

# Hannah Hassani

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## Education

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- University of St Andrews**, Scotland, UK Sept 2024 – Present  
*Doctor of Philosophy*. Modern History.  
Thesis: Managing the Transition: The Iranian Bureaucracy, 1900-1950.  
Supervisors: Prof. Ali Ansari and Dr Siavush Randjbar-Daemi.
- University of Cambridge**, England, UK Oct 2023 – Aug 2024  
*Master of Philosophy*. Asian & Middle Eastern Studies.  
Dissertation: Civil Service Expansion in Iran: An Institutional Analysis (1922-2020).  
Supervisor: Dr Assef Ashraf.
- University of Cambridge**, England, UK Oct 2019 – Feb 2021  
*Master of Philosophy*. Economic and Social History, *Distinction*.  
Dissertation: Women in the Textile Industry: Hong Kong and Bombay, 1945-1985.  
Supervisor: Prof. Samita Sen, Vere Harmsworth Professor in Imperial and Naval History.
- George Washington University**, Washington, DC Aug 2014 – May 2017  
*Bachelor of Arts*. Economics and International Affairs, *Magna Cum Laude*.  
Dissertation: Does Education Increase Labor Force Participation in the Philippines?  
Supervisor: Dean Elizabeth Chacko.

## Professional Experience

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- Freelance Editor and Career Coach** [Hannah Hassani Consulting](#), Remote Aug 2017 – Present  
*Main role*: Review CVs, personal statements, and cover letters for students and young professionals.
  - Founded and registered private firm. Designed and launched website, marketing to and winning clients in the US, EU, and India.
  - Reviewed 37 medical school and residency applications (97% accepted or matched) and 8 job applications (100% passed to interview stage).
- Senior Learning Analyst**, [Business Performance Institute](#), London and Milan March 2021 – Sept 2022  
*Main role*: Consult companies to improve their sales performance by spreading the skills of their top performers.
- Quantitative Research Assistant**, [Urban Institute](#), Washington, DC Aug 2017 – June 2019  
[Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population](#)  
*Main role*: Collaborate on long-term research projects with 2-10 team members using mixed research methods. *Highlights*:
  - Co-authored 4 research reports, 3 data visualizations, and 3 blogs (see [full list](#)).
  - Conducted multivariate regression analysis, data imputation, and cluster analysis for panel of 36+ million observations. Reduced processing time by 6 hours (transferring code from STATA to R). Final data visualization: [Debt in America](#).
  - Managed both the technical and logistical aspects of a Walmart Foundation project involving 8-person team across 3 research centers and 9 external advisors. Planned in-person research meeting, coordinating all travel and meeting logistics. Final data visualization: [Disrupting Food Insecurity](#).
  - Rated as “Exceptional” (highest rating) by supervisor in Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Relationship Cultivation & Management, Communications, and Product Development & External Engagement.
- Intern to Madeleine Albright**, [Albright Stonebridge Group](#), Washington, DC June 2017 – Aug 2017  
*Main role*: Prepared Secretary Albright for trips, meetings, interviews, and press appearances.
- Economics Intern**, [Global Financial Integrity](#), Washington, DC Jan 2016 – May 2016  
*Main role*: Analyzed data on IMF Statistics Yearbooks for the GFI Annual Report.

## Publications

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- "Revisiting Khurasan: From Conceptual Shifts to Geographic Realities." with S. Reza Huseini. Accepted for a special issue in *Afghanistan*.
- "[State and Local Approaches to the Chicago Region's Racial and Ethnic Wealth Inequity.](#)" Washington, DC: Urban Institute, with Steven Brown and Marcela Montes. December 2019.
- "[Financial knowledge and past-due credit card, mortgage, and student loan debt.](#)" Washington, DC: Urban Institute, with Breno Braga and Signe-Mary McKernan. November 2019.
- "[The high cost of delinquent debt.](#)" Factsheet. Urban Institute, with Breno Braga and Signe-Mary McKernan. November 2019.
- "[Relief from government-owed child support debt and its effects on parents and children.](#)" Washington, DC: Urban Institute, with Heather Hahn, Daniel Kuehn, and Kathryn Edin. August 2019.
- "[Delinquent debt decisions and their long-term consequences.](#)" Washington, DC: Urban Institute, with Breno Braga and Signe-Mary McKernan. March 2019.
- "[Does education increase women's labor force participation in the Philippines?](#)" YF39-05. 39<sup>th</sup> Pacific Area Free Trade and Development Conference. June 2018.

## Panels and Presentations

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- "Bureaucratic Classes: Iranian Administration on the eve of the Constitutional Revolution." Association of the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) Biennial Meeting. Tashkent, August 2025.
- "Revisiting Khurasan: From Conceptual Shifts to Geographic Realities." with S. Reza Huseini. Association of the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) Biennial Meeting. Tashkent, August 2025.
- "Comparing changes in the Iranian and Spanish Civil Service Systems." Grupo para Estudios de Pueblos Persicos at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, September 2024.
- "Women in the Textile Industry: Hong Kong and Bombay, 1945-1980." Presented as part of panel entitled "Twentieth Century Hong Kong" at the British Association for Chinese Studies, September 2021.
- "Women in the Textile Industry: Hong Kong and Bombay, 1945-1970." Women's History Network Seminar. September 2020.
- "Delinquent Debt Decisions and Their Long-term Consequences. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management" (Washington, DC), November 2018.
- "China's Growing Influence Abroad." Moderator. International Affairs Society of the George Washington University (Washington, DC), September 2018.
- "Does Education Increase Women's Labor Force Participation in the Philippines?" Pacific Area Free Trade and Development Conference (Tokyo, Japan), February 2018.
- "Going Against the Grain: Seventh-Day Adventist Non-migrants in Manila." Race, Ethnicity, and Place, Kent State University (Kent, Ohio), September 2016.
- "Labor Migration and Remittances: The Filipina diaspora and the economy of the Philippines." Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting (San Francisco, California), March 2016.
- "Labor Migration and Remittances: The State and the Filipina Diaspora." Mid-Atlantic Division of the American Association of Geographers Conference, Towson University (Towson, Maryland), October 2015.

## Grants & Bursaries

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- School of History PhD Scholarship.** (£126,986). University of St Andrews. *Jan 2025.*
- School of History-St Andrews tuition fee scholarship.** (£62,820). University of St Andrews. *May 2024.*
- Cambridge Trust Scholar and Soudavar Studentship.** (£48,089). University of Cambridge. *June 2023.*
- Young Fellow.** (\$2,500). Pacific Area Free Trade and Development Conference, Tokyo, Japan. *Jan 2018.*
- Undergraduate Research Award.** (\$6,000). George Washington University. *April 2016.*
- Grant for Chinese Language Study in Taiwan.** (\$5,000). George Washington University. *March 2016.*
- Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars Program.** (\$1,250). George Washington University. *March 2015.*
- Presidential Academic Scholarship.** (\$100,000). George Washington University. *Sept 2014.*

## Languages

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**Native English, Persian.**

**Bilingual (C2) Spanish** (Certificate from Instituto Cervantes).

**Fluent (C1) French, Italian, Mandarin** (Certificate from Tzu Chi University, Taiwan).

**Proficient (B1) Arabic.**

## Honors & Awards

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**Ellen McArthur Prize for Dissertation Research.** University of Cambridge. *Jan 2020.*

**Magna Cum Laude.** George Washington University. *May 2017.*

**Special Honors in Economics.** George Washington University. *May 2017.*

**Nominated for Hall of Fame.** George Washington University. *April 2017.*

**Best Undergraduate Paper.** Mid-Atlantic Division of the American Association of Geographers. *Nov 2015.*

**Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Youth Award.** Presented by the Mayor of the City of Rockville, Maryland. *Jan 2014.*

**Pedram Tousi Hall of Fame Inductee & Class of 2014 Student of the Year.** Wootton High School. *May 2013.*

**Marion Greenblatt Award for Excellence in Social Studies.** Montgomery County Public Schools. *May 2013.*

## Interests

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**Latin Social Dance.** Trained in Latin dance academies in Italy (2021-2), Colombia (2019), Cuba (2019). Teach group & private classes (2019–20, 2023-2024).

**Martial Arts.** Cambridge University Amateur Boxing Club (Blues Team). Black belt in *shotokan* karate (1<sup>st</sup> Dan). Trained in Okinawa, Japan as representative of the United States, funded by the Japanese Embassy.

**Rock Climbing.** Trainer at Earth Treks Climbing Centers in Rockville, MD and Crystal City, VA, USA. (2014-2016). Courses taught: Introduction to Climbing Safety and Introductory Technique.

## Professional Associations

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**Association for Iranian Studies.** Member. 2025-present.

**Association for the Study of Persianate Societies.** Member. 2024-present.

**Royal Historical Society.** Member. 2024-present

**American Historical Society.** Member. 2018-2020.