016
- “The Politics of Music in Iran,” Columbia Univ. Iranian Studies Seminar, Nov 2015
- “Iran’s Counterpublic of Love,” Iran Ethnography Conference, Princeton University, Oct 2015
- “Reflections on the Iran Nuclear Deal,” New York University, Sept 2015
- Speaker & Content Organizer: “Music Inside-Out Iran,” Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, NYU, Teacher Training Workshop, Apr 2015
- “The Politics of Music in Iran,” Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, NYU, Mar 2015
- “The Politics of Music in Iran,” Princeton University’s Iran Center, Apr 2015
- “Music Traversing Space in Tehran: Between Public and Private,” *DiverCities: Contested Space and Urban Identities in Beirut, Cairo and Tehran*, Orient Institute Beirut, Lebanon, Dec 2013
- “The many faces of God in new Iranian music,” *Symposium: Contemporary Persian Verbal Culture*, St. John’s College, Univ. of Oxford, Apr 2012
- “Iranian State Media Coverage of the Arab Spring,” Arab-Iranian Relations: Discourses of Conflict & Cooperation, London School of Economics Middle East Centre, London, Sep 2011
- “Factional Politics and the Media,” *Negotiating with Iran: Politics, Practice and the Way Ahead*, St. Antony’s College, Univ. of Oxford, UK, Apr 2009
- “Iranian Journalists in the West: Forced Migration or a Migrated Force?” Iranian Alliances Across Borders, Univ. of Berkeley, California, USA, Apr 2009

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION

- Panel Speaker, “Project Doubt & Coopt: Disinformation and Iran’s 2009 Green Uprising,” on organized panel, “Symbolic Politics in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey,” Middle East Studies Ass., Oct. 2021
- Roundtable Panelist, “The Forgotten Mundane: Contemporary Iran Beneath and Beyond Politics,” Middle East Studies Ass., Oct 2021

- “Broadcasting Resistance against ‘Cultural Invasion,’ ‘Project Infiltration’ and ‘Sedition’ in State-Produced Television Series” as part of the Languages of Resistance panel, Assoc. of Iranian Studies conference, Salamanca, Spain, Aug 2020 (cancelled because of COVID pandemic)
- Roundtable Organizer & Presenter, “Iran’s Revolution Turns 40: Consequences of Islamic Republican Governance,” Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, Nov 2019
- Organizer & Speaker, “Iran’s Islamic Revolution: 40 Years Onward,” Yale University, Feb 2019
- Panel Speaker, “A Contested Public Sphere: Tehran’s Soundscape,” Middle East Studies Ass., Nov 2018
- Panel Organizer & Presenter, “From the Phonograph to Telegram: Publics in Old and New Media,” Association of Iranian Studies Biennial Conference, Univ. of California, Irvine, Aug 2018
- Panel Speaker, “The VHS tape in 1980s Iran: A window onto the world,” American Historical Association, Jan 2018
- Conference Organizer & Speaker, “Popular Music & Society in Iran,” 12 speakers, 4 musicians, Yale University, Jan 2018
- Panel Organizer & Speaker, “Generation and Regeneration in Iranian Cultural Production,” Iranian Studies Biennial Conference, Vienna, Aug 2016
- Panel Organizer & Presenter, “Spring Confronts Winter: The Publics and Counterpublics of the Iranian and Arab Uprisings,” Middle East Studies Association, Washington, D.C, Nov 2014
- Instructor, “The Interview Reviewed: How to get the most out of your research interviews,” Oriental Studies Graduate Seminar Workshop, Univ. of Oxford, Nov 2012
- Co-Organizer & Discussant: “The Politics of Gender and Generation in Contemporary Iranian Arts,” Seminar series, Univ. of Oxford, Jan-May 2012
- Conference Organizer & Moderator, “Persian Hip-Hop & Alternative Music,” Univ. of Oxford, Jun 2011
- Speaker, “Politically Potent Poetry: Verse and Music in Iran’s Social Movements,” British Forum for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference, Univ. of Oxford, Apr 2011
- Conference Organizer & Moderator, “Iran’s Elections: The Aftermath” (15 prominent politicians, journalists and academics as speakers), Univ. of Oxford, Dec 2009
- Speaker, “Green Songs: Reclaiming Iran’s Revolutionary Rhythms 30 Years On,” Middle East Studies Association, Boston, USA, Nov 2009
- Panel Organizer & Speaker, “Out of Tune: Islam as a contested idiom in Iranian Rap and Pop Music,” Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, USA, Nov 2008
- Speaker (same as above): British Society for Middle East Studies, London, UK, Sep 2008
- Speaker (same as above): Iranian Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada, Aug 2008
- Conference Organizer & Moderator: Iran’s Nuclear Challenge, Univ. of Oxford, May 2006

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- Member, Editorial Committee of *Iranian Studies Series* (in Persian), Mehri Publication, 2020-present
- Member, Nominating Committee, Association of Iranian Studies, 2020
- Advisory Member, Iran Knowledge Production and Pedagogy Network, *Jadaliyya*, 2019-present
- Program Committee Member, Association of Iranian Studies Conference 2020, Salamanca, Spain
- Book Review Editor for Social Sciences, *Iranian Studies*, 2018-present
- Board Member, *Contemporary Iran Forum*, Yale University, 2020-present
- Committee member, Barnard Alumni Association Fellowship, 2016-2019
- Committee member, Mehrdad Mashayekhi Dissertation Prize, 2019-2020
- Board Member, *Muftah* Online Magazine on the Middle East, 2015-present
- Guest-lecturer for about a dozen professors’ courses at universities across the US and Europe

SELECTED NONACADEMIC WORK

TIME Magazine

- 2008 – 2010 Middle East & Iran Correspondent (based in Beirut)
- 2002 – 2005 Iran Correspondent

The Los Angeles Times

- 2002 – 2006 Iran Correspondent

IREX Europe (International Research & Exchanges Board), Non-Profit Development Organization

- 2006 – 2009 Consultant; Author of “Iran Media Sustainability Index Report” for years 2006/07, 2008, 2009

Al Jazeera English TV, Doha, Qatar

- Middle East correspondent and producer, Jul 2006 – Jul 2008

Der Spiegel and Spiegel Online (in German)

- 2002 – 2006 Iran Reporter and “Teheranbytes” Columnist

World Food Programme, United Nations

- 2001 – 2002 Public Relations Officer, Tehran, Iran

TEACHING AREAS

- Culture & Media Studies of Middle East & Iran
- History, Politics, Anthropology of Iran & Middle East

LANGUAGES

- Fluent: Persian, German
- Working knowledge: Modern Standard Arabic, French, Latin

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- Association for Iranian Studies
- Middle East Studies Association
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies
- American Anthropological Association
- International Studies Association
- International Association for Media and Communication Research
- American Historical Association