

Associate Professor
Department of Theory and History of Art Design
Rhode Island School of Design
20 Washington Pl., Providence, RI 02903, USA
torshizi@risd.edu

EMPLOYMENT

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| July 2024– present | Associate Professor Department of Theory and History of Art and Design Affiliate Faculty, Department of Photography Rhode Island School of Design |
| 2017–2024 | Assistant Professor Department of Theory and History of Art and Design Rhode Island School of Design |

EDUCATION

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| 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

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 “Topographies of the Unseen: Visualising the Borderland in Hamzehian and Mortarotti’s Eden,” *Articulations* (November 2024), peer-reviewed digital journal of the Cluster of Excellence 2020: “Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective,” Freie Universität – Berlin.
- 2023 “Art History, Postcolonialism, and the Global Turn,” co-written with Dr. Joshua I. Cohen (Stanford) and Dr. Vazira F-Y Zamindar (Brown University), *ARTMargins*, vol. 12, no. 2 (special issue on Art History, Postcolonialism, and the Global Turn), edited by Joshua I. Cohen, Vazira F-Y Zamindar, and Foad Torshizi, June 2023, pp. 3–17, MIT Press.
- 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), in *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 کارِ سیاسی؛ گفتگوی مجید اخگر، ایمان افسریان، فوآد 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 “زمان اکنون و اشباح آن: چند نکته درباره ی نمایشگاه «کارنامه: فرهنگ دیداری کودکان ۱۳۳۰-۱۳۶۰» (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 Co-editor of *ARTMargins* special issue “Art History, Postcolonialism, and the Global Turn,” vol. 12, no. 2, June 2023, MIT Press, 126 pages. With Dr. Joshua I. Cohen (Stanford) and Dr. Vazira F-Y Zamindar (Brown).

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

- 2025–27 Faculty Fellow
RISD Museum, Department of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs
- 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”
- 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
- 2016–17 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
- 2015–16 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
- 2013–14 Faculty Fellow: Dissertation Research Fellowship, Columbia University in the City of New York
- 2011–12 Middle East Institute Summer Research Travel Fund
- 2010–11 Faculty Fellow: Columbia University in the City of New York

- 2008–09 GRPP (Graduate Research Partnership Program), College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- 2008–09 Colonial Dames Scholarship: International Students and Scholars Services, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017–present Assistant (2017-2024)/Associate Professor (2024–present) 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
- 2016–17 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
Course: Philosophies and Theories of Art II
Department of Photography and Graphic Arts (graduate level)
University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
- 2014 Fall Visiting Lecturer
Courses: 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 Fall Visiting Lecturer
Courses: 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
- 2012–13 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
- 2010–11 Research Assistant of Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, University
Professor in the Humanities, Columbia University
- 2006–08 Visiting Lecturer
Courses: Introduction to Contemporary Art and Visual Arts Criticism
and Analysis
Department of Painting, Sooreh University, Tehran, Iran
- 2006–08 Visiting Lecturer
Courses: 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

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2025 Conference presentation: “Failing When Failing Is All You Can: Art as
“sous rature” in Homayoun Sirizi’s *Keep Right*,” Absence as Artistic
Strategy in Contemporary Art Conference, Leiden University Centre for
the Arts in Society, June 11, 2025.

- 2025 Public Lecture. “Translating Tradition: Of Protocols and Readings of the ‘Past’ in Contemporary Iranian Art,” RISD Museum – Faculty Forum. February 26, 2025.
- 2023 Chair of Session 2, “Transporting Images” Symposium, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University, October 2023. Organized by Peter Szendy.
- 2020 Co-organizer of “Art History, Postcolonialism, and the ‘Global’ Turn” Conference with Vazira Zamindar (Brown) and Joshua I. Cohen (Stanford); 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 Invited presentation: “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.
- 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 Conference presentation: “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 Conference presentation: “(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 Invited lecture: “‘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.
- 2012 Conference presentation: “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 Invited lecture: “The Unveiled Apple: Gender, Ethnicity, and the Discursive Limits of Inter-discursive Interpretation of Contemporary Iranian Art,” at Maah-e Mehr Cultural Institute, Tehran.
- 2010 Conference presentation: “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 Invited lecture: “Vision Machines, Contemporary Art, and the Military Logic of Late Capitalism,” Azad Art Gallery, Tehran.
- 2009 Invited lecture: “Antagonism and Exoticism: Toward a Model for Resisting Localization,” Azad Art Gallery, Tehran.
- 2009 Invited lecture: “Clouds of Loneliness: Terminal Illnesses and Photography,” Department of Photography, University of Tehran and Azad Art Gallery, Tehran.
- 2008 Invited lecture: “An Introduction to Globalization, Feminism, and Marxism in Contemporary Art,” Department of Visual Arts and Sculpture, Honar (Art) University, Tehran.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

- 2022–23 Social Equity and Inclusion (SEI) Faculty Steering Committee, Rhode Island School of Design

- 2019–22 Faculty Steering Committee, Rhode Island School of Design
- 2018–19 Global Arts and Cultures MA Program Advisory Board
Division of Liberal Arts
Rhode Island School of Design
- 2015–17 Academic Administration Fellow
Fellowships in Academic Administration Program
Graduate School of Art and Sciences, Columbia University
- 2012–14 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
- 2011–12 Co-organizer: Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African
Studies Graduate Conference, “Sites of Modernity,” March 1–2, 2012,
New York City
- 2010–11 Co-organizer: Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African
Studies Graduate Conference, “Imaginary Geographies,” February 17–
18, 2011, New York City
- 2006–08 Serving on numerous Senior Thesis Committees at Azad University’s
Department of Photography and Sooreh University’s Department of
Painting.
- 2004–06 Research Fellow, Research Institute for Islamic Culture and Art,
Tehran, Iran
- 2002–06 Director of Youth Art Research Club, 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
- 2004 Chief Coordinator: Tehran’s First International Conference of Piano
Studies, Youth Art Research Club, Tehran, Iran

- 2003–04 Director of Research Department: Fourth National Iranian University Students' Visual Arts Biennial, Tehran–Hamadan, Iran
- 1997–2000 Founder and Editor in Chief: *Havay-e Tazeh* bimonthly magazine for culture and arts, 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

ADVISING

- 2024–25 MFA Thesis Committee
Yuchen Wang, Photography, RISD
- 2022–23 MFA Thesis Committee
Ayesha Mohyuddin, Jewelry + Metalsmithing Department, RISD
- 2019–20 MFA Thesis Committee
Jessina Leonard, Photography Department, RISD
- 2019–20 Ph.D. Qualifying Exams
Ahmad Rafiei, School of Art, Texas Tech University
- 2018–19 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

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| Persian | Native |
| English | Fluent |
| Arabic | Reading skills |
| French | Reading skills |