

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
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

- 2021: “The Affective Feminism of Ghazaleh Hedayat” in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 41, no. 1 (Durham, NC: Duke University Press), 106-121.
- 2016: “باربد گلشیری: علیه کلان‌روایت‌های هنر” (Barbad Golshiri: Against Grand Narratives of Art), *Herfeh Honarmand*, no. 61 (Tehran: Fall 2016), 162-173 [Persian].
- 2016: “زمان‌اکنون و اشباح آن: چند نکته درباره‌ی 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 (Tehran: Summer 2016), 183-184 [Persian], co-authored with Shervin Taheri.
- 2012: “The Unveiled Apple: Gender, Ethnicity, and the Limits of Inter-discursive Interpretation of Contemporary Iranian Art” in *Iranian Studies* 45, no. 4, (London: July 2012), 549-569.
- 2012: “Fragmented Visual Perception and the State of Emergency: Contemporary Art as Critique of Late Capitalism” in *Alef* 89, no. 4 (Tehran: January 2012): 118-121 [Persian, translated from English].
- 2007: Translation: “Video Art,” written by Frank Popper, *Faslname-ye Honar* (Art Quarterly), (Tehran: winter 2007), 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, Tehran [In Persian].

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2018: Review of *Posthumous Images: Contemporary Art and Memory Politics in Post-Civil War Lebanon* by Chad Elias, *Arab Studies Quarterly* 40: 4 (Fall 2018), 343-346.

AWARDS

- 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

- 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 8th 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): *29th 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

- 2018-2019: MFA Thesis Committee
Armando Zamora, Photography Department, RISD
Michelle Peters, 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

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)