

Roschanack Shaery

shaery@mmg.mpg.de

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Chicago, Modern Middle East History/Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations August 2005 (Honors).

M.Phil., University of Chicago, Modern Middle East History/Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations 2000.

M.A., Karl-Ruprechts Universität Heidelberg, Anthropology and Education 1998.

Ph.D. thesis: “*Constructing Lebanese Shi‘ite Nationalism: Transnationalism, Shi‘ism, and the Lebanese State*” focusing on how Shi‘ite transnational activities have affected Lebanese Shi‘ite identity production in Lebanon since the 1970s. I conducted preliminary research in Beirut in the summer of 2000, and carried out my main research in 2002-2003.

Dissertation committee: Rashid Khalidi (Columbia University, formerly University of Chicago, chair), Rula Jurdi-Abisaab (McGill University), Holly Shissler (University of Chicago).

M.A. thesis: *Die Rolle der persischen Sprache in der Legitimierung des iranischen Nationalismus. Eine ethnohistorische Analyse.* (“The role of the Persian language in the legitimization of Iranian nationalism: An ethno-historical analysis”) focusing on ideologies of language and cultural politics in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Iran.

EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Researcher Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen, November 2010-

Syria Researcher, University of Amsterdam, “Knowledge Program/Civil Society and Authoritarianism in West Asia.” Amsterdam School for Social Science Research (ASSR), October 2008-April 2010.

Lecturer, Utrecht University, Department of Religious Studies, February to April 2009/November 2009 to January 2010.

Post-Doctoral Lecturer, Washington University, Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures and Program in International and Area Studies 2007.

Lecturer in Persian, Washington University, Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures 2005-2006.

Lecturer in Persian, University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations 1999-2001.

Research Assistant, Office of International Affairs, University of Heidelberg 1994-1995.

Internship, Department of Multicultural Affairs, City of Frankfurt 1995.

LANGUAGES

Native competence in German and Persian.

Good reading and speaking competence in Arabic.

Good reading and comprehension skills in Dutch, fair speaking.

Fair reading competence in French.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion and politics, piety and secularism, religious transnationalism, Shi'ism, coexistence and reconciliation, comparative study of violence, pain, suffering, memories of war, trauma, detention, nationalism, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, India.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND NOMINATIONS

Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin, Visiting Fellowship, June 2009.
International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (ISIM) in Leiden Visiting Fellowship 2008.
Social Science Research Council (SSRC)- Program on Global Security and Cooperation Fellowship 2002-2004.
Resident Scholar at the German Orient Institute Beirut 2002-2003.
University of Chicago Council for Advanced Studies in Peace and International Cooperation (CASPIC) MacArthur Scholars Fellowship 2001-2002.
Norman Wait Harris Memorial Foundation Fund 2000-2001 Award, University of Chicago.
University of Chicago Council for Advanced Studies in Peace and International Cooperation (CASPIC) Summer Research Travel Grant 2000.
University of Chicago Century Scholarship 1998-2002.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Forthcoming. *Rethinking Sectarianism in the Middle East: Politics, Religion, History*. Edited volume (with Max Weiss).
2008. *Shi'ite Lebanon: Transnational Religion and the Making of National Identities*. (New York: Columbia University Press).

Articles

2012. The Local Politics of the Lebanese Disappeared. *Middle East Report* 262. *Pull of the Possible*. (Spring 2012).
2011. From Subjects to Citizens? Civil Society and the Internet in Syria. Special Issue on Modern Syria in *Middle East Critique*. 20 (2):127-138.
2010. Political Society and Civil Society in Syria. The Politics of a-Politicization. *Civil Society in West Asia (II)*, University of Amsterdam.
2009. New Media in Syria. *Civil Society in West Asia (I)*, University of Amsterdam.
2009. Territorializing Piety. Genealogy, Transnationalism, and Shi'ite Politics in Modern Lebanon. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 51(3): 533-562.
2009. Iranian-Lebanese Relations. *Viewpoints. Special Issue: The Islamic Republic of Iran at 30*. Middle East Institute. (online)
2007. Post-revolutionary Iran and Shi'i Lebanon: Contested Histories of Shi'i Transnationalism. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 39 (2):271-289.
2007. Imagining Shi'ite Iran: Transnationalism and Religious Authenticity in the Muslim World. *Iranian Studies* 40(1): 17-35.
2006. The War in Iraq: Lessons for American Foreign Policy. *Washington University Political Review* 5(1):16-17.
2005. 'Ajami Iraqis: The non-Arab Arabs? *Middle East Report* 237. *Fragments of the State*. (Winter 2005): 40-41.
2004. Iran, the Vatican of Shi'ism? *Middle East Report* 233. *Special Issue: Iran's Clouded Horizons*. (Winter 2004):40-43.

2003. Mustafa Chamran: The Apotheosis of a Transnational Shi'ite. *Beiruter Blätter. Mitteilungen des Orient-Instituts Beirut* 10-11(2002/2003): 167-169.
2003. Transnationalism, Shi'ism, and Authenticity. *SSRC (GSC) Quarterly* 10 (Fall 2003). (online)
2003. Hamyaran: The Iranian NGO Resource Center. *SSRC (GSC) Quarterly* 10 (Fall 2003). (online)
2003. *Ravabet-i Iran va Lubnan*. ("Iranian-Lebanese Relations"). *Goftegu*. (Summer 2003): 148-161. Special issue on *Goftegu junub ba junub* ("Dialogue from South to South") (in Persian).

Book chapters

Forthcoming. The Internet in Syria. Civil Society Activism and Technologies (with Francesco Cavatorta). In: Paul Aarts and Francesco Cavatorta (eds.) *Unusual Suspects in Civil Society in Syria and Iran*. (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, Forthcoming).

2012. Fixing and Negotiating Identities in the Field: The Case of Lebanese Shi'ites. Reprinted in: Antonius C.G.M Robben and Jeffrey A. Sluka (eds.). *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. (Hoboken, N.J: Wiley-Blackwell), 103-114.

2009. Fixing and Negotiating Identities in the Field: The Case of Lebanese Shi'ites. In: Martha K. Huggins and Marie-Louise Glebbeek (eds.) *Women Fielding Danger: Negotiating Ethnographic Identities in Field Research*. (Boulder, New York and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield), 31-46.

Encyclopedia article

Forthcoming. Musa Sadr. In: Ehsan Yarshater (ed.) *Encyclopedia Iranica*.

2008. Velayat-e faqih ("Rule of the jurispudent"). In: Kamrava Mehran and Manochehr Dorraj (eds.) *Iran Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Islamic Republic*. (Westport, Connecticut, London: Greenwood Press, 2008) Vol II: 508-512.

Book reviews

Forthcoming. Hamid Dabashi. Shi'ism. A Religion of Protest. (Boston: Harvard University Press, 2011). *Marine Corps University Journal*.

2011. Nicolas van Dam. The Struggle for Power in Syria. Politics and Society under Asad and the Ba'th Party. (London: I.B.Tauris, 2011). *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter*.

2011. Max Weiss. In the Shadow of Sectarianism. Law, Shi'ism, and the Making of Modern Lebanon. (Boston: Harvard University Press, 2010). *Social History*. 36 (2):248-250.

2007. Tamara Chalabi. The Shi'is of Jabal 'Amil and the New Lebanon. Community and Nation-State, 1918-1943. (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2006). *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. 39: 669-670.

In progress

Lebanese Detainees in Syria. Transnationalism, Suffering, and Piety (book manuscript)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Utrecht University:

Blok 2 and 3 in 2009-2010: Radical Islamic Thought

Washington University:

Spring 2007: History of Iran 1501-present
Fall 2007: Shi'ite Revival in the Modern Middle East; Culture and Society of Modern Iran
2005-2007: First, second, and third-year Persian

University of Chicago:

Teaching assistant in Persian, University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (2004-2005).

Lecturer in Persian, University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (1999-2001).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of the Dissertation Prize Committee. Syrian Studies Association 2012-2013.

Reviewer for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, and *International Journal of Middle East Studies*.

Speaker in Teachers' Institute "Rethinking Sectarianism," Princeton University, May 2008.

Speaker in public panel "The crisis in Lebanon" at Saint Louis University's seventh annual Atlas Week, Saint Louis University, April 2007.

Speaker at Washington University's Fourth Annual International Human Rights Film Festival discussing the movie *Marmulak* (Lizard), Washington University in Saint Louis, March 2007.

Speaker in public panel "Understanding Iran." Washington University in Saint Louis, April 2006.
Organization of a series of teach-ins on the Arab-Israeli conflict at the University of Chicago 2000-2001.

Translator (Persian-German) for Amnesty International, the German Red Cross and Caritas, Heidelberg, Germany 1987-1993. Assisted Afghan political refugees in their applications for asylum.

INVITED TALKS

"Transnationalism, Detention, and the Politics of Suffering in Downtown Beirut." Orient Institute Beirut, October 2011.

"Transnationalism and the politics of suffering. Lebanese citizens in Syrian detentions." Workshop: Lebanon Faces the Future, The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, April 2011.

"Reproducing Islamists' anti-imperialist discourse: Some critical remarks on romanticizing violence." Conference: Women and Islamic Resistance. Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Westminster, November 2008.

"Localizing transnationalism: Hizbullah and the nation in postwar Lebanon." Conference: The Post-Islamist Turn: Shifting Character of Islamism. ISIM, Leiden, September 2008.

"The subaltern screams: Coexistence and the making of sectarian difference in Lebanon." Conference: Rethinking Sectarianism. Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, May 2008.

"Who was Musa Sadr? Multiple narratives of a transnational Shi'ite leader." Conference: The Shia, Modernity, and the Legacy of Musa al-Sadr, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan, March 2008.

"Sacred Jabal 'Amil. Genealogy, time, and Shi'ite politics in Lebanon since 1980." History Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, December 2007.

"Imagining Transnational Shi'ite Networks: Mustafa Chamran and post-revolutionary Iranian politics in Lebanon." 8th Annual Middle East Studies Conference: The Resurgence of

- Shi'i Islam. Religion, Politics, and Society in Times of War. Center for Middle East Studies. University of California, Santa Barbara, February 2006.
- "Shi'ite transnational movements, the Saudi state and the Wahabi elite." Panel organized by International and Area Studies Program. "Oil, Terror, and the Political History of U.S. and Saudi Arabian Relations." Washington University in Saint Louis November 2005.
- "Transnationalism, Shi'ite identities, and the Lebanese state". German Orient Institute in Beirut, January 2003.
- "Transnationalism, identity production, and the state" Social Science Research Council Conference on Global Security and Cooperation, Moscow, September 2002.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- "From subjects to citizens? Civil society and internet in Syria." Bashar al-Asad's First Decade. A Period of Transition for Syria?. Lund University in Sweden, October 2010.
- "Territorializing piety. Genealogy, transnationalism, and Shi'ite politics in modern Lebanon." ZMO, Berlin, June 2009.
- "Territorializing piety. Genealogy, transnationalism, and Shi'ite politics in modern Lebanon." ISIM Staff Seminar, Leiden, October 2008.
- "The politics of genealogy in Shi'ite Lebanon. A biography of Shaykh Hani Fahs." Historical Approaches to Twentieth-Century Shi'ism. American Historical Association (AHA), Washington DC., January 2008.
- "Genealogies, lost hopes, and Shi'ite politics in Lebanon: A biography of Shaykh Hani Fahs." 22nd Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 2007.
- Organizer of panel "Shi'ite citizens, colonialism and transnationalism." Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Boston, November 2006.
- "Post-revolutionary Iran and Shi'ite Lebanon: Contested memories of Shi'ite transnationalism." Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston, November 2006.
- Organizer of panel "Subalterns, 'ulama, and transnationals: Shi'ite ethnic entrepreneurs and the production of nationalism in Lebanon" at Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), San Francisco, November 2004.
- "Sectarianism versus nationalism? Shi'ites and the Lebanese state" Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), San Francisco, November 2004.
- "Shi'ite identity production in Lebanon since the 1970s". Graduate Workshop at the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut, December 2002.
- "Shi'ite transnationalism and state authority in Iran and Lebanon in the 1970s". CASPIC Conference at the University of Chicago, 27-28 April 2001.
- "Transnational religious and political networks between Iran and Lebanon in the 1970s." Middle East History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, May 2000.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO).
- Syrian Studies Association, USA.

REFERENCES

- Prof. Fred Donner, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, Pick Hall, 5828 South University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637. Tel. (773) 702-9512
f-donner@uchicago.edu

Prof. Holly Shissler, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, Pick Hall,
5828 South University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637. Tel. (773) 702-9512
ashissle@uchicago.edu

Prof. Peter van der Veer, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity,
Hermann-Föge-Weg 11, 37073 Göttingen. Tel (551) 4956-226
vanderveer@mmg.mpg.de

Prof. Rashid Khalidi, Middle East Institute, Columbia University, 420 West 118th Street,
New York, NY 10027. Tel. (212) 854-2584
rik2101@columbia.edu