

Updated February 2023

HOUMAN OLIAEI

Kalamazoo College

Department of Anthropology and Sociology,

1200 Academy St Kalamazoo, MI 49006

houman.oliaei@kzoo.edu - www.houman-oliaei.com

EMPLOYMENT

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Fall 2022 - Present

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

Kalamazoo College

Visiting Assistant Professor, January-July 2022,

Kalamazoo College

EDUCATION

Brandeis University

Ph.D., Sociocultural Anthropology, August 2022

Dissertation: *On the Margins of Humanity: Humanitarianism, Displacement, and the Politics of Recognition among Displaced Yazidis*

Committee: Janet McIntosh (Chair), Elizabeth Ferry, Pascal Menoret

Brandeis University

Master of Arts in Anthropology, August 2017

University of Tehran

Master of Arts in Anthropology, August 2012

University of Tehran

Bachelor of Arts in Iranian Classical Music, August 2009

PUBLICATIONS

- *On the Margins of Humanity: Humanitarianism, Displacement, and the Politics of Recognition among Displaced Yazidis* (under advance contract with Indiana University Press for the book series, *Worlds in Crisis: Refugees, Asylum, and Forced Migration*.)
- "History of Anthropological Theory" in *The Handbook of Social Sciences*, 2011, Saad Publication, Tehran. Iran

WORKING PAPERS

- "A Humanitarian Prison: Displaced Yazidis and the Temporality of Encampment" (Received Revision and Resubmission from a top-tier anthropology journal).

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Displacement, Cosmopolitanism, and the Temporality of Fear (to be submitted in May 2023)

POLICY PAPERS & PUBLIC WRITING

- Forthcoming: "Navigating Dispute and Displacement: The Yazidi Experience in Post-ISIS Iraq," Crown Center for Middle East Studies, *Middle East Brief*.

- *The Unknown Fate of Missing Yazidis: 8 Years on and Still Waiting*, September 2022, (A report based on research conducted on behalf of International Organization for Migration (IOM), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Yazda Global Organization)
- “Strangers in their own land: Iraqi Yazidis and their Plight, 7 years on from Genocide,” December 2021, *The Conversation*.
- “Mapping Iraq’s Electoral Evolution,” October 2021, *Brandeis Now*

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

AWARDS

- Robert A. Manners Prize, Brandeis University, May 2022. (Recognizing a significant piece of scholarly writing by a doctoral student in anthropology)
- Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, May 2021. Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Brandeis University

RESEARCH GRANTS

- Mandel Center for the Humanities, Brandeis University, 2022
- The Connected PhD Grant, Brandeis University, 2022
- GSAS Summer Dissertation Writing Grants, Brandeis University, 2021
- Professional Development Fellowship, Brandeis University, 2020
- The Connected PhD Grant, Brandeis University, 2020
- Provost Dissertation Fellowship, Brandeis University, 2019
- Mellon Dissertation Research Grants, Brandeis University, 2019
- Anthropology Department Research Fund, Brandeis University, 2019
- Crown Center for Middle East Studies Travel Grant, Brandeis University, 2018
- Anthropology Department Research Fund, Brandeis University, 2018

FELLOWSHIP

- Crown Center for Middle East Studies Doctoral Fellowship, 2015-2021

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

- “Beyond Statelessness: Internally Displaced Yazidis and the Politics of Genocide Recognition,” Arizona State University, April 2023.
- (Moderator) The Pedagogy Workshop of Race and Racism Comparatively, University of Michigan, November 2022.
- Yazidis in Iraq, *Common Threads*, NPR (WVGR). September 2022
- “Humanitarianism and the Politics of Recognition among Yazidis in Kurdistan Region,” Brandeis Anthropology Research Seminar, Brandeis University, September 2020
- “Refugee Narratives and Humanitarian Governmentality,” The Evaluation Center, Western Michigan University, February 2020.
- “Yezidis in Iraq, Minorities and Postcolonial Nation-States,” The Iran Circle, Harvard University, 2019.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Humanitarian Governance and the Temporality of Fear,” in the Workshop of Researching Forced Migration in the Middle East, University of Glasgow (Accepted, March 2023)
- “Being Minority, Becoming Cosmopolitans: Internal Displacement and Ambivalence of Belonging among Displaced Yezidis,” Annual Meeting of SEPAD (Sectarianism, Proxies and De-Sectarianization Project), Lancaster University (Dec 2022)
- “Humanitarianism, Religion, and Sectarian Prerogative,” Annual Meeting of American Anthropological Association, November 2022 (Nov 2022)
- “Muharram Rituals and Affective Hegemony in Iran.” The Gramsci in the Middle East and North Africa, London School of Economics, (May 2022)
- “A Humanitarian Prison; on Humanitarian Temporality and Politics of Nothingness” Annual Meeting of American Anthropological Association. Baltimore, Maryland. 2021 (November 2021)
- “Negotiating Victimhood; Displaced Yezidis and Politics of Belonging in Post-ISIS Iraq” Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association, Montreal (October 2021)
- “Humanitarian, Religion, and Institutionalization of Difference in Iraqi Kurdistan,” Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association, 2020.
- “Anthropology of Dastgâhi Music of Iran”. The First National Conference of Anthropology and Culture. University of Yazd, Iran, 2012.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR

- Kalamazoo College
- Introduction to Society and Culture
- Saving Humanity: Ethics and Politics of Humanitarianism
- Immigration and Exile
- In Pursuit of Justice: Human Rights in Global Perspective
- Border Epistemologies

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Brandeis University

- Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies
- Anthropology of Religion
- Psychological Anthropology
- Culture and Mental Illness

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Anthropological Association
- Middle East Studies Association

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English: Fluent; Farsi: Fluent; French: written and verbal proficiency; Kurdish (Sorani): written and verbal proficiency; Modern Standard Arabic: Advanced Reading Knowledge

References

Janet McIntosh
Professor of Anthropology
Brandeis University
+1 781-736-2215
janetmc@brandeis.edu

Elizabeth Ferry
Professor of Anthropology
Brandeis University
+1 781-736-2218
ferry@brandeis.edu

Pascal Menoret
Professor of Anthropology
Brandeis University
+1 781-736-5313
pmenoret@brandeis.edu