

ELHAM MIRESHGHI
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2022- Assistant Instructional Professor (second term)
Social Sciences Collegiate Division & Divinity School
University of Chicago
- 2018- Lecturer (full-time)
Social Sciences Collegiate Division & Divinity School
University of Chicago
- 2016-18 Lecturer (part-time)
Anthropology Department & Divinity School
University of Chicago

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology
University of California, Irvine
- 2010 M.A., Cultural Anthropology
University of California, Irvine
- 2006 B.Sc., Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
University of California, Berkeley

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE

- 2007- Patent Agent (Certified to prosecute patent applications in the U.S.)

BOOK IN PREPARATION

The Conditional Gift: Organ Sales and Islamic Governmentality in Iran

PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 Review of *Coming of Age in Iran: Poverty and the Struggle for Dignity* (Manata Hashemi)
International Journal of Middle East Studies
- 2019 Policy-Oriented Fatwas and the Unsettled Morality of Kidney Sales
Science and the Human Person, Contending Modernities research initiative, University of Notre Dame
<https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/global-currents/unsettledmorality/>
- 2013 Money Bodies (with Bill Maurer)
Body/State, edited by Angus Cameron, Jen Dickinson, and Nicole Smith, Ashgate

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

- Kidney Sales, Policy, and Islamic Law: Rethinking the Anthropology of the Fatwa
Revising for resubmission to *American Ethnologist*
- Operable Entrepreneurs: Middle-Class Aspirations, Welfare, and the Medical Imaginary of Kidney Sellers in Iran
In preparation for submission to *Cultural Anthropology*

Trading Remedies: Kidney Sales Beyond the Commodity Frame
In preparation for submission to *American Anthropologist*

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2013 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation
- 2012 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
National Science Foundation
- 2011 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
Wenner-Gren Foundation
- 2010 Research Award
UC Irvine Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate:

Self, Culture, and Society I-III (2018-present)

Graduate/Undergraduate:

Islamic Jurisprudence, Reason, and the State (2022, 2020)
Public Policy and Bureaucracy (2022)
Islam, Welfare, and Neoliberalism (2019, 2017)
Bodies, Gifts, and Commodities (2019, 2018)
Anthropology of Public Policy (2018)
Islam and Biomedicine (2016)

DISSERTATION & THESIS ADVISING (COMPLETED, * = PRIMARY ADVISOR)

- 2020 A Critique of “Islam and the Cultural Imperative” *
Ali Daoud Smith, MDiv Thesis., University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2020 Unequal Sovereignities and “Equal” Rights *
Yasmeen Azam, MA Thesis, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago

DISSERTATION & THESIS ADVISING (ONGOING)

- 2022- Daniel Scott, PhD candidate, Crown Family School of Social Work, University of Chicago

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (SELECTION)

- 2023 “Putting Fatwas to Work: On the Promotion and Archivalization of Religious Rulings”
Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Meeting, Victoria, BC (May)
- 2022 “Iranian Women’s Uprising”
Invited co-speaker, the Castilleja School (Oct)
- 2022 “Woman Life Freedom”
Invited speaker, School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Nov)
- 2022 What is Islamic Bioethics and How is it Constituted?
“Foundations of Theological Ethics: A Comparative Religious Analysis,” Graduate Class
Guest lecturer, Bioethics Institute, Loyola Marymount University (March)
- 2021 Organ Transplantation and Trading Remedies in the Iranian Context
“Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” Class Guest lecturer, Webster University (November)

- 2019 Conditional Gifts and Trading Remedies, Kidney Sales Beyond the Commodity Frame
American Anthropological Association Annual Conference (November)
- 2019 Exchanging Remedies: Kidney Sales Beyond the Commodity Frame
Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Meeting (March)
- 2018 Dissecting the Ethics of Organ Donation: Paid Kidney Giving in Iran
Invited presentation, Intensive workshop of the Initiative on Islam and Medicine, University of Chicago (September)
- 2017 Of Fatwas and Citadels: Islamic Law, Expertise, and Kidney Sales in Iran
Monday Seminar, Anthropology Department, University of Chicago (March)
- 2016 Ruses of a Lizard: Emergent Ethics and Bureaucratic Tactics in Iran's Kidney Selling Policy
Invited session, American Anthropological Association Annual Conference (November)
- 2016 Of Fatwas and Citadels: Islamic Law, Expertise, and Kidney Sales in Iran
Invited presentation, Islam and Regimes of Evidence conference, University of Chicago (April)
- 2015 The Moral Landscape of Buying and Selling Kidneys
Invited presentation, Intensive workshop of the Initiative on Islam and Medicine, University of Chicago (June)
- 2015 The Making of Shi'a Fatwas on Transplantation and Organ Selling
Invited presentation, Intensive workshop of the Initiative on Islam and Medicine, University of Chicago (June)
- 2014 Lived Experiences of Islamic Bioethics in Muslim Societies
Invited presentation, Intensive workshop of the Initiative on Islam and Medicine, University of Chicago (August)
- 2014 The Interplay between Muslim Organ Donation Attitudes and Fatawa: Commentaries on the Interdisciplinary Nature and Epistemological Challenges of "Islamic" Bioethics (with Aasim Padela)
Third Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion (March)
- 2013 Sacred Knowledges and Expert Opinions: The Making of Fatwas on Kidney Sales in Iran
Iranian Studies Junior Scholars Research Workshop, Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University (May)
- 2013 Sacred Knowledges and Expert Opinions: The Making of Fatwas on Kidney Sales in Iran
Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference (February)
- 2012 Sacred Knowledges, Expert Opinions: Medicine, Jurisprudence, and the Authorization of Kidney Sales in Iran
Invited session, American Anthropological Association Annual Conference (November)
- 2011 Anthropological Perspectives on the Fatwa
University of Religions and Denominations, Qom, Iran (January) (in Persian)
- 2011 Qualitative Research Methods
Invited workshop, University of Religions and Denominations, Qom, Iran (September-October) (in Persian)
- 2010 A Critical Discussion of an Alternative Method for Kidney Donation: The Iranian Model
Conference on Organ Transplantation, UC Berkeley (May)
- 2009 Popular Ethics in the Iranian Model for Kidney Transplants
American Anthropological Association Annual Conference (December)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Journal Reviewer

Journal of Religion, Journal of Islamic Ethics, Law & Social Inquiry

Committee Work

Society for Economic Anthropology, “The Kate Brown Creativity in Research Award”

Advisory Board Member

Summer School on Professionalizing Women in Islamic Studies, En’ekas Organization (2023)

LANGUAGES

Persian: Native

Classical Arabic: Intermediate Reading

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

2021- Hyde Park Refugee Project: Volunteer (actively supporting and mentoring Afghan refugees in Hyde Park and spearheading family evacuation and reunification efforts)