

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Niki Akhavan

**Associate Professor and Chair**  
**Department of Media and Communication Studies**  
**The Catholic University of America**  
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### EDUCATION

- 2000 - 2007     University of California, Santa Cruz  
                    Ph.D. in Cultural Studies
- 1998 - 2000     University of Illinois, Chicago  
                    M.A. in Philosophy
- 1993 - 1997     University of California, Berkeley  
                    B.A. with High Honors in Philosophy

### BOOKS (authored)

*Electronic Iran: The Cultural Politics of an Online Evolution*, New Directions in International Studies Series, Rutgers University Press, December, 2013.

### BOOKS (translated)

*Haq al-Nas: Islam and Human Rights*, by Mohsen Kadivar, Edinburgh University Press, 2021.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

State Sponsored Media, Cultural Production, and Information Wars: the Case of Iran, *Struggling for Justice in the New Middle East: Politics, Culture, and Human Rights in the Twenty-First Century*, Syracuse University Press, 2019.

'Prescriptive' Masculinity? Deception and Restraint in the Films of Asghar Farhadi, *Iran Namag Journal*, Winter 2018

" 'Neither Eastern Nor Western' : Economic and Cultural Policies in Post Revolution Iran," *After Capitalism*, Patrice Petro and Kennan Ferguson (eds), Rutgers University Press, July, 2016.

“Social Media and the Islamic Republic”, in *Social Media in Iran: Politics and Society after 2009*, David M. Faris and Babak Rahimi (eds), SUNY Press, December 2015.

“Nonfiction Form and the “Truth” about Muslim Women in Iranian Documentary,” *Feminist Media Histories*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Winter 2015, pp. 89-111.

“Family Feuds: Digital Battles over the Place of Women in Contemporary Iran,” *Middle East Critique*, 23.3 (2014): 349-362.

Exclusionary Cartographies: Gender Liberation and the Iranian Blogosphere, in *Gender in Contemporary Iran: Pushing the Boundaries*, Roksana Bahramitash and Eric Hooglund (eds), New York: Routledge, 2011.

## **BOOK REVIEW AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ESSAYS**

Catherine Z. Sameh’s *Axis of Hope: Iranian Women’s Rights Activism Across Borders*. (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2019). *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (2021): 1-3.

MR Ghanoonparvar’s *Iranian Film and Persian Fiction* (Costa Mesa, Calif.: Mazda Publishers, 2016). Pp. 242. \$45.00 paper. ISBN: 9781568593418.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49.3 (2017): 567-570.

Badkonake sefid/The White Balloon (1995),” (Encyclopedia Essay), *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Films*, Sabine Haenni, Sarah Barrow, John White (eds), New York: Routledge, 2014, p. 71-74.

“Bashu, gharibeye koochak/Bashu: The Little Stranger (1989)”, (Encyclopedia Essay), *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Films*, Sabine Haenni, Sarah Barrow, John White (eds), New York: Routledge, 2014, p. 81-84

“Pedram Khosrownejad (ed), *Unburied Memories: The Politics of Bodies of Sacred Defense Martyrs in Iran*”, (Book Review), *Iranian Studies*. July 2014, Vol. 47 Issue 4, p. 667-670

“Annabelle Sreberny and Gholam Khiabany’s *Blogistan: The Internet and Politics in Iran*,” (Book Review), *Journal of Iranian Studies*, January, 2013, p. 131-133.

“Gholam Khiabany’s *Iranian Media: The Paradox of Modernity*,” (Book Review), *Journal of Iranian Studies*, Volume. 45, Issue 1, December 2011, p. 161-163.

"Contested Narratives of the Present: Post-revolutionary Culture and Media in Iran," (Comparative Book Review Essay), *Radical History Review*, Volume 2009, Number 105, Fall 2009.

“Abtahi, Mohamed Ali,” “Behbehani, Simin,” “Hashemi, Faezeh,” “Shamsolvaezin, Mashallah,” (Encyclopedia Entries), *Biographical Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East*, eds, Michael R.

Fischbach, Aida A. Bamia, Mine Eren, Jeremy Forman, Eric Hooglund, and J.E. Peterson, Farmington Hills, MI: Thomson Gale, 2007.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018-Present	<b>Chair</b> , Department of Media and Communication Studies, Catholic University of America
2020-Present	<b>Vice President</b> , Catholic University of America Chapter of the American Association of University Professors
2018-	<b>Member of the Working Group on Governance</b> , subcommittee for Middle States Reaccreditation, Catholic University of America
2013- Present	<b>Journal Manuscript Reviewer for:</b>  Communication Review (Routledge) Critical Studies in Media Communication (Routledge) Film Review (Manchester University Press) International Journal of Communication (USC Annenberg) Iranian Studies (Taylor and Francis) Journal of Middle East Women's Studies (Duke) MELUS Journal of the Society of the Multi-ethnic Literature of the US (Oxford) Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication (Brill) Qualitative Sociology (Springer)  <b>Book Manuscript Reviewer for:</b>  I.B. Tauris Press Routledge Press Sean Kingston Press
2017-2018	<b>Director of Undergraduate Studies and Undergraduate Advisor</b> , Catholic University of America
2015-2018	<b>Faculty Advisor</b> , Lambda Pi Eta, Honor Society of the National Communication Association
2011-2013	<b>Co-Chair</b> , Middle East Caucus of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 “Spies Among Us: Justifying the Security State in Popular Iranian Media,” Institute for Middle East Studies, George Washington University, Producing the Middle East: New Directions in Regional Media and Politics Conference, March 26, 2021.
- 2019 Invited discussant of panel "Media, Digital Diasporas, and Film", 40 Years and More: International Conference on Iranian Diaspora Studies, San Francisco State University, March 2019.
- 2018 “Statesmen and Celebrities: Visualizing the New Iranian Patriot Online”, presented at The Digital Persianite Conference, University of California at San Diego, San Diego, California, January 12, 2018.
- “Hashtags and Harassment: Ending Discrimination against Iranian Women one Post at a Time?” presented at MENA Women: From Street Protest to Online Activism Conference, University of Toronto, Canada, March 22-23, 2018
- 2017 “A War of Words: Women and the Fight Over the Legacy of the Iran-Iraq Conflict,” presented at the Writing the Iranian Revolution Conference, University of Washington, May 12-13, 2017.
- 2016 “Digital Media and Social Change: A Transnational Public Sphere?,” workshop presented at Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, Annenberg School, University of Pennsylvania, October 20, 2016.
- 2014 “Electronic Iran: The Cultural Politics of an Online Evolution,” book talk presented at Georgetown University, Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, November 12, 2014
- “Electronic Iran: The Cultural Politics of an Online Evolution,” book talk presented at The Catholic University of America, Mullen Library, April 10, 2014.
- “Foundations and Shadows of a Mixed Economy: Self-Sufficiency and Strife in Post-Revolutionary Iran,” presented at After Capitalism Conference at the Center for International Education, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, April 26, 2014.
- “Electronic Iran: The Cultural Politics of an Online Evolution,” book talk presented at the School of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University, March 20, 2014.
- 2012 “Preservation, Language, and other Challenges of Digital Scholarship: The Case of the Iranian Internet,” presented at the School of Library and Information Sciences Colloquium Series, the Catholic University of America, November 12, 2012.

“Soft War in Hard Times: Media and cultural policies in post-2009 Iran,” From Soft Power to Soft War: The changing geopolitical narratives in Iran Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, The Annenberg School for Communication, October 26, 2012.

“State Sponsored Media, Cultural Production, and Information Wars: The Case of Iran,” paper read by Dr. Valerie Hoffman at The New Middle East Conference, Center for South Asian and Middle East Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 20, 2012.

“War Cultures and Culture Wars: Media, State, and Power in Iran,” presented at The Philadelphia Cinema and Media Seminar, Temple University, April 26, 2012.

“The Simple Language of War: Women Writers and the Literature of the Holy Defense,” presented at The Persian Verbal Cultures Symposium, St. John’s College, Oxford University, April 15, 2012.

“Sites of War: State Power and Media in Post-Revolutionary Iran,” presented at the Center for Middle Eastern studies, University of California at Berkeley, March 1, 2012.

“New Media, Civil Society, and Human Rights: Lessons from Iran, 1997-Present,” School of Foreign Service, United States Department of State, Washington, DC, August 25, 2009.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2017            “On the Home front? Women’s Memoirs and the Iran-Iraq War,” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 21, 2017, Washington, DC.

2014            “Family Affairs: New Media, the State, and Women in Iran,” presented at the Middle East Studies Association Conference, November 24, 2014.

2012            “State of Digital Distress: New Media, State Power, and the Manufacture and Management of Crisis,” presented at the annual conference of the Society for Film and Media Studies, Boston, March 22, 2012.

2011            “Soft War” and the Hardline: State Power and Iran’s New Media Battlefields,” presented at the Middle East Studies Association Conference, Washington, DC, November 31, 2011.

“Reconstruction Campaigns: Openings and foreclosures in Iran’s revolutionary past,” presented at the Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 13, 2011.

- “Feeding Into It: Social Media and the Contested Iranian Presidential Elections,” presented at the annual conference of the Society for Film and Media Studies, New Orleans, LA, March 11, 2011.
- 2008 “Blogger Wars, Cybergovernmentality, and the Production of Gendered Subjectivities in Weblogistan,” co-presentation with Sima Shakhshari at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 25, 2008.
- “The Good, the Bad, and the Singular: Representations of the Afghan in Iranian National Cinema,” co-presentation with Hossein Khosrowjahi at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 24, 2008.
- “‘Menacing Portent for the Future’: The Iranian Diaspora and the Rise of Exclusionary Nationalisms Online,” Seventh Biennial Conference of the International Society for Iranian Studies, Toronto, Canada, July 31- August 3, 2008.
- 2007 “Other Blogospheres: Gender and the Narrative of Liberation Online,” presented at the annual conference of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, November 28-December 2, 2007
- “Polarizing Cartographies: the Politics of Mapping the Iranian Internet,” presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, November 17-20, 2007.
- 2004 “The Role of the Media in the Formation of Diasporic Identities and Notions of Dissent,” presented at the Iranian Alliances Across Borders Conference, Boston, MA, April 17-18, 2004.
- 2002 “When the Exiles Become the Diaspora: the Politics and Ethics of Using Categories in Writing Transnational Cultures,” presented at the *Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies* in Bethesda, Maryland, May 24-26, 2002.
- 2001 “The Ones Who Stayed Behind: Bahman Farmanara's ‘Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine’ in the Context of the Iranian Diaspora,” presented at the *Identity: Variations, Interpretations, Politics Conference*, San Francisco State University, Oct. 19-20, 2001.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2016- Associate Professor, various courses in Media and Communication Studies, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
- 2010-2016 Assistant Professor, various courses in Media and Communication Studies, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
- 2008-2010 Visiting Assistant Professor, various courses in Media and Communication Studies, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
- 2005-2006 Instructor, various courses in Women Studies, San Francisco State University
- 2002-2003 Instructor, course in Interdisciplinary Studies Field Studies, University of California at Berkeley
- Instructor, Course in Women's Studies, California State University at San Francisco
- 1999 – 2000 Instructor, Course in Philosophy, University of Illinois at Chicago

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

UCSC Institute for Humanities Research Dissertation Fellowship, Fall 2005

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2000-present Freelance Persian to English translation and editing of news, journal articles, as well as film scripts and subtitles; Freelance interpretation for department of social services and court cases
- 2008-2019 Translator, Muslim Civilisations Abstracts project of the Aga Khan University
- 2009-2016 Iran Consultant, Human Rights Watch, Washington, DC
- 2007-2008 Iran and UAE Researcher, Human Rights Watch, Washington, DC

## **LANGUAGES**

Fluent Proficiency- Persian

Intermediate Proficiency- Arabic

Elementary Proficiency- French