

Azadeh Safaeian

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Disability and Human Development
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Chicago, IL 60608
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EMPLOYMENT

- 2024-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois Chicago
- 2023-2024 Bridge to Faculty Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois Chicago
- 2022-2023 Postdoctoral Fellow, Comparative Literary Studies Program, Northwestern University

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University, December 2022
Dissertation: *Toward a Minor Theory of Trauma: Literature and Cinema of the Iran-Iraq War (1980-Present)*
Committee: Hannah Feldman (Chair), Rebecca Johnson, Anna Parkinson, Kamran Rastegar
- M.A. Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University, 2018
- B.A. English Language and Literature, Ferdowsi University, Iran, 2014
- B.S. General Biology, Azad University, Iran, 2004

BOOK

To Crip the Blessed: Disability and Care in Contemporary Iranian Literature and Cinema
(In-Progress)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION

- “Interspecies Grafting in *Haras* (Pruning, 2017),” *Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies* (Submitted, October 2025)
- “She Bursts into Languages: Trauma and Multilingualism in *One Woman’s War*,” *Middle Eastern Literatures* (Accepted with revisions, February 2024)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2025	ACLS-Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship Microgrant
2025	National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
2024	UIC Postdoctoral Travel Award
2021-2022	ACLS-Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2020-2021	SSRC-Andrew W. Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship
2019-2020	Paris Program in Critical Theory Fellowship, Northwestern University and Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris 3) (Declined)
2019	Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences/The Graduate School Teaching Fellowship, Northwestern University
2018	Summer Language Grant, Graduate School, Northwestern University
2018	Conference Travel Grant for Institute of World Literature, The Graduate School and Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University
2018	Mellon Interdisciplinary Conference Travel Grant, Northwestern University
2018	Buffet Institute Dissertation Research Travel Award, Northwestern University
2016	Buffet Institute for Global Studies Travel Grant, Northwestern University
2015	Mellon Cluster Fellow in Middle East and North African Studies, Northwestern

INVITED TALKS

2024	Project Overview, Brown Bag Series, Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois Chicago (October)
2024	“Multilingualism and Representations of Psychosomatic Pain,” UIC Latino Cultural Center, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago (April)
2023	“Trauma and Multilingualism in <i>One Woman’s War</i> ,” Institute for the Humanities, Critical Middle East Studies Working Group, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago
2020	“Life After Death: Representations of Trauma in Iran-Iraq War Literature,” Didaar Art Collective, Chicago

CONFERENCE PAPERS

2024	“Corporeal Assemblages and the Possibility of Crip Care in <i>Haras</i> (Pruning, 2017),” National Women’s Studies Annual Conference, Huntington Place Convention Center, Detroit, November 14-17
2024	“The Possibility of Crip Care,” Association of Postcolonial Thought, UMass Amherst/Five Colleges, Amherst, September 27-28
2024	“Pain Writing in the Works of Iranian Writer Ghazaleh Alizadeh,” Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association Annual Conference, DePaul University-Loop Campus, Chicago, October 4-6

- 2024 “Deafness and Re-memembering in *My Father’s Notebook*,” Middle East Studies Association, Virtual, November 11-16
- 2024 “Entangled Bodies: Black Rain and the Marsh Arabs in *Haras (Pruning, 2017)*,” American Comparative Literature Association, Palais des congrès de Montréal, Montréal, Canada, March 14-17
- 2023 “Minor Rituals of Care: *Bashu, the Little Stranger*,” American Comparative Literature Association, University of Chicago, Chicago, March 16-19
- 2022 “Precarious Care: Disabled Subject at the Limits of National Sovereignty,” Middle East Studies Association, Denver, December 1-4
- 2022 “To Crip the Blessed: Disability Representation in *The Marriage of the Blessed*,” American Comparative Literature Association, Virtual, June 15-18
- 2021 “*Turtles Can Fly*: Disability in Iranian War Cinema,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Virtual, April 1-5
- 2020 “The Many Languages of Trauma: Trauma, Multilingualism, and Identity in Iran-Iraq War Memoirs,” Middle East Studies Association, Virtual, October 5-17
- 2018 “*The Chronicles of Victory*: Narratives of Martyrdom and Erasure of Trauma in the Iran-Iraq War,” American Comparative Literature Association, University of California, Los Angeles, March 29-April 1
- 2017 “The Experience of Deterritorialization in Kurdish Cinema: Drunken Horses Beholding the Porous Borders,” Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 5-6
- 2016 “In Search of a Feminine Style in the Literary Narratives of the Iran-Iraq War,” International Comparative Literature Association, Vienna University, July 21-27
- 2016 “Iran-Iraq War Memoirs: Birth of New Subjectivity?” American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, March 17-20

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES

- 2020 Searle Teaching Certificate, Northwestern University
- 2019 Summer Institute for Psychoanalysis, Northwestern University
- 2019 Certificate in Middle East and North African Studies, Northwestern University
- 2019 Certificate in Critical Theory, Northwestern University
- 2018 Certificate in World Literature, Institute for World Literature, Harvard University (University of Tokyo)
- 2018 Iran Graduate Student Workshop Certificate, University of Pennsylvania

TEACHING

University of Illinois Chicago,

- DHD 531: Interdisciplinary Research and Methodologies in Disability Studies I (Fall 2025, Ph.D. seminar, **Co-teaching with Yochai Eisenberg and Delphine Labbé**)
- DHD 102: Disability in American Film (Fall 2025, Undergrad lecture)
- DHD 203: Disability in World Culture (Fall 2025, Undergrad lecture, Guest Speaker)
- DHD 301: Disability Research Method (Fall 2025, Undergrad lecture, Guest Speaker)
- DHD 201: Disability Rights and Culture, (Fall 2025, Undergrad lecture, Guest Speaker)

DHD 100: Disability and Human Development (Fall 2025, Undergrad lecture, Guest Speaker)
 DHD 502: Disability Studies II (Spring 2025, Graduate seminar, Guest Speaker)
 DHD 592: Interdisciplinary Seminar in Disability Studies (Spring 2025, Ph.D. seminar, Guest Speaker)
 DHD 102: Disability in American Film (Spring 2025, Undergrad lecture)
 Advanced Disability Studies (Winter 2024, Ph.D. seminar, **Co-teaching with Sandy Sufian**)

Northwestern University,

Cinemas of Care (Spring 2023, **Instructor**)
 Disability in World Literature: Alternative Corporealities (Fall 2022, **Instructor**)
 Disability Representations in World Literature and Global Cinema (Spring 2020, **Instructor**)
 Making the Modern Middle East (Spring 2019, **TA**)
 Postcolonial Noir (Winter 2019, **TA**)
 Making the Modern Middle East: Culture, Politics, History (Spring 2018, **TA**)

Thesis and Dissertation Advising:

2025-	Fletcher Weiss, DHD Ph.D. Department, University of Illinois (Proposal committee member)
2025-2026	Sabrina Jamal-Eddine, DHD Post Doctorate Department, University of Illinois Chicago (Co-mentor with Carrie Sandahl)
2025-	Bri Noonan, In progress, DHD Ph.D. Department, University of Illinois Chicago (Dissertation Committee member)
2024	Annette Malakoff, In progress, DHD Ph.D. Department, University of Illinois Chicago (Committee member, Second reader)
2024	Sam Weiss, In progress, DHD Ph.D. Department, University of Illinois Chicago (Committee member, Second reader)
2024-	Corbin Outlaw, In progress, DHD Ph.D. Department, University of Illinois Chicago (Committee member)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025	Moderator, Superfest Disability Film Festival, UIC Disability Cultural Center, Chicago (October)
2025-	Committee member, Advisory Committee, department of Disability and Human development, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago
2024-	Committee member, Research and Scholarship Committee, department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago
2023	Panelist, Superfest Disability Film Festival, UIC Disability Cultural Center, Chicago

- 2023 Guest Speaker, Disability Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar, University of Illinois Chicago
- 2023 Co-organizer and moderator, *Trauma and Its Afterlives in the MENA Region*, Northwestern University
- 2022 Discussant, New Directions in MENA Studies, *Sacrificial Limbs: Disability, Masculinity, and Political Violence in Turkey*, Northwestern University
- 2021-2023 Steering Committee, Colloquium for Global Iran Studies, Northwestern University
- 2021 Invited Guest Lecturer, "Introduction to Modern Iranian History," Modern Middle Eastern History, Department of History, Clemson University
- 2018 Assistant Organizer, "Life on the Border: The Cinema of Bahman Ghobadi," Northwestern University
- 2016-2018 Research Assistant, Middle East and North African Studies Program, Northwestern University
- 2016-2018 Co-chair of the Graduate Students, Middle East and North African Studies Program, Northwestern University
- 2018 Moderator and Symposium Co-organizer, Drone Story Exhibition (Artist Saba Elahi), Northwestern University
- 2016 Co-Curator (with Hamid Naficy and Simran Bhalla), 50 Years of Iranian Movie Posters Exhibition, Block Museum of Art, Alsdorf Gallery, Northwestern University, September 17-December 11
- 2016 Assistant Organizer, Lucid Figuration Symposium: Iranian Movie Poster/Film Art, Northwestern University, November 17-18
- 2016 Co-organizer with Hamid Naficy, Iranian Cinephilia: From Filmfarsi to Art House Cinema, Northwestern University, October 6-November 18

Peer Review Services:

Middle Eastern Literatures.

Iranian Studies.

Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Woman Studies Association (NWSA), 2024-present
 American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), 2015-present
 Modern Language Association (MLA), 2015-present
 Middle East Studies Association (MESA), 2015-present
 Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), 2020-present
 Society for Disability Studies (SDS), 2020-present
 Association for Iranian Studies (AIS), 2015-present
 Buffett Institute for Global Studies, 2015- 2023

LANGUAGES

Farsi: Native

Kurdish Kurmancî: Native

English: Near Native

French: Advance Reading

Arabic: Intermediate Reading