

Christiane Jacqueline Gruber

[Professor of Islamic Art](#)

Founding Director, [Khamseen: Islamic Art History Online](#)
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Education

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (Sept. 1998-August 2005): Ph.D., Islamic Art History, Department of the History of Art. Dissertation: “The Prophet Muhammad’s Ascension (*Mi‘raj*) in Islamic Art and Literature, 1300-1600.” Advisor: Dr. Renata Holod.

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (Dec. 2001): M.A., Islamic Architecture, “The *Missiri* of Fréjus as a Healing Memorial: The French Military and its Islamic Architecture (1928-1964).”

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (Sept. 1994- May 1998): B.A. *magna cum laude*, Department of Art and Archaeology, minors in French and Italian Languages & Literatures.

Employment

2023-2024: Curator, “Crossroads of Culture” gallery, Kelsey Museum, University of Michigan

2019-2022: Professor & Chair, History of Art, University of Michigan

2018-2019: Professor & Associate Chair, History of Art, University of Michigan

2011-2018: Associate Professor, History of Art, University of Michigan

Spring 2013: Visiting Professor (Directeur d’Etudes), Sorbonne University, Paris

Spring 2012: Arnheim Distinguished Visiting Professor, Institute of Art History, Humboldt University, Berlin

2005-2011: Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Indiana University, Bloomington. Also Assistant Professor, International Studies; Adjunct Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures; and Adjunct Professor, Central Eurasian Studies.

Fellowships and Grants (selected)

ARIA (Arts Research: Incubation & Research) grant, \$50,000, to scale up [Khamseen](#).

Dunhuang Foundation grant, \$24K, to produce talks on Sino-Islamic Arts for [Khamseen](#).

Grant, The Andrew Mellon Foundation, administered by UM’s Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum, to support [Khamseen: Islamic Art History Online](#) (Founding Director).

Senior Short-Term Fellowship, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Koç University,

Istanbul, November and December 2017.

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, AY 2015-16.

Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, faculty fellowship, AY 2015-16.

The Islamic Manuscript Foundation (TIMA), grant to catalogue and digitize the Simpson Manuscript Record Archive, [Visual Resources Center](#), University of Michigan.

Associate Professor Support Fund, College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts, University of Michigan (2012-15).

New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities, grant to complete my third book, *The Praiseworthy One: The Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Texts and Images*, AY 2010-11

New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities, grant for an exhibition and scholarly volume of Indiana University's Islamic works on paper, Spring 2009

Senior Fellow, "Crossing Boundaries, Creating Images: In Search of the Prophet Muhammad in Literary and Visual Traditions," Kunsthistorisches Institut/Max-Planck Foundation, Florence, Spring 2008

AIrS (American Institute of Iranian Studies), Senior Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Fall 2007

ARIT (American Research Institute in Turkey), Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Summer 2006

ARIT, Dissertation Fellowship, Spring-Summer 2005

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, Council on Library and Information Resources, 2003-4

Princeton University Library Visiting Fellowship, Fall 2003

ARCE (American Research Center in Egypt), dissertation grant, Summer 2003

Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Fellowship, 2002-3

Grant, Council for the Promotion of Persian Language and Literature in North America, 2002

AIrS, Travel and Study Fellowship to Tehran, Iran, Fall 2000

Council on US-Arab Relations, Malcom Kerr Scholar to Tunisia, Summer 1993

Awards, Honors, and Prizes (selected)

Arts & Humanities Faculty Resident, American Academy in Rome, Spring 2026.

Distinguished lecture and two masterclasses on Islamic images of the Prophet Muhammad, Center for Middle East Studies, University of Chicago, October 16-17, 2023.

Bayard Dodge Distinguished Visiting Professor, American University in Cairo, February 2023

Invited speaker, series of three public lectures on Islamic painting, grand auditorium (seats 500 individuals), Louvre Museum, Paris, February 2018

Honorable Mention, 2011 Middle East Book Prize, for *The Ilkhanid Book of Ascension*

Certificate of Achievement in Iranian Art, Tehran Municipality, Iran, December 20, 2010

Outstanding Junior Faculty Award, given to 5 faculty at Indiana University, 2010
Outstanding Instructor Award, International Studies, Indiana University, Spring 2010
Margaret B. Ševčenko Prize for Best Article on Islamic Art, College Art Association, 2006
“Excellence in Teaching” Award, International Studies, Indiana University, Spring 2006
Nominated for the Student Choice Awards for Outstanding Faculty Members, IU Alumni Association, Spring 2006
Dean’s Scholar, University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2002): awarded to top ten graduate students
Elected to Phi Beta Kappa of New Jersey at Princeton University, 1998
Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University: High Honors, 1998

Publications

Books:

City in the Desert, Revisited: Oleg Grabar at Qasr al-Hayr al-Sharqi, 1964-71, co-authored with Michelle Al-Ferzly (Ann Arbor: Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 2021).

Osmanlı İslam Sanatında Tapınma ve Tılsım [Devotions and Talismans in Ottoman-Islamic Art] (Istanbul: Yapı Kredi Publications, 1st ed. 2020; 2nd ed. 2023).

The Praiseworthy One: The Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Texts and Images (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2019).

The Ilkhanid Book of Ascension: A Persian-Sunni Devotional Tale (London: I.B. Tauris and British Institute for Persian Studies, 2010), 256 pp.; included in *Tauris Academic Studies*. Book received Honorable Mention, 2011 Middle East Book Prize.

The Timurid Book of Ascension (Mi‘rajnama): A Study of Text and Image in a Pan-Asian Context (Valencia, Spain: Patrimonio Ediciones in collaboration with the Bibliothèque nationale de France, 2008), bilingual English-Spanish, 450 pp.

Exhibition Catalogues:

The Moon: A Voyage Through Time, exhibition catalogue and volume of 8 essays (Toronto: Aga Khan Museum, March 2019).

Pearls of Wisdom: The Arts of Islam at the University of Michigan, co-author with Ashley Dimmig (Ann Arbor: Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan, 2014).

Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings, Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, November 8, 2013 to February 9, 2014.

Selections of Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman Calligraphy: an [online catalogue](#) of 355 calligraphic specimens in the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. (Summer 2006), 375 pages.

Edited Volumes:

Regime Change: New Horizons in Islamic Art and Visual Culture, edited with Bihter Esener (London: Gingko, March 2024).

The Image Debate: Figural Representation in Islam and Across the World, volume of twelve articles (London: Gingko Library, 2019).

Creative Dissent: Visual Arts of the Arab World Uprisings, special issue of the *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication* 11/2 (2018).

Islamic Architecture on the Move: Motion and Modernity (London: Intellect, 2016).

The Image of the Prophet Between Ideal and Ideology: A Scholarly Investigation, edited by myself and Avinoam Shalem (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2014).

Guest editor of *The International Journal of Islamic Architecture*, special issue 3/2 (2014) entitled “Islamic Architecture on the Move.”

Visual Culture in the Modern Middle East: Rhetoric of the Image: a volume of articles edited by myself and Sune Haugbolle (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013).

The Landscapes of 9/11: A Photographer’s Journey, edited by Edward Linenthal, Jonathan Hyman, and myself (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2013).

Images of the Child and Childhood in Modern Muslim Contexts, co-edited with Pamela Karimi, special volume of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 32/2 (Duke University, 2012).

The Prophet’s Ascension: Cross-Cultural Encounters with the Islamic Mi‘raj Tales, edited by myself and Frederick Colby (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010).

The Islamic Manuscript Tradition: Ten Centuries of Book Arts in Indiana University Collections (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009). Volume to be translated into Arabic and published by the King Abdulaziz Foundation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2015.

Journal Articles:

“Riding the Winds of Change: *Khamseen* and Islamic Art History Online,” [*International Journal of Islamic Architecture*](#) 14/1 (2025), 5-13.

“A Safavid Multiple-Text Compendium: Formal Contents and Visual Conundra,” [*Journal of Manuscript Cultures*](#) 22 (2024), 27-51.

“The Painterly Still: Twentieth-Century Egyptian Film Posters,” *Mizna* 24/2 (2024).

“Like Hearts of Birds: Ottoman Avian Microarchitecture in the Eighteenth Century,” *Journal* 18/11 [*The Architectural Reference*](#) (Spring 2021).

“The Mi‘raj Mosaic at Princeton University: Shahzia Sikander in Conversation with Christiane Gruber,” [*Ars Orientalis*](#) 49 (2019).

“‘King of Kings of Africa’: Racializing Qaddafi in the Visual Output of the 2011 Libyan Revolution,” in *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication* 11 (2018), 194-222.

- “The Gezi Martyrs and Visual Resistance in Turkey,” two-part online scholarly essay published in *Mizan*, June 2017, [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).
- “Back to Nature: The Votive in Islamic Visual and Material Cultures,” *Material Religion* 13/1 (2017), 99-101.
- “Prophetic Products: Muhammad in Contemporary Iranian Visual Culture,” *Material Religion* 12/3 (2016), 259-293.
- “Signs of the Hour: Eschatological Imagery in Islamic Book Arts,” *Ars Orientalis* 44, special volume on “Arts of Death in Asia,” ed. Melia Belli (2014), 40-60.
- “Islamic Architecture on the Move,” Editor’s Preface, *International Journal of Islamic Architecture*, special issue on architecture and mobility, 3/2 (2014), 241-264.
- (with Pamela Karimi) “Introduction: The Politics and Poetics of the Child Image in Muslim Contexts,” in *Images of the Child and Childhood in Modern Muslim Contexts*, co-edited with Pamela Karimi, special volume of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 32/2 (2012), 273-293.
- “Questioning the ‘Classical’ in Persian Painting: Models and Problems of Definition,” *Journal of Art Historiography* 6 (June 2012), 1-25.
- “The *Missiri* of Fréjus as Healing Memorial: Mosque Metaphors and the French Colonial Army (1928-1964),” *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 1/1 (2012), 25-60.
- “The Martyrs’ Museum in Tehran: Visualizing Memory in Post-Revolutionary Iran,” *The Journal of Visual Anthropology* 25/1-2 (2012), 68-97.
- “The ‘Restored’ Shi‘i *Mushaf* as Divine Guide?: The Practice of *Fal-i Qur’an* in the Safavid Period,” *The Journal of Qur’anic Studies* 13/2 (2011), 29-55.
- “Between Logos (*Kalima*) and Light (*Nur*): Representations of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Painting,” *Muqarnas* 26 (2009), 1-34.
- “The Writing is on the Wall: Mural Arts in Post-Revolutionary Iran,” *Persica* 22 (2008), 15-46.
- “The Keir *Mi’raj*: Islamic Storytelling and the Picturing of Tales in the Fifteenth Century,” *Central Eurasian Studies Review* 4/1 (February 2005), 35-39.
- “The Prophet Muhammad’s Ascension (*Mi’raj*) in Islamic Painting and Literature: Evidence from Cairo Collections,” *Bulletin of the American Research Center in Egypt* 185 (Summer 2004), 24-31.
- “L’Ascension (*Mi’raj*) du Prophète Mohammad dans la peinture et la littérature islamiques,” *Luqman: Annales des Presses Universitaires d’Iran* 39/1 (Fall & Winter 2003-4): 55-79.
- “The Form, Meaning, and Versatility of Islamic Architecture: Hassan Fathy’s *Dar al-Islam* Mosque Complex in Abiquiu, New Mexico” *Faith and Form: Journal of the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art, and Architecture* 35/3 (Sept. 2001).

Articles in Edited Volumes, Exhibition Catalogues, and Conference Proceedings:

- “Wishing Trees and Whirling Rocks: Eco-Material Rituals at the Alevi Shrine of Abdal Musa,” in *Beyond Karbala: New Approaches to Shi‘i Materiality*, ed. Fouad Marei and Yafa Shanneik (Leiden: Brill, 2024), 354-394.
- “Introduction,” in *Regime Change: New Horizons in Islamic Art and Visual Culture*, ed. myself and Bihter Esener (London: Gingko, March 2024).
- “The Prophet Muhammad’s Sandalprint: Muslim Retro-Cool and the Product-Placed Sermon in Contemporary Turkey,” in *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Muslims and Popular Culture*, ed. Kristian Petersen and Hussein Rashid (London: Bloomsbury, 2023), 317-326.
- “From ISIS to the AfD: Ultraist Rhetoric and Visuality in Orientalist Concurrence,” in *Notions of Jihad Reconsidered: Perspectives on Media, Materiality and Political Violence*, ed. Christoph Günther (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2023), 158-185.
- “The Painterly Still: Twentieth-Century Egyptian Film Posters,” in *Moving Pictures Painted: 200 Posters from the Golden Age of Egyptian Cinema*, ed. Patrick Fry (London: CentreCentre, 2023), 26-33.
- “From Moral Catechism to Scathing Critique: Picturing Hell in Islamic Traditions,” in [Comparative Hell: Arts of Asian Underworlds](#), ed. Adriana Proser (New York: The Asia Society Museum, 2023), 23-35 and catalogue entry nos. 1, 5, 6, 21-25.
- “[Buraq in Islamic Pictorial Traditions](#),” in *Zeren Tanındı Armağanı: İslam Dünyasında Kitap Sanatı ve Kültürü / Zeren Tanındı Festschrift: Art and Culture of Books in the Islamic World*, eds. Aslıhan Erkmén and Şebnem Tamcan Parladır (Istanbul: Lale Yayıncılık, 2022), 321-331.
- “The *Mi‘rajnama*’s Afterlife in Ottoman Palace Circles: Pictorial Stimulus and Verbal Ekphrasis,” in *The Ascension of the Prophet and the Stations of his Journey*, ed. Ayşe Taşkent and Nicole Kançal-Ferrari (Istanbul: Dergâh, 2022), in [English](#) and [Turkish](#).
- “Journey to Inspiration: *Mi‘raj* Texts and Images,” in *The Ascension of the Prophet and the Stations of his Journey*, ed. Ayşe Taşkent and Nicole Kançal-Ferrari (Istanbul: Dergâh, 2022), in [English](#) and [Turkish](#).
- “[The Prophet’s ‘Ayn Seal: A Safavid-Period Diagram as Cosmic Vision](#),” in *The Diagram as Paradigm: Cross-Cultural Approaches*, ed. Jeffrey Hamburger, David Roxburgh, and Linda Safran (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2022), 519-535.
- “Engines of Prophecy: Materializing Muhammad in the Modern Islamic World,” in *The Name of the Image: The Role of Figural Representation in Islamic and Christian Cultures*, ed. Axel Langer (Zurich: Rietberg Museum, 2022), in [English](#) and [German](#).
- “[The Prophet as a ‘Sacred Spring’: Late Ottoman Hilye Bottles](#),” *The Presence of the Prophet in Early Modern and Contemporary Islam*, ed. Stefan Reichmuth, Rachida Chih, and Dilek Sarmis (Leiden: Brill, 2022), vol. 1, 535-582.
- “[Without Pen, Without Ink: Fingernail Art in the Qajar period](#),” in *Revealing the Unseen: New Perspectives on Qajar Art*, ed. Gwenaëlle Fellingier and Melanie Gibson (London: Gingko; Paris: Louvre Museum, 2021), 94-105.

- “[The Masonic Muhammad](#): Franco-Iranian Encounters in Modern Prophetic Iconography,” *Islam, Objects, and Everyday Life*, ed. Anna Bigelow (London: Bloomsbury, 2021), 31-48.
- “Bereket Bargains: Islamic Amulets in Today’s New Turkey,” in *Islamicate Occult Sciences in Theory and Practice*, ed. Liana Saif et al (Leiden: Brill, 2020).
- “The Visual Culture of ISIS: Truculent Iconophilia as Antagonistic Co-Evolution,” in *Nähe auf Distanz: Eigendynamik und mobilisierende Kraft politischer Bilder im Internet*, ed. Isabelle Busch, Uwe Fleckner, and Judith Walmann (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2019), 125-155.
- “Idols and Figural Images in Islam: A Brief Dive into a Perennial Debate,” in *The Image Debate: Figural Representation in Islam and Across the Globe*, ed. idem (London: Gingko Library, 2019), 8-29.
- “Real Absence: Imagining God in Turco-Persian Painting, 1300-1600 CE,” in *Contested Desires: Figuration and Sensation in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*, ed. Birgit Meyer and Terje Stordalen (London: Bloomsbury, 2019), 132-151.
- “‘Go Wherever You Wish, for Verily You are Well Protected’: Seal Designs in Late Ottoman Amulet Scrolls and Prayer Books,” in *Visions of Enchantment: Occultism, Spirituality, and Visual Culture*, ed. Daniel Zamani and Judith Noble (London: Fulgur, 2019), 23-35.
- “Matériaux mystiques: L’art religieux et dévotionnel de l’Iran qajar,” in *L’empire des roses: chefs-d’oeuvre de l’art persan du XIXe siècles* (Paris: Louvre Museum, 2018), 76-83.
- “Images of the Prophet Muhammad: Brief Thoughts on Some European-Islamic Encounters,” in *Seen and Unseen: Visual Cultures of Imperialism*, ed. Sanaz Fotouhi and Esmaeil Zeiny (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 34-52.
- “In Defense and Devotion: Affective Practices in Early Modern Turco-Persian Manuscript Paintings,” in *Affect, Emotion, and Subjectivity in Early Modern Muslim Empires: New Studies in Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Art and Culture*, ed. Kishwar Rizvi (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 95-123.
- “Gezi Graffiti: Shout-Outs to Resistance and Rebellion in Contemporary Turkey,” in *Scribbling Through History: Graffiti, Place and People from Ancient Egypt to Modern Turkey*, ed. Ömür Harmanşah et al. (London: Bloomsbury, 2017), 83-94.
- “Painting, from Royal to Urban Patronage (1450-1650),” co-authored with Emine Fetvacı, in *Blackwell Companion to Islamic Art*, ed. Finbarr Barry Flood and Gülru Necipoğlu (Somerset, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2017), 874-902.
- “The Path to Paradise: Jerusalem in Islamic Ascension Texts and Images,” in *Every People Under Heaven: Jerusalem, c. 1000-1400*, exhibition catalogue edited by Barbara Boehm and Melanie Holcomb (New York City: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2016), 295-299.
- “From Prayer to Protection: Amulets and Talismans in the Islamic World,” in *Power and Protection: Islamic Art and the Supernatural*, exhibition catalogue edited by Francesca Leoni (Oxford: Ashmolean Museum, 2016), 33-52.
- “The Cranes of Gezi,” one-page preface to *Haydar Özay: The Painter of Gezi* (Istanbul: 2016).

- “*Nazr* Necessities: Votive Objects and Practices in Iranian Muharram Ceremonies,” in *Ex-Voto: Votive Offerings Across Cultures*, ed. Ittai Weinryb (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016), 246-275.
- “Curse Signs: The Artful Rhetoric of Hell in Safavid Iran,” in *Locating Hell in Islamic Traditions*, ed. Christian Lange (Leiden: Brill, 2016), 297-335.
- “Nefertiti in a Gas Mask,” [Brooklyn Rail](#) (July 2015).
- “The Rose of the Prophet: Floral Metaphors in Late Ottoman Devotional Art,” in *Envisioning Islamic Art and Architecture: Essays in Honor of Renata Holod*, ed. David Roxburgh (Leiden: Brill, 2014), 227-254.
- “The Visual Emergence of the Occupy Gezi Movement,” in *Resistance Everywhere: The Gezi Protests and Dissident Visions of Turkey*, ed. Anthony Alessandrini et al., *JadMag* 1/4 (Fall 2013), 29-36.
- “The Prophet Muhammad’s Footprint,” in *Ferdowsi, the Mongols, and the History of Iran: Art, Literature and Culture from Early Islam to Qajar Persia*, eds. Robert Hillenbrand, Andrew Peacock, and Firuza Abdullaeva (London: I.B. Tauris, 2013), 297-305.
- “To Not Toil in Lonely Obsession: Modern Persian Erotica in the Kinsey Institute,” in *Eros and Sexuality in Islamic Art*, eds. Francesca Leoni and Mika Natif (Farnham: Ashgate, 2013), 209-235.
- “Images of Muhammad *In and Out* of Modernity: The Curious Case of a 2008 Mural in Tehran,” in *Visual Culture in the Modern Middle East: Rhetoric of the Image*, edited by myself and Sune Haugbolle (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013), 2-31.
- “Strategic Strikes: Images of War and Disaster from Iran to America,” in *The Landscapes of 9/11: A Photographer’s Journey*, eds. Edward Linenthal, Jonathan Hyman, and myself (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2013), 155-178.
- “Power and Protection: Late Ottoman Seal Designs,” *Hadeeth al-Dar* 38 (2013), 2-6.
- “When *Nubuvvat* Encounters *Valayat*: Safavid Paintings of the Prophet Muhammad’s *Miʿraj*, ca. 1500-1550,” in *The Art and Material Culture of Iranian Shiʿism: Iconography and Religious Devotion in Shiʿi Islam*, ed. Pedram Khosronejad (London: I.B. Tauris, 2011), 46-73.
- “Introduction” (with F. Colby), in Gruber & Colby (eds.), *The Prophet’s Ascension* (2009).
- “The Ilkhanid *Miʿrajnama* of ca. 1317-35 as an Illustrated Sunni Prayer Manual.” Awarded Margaret B. Ševčenko Prize for Best Article on Islamic Art at the Annual CAA Conference, Feb. 2006, and included in Gruber & Colby (eds.), *The Prophet’s Ascension* (2009), 27-49.
- “Introduction: Islamic Book Arts in Indiana University Collections,” in eadem (ed.), *The Islamic Manuscript Tradition* (2009).
- “A Pious Cure-All: The Ottoman Illustrated Prayer Manual in the Lilly Library,” in eadem (ed.), *The Islamic Manuscript Tradition* (2009), 117-153.
- “Realabsenz: Gottesbilder in der Islamischen Kunst zwischen 1300 und 1600,” in *Das Bild Gottes in Judentum, Christentum und Islam*, eds. Eckhard Leuschner and Mark Hesslinger (Petersberg: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2009), 153-179; translated into Turkish and republished

in *Tasvir: Teori ve Pratik Arasında İslam Görsel Kültürü*, eds. Nicole Kançal-Ferrari and Ayşe Taşkent (Istanbul: Klasik, 2017), 155-186.

“Il viaggio del Profeta: Il Libro dell’Ascensione di Maometto,” *Alumina: Pagine Miniature* 24 (2009), 6-17; republished in German as “Die timuridische Handschrift *Himmelfahrt des Propheten Muhammad (Mi’raj-Nameh)*,” in *Taswir. Islamische Bildwelten und Moderne*, eds. Almut Bruckstein and Hendrik Budde (Berlin: Nicolai Verlag, 2009), 197-202.

“Media/ting Conflict: Iranian Posters from the Iran-Iraq War (1980-88),” in *Crossing Cultures: Conflict, Migration. Convergence, Proceedings of the 32nd Congress of the International Committee of the History of Art*, ed. Jaynie Anderson (Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2009), 710-715.

“Jerusalem in the Visual Propaganda of Post-Revolutionary Iran,” in *Jerusalem: Idea and Reality*, eds. Suleiman Mourad and Tamar Mayer (London: Routledge, 2008), 168-197.

“Ottoman Coins,” *Kalenderhane in Istanbul*, ed. Cecil Striker, vol. 2 (Mainz: Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 2007). Transcription and editing of Arabic inscriptions of the Ottoman coins found in the Kalenderhane excavations in Istanbul.

“Seven Centuries of Illustrating the Prophet’s *Mi’raj*,” Preface to Ali Boozari, *A Mi’raj Album: Paintings of the Prophet’s Ascension in Lithographed Books* (Tehran: Imam ‘Ali Museum, 2008).

“The Gulbenkian *Baharistan*: ‘Abd al-Aziz & the Bihzadian Tradition in 16th-Century Bukhara,” *Conferences Collected Essays 1: Kamal al-Din Bihzad* (Tehran: Iranian Academy of Arts, 2005), 255-287 (published in Persian).

Public Scholarship

“Inscribed Blessings: A Wooden Lintel from Medieval Egypt,” Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, [animated talk](#) for [Spotlight #3](#), July 2024.

“*Jami’ al-Tawarikh*: Images of the Prophet Muhammad,” [Khamseen](#), March 2, 2024.

“Riding the Winds of Change: *Khamseen* and Islamic Art History Online,” [ICMA Newsletter](#) (Spring 2024), 21-24.

“[A Miniature Qur’an](#),” handling video in the Hatcher Library’s Special Collections, multimedia content for [BIG Spotlight #2](#), Kelsey Museum, University of Michigan, December 2023.

“Do-For-Self: The Visual Culture of the Nation of Islam,” [Jadaliyya](#), June 29, 2023.

“Islamic Art is Pivotal for Understanding the Richness of the Muslim World: What the Debacle at Hamline University Teaches us About Academic Freedom and Why Knowledge Still Matters,” [New Lines Magazine](#), January 27, 2023.

“Islamic paintings of the Prophet Muhammad are an important piece of history—a here’s why art historians teach them,” [The Conversation](#), January 9, 2023.

“An Academic Is Fired Over a Medieval Painting of the Prophet Muhammad: The dismissal of

- an instructor at Hamline University on baseless charges of ‘Islamophobia’ raises concerns about freedom on campus,” [New Lines Magazine](#), December 23, 2022.
- “Muslims in the Metaverse: New virtual products like ‘Kaaba glasses’ are raising thorny questions about so-called ‘metaworship’,” [New Lines Magazine](#), November 30, 2022.
- “The Arts of Protection and Healing in Islam,” “[Essay 1: Amulets and the Body](#),” *Ajam* (April 30, 2021); “[Essay 2: Water Infused with Blessing](#)” (6 May, 2021); and “[Essay 3: Talismanic Shirts as Premodern PPE](#)” (10 May, 2021)
- “What the Mythical Figure of Şahmeran in Turkey represents and why activists use it,” [The Conversation](#), March 1, 2021.
- Co-authored with Paroma Chatterjee, “Hagia Sophia has been converted back into a mosque, but the veiling of its figural icons is not a Muslim tradition,” [The Conversation](#), August 18, 2020.
- “‘We can’t breathe’—how George Floyd’s killing is shaping Middle Eastern protest,” [Prospect Magazine](#), August 5, 2020.
- “Long before face masks, Islamic healers tried to ward off disease with their version of PPE,” [The Conversation](#), May 20, 2020.
- “The collectors who cut up a masterpiece: The sordid practice of disassembling Islamic manuscripts has flourished for over a century. As rare folios go on the market, the art world needs to get ethical,” [Prospect Magazine](#), October 17, 2019.
- “What Would a Muslim Want with a Portrait of Christ?,” [Newsweek](#), December 23, 2017.
- “Trump Is Wrong: ISIS Can’t Be Beaten by Torture. ISIS was born out of Americans fighting fire with fire at Abu Ghraib,” [Newsweek](#), January 31, 2017.
- “Iranian Artist Brings Eerie Dreamscapes to the U.S.,” [Newsweek](#), November 19, 2016.
- “Fighting ISIS with a Pen: An Interview with the Jordanian Cartoonist Jihad Awartani,” [Newsweek](#), June 26, 2015.
- “Ignored and Unreported, Muslim Cartoonists Are Poking Fun at ISIS. Muhammad Cartoon Contests Ignore the Many Satirical Voices of Muslim Artists,” [Newsweek](#), May 14, 2015.
- “Les images de Mahomet dans l’islam,” *Akfar/Idées* 45 (Spring 2015), 70-72.
- “Reclaiming the Prophet Muhammad in Iran,” [Newsweek](#), January 31, 2015.
- “How the ‘Ban’ on Images of Muhammad Came to Be,” [Newsweek](#), January 19, 2015.
- “The Koran Does Not Forbid Images of the Prophet,” [Newsweek](#), January 9, 2015; republished online in Arabic, Turkish, and French.
- “The Visual Emergence of the Occupy Gezi Movement,” “[Part 1: Oh Biber!](#),” *Jadaliyya* (July 6, 2013); “[Part 2: Everyday I’m Chapulling](#)” (July 7, 2013); and “[Part 3: Democracy’s Workshop](#)” (July 8, 2013).

Encyclopedia and Catalogue Entries:

“Masjid (Mosque),” [Khamseen: Islamic Art History Online](#) (July 2021).

“Mi ‘rajnama,” [The Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE](#) (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

Three catalogue entries for the Aga Khan Museum’s website: [AKM 508](#) (printed amulet and box), [AKM 536](#) (talismanic chart on gazelle skin), and [AKM 589](#) (dish with architectural decoration). Live online in winter 2020.

“Posters in Iran,” [Encyclopaedia Iranica](#) (New York: Columbia University, 2018).

Six catalogue entries on Islamic miniature books, co-written with Evyn Kropf and included in *A Matter of Size: Miniature Bindings & Texts from the Collection of Patricia J. Pistner*, ed. George Ong (New York: The Grolier Club, 2019)

“Images,” in *Muhammad in History, Thought, and Culture: An Encyclopedia of the Prophet of God*, ed. Coeli Fitzpatrick and Andrew Walker (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2014), 286-294.

“Al-Buraq,” *The Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3rd edition (Leiden: Brill, 2012), 40-46.

“Buraq,” in *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, 2nd ed., ed. Richard Martin (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2016), 730.

“Me ‘raj ii. Illustrations,” in [Encyclopedia Iranica](#), ed. Ehsan Yarshater (New York: Columbia University, 2008).

“Divination,” in *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Joseph Meri (New York and London: Routledge, 2006), vol. 1 (of 2), 209-211.

Book Reviews:

“Review of *Visualizing Belief and Piety in Iranian Shiism* by Ingvild Flakerud (London & New York: Continuum, 2010),” *Journal of Shi‘a Islamic Studies* 5/2 (2012), 201-206.

“Review of Frederick Colby, *Narrating Muhammad’s Night Journey: Tracing the Development of the Ibn ‘Abbas Ascension Discourse* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2008),” *Journal of Religion and Literature* 41/3 (Autumn 2009), 139-142.

“Review of Sheila Blair, *Islamic Calligraphy* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006),” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 41 (2009), 486-487.

“Review of Robert Hillenbrand (ed.), *Shahnama: The Visual Language of the Persian Book of Kings* (Aldershot, England; and Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2004),” *Al-Masaq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean* 19 (March 2007), 74-77.

“Review of Linda Komaroff and Stefano Carboni (eds.), *The Legacy of Genghis Khan: Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256-1353* (New York and New Haven: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Yale University Press, 2002),” *Journal of Asian Studies* 65/4 (November 2006), 817-819.

Published Translations of my Work

- “Between Logos (*Kalima*) and Light (*Nur*): Representations of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Painting,” *Muqarnas* 26 (2009), 1-34. [Portuguese translation](#) by Youssef Cherem.
- “The Koran Does Not Forbid Images of the Prophet,” *Newsweek*, January 9, 2015: [Arabic translation](#); [French translation](#); and Portuguese translation of all three Newsweek articles on Islamic images of Muhammad: “Além da Noção de Uma “Interdição”: Imagens do Profeta Muhammad nas Tradições Islâmicas,” *Tempo Brasileiro* 204 (2017), 7-26.
- “Curse Signs: The Artful Rhetoric of Hell in Safavid Iran,” translated into Japanese, in *Illustrating Hell: The End of the World Seen in East and West Eurasia*, edited by Shin Nomoto (Tokyo: Keio University, 2014).
- “The Praiseworthy One: Devotional Images of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Traditions,” translated into Japanese and published as a research paper (Tokyo: Keio University, 2014).

Accepted for Publication

- “The Tree as an ‘Animal-esque Plant’ (*Nabat Hayawani*): Arboreal Thoughtscapes in Islamic Lands,” *CrossCurrents* (2025).
- “Islamic Book Cultures, ca. 700-1500 CE,” in *Handbook of Medieval Book Ornament*, ed. David Ganz et al. (2025).
- “*The Pain of Shahmeran*: Kurdish-Feminist Artist Zehra Doğan’s Prison Provocations,” *Journal of Material Religion*, special issue on *Manufacturing the Sacred: Objects of Veneration in the Modern Islamic World*, ed. Elizabeth Rauh and Hala Auji (2025).
- “The Metaverse and its Premoderns: Islam in an Expanding Reality,” *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* (2025).

Interviews

- “University Settles with Professor Who Was Sacked Over Prophet Muhammad Artworks,” [Artnet](#), June 24, 2024.
- [Interview](#) with [The Last Negroes at Harvard](#) about the Hamline University debacle and the visual culture of the Nation of Islam, September 29, 2023.
- Interview with the [Arab Studies Institute](#) about my *Jadaliyya* essay on the visual culture of the Nation of Islam, September 2, 2023 (min. 56:20).
- “Asia Society Names New Leader,” interview with Zachary Small, [The New York Times](#), June 26, 2023.
- “Rel met islamitische kunst ook les voor Nederland,” interview with Stine Jensen about the Hamline incident and Islamic images of the Prophet Muhammad, [NRC Handelsblad](#), June 15, 2023.
- “Asia Society Walks Back Its Decision to Blur Depictions of the Prophet Muhammad in an Online Exhibition Following Accusations of Censorship,” [Artnet News](#), April 17, 2023.

“Museum Will Stop Obscuring Images of Prophet Muhammad From Online Tour: The Asia Society said the two images should not have been blurred, though it recognizes the need to display them in context since many Muslims object to depictions of Muhammad as sacrilegious,” [The New York Times](#), April 14, 2023.

“Hamline University — the debate over academic freedom and artworks of the Prophet Muhammad,” interview with Andrew West for [ABC Radio](#), February 1, 2023.

“Behind the Hamline University Incident—with Erika López Prater and Christiane Gruber,” The LEDE podcast, [New Lines Magazine](#), January 27, 2023.

“Hamline University: Islamophobia vs Academic Freedom. Prof Fired over Prophet art tells her story,” [Khanversation](#), January 13, 2023.

“On Pedagogy: Islamic Art and Architecture in the Classroom,” group conversation in the [International Journal of Islamic Architecture](#), 12/1 (2023), 15-30.

Interview with Vimal Patel, “A Lecturer Showed a Painting of the Prophet Muhammad. She Lost her Job,” [New York Times](#), January 8, 2023.

Len Gutkin, “Fired for Teaching Art History,” [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), January 3, 2023.

“In Conversation with Jill Caskey and Linda Safran,” [Medieval Art Matters](#), August 22, 2022.

“In Conversation with Christiane Gruber on Material Islamic Studies,” with Anna Bigelow and Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, [MAVCOR Journal](#) 6, no. 2 (2022).

“Prophète Mohamed – Islam: ses images ont-elles toujours été interdites?,” [BBC Afrique](#), 10 June 2022.

Interview about my work and publications, [Toplumsal Tarih](#) 335 (November 2021).

“[The Experience of Prophetic Beauty](#),” conversation with Dr. Bilal Badat, “[Beauty and Islamic Philosophy](#)” interview series, University of Tübingen, August 5, 2021.

Interview for [Propaganda: The Art of Selling Lies](#), movie by Larry Weinstein, 2020.

“Qassem Soleimani: The Man, the Myth, and the Message,” interview for [al-Jazeera](#), September 12, 2020 (minute 14:15 et seq).

“Pictures of the Prophet Muhammad,” interview for [Beyond Belief](#), BBC-4, August 2020.

“A Place for People to Pray and Birds to Sing,” video interview on mosques and their bird houses, [The Conversation](#), June 5, 2020.

One-hour conversation with Kristian Petersen about my book *The Praiseworthy One*, [New Books Network](#), April 17, 2020.

Conversation with Liane Al Ghusain, “Taking Up Space: The Staging of Political Graffiti in the Middle East,” in *From Visionaries to Vloggers: Media Revolutions in the Middle East* (Akkadia Press, 2019), 100-110.

Interview with Eleni Zaras, “U.S. Actions Threaten Cultural Sites Beyond Iran,” [Washington Report on Middle Eastern Affairs](#), March/April 2020.

Interview with Sameer Rahim, “Eye of the beholder—how the Prophet Muhammad has been

depicted through the centuries,” [Apollo](#), December 18, 2019.

Interview with John Wilson about the Islamic ascension folios sold at Christie’s, [Front Row, BBC Radio 4](#), October 23, 2019 (minute 7:20).

Vincent Noce, “A ‘destructive act’: scholars criticise sale of pages separated from 15th-century manuscript,” [The Art Newspaper](#), October 22, 2019.

Article by Gareth Smith highlighting my recent research and exhibitions in [The National](#), August 19, 2019.

[Interview with CBC](#): “Enchanting Orb as Part of New Exhibit on Moon Draws Visitors to Toronto Museum,” March 9, 2019.

Interview with the Institute for the Humanities, “[Mehdi Ghadyanloo in Ann Arbor](#),” November 2016 and uploaded February 8, 2017.

Interview with [The Spectator](#), “Muslim Magic—Islam Has Always Dabbled in the Occult,” October 15, 2016.

Interview with [Vice](#), “Why Iran’s First Contemporary Arab Art Exhibit Was Important,” June 7, 2016.

Interview with [De Volkskrant](#), “How Was the Prophet Muhammad Portrayed?,” March 7, 2015.

Interview with [Bloomberg News](#), “Prophet Image at U.S. Supreme Court Shows Taboos Aren’t Eternal,” January 26, 2015.

Interview with the [Guardian](#), “V&A in Row Over Self-Censorship After Muhammad Image is Taken Down,” January 24, 2015.

Interview with [RadioWest / NPR](#), “Picturing Muhammad,” January 19, 2015.

Interview with [Hürriyet](#), “Kuran Peygamber resmini yasaklamıyor, yasak sonra çıktı,” January 18, 2015.

Interview with NPR’s [Here and Now](#), “The Prophet Was Once Glorified in Art,” January 16, 2015.

Interview with [BBC / PRI](#), “You Can’t Draw Muhammad—Unless You’re One of the Many Muslim Artists Who Did,” January 15, 2015.

Interview with [BBC News Magazine](#), “Have Pictures of Muhammad Always Been Forbidden?,” January 15, 2015.

Interview with the [Guardian](#), “Drawing the Prophet: Islam’s Hidden History of Muhammad Images,” January 10, 2015.

Interview with [NPR](#), “Depictions of Muhammad After Charlie Hebdo,” January 9, 2015.

Interview with the [Huffington Post](#), “Does Islam Really Forbid Images of Muhammad?,” January 8, 2015.

Interview with [Slate](#) on the faceless Islamic doll named “Romeisa,” December 12, 2014.

Interview segments included in Mark Nickolas’ documentary film “[Nefertiti’s Daughters](#),” 2015.

Interview for article “Art of the Arab Uprisings,” [LSA Magazine](#), University of Michigan, May 21, 2014.

Interview and documentary “Arab American Museum Shows Arab Spring Protest Art,” [Voice of America](#), February 11, 2014.

“Le graffiti turc bataille contre le gris,” interview about Gezi graffiti illustrated with a selection of my photographs, [Les Inrockuptibles](#), January 28, 2014.

Interview about my exhibit, “Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings,” The Craig Fahle Show, [WDET](#), December 16, 2013.

“Symposium to Highlight Art Influenced by Political Unrest,” interview with [The Michigan Daily](#), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, November 14, 2013.

“Art Revolution Blooms After Arab Spring,” interview on [NPR](#), November 3, 2013.

“Visual Culture in the Modern Middle East,” [Jadaliyya](#) interview with Sune Haugbolle, August 2013.

“L’Islam interdit-il les images de Mahomet?,” interview with [Slate](#), November 5, 2011.

“Islamic Art and Calligraphy,” podcast for the SSRC-sponsored “[Muslim Voices](#): Voices and Visions of Islam” program, Indiana University, Bloomington, October 27, 2008.

Courses Taught

Visual Cultures of Islam (undergraduate survey course); taught at Michigan and to four other universities via [DISC](#)’s synchronous learning technology between 2016-2023.

Survey of Islamic Art and Architecture (undergraduate/graduate course)

Introduction to Islamic Art (undergraduate seminar in Islamic Art Museum, Berlin)

Working With Objects: Islamic Textiles, Metalwork, Ceramics, Glass, and Coins (hands-on undergraduate/graduate seminar in the Kelsey Museum, University of Michigan)

Encounters with Islamic Art: Studying, Collecting & Reviving (undergraduate/graduate seminar)

The History of Persian Painting (graduate seminar)

From Pen to Paper: Islamic Codicology and Paleography (graduate seminar)

The Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Texts and Images (graduate seminar)

Modern and Contemporary Islamic Art & Visual Culture (undergraduate/graduate seminar)

Persian Version: The Art and Architecture of Modern Iran (upper undergraduate seminar)

Ottoman Istanbul: From Imperial Capital to Modern Metropolis (graduate seminar)

Senior Honors Thesis seminar, Honors Program, History of Art, Indiana University

International Perspectives on Culture and the Arts (undergraduate course)

International Studies Thesis Capstone Seminar (for senior undergraduate students)

Sacred Places (humanities undergraduate course)

Theses Supervised

PhD

Director

- 2023-present: (co-director) Sarah Wheat, Art History, University of Michigan, “The Harem Mystique: Popular Architecture and the ‘Orient’ ca. 1900.”
- 2019-present: Sandra Williams, Art History, University of Michigan, “Mardanagi/Zananagi: Gender Representations in Persianate Painting.”
- 2016-present: Holley Ledbetter, Art History, University of Michigan, “Wonder and the Caliph: Objects of *‘Ajab* in Fatimid Visual Culture.”
- 2017-2024: Michelle Al-Ferzly, Art History, University of Michigan, “*Adab* Oblige: Medieval Islamic Dining, 9th to 15th Centuries.”
- 2012-2019: Ashley Dimmig, Art History, University of Michigan, “Making Modernity in Fabric Architecture: Imperial Tents in the Late Ottoman Period.”
- 2011-2019: Elizabeth Rauh, Art History, University of Michigan, “An Islamic Cosmos: Contemporary Art Engagements with Islamic Heritage in Iran and the Arab East, 1958-2018.”
- 2008-2016: Yasemin Gencer, Art History, Indiana University, “Pushing Out Islam: Cartoons of the Reform Period in Turkey (1923-1930).”

Committee Member

- 2024: Firouzeh Saghafi, Art History, University of Geneva, “Between Imported Modernity and Anxious Contemporaneity: Identity and Political Functions of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, 1977-2005.”
- 2022: Bihter Esener, Archeology and History of Art, Koç University, “A Reflection of One’s Own: Seljuk-Period Mirrors in Medieval Anatolia (1081-1308).”
- 2021: Vishal Khandelwal, Art History, University of Michigan, “Crafting Expertise: Art and Design Pedagogy and Professional Values at the National Institute of Design in India, 1955-1985.”
- 2019: Nama Khalil, Anthropology, University of Michigan, “Making a Difference: Youth, Business, and Re-Envisioning Media Practice in Egypt.”
- 2018: Sabiha Göloğlu, Archeology and History of Art, Koç University, “Depicting the Islamic Holy Cities in Late Ottoman Art.”
- 2017: Ashley Miller, Art History, University of Michigan, “Making Moroccan Heritage: Art, Identity, and Historical Memory in the Early French Protectorate of Morocco (ca. 1912-1931).”
- 2013: Alison Vacca, Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, “Armenia as an Arab Province, 640-886.”

2012: Roxana Zenhari, “The Persian Romance *Samak-e ‘Ayyar*: Analysis of an Inju Illustrated Manuscript,” Ph.D. dissertation, Georg-August Universität Göttingen.

MA

Director

2015: Courtney Lesoon, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan, “Identities and Interiors: The ‘Syria Lebanon Room’ at the University of Pittsburgh.”

2012: Ashley Dimmig, Art History, Indiana University, “Storytelling and Silk: Safavid Figural Textiles and the Stories They Tell.”

2012: Elizabeth Rauh, Art History, Indiana University, “Thirty Years Later: Iranian Visual Culture from the 1979 Revolution to the 2009 Presidential Protests.”

2011: Sheida Riahi, Art History, Indiana University, “From Nursing Mother to Sufi Saint: The Holy Virgin in Mughal Painting.”

2011: Olivia Wolf, Art History, Indiana University, “‘*She, Given the Extolled Pen*’: The Epigraphic Representation of Female Power in Shajar al-Durr’s Visual Legacy.”

2010: Maria Domene-Danes, Art History, Indiana University, “Ghada Amer: Embroidering a Hybrid Word.”

Committee Member

2014: Kyle Sweeney, Art History, Indiana University, “Constructing Universal Sovereignty: Qalawunid Architecture and Identity Politics in Mamluk Cairo.”

2013: William Harper, Archeology and History of Art, Koç University, “Backward and Forward: Photographic Gifts between the Ottoman Empire and the United States in the Late Nineteenth-Century.”

2008: Yasemin Gencer, Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University, “Ibrahim Müteferrika and the Age of the Printed Manuscript”

2008: Miki Morita, Central Eurasian Studies, IUB, “The Function of Ksitigarbha and the Ten Kings in the 11th-Century Xizhou Uighurs’ Conversion to Buddhism.”

2008: Christina Stigliani, Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University, “Failed Martyrs on Screen: Veterans of the ‘Sacred Defense’ in Iranian Cinema.”

2007: Jeannette Rooney, Art History, Indiana University, “Blurring the Distinction: ‘Orientalism’ and the Native American in Charles M. Russell’s *Waiting and Mad*.”

BA

Director

- 2021: Ani Kalousdian, Art History, University of Michigan, “Liminal Disgust: Feminism, Kurdishness, and the Abject in Zehra Doğan’s Carceral Art,” Honors BA Thesis.
- 2021: Jaynab Akhtar, Art History, University of Michigan, “A Gift of Light: Glass Lamps and their Illumination of the Mamluk State,” Honors BA Thesis.
- 2018: Leena Ghannam, Art History, University of Michigan, “Missing Links: The Sight and Smell of Medieval Monumental Lamps,” Honors BA Thesis.
- 2016: Rachel Bissonnette, Art History, University of Michigan, “A Cog in the Manuscript: Al-Jazari’s Mechanical Devices,” Honors BA Thesis.
- 2008: Elizabeth Rauh, Art History, Indiana University, “A1One: Street Art, Digital Media, and Protest in Contemporary Iran,” Senior Honors Thesis.
- 2008: Jennifer Peruski, Art History, Indiana University, “Epigraphy and Heraldry in Service of Authority: Mamluk Metalworks and Glasswares,” Senior Honors Thesis.
- 2006: Yasemin Gencer, Art History, Indiana University, “The Cultural and Artistic History of Turkish Shadow Puppetry (*Karagöz*),” Senior Honors Thesis.

Conferences and Lectures (selected)

- “Islamic Images of the Prophet Muhammad Today: Pietistic Superscripts, Motions to Dismiss, and Mocking @IslamistAgenda,” [keynote lecture](#), Graduate Student Symposium on the History of Art, Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, February 20, 2025.
- “The Prophet as ‘Sacred Spring:’ Late Ottoman Hilye Bottles,” invited speaker, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, Kuwait City, December 2, 2024.
- “Islamic Images of the Prophet Muhammad Today: Pietistic Superscripts, Motions to Dismiss, and Mocking @IslamistAgenda,” conference, *Lives of the Prophet Muhammad*, international conference, NYU, Abu Dhabi, November 28, 2024.
- “‘Do-For-Self’: The Visual Culture of the Nation of Islam,” paper on panel “Islam and Black Art: A Diasporic Aesthetics,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) conference, Pittsburgh, September 2024.
- “The Metaverse and its Premoderns: Islam in an Expanding Reality,” invited speaker, Immersive Technology Collective, Washington University, St. Louis, September 26, 2024.
- “‘Do-For-Self’: The Visual Culture of the Nation of Islam,” invited lecture, History Department and Driskell Center, University of Maryland, April 24, 2024.
- “‘Do-For-Self’: The Visual Culture of the Nation of Islam,” *Race and Gender in Islamic Art and Visual Culture*, international symposium co-organized with Holley Ledbetter, Oberlin College, April 19, 2024.
- “The Metaverse and its Premoderns: Islam in an Expanding Reality,” invited speaker, Lehigh

- University, March 21, 2024.
- “From ISIS to the AfD: Ultraist Rhetoric and Visuality in Orientalist Concurrence,” invited speaker, Center for Ethics, Muhlenberg College, March 20, 2024.
- “The She-Demon Killer of Pregnant Women and Children: Puerperant Amulets at the Crossroads of Culture,” [Kelsey Museum curatorial webinar](#), March 6, 2024.
- “Islamic Images of the Prophet Muhammad Today: Pietistic Superscripts, Motions to Dismiss, and Mocking @IslamistAgenda,” invited speaker, Warnock Lecture Series, Northwestern University, February 13, 2024.
- “Motions to Dismiss: Prophetic Blurring and Restitution at the Asia Society Art Museum,” paper on panel “Today’s Image Debacles: From the Prophet Muhammad to Michelangelo’s David,” co-organized with Holley Ledbetter, College Art Association (CAA) Conference, Chicago, February 14, 2024.
- “*Hima* in the House: Avian Architecture across the Islamic World,” [webinar](#) for the Audubon Society, January 9, 2024.
- “Islamic Images of the Prophet Muhammad Today: Pietistic Superscripts, Motions to Dismiss, and Mocking @IslamistAgenda,” lecture, Amherst University, November 9, 2023.
- “Islamic Images of the Prophet Muhammad Today: Pietistic Superscripts, Motions to Dismiss, and Mocking @IslamistAgenda,” Masterclass Events, Center for Middle East Studies, University of Chicago, October 16, 2023.
- “From ISIS to the AfD: Ultraist Rhetoric and Visuality in Orientalist Concurrence,” [invited lecture](#), Distinguished Speaker Series, Rutgers University, September 22, 2023.
- “Mosques, Museums, and the Metaverse: Imaging Islam in Virtual Reality,” invited lecture, Temple University, September 20, 2023.
- “The Praiseworthy One: Devotional Images of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Traditions,” Center for Global Islamic Studies, Lehigh University, September 18, 2023.
- “Do-For-Self: The Visual Culture of the Nation of Islam,” [Khamseen](#), September 15, 2023.
- “The Timurid ‘Book of the Prophet Muhammad’s Ascension’ (*Mi’rajnama*) of c. 1436-37,” invited lecture, conference on promoting global Islamic heritage, Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, Tashkent, May 30, 2023.
- “A Codicological Conundrum: Rashid al-Din’s *Jami’ al-Tawarikh* and its Hamline Superscripts,” international conference *Taking the Past into the Future: Studying, Preserving, and Understanding Islamic Manuscripts*, University of Edinburgh, May 11-12, 2023.
- “The Tree as an ‘Animal-esque Plant’ (*Nabat Hayawani*): Arboreal Thoughtscapes in Muslim Majority Lands,” [invited talk](#), conference on “The Tree of Life Interconnecting Religions, Artistic Traditions, and Scientific Knowledge,” Humanities Institute, University of Connecticut, April 28, 2023.
- “*Hima* in the House: Avian Architecture across the Islamic World,” invited talk, “[Heritage Talks](#)” series, IRCICA, Istanbul, March 17, 2023.

- “‘Do-For-Self’: The Visual Culture of the Nation of Islam,” paper on panel “Intersections of Race and Gender in Islamic Art and Visual Culture,” co-organized with Holley Ledbetter, HIAA Biennial Symposium, MFA Houston, March 3, 2023.
- “*Hima in the House: Avian Architecture across the Islamic World*,” public lecture, Bayard Dodge Distinguished Visiting Professor, American University in Cairo, Tahrir campus, February 25, 2023.
- “In Defense and Devotion: Affective Practices in Early Modern Islamic Manuscripts,” public lecture, Bayard Dodge Distinguished Visiting Professor, American University in Cairo, new campus, February 25, 2023.
- “Islamic Paintings of the Prophet Muhammad and the Hamline Debacle,” invited discussion for faculty and students, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, February 16, 2023.
- “Mosques, Museums, and the Metaverse: Imaging Islam in Virtual Reality,” invited lecture, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, February 15, 2023.
- “Mosques, Museums, and the Metaverse: Imaging Islam in Virtual Reality,” *Islamic Piety: Reconsidering Concepts and Frameworks*, Swedish Institute, Istanbul, January 19, 2023.
- “*Hima in the House: Avian Architecture across the Islamic World*,” [Islamic Art in Solitude](#) Lecture Series, Metropolitan Museum of Art, November 17, 2022.
- “Archaeological Photography as Scholarly Method: Oleg Grabar at Qasr al-Hayr al-Sharqi,” [invited talk](#), The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, November 10, 2022.
- “Creative Dissent: Egypt and the Visual Arts of the Arab World Uprisings,” secondary teachers’ workshop, Democracy in World History & Literature Initiative ([WHaLI](#)), June 13, 2022.
- “The Prophet as ‘Sacred Spring:’ Late Ottoman *Hilye* Bottles,” [lecture](#) for the exhibition [In the Name of the Image: Imagery between Cult and Prohibition in Islam and Christianity](#), Museum Rietberg, Zurich, April 27, 2022.
- “[In Defense and Devotion](#): Affective Practices in Early Modern Islamic Manuscript Paintings,” Rewald Seminars, CUNY, March 1, 2022.
- “[Two Islamic Amulets in the Aga Khan Museum](#),” presentation in collaboration with the Aga Khan Museum, University of Toronto, and Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, launched on Khamseen, February 10, 2022.
- “On Pedagogy: Islamic Art and Architecture in the Classroom,” [webinar](#), *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* Dialogues Series, January 21, 2022.
- “[Riding the Winds of Change](#): Khamseen and Islamic Art History Online,” panel on “Doing History Online: Podcasts, Twitter, and the Digital Archive,” organized by Kristin Tassin, American Historical Association (AHA) Conference, New Orleans, January 8, 2022.
- “Two Islamic Amulets in the Aga Khan Museum: Inked Surfaces, Hidden Stories,” Aga Khan Museum in collaboration with the University of Toronto and the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, December 2021 and January 2022, [part 1](#) and [part 2](#).
- “Like Hearts of Birds: Ottoman Microarchitecture and the Avian Turn,” [distinguished lecture](#), Katherine Tsanoff Brown Lecture Series, Rice University, November 30, 2021.

- “From ISIS to the AfD: Ultraist Rhetoric and Visuality in Orientalist Concurrence,” [keynote lecture](#), symposium “Notions of Jihad Reconsidered: Perspectives on Media, Materiality and Political Violence,” Mainz University, October 7-9, 2021.
- “‘Wellspring of the Arts’: *Iranzamin* and Art, Craft, & Technology in the Qajar Period,” [keynote lecture](#), exhibition *Iranzamin*, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, July 30, 2021.
- “The Arts of Protection and Healing in Islam: Historical Objects and Practices in Pandemic Times,” invited lecture, symposium on Islamicate Occult Sciences organized by Liana Saif, The Warburg Institute, London, July 10, 2021.
- Islamic Art Pedagogy Workshop, working group of seven professors to exchange ideas and revise how we teach our surveys of Islamic art at the national level, organized by Prof. Emine Fetvacı, Boston College.
- “The ‘Identity’ of Islamic Art in Pedagogical Settings: From the University Classroom to Integrated Technologies,” panel “[The Identity of Islamic Art](#),” organized by Filiz Çakır Phillip, Association of Museum Curators, Annual Conference, May 4, 2021.
- “[Islam Through Art](#),” international K6-12 teacher training webinar, series “How to Teach about the Middle East—and Get It Right!,” UNC and UM Title VI centers, January 28, 2021.
- “Like Hearts of Birds: Ottoman Microarchitecture and the Avian Turn,” [invited lecture](#), Kunsthistorisches Institut / Max-Planck, Florence, January 19, 2021.
- “Wishing Trees and Whirling Rocks: Eco-Material Rituals at the Alevi Shrine of Abdal Musa,” invited lecture, Orient-Institut, Istanbul, December 2, 2020.
- Panel member, “[Iconoclasm Then and Now](#): A Discussion of Aaron Tugendhaft’s *The Idols of ISIS: From Assyria to the Internet*,” panel with Aaron Tugendhaft and Ömür Harmanşah, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Koç University, Istanbul, November 23, 2020.
- “The Masonic Muhammad: Franco-Iranian Encounters in Modern Prophetic Iconography,” [invited lecture](#), Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA, November 16, 2020.
- “‘In That They Only Live for Cliques’: Digging Below the Surface of Archaeological Photography at Qasr al-Hayr al-Sharqi,” Kelsey Museum of Archaeology [FAST lecture](#), November 10, 2020.
- Panel member, “Public Scholarship in Middle East Studies,” webinar, Department of Middle East Studies, University of Michigan, November 9, 2020.
- “The Prophet as ‘Sacred Spring’: Late Ottoman Hilye Bottles,” [lecture](#) for the Alwaleed Bin Talal Seminar in Islamic Studies, Harvard University, October 22, 2020.
- “Engines of Prophecy: Materializing Muhammad in the Modern Islamic World,” [lecture](#) for the Islamic art lecture series organized by Mira Schwerda and Melis Taner, October 8, 2020.
- “Public Writing about Images of the Prophet,” on panel “Promoting Public Scholarship in Middle Eastern History,” MESA Conference, October 6, 2020.
- “King of Kings of Africa: Racializing Qaddafi in the Visual Output of the 2011 Libyan Uprisings,” [CMENAS lecture series](#), University of Michigan, September 21, 2020.

“The Masonic Muhammad: Franco-Iranian Encounters in Modern Prophetic Iconography,” volume workshop on *Islam, Objects, and Everyday Life*, conveyed by Anna Bigelow, Stanford University, December 7-8, 2019.

The Image Debate: Figural Representation in Islam and Across the Globe, [book launch lecture](#), Ginkgo Library, Haus Publications, London, June 21, 2019.

“The Masonic Muhammad: Franco-Iranian Encounters in Modern Prophetic Iconography,” Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, April 24, 2019.

“The Prophet as a Sacred Spring: Late Ottoman *Hilye* Bottles,” invited talks at Yale University, New Haven, and the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 2019.

Author’s Forum, conversation with Juan Cole about my new book *The Praiseworthy One*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 19, 2019.

“The Moon: Mirror of Faith, Science, and the Arts,” [keynote lecture](#) for the exhibition *The Moon: A Voyage Through Time*, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, March 9, 2019.

“‘Run, Citizen, Run!’: Cübbeli Ahmet Hoca, Product-Centered Televangelism, and the Prophet Muhammad’s Sandalprint in Contemporary Turkish Muslim Popular Culture,” panel on popular Islam, American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 20, 2018.

“The Prophet as a Sacred Spring: Late Ottoman *Hilye* Bottles,” invited talk, *Silsila*: Center for Material Histories, New York University, October 18, 2018.

“Idols and Figural Images in Islam: A Brief Dive into a Perennial Debate,” invited talk, University of Maryland and Rutgers University, October 13 and 15, 2018.

“A Safavid Multi-Text Collection and its Picto-Diagrams,” invited speaker, workshop *A Multi-Text Manuscript for two Safavid Shahs: Purposes and Challenges*, organized by Sonja Brentjes, Manuscript Cultures Center, University of Hamburg, June 25-26, 2018.

“Without Pen, Without Ink: Fingernail Art and Calligraphy in the Qajar period,” invited speaker, symposium held in conjunction with the Qajar art exhibition, Louvre Museum, Lens, June 21-22, 2018.

“The Prophet’s *Ayn* Seal: A Safavid-Period Diagram as Cosmic Catharsis,” invited speaker, conference on diagrams, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington D.C., April 19-22, 2018.

Invited speaker, series of three public lectures (in French) on Islamic images, painting, and portraiture, grand auditorium, Louvre Museum, Paris, Winter 2018. [Lectures available online](#).

“The Prophet as a ‘Sacred Spring’: Late Ottoman *Hilye* Bottles,” workshop on the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic art, music, and poetry, conveyed by Stefan Reichmuth, Ruhr University, Bochum, November 9-10, 2017.

“The Prophet as a ‘Sacred Spring’: Late Ottoman *Hilye* Bottles,” workshop on relics in Islam, conveyed by Francesca Leoni, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University, September 8-10, 2017.

“Devotional Images of the Prophet Muhammad in Islam,” invited public lecture, The David Collection, Copenhagen, March 28, 2017.

- “Mehdi Ghadyanloo in Ann Arbor,” Global Graffiti roundtable discussion, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, February 8, 2017.
- “Image-Breaking Under ISIS: Truculent Iconophilia as a ‘Vexation Operation,’” symposium on iconoclasm in world cultures, organized by Hugo van der Velden, Rijksmuseum and University of Amsterdam, December 9-10, 2016.
- “Muhammad among the Great Men of the World: Enlightenment, Nationhood, and Early 20th-Century Iranian Carpets,” invited lecture, University of Maryland, December 1, 2016.
- “Battling the Concrete: Iranian Mural Arts from the Revolution to Today,” invited lecture, symposium *Art, Social Space, and Public Discourse in Iran*, organized by Ala Ebtekar, Stanford University, November 3-5, 2016.
- “From the Page to the Stage: Layla and Majnun,” speaker, panel organized in conjunction with the *Layla and Majnun* musical performance, University of Michigan, Islamic Studies Program and University of Michigan Musical Society, Ann Arbor, October 15, 2016.
- “‘They Are Among Us’: Gezi Martyrs, Affective Incarnation, and Resistance in Contemporary Turkey,” invited lecture, Ohio State University, September 12, 2016.
- “The Failed Turkish Coup: What Picture Does the Ground Offer?,” panelist, *Turkey’s Coup: The Context and Aftermath*, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, September 8, 2016.
- “ISIS, Truculent Iconophilia, and Extinguishing the Gray Zone,” invited speaker, workshop *Contemporary Image Conflicts: Violence and Iconoclasm from Charlie Hebdo to ISIS* with David Freedberg and Hugh Kennedy, Warburg Institute, London, January 14, 2016.
- “Muhammad among the Great Men of the World: Enlightenment, Nationhood, and Early 20th-Century Iranian Carpets,” symposium on “Representations of Muhammad,” University of Edinburgh, October 23-24, 2015; also given at Cambridge University, November 19, 2015. [Lecture available online.](#)
- “Our Image-Worlds of Today: Some European-Islamic Encounters,” series *Islamic Art in the 21st Century: Conversations*, organized by Wendy Shaw, Free University, Berlin, July 7, 2015.
- “The Praiseworthy One: Devotional Images of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Traditions,” two invited lectures, UT Austin and MFA-Houston, April 16 and 17, 2015.
- “‘They Are Among Us’: Gezi Martyrs, Affective Incarnation, and Resistance in Contemporary Turkey,” invited lecture, Islamic Studies Program, University of Michigan, April 2, 2015.
- “Prophetic Products: The Prophet Muhammad in Contemporary Iranian Visual Culture,” invited lecture, The Merrick Lecture Series, Ohio Wesleyan University, March 26, 2015; also given at The Warburg Institute, London, November 18, 2015.
- “Visual Representations of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Lands from the Pre-Modern Period to Contemporary Iran,” colloquium with Pedram Khosronejad and John Tolan, Institut des Etudes Avancées, Nantes, France, March 5, 2015.
- “The Praiseworthy One: Devotional Images of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Traditions,” invited lecture, Detroit Institute of Arts, January 31, 2015.

- “Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings,” opening lecture for my exhibition, Bryn Mawr College, January 22, 2015.
- “Prophetic Products: The Prophet Muhammad in Contemporary Iranian Visual Culture,” Material Islam Inaugural Workshop, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 24, 2014.
- “*They Are Among Us*’: Gezi Martyrs, Affective Incarnation, and Resistance in Contemporary Turkey,” workshop on *Incarnation and the Secular: Charismatic Bodies in the 21st Century*, organized by Laure Guirguis, University of Montréal, September 27-28, 2014.
- “In Defense and Devotion: Affective Responses to Images of the Prophet Muhammad,” symposium “Emotion and Subjectivity in the Art and Architecture of Early Modern Muslim Empires,” convened by Kishwar Rizvi, Yale University, May 1-2, 2014; also given at The Courtauld Institute, London, November 16, 2015.
- “Prophetic Products: The Prophet Muhammad in Contemporary Iranian Visual Culture,” invited lecture, Department of Art History, University of Delaware, April 9, 2014.
- “*Go Wherever You Wish, for Verily You are Well Protected*’: Seal Designs in Late Ottoman Prayer Books,” international symposium “Visions of Enchantment: Occultism, Spirituality, and Visual Culture,” University of Cambridge, UK, March 17-18, 2014.
- “The Timurid *Book of Ascension* and its Relationship to Sino-Central Asian Buddhist Art,” invited lecture, Central Eurasian Studies Committee, University of Chicago, March 7, 2014.
- “Votive Traditions in Iranian Muharram Ceremonies,” Materializing Religion workshop series, Duke University, Durham, February 17, 2014.
- “The Gezi Uprisings,” Great Decisions invited lecture, UNC-Chapel Hill, February 18, 2014.
- “Pearls of Wisdom: Behind the Scenes,” lecture and storage viewing of objects in my exhibition *Pearls of Wisdom: The Arts of Islam in University of Michigan Collections*, members, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, Ann Arbor, February 13, 2014.
- “From Tradition to Innovation: Islamic Art at Doris Duke’s Shangri La,” University of Michigan Art Museum, Ann Arbor January 15, 2014.
- “Un *mi’raj* iranien: Une peinture murale contemporaine de l’ascension du Prophète Mahommed,” Institut National d’Histoire de l’Art, Paris, Monday, December 9, 2013.
- “Al-Buraq, the Prophet Muhammad’s Flying Steed,” lecture at the symposium “The Bestiary of Prophets and Saints in Islam,” Collège de France, Paris, Friday, December 6, 2013.
- “[Conceptualizing the Show](#),” artists’ panel, opening of the exhibition “Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings,” Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, November 16, 2013.
- “Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings,” invited lecture, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Michigan, Thursday, October 17, 2013.
- “The ‘Painterly Still’ in Modern Egyptian, Iranian, and Turkish Visual Cultures,” opening lecture for the exhibition “*The Art of Advertising: Egyptian Film Poster Designers, 1933-2000*,” Princeton University Library, Sunday, September 29, 2013.

- Four 2-hour seminars on Shi‘ism and the visual arts, invited Directeur d’Etudes (Full Professor), Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne University, May 10-28, 2013. Summary of seminars available [online](#).
- Two invited lectures on representations of Hell in Persian painting and images of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic artistic traditions, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan, March 3-8, 2013.
- “Violence’s Vestiges: The Martyrs’ Museum in Tehran,” invited talk, Silberberg Lecture Series, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, February 12, 2013.
- “Images of Muhammad in and out of Modernity: The Curious Case of a 2008 Mural in Tehran,” invited lecture, AKPIA Lecture Series, MIT, December 2, 2012.
- “*King of Kings of Africa*”: Racializing Gaddafi in the Visual Output of the 2011 Libyan Revolution,” panel on the “Arab Spring, Artistic Awakening? Art, Resistance, and Revolution” organized by Jennifer Pruitt and Dina Ramadan, Middle East Studies Conference, Denver, November 17-20, 2012.
- “*King of Kings of Africa*”: Racializing Gaddafi in the Visual Output of the 2011 Libyan Revolution,” invited lecture, international conference on aesthetics in the contemporary Muslim world, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway, October 4-5, 2012.
- “Qur’anic Divination,” invited talk, workshop on the Gwalior Qur’an, convened by Eloïse Brac de la Perrière, Sorbonne University, Paris, June 14-15, 2012.
- “The Praiseworthy One: Devotional Images of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Traditions,” Arnheim Visiting Professor lecture, Stiftung Brandenburger Tor, Berlin, May 23, 2012.
- “The Visual Rhetoric of Hell in Safavid Painting, ca. 1550-1600,” invited talk, international symposium on “Locating Hell in Islamic Traditions,” organized by Christian Lange, University of Utrecht, April 28-29, 2012. [Talk available online](#).
- “The Power and Problem of the Image: Depictions of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Traditions,” invited lecture, Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Göttingen, Germany, April 19, 2012.
- “The Praiseworthy One: Devotional Images of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Traditions,” invited lecture, “Sundays at the MET,” The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, April 15, 2012. Lecture available [online](#).
- “Protection in Hand and On the Body: Seal Designs in Ottoman Prayerbooks and Talismanic Shirts,” invited talk, National Museum of Kuwait / Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, Kuwait City, January 30, 2012.
- “Violence’s Vestiges: The Martyrs’ Museum in Tehran,” invited talk, Center for the Humanities, Temple University, Philadelphia, November 17, 2011. Lecture available [online](#).
- “The Graphics of Revolution and War: Iranian Poster Arts,” opening lecture for my co-curated exhibition by the same name, Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington, October 14, 2011.
- “Ottoman Art and Architecture in Istanbul, ca. 1450-1550,” seminar for the Princeton Summer Undergraduate Program in Istanbul, July 21, 2011.

- “*Nazr* Necessities: Votive Practices and Objects in Iranian Muharram Ceremonies,” *Ex-Voto: Votive Offerings Across Cultures*, conference at the Bard Graduate Center, New York, April 28-29, 2011.
- “Love It or Hate It: The Performance of Piety and Politics in Iranian Visual Culture,” Department of Art History, The Johns Hopkins University, March 31, 2011.
- “Seven Centuries of Ascension Images,” Imam Ali Art Museum, Tehran, December 20, 2011
- “Prophetic Portraits: Muhammad in Modern Iranian Visual Culture,” workshop on *Saint and Holy Portraits in Shia-Sunni Mausoleums and Saint Veneration*, University of Saint Andrews, December 6, 2010.
- “Strategic Strikes: Images of War and Disaster from Iran to America,” Images Forum, Indiana University, Bloomington, November 5, 2010.
- “Real Absence: Picturing God in Islamic Art,” invited lecture, Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin, July 15, 2010.
- “Violence’s Vestiges: The Martyrs’ Museum in Tehran,” panel “Art and Violence,” chaired by Cary Levine and Philip Glahn, CAA conference, Chicago, February 10-13, 2010.
- “*Voir la Vie en Rose: Cosmic Florets and Sacred Visions in Islamic Art*,” at *Seeing the Past: Envisioning Islamic Art and Architecture*, conference in honor of Dr. Renata Holod, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, October 9-10, 2009.
- “Images of Muhammad *In and Out* of Modernity: The Curious Case of a 2008 Mural in Tehran,” Institute of Art History, University of Vienna, October 2, 2009.
- “The Rose of the Prophet: Interstitial Images of Muhammad in Islamic Art,” conference *Crossing Boundaries, Creating Images: In Search of the Prophet Muhammad in Literary and Visual Traditions*, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Florence, July 16-19, 2008.
- “The ‘Restored’ Shi‘i *Mushaf* as Divine Guide?: The Practice of *Fal-i Qur’an* in the Safavid Period,” international conference *People of the Prophet’s House: Art, Architecture and Shi‘ism in the Islamic World*, British Museum, London, March 27, 2009.
- “Real Absence: Picturing God in Islamic Art,” invited lecture, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, March 12, 2009.
- Two lectures on Islamic book arts delivered at the symposium *Islamic Book Arts: A One-Day Symposium*, Indiana University, Bloomington, March 7, 2009.
- “From Pen to Printing Press: Ten Centuries of Islamic Book Arts,” opening lecture for the exhibition (of the same name), IU Art Museum, Bloomington, March 6, 2009.
- “Of Beardless Youths, Stimulants, and Voyeurs: Modern Persian Erotica in the Kinsey Institute,” included on the panel *On the Sensuous and Erotic in Islamic Art*, chaired by Francesca Leoni (Rice University), CAA Conference, Los Angeles, February 25-28, 2009.
- “Modern Persian Erotica in the Kinsey Institute,” opening lecture for the show *Eros in Asia: Erotic Art from Iran to Japan*, the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University, February 20, 2009.

- “Real Absence: Picturing God in Islamic Art,” invited lecture, Denis Sinor Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies and Central Eurasian Studies Colloquium, Indiana University, Bloomington, February 4, 2009.
- “Real Absence: Picturing God in Islamic Art,” invited lecture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, January 28, 2009.
- “Questioning the ‘Classical’ in Persian Painting: Models and Problems of Definition,” included on the panel *The Book Arts in Islam: Questioning Categories*, chaired by Emine Fetvaci (Boston University), MESA Conference, Washington D.C., November 22-25, 2008.
- “The Two Pens: Calligraphy and Marbling,” talk for a Turkish Calligraphy & Marbling Exhibit and Workshop (by Dr. Mehmet Refii Kileci), Mathers Museum, Indiana University, November 5, 2008.
- “The Power and Problem of the Image: Depictions of the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Traditions,” Colloquium “Religion and the Subversive,” Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan, September 29, 2008.
- “Messianism as Municipal Matter in Post-Revolutionary Tehran,” included on the panel “Messianism, Kingship and Sacred Cities in the Islamic World,” chaired by Heather Ecker (Detroit Institute of Arts), *Historians of Islamic Art Biennial Symposium (I: Spaces & Visions)*, Philadelphia, October 16-18, 2008.
- “Return, Retribution, and Reward: Messianism as Municipal Matter in Post-Revolutionary Tehran,” CASAW Workshop, 'Studies of the City: Towards an Interdisciplinary and Trans-regional Approach', University of Manchester, September 5-6, 2008.
- “Ottoman Art and Architecture of the ‘Classical’ Period (ca. 1400-1600),” invited lecture, Princeton Institute of International and Transregional Studies, summer program in Istanbul, Koç University, Tuesday, July 29, 2008.
- “From Primordial Flux to the ‘Perfect Man’: The Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Texts and Images,” presented at *Crossing Boundaries, Creating Images: The Prophet Muhammad in Literary and Visual Traditions. A Presentation of Work in Progress*, Kunsthistorisches Institut/ Max-Planck Foundation, Florence, May 22, 2008.
- “Logos, Light, and Veil: Depicting the Prophet Muhammad from 1300 to Today,” and “Confronting Other, Constructing Self: The Prophet Muhammad through European Eyes, 800-1900,” Detroit Institute of Arts, March 19 and March 20, 2008.
- “Memory, Identity, and Visual Culture: Mural Arts in Modern Iran,” research network “Memory, Trauma and Identity in Literary and Visual Representations in the Middle East,” British *Society of Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)*, Edinburgh, February 21, 2008.
- “Between Logos (*Kalima*) and Light (*Nur*): The Prophet Muhammad in Persian Textual and Visual Traditions,” invited lecture, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, Montreal, February 5, 2008.
- “Media/ting Conflict: Iranian Posters from the Iran-Iraq War (1980-88),” included on the panel “Art and War,” 32nd Congress of the International Committee of the History of Art (CIHA), Melbourne, Australia, January 13-18, 2008.

- "Notes from the Field: The Challenges of Conducting Research in Museums and Libraries in the Islamic World," Sponsors' Symposium, Council on Library and Information Resources, Washington, D.C., December 11, 2007.
- "Islamic Manuscripts and Digital Technology: New Methods and Possibilities," Soros Foundation and Academy of Sciences, Doshanbe, Tajikistan, October 26, 2007.
- "Towards a History of Persian Painting: Models and Problems of Definition," presented at conference *Persian Painting and Modern/Contemporary Iranian Painting: Continuity or Discontinuity?*, Imam 'Ali Museum, Tehran, Iran, 15-16 June 2007.
- "The Writing is on the Wall: Post-Revolutionary Murals in Tehran," panel on the murals of Iran accompanying Fotini Christia's exhibition *Walls of Martyrdom: Tehran's Propaganda Murals*, Concourse Gallery, Center for Government and International Studies, Harvard University, May 18, 2007 (exhibition: May 18-June 15, 2007).
- "Between Logos and Light: Depicting the Prophet Muhammad from 1300 to Today," invited lecture, University of Wisconsin, Madison, May 8, 2007.
- "From Parchment to the Printing Press: Ten Centuries of the Islamic Manuscript Tradition in the Lilly Library," Middle East Arts Festival, Indiana University, February 9, 2007.
- "A Sunni Prayer Manual of the Ilkhanid Period: The Anonymous *Mi'rajnama* dated 685/1286," presented (in Persian) at the Research Center for The Written Tradition (Miras-e Maktub), Tehran, November 18, 2007. This talk and several personal interviews were broadcast on four television channels in Iran, December 20-30, 2006.
- "When *Nubuvvat* Encounters *Valayat*: Safavid Paintings of the Prophet Muhammad's *Mi'raj*," Conference on Safavid Art, Iranian Academy of Arts, Tehran, December 10, 2006.
- "The Timurid *Mi'rajnama* at the Ottoman Court: The Role of Ekphrastic Commentary in the Transmission of Ascension Texts and Images," included in the panel (organizer) "The Prophet Muhammad's Ascension (*Mi'raj*) in Turkic Literary and Cultural Traditions," MESA, Boston, November 19, 2006.
- "Images of Muhammad," presented on the panel discussing the use of visual materials in the teaching of Islam, Middle East Medievalists roundtable, MESA, Boston, November 18, 2006 (delivered on my behalf by Suleiman Mourad)
- "The Passion of Ritual Theater: 'Ashura and Ta'ziyeh Ceremonies in Modern Day Iran," invited lecture, Smith College, Northampton, April 28, 2006.
- "Between Logos (*Kalima*) and Light (*Nur*): Depicting the Prophet Muhammad in Islamic Painting," presented at the panel "Seeing Around the World: Visuality in Asia, Africa, Mesoamerica, and the Islamic World," chaired by Tamara Sears and Deborah Stein, CAA Conference, Boston, February 23, 2006.
- "The Power of the Image: Depicting the Prophet Muhammad from ca. 1300 to Today," Panel in response to the Muhammad Cartoon Controversy, Indiana University, February 21, 2006.
- "Teaching Prayers in Pictorial Form: the Case of the Ilkhanid *Mi'rajnama* of ca. 1317-35," *Elective Affinities*, International Association for Word and Image Studies, Philadelphia, September 23, 2005.

- “Jerusalem in the Visual Propaganda of Modern Iran,” Conference on *The Idea of Jerusalem*, organized by Suleiman Mourad and Tamar Mayer, Middlebury College, April 2005.
- “The Ilkhanid *Miʿrajnama* (TSK H. 2154) as an Illustrated Prayer Book,” Conference in Honor of the Retirement of Filiz Çağman (Director, Topkapı Palace), Istanbul, February 7-10, 2005.
- “The Murals of Modern Tehran,” Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, March 16, 2004.
- “Texts and Images of the Prophet Muhammad’s Ascension in Iranian Collections,” Bilingual French/Persian lecture, Institut Français de Recherches en Iran, Tehran, January 28, 2004.
- “The Gulbenkian *Baharistan*: ʿAbd al-Aziz & the Bihzadian Tradition in 16th-Century Bukhara,” International Congress on Master Kamal al-Din Bihzad, Tehran, December 15-8, 2003.
- “The Keir *Miʿraj*: Islamic Storytelling and the Picturing of Tales in the Fifteenth Century,” presented at the panel “Seeing the Self, Seeing the Other” (discussant: Sheila Blair), Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) Conference, Harvard University, October 2-5, 2003. Paper received CESS conference’s Honorable Mention.
- “Les Textes et Manuscrits du *Miʿraj* du Prophète Mohammed,” invited lecture, Paris I/Sorbonne, January 29, 2003.
- “The ‘Missiri’ of Fréjus as Healing Memorial: the French Military and its Islamic Architecture (1928-1964),” presented at the panel “Modernity, Modernisms, and the Reception of African Art” (chair: Helen M. Shannon), CAA Conference, Philadelphia, February 22, 2002.

Conferences and Panels Organized or Chaired

- Race and Gender in Islamic Art and Visual Culture*, international symposium co-organized with Holley Ledbetter, Oberlin College, April 19, 2024.
- Co-organizer (with Holley Ledbetter), “Today’s Image Debacles: From the Prophet Muhammad to Michelangelo’s David,” College Art Association (CAA) Conference, Chicago, February 14-17, 2024.
- Discussant, “Images in Islam,” panel organized by Ali Alibhai, Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual conference, Montreal, November 4, 2023.
- Co-organizer (with Holley Ledbetter), “Intersections of Race and Gender in Islamic Art and Visual Culture,” HIAA Biennial Symposium, MFA Houston, March 3, 2023.
- Co-organizer (with Holley Ledbetter) and discussant, “The Racialized Figure in Islamic Art and Visual Culture,” HIAA-sponsored panel, College Art Association (CAA) Conference, February 17, 2022.
- Convener, biennial symposium on “Regime Change,” Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA), University of Michigan, April 15-17, 2021.
- Organized and hosted a [field-wide discussion](#) about online resources for the teaching of Islamic art, July 15, 2020.

Member, biennial symposium committee, Historians of Islamic Art Association, Yale University, 2017.

Convener, guest lecture, and lead discussant, “Medieval Ascension Narratives in Islamic and European Traditions,” Centre for Medieval Literature and the David Collection, Copenhagen, March 27, 2017.

Co-organizer with Karla Mallette, workshop “Qur’an Plus,” Islamic Studies Program, University of Michigan, February 10, 2017.

Faculty host and organizer for the one-week residencies of Syrian artist Khaled al-Saa’i and Iranian muralist Mehdi Ghadyanloo, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, October and November 2016.

Panel organizer and chair, “Crafting Knowledge in Persian and Turkish Book Arts: Painting, Calligraphy, Genealogy, and Law,” Historians of Islamic Art Association, Fourth Biennial Symposium, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, October 16-18, 2014.

Encounters with Islamic Art: Reception, Revival, and Response: symposium convener, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, February 1, 2014. Symposium talks available [online](#).

Arts of the Arab World Uprisings: Freer Symposium convener (with Juan Cole), Ann Arbor, Nov. 14-15, 2013. Symposium talks available [online](#).

Organizer and presenter, artists’ panel, opening of the exhibition “Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings,” Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, November 16, 2013. Panel talks available [online](#).

Chair and discussant, panel on “Ideology, Art, and History in Museums of Modern Turkey,” organized by Yasemin Gencer, annual conference, Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, October 10-13, 2013.

Discussant, panel “Images of Children and Childhood in the Modern Middle East,” organized by Pamela Karimi, MESA, San Diego, November 18-21, 2010.

Crossing Boundaries, Creating Images: In Search of the Prophet Muhammad in Literary and Visual Traditions, convener of conference with papers by 30 distinguished scholars, Kunsthistorisches Institut/ Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Florence, July 16-19, 2008.

Rhetoric of the Image: Visual Culture in Political Islam: an international conference organized by myself and Sune Haugbolle, Copenhagen University, March 21-22, 2009.

From Pen to Paper: Ten Centuries of the Islamic Manuscript Tradition: organizer of a symposium on Islamic book arts, Indiana University Art Museum, March 7, 2009.

Organized the conference *Crossing Boundaries, Creating Images: The Prophet Muhammad in Literary and Visual Traditions. A Presentation of Work in Progress*, Kunsthistorisches Institut/ Max-Planck Foundation, Florence, May 22, 2008.

Chair, panel on Central Asian Art and Archaeology, 14th annual conference, Central Eurasian Students Association, Indiana University, Bloomington, March 31, 2007.

Chair, discussant, and organizer of panel “New Approaches to Islamic Painting,” Midwest Art History Society, Indianapolis, March 28-31, 2007.

Organizer, panel on Islamic Manuscripts in the Lilly Library, The Middle East Arts Festival, Indiana University, Bloomington, February 10, 2007.

Organizer, panel “The Prophet Muhammad’s Ascension (*Miraj*) in Turkic Literary and Cultural Traditions,” MESA, Boston, November 19, 2006.

Discussant at the panel co-organized with Frederick Colby: “Raising the Discourse to Another Level: Diverse Adaptations and Appropriations of the Prophet Muhammad’s Ascension,” American Academy of Religion, Washington D.C., November 18, 2006.

Organized a three-day workshop at the University of Pennsylvania on Arabic paleography and codicology for Dr. Adam Gacek, McGill University, Montréal, May 9-11, 2002.

Professional Experience and Service

a. Curatorial Experience

2023-24: Faculty Curator, conceptualization of the permanent “Crossroads of Culture” gallery and curating of [BIG Spotlight #2](#), Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan.

2018-19: Co-Curator with Ulrike al-Khamis, *The Moon: Voyage Through Time*, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, March-July 2019.

2014: Curator, exhibition *Pearls of Wisdom: The Arts of Islam in the University of Michigan*, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan, Fall 2014.

2013-14: Curatorial Advisor, exhibition *Doris Duke’s Shangri La*, University of Michigan Museum of Art, January-May 2014. Organized public programming, teacher training, tours, workshops, and an international symposium (*Encounters with Islamic Art: Reception, Revival, and Response*).

2013: Guest Curator, exhibition *Creative Dissent: The Arts of the Arab World Uprisings*, National Arab American Museum, Dearborn, November 2013 – February 2014.

2011: Guest Curator, exhibition *The Graphics of Revolution and War: Iranian Poster Arts*, Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington (October 2011 to January 2012).

2008-9: Guest Curator, exhibition *From Pen to Printing Press: Ten Centuries of Islamic Books Arts*, Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington (March 6 to June 30, 2009).

1999-2002: Graduate Intern and Spotlight Lecturer, Philadelphia Museum of Art: responsible for the Islamic art collection and public spotlight tours.

1994-98: Assistant to the Publications Department, The Art Museum, Princeton University: tasks included label-making, check/ credit-card processing, data processing, press releases, temporary exhibition organization, editorial assistance, and help in arranging the Islamic art exhibit in the Medieval Art galleries.

Summer 1997: Undergraduate Intern at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: research assistant to Dr. Stefano Carboni, Curator, Department of Islamic Art. Worked on the *Kutubiyya Minbar* publication (research and translation), wrote labels for Fatimid objects in Gallery 2, and gave highlight tours and special topic tours (“Images of Paradise in Islamic Art”).

b. National and International Service

- 2020-2021: President-Elect, Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA)
- 2019- 2022: External expert reviewer, Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton
- 2019- present: Founder/Director, [*Khamseen: Islamic Art History Online*](#)
- 2019: member, advisory board, *Journal of Material Cultures in the Muslim World*
- 2019: reviewer, capital grant application, Max-Planck-Society
- 2018-present: member, Editorial Board, *International Journal of Islamic Architecture*
- 2018-2021: member, Board of Trustees, American Institute of Iranian Studies
- 2018-2021: member, Advisory Board, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Koç University
- 2016-18: member, advisory board, *Comparative Hell*, international loan exhibition curated by Adriana Proser, Asia Society Museum, New York
- 2015-17: member, scientific committee, exhibition *Power and Protection: Islamic Art and the Supernatural*, curated by Francesca Leoni, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University
- 2016: applicant reviewer for a (successful) Franco-German research project submitted to the Agence Nationale de la Recherche and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
- 2015-17: expert consultant, US Postal Service Stamp Program, 2016 and 2017 Eid stamps
- 2015- present: co-editor (with Mohammad Gharipour), book series *Critical Studies in Architecture of the Middle East*, Intellect and Chicago University Press
- 2015-19: Contributor, *Newsweek*.
- 2015- present: member, Advisory Board, Persian Digital Humanities Initiative, Roshan Institute of Persian Studies, University of Maryland
- 2015- present: member, Editorial Board, *Islamic Art Studies* journal, The Institute of Islamic Art Studies, Tehran, Iran
- 2015- present: member, Editorial Board, *Iranian Studies Book Series*, Lit Verlag
- 2014-2019: member, Advisory Board, Duke Islamic Studies Center, Duke University
- 2014- 2020: External Advisor, research project on “Mirza Ali-Qoli Kho’i and the Art of Lithographic Illustration in Persian Books of the Qajar period,” directed by Ulrich Marzolph (University of Göttingen), Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.
- 2014-15: member, fellowship committee, American Academy in Berlin (reviewed applications)
- 2014-15: member, fellowship committee, National Humanities Center (reviewed applications)
- 2014-15: Chair, Grabar Fellowships and Grants, Historians of Islamic Art Association
- 2013-present: member, Advisory Board, *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Culture of the Islamic World*, journal, Harvard University

2013-present: member, Advisory Board, book series, *Arts and Archaeology of the Islamic World*, Brill.

2013-2021: member and chairperson (2017-2021), Advisory Board, Asia Society Museum, New York City, NY

2013-18: member, scientific board, international research group “Bilderfahrzeuge: Warburg’s Legacy and the Future of Iconology,” German Ministry of Education and Research, five-year project hosted at four international art and cultural institutes in France, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy. Budget: 5.4 million Euros, granted to doctoral and postdoctoral researchers.

2013-15: member, steering committee, Islamic Mysticism Group, American Academy of Religion

2012-13: member, Grabar Fellowships and Grants, Historians of Islamic Art Association

2012-13: member, editorial board, special issue of the *Journal of Iranian Studies* on the historiography of Persian architecture.

2011-12: member, Symposium Working Group, *The Sultan’s Garden: The Blossoming of Ottoman Art*, The Textile Museum, Washington D.C., October 11-12, 2012.

2011: member, program committee, MESA 45th annual meeting, Washington DC, Dec. 2011

2010- present: Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia* (Oxon, UK: Sean Kingston Publishing).

2010: application reviewer for the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University.

2010: Committee Member, Margaret B. Ševčenko Prize for Best Article on Islamic Art, Historians of Islamic Art Association.

Spring 2008: Managing Director and Senior Fellow, “*Crossing Boundaries, Creating Images: In Search of the Prophet Muhammad in Literary and Visual Traditions*,” Kunsthistorisches Institut/Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Florence.

2008-9: Member, ARIT Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Committee.

2008-2010: Museum Policy Committee, IU Art Museum, Bloomington, IN.

October 2007: Delegate, Soros Foundation & Academy of Sciences, Doshanbe, Tajikistan.

2007-2009: ARIT Delegate-at-Large; consortial representative of Indiana University.

2007-2010: Board Member, Historians of Islamic Art Association; editor of listserv, H-Islamart.

Spring 2007: Member, Mellon Doctoral Fellowship Selection Committee, Council on Library and Information Resources, Washington, D.C.

2004-5: Contractor, Library of Congress, Department of African and Middle Eastern Studies: responsible for measuring, organizing, researching, and identifying 355 Arabic-script calligraphic specimens; and author of the online catalogue.

c. Service at the University of Michigan

2023-25: Member, LSA Divisional Executive Committee (DEC): reviewed all tenure and promotion cases in the College, hires with tenure/promotion, and Associate Professor Support Funds (APSF) applications.

2023-24: Member, UM Dean's and Provost's Committees for the American Numismatic Society.

2019-2022: Chair, History of Art Department; Member, Executive Committee, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology; Member, Executive Committee, Museum Studies Program; Member, Executive Committee, Interdepartmental Program for Classical Art and Archaeology; Member, Steering Committee, Humanities Collaboratory (2019-21); Member, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (LSA) Chairs and Directors Group.

2018-19: Associate Chair, History of Art Department, University of Michigan

2016-18: supervisor to Dr. Martina Becker, Marie-Curie postdoctoral fellow

2013-17: Member, Steering Committee, Mediterranean Studies, University of Michigan

2016- present: member, editorial board, *Ars Orientalis*, University of Michigan – Smithsonian Institution

2014-15: member, Masters Admissions Committee, CMENAS, University of Michigan

2013-15: Director of Graduate Studies, History of Art, University of Michigan

2013-15 (and 2010-12): member, Graduate Committee, History of Art, University of Michigan

2013-15: member, Executive Committee, History of Art, University of Michigan

2013-15: member, Steering Committee, Islamic Studies Program, University of Michigan

2011- present: member, Freer Committee, University of Michigan – Smithsonian Institution