

Assistant Professor  
Department of Theory and History of Art Design  
Rhode Island School of Design  
2 College Street, 347A College Bldg.  
Providence, RI 02903, USA  
torshizi@risd.edu

## EMPLOYMENT

July 2017–: Assistant Professor of Art of the Islamic World  
Department of Theory and History of Art and Design  
Rhode Island School of Design

## EDUCATION

2014–2017: **PhD** in Comparative Literature and Society and Middle Eastern  
and Asian Languages and Cultures  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
Dissertation: “‘The Clarity of Meaning’: Contemporary Iranian Art and the Cosmopolitan  
Ethics of Reading in Art History.”  
Committee: Alexander Alberro, Joaquin Barriendos, Hamid Dabashi (Academic Advisor),  
Sudipta Kaviraj (Chair), and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak.

2010–2013: **MPhil** in Comparative Literature and Society and Middle Eastern  
and Asian Languages and Cultures  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
Committee Members and Fields:  
Alexander Alberro, Art History and Historiography  
Hamid Dabashi, Postcolonial Literature and Theory  
Sudipta Kaviraj, Philosophy of History and Historiography

2008–2010: **MA** in Art History  
Primary focus: Contemporary Art and Theory; Secondary focus: Islamic Art  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

2004–2007: **MFA** in Photography  
Honar (Art) University, Tehran, Iran

2000–2004: **BFA** in Graphic Design  
Sooreh University, Tehran, Iran

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017-: Assistant Professor of Art of the Islamic World  
Department of Theory and History of Art and Design  
and Graduate Program in Global Arts and Cultures  
Rhode Island School of Design
- 2016-2017: Preceptor: *Contemporary Civilization*  
Core Curriculum, Columbia University in the City of New York
- 2016 Spring: Teaching Assistant: *Reading Marx* (graduate seminar)  
Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University
- 2015 Spring: Visiting Lecturer  
*Philosophies and Theories of Art II*  
Department of Photography and Graphic Arts (graduate level)  
University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
- 2014 Fall: Visiting Lecturer  
*Video Art: A History of Ideas and Practices* and *Philosophies and Theories of Art I*  
Department of Photography and Graphic Arts (graduate level)  
University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
- 2014 Spring: Graduate Mini-seminar  
*Cosmopolitanism and Postcolonial Literature*  
Dipartimento di Scienze della Mediazione Linguistica e di Studi Interculturali  
Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy
- 2014 Spring: Visiting Adjunct Lecturer  
*Migrant Objects: Globalization and the Cosmopolitan Ethics of Intercultural Exchange*  
Dipartimento di Scienze Sociali e Politiche  
Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy
- 2012-2013: Teaching Assistant: *Pro-Seminar* (Columbia Global Centers)  
Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University
- 2012 Spring: Teaching Assistant: *General Strike in Politics and Literature* (graduate seminar)  
Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University
- 2011 Fall: Instructor: *Intermediate Persian*  
Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University
- 2010-2011: Research Assistant of Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, University Professor in  
the Humanities, Columbia University.

- 2006-2008: Visiting Lecturer  
*Introduction to Contemporary Art and Visual Arts Criticism and Analysis*  
 Department of Painting, Sooreh University, Tehran, Iran
- 2006-2008: Visiting Lecturer  
*Visual Arts Criticism and Analysis, History of Photography II (Modern and Contemporary Photography)*, and *An Introduction to Visual Semiology*  
 Department of Photography, School of Art and Architecture, Azad University, Tehran, Iran

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2023: “Art History, Postcolonialism, and the ‘Global’ Turn,” co-written with Dr. Joshua I. Cohen (CUNY Graduate School) and Dr. Vazira F-Y Zamindar (Brown University), *ARTMargins*, special issue on Art History and Postcolonialism, edited by Joshua I. Cohen, Vazira F-Y Zamindar, and Foad Torshizi (scheduled for print in June 2023).
- 2023: “Loquacious Objects: Contemporary Iranian Art, Auto-translation, and the Readings of Benevolence.” *Grey Room*, vol. 90, no. 4, Winter 2023, pp. 94-118, MIT Press.
- 2022: “هنر معاصر ایران، و پرسش ترجمه” (“Contemporary Iranian Art and the Question of Translation”). *One Hundred Years with Visual Arts*, edited by Hasan Mourizinejad, Iran Institute for Development of Plastic Arts, Ministry of Culture, 2022, pp. 317-336. In Persian.
- 2021: “The Affective Feminism of Ghazaleh Hedayat.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2021, pp. 106-121, Duke University Press.
- 2016: “باربد گلشیری: علیه کلان‌روایت‌های هنر” (“Barbad Golshiri: Against Grand Narratives of Art”). *Herfeh Honarmand*, no. 61, 2016, pp. 162-173, in Persian.
- 2016: “کار سیاسی؛ گفتگوی مجید اخگر، ایمان افسریان، فواد ترشیزی و باربد گلشیری درباره ی هنر و سیاست” (“Political Work: A roundtable with Majid Akhgar, Iman Afsarian, Foad Torshizi, and Barbad Golshiri about Art and Politics”). *Herfeh Honarmand*, no. 60, 2016, pp. 67-77, in Persian.
- 2016: “زمان‌اکنون و اشباح آن: چند نکته درباره ی نمایشگاه «کارنامه: فرهنگ دیداری کودکان ایران ۱۳۶۰-۱۳۳۰»” (“*Jetztzeit* and its Ghosts: Some Notes on [the exhibition] *Karnameh: Visual Culture of Iranian Children 1950-1980*, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art”). *Herfeh Honarmand*, no. 60, 2016, pp. 183-184, in Persian. Co-authored with Shervin Taheri.
- 2012: “The Unveiled Apple: Gender, Ethnicity, and the Limits of Inter-discursive Interpretation of Contemporary Iranian Art.” *Iranian Studies*, vol. 45, no. 4, 2012, pp. 549-569, Routledge.

- 2012: “Fragmented Visual Perception and the State of Emergency: Contemporary Art as Critique of Late Capitalism.” *Alef*, vol. 89, no. 4, 2012, pp. 118-121, in Persian, translated from English.
- 2007: Translation into Persian: “Video Art,” written by Frank Popper. *Faslname-ye Honar (Art Quarterly)*, 2007, pp. 202-221. Published by the Center for Art Research and Advanced Studies, Iran Ministry of Culture.
- 2005: “Photography: Retelling/Reproducing the Real.” *Bulletin of International Assembly on Art and Globalization*, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, 2005, in Persian.

#### SPECIAL ISSUES

- 2023 (June): *ARTMargins*, special issue on art history and postcolonialism, edited by Joshua I. Cohen, Vazira F-Y Zamindar, and Foad Torshizi (scheduled for print in June 2023).

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- 2018: Review of *Posthumous Images: Contemporary Art and Memory Politics in Post-Civil War Lebanon* by Chad Elias. *Arab Studies Quarterly*, vol. 40, no. 4, 2018, pp. 343-346.

#### AWARDS

- 2022: Research Fellowships at the Cluster of Excellence “Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective” — August 1, 2022 – December 1, 2022. Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies, Freie Universität – Berlin  
Project Title: “Translating Minds: Iranian Modernism and the Discourse of Art Criticism.”
- 2022: Faculty Development Fund  
In support of my residency at the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies, Freie Universität – Berlin.  
Rhode Island School of Design.
- 2017-18: Faculty Humanities Award  
In support of my research project, entitled *Translating Minds*, on the formation of the discourses of art criticism in Iran from 1952 to 1980.  
Division of Liberal Arts, Rhode Island School of Design.

- 2017: William Campbell Award (for service and leadership)  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
Columbia University in the City of New York
- 2016-2017: Ehsan Yarshater Fellow, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University  
Fellowship in recognition of academic qualifications and contributions
- 2015-2016: Ehsan Yarshater Fellow, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University  
Fellowship in recognition of academic qualifications and contributions
- 2013-2014: Faculty Fellow: Dissertation Research Fellowship, Columbia University in the City of New York
- 2011-2012: Middle East Institute Summer Research Travel Fund
- 2010-2011: Faculty Fellow: Columbia University in the City of New York
- 2008-2009: GRPP (Graduate Research Partnership Program), College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- 2008-2009: Colonial Dames Scholarship: International Students and Scholars Services, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

#### INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

- 2020: Co-organizer of “Art History, Postcolonialism, and the ‘Global’ Turn” Conference with Vazira Zamindar (Brown) and Joshua I. Cohen (CCNY); September-October, 2020.
- 2020: Co-chair of CAA Panel “‘Only a Closed Book’: Monolingualism and Contemporary Art in the Middle East and North Africa.” CAA Annual Conference 2020, Chicago, IL.
- 2018: “When Literature Leaves the Frame: Ethics of Comparative Literature and the Discipline of Art History,” ICLS 20th Anniversary Symposium “Imagined Worlds: Politics, Literature, and Theory Making.” Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University, November 2018 (invited lecture)
- 2018: Chair of panel “Sacred and Mundane: Locating the Contemporary in Art History,” at “How Secular Is Art? On the Art of Art History in South Asia” International Symposium, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University, October 2018  
Co-organized by Tapati Guha-Thakurta and Vazira Zamindar

- 2017: “Objects that Do Not Behave: Dissenting Strategies in the Works of Ghazaleh Hedayat,” panel on Feminist Temporalities and Art Histories in the Middle East and North Africa, College Art Association Annual Conference, February 2017
- 2016: “(Mis)Translations and Some Formative Moments in the Discourse of Contemporary Iranian Art,” seminar on Cross-Cultural Values: Confluences and Conflicts, American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Harvard University, March 2016
- 2012: “‘Yes, but I loved her body too’: Towards a Micropolitics of Homoeroticism in Contemporary Iranian Lenswork,” at Iranian Contemporary Art: Searching for Identity? Bonn University, Bonn, Bonner Kunstverein, May 19-20, 2012 (invited lecture)
- 2012: “Political Imagination and Utopia: Homoeroticism in Shirin Neshat’s *Women without Men*,” at New York University’s Graduate Conference, “Bless this Mess”; March 2, 2012
- 2011: “The Unveiled Apple: Gender, Ethnicity, and the Discursive Limits of Inter-discursive Interpretation of Contemporary Iranian Art,” at Maah-e Mehr Cultural Institute, Tehran (invited lecture)
- 2010: “Words Too Few: Gender, Ethnicity, and the Discursive Limits of Interpretation of Contemporary Iranian Art,” panel on Rethinking Gender in Contemporary Iranian Art and Cinema, the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, November 2010
- 2009: “Vision Machines, Contemporary Art, and the Military Logic of Late Capitalism,” Azad Art Gallery, Tehran (invited lecture)
- 2009: “Antagonism and Exoticism: Toward a Model for Resisting Localization,” Azad Art Gallery, Tehran (invited lecture)
- 2009: “Clouds of Loneliness: Terminal Illnesses and Photography,” Department of Photography, University of Tehran and Azad Art Gallery, Tehran (invited lecture)
- 2008: “An Introduction to Globalization, Feminism, and Marxism in Contemporary Art,” Department of Visual Arts and Sculpture, Art University, Tehran (invited lecture)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

- 2022-present: Social Equity and Inclusion (SEI) Faculty Steering Committee, Rhode Island School of Design
- 2019-2022: Faculty Steering Committee, Rhode Island School of Design
- 2018-2019: Global Arts and Cultures MA Program Advisory Board  
Division of Liberal Arts  
Rhode Island School of Design

- 2015-2017: Academic Administration Fellow  
Fellowships in Academic Administration Program  
Graduate School of Art and Sciences, Columbia University
- 2012-2014: University Senator: Columbia University in the City of New York  
Constituency: Graduate School of Art and Sciences, Humanities Students  
May 2012 – May 2014; member of Committee on Education and Libraries and Digital Resources Committee
- 2011-2012: Co-organizer: Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies  
Graduate Conference, *Sites of Modernity*, March 1-2, 2012, New York City
- 2010-2011: Co-organizer: Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies  
Graduate Conference, *Imaginary Geographies*, February 17-18, 2011, New York City
- 2006-2008: Serving on numerous Senior Thesis Committees at Azad University's Department of Photography and Sooreh University's Department of Painting.
- 2002-2006: Director of *Youth Art Research Club*, Research Institute for Islamic Culture and Art, Tehran, Iran
- 2004-2006: Research Fellow, Research Institute for Islamic Culture and Art, Tehran, Iran
- 2005: Member of the Board of Juries of the Photography Section: *The 8<sup>th</sup> Iran International Theatre Festival for University Students*, Department of Science, Research, and Technology, Tehran, Iran
- 2003-2004: Director of Research Department: *Fourth National Iranian University Students' Visual Arts Biennial*, Tehran – Hamadan, Iran
- 2004: Chief Coordinator: *Tehran's First International Conference of Piano Studies*, Youth Art Research Club, Tehran, Iran
- 1999: Member and Spokesperson of the Board of Juries (Student Section): *29<sup>th</sup> Roshd International Film and Video Festival*, Office of Educational Technologies, Department of Education, Tehran, Iran
- 1997-2000: Founder and Editor in Chief: *Havay-e Tazeh* bimonthly magazine for culture and arts, Tehran, Iran

## ADVISING

- 2022-2023: MFA Thesis Committee  
Ayesha Mohyuddin, Jewelry + Metalsmithing Department, RISD

- 2019-2020: MFA Thesis Committee  
Jessina Leonard, Photography Department, RISD
- 2019-2020: Ph.D. qualifying exams and dissertation outside reader  
Ahmad Rafiei, School of Art, Texas Tech University  
MFA Thesis Committee  
Jessina Lynn Leonard, Photography Department, RISD
- 2018-2019: MFA Thesis Committee  
Armando Zamora, Photography Department, RISD  
Michelle Peters, Photography Department, RISD

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2008: *Tiny Conceptual: Contemporary Art and Everyday Life*, Group exhibition of contemporary Iranian artists curated by Helia Darabi, Azad Art Gallery, January 2008: Tehran, Iran
- 2004: The 3rd Tehran New Art Annual, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art and Tehran University, Tehran, Iran

## LANGUAGES

Persian  
English  
Arabic (reading skills)  
French (reading skills)