

Noah Amir Arjomand
Curriculum Vitae
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noaharjomand.com

Education

MFA, University of California – Riverside, Writing for the Performing Arts. 2024 (expected).

PhD, Columbia University, Sociology. 2018.

Dissertation: “Fixing World News: Behind the Bylines in Turkey.”

Committee: Diane Vaughan, Michael Schudson, Peter Bearman, Gil Eyal, Zeynep Devrim Gürsel.

MA, Columbia University, Sociology. 2013.

AB, Princeton University, Public and International Affairs. 2010.

Certificate: Near Eastern Studies.

Thesis: “The Economic Empire of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards.”

Turkish language certificate, TÖMER Language Institute of Ankara University. 2010.

Persian language certificate, Dehkhoda Institute of University of Tehran. 2009.

Areas

Media Studies and Production, Political Sociology, The Middle East, Ethnography, Migration

Previous Teaching and Research Positions

Adjunct lecturer, International Studies Department, Indiana University – Bloomington. 2023.

Teaching assistant, Department of Media & Cultural Studies, UC Riverside. 2022-2023.

Mark Helmke Postdoctoral Scholar on Global Media, Development, and Democracy, IU Bloomington & Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA). 2018-2022.

Affiliate faculty: Islamic Studies Program, Center for the Study of the Middle East.

Courses taught: *Global Fake News, Media and the Middle East.*

Teaching assistant, Columbia University. Courses: *Mistake, Misconduct and Disaster*, with Diane Vaughan, 2017. *Israeli Society and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, with Yinon Cohen, 2016. *Media, Culture and Society in the Internet Age*, with Sudhir Venkatesh, 2014. *The Sociology of Emotions*, with Niza Yanay, 2013.

Research assistant and multimedia producer, “[Choreography of Sacred Spaces](#),” Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life. 2013.

Research assistant to Seyed Hossein Mousavian for *The Iranian Nuclear Crisis: A Memoir*, Princeton University Program on Science and Global Security. 2010-2011.

Intern, The Committee to Protect Journalists, New York and Turkey. 2010.

Research assistant and translator, “Iran Data Portal,” Social Science Research Council and Princeton University. 2009-2010.

Publications

Book:

Fixing Stories: Local Newsmaking and International Media in Turkey and Syria. Cambridge University Press. 2022.

Reviews: [British Journalism Review](#), [Foreign Affairs](#), [Middle East Monitor](#), [Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly](#), [LSE Review of Books](#)

Interviews: [CaMP Anthropology](#), [Turkey Book Talk](#), [Johns Hopkins SAIS](#)

Honors: Foreign Affairs “Best Books of 2022” pick; Honorable Mention, Mary Douglas Award for Cultural Sociology

Documentary Film:

Eat Your Catfish (co-director and co-producer). 2021. Represented by Deckert Distribution.

Festivals: IDF Amsterdam, DocPoint Helsinki, Santa Barbara IFF, Full Frame DFF, Istanbul FF, Taiwan IDF, DocAviv, Sheffield DocFest, Documentarist, Docs Against Gravity, Biografilm, One World Romania, Macao IDF, Antenna IDF, Ayvalık IFF, Flying Broomstick Women’s IFF, Leeds IFF, Screening Rights FF, Heartland IFF, Rendezvous with Madness Festival, Kasseler DokFest, Central Scotland DFF, Budapest IDF, Festival ImagéSanté.

Reviews: [Variety](#), [Screen Daily](#), [Business Doc Europe](#), [Universal Cinema](#), [de Volkskrant](#), [Milliyet](#), [Altyazi](#), [Cinematographe.it](#), [The Film Yap](#).

Interviews: [Il Manifesto](#), [The Browser](#), [SBIFF](#).

TV Broadcasts: POV Season 36 on PBS (USA), NHK (Japan), TV3 (Spain)

Journal Articles:

“[Empirical Fiction](#): Composite Character Narratives in Analytical Sociology.” *The American Sociologist*. 2022.

“[Awareness Systems or Echo Chambers](#)? Latin American Journalists’ Usage of Twitter as a Newsgathering Tool.” First author, with Ali Ghazinejad. *First Monday* 27(10). 2022.

“[Every Turk is Born a Soldier](#).” *Public Culture* 29(3): 418-432. 2017.

“[The Struggle for Kabul’s Libraries](#).” *Public Culture* 26(3): 378-392. 2014.

Research Reports:

“[Twitter as a Newsgathering Tool](#): Challenges and Possibilities for Independent Media.” First author, with Ali Ghazinejad. *Center for International Media Assistance Report*. 2021.

“[Afghan Exodus](#): Smuggling Networks, Migration and Settlement Patterns in Turkey.” *Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN)*. 2016. (German translation by *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*)

[“Revisiting the First Anglo-Afghan War.”](#) *International Society for Iranian Studies Newsletter* 36(2): 20-22. 2015.

[“The Folly of Double Government: Lessons from the First Anglo-Afghan War.”](#) AAN. 2015.

[“Eagle’s Summit Revisited: Decision-Making in the Kajaki Dam Refurbishment Project.”](#) AAN. 2013.

Public Scholarship & Essays:

[“The Grueling Work of MENA’s Fixers, Unsung Heroes of News.”](#) *The New Arab*. 2022.

[“Fixing Stories: The Fixer/Reporter Relationship.”](#) The Frontline Club. 2022.

[“Figuring Ethnographic Fiction.”](#) *American Anthropologist*. 2022.

[“Making My Documentary with ‘A Dead Camera on a Bloody Tripod.’”](#) *No Film School*. 2022.

“Information Laundering and Globalized Media – [Part II: Solutions?](#)” *CIMA Blog*. 2019.

“Information Laundering and Globalized Media - [Part I: The Problem.](#)” *CIMA Blog*. 2019.

[“Inside Turkey's Media Crackdown.”](#) *Dissent*. 2016

[“Nobody Knows How Many Have Died in the Turkey-PKK Conflict.”](#) *Bullshit.ist*. 2016

[“To Shoot, 'with Love': Photojournalist Majid Saeedi.”](#) *PBS Frontline: Tehran Bureau*. 2012.

[“Running to Stand Still: The Long Wait for Iran’s Refugee Journalists.”](#) *PBS Frontline: Tehran Bureau*. 2011.

[“Rap in the Capital: Hip-Hop Tehran-Style.”](#) *PBS Frontline: Tehran Bureau*. 2011. (Republished in 2013 in special app issue on music)

[“Travels with Kambiz: Poetry, Politics, and Friendship on the Road.”](#) *Princeton Alumni Weekly*. 2011.

“Schläge, Bis Man Nicht Mehr Denken Kann.” (“Blows Until You Can’t Think Anymore”) *Profil Magazine*. 2011.

[“Stories from North Tehran.”](#) *PBS Frontline: Tehran Bureau*. 2009.

“Der Mut, die Schreie und die Stille.” (“The Bravery, the Screams, and the Silence”), *Profil Magazine*. 2009.

[“My Uncle’s Wife.”](#) *PBS Frontline: Tehran Bureau*. 2009.

[“360 Degrees.”](#) *The Midway Review* 4(3): 14-15. 2009.

Reviews:

“[Three Takes on the Anthropocene at Santa Barbara Film Festival](#),” *DocTalk*. 2022.

“Wazhmah Osman’s [Television and the Afghan Culture Wars](#).” *CIMA Blog*. 2022.

“Lauren Greenfield: [Between Critique and Publicity](#).” *Politics/Letters*. 2022.

“[Setting Off with Malcolm](#).” IU Russian Studies Workshop Blog. 2021.

Visual Media Production:

Video Producer. *The Hunt* opera workshop, Smith College and Catwalk Institute. 2022.

Editor, “Golden Gate Nuns,” music video series, SIREN Baroque. 2022.

Illustrator (12 images), *Dead Reckoning* by Diane Vaughan, University of Chicago Press. 2021.

Illustrator (4 images), *Messianism and Revolution in Islam* by Saïd Amir Arjomand, University of California Press. 2021.

Video Producer, “Allegories” and “Narcissus,” short promo films for the new opera [The Romance of the Rose](#), Wet Ink Ensemble. 2020.

Writer and Director, “[Media Capture](#),” “[Journalism Ethics](#),” “[Internet Governance](#),” (four-part series) and “[Throttling the Media in Jammu & Kashmir](#),” short animated films for Center for International Media Assistance, IU Center for International Media Law and Policy Studies, AccessNow, Software Freedom Law Center, Films on Demand. 2019-2020.

Director, [Judgment of Paris 1701: Opera Burlesque](#), Mercury Arts, Basel. 2019.

Multimedia Producer, *Here Be Sirens*; *¡Figaro! (90210)*; *Pain, Pleasure, Pergolesi*; *Dido & Aeneas*; *Mysterien*; *Atra*; *Stabat Mater Fabulosa*; Morningside Opera. 2010-2014.

Photographer, “Last of the Beritan: Urbanization and the Nomads of Eastern Turkey,” solo photography exhibition, James S. Hall ’34 Gallery, Princeton. 2009.

Press

My research has been covered by *The Diplomat* (Japan), *Telegraph* (UK), *Sun-Herald* (Australia), *Evrensel* (Turkey), *Pajhwok News* (Afghanistan), International Crisis Group.

My photographs have been published in *The Guardian* (UK), *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, *PBS Frontline*, *Profil* (Austria), *PDNedu*, *Cumhuriyet* (Turkey), *Hürriyet* (Turkey).

Honors

Film Grants and Honors:

Winner, Best Documentary (*Eat Your Catfish*), Antenna Documentary Film Festival. 2022.

Winner, Best National Documentary (*Eat Your Catfish*), Istanbul Film Festival. 2022.

Cine Chromatix Post-Production Award, “Meetings on the Bridge” Works-in-Progress Workshop, Istanbul Film Festival, with Senem Tüzen and Adam Isenberg. 2021.

Field of Vision Non-Fiction Film Grant, with Adam Isenberg. 2020.

Cinereach Film Grant, with Adam Isenberg. 2020.

Selected Filmmaker, Sheffield Doc/Fest MeetMarket. 2020.

Catapult Film Fund Momentum Grant, with Adam Isenberg. 2020.

Public Humanities Grant, IU Arts and Humanities Council, with Joshua Malitsky and Center for Documentary Research and Practice. 2019.

Creative Collaborations Award, IU Cinema, for Fall 2019 film series “Between Worlds: Cultural Hybridity in Turkish Film,” with Turkish Flagship Program, CSME, IAUNRC, CEUS, CDRP, Department of Folklore & Ethnomusicology, Directed by Women. 2019.

Barbara Restle Press Law Project Research Assistantship, for animated film series on global media policy issues, Center for International Media Law and Policy Studies, Indiana University, with Elaine Monaghan. 2018-2020.

Catapult Film Fund Development Grant, with Adam Isenberg. 2015.

1st place, Forbes College Film Festival, Princeton University. 2007.

Academic Grants, Fellowships & Awards:

Honorable Mention, Mary Douglas Award for Best Book, American Sociological Association – Culture Section. 2023.

Chancellor’s Distinguished Fellowship, University of California – Riverside. 2022.

Lowry Distinguished Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Institute of Turkish Studies. 2017.

American Institute of Iranian Studies Conference Fellowship. 2013.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. 2012.

Paul F. Lazarsfield Fellowship, Columbia University. 2011.

Eliot Kalmbach Award for Turkic Studies, Princeton University. 2010.

T. Cuyler Young Award in Iranian Studies, Princeton University. 2010.

Department of Near Eastern Studies Research Grant, Princeton University. 2007.

Select Photography Honors: Selected Photographer, *CNN-Ricoh Spherical Report 360° Photojournalism Endeavor*. 2014. 1st place, *British Council International Photography Competition*, 2010. 1st place, *Renaissance International Photography Competition*, 2009.

Talks and Workshops

Conference Papers:

“The Ambivalent Moral World of News Fixers.” American Anthropological Association, Baltimore. 2021.

& American Sociological Association, online. 2021.

“Promoting Media Policy Literacy Through Animated Film,” with Elaine Monaghan, Media Ecology Association, Toronto. 2019.

“Protecting the Confidentiality of Surveilled and Well-Connected Research Subjects,” No Country for Anthropologists? Contemporary Ethnographic Research in the Middle East, University of Zurich. 2018.

“Asymmetric Temporalities in Collaborative Transnational Media Production: The Case of Turkey,” International Sociological Association, Toronto. 2018.

“Sociological Fiction: Using Composite Characters in Narrative Ethnography,” American Sociological Association, Montreal. 2017.

& NYU Ethnography Workshop, New York. 2017.

“Live Action Roleplay as Scientific Proof,” NYLON Interdisciplinary Conference at the NYU Institute for Public Knowledge, NYC. 2017.

“The Failure of Double Government in Britain’s First Experiment in Afghan State-Building,” ASPS, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. 2013.

& Social Science Historical Association, Chicago. 2013.

“The Economic Empire of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards,” Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, Hyderabad, India. 2012.

Other Talks, Workshops, and Panels:

Invited Speaker, “Local Newsmaking and International Media.” The Hollings Center for International Dialogue, Istanbul. 2023.

Organizer and Moderator, “From Earthquakes to Elections: International Media Coverage of Turkey in 2023.” Columbia University Istanbul Global Center. 2023.

Invited Speaker, “News Fixers and Media Innovation,” Panteion University Department of Communication, Media, and Culture. 2022.

Invited Panelist, “Türkiye’de Yaratıcı Belgesel: Yeni Anlatım Olanakları.” (“Creative Documentary in Türkiye: New Narrative Possibilities”). Ayvalık Film Festival. 2022.

Invited Panelist and Moderator, “Fixing Stories.” The Frontline Club, London. 2022.

Invited Symposium Participant, “Love, Money, and Incommensurability: Reciprocity in Long-Term Ethnographic Relationships.” IU Department of Anthropology. 2021.

Participant, Society for Visual Anthropology virtual project/writing exchange. 2021.

Presenter, “Fieldnotes: A Documentary Series.” International Studies Department Ideas Incubator, Indiana University – Bloomington. 2020.

Invited Panelist, “Global Hate Speech,” America’s Role in the World Conference, Indiana University Hamilton Lugar School. 2019.

Presenter, “News Fixers and International Knowledge Production,” Politics, Economy, and Culture Workshop, Indiana University Department of Sociology. 2019.

Workshop Leader, “Live from Absurdistan,” Freeform Games, Google NYC. 2017.

Invited Speaker, “Turkish Fixers and World News,” American Turkish Society and Institute of Turkish Studies Reception, New York. 2017.

Workshop Leader, “Disaster Reporting in Absurdistan” and “The Vulture Club: War Correspondents,” Metatopia Game Design Festival, Morristown, New Jersey. 2017.

Workshop Leader, “Narco-State: Afghanistan” and “Conspiracy Theory: Mideast,” Metatopia Game Design Festival, Morristown, New Jersey. 2016.

Invited Participant, “The Craft of Ethnography” workshop series, New York University. 2014. University of Texas-Austin. 2015. Columbia University. 2015.

“بند برکه کجکی و دیدگاه جامع شناسی سازمانی” (“Kajaki Dam and the Perspective of Organizational Sociology”) for Ali Kaveh's *Modern Sociological Theory*, Herat University, Afghanistan. 2014.

Invited Participant, “A Zone of Revolutionary Instability: From the Maghreb to the Gulf,” the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, Triesenberg. 2011.

Invited Participant, “Nation Building and the Future of Afghanistan,” Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and RAND Corporation, Vienna. 2009.

Presenter, “Iranian Underground Rap and the Post-Revolutionary Generation,” Near Eastern Studies Department, Princeton University. 2009.

Service

Indiana University:

Invited Discussant and Organizer, “Turkish Kaleidoscope: A Conversation with Author Jenny White.” Global Gateways “European Encounters” series. 2021.

Panelist and Organizer, “The New(s) Gatekeepers: Social Media’s Impact on Journalism in Developing Countries.” IU Digital Ethics Project and the Center for International Media Assistance. 2021.

“Ethnography as Craft and Science,” for Koji Chavez’s *Advanced Research Techniques*. 2021.

Organizer and Discussant, “Red Dress in Black and White: A Conversation with Novelist Elliot Ackerman,” Center for Global Change, Center for the Study of the Middle East, and Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center. 2020.

“How News about Syria Is Made,” Syrian Refugees in Germany, for Günther Jikeli’s *Syrian Refugees in Germany*. 2020.

“Representations of Iran since the Islamic Revolution,” for Asma Afsaruddin’s *The Middle East in the Western Imagination*. 2020.

“Media in Turkey since the Gezi Protests,” for Zeynep Elbasan’s *Contemporary Turkey*. 2020.

Participant, “Reacting to the Past” workshop series, PACE Institute for Role-Immersive Teaching and Learning. 2019, 2020.

“Studying International Journalism Ethnographically,” IU Media School colloquium. 2019.

Workshop Co-Leader, “Documentary Film Editing Workshops,” Springs Valley High School, Brown County HS, Monroe County Public Library, and Salem HS. 2019.

Organizer, *Una Vida Sin Palabras / A Life Without Words* screening and panel, Indiana University Moving Image Archive, Center for Documentary Research and Practice, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Speech and Hearing Sciences, International Studies. 2019.

Columbia University:

Chair, “Refugees and Diaspora Integration,” Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention. 2015.

“ASMR and Sensorial Intimacy Online,” for Sudhir Venkatesh’s *Media, Culture and Society in the Internet Age*. 2014.

Volunteer, Margaret Mead Film Festival, American Museum of Natural History. 2012, 2015.

Journal Reviewer

American Journal of Sociology
Journal of Persianate Studies
Theory & Society

Immigrants & Minorities
First Monday

Languages

Near fluent Turkish, advanced Persian, intermediate Kurdish (Sorani dialect), intermediate French, elementary modern Greek, elementary Hindi and Urdu