CURRICULUM VITAE

ALIREZA DOOSTDAR
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021- Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and the Anthropology of Religion
Divinity School and the College, The University of Chicago

2012-21 Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and the Anthropology of Religion
Divinity School and the College, The University of Chicago

2012, spr Lecturer in Iranian Studies
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

EDUCATION

2012 Ph.D., Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies
Harvard University

2009 A.M., Social Anthropology
Harvard University

2007 Advanced Arabic Certificate
Sana'a Institute for Arabic Language, Yemen

2004 Ed.M., Technology in Education
Harvard University

2000 B.Sc., Electrical Engineering
University of Tehran

BOOKS

n.d. *Satan Conquered: The Iranian Revolution and Its Demons*
Under advance contract with Princeton University Press

2018 *The Iranian Metaphysicals: Explorations in Science, Islam, and the Uncanny*
Princeton University Press

Winner of the Albert Hourani Book Award, Middle East Studies Association (2018)
Winner of the Vinson Sutlive Book Prize, William & Mary Anthropology Department (2020)

Reviewed in *Los Angeles Review of Books* (Nile Green), *History of Religions* (John L. Modern), *Immanent Frame* (Charles Hirschkind and Kabir Tambar), *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (Kathleen Foody), *Psychoanalysis and History* (Kutluğhan Soyubol), *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (Niloofar Haeri), *Iranian Studies* (Arash Ghajarjazi), *Nova Religio* (Mark Sedgwick), *Aries* (Francesco Piraino), *Correspondences* (Liana Saif), *Political Theology* (Emad Mortazavi), *International Dialogue* (Elise K. Burton), *Reading Religion* (Dan Varisco), *New Arab* (Usman Butt), *Review of Metaphysics* (Jude Dougherty), *Religious Studies Review* (Delbar Khakzad), *The Suryakanta* (Sawyer French)

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

n.d. Reason
Critical Terms for Religious Studies, 2d Edition

2019 Impossible Occultists: Practice and Participation in an Islamic Tradition
American Ethnologist 46(2): 176-89

2019 Hollywood Cosmopolitanisms and the Occult Resonance of Cinema
Journal of Comparative Islamic Studies 13(1-2): 121-49

2018 Varieties of Islamic Social Science
KNOW: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge 2(2): 229-47

2016 Empirical Spirits: Islam, Spiritism, and the Virtues of Science in Iran
Comparative Studies in Society and History 58(2): 322-49

2004 "The Vulgar Spirit of Blogging": On Language, Culture, and Power in Persian Weblogestan
American Anthropologist 106(4): 651-62

COMMENTS, REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS, & ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

2021 Review of *Politics of Rightful Killing: Civil Society, Gender, and Sexuality in Weblogistan* (Sima Shakhsari)
International Journal of Middle East Studies 53(1): 155-57

2020 Response: Moral Authority, Epistemic Authority, and Gender Justice
Multi-Religious Perspectives on a 'Global Ethic': In Search of a Common Morality, edited by Myriam Renaud & William Schweiker, Routledge

2020 Horror Refigured: A Conversation with Morehshin Allahyari
Portable Gray 3(2): 173-80

2020 Review of *Persianate Selves: Memories of Place and Origin Before Nationalism* (Mana Kia)
Critical Inquiry

2019 Afterword: Orienting Evidence
Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, special section on "Islam and Regimes of Evidence" 39(3): 543-45

2017 Review of *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic* (Shahab Ahmed)
Shi'i Studies Review 1(1-2): 277-82

2010 Weblogs
Encyclopedia Iranica

2007 Review of *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran* (Roxanne Varzi)
American Ethnologist 34(4): 4001-3

2007 Internet
Encyclopedia of Islam in the United States, edited by Jocelyne Cesari, Greenwood

EDITING PROJECTS

2019 Islam and Regimes of Evidence (with Yunus Doğan Telliel)
Special section of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 39(3): 495-545

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

2020 The Strange Tale of Occultism in the Islamic Republic of Iran
Interview with Nile Green, *Akbar's Chamber*

2020 Metaphysics and the Occult in Iran
Interview with Rustin Zarkar and Ali Karjoo-Ravary, *Ajam Podcast*

2019 Haunted Ramadan: Ghosts, Devils, and the Soul of Iranian Television
Ajam Media Collective

2019 Invited twitter threads on Iran and Global Spirituality (Iranian Spiritism 1, 2, and 3; Rise of a global faith healer; "The Secret" & New Age self-help; Iranian anti-Satanism & American Evangelicalism)
Historians of Iran twitter collective

2019 Anthropology of the Occult
Interview with Rachel Carbonara, University of Chicago CMES, *Ventures Podcast*

2018 New Books in Islamic Studies: The Iranian Metaphysicals
Interview with SherAli Tareen, *New Books Network Podcast*

2018 Remote Sensing
CSSH *In Dialogue* forum on "new approaches to occult and magical things," with Graham Jones, Larisa Jasarevic, Alaina Lemon, and Andrew Shryock

2018 Book Talk: The Iranian Metaphysicals
Interview with Micah Hughes, *The Maydan*

2018 On Epistemic Possibility: A Reply to Hirschkind and Tambar
The Immanent Frame. Book forum on *The Iranian Metaphysicals*, part of a series on "Science and the soul: New inquiries into Islamic ethics"

2017 Occultism and New Age Take Off in Iran
Interview with *Religion Dispatches*

2014 How Not to Understand ISIS
Sightings. Reprinted in *openDemocracy*, *Jadaliyya*, *History News Network*, *Aftenposten Innsikt*, and *Sightings: Reflections on Religion in Public Life* (2019, edited by Brett Colasacco). Translated to Dutch (*De Wereld Morgen*), Japanese (*Gendai Shiso*), Persian (*Shargh*), and Turkish (*Zaman*)

2013 Portrait of an Iranian Witch
The New Inquiry 21: 36-43

2009 A Nation Divided
Al-Ahram Weekly

2009 Cheeseburgers and Sharks: Iran's Election Campaigns in Full Swing
The Dawn Blog

CREATIVE WRITING

2020 Lessons From the Qur'an as the Bombs Fell on Tehran
Literary Hub. Translated to Arabic (*Oman Daily*)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS (SELECTION)

2020 Vinson Sutlive Book Prize
William & Mary Anthropology Department

2018 Albert Hourani Book Award
Middle East Studies Association

2016-18 Faculty Research Grant
Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, University of Chicago

2011 Presidential Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Harvard University

2009 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
Wenner-Gren Foundation

2008 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University

2007 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University

2007 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Grant for advanced Arabic study in Yemen

2006 Graduate Society Fellowship for Summer Pre-dissertation Research
Harvard University

2005 Presidential Fellowship
Harvard University

INVITED LECTURES (SELECTION)

2020 Satan Conquered: The Iranian Revolution and Its Demons
Iran Colloquium, Yale MacMillan Center (October 16)

2020 Sutlive Book Prize Lecture
William & Mary (October 1)

2019 God, Revolution, and the Unthinkable
Workshop on "The Iranian Revolution and its Disciplinary Aftereffects," University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (February 15)

2018 Signs of Satan in Iran: Hollywood, Cosmopolitanism, Paranoia
"New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies" series, Northwestern University (November 6), and Brown University (September 19)

2018 Islam, Science, and the Gender of Reason
Inaugural lecture in the "Islamic Encounters" series, McGill University (October 9)

2018 The Iranian Metaphysicals: Spiritual Empiricism and the Gender of Reason
UCLA (May 14), and NYU (April 19)

2018 The Intimate Republic: Piety and Objectification in an Islamic State
Columbia University (April 20), UC Santa Cruz (March 14), Stanford University (March 2), and UC Davis (February 26)

2017 Islam, Spiritual Empiricism, and the Gender of Reason in Iran
Northwestern University (February 27), and Stanford University (January 23)

2016 Moral Reform and Scientific Virtue: Spiritism in Twentieth Century Iran
Duke University (March 23)

2014 Shi'i Hagiography, Moral Anxiety, and Worldly Desire in Iran
Friday Lecture Series, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago (February 14)

2013 Islam, Science, and the Empirical Spirit in Iran
Zygon Center for Religion and Science, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (September 23)

2013 Islam, Authenticity, and the Vicissitudes of Abstraction
Keynote Address, 10th Annual Duke-UNC Islamic Studies Graduate Conference (February 16)

2011 Iman va 'eyniyat (Faith and Objectivity)
University of Religions and Denominations, Qom, Iran (June 24) (in Persian)

CONFERENCES, PANELS, & EVENTS ORGANIZED

2016 Islam and Regimes of Evidence (with Yunus Doğan Telliel)
University of Chicago, April 28-30

2015 Studying Religion in Iran: Between University and Seminary
University of Chicago, November 12

2011 Leaks, Lies, and Red Tape: State Secrecy and its Discontents (with Darryl Li)
Invited Session of the American Ethnological Society and the Association of Political and Legal Anthropology, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal, November 18

COURSES TAUGHT

Problems in the Anthropology of Religion (two-quarter sequence)
Power, Identity, and Resistance II (Winter section of College Social Science Core sequence)
Ethnographic Methods
Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion (with Dan Arnold)
Religion, Reason, and the State
Islam and Modern Science
Science/Fiction/Theory (with Hussein Ali Agrama)
Ethnographies of the Muslim World
Sovereignty, Intimacy, and the Body
Feminism and Islamic Studies
Witchcraft
Islam, Media, and Mediation
Moral Geographies
Shi'ism and Modernity
Is Modernity Disenchanted?
Magic, Science, and Religion
The Occult in the Islamic World (with James Robinson)
Readings in Al-Mizan, Allameh Tabataba'i's Qur'anic Exegesis
Walter Benjamin (with Bruce Lincoln)
Iran After the 1979 Revolution
The History of Shi'ism: Drama, Ritual, and Memory

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

2021 Tea as Mentor: A Conversation on Spiritual Care and Beyond*
Lixin Zheng, MDiv Thesis, Divinity School

2021 Quantum Regimes: Genealogies of Virtual Matter and Healing the New Age Body
Torang Asadi, PhD Diss., Department of Religious Studies, Duke University

2020 Visions of Military Authority: Sacred Servants in Post-Revolutionary Egypt
Menna Khalil, PhD Diss., Anthropology Department

2019 Mohammad Mojtahed Shabestari: The Search for New Modes of Being Muslim
Saman Fazeli, MA Thesis, Department of Religious Studies, University of Colorado Boulder

2019 New Analyses of Iranian Revolutionary Art*
Daniel Morrison, BA Thesis, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

2018 The Networks of a Thai Buddhist Monastery: Communities, Material Culture, and Contemporary Practice
Kelly Meister Brawn, PhD Diss., Divinity School

2018 Cartography of Courtship: Space, Community, and Self in Amman, Jordan
Lindsey Conklin, PhD Diss., Department of Comparative Human Development

2018 Higher Education for Women from the Late Qajar Dynasty to the Islamic Republic of Iran: Changes and Aspirations*
Tang Tian, MA Thesis, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2018 Shahrzad and a Woman's Struggle Against Patriarchy*
Nilofar Mehdizadeh Saraj, MA Thesis, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2017 Thinking Through Translation: Translators, Publishers, and the Formation of Publics in Contemporary Iran."
Hosna Sheikholeslami, PhD Diss., Department of Anthropology, Yale University

2017 The Horror of Ayotzinapa: Occult Violence and Epistemic Conditions of Governance*
Samuel Law, MA Thesis, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS)

2017 *Sanguma* Talk: Catholic and Lutheran Sorcery-Related Violence Discourse in Papua New Guinea*
Rachel Apone, MA Thesis, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS)

2017 Thinking About Reason in Religious Traditions: Tradition and the Hermeneutics of Suspicion*
Salman Ahmad Hayat, MA Thesis, Master of Arts Program in the Humanities (MAPH)

2017 Reform, Islam, and Secularity in Pakistan: Genealogies of the New "Civilizing" Mission*
Maham Mansoor, MA Thesis, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS)

2016 On the Edge: Memory, Trauma, and Resilience among Afghanistan's Hazaras*
Rachel J. Farell, MA Thesis, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2016 Now Trending: The Politics of Fashion in Modern-Day Iran*
Hoda Katebi, BA Thesis, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

2015 Power of Secularism and Limits of Ambiguity: Understanding the Gülen Movement and its Criticisms*
Ryan Fordice, MDiv Thesis, Divinity School

2015 The Hajj: Power, Politics, and Pilgrimage*
Abbas Chinoy, MDiv Thesis, Divinity School

2015 Deconstructing the Paradox City: Tehran between Islam and Modernity*
Xin Tian Yong, MA Thesis, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2014 Vocabularies of the Self: Neopagan Magic, New Age Spirituality, and the Multiplicity of Postmodern Selves*
Russell Burk, MA Thesis, Divinity School

2014 Mothers of the Nation: The Intersection of Nationalism and Feminism in Twentieth Century Iran*
Brittany Baron, MA Thesis, Committee on International Relations

2014 Apocalypse, Now? Contemporary Mahdist Trends in Post-Invasion Iraq*
Patrick Zemanek, MA Thesis, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2014 Imagining the Lebanese Nation*
Emily Mitchell, MA Thesis, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2014 Iranian Media Presentations of Secular Third-Worldism*
Brian Keenan, MA Thesis, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2013 Lady of Light, Lady of Darkness: Money, Witchcraft, and Community around the Santa Muerte Cult in Mexico City*
Agnes Mondragón Celis Ochoa, MA Thesis, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS)

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

Nadia Khan, PhD candidate, Divinity School*

Andrew Kunze, PhD candidate, Divinity School*

Peter Faggen, PhD candidate, Divinity School

Alex Shams, PhD candidate, Anthropology Department

Harini Kumar, PhD candidate, Anthropology Department

Alexandra Matthews, PhD candidate, Divinity School

Miriam Attia, PhD candidate, Divinity School

Parnia Vafaeikia, PhD candidate, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto

Rachel Carbonara, PhD candidate, Divinity School*

QUALIFYING EXAMS ADMINISTERED

2021 Kristina Del Vecchio, Anthropology, Ethics, and the Environment

2020 Andrew Atwell, Anthropology
2020 Samantha Pellegrino, Gender and Sexuality in Islam
2020 Rachel Carbonara, Anthropology of Religion
2019 Marielle Harrison, Anthropology of Religion
2019 Alexandra Matthews, The Occult in the Islamic World
2018 Myriam Sabbaghi, Gender and Sexuality in Islam
2018 Paride Stortini, From Colonialism to Globalization
2018 Alex Shams, Anthropology
2017 Elizabeth Sartell, Magic, Science, and Religion
2017 Francesca Chubb-Confer, From Colonialism to Globalization
2017 Andrew Kunze, Anthropology of Religion
2017 Michele Ferris, Anthropology of Religion
2016 Kelly Meister, Anthropology of Religion
2014 Nadia Inji Khan, Anthropology of Religion
2014 Timothy Gutmann, Anthropology of Religion
2014 Randy Gunn, AMRS exam

ACADEMIC PUBLISHING SERVICE

Editorial Committee Member: *Journal of Religion*

Advisory Board Member: *Critical Terms for Religious Studies* (2d edition)

Journal Reviewer: *Journal of the American Academy of Religion, American Ethnologist, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Cultural Anthropology, History of Religions, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Current Anthropology, Journal of Religion, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Journal of Persian Studies, Journal of Computer Mediated Communication, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography.*

Book Manuscript Reviewer: *Cornell University Press, I.B. Tauris*