

Tsolin Nalbantian

University Lecturer, Modern Middle Eastern History
Department of Middle Eastern Studies
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EMPLOYMENT

Dumanian Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations,
University of Chicago (Winter 2019)

Assistant Professor, Leiden Institute for Area Studies, Leiden University (Fall 2011-present)

Lecturer, Faculty of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Fall 2010-Spring 2011)

Arabic Instructor, Middle East, South Asian and African Studies (MESAAS), Columbia
University (Summer 2004-2006)

Arabic Instructor, Foreign Languages and Literatures, City College of New York (Fall 2005)

Teaching Fellow, Middle Eastern and Asian history, Columbia University (Fall 2004-Fall 2006,
Spring 2010)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS), Columbia University, New
York, NY (February 2011)

Dissertation: *Fashioning Armenians in Lebanon 1946-1958*

Dissertation Advisor: Rashid Khalidi, D.Phil.

M.Phil. (May 2006)

Fields for qualifying exams: 1) Nationalism in the Middle East; 2) Ethnographies of the
Nation; 3) Diaspora and minority populations in the Middle East

M.A. in Near East Studies and Journalism, New York University, New York, NY (May 2003)

B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, George Washington University, Washington, DC (May 1999)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Contemporary Middle Eastern History; Nationalism in the Middle East, Codification of
Identities, Minorities and their Relationship vis-à-vis the Nation-State, Diasporas in the
Middle East; Syria and Lebanon in the 20th century.

BA Courses:

The History of Contemporary Iran

History of the Modern Middle East

Politics and Islam

Politics, Ideologies, and Societies in the Middle East

Diasporas and Minorities in the Middle East
The World Since 1492
Islam, the Middle East, and the West
Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict
The Middle East in the 20th Century

MA Courses:

Theories and Methods in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies
Developments in the Middle East: Nationalism and Communal Identity

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals, Edited Volumes, and E-zines

- “Armenians in the Middle East” in *Routledge Handbook of Minorities in the Middle East* (forthcoming June 2018, Routledge, London).
- “Understandings of ‘Repatriation’ in the Armenian Literary Scene in Lebanon in 1945-1947,” *Les Arméniens du Liban: Cent ans de presence*, University of St. Joseph Press, Beirut, Lebanon, (2017), pp. 85-106.
- “Articulating Power through the Parochial” *Mashriq & Mahjar* 2(2013), pp. 41-72.
- “Lebanese Power Struggles and Fashioning “Armenian” Space: 1957-1958,” *MESA Review of Middle East Studies* 47:2 (2013), pp. 218-227.
- “Going Beyond Overlooked Populations in Lebanese Historiography: The Armenian Case,” *History Compass* 11:10 (2013), pp. 821-832.
- “Breaking House Rules: Hoodies, Hijabs, and Belonging in the Netherlands,” *Jadaliyya* e-zine (17 May 2015)
http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/21647/breaking-house-rules_hoodies-hijabs-and-belonging-
- “Batal: Fighting for Truth, Justice, and the Armenian Way,” *Jadaliyya* e-zine (6 December 2012)
http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/8831/batal_fighting-for-truth-justice-and-the-armenian-

Book Reviews, Translations, and Other Publications

- Review of Samir Khalaf, *Lebanon Adrift: From Battleground to Playground* Review in *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 47(2): 399-401 (2015).
- “Housing Archives: When Buildings Become Part of the Record” *Ibraaz*, Critical Forum on Visual Culture in the Middle East and North Africa, November 2013.
- “In Serving Created Culture” *Ibraaz*, Critical Forum on Visual Culture in the Middle East and North Africa, May 2013.
- Dove in Free Flight* a collection of poetry by Faraj Bayraqdar, translator as part of the New York Translation Collective. Published by Beyond Baroque Press in Los Angeles (forthcoming 2014). Previously published in “Bomb” magazine, Fall 2004 issue, and in the online magazine for International Literature *Words Without Borders*.
- Review of Nicola Migliorino, *(Re)Constructing Armenia in Lebanon and Syria: Ethno-Cultural Diversity and the State in the Aftermath of a Refugee Crisis*, in *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter (SSA)*: Vol. 14, No. 1 (2008).

SERIES EDITOR

Series co-editor, *Critical, Connected Histories*, together with Nira Wickramasinghe (Leiden University), Leiden University Press.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Leiden University Global Interactions Seed Grant, together with Irial Glynn (Leiden University; 2016-2017).

Innovational Research Incentives Scheme Veni Grant, The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) (2014-2018)

Marie Curie Career Integrations Grant (CIG), European Commission (2012-2016)

Zohrab Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University (Fall 2003-2006, 2009; Spring 2004-2005, 2010)

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship, Columbia University (Summer 2004, 2009)

Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation (2007-2008)

FLAS Dissertation Fellowship in Arabic, Columbia University (2007-2008) (Declined)

Fulbright-Hays Fellowship (Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad), US Department of Education (2006-2007)

FLAS Dissertation Fellowship in Arabic, Columbia University (2006-2007) (Declined)

Fulbright Fellowship (Institute of International Education), US Department of State (2006-2007) (Declined)

FLAS Fellowship in Arabic, New York University (2002-2003 Academic Year and Summer 2002)

Graduate Student Fellowship, New York University (2001-2002)

Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), Cairo, Egypt (2000-2001)

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION

Invited Speaker

“The Armenian Civil War in Beirut,” *Amsterdam Centre for Urban History*, University of Amsterdam (May 2018).

“Bearing Witness to Commemoration: Marking the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide,” *Transnational American Studies*, American University in Beirut (January 2016).

“‘Repatriation’ and the Attempt to Correct the Armenian Minority Condition,” The Université de Saint Joseph in Beirut, Lebanon, (May 2015).

“Armenian Nation Building through Sport: The Armenian Olympiad Before and After the Armenian Genocide,” *Crossing the Centennial: The Historiography of the Armenian Genocide Re-Evaluated*, University of Nebraska (March 2015).

“Trans-state-al Productions at Sea: The Armenian Heritage Cruise in the Caribbean,” *Transnational American Studies*, American University in Beirut (January 2014).

“The Armenian Olympiad in the Mashriq: Nation Building Within the Syrian and Lebanese Mandates” *The Mashriq in the Age of Late Imperialism: The Mandates in Global Perspective*, Princeton University (September 2013).

“The Lebanonization of the American Armenians: 1933-1958” *Shifting Borders: America and the Middle East*, American University in Beirut (January 2012).

“Placing Egypt within a Global History” (The Sahin Seminar), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA (December 2011).

- “How to Make a Revolution: the Case of Egypt,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA (December 2011).
- “The Ever-Traveling Armenian Nation(s): Comparative Cruises, Destination Yerevan vs. Cancun,” American University of Beirut (AUB), Beirut, Lebanon (January 2011).
- The People Demand the Fall of the (British) Regime!: The Enduring Legacy of British Imperial Rule in Egypt,” Leiden University, Netherlands (March 2011).
- Contemporary Diasporas: The Armenian Nation Afloat,” Tufts University, Medford, MA (October 2010).
- “The Mapping of Lebanon through Film,” Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (April 2010).
- “Behind the Headlines: The Fashioning of a nation, an Armenian, and his enemy in the midst of the electoral crisis of the Cilician Catholicosate in Antelias, Beirut, 1956,” UCLA Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies, Los Angeles, CA (February 2009).

Additional Conference Papers Given

- “Traveling Sectarianism: The Armenian Church in Lebanon in America” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX (November 2018).
- “Bearing Witness to Commemoration: Marking the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide” Memory Studies Association Annual Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark (December 2017).
- “The 1958 (Armenian) Civil War in Beirut” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (November 2016).
- “Researching Lebanon: The Newly Emerging Archival Terrain,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO (November 2015).
- “Citizenship and National Belonging: Lebanese Press Coverage of Armenian ‘Repatriation,’ 1945-1948” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (November 2014).
- “The Fashioning of the Armenian through Sport in Lebanon and the Greater MENA Region,” Mediterranean Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, Italy and Mersin, Turkey (March 2013).
- “Cosmopolitanism and the Periphery: Zahle, Qamishle, and Dayr al-Zawr,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO (November 2012).
- “The ‘National’ Pact and Its Construction of Minorities in Lebanon” American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (January 2012).
- “Repatriation” and the Attempt to Correct the Armenian Diasporic Condition,” *Contextualising Community: Diasporas of the Modern Middle East*, University of Edinburgh (October 2011).
- “The Creation of the Armenian Soviet National in Lebanon, 1946-1949,” American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (January 2011).
- The Nation Afloat,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA (November 2010).
- “The Fashioning of the Armenian Other within the National Space of Lebanon,” Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (April 2010).
- “From Beirut to Jerusalem and Back: The Loss and Recovery of the Right Hand of St. Gregory,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (November 2009).

- “The Fashioning of the Armenian,” Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Workshop, Columbia University (November 2009).
- “Multiple Homelands, Multiple Nations? Beirut’s Armenian Community in 1946,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (November 2008).
- “Local productions with transnational repercussions: The Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia,” Mediterranean Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, Italy (March 2008).

Conference and Panel Convener

- “Practicing Sectarianism in Lebanon” (Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX; November 2018)
- “Beyond ‘Integration’: Towards a Development of a New Paradigm for Refugees” (co-organized with Irial Glynn, Leiden University, May 2017)
- “Ports of Hope and Disaster: Human Holding Patterns,” (Leiden University, December 2016).
- “Between Folklore, Literature, and Politics: Circulation of Narratives in the Eastern Mediterranean” (Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of North America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA; November 2016).
- “Yemen as a Battleground: Shifting Power Dynamics in the Gulf and Beyond” (Leiden University, September 2016)
- “Intervening in the Middle East: Redux?” (Leiden University, December 2014)
- “After the Degree: How to Work with the Middle East” (Leiden University, December 2013)
- “Iraq Ten Years On: From US Occupation to Systematized Sectarianism” (Leiden University, June 2013)
- “A Revolution in Progress: The Case of Egypt” (Leiden University, March 2013)
- “Unrest in the Sham: Reflecting on Authoritarianism and Resistance in Syria” (Leiden University, May 2012)

Public Lectures

- “Refugees and Marginalized Communities in Lebanon and the Region” (Part of a panel entitled “Reacting to Refugees in the Netherlands” Leiden, January 2016)
 - “Depolarizing the Past” (Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation, Rotterdam, August 2015)
 - “Is Lebanon a Ticking Time Bomb?” (DeBalie, Amsterdam, March 2014).
 - “NIOD Now: ‘Regime Change in the Middle East – Civil War in Syria’” (De Balie, Amsterdam, December 2012)
 - “The Protestor in the Middle East: Iran” (Leiden University, May 2012)
 - “The Arab-Israeli Conflict” (Leiden University, April 2012)
 - “The Fashioning of Armenian Authority in Cold-War Lebanon, 1956-1958” (Leiden University, April 2012)
 - “Palestinian Hunger Strikers in Israel” (Leiden University, March 2012)
- Roundtable participant in *Postcolonial Dialogue(s), Crossed and Parallel Identities in Former Colonizing and Colonised Societies*, (University of Amsterdam, November 2011)

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Associated Faculty, Program of International Studies, Leiden University (2011-present)

Associated Faculty, Program in Turkish Studies, Leiden University (2011-present)
Associated Faculty, Program in Arabic Studies, Leiden University (2011-present)
Member, Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (LUCIS), Leiden University (2011-present)
Member, Netherlands Interuniversity School for Islamic Studies (NSIS), (2012-present)

Department and Institute Service

BA advisor (2011-present)
MA advisor (2011-present)
PhD advisor (2013-present)
Leiden Institute for Area Studies (LIAS) Advisory Council (2011-present)
MA Admissions Committee (Member), Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Leiden University (2012-present)
Opleidingscommissie (Member), Department of Middle Eastern Studies, (2013-present)
Program Coordinator, Spring Study Abroad Program in Turkey, Leiden University (2013)
Search Committee for the Tenure Track Assistant Professor Position in Modern Middle East History (2012-2013).
Search Committee for the Tenure Track Assistant Professor Position in International Studies (2012-2013)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association (AHA)
Armenian Studies Association (ASA)
Association of American Geographers (AAG)
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
Selection Committee for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program for the Middle East and North Africa (2008-9)

LANGUAGES

English (native), Armenian (native), Arabic (advanced), French (high intermediate), Dutch (intermediate)