

Beeta Baghoolizadeh Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, University of Pennsylvania, 2018, with certificate in Africana Studies.

Dissertation: *Seeing Race and Erasing Slavery: Media and the Construction of Blackness in Iran, 1840-1960.*

M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 2012.

B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, in International Development Studies and Iranian Studies, UCLA, 2010.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2018- Assistant Professor, History Department and Africana Studies Program, Bucknell University

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

2020 “Seeing Black Americans in Iran: From Malcolm X to the Hostage Crisis, 1965-1985” received a revise and resubmit at the *American Historical Review*

2019 “From Religious Eulogy to War Anthem: Examining Kurdizadeh’s ‘*Layla Bigufta*,’ its Many Mutations, and Blackness in late twentieth-century Iran,” received a revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*

2019 “The Many Faces of Haji Firuz: the Racial Contours of the Iranian Minstrel” under review at *Lateral, Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*

FELLOWSHIPS

2020 Research Fellow; Bard Graduate Center (*forthcoming, Fall semester*)

2019-2020 Wolf Humanities Forum Regional Faculty Fellow; University of Pennsylvania

2015-2016 SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship; Social Science Research Council

- 2015, 2017 Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2014 Faye Rattner Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013-2014 Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship (Arabic), University of Pennsylvania
- 2012-2013;
2014-2015 Vartan Gregorian Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2011-2012 Continuing Fellowship, UT Austin
- 2010-2011 Graduate Recruitment Fellowship, UT Austin

AWARDS

- 2019 Scholarly Development Grant, Bucknell University
- 2019 Mellon Confounding Problems Grant, Bucknell University
- 2018 Art and Change Grant, Leeway Foundation
- 2016 Iran Media Program, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication Studies; Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015 Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students, Office of the Vice Provost for Education; University of Pennsylvania
- 2015 Dean's Award for Research and New Media, Office for the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies; University of Pennsylvania

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 "Nishapur and its Legacy," UCLA History Geography Project, June 18
- 2019 "Locating Ajamistan: Moving Across Borders in the Digital Humanities," Closing Keynote for the "Forty Years and More: International Conference on Iranian Diaspora Studies," Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies, San Francisco State University, March 30
- 2019 "Histories of Migration Through Comics in the Classroom," Annual Sawwaf Comics Initiative Symposium, American University of Beirut, March 9

- 2018 "Race in Iran: How Slavery Defined Color," Department of History, Agnes Scott College, October 16
- 2018 "From White to Walnut, Brown to Black: the Color of Slavery in Iran," Roshan Persian Institute, University of Maryland, April 24
- 2018 "Why Have an Archive? Digital Archival Questions and Methods," Department of Sociology, Muhlenberg College, April 11
- 2017 "Defining Slavery through the Verbal, Visual, and Spatial in Iran, 1837-1877," Central Asian Studies Workshop, Harvard University, December 5
- 2016 "Black, Brown, or Burnt: The Language of Slavery in Iran, 1850-1930," Department of Religious Studies, University of California, San Diego, October 12
- 2015 "'We Have Black People Too!': The Erasure and Tokenization of an African Presence in Iran, 1880-1990," Department of International and Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, September 29
- 2015 "How Slavery Became an Un-Iranian, Un-Islamic Problem: Rewriting the Past and Present in Iran, 1925-1979," Minorities and Diasporas Symposium, University of Texas at Austin, May 19
- 2014 "Forging and Forgetting: The Preservation of Slavery in Iranian Historical Memory," the Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University, December 10
- 2014 "Erasing Slavery in the Name of Modernity: The Early Pahlavi Era," Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania, October 3

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Panels Organized

- 2018 "Remembering the Dead: Slavery and Mortality through Visual Culture, a Comparative Perspective," the American Historical Association, January 4-7
- 2017 "Blackness in the Middle East, a Comparative Perspective," Middle East Studies Association, November 18-21
- 2016 "Moving Homelands: Migrations and Memory in the Twentieth Century," Middle East Studies Association, November 17-20
- 2016 "From African Slavery to American Immigration: Race and Racial Constructs in the Iranian Context, 1850-present," International Society for Iranian Studies, August 2-5

Paper Presentations

- 2018 "Eunuchs in Life, Death, and Freak Shows: The Visuality of Race and Gender in Iran, 1860-1900," the American Historical Association, January 4-7
- 2017 "Buying and Selling Blackface: Theatrical Anti-Blackness in Pahlavi Era Iran, 1930-1965," Middle East Studies Association, November 18-21
- 2016 "'But Where Are You Really From?': Mapping a Racial Homeland in Iran, 1928-1980," Middle East Studies Association, November 17-20
- 2016 "White, Black, and Iranians in Between: The Racial Language of Difference, 1880-1940," International Society for Iranian Studies, August 2-5
- 2014 "Outsiders on the Inside: Slaves and their Family Portraits from the Late Qajar Period," International Society for Iranian Studies, August 6-9
- 2013 "Reza Shah and Manumission: The End of Slavery in Iran," Middle East Studies Association, October 10-13
- 2013 "Stretching Sovereignty and Breaking Boundaries: Consulates and Shi'is in the Nineteenth Century Middle East," Ottoman-Persian Exchanges Conference, University of Pennsylvania, April 26
- 2012 "From Fellows to Foreigners: The Qajar Experience in the Ottoman Empire," Middle East Studies Association, November 17-19
- 2012 "Women's Education in the Early Twentieth Century Press," International Society for Iranian Studies, August 1-5
- 2011 "A Triangle of Fighting Loyalties: The Ottomans, the Persians, and the Shi'is of Iraq," Middle East Studies Association, December 1-4

Roundtable Presentations

- 2016 "Being Social on Social Media: Academia, the Digital Humanities, and the Middle East," Middle East Studies Association, November 17-20

Chair/Moderator

- 2018 "Reading Culture and the Public Sphere in the Global Middle East," Middle East Studies Association, November 15-18

TEACHING

Bucknell University

“Comic Book Histories of the Middle East”
“History of the Modern Middle East”
“Photographing Race”
“Podcasts, Museums, and Digital Archives”

University of Pennsylvania

Certificate in College and University Teaching, 2015

University of Texas at Austin

“Race & Ethnicity in Iran: Advanced Persian,” Intensive Persian Language Institute
Instructor of Record, 2013

LANGUAGES

Persian: superior in reading, writing, and speaking
Arabic: advanced in reading, writing, and speaking
French: intermediate in reading, writing, and speaking

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Digital Humanities

2015-present [Ajam Digital Archive](#), Director
2012-present [Ajam Media Collective](#), Editor

Media Appearances and Interviews

[“Iranian Diaspora Spotlight: Dr. Beeta Baghoolizadeh,”](#) *With a Trace*, Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies, San Francisco State University, December 5, 2018.

[“Love Letters to Iran: An Interview With Beeta Baghoolizadeh,”](#) *Bigmouth Comix*, February 16, 2018.

[“Historian Beeta Baghoolizadeh Sheds Light on Iran’s Unique, But Forgotten, History of Slavery,”](#) *World Views Podcast*, November 5, 2015.

[“Nizhad, Bardih-dari, va Laghv-i an dar Iran,”](#) *15 Minute History Podcast* transcribed and translated into Persian on *Meidaan*, October 11, 2015.

[“Episode 70: Race, Slavery and Abolition in Iran,”](#) *15 Minute History Podcast*, August 26, 2015.

Public Talks

"The Importance of Media in Times of War," at CODEPINK's *Summit on Peace with Iran*, December 1, 2018.

Writings

["White Fantasies, Colorful Interiors: the Problem with Cultural Appropriation in Home Design,"](#) *Off Beat*, May 24, 2018.

["The National Archives and Library in Tehran,"](#) *Dissertation Reviews*, December 2, 2014.

["Marriage Contracts and the Mashhadi Jewish Community: Art as a Second Identity in the Nineteenth Century,"](#) *Jadaliyya*, August 12, 2013.

Solo Art Exhibitions

Diaspora Letters, Twelve Gates Arts, January 23-February 10, 2018.

Group Art Exhibitions

On Home, Identity, and Diaspora, Vox Populi Gallery, January 11-February 17, 2019.

Making Space: Leeway @ 25, Moore College of Art and Design, September 20-December 8, 2018.

SERVICE

- 2018- Advisory Committee Member, Africana Studies Program, Bucknell University.
- 2017 External reviewer, *Public Culture*.
- 2017 Elected Student Representative, Association for Iranian Studies.
- 2017 Program Committee for the 12th Annual Biennial Conference, Association for Iranian Studies.
- 2015-2017 History Department Graduate Colloquium, co-founder and organizer; University of Pennsylvania.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
Middle East Studies Association
Association for Iranian Studies
African American Intellectual History Society