

William Figueroa

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Education

May 2010 **B.A.**, Anthropology, **B.A.**, Asian Studies
Rice University

May 2013 **M.A.**, East Asian Languages and Culture
University of Pennsylvania

Dec 2020 **Ph.D.**, History
University of Pennsylvania

Dissertation Title: China and the Iranian Left: Transnational Networks of Social,
Cultural, and Ideological Exchange, 1905-1979

Primary Advisor: Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet

Academic Positions

July 2021 – June 2022 Postdoctoral Fellow, Middle East Center
University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Experience

University of Pennsylvania (TA)		Primary Instructor
Fall 2014	HIST 160 – <i>Policy, Strategy, and War</i>	Arthur Waldron
Spring 2015	HIST 431 – <i>A World at War (WWI & II)</i>	Thomas Childers
Fall 2015	HIST 135 – <i>Cold War: Global History</i>	Benjamin Nathans
Spring 2016	HIST 097 – <i>History of Modern China</i>	Si-yen Fei
Fall 2017	HIST 081 – <i>History of the Middle East Since 1800</i>	Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet

Languages

Research and reading ability (B2): **Mandarin Chinese, Persian**
Elementary proficiency (A2): **Sorani Kurdish**

Publications

Peer Review Articles

“Iran’s Islamic Revolution in China” Sino-Iranian Relations: From Tentative Diplomacy to Strategic Partnership, Special Issue 2022, Issue 1. *Asian Affairs* (Accepted, forthcoming March 2022)

“Performative Diplomacy: Iran-Republic of China Relations, 1920-1949” *Iranian Studies*. (Accepted, forthcoming Feb 2022)

Book Chapters

“Chinese Studies in Iran, Iranian Studies in China” *Humanities in Iran*. ILEX-Harvard University Press. Ed. Majid Daneshgar (forthcoming Feb 2022)

“Rouhani’s China Policy and the 25-Year Iran-China Agreement” *Foreign Policy of Iran under President Hassan Rouhani’s Second Term (2017–2021)*. Palgrave Macmillan. Ed. Luciano Zaccara. (forthcoming December 2021)

“Maoism in the Middle East, 1968-1979” *1979 and the Fate of Third-Worldism in the Middle East*. Eds. Rasmus Elling, . (Accepted, in talks with publisher)

“Red Star Over Persia: Iranian Maoism and Sino-Iranian Relations, 1965-1972” *Iran and Global Decolonization*. Eds. Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet and Robert Steele. (Accepted, in talks with publisher)

Book Reviews

Book Review: Reem Abou-El-Fadl, Foreign Policy as Nation Making; Turkey and Egypt in the Cold War. *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* (Accepted, forthcoming Dec 2021)

Media Articles

“A ‘\$400 billion’ China-Iran Deal? The View from History” Jadaliyya.com. 10/14/2020
<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/41852>

“China-Iran Relations: The Myth of Massive Investment” The Diplomat, 4/6/2021
<https://thediplomat.com/2021/04/china-iran-relations-the-myth-of-massive-investment/>

“Sino-Persian Exchange Along the Silk Road” Global History Blog, Scottish Center for Global History. 4/6/2021
<https://globalhistory.org.uk/2021/04/sino-persian-exchange-along-the-silk-road/>

“The 25-Year Iran-China Agreement: Alliance or Aspiration?” Entekhab News, 4/4/2021
<https://www.entekhab.ir/fa/news/610933/the-25-year-iran-china-agreement-alliance-or-aspiration>

“Can China’s Israel-Palestine Peace Plan Work?” The Diplomat.com. 5/25/2021
<https://thediplomat.com/2021/05/can-chinas-israel-palestine-peace-plan-work/>

Media Appearances, Podcasts, and Interviews

Interviewed by BBC Persian on Iran-China relations, 3/29/2021
<https://twitter.com/bbcpersian/status/1376606439007993861?s=20>

“Why the New China-Iran Agreement Isn’t a Big Deal” The China in Africa Project Podcast, 5/7/2021
<https://chinaafricaproject.com/podcasts/why-the-new-china-iran-agreement-isnt-a-big-deal/>

“The China-Iran Deal: Separating Myth From Reality” Dragon Road Podcast, 6/14/2021

“The Past, Present, and Future of China-Iran Relations with Dr. William Figueroa” China Global Podcast, 6/22/2021

Conferences

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| Dec 18-19, 2018 | China and Iran’s Political and Cultural Relations Conference
<i>Leiden University (Netherlands)</i>
“Maoism and the Iranian Left” |
| Feb 11, 2019 | The Iranian Revolution at 40: A Half-Day Symposium
<i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
“The Iranian Left in Global Perspective” |
| May 17-19, 2019 | 5 th China and the Middle East and North Africa Conference
<i>Institute of Global Studies, Shanghai University (PRC)</i>
“Sino-Persian Connections in the Modern Era” |
| Sept 11, 2020 | New York Conference for Asian Studies (NYCAS), 2020
<i>Association for Asian Studies (AAS), SUNY Brockport</i>
“Iran-Republic of China Relations, 1920-1941” |
| Oct 17, 2020 | Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference
<i>Middle East Studies Association, Washington, D.C</i>
Panel Organizer: “Global Currents in Iranian History” |
| March 9, 2021 | Workshop: History and Historiography of Pahlavi Iran, 1921-1979
<i>UCLA Iranian Studies</i>
“China and the Pahlavis, 1921-1979” |
| March 30, 2021 | The Tudeh Party of Iran at 80: A Critical Re-Appraisal
<i>University of St. Andrews</i>
“The Tudeh Party and the CCP, 1949-1961” |

- May 19-21, 2021 Symposium on Iran and Global Decolonization
University of Pennsylvania & UCLA
“Red Star Over Persia: Iranian Maoism and Sino-Iranian Relations, 1965-1979”
- October 2021 American Association for Chinese Studies Annual Conference
University of Denver
“Representation, Identity, and the Other in Sino-Iranian Relations”
- October-Nov 2021 The Middle East, 1960-1980: Global & Transnational Perspectives
St. Anthony’s College, University of Oxford
“Iranian Maoism and the Guerilla Movement in Iran: 1965-1982”

Public Talks

- Jan 22nd, 2020 “Middle East Mythbusters: Stereotypes, Prejudices, and the Media”
University of Pennsylvania
- June 29th, 2021 Doing Chinese History (in a New Era): Pivoting to a New Research
Topic (Webinar)
*Yale Council on East Asian Studies (CEAS) and University of California,
Irvine*
- Nov 2nd, 2021 “China and the Middle East: Changes and Continuities in Contemporary
Policy”
University of Pennsylvania and Camden County College

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

- Aug 2013 Ben Franklin Fellowship in History, University of Pennsylvania
- AY 2015-2016 FLAS Academic Year 2015-2016 Fellowship for Persian
- Summer 2019 FLAS Summer Fellowship for Kurdish
- AY 2019-2020 FLAS Academic Year 2019-2020 Fellowship for Kurdish
- May 2021 Research Grant, Danish Institute in Damascus

Administrative Work

- Spring 2017 –
May 2020 **Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania**
Graduate Student Researcher

Grant writing, archival research, student mentoring, event coordination and conference planning