

DANA SAJDI
CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of History
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Sajdi@bc.edu

Current Position

2008-Now Associate Professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern History, Department of History, Boston College.

2017-2018 Graduate Program Director, History Department, Boston College.

Academic Positions

2004-2005. Visiting Research Associate, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University.

2002-2004. Assistant Professor of Middle East History, History Department, Concordia University, Montreal.

1992-1998. Teaching Assistant, Columbia University.

1991-1992. Assistant Director and Artistic Director, Department of English and Comparative Literature and Theatre, American University in Cairo.

Education

Ph.D. 2002, Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University. Awarded with Distinction. Subject: Ottoman History. Languages acquired: Turkish/Ottoman.

M.Phil. 1997, Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University. Subject: Islamic History 1000-1500. Language requirements: Arabic, Persian, French, and German.

M.A. 1994, Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University. Subject: Islamic Law and Islamic History 550-1258.

B.A. 1991. Majors: Sociology and Theatre. American University in Cairo. Awarded with honors. The first student to graduate from the American University in Cairo with a double major, and the first student to major in Theatre.

RESEARCH

Publications

Monographs and Edited Volumes

2013: *The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th-Century Ottoman Levant*. Stanford University Press. [About the social and intellectual world of an 18th-century Damascene barber and a larger phenomenon of history authorship by non-scholars].

Turkish translation, 2018. *Şamlı Berber: 18. Yüzyıl Biladü's-Şamında Yeni Okuryazarlık*. Translated by Defne Karakaya (Koç University Press, Istanbul).

Arabic translation, 2018: حلاق دمشق: محدثو الكتابة في بلاد الشام إبان العهد العثماني

Translated by Sura Khrais and reviewed by Sa' id al-Ghanimi (Kalima li-al-Tarjama, Abu Dhabi).

Reviews and Mentions (of the English original and Arabic translation)

[Named one of the best ten books of the year 2013 by *Critical Margins*](#)

Ammar al-Shuqayri, [7iber](#), Jordanian online journal (2019)

[LitHub Favorite Books of 2018](#) (for the Arabic version)

- Muhammad Hujayri, [al-Modon Online](#) (2019)
- Shakir al-Anbari (novelist) [al-Modun Online](#) (2018)
- Al-Shyama' Khaled, [24](#) (2019)
- Metin Atamca in a review essay, "Biography, Global Microhistory, and the Ottoman Empire in World History", *Journal of World History* 31.1 (2019): 1-8
- Muhammd Turki al-Rabi`u, [al-Quds al-`Arabi](#) (2017)
- Feras Krimsti, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 76.2 (2017) :379-382
- Jeffrey Sacks in a review essay, "The Philological Present: Reading the Arabic Nineteenth Century," *Journal of Arabic Literature* 47.1-2 (2016): 169-207
- Tom Verde, [Aramco World](#), October 20, 2016
- Madeline Zilfi, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 136.2 (2016): 471-472
- Sara Scalenghe, *Arab Studies Journal* 24.1 (2016): 276-281.
- Yonca Koksall, *New Perspectives on Turkey*, 50 (2015): 155-158.
- James Grehan, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, 39.3 (2015): 97-100.
- Fatma Müge Göçek, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 49.1 (2015): 99-102.
- Stephan Conermann, *Sehepunkte* 15.1 (2015). In German.
<http://www.sehepunkte.de/2015/01/26706.html>
- Abdul-Karim Rafeq, *International Journal of Turkish Studies*, 20 (2014): 191-121.
- Elyse Semerdjian, *The American Historical Review*, 119.4 (2014): 1395-1396.
- Steve Tamari, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 46.4 (2014): 826-828.
- Hope Leman, [Critical Margins](#), 2013
- Précis of the book by Jeri Zeder, "What the Barber Saw", *Boston College Magazine*.
http://bcm.bc.edu/issues/winter_2014/inquiring_minds/what-the-barber-saw.html
- Podcast interview with Chris Gratien, [The Ottoman History Podcast](#), November 11, 2016 .
 [listed as "[Best of 2016](#)"]
- Podcast interview with SherAli Tareen, [New Books Network](#), May 16, 2016.
- Interview with Elliot Brandow, Senior Reference Librarian, Boston College Libraries
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQIAQLSFqk8>

2008: *Ottoman Tulips, Ottoman Coffee: Leisure and Lifestyles in the Eighteenth Century.*

London: IB Tauris. Paperback, 2014.

Reviewed by Caroline Finkel, "Fountains of Pleasure", *Times Literary Supplement*, December 4, 2009.

Reviewed by Astrid Meier in H-Soz-u-Kult, April 2012. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=30176>

Reviewed by Rümeyşa Kiger, "Book Aims to Change Prejudices about Ottoman Tulip Era" in *Today's Zaman* (the largest circulating English newspaper in Turkey), September 29, 2014. http://www.todayszaman.com/arts-culture/book-aims-to-change-prejudices-about-ottoman-tulip-era_357172.html

Turkish translation, 2014: *Osmanlı Laleleri, Osmanlı Kahvehaneleri: On Sekizinci Yüzyılda Hayat Tarzı ve Boş Vakit Eğlenceleri*, translated by Aylin Onacak (Koç University Press, Istanbul)

2008: Co-edited with Marle Hammond, eds., "Transforming Loss into Beauty": Essays on Arabic Literature and Culture in Memory of Magda Al-Nowaihi. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2008.

Articles, Chapters, and Encyclopedia Entries

Forthcoming, "From Ziyarat to Diyarat: Transmutations of the Sacred and Generic Landscape in Syria," *Journal of Arabic Literature*. (Revised and resubmitted).

Forthcoming, "The Place of Culture," *The Journal of Turkish and Ottoman Studies Association*, Special Issue *Entangled Literatures and Histories in the Pre-Modern Ottoman World*, edited by Michael Pifer and N. Ipek Huner-Cora. (Under review)

2019: "Reclaiming Damascus: Rescripting Islamic Time and Space in the 16th century," *History and Theory*, Special Issue *Islamic Pasts: Histories, Concepts, Interventions*, edited by Shahzad Bashir) 58.4 (2019): 68-85.

2017: "Chained: Orality, Authority and History", in Sheila Blair and Jonathan Bloom, eds. *By the Pen and What They Write: Writing in Islamic Art and Culture* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017), 205-225.

2017: "Ibn `Asakir's Children: Monumental Representations of Damascus until the 18th Century", edited by S. Judd and J. Schneider eds, *Ibn `Asakir's Influence on Arabic Historiography* (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 30-63.

2017: "New Voices in History: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th-Century Levant" in Syrinx von Hees, ed. *Inhitat (Decline): Its Influence and Persistence in the Writing of Arab Cultural History* (Wuerzburg: Ergon-Verlag, 2017), 293-221.

2014: "In Other Worlds? Mapping Out the Spatial Imaginaries of 18th-Century Chroniclers from the Ottoman Levant", *Journal of Ottoman Studies* (in a special issue edited by Virginia H. Aksan and Veysel Şimşek entitled "Living Empire: Ottoman Identities in Transition, 1700-1850". 44 (2014): 357-392

2011: "The Dead and the City: The Limits of Hospitality in the Early Modern Levant" in *Hosting the Stranger: Between Religions*, edited by James Taylor and Richard Kearney (New York: Continuum, 2011), 123-131.

- 2010: "Muhammad b. Isa Ibn Kannan (d. 1741)," entry in *Historians of the Ottoman Empire*, <http://www.ottomanhistorians.com/> eds. Cemal Kafadar, Hakan Karateke, and Cornell Fleischer, [On the life and work of the 18th –century Damascene historian and geographer, Ibn Kannan]
- 2009: Reprint of "Re-visiting Layla's al-Akhyaliyya's Trespass," in *Early Islamic Poetry and Poetics*, the Formation of the Classical Islamic World Series, edited by Suzanne Pinckney Stetkevych (Farnham, UK and Burlington, VT: Ashgate/Variorum, 2009), 157-200.
- 2009: "Print and its Discontents: A Case for Pre-Print Journalism and Other Sundry Print Matters," *The Translator*, 15:1, 2009, 105-138. Special Issue "Nation and Translation in the Middle East" edited by Samah Selim. [Argues against the technological determinism of the "impact of print" historiography and offers a connected history that sees chronicle-writing as a predecessor for print journalism]
- 2008: with Marle Hammond, "Introduction," in "*Transforming Loss into Beauty*": *Essays on Arabic Literature and Culture in Memory of Magda Al-Nowaihi*. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2008, xvii-xxvi. [Theorizes the place of the poetic genre of elegy in Arabo-Islamic history and culture]
- 2008: "Re-visiting Layla's al-Akhyaliyya's Trespass," in "*Transforming Loss into Beauty*": *Essays on Arabic Literature and Culture in Memory of Magda Al-Nowaihi*. Cairo, American University in Cairo Press, 2008, 185-227. [Examines the historical and cultural context surrounding the poetry and career of the transgressive 8th century female poet, Layla al-Akhyaliyyah]
- 2008: "'Decline' and its Discontents and Ottoman Cultural History: By Way of Introduction," in *Ottoman Tulips, Ottoman Coffee: Leisure and Lifestyles in the Eighteenth Century*, ed. Dana Sajdi. London: IB Tauris, 2008, 1-40. [Sketches the state of the field of Ottoman studies on the 17th and 18th centuries with a view of the demise of the framework of "Ottoman decline" and the recent emergence of cultural history].
- 2007: "Shihabaddin Ahmad Ibn Budayr al-Hallaq (fl. 1762)," entry in *Historians of the Ottoman Empire*, <http://www.ottomanhistorians.com/> eds. Cemal Kafadar, Hakan Karateke, and Cornell Fleischer. [On the life and work of the 18th –century Damascene barber-chronicler Shihab al-Din Ahmad Ibn Budayr]
- 2004: "A Room of His Own: the 'History' of the Barber of Damascus (fl. 1762)," *The MIT Electronic Journal of Middle East Studies* 4 (2004), 19-35. [A literary and cultural analysis of the chronicle of the above-mentioned barber. Awarded the Syrian Studies Association Prize for Best Published Article in 2004].
- 2003: "*Halal-o-Haram*," entry in the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, Ed. Ehsan Yarshater, London: Routledge Kegan Paul, 1982-. [On the categories of the "permissible" and the "prohibited" in Islamic law].
- 2000: "Trespassing the Male Domain: The *qasidah* of Layla al-Akhyaliyyah," *Journal of Arabic Literature* 31.2 (2000), 121-146 [On an 8th century female poet who is the only woman known to have composed a poem in the pre-eminent literary form of the tri-partite ode].

Book Reviews

- 2016: Review of Muhsim al-Musawi, *The Medieval Islamic Republic of Letters: Arabic Knowledge Construction* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015) *Journal of Early Modern History* 20.6 (2016): 589-592.

2015: Review of Ahmad Hasan Joudah, *Revolt in Palestine in the Eighteenth Century: The Era of Shaykh Zahir al-Umar*, 2nd ed. (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2013) *Journal of Palestine Studies* 44.3 (2015): 58-60.

2012: Review of Yuval Ben-Bassat and Eyal Ginio, *Late Ottoman Palestine: The Period of the Young Turk Rule* (London: IB Tauris, 2011) *Journal of Palestine Studies* XLI no. 3 (2012), 122-123.

2010: Review of Elyse Semerdjian, *"Off the Straight Path": Illicit Sex, Law, and Community in Ottoman Aleppo*, (Syracuse, N.Y: Syracuse University Press, 2008). Humanities and Social Sciences Online, H-Levant.

2009: Review of Shirine Hamadeh, *The City's Pleasures: Istanbul in the Eighteenth Century* (University of Washington Press: Seattle and London, 2008) *New Perspectives on Turkey* 41 (2009).

2008: Review of Muhannad Ahmad Salim al-Mubayyidin, *Ahl al-qalam wa dawru-hum fi al-hayah al-thaqafyya fi madinat Dimashq, 1121/1708-1172/1758* (Men of the Pen and their Role in the Cultural Life of the City of Damascus, 1121/1708-1172/1758)." *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter*, 13.2 (2008), 12-13.

2008: Review of Heghnar Zeitlian-Watenpaugh, *The Image of the City: Imperial Architecture and the Urban Experience in Aleppo in the 16th and 17th Centuries* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2004), *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 40.1 (2008), 141-142.

2005: Review of Muhammed A. Al-Da`mi, *Arabian Mirrors and Western Soothsayers: Nineteenth-Century Literary Approaches to Arab-Islamic History* (New York: Peter Lang, 2002), *Journal of Islamic Studies* 16.3 (2005), 371-374.

2004: Review of Philip K. Hitti, trans. *An Arab-Syrian Gentleman and Warrior in the Period of the Crusades: Memoirs of Usamah Ibn-Munqidh* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), *Arab Studies Journal* 51.2/52.1 (2003-2004), 189-191.

Non-academic publications

2018: "Allegiance to the Sublime Port," *Dig into History Magazine* (for young readers). A special edition on Syria with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble.

2009: "Valse avec Bachir et ses victims disparues. Le refoulement et sa therapie," *Contretemps: Revue Critique*, July. (Translated to French by Christian Dubucq).

[Http://contretemps.eu/culture/valse-bachir-ses-victimes-disparues-refoulement-sa-therapie](http://contretemps.eu/culture/valse-bachir-ses-victimes-disparues-refoulement-sa-therapie)

Work in Progress

Writing a book entitled "In Defense of Damascus: Narrations of a City, 12th-20th Centuries."

Preparing, from a unique and hitherto unknown manuscript, a critical edition of the original text of the chronicle of Ahmad Ibn Budayr al-Hallaq, an 18th century barber from Damascus. Co-translating the text with Steve Tamari.

Fellowships and Grants

2018-2019: Fellow at Radcliffe Institute for Advance Study at Harvard University.

Summer 2015: Fellow at NEH Summer Institute, The Alhambra and Spain's Islamic Past, June 15-July 10, Granada.

2014-2015: Post-Doctoral Fellow, MIT-Agha Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, MIT.

2010-2011: Senior Fellow, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations – Koç University, Istanbul
Project: “Imagined in the Image of the Other: Narrations of Damascus and Istanbul”

2006-2007: Post-Doctoral Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.
Project: “The City Possessed: Civic Identity and the Narrations of Damascus 12th-20th Centuries.”

2005-2006: Post-Doctoral Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
Project: “The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th Century Middle East.”

Spring 2013: Teaching, Advising, and Mentoring Grant for the Course "Islamic Spain/al-Andalus/Sepharad: Text, Image, and Monument.

Spring 2013: Exploratory Technology Grant, Boston College.
For the Human Geography Project: mapping out global diasporic communities and individuals in the medieval and early modern periods.

2003-2006 : Jeune Chercheur, Fonds Québécois de Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC).
Awarded for proposal on “Public Space and Cultural Production in the Early Modern Levant.”

Papers

Invited Lectures

2019: “New Voices from the Street: Historians of the 18th Century Levant”, NYU Abu Dhabi Institute, Abu Dhabi, March 4.

2018: “From *Diyarat* to *Ziyarat*: Transmutations in the Generic and Sacred Landscape in Syria,” in *Adab as a Way of Life: An Appreciation of Tarif Khalidi*, American University in Beirut, October 25-26.

2018: “Barbers and their Books,” Collegio de Mexico, Mexico City, November 24.

2018: “Genres”, New Directions in Book History, The Book History Seminar, Harvard University, September 13.

2018: *Hallaq Dimashq* (in Arabic), Sijal Institute, Amman, June 27.

2018: “In Defense of Damascus: Arabic Prose Cityscapes (12th and 16th Centuries)”, *Dissections: New Directions in Research on the Middle East and North Africa*, CUNY Graduate Center, May 11.

2018: “In Defense of Damascus: Arabic Prose Topographies, 12th-20th Centires”, *Islam and the Humanities, Assessing the Islamic Past: Historical and Philosophical Interventions*, Brown University, Providence, April 20-21

2017: “The Reinventions of Tradition: Writing Damascus in the Long 16th Century,” The Annual George J. Mead Lecture, Trinity College, Hartford, October 4.

2017: Scholar in Residence at the Dahlem Junior Host Program, the Free University, Berlin. Invited by graduate students to share my scholarly expertise in two workshops: “The Materiality of Manuscripts and Early-Printed Texts” held at the Arabic Rare Books Collection at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, and “Objects as Texts” held at the Museum für Islamische Kunst, Pergrammon Museum, Berlin, June 16-24th.

2017: “Landscaping al-Salihyya: Arabic Prose Topographies 16th-18th Centuries”, World Philologies Seminar, the Free University, Berlin, June 22.

2017: “Damascus Remembered: Walking the City in Time”, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, February 9th.

2017: "The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th-Century Ottoman Levant", Seminar in Arabic Studies, Columbia University, New York, January 26.

2015: "Chained: Orality, Authority, and History", in the Sixth Biennial Hamad Bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art with the theme "By the Pen and What They Write: Writing in Islamic Art and Culture", Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, November 8.

2015: "Between Coffeehouse and Barbershop: Aspects of Early Modern Middle Eastern Cities," Middle Eastern History Seminar, Holy Cross, Worcester, October 26

2015: "The Barber of Damascus: The Social in the Textual", Historiography Seminar, Center of Near Eastern Studies, UCLA, April 7.

2015: "Contested Landscapes: Prose Topographies of Damascus in the Medieval Period", Cartography Seminar, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, April 1.

2015: "Ceci n'est pas Damascus: Arabic Prose Topographies of Damascus", Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Lecture Series, MIT, March 16.

2013: "Between Coffeehouse and Barbershop: Aspects of Early Modern Middle Eastern Cities," The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, October 2.

2012: "The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in 18th-Century Syria," Seminar on the History of the Book, Harvard University, December 2.

2012: "The Suppressions of al-Nahda: How a 19th-Century Scholar Edited Out an 18th-Century Barber," Yale Arabic Colloquium and Ottoman and Turkish Studies, Yale University, New Haven, April 11.

2011: "The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th-Century Ottoman Levant". Ottoman Studies Seminar, New York University, Nov. 10.

2011: "Palatial Residences in 18th-Century Damascus," in "International Network, Global Commodities: The Material Culture of Early Modern Cultures", Bilgi University, Istanbul, September 15-16.

2011: "The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th-Century Ottoman Levant", Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, May 23.

2011: "The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th-Century Ottoman Levant", Bosphorus University, Istanbul, May 18.

2011: "The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th-Century Ottoman Levant", Bilgi University, Istanbul, May 10.

2011: "The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th-Century Ottoman Levant", History Seminar 9, Sabanci University, Istanbul, April 26.

2010: "New Voices from the Street: The Levantine Eighteenth Century Reconsidered." Inhatat (Decline): Its Influence and Persistence in the Writing of Arab Cultural History American University of Beirut, Beirut, Dec. 7-11.

2008: "The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the Eighteenth-Century Levant." Bosphorus University, Istanbul, June 11.

2010: "The Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the 18th-Century Levant" (an exposition of a book-in-progress), Sohbet-i Osmani (Ottoman Conversation), Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, Feb. 11.

Discussions and Responses in Academic Meetings

2018: Discussant at the panel, "Constructing Muslim Identity in the post-9/11 World," Islam in the Post-Obama Era, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, March 23-24.

2017: Discussant at the workshop, "Spatial Thought in Islamicate Society," University of Tuebingen, Tuebingen, March 30-April 1.

2016: Discussant in panel, "Text and Technology: Exploring the Materiality of Arabic Periodicals," Middle East Studies Association Meeting, Boston, November 17-20.

2013: With Ariel Saltzman "Comment on Kate Fleet and Ebru Boyar, *A Social History of Ottoman Istanbul*", the Great Lakes Ottoman Workshop, Guelph University (Guelph, CA), March 29-31.

2012: Discussant in panels, "Authors and Archives: Transforming Subjectivities in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries" and "Mapping Spaces of Inclusion and Exclusion: Sociability in Ottoman Syria", Middle East Studies Association Meeting, Denver, November 17-20.

2008: Discussant in panel, "Renewal and Reform in the 18th Century," Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Nov. 22-26, 2008.

2007: Respondent to Irene Fatsea, "Builders and Craftsmen in the Founding Phase of Modern Athens: the Illuminating Role of the Building Contract," Workshop, "Migration and the Urban Institutions in the Late Ottoman Reform Period," Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, May 10.

2007: Respondent to Tetsuya Sahara, "the Ottoman City Council and the Beginning of the Modernization of Urban Space in the Balkans," Workshop, "Migration and the Urban Institutions in the Late Ottoman Reform Period," Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, May 10.

2007: Discussant, translator and simultaneous interpreter, "New Trends in Egyptian Historiography of the Ottoman Period: A German-Egyptian Encounter," Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, March 14.

2006: Respondent to Uwe Wirth, "Circulating Manuscripts: the Genre of Editorial Fiction," Berliner Seminar, "Cultural Mobility in Near Eastern Literatures: Circulating Genres/Traveling Traditions," Working Group Modernity and Islam, April 17.

2004: Respondent to Samuel D. Albert, "And was Jerusalem builded here...", Centre for Canadian Architecture, Study Centre Seminar Series, Montreal, March 19, 2004.

Presentations at Conferences and Workshops

2019: "The Present Author of an Absent Document," Ghost Writers: Scribes, Notaries, and Invisible Makers, Boston College, May 10-11.

2017: "How the Citizens of Damascus Painted Their City in Words," Conference on "Muslims and the City" North American Association for Islamic and Muslim Studies, Boston College, Sept. 30.

2016: "Mapping Damascus' Hinterland: Ibn Tulun's Cartographic Defense," Seminar on "Cartography: Poetics, Theory, Translation", American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Harvard University, March 18.

- 2014: "Representations of al-Ghūṭa, 12th-20th Centuries" in Roundtable "Place and Space in Middle East History: Bridging the "Modern/Premodern" Divide", Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 23.
- 2013: "Ibn `Asakir's Children: Narrations of Damascus from the 12th to the 18th Centuries", Middle East Studies Association Meeting, New Orleans, October 10.
- 2013: "A Book for Tenure: Ibn Kannan and his Topography of the Levant" in Radical Readings: A Workshop on Early Modern Artifacts, 1400-1800, Boston College, May 2-3, 2013
- 2012: "Imagined in the Image of the Other: Narrations of Damascus and Constantinople/Istanbul", History Department Seminar, Boston College, September 14.
- 2012: "In Other Worlds? The Geographical Visions of 18th-Century Syrian Chroniclers," in "Living Empire: Ottoman Identities in Transition, 1700-1850", McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, April 21.
- 2011: "'The Worst Affliction is the One that Makes You Laugh': Humour and Politics in Arabic Literary Genres," in "History of Emotions: Emotions East and West," Sabanci University, Istanbul, September 29-October 1.
- 2011: "The Disorders of a New Order: The Levantine Eighteenth Century Reconsidered," in "Eighteenth-Century Crossroads in Ottoman Studies", Central European University, Budapest, May 26-28.
- 2011: "The Solomonic Compromise: The Umayyad Mosque, Ibn `Asakir (d. 1165), and Evliya Çelebi (d.1682)." Panel on "Stories of Place: Building Narratives, Sacred Sites, and Topographies of Power," RCAC Fellows Mini-Symposium, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Istanbul, March 25.
- 2010: "Imagined in the Image of the Other: Narrations of Damascus and Istanbul." Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations – Koç University, Istanbul, October 13.
- 2010: "The Flaneur of Damascus: The Topographies of Ibn Kannan (d. 1740)." Panel on "Public Culture and the Experience of Modernity in Ottoman Cities," World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, Barcelona, July 22, 2010.
- 2009: "The Dead and the City: The Limits of Hospitality in the Early-Modern Levant", Conference on Interreligious Hospitality, Boston College, March 13-14.
- 2009: "Traveling Women", a presentation for the inauguration of the exhibition, "The Book as Art: Artists' Books from the National Museum of Women in the Arts", McCullen Museum, Boston College, February 14.
- 2007: "Sacred Language and Cultural Decline: Were the Arabs too backward to Print Books?" Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, Berlin, June 11.
- 2007: "Damascus in the 18th Century: What Kind of Civic Sphere?" Ottoman Urban Studies Seminar, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, January 22.
- 2006: "Authority and History: the Arabic Chronicle until the 18th Century." Panel on, "Genres of Political and Cultural Expression in the Modern Arab World," Middle Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston, November 19.
- 2006: "Authority and History: the Arabic Chronicle until the 18th Century." Berliner Seminar,

Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, October 18.

2006: "Is the History of Print Culture in the Middle East a Problem?" Workshop "To Print or Not to Print? Knowledge Diffusion in the 18th and 19th Century Middle East," Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, May 6-7.

2005: "Nouveau Literacy in 18th-Century Damascus: A Barber among the Scholars," Berliner Seminar, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, 2 November.

2005: "Nouveau Literacy in 18th-Century Damascus: A Barber among the Scholars," panel on "Circulating Genres: Literature, History, and the Politics of Translation," 12th Annual Congress of die Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Voderer Orient, Hamburg, 27-29 October.

2005: "In Other Worlds: The Geographies of Chroniclers in the 18th Century Levant," Representations of Ottoman Imperial Space: Maps, Texts, Historiographies, Center for International and Comparative Studies and Department of History, Northwestern University, 4-5 March.

2004: "An Introduction to the History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict," Dawson College, Montreal, April 13. (For course "Twentieth Century History")

2004: "A Room of His Own: The 'History' of the Barber of Damascus (fl. 1762)," The Montreal Scholars' Circle, January 30, 2004.

2002: "A Room of His Own: The 'History' of the Barber of Damascus (fl. 1762)," Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, November 8, 2002.

2000: "Struggling for Tenure in the 18th century Academy: Autobiography in the Chronicle of Muhammad Ibn Kannan of Damascus," Seminar on "Control, Mobility and Self-Fulfillment: Learning and Culture in the Islamic World since the Middle Ages," Department of Arabic Studies and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, American University in Cairo, 13-15 April.

1997: "*Tajawuz al-maydan al-dhukuri: qasidat Layla al-Akhyaliyyah*," ("Trespassing the Male Domain: the *qasida* of Layla al-Akhyaliyyah"), Arabic Language Seminar, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, March 18, 1997.

1995: "Inter-School Polemics in the Formation of Early Islamic Law," panel on "Initiatives and Reformulations in Islamic Law and Theology," Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, 6-10 December.

1993: "An Introduction to Islam", delivered to senior officers of the New York City Police Department, April 1993.

Conferences, Workshop and Lectures Organized

2006: Organized a workshop "To Print or Not to Print? Knowledge Diffusion in the 18th and 19th Century Arabic, Turkish, and Persian-Speaking Worlds," Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, 5-6 May.

2005: Organized a Mellon-funded conference on "Rethinking Culture in the Ottoman Eighteenth Century", Princeton University, 15-16 January.

2004: Organized an endowed lecture series "The Saleh Sassoon Mahlab Lecture Series on the History of Jewish-Muslim Relations." One lecture annually, starting Fall, 2004.

Skill Acquisition

2019: "Islamic Archeology Intensive Course", Princeton University, August 19-23, 2019.

2014: "Presenting Data and Information" One-day course in data visualization with Edward Tufte, March 12, 2013.

Research Languages

Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Ottoman, English, French, German.

Research Internships

1995: September-December. Research Assistant, Department of Islamic Textiles, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

1992: June-August. Research Assistant to Prof. Sadeddin Ibrahim, Arab Thought Forum (Muntada al-Fikr al-'Arabi), Amman, Jordan.

TEACHING

Courses

Lecture and Undergraduate Courses

Diversity in a Muslim World (HIST1703)

Podcasting the Ottomans (HIST2155)

The Study and Writing of History: Social Biography (HIST3199)

Making History Public: Monuments and Monumentality (HIST5502)

Islamic Spain/al-Andalus/Seppharad: Text, Image, Monument (HS 334/FA 226.01/IC 226.01). With Pamela Berger.

The History and Historiography of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (HS344)

Islamic Civilization (HS 171/TH174/FA174). With Jonathan Bloom/Sheila Blair

The Study and Writing of History: "The Arabian Nights" from Baghdad to Hollywood. (HS 300-66)

Odysseys in the European and Islamic Traditions (HS 365). With Sarah Ross

Summer Abroad Courses (Summer 2009)

The Jordan Connection: The History and Culture of the Middle East from Ancient to Modern Times (Summer 2013)

Colloquia

Introduction to Doctoral Studies (HIST 8000)

The Big Picture: The Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean (HS 824)

Spaces and Places in History (HS 832)

The City in the Pre-Modern Eastern Mediterranean (HS 661)

The Islamic Mediterranean (HIST 7315)

Reading and Research Courses

Fall 2016: Social Biography

With Nora Lessersohn and Basil Mathai

Fall 2016: Ottoman History

With Gorkem Ozizmirli

Fall 2014: Medieval Islamic History

With Gabrielle Rowand, Robin Reich, Matt Delvaux, Gorkem Ozizmerli, Maariyah Lateef

Fall 2009: Introduction to Ottoman Provincial History

With Jefferey Dyer, Jenna Larson, and Clayton Trutor

Fall 2008: The Biographical Dictionary in the Islamic Tradition

With Regan Eby

Nationalism and Identity in Georgia (the Caucasus)

With William Sadd, Undergraduate

Spring 2008. Pilgrimage and Shrine Veneration in the Islamic Tradition
With Austin Mason

Advising

Ph. D. Students

Current: Gorkem Ozizmerli, Ottoman History.

Jeffery Dyer, "The Ottomans in the Age of Empire." Co-advisor with Prasanna Parthasarathi.

2019-2020: Elif Sezer, PhD student in Ottoman History, Visiting Scholar.

M.A. Students

2015-2017: Nicholas Misukanis, Ottoman History

2015-2017: Basil Mathai, Modern Middle East

2014-2015: Maariyah Lateef

2008-2009: Jenna Larson-Boyle, "From Natural History to Orientalism: The Russell Brothers on the Cusp of Empire"

Honors Theses Advising

Spring 2019: Rebecca Reilly, "The End of the World as We Know it: Wonders and the Global Imagination in Two Eleventh-Century Manuscripts."

Spring 2011: Badreddine Ahtchi, "The Harraga Phenomenon in Libya, Morocco, and Algeria"

Spring 2009: Alexandra Saieh: "The Palestinian Issue in Post-Oslo Palestinian School Textbooks"

Fall 2009: Stuart Pike: "Changing Palestinian and Israeli National Identities through Recent Palestinian and Israeli films"

Sandra Williams: "Contemporary Middle Eastern Art through the Works of Three Multi-Media Artists"

Reader and Examiner

Gabrielle Rowand, MA Candidate, field in Islamic Spain

Chad Landarum, MA Candidate, field in Islamic Spain

Matthew Delvaux, PhD Candidate, field in Islamic History

Whitney Abernathy, PhD Candidate, field in Islamic History

Christopher Riedel, PhD Candidate, field in Islamic History

Academic and Teaching Recognition and Awards

2012: Professor of the Year, Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society (BC Chapter).

2012: Faculty Appreciation Banquet, ALC/GLC student initiative.

2009: Professor of the Year Award, Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society (BC Chapter).

2009: Faculty Appreciation Banquet, an AHANA-GLBT student initiative.

2004: Syrian Studies Association Best Published Article for 2004.

1992-2001: President's Fellow, Columbia University, (on leave of absence 1999).

Summer 1997: Mellon Summer Language Study Grant, Middle East Institute, Columbia University (attended an intensive course in Turkish at Ankara University TOMER Language Teaching Center, Istanbul).

1990-1991: Cultural Scholarship, American University in Cairo.

SERVICE

To the Community

Summer 2013: Co-teacher, and co-guide in a Primary Source-organized, NEH-funded educational trip in Turkey for k-12 teachers. The course, "Ottoman Cultures: Society, Politics, and Trade in the Turkish Empire, 1299-1922" took place in Summer 2013.

In addition, I helped writing the grant, coordinating with academics in Turkey, and drawing up the syllabus.

To the Profession

Editorial Board Memberships

2016- Editorial Board for the book series, *Microhistories*, Routledge

2016- Editorial Board for the *Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient*

2019- Editorial Board for *Philological Encounters*

Review and Adjudication Committees

2019: Book Manuscript Review, Stanford University Press.

2019: External Reviewer for *Philological Encounters*.

2019: The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Social Science Consultant.

2018: ACLS Dissertation Completion Awards.

2017: Book Manuscript Review, Brill Publishers.

2017: Book Manuscript Review, Cambridge University Press

2016: Tenure Review, Claremont-McKenna College

2016: Book Manuscript Review, Stanford University Press.

2012: Tenure Review for a colleague at Colorado College

2011: External reviewer for *Journal of Arabic Literature*.

2008: External reviewer for the Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship or the year 2008-2009.

2007: One of five international internal reviewers of proposal to launch the Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies. Submitted to the "Excellence Initiative" funded by German Federal and State Governments. Grant awarded.

2007: External reviewer for *History Compass*.

2005: External reviewer for *Journal of Urban History*.

To Boston College

2019: Search Committee for the Norma Jean Calderwood Chair of Islamic Art History, Fine Arts Department. Advisory Member.

2018: Advanced Study Grant. Reviewer.

2017-now: Academic Integrity Committee, the Graduate School.

2017-now: Mock Seminar, Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program.

2016: Search Committee for Librarian - Digital Scholarship and History Liaison

2015: Search Committee for a Post-Doc in Digital Humanities

2012- now Board, Institute for Liberal Arts, Boston College

2008- Advisory Board, Islamic Civilization and Societies

2008-2010: Advisory Board, International Programs

To the Department of History

2017-2018: Graduate Program Director

2017: Junior Faculty Review Committee: Penelope Ismay

2015: Search Committee for an open-rank position in US Environmental History

2015: Junior Faculty Review Committee: Ling Zhang

2013: Conceived and launched, along with "The Big Picture" graduate seminar students, the Human Geography Project of mapping out diasporic communities in the medieval and early modern periods.

2012-2013: History Workshop Seminar Committee

2012: Search Committee for a tenure-track position in African History

2008-2010: Phi Alpha Theta (History Honors Society) Advisor

2008-2009: Undergraduate Elective Committee

Membership of Professional Associations

Middle East Studies Association, Syrian Studies Association, American Historical Association, Middle East Medievalists.

Volunteer Work

Summer 1991: Jordan Coordinator, Harvard International Study Team examining the effects of the 1991 Gulf War on Iraqi civilians, August-September 1991. Responsible for recruiting a team of about 30 Jordanian professionals, surveyors and translators, and for organizing and co-supervising their 2-week long fieldwork in Iraq.