

Leila Zonouzi

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EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara, CA

Doctor of Philosophy in Global Studies

Sep 2016 – Jun 2023

Dissertation: The New Wave of MENA Academic Migration: Roots and Routes

Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Sep 2014 – May 2016

University of Tehran, Iran

Bachelor of Arts in English Literature

Sep 2009 – May 2013

PUBLICATIONS

“The Imperial Draw: MENA Labor Migrations in the 21st Century”

Manuscript in Preparation

“The Second Wave of MENA Academic Migration: Migration of Academics from Iran, Egypt, and Turkey in the 21st Century”

Peer-Reviewed Article

In Progress

In International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies

“Intergenerational Conflicts: Experiences of Discrimination & Racialization in Iranian Diasporic Novels”

Chapter in a Peer-Reviewed Edited Volume

May 2023

In Routledge Handbook of Persian Literature, edited by Kamran Talattof

“Review of *Temporary Marriage in Iran* by Claudia Yaghoobi”

Peer-Reviewed Book Review

Mar 2021

In Journal of Middle Eastern Women’s Studies

“The War on Terror Paradigm and Intersecting Contemporary Civil Uprisings”

Article

Sep 2020

In 21st Century Global Dynamics Electronic Journal

WORKING PAPERS AND PROJECTS

“MENA Technocrats: How 1970s Return Migrants Became Agents of Neoliberal Restructuring”

“From Dissent to Migration: Youth and the Winter of Democracy”

“The Origins of MENA “Brain Drain”: Youth and Student Movements of the 1990s and 2000s”

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of California President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship

May 2022 – Aug 2023

Politics of the Middle East Seminar Series

Series Fellow

Feb 2022 – Dec 2022

Serving as a presenter in a year-long seminar series on Middle Eastern politics.

Center for Middle Eastern Studies 2021-22 Fellows Program, UCSB

SANTA BARBARA, CA

Research Fellow

Jun 2021 – Apr 2022

Serving as a research fellow in the “Making, Breaking, and Transgressing the State” research cluster.

Mellichamp 21st Century Global Dynamics Graduate Research Fellowship, UCSB	SANTA BARBARA, CA
Research Fellow	<i>Sep 2020 – Dec 2020</i>
Serving as a research fellow in the "Gender and Islam" cluster, assisting with media research, content development, and student interaction for a digital internship program.	
Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, UCSB	SANTA BARBARA, CA
Research Fellow	<i>Jun 2020 – Jun 2021</i>
Serving as a research fellow in the "Transnationalizing the Study of the United States" cluster, creating archives, conducting research and publishing original content, and coordinating events and conferences.	
5 Global Studies Departmental Grants, UCSB	<i>Aug 2022</i>
Center for Middle Eastern Studies Summer Scholarly Project Award, UCSB	<i>Aug 2020</i>
Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, UCSB	<i>May 2020</i>
2 Mellichamp Chair in Iranian Studies Travel Awards, UCSB	<i>Apr 2018 – Nov 2019</i>
3 Graduate Student Association Conference Travel Grants, UCSB	<i>Mar 2018 – Nov 2019</i>
3 Center for Middle Eastern Studies Conference Travel Grants, UCSB	<i>Nov 2018 – Nov 2019</i>
Academic Senate Conference Travel Fund, UCSB	<i>Oct 2019</i>
Middle Eastern Studies Association Graduate Conference Travel Fund	<i>Oct 2019</i>
Full Tuition Scholarship, New York State Summer Writers Institute at Skidmore College, NY	<i>Jul 2015</i>
Two-year Teaching Assistant Scholarship, Chatham University	<i>Sep 2014 – May 2016</i>

INVITED TALKS

Egypt Migrations' Oral History Series: Methods and Best Practices Workshop	VIRTUAL
Panelist: How I Ended Up Conducting Oral History	<i>Apr 2022</i>
Association for Iranian Studies Presidential Session on Presenting at Conferences	VIRTUAL
Panelist: Tips to present and network at conferences	<i>Jun 2021</i>
UCSB Migration Initiative's Global Diasporas Lecture Series	SANTA BARBARA, CA
Guest Lecture: MENA Diasporas	<i>Jun 2021</i>
Revisiting Discourses of Love, Sex, & Desire in Modern Iran and Diaspora	CHAPEL HILL, NC
Presenter: Integration in Diaspora: Interracial Partnerships in Iranian Diasporic Literature	<i>Sep 2020</i>
Displaced: Exploring the Refugee Crisis in the K-12 Classroom	SANTA BARBARA, CA
Guest Lecture: MENA Migrations	<i>Aug 2020</i>
UCSB Migration Initiative's Global Diasporas Lecture Series	SANTA BARBARA, CA
Guest Lecture: MENA Diasporas	<i>Aug 2020</i>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting	DENVER, CO
Panel Organizer and Presenter: MENA Migrations: State-Diaspora Relations	<i>Dec 2022</i>
The Thirteenth Biennial Association for Iranian Studies Conference	SALAMANCA, SPAIN
Presenter: A Patriarchal Bargain Gone Awry: Iranian Women "Troubling" Systems of Oppression	<i>Sep 2022</i>
2019 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting	NEW ORLEANS, LA
Presenter: Diasporization of the Intelligentsia: Case of Iran and Turkey	<i>Nov 2019</i>
International Conference on Iranian Diaspora Studies	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Presenter: More than Meets the Eye: Multiple Points of View in Iranian Diasporic Literature	<i>Mar 2019</i>

2018 Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting	SAN ANTONIO, TX
Presenter: Girls of Enghelab (Revolution) Street: Performing Dissidence	Nov 2018
The Twelfth Biennial Association for Iranian Studies Conference, UC Irvine	IRVINE, CA
Presenter: Literature of "Limbo": the Shift in the Post-9/11 Iranian Diasporic Literature	Aug 2018
International Conference and Graduate Workshop on The Persianate World, OSU	STILLWATER, OK
Presenter: Belonging in a World of Divisions: Prison Narratives in Iranian Diasporic Literature	Feb 2018
Queer Hemispheres: America Cuir Conference, UCSB	SANTA BARBARA, CA
Presenter: Queering the Nation: Diaspora and Its Destabilizing Potential	Feb 2018
Iranian Studies: The Changing Nature of Family & Marriage in Iran, UCSB	SANTA BARBARA, CA
Presenter: Sexual Education in Modern-Day Iran	Nov 2017
Global Studies Association, North America Conference, UC Berkeley	BERKELEY, CA
Panel Chair and Presenter: Identity in the Age of Globalization	Jun 2017

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

<i>Histories and Literatures of Middle Eastern Migration</i> , UCSB	Sep 2019 – Dec 2019
<i>Persian as a Second Language</i> , UCSB	Sep 2017 – Jun 2018
<i>Creative Writing Workshop at Allegheny County Jail</i> , Chatham University	Jan 2016 – May 2016

Teaching Assistant

<i>Education Abroad as Global Research: Seminar Series on Research Design</i> , UCSB	Jan 2021 – Jun 2021
<i>Global History, Culture, and Ideology</i> , UCSB	Apr 2019 – Jun 2019
<i>Global Environmental Politics</i> , UCSB	Jan 2019 – Mar 2019
<i>Global Socioeconomic and Political Processes</i> , UCSB	Sep 2018 – Dec 2018
<i>Global Socioeconomic and Political Processes</i> , UCSB	Apr 2017 – Jun 2017
<i>Global Ideologies and World Order</i> , UCSB	Jan 2017 – Mar 2017
<i>Ethnographies of Globalization</i> , UCSB	Sep 2016 – Dec 2016
<i>Women and Gender Studies</i> , Chatham University	Jan 2016 – May 2016
<i>Representation of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality</i> , Chatham University	Sep 2015 – Dec 2015
<i>African American Writers</i> , Chatham University	Jan 2015 – May 2015
<i>Introduction to Creative Writing</i> , Chatham University	Sep 2014 – Dec 2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies

Visiting Research Scholar and Consultant	Jul 2023 – Present
Serving as a consultant for the Transnationalizing the Study of the United States research cluster.	

Egypt Migrations

Editor and Outreach Specialist	Jun 2021 – Present
Serving as the editor and outreach specialist, working toward preserving Egyptian migrants' histories and lived experiences.	

Iranian Students of California, ISC

Co-founder and Board Member

Mar 2020 – Present

Co-founder and first president of ISC, a non-profit organization created to connect university students of Iranian heritage across California through professional development and student advocacy.

Association for Iranian Studies, AIS

Council Member

Nov 2019 – Dec 2021

Serving as a graduate student member on the AIS council. Vote on policies, serve on subcommittees, and oversee subcommittee decisions. Co-organizing professional development panels for students.

Society for Global Scholars, UCSB

SANTA BARBARA, CA

President

Apr 2017 – Jun 2018

Co-organized a student-led international conference on Alter-Globalizations.

Words Without Walls, Allegheny County Jail

PITTSBURGH, PA

Instructor of Creative Writing

Jan 2016 – May 2016

Co-taught a themed, nine-week creative writing workshop for inmates.

Raah-e Roshd High School

TEHRAN, IRAN

Instructor of English

Sep 2013 – May 2014

Taught English to teenagers on a daily basis.

Safir Language Academy

TEHRAN, IRAN

Instructor of English

Apr 2010 – Feb 2012

Instructed English classes from Pre-Intermediate to Advanced levels to adults.

CERTIFICATIONS

Certificate in College and University Teaching, UCSB

Jun 2023

Supervised Machine Learning: Regression and Classification, Coursera

Jul 2022

2017 STARTALK/National Heritage Language Resource Center Teacher Workshop, UCLA

Jun 2017

Concentration in the Teaching of Writing, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA

May 2016

University of Iowa Summer Writing Festival, Iowa City, Iowa

Apr 2015

Diplome détudes en Langue Francaise (DELF) - A2, Tehran, Iran

Dec 2013

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

Languages

Farsi: native language

English: speak fluently and read/write proficiently

Turkish: upper-intermediate competence

Arabic: upper-intermediate competence

Azeri: upper-intermediate competence

French: intermediate competence

Computer Skills

Web Developing: Squarespace, Wordpress, GoDaddy, Wix Web Builder, Elementor

Digital Graphic Design: Canva, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator

Administrative Tools: NVivo, MailChimp, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Windows, OS X, Microsoft Office