

# Mahnaz Yousefzadeh

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## Visas & Citizenship

UAE: Golden Visa (Talent). United Kingdom: Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visa (British Academy endorsement since 2013). Citizenship: United States

## Education:

April 2002

Ph.D. Modern European History, SUNY, Binghamton.

Dissertation: “City and the Rise of Italian Civil Society: Regional Traditions and Modern Associations at the National Festival of the Dante Centenary (1863-1865).” Dissertation Advisor: Richard Trexler; Readers: David Kertzer, Jean Quataert

## Experience:

2002-Present

Professor of Global Liberal Studies, New York University

Sep 2023-July 2024

Research and Publication, Sr. Manager, Abrahamic Family House, UAE.

2016-2023

Affiliate Professor, NYU Abu Dhabi, Art History program

2014-Present

Affiliate Professor, NYU Italian Studies Department

2015-2016

Visiting Professor, La Pietra, NYU in Florence

2012-2013

Visiting Professor, New York University in London

2007-2009

Visiting Professor, La Pietra, NYU in Florence

2007

Founder-Director, NYU Summer Program in Southern Italy

2004

Visiting Professor, La Pietra, NYU in Florence

## Courses taught in Global Liberal Studies, Italian, History and Art History:

“Faith and Finance: From Renaissance Fortuna to the Futures”; “The Global Renaissance”; “Mediterranean: Archives, Translations, Histories” Graduate course ; “Thinking Art”; “Codes: Law, Grace, Civility, Price”, “Global Arts and Cultures (from antiquity to contemporary)”, “Dignity and Indignity”; “Aesthetics and Politics of the Modern”; and “Experiential Learning”. Core Courses in Social and Cultural Foundations from antiquity to the contemporary.

## Publications: Single Authored Books:

- *City and Nation in the Italian Unification: The National Festivals of Dante*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. [Reviews](#)
- *Florence’s Embassy to the Sultan of Egypt: An English Translation of Felice Brancacci’s Diary*. London and New York: Palgrave, 2019. [Reviews](#)

## **Publications: Academic Articles and Book Chapters in History and Art History:**

- “Saved by Medusa: Medici Moor from the Bargello to the Met Breuer” in Stephen John Campbell and Stephanie Porras eds., [\*Routledge Companion to the Global Renaissance Art\*](#) (Routledge, 2024).
- “Judeo-Persian Tobit and G. B. Vecchietti: Exile and Writing between Florence and the Persianate World”, [\*I Tatti Studies in the Italian Renaissance\*](#) Harvard University Center for Italian Studies, 2021 24 (2) 311-343.
- "Sea of Oman: Ferdinand I, G.B. Vecchietti and the Armour of Shah Abbas I," [\*Revista degli Studi Orientali\*](#), 2018; 51-71.
- "Shafii al-Sharif's *Subhat-al-Akhbar* in the Medici Collection: Visualizing Royal Genealogy in the Persico-Islamic and the Medici Courts," [\*I Tatti Studies in the Italian Renaissance\*](#) 21, no. 1 (Spring 2018): 159-183.
- “The *Burrato* of the Bargello” in Awam Ampka and Ellyn Toscano, eds., *Resignifications*. Rome: Postcart, 2017. pp. 165-171.
- “Canonicity and Popularity in the Nineteenth Century: Dante 1865” in Joep Leerssen and Anne Rigney eds., *Commemorating Writers in Nineteenth Century Europe: Nation Building and Centenary Fever* (2014, Palgrave Macmillan).
- “Anti-Hegemonic Nationalism: The 1865 Centenary Festa of Dante,” in Peter Arnade and Michael Rocke, eds., *Private Conduct, Gender, and Public Life in Early Modern Europe and Mesoamerica: Essays in Honor of Richard C. Trexler*, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Research, Essays and Studies, University of Toronto, 2008.

## **Publications: Critical Essays and Museum Curation:**

- “Between Art and Religion,” in [\*Letters of Light\*](#). Catalog published on the occasion of the “Letters of Light” exhibition, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Bibliothèque Nationale de France and France Muséums, 13 September 2023 to 14 January 2024. Fall 2023.
- “[“Messianic Time of Now: Rembrandt, Ligozzi and Panahpour”](#),” *Visual Commentary on Scriptures*, Invited curation and commentary of the Biblical Book of Tobit. January 2022.
- “What is in a Name? Black Africans in Filippo Napoletano’s *Caccia del Persiano*” [Uffizi Galleries, Hypervision](#) Florence, Publication of the first study of the 1625 Napoletano paintings. January 2021.
- “[“Can Interaction Design Civilize the Experience Economy?”](#)” *Interactions ACM*, July-August 2013. Quoted by industry including British consulting firm [\*Experientia\*](#).
- “What is Iranian Jewish?” *Shofar* vol. 6, no. 2 (1995).

## **Symposium Convener, Curation, and Strategic Plan :**

- Concept design and delivery [Asmaa Program, Abrahamic Family House](#), consisting of 5 public lectures and workshops, Abu Dhabi, January 2024-December 2024. Each session of the [Asmaa Program, Abu Dhabi](#), “Dignity,” “Grace,” “House,” “Friendship” and “Faith”, elaborates and deepens the understanding of the vision and mission of the Abrahamic Family House (AFH) and the Document of Human Fraternity.
- *A Practical and Flexible Approach*, Concept design, strategic framework and implementation plan for Research and Publication, Abrahamic Family House, June 2024.
- Organizer and Convener of [“Mediating Scripture: Judeo-Persian Tobit as Crossroads.”](#) Symposium hosted by NYUAD Humanities Fellowship NYUAD, in collaboration with Bibliotheque nationale de France and Louvre Abu Dhabi. December 8-9, 2021. The symposium brought more than 20 top ranking scholars from fields such as History, Art History, Literature, Biblical Studies, in a full two-day program Exhibition of manuscripts at Louvre AD. For Recording, and conference and exhibition program see: [Tobit Symposium](#), and [BnF site](#).

### Lectures, Conferences and Exhibitions

- [“Art and the Diplomatic Imagination: Florence and the Islamic World”](#), Italian Cultural Institute, Abu Dhabi, September, 26, 2025.
- “The Saadiyat Constellation: Faustian Striving, Benjaminian Pearl Diving, [Gulf Research Center](#). University of Cambridge, July 23, 2025.
- **Italy in the Global Renaissance**, Renaissance Society of America, March 2025.
- **On Faith**, Abrahamic Family House, December 12, 2024. **Asmaa Lecture Series**.
- **On Friendship**, AFH, November 14, 2024. **Asmaa Lecture Series**
- “The Center in Financial Technologies: Florentine Renaissance Perspective” **Evolution of Money and the Impact of Technology**, Italian Cultural Institute, Abu Dhabi. From minting coins during the Renaissance to the 21st century cryptocurrencies: how have financial transactions changed and how is technology affecting the financial sector today? In the framework of the Italian – Emirati Dialogues, the Italian Cultural Institute of Abu Dhabi has organized, in collaboration with the Financial Attaché at the Italian Embassy in the UAE and Khalifa University – Abu Dhabi. **September 19, 2024**  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/GX9MQhKdAz7umDw9>
- **“House”**, 3rd lecture and workshop in Asmaa Series, Abrahamic Family House, **June 13, 2024**. [Youtube video](#).
- *Fireside Chat: Theology of Difference*, June 2024, Abrahamic Family House. In Conversation with Dr. Stefano Luca, author of *Theology of Difference*.
- Invited Lecture, La Pietra, Florence, **“Research Itineraries: From Florence to Persia, Curriculum to Archives, Scholarship, Experimentation, and Back to Theatre,”** For Villa La Pietra Player’s Production. [Lecture Video](#). May 6-7, 2024.
- **“On Grace”**, lecture and workshop, Abrahamic Family House, March 21, 2024.
- **“On Dignity”**, lecture and workshop, Abrahamic Family House, January 31, 2024.

- "Translation in Cross-Confessional Diplomacy and its Archival Transmission: Florence and Cairo", in [Thinking in the Multi-Verse: The Many Layers of Islamic Diplomatic History, Humanities Fellowship for the Study of the Arab World](#), Abu Dhabi, Oct 2-3, 2023.
- "Florence and the Persiante World in Global Early Modernity", [Asia and the Mediterranean, Global Asia Conference](#). Florence, June 12-14, 2023.
- Invited paper. "Translating Tribute: Felice Brancacci and Mercantile Culture in Late Medieval Florence" [Cultures of Exchange, Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University](#), March 27, 2022.
- Lecture, "Tobit and Persian Judaism," [Humanities Fellowship for the Study of Arab World, NYUAD, December 13, 2020. Video Recording](#).
- "Medici's Persia: Magi, Knights and Medusae," Invited Lecture. [Yale University CMES Colloquium](#). November 7, 2019. "Royal Ottoman Genealogies in the 16th Century: A Conversation about Recent Archival Finds" invited by Virtual Islamic Art History Seminar, Istanbul, (zoom presentation) November 25, 2020.
- "Dante and Italian Unification," [Public Lecture, Casa Italiana](#), New York University. October 16, 2019. [Lecture Video](#)
- "Florence's Persia: Magi, Cavaliere, Medusae," [Public Lecture, La Pietra, Florence](#), September 12, 2019.
- "From Bargello to Met Breuer," presentation in [The Black Mediterranean Conference](#), Palermo June 12, 2018.
- "[Medici Saracen](#)," Lecture sponsored by GLS Arts and Humanities and Casa Italiana, NYU, May 2018.
- "Ferdinand de' Medici, G.B. Vecchietti, and Persia," Invited presentation at NYU Global Asia and History Seminar, NYU, April 28, 2017.
- "Bahr Oman: Ferdinand de Medici, G.B. Vecchietti, and the Armour of Shah Abbas" at the NYUAD History Seminar (cosponsored by Arab Crossroads and Literature). Abu Dhabi, October 27, 2016.
- Kunststorisches Institute, Florence. Invited participant, seminar on the Medici Oriental Press, May 26, 2016.
- "Medici's Perseus and Persia's Medusa," in *The Medici and the Seas I: Mediterranean Identities*, Renaissance Society of America, Boston, March 30-April 1, 2016
- Invited discussant, "[Ariosto and Arabs](#)", I Tatti, Florence, Italy. February 16, 2016.
- "Medici's Persians," Conference paper, [Iran and the West: Converging Perspectives](#), University of Warwick, July 1-3, 2015.
- "*Persiana Pompa da Anima Toscana: The Medici's Persian Magi, Merchants and Cavalieri*," invited paper at the [Institute of Historical Research, University of London](#), January 25, 2015.
- Invited response paper to Ilaria Porciani, "*Partitioned Countries, Museums, and Communities. Istria 1884-2014*," [Columbia University, Italian Academy](#), November 7, 2014.
- "The Medici's Persian Magi, Merchants, and *Cavalieri*," Lecture, Italian Studies department, NYU. November 19, 2014.

- “Persian Sophy at the Medici Court,” Invited paper at the International Workshop Christian-Islamic Interactions, [Normale Superiore di Pisa](#), February 10-11, 2014.
- Keynote speaker, “Dante and Milton: National Visionaries and Visionary Nationalists.” School of Advanced Studies, University of London, Conference November 1, 2013.
- “Persian Sofi at the Medici Court,” invited lecture, Italian Cultural Association of London, October 4, 2013.
- “Faith and Finance: the Medici’s at the court of Sultan Barsbay,” [Cambridge, UK, Society of Medieval Mediterranean](#), July 2013.
- “Florence’s Maiden Mediterranean Voyage.” University Research Seminars, University College London, March 2013.
- “Faith and Finance: Felice Brancacci and Masaccio’s Tribute Money”, The Warburg Institute, Art History Seminars, February 2013.
- “Canonicity and Popularity in Nineteenth Century Commemorations: Dante Festivals of 1865.” Invited talk at Commemorating Writers in Europe 1800-1914, [University of Utrecht](#) 7-9 December 2011.
- “Florence and the Nation: The Centenary Festivals of Dante Alighieri in 1865,” invited lecture, [British Institute of Florence](#), November 2011.
- Keynote at Palazzo Vecchio, Florence, “Dante’s Birthday: Florence and the Aesthetic Education of Italians,” [Salone dei Cinquecento, Palazzo Vecchio](#), Florence November 2011.
- Book launch and presentation of City and Nation in the Italian Unification. Commentators David Kertzer, and Mary Gibson. [Casa Italiana, NYU](#). September 2011.
- “Mediterranean Journeys: Felice Brancacci, Pietro Della Valle and Ippolito Rosellini.” Presented at ACLA, New Orleans, April 2010.
- “Flood of Words: Counting and Un-counting the 1865 Dante Centenary Archives.” Presented at “Risorgimento Revisited,” at the Italian Academy of Columbia University, New York, April 2008.
- “Aesthetics and Politics of Immigration: San Lorenzo in Florence.” EACLALS triennial conference, Venice, March 2008.
- “Foucault and the Iranian Revolution.” Paper presented at Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 2006.
- “Civility and Natural Law: Hobbes’s Leviathan as an Education Treatise for the Sovereign and the Subject.” Invited contribution to Duke University’s Center for European Studies Conference, Trieste, Italy, April 2005.
- “Anti-Hegemonic Nationalism: The 1865 Centenary Festa of Dante.” Presented at symposium “Public Life and Private Conduct: Changing Historical Perspectives Across the Early Modern World,” SUNY Binghamton, April 7-8, 2004.
- “Response to Sidney Tarrow’s The New Transnational Contention.” Paper presented at NYU Center For European Studies sponsored workshop, “Understanding 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” April 2004.
- “The Long Duree of European Formation: Nomos and Katechon.” Invited paper, Duke University sponsored conference, Sovereignty and Subjectivity, Spain, March 2004

## **Creative Nonfiction: Publications and Presentations:**

- [“House of Fraser.”](#) About Place Journal, Volume VI, Issue 2, October 2020. Nominated for [Best of Net](#) Award.
- [“Women of National Iranian Oil Company: 1970’s Ahvaz.”](#) Invited presentation, [Association of Women of Abu Dhabi](#), September 2022.
- [“For Whom We Write.”](#) invited reading and workshop, Migration Colloquium, NYU Abu Dhabi. September 30, 2018.
- “Women of National Iranian Oil Company: 1970’s Ahvaz,” Invited presentation, [Transnational Feminism Conference](#), NYUAD, December 6, 2018.
- "Timepiece or Chronicle of Ahvaz ", jury selected reading, [Hikayah Festival](#), Arts Center of NYUAD, on National Heritage Day of UAE, December 5, 201
- [“The Magic Carpet.”](#) St. Lawrence University, London, UK. March 2014.

## **Curriculum Development: Global, Interdisciplinary, Genealogical, and Experiential**

- [PolyCentric Approach to Liberal Arts Curriculum](#), London, June 25-28, 2023
- [Pedagogies of the Global: Liberal Studies and Counter Hegemonic Knowledge Production](#)”, NYU, October 24, 2019.
- “Archive Fever: Ghosts of Florentine Piazza,” GLS Summer Symposium, Interrogating the Urban, La Pietra, Florence. June 2018.
- Roundtable Discussant, ['Transnational Poetics at the Fin de Siècle'](#). Conference sponsored by Liberal Studies New York University, May 14, 2018.
- “Epigenesis of the Archive: Medusa’s Living Corpse,” presentation at Posthumanism Conference, Global Liberal Studies, NYU, April 27, 2018.
- “Refiguring the Archive: Political Theory in Medusa’s Living Corpse” invited presentation at Professor Cristina Vatulescu’s Graduate Seminar, Casa Italiana, NYU, April 10, 2018.
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art Symposium in conjunction with the exhibition “Like Life: Sculpture, Color and the Body,” April 16, 2018.
- “Genealogies of Interaction Code,” presentation at Professor Piere Depaz’s Politics of Code course, NYUAD, November 2017.
- Readings from creative non-fiction work in progress, [“Magic Carpet.”](#) “Iranian [Leopards](#),” “House of Fraser,” in Catherine Corey’s Migration, NYUAD, October, 2017.
- “Translation in Global Classroom,” Global Liberal Studies, Conference on Politics in the Classroom. London, June 2017.
- [Translating Dignity](#), Electra Street, October 2016.
- Discussant/interview at presentation of "The Foot" by Ismael Khaledi, in Arab Voices Theatre production, NYUAD Arts Center. November 2016.
- “A Genealogical Approach to Pedagogy” invited presentation at Global Studies Conference, [Global Institute for Advanced Studies](#). See link for text: April 13-15, 2016.
- “Generation, Inheritance and Weak Messianism,” Presentation and workshop in Epigenesis Between Science and the Humanities, NYU in London, November 12, 2015.

- [“Image and Time”](#) Walter Benjamin London Research Network workshop with Werner Hamacher. London, University of London. October 23, 2015.
- [In the Beginning Was Dance](#). Four Interdisciplinary and Global Curriculum Development workshops linking science and humanities at NYU in London and New York 2014-2015. Awarded University Challenge Grant.
- [Epigenesis Between Science and Humanities](#). Presentation/Workshop at NYU London, April 27, 2015. Part of In the Beginning Was Dance, supported by NYU Curriculum Development Grant.
- “Curating Culture,” workshop [in collaboration with Peta Motture, Victoria and Albert Museum](#) NYU in London, February 23, 2015. Part of In the Beginning Was Dance, awarded NYU Curriculum Development Grant.
- “Visual and Sonorous,” workshop [In collaboration with theater director, Julia Pascal](#), NYU Washington Square, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Part of In the Beginning Was Dance, awarded NYU Curriculum Development Grant.
- “Eros, Mimesis, Poesis; [Embodied Cognition Approach to Teaching Philosophy.](#)” Workshop, Casa Italiana, NYU, October 1, 2014.
- “Situated Pedagogy and the Work of Translation,” Global Text, Global Context, NYU London, March 2012.
- “Arab Spring: A Conversation with Khaled Fahmy and Kouros Esmaeli,” NYU Spring 2011, organizer and Chair. [https://stream.nyu.edu/id/0\\_prz9cwaz](https://stream.nyu.edu/id/0_prz9cwaz)
- “Globalizing the Humanities,” “Realizing Global Education: Texts, Contexts, Curriculum, and Technology,” World Education Forum Conference, Rome, January 2011.
- “To Rethink the Humanities.” Paper presented at a colloquium of the same title at Binghamton University, April 2003.