

Julia Elyachar

*Department of Anthropology • Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
116 Aaron Burr Hall • Princeton University • Princeton, NJ 08545
elyachar@princeton.edu • www.juliaelyachar.com*

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

<i>2024–present</i>	Associated Faculty, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University
<i>2016–present</i>	Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Princeton University
<i>2016–present</i>	Associate Professor, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University
<i>2015–14</i>	Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of California, Irvine
<i>2013–16</i>	Director, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, University of California, Irvine
<i>2011–17</i>	Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine
<i>2007–11</i>	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine
<i>2001–04</i>	Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University

Additional Appointments at Princeton University

<i>2025–26</i>	Faculty Fellow, Postdoctoral Fellows Program, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
<i>2024–25</i>	Interim Director, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
<i>2024–25</i>	Director of Graduate Studies and Funding, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
<i>2021–24</i>	Faculty Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts
<i>2021–24</i>	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Anthropology
<i>2021–24</i>	Curriculum Committee, Department of Anthropology
<i>2020–24</i>	Executive Committee, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies,
<i>2018–present</i>	Faculty Research Associate, Dignity and Debt Initiative
<i>2018–2020</i>	Director, Ph.D. Fellows Program, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
<i>2017–present</i>	Executive Committee, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
<i>2016–2018</i>	Director, Undergraduate Fellows Program, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies

Additional Appointments at Other Institutions

<i>2024</i>	Research Fellow, Scientific Research Centre, Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia
<i>2023</i>	Visiting Researcher, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University
<i>2006–07</i>	Center Fellow, International Center for Advanced Studies, New York University
<i>2005–07</i>	Research Fellow, Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies, Scientific Research Centre, Slovene Academy of Science and Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia
<i>2004–06</i>	Visiting Fellow, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University
<i>2001–04</i>	Director of Graduate Studies, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University
<i>2000–01</i>	Visiting Lecturer, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies, Ph.D., 1999

Harvard University, Department of Anthropology, M.A., 1992

Barnard College, Columbia University, Department of Economics, B.A., 1982

FIELDS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING

Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Slovenia, Croatia, the Middle East, former Ottoman Empire, economic anthropology, finance, political economy, social theory, history of economic thought, embodiment, infrastructure, historical anthropology

LANGUAGES

Arabic, Modern Standard and Egyptian dialect (fluent reading, writing, and speaking); Arabic, Palestinian dialect (proficient); French (advanced proficiency, reading); Slovene (proficient); Hebrew (intermediate); English (native)

LANGUAGE TRAINING

- University of Ljubljana, Slovene Language Program, Intensive Slovene Program, Intermediate Class, Summer 2000
- Center for Arabic Studies Abroad, American University in Cairo, Intensive Advanced Arabic Program, Summer and Academic Year 1991–92
- Middlebury College, Intensive Arabic Program, Advanced Class, Summer 1990
- The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Intensive Hebrew Program, Intermediate Class, Summer 1985; Advanced Class, Academic Year 1985–86
- The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Full-Year Classical Arabic, Academic Year 1985–86

PUBLICATIONS

Books Since 2016

- *On the Semi-Civilized: Coloniality, Finance, and Embodied Sovereignty in Cairo* (Duke University Press, June 2025).
- *Thinking Infrastructures (Research in the Sociology of Organizations, vol. 62)*. Co-edited with Martin Kornberger, Neil Pollock, Geoffrey Bowker, and Joanne Nucho (Emerald Publishing Limited, 2019).
- *Mülksüzleştirme Piyasaları*. Translated by Erkan Ünal (Alfa Publishing, December 2023). Revised updated edition of *Markets of Dispossession: NGOs, Economic Development, and the State in Cairo* (Duke, 2005).
- Arabic Translation of Revised Edition, with new introduction and revised chapters, *Markets of Dispossession: NGOs, Economic Development, and the State* (National Center for Translation, Cairo Egypt, al-Mahrousa Press, forthcoming 2025).
- *The Factory: A History of How We Made Ourselves* (in process, will be presented to publishers through agent Emma Bal, Madeleine Milburn Ltd., September 2025).

Books Before 2016

- *Markets of Dispossession: NGOs, Economic Development, and the State in Cairo* (Duke University Press, 2005). Co-winner of the Sharon Stephens First Book Award, American Ethnological Society.

Peer-Reviewed Articles Since 2016

- “Race and Civilizational Difference in Syria and Palestine: Franz Boas, Physical Anthropology, and the American Expedition to Syria of 1899.” *Public Culture*. Forthcoming 2025.
- “Public Wealth, Public Enemies, and Theft: Thinking about Wealth with the Earl of Lauderdale in Cairo and Split.” *Current Anthropology*, Special Issue, *The Price of Wealth*, 66, supplement 27, August 2025, electronically published July 2, 2025.
- “Relational Finance: Ottoman Debt, Financialization, and the Problem of the Semi-Civilized.” *Journal of Cultural Economy* 16, no. 3 (February 2023): 323–36.
- “Anthropology of Proprioception: Endurance and Collectivity on Unstable Grounds in Post-Revolutionary Cairo.” *American Anthropologist* 124, no. 3 (September 2022): 525–35.
- “Comprehending and Regulating Financial Crisis.” With Nina Bandelj, Gary Richardson, and James Owen Weatherall. *Perspectives on Science* 24, no. 4 (July–August 2016): 443–73.

Peer-Reviewed Articles Before 2016

- “Upending Infrastructure: *Tamarod*, Resistance, and Agency after the January 25th Revolution in Egypt.” *History and Anthropology* 25, no. 4 (July 2014): 452–71.
- “Botanical Decolonization: Rethinking Native Plants.” With Tomaz Mastnak and Tom Boellstorff. *Environment & Planning D: Society and Space* 32, no. 2 (March 2014): 363–80.
- “Regulating Crisis: A Retrospective Ethnography of the 1982 Latin American Debt Crisis at the New York Federal Reserve Bank.” *Valuation Studies* 1, no. 2 (December 2013): 147–60.
- “Before (and After) Neo-Liberalism: Tacit Knowledge, Secrets of the Trade, and the Public Sector in Egypt.” *Cultural Anthropology* 27, no. 1 (February 2012): 76–96.

- “Next Practices: Knowledge, Infrastructure, and Public Goods at the Bottom of the Pyramid.” *Public Culture* 24, no. 1 (February 2012): 109–29.
- “The Political Economy of Movement and Gesture in Cairo.” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (Incorporating Man)* 17, no. 2 (March 2011): 82–99.
- “Phatic Labor, Infrastructure, and the Question of Empowerment in Cairo.” *American Ethnologist* 37, no. 3 (July 2010): 453–64.
- “Best Practices: Research, Finance, and NGOs in Cairo.” *American Ethnologist* 33, no. 3 (August 2006): 413–26.
- “Striking for Debt: Power, Finance, and Governmentality in Egypt.” *Anthropological Notebooks (Drustva antropologov Slovenije)* 10, no. 1 (June 2004; Ljubljana).
- “Mappings of Power: The State, NGOs, and International Organizations in the Informal Economy of Cairo.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 45, no. 3 (Jul. 2003): 571–605.
- “Empowerment Money: The World Bank, Non-Governmental Organizations, and the Value of Culture in Egypt.” *Public Culture* 14, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 493–514.
- “Finance internationale, micro-crédit et religion de la société civile en Égypte.” *Critique Internationale* 4, no. 13 (Novembre 2001; Paris): 139–52.
- “Mojstri brez obrti, vajenci brez mojstrov: značilnosti mojstrstva v treh obrtniskih delavnicah v Kairu.” (Masters without Craft, Apprentices without Masters: Characteristics of Mastery in Three Craft Workshops of Cairo). *Glasnik Slovenskega etnološkega društva*. 40, no. 1–2 (2000; Ljubljana): 63–72, 172.

Peer-Reviewed Chapters in Edited Volumes Since 2016

- “Neoliberalism and the Savage Slot: Rationality, Irrationality, and Calculating Value 1920–2020.” In *Mutant Neoliberalism: Market Rule and Political Rupture*, edited by William Callison and Zachary Manfredi (Fordham University Press, 2019), 177–95.
- “Upending Infrastructure in Times of Revolt.” In *Distributed Agency*, edited by Paul Kockelman and Nick Enfield (Oxford University Press, 2017), 49–56.
- “Morals and Emotions of Money.” With Nina Bandelj, Tyler Boston, Julie Kim, Michael McBride, Zaibu Tufail, and James Owen Weatherall. In *Money Talks: Explaining how Money Really Works*, edited by Nina Bandelj, Frederick F. Wherry, and Viviana A. Zelizer (Princeton University Press, 2017), 39–56.

Chapters in Edited Volumes Since 2016

- “They Tell Me This Is Jerusalem: Grammars of Belonging in Palestine.” In *Naseej, Life-Weavings of Palestine*, edited by Arpan Roy and Noura Salahaldeen (Pluto Press, 2024).
- “Thinking Infrastructures: Introduction.” With Martin Kornberger, Neil Pollock, Geoffrey Bowker, and Joanne Nucho. In *Thinking Infrastructures (Research in the Sociology of Organizations, vol. 62)*, co-edited with Martin Kornberger, Neil Pollock, Geoffrey Bowker, and Joanne Nucho (Emerald Publishing Limited, 2019).
- “Rethinking Anthropology of Neoliberalism in the Middle East.” In *A Companion to the Anthropology of the Middle East*, 1st ed, edited by Soraya Altorki (Wiley-Blackwell, 2016), 411–33.

Collections Edited After 2016

- “Kitabkhana: A Series on AbdouMaliq Simone’s The Surrounds and Neferti X. Tadiar’s Remaindered Life.” Curated and edited by Julia Elyachar. *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East (CSSAAME)*, Spring 2024.

Collections Edited Before 2016

- “Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Egypt a Year after the January 25th Revolution.” *Cultural Anthropology Online*, co-edited with Jessica Winegar. Solicited and edited 15 contributions about anthropology and the January 25th Revolution in Cairo, January 2012.

Encyclopedia Entries Before 2016

- “NGOs: Anthropological and Historical Aspects.” *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd ed, December 2015.
- “The Near East,” in *A Handbook of Economic Anthropology*, edited by James Carrier (Edward Elgar, 2005), 515–25.

Other Publications Since 2016

- “Holy War Today.” With Tomaž Mastnak. *Jadaliyya*, April 24, 2024. www.jadaliyya.com/Details/45936/Holy-War-Today.
- “Remaindered Life and The Surrounds: A Conversation with AbdouMaliq Simone and Neferti X. Tadiar.” *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East (CSSAAME)* 44, no. 1 (May 2024): 208–16.
- “Opening Editorial.” With Matilde Córdoba Azcárate, Alberto Corsín Jiménez, Joanne Nucho, AbdouMaliq Simone, Manuel Tironi, and Ather Zia. *Cultural Anthropology* 38, no. 1 (2022): 1–7.
- “From Versailles to the War on Terror.” *Public Books*, January 29, 2021.
- “Teaching Anthropology of the Economic from the Middle East: An Interview with Julia Elyachar and Jacob Bessen.” *Jadaliyya*, March 2021. www.jadaliyya.com/Details/42547.
- “They’re Palestinians Facing Eviction in East Jerusalem. They May Have Helped Save My Family.” Editorial, *Forward*, April 29, 2021. forward.com/opinion/468359/palestinians-east-jerusalem-eviction-sheikh-jarrah/.
- “A Few Things Wrong with Political Economy of the Middle East (Or, On Factories of the Semi-Civilized).” *JadMag* 7, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 7–11.

Other Publications Before 2016

- “Writing the Revolution: Dilemmas of Ethnography after the January 25th Revolution in Egypt.” Hotspot on Egypt. *Cultural Anthropology Online*, May 2013. www.culanth.org/?q=node/492.
- “Infrastructure: Commentary from Nikhil Anand, Johnathan Bach, Julia Elyachar, and David Mains.” *Cultural Anthropology Online*, November 26, 2012.
- “Timothy Mitchell Interviewed by Julia Elyachar, with Tim Mitchell.” *Public Culture* 24, no. 3 (September 2012): 623–42.
- “The Passions of Credit and the Dangers of Debt.” Editors’ Forum, *Cultural Anthropology Online*, May 15, 2012.

- “Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Egypt a Year after January 25th.” With Jessica Winegar. In *Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Egypt a Year after the January 25th Revolution in Egypt*, *Cultural Anthropology Online*, February 2012.
- “Before and After Neoliberalism in Egypt and Slovenia: Rethinking the Commons from the Margins of the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires.” Working Paper, University of California Humanities Institute, January 2012.
- “Retooling Anthropology.” With Bill Maurer. Editorial, *Anthropology Today* 25, no. 1 (February 2009): 27.
- “Fiscal Policy in Crisis.” With Bill Maurer. *Anthropology News* 29, no. 9 (December 2008): 113.
- Review of *A Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria*, by Daniel Jordan Smith. *American Ethnologist* 36, no. 1 (Winter 2009): 191–92.
- “Response to Critics.” *Politique Africaine*, “Autour d’un livre,” no. 108 (Decembre 2007; Paris).
- “Comment: The Anthropology of Corruption.” *Current Anthropology* 46, no. 1 (February 2005): 113.

Reviews of my Work Before 2016

- “Power, Agency, and Resistance in Egypt (And Elsewhere).” Author: Mark Allen Peterson. *Connected in Cairo*, blog, July 27, 2014.
- “Building Societies: America’s Middle Eastern Projects” (review article about four books, including *Markets of Dispossession*). Author: Michael G. Freedman. *Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review* 8 (2009): 229–40.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Paul Amar. *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 40 (2008): 697–99.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Roy Dille. *Social Anthropology* 15, no. 3 (2007): 387–89.
- “Performing the Market: Review of *Markets of Dispossession*” (Review Article). Author: Gerda Roelvink. *Social Identities: Journal for the Study of Race, Nation and Culture* 13, no. 1 (2007): 125–33.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Marina Welker. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 49, no. 1 (2007): 233–34.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Joseph O’Mahoney. *Work, Employment and Society* 21, no. 1 (2007): 171–72.
- “*Markets of Dispossession* au miroir de la nouvelle sociologie économique.” Author: Pierre François. *Politique Africaine*, no. 108 (2007). Forum about *Markets of Dispossession*, 191–208.
- “Micro-Finance and the ‘Logic of Capitalism’: Comment on Julia Elyachar, *Markets of Dispossession*.” Author: Jane Guyer. *Politique Africaine*, no. 108 (2007). Forum about *Markets of Dispossession*, 191–208.
- “How Markets Dispossession: Julia Elyachar’s Ethnography of NGOs, Economic Development, and the State.” Author: AbdAllah Donald Cole. *Politique Africaine*, no. 108 (2007). Forum about *Markets of Dispossession*, 191–208.
- “Development through Social Engineering and Microfinancing: Expropriation or Empowerment? A Comment on Julia Elyachar’s *Markets of Dispossession*.” Author: Knut Graw. *Politique Africaine*, no. 108 (2007). Forum about *Markets of Dispossession*, 191–208.

- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Alice Wilson. *Cambridge Anthropology* 27, no. 1 (2007): 96–98.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Donald (Abdullah) Cole. *American Ethnologist* 33, no. 3 (2006): 3013–14.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Jeremy Rayner. *European Journal of Sociology* XLVII, no. 3 (2006): 464–67.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Koray Çaliskan. *Arab Studies Journal*, online journal (Autumn 2006).
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Gökçe Günel. *New Perspectives on Turkey* 35 (2006): 135–42.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Alia el-Mahdi. *Middle East Journal* LX, no. 4 (2006): 794–95.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Heidi Morrison. *Digest of Middle Eastern Studies* 15, no. 2 (2006): 140–41.
- Review of *Markets of Dispossession*. Author: Mohamed Waked. *Anthropological Notebooks* XII, no. 1 (2006): 130–31.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

External

- School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, for the Explorations in the Anthropology of Proprioception Workshop, to be held March 2026. Organizer and Applicant, Fall 2024
- Research Fellowship, Scientific Research Centre, Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia, February–July 2024
- Visiting Research Fellowship, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University, September–December 2023
- Modern Endangered Archives Program (MEAP), UCLA Library, “Assessing and Conserving a Popular Culture Archive in Cairo, Egypt” 2020 (suspended due to Covid-19)
- National Science Foundation, co-PI with Nina Bandelj, Gary Richardson, and James Owen Weatherall, “Comprehending and Regulating Financial Crisis,” 2015
- Sharon Stephens First Book Prize, American Ethnological Society, co-winner for *Markets of Dispossession: NGOs, Economic Development, and the State in Cairo*, November 2007
- International Center for Advanced Studies, Center Fellow, New York University, 2006–07
- Ad Futura Science and Education Foundation of the Republic of Slovenia, Research Fellowship, 2005–06
- University of Michigan, International Institute, toward the publication of *Markets of Dispossession: NGOs, Economic Development, and the State in Cairo*, 2004
- Scientific Research Centre, Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Visiting Post-Graduate Scholar, 1999–2001
- Scientific Research Centre, Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Visiting Research Fellow, 1997–98

- MacArthur Foundation and Social Science Research Council Program in International Peace and Security in a Changing World, fellow, 1994–96 (awarded 1993)
- Fulbright Commission, Institute of International Exchange, Egypt, 1993–94
- Georgetown University, Center for Arabic Studies Abroad, based at American University in Cairo, fellow, 1991–92

Internal Grants

- Faculty Research Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University, for the project “Race, Photography, and Political Futures of Post-Ottoman Syria: The Henry Minor Huxley Collection at Princeton and its Meaning,” with Julia Gearhart, Spring 2025
- Translation Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University, for the translation to Arabic of *On the Semicivilized* and *Markets of Dispossession*, Fall 2024
- Research Grants, University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Princeton University, 2022, 2020, 2017
- Nomination for Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program, University of California at Irvine, 2015
- Provost of University of California, Irvine, Peace Gift Renewal, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, August 2013, 2014
- Inaugural Associate Professor Research Award, School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine, 2012
- University of California, Humanities Research Institute, Fellowship for the Research Group “Imperial Legacies, Postsocialist Contexts,” 2012
- Sheldon Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard University, 1993
- Mellon Foundation Grant awarded through Harvard University, Summers 1991, 1990

INVITED LECTURES AND PAPERS

- “On the Semi-Civilized: Coloniality, Finance, and Embodied Sovereignty in Cairo,” Department of Anthropology, Princeton University, April 24, 2025
- “Financialized Counterinsurgency: Sovereign Wealth Funds and the Remaking of Cairo after 2013,” Centre for Gulf Studies, University of Exeter, March 18, 2025
- “Austerity and the Semi-Civilized,” presented to the Global Histories of Austerity, Past and Present Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison, May 24–25, 2023
- “Keynote: Interlude, Currency and Empire,” Currency and Empire Closing Workshop, New School for Social Research, October 23, 2022
- “Archiving Peace and Nuclear Weapons Research at UC Irvine,” invited lecture, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, January 13, 2022
- “The History I Carry On My Back; The Factory in which I Work,” paper for session “Insurgent Archives,” American Anthropological Association, San Jose California, November 16, 2018
- “Rethinking Political Economy of the Middle East: A Master Class with Julia Elyachar,” Program in Architectural History and Theory, Columbia University, January 29, 2016

- “Engine of Inequality or a *Publick Thing*? Finance, The Levant Trade, and the January 25th Revolution in Egypt,” invited lecture, Department of Anthropology and the Program in International and Regional Studies, Princeton University, November 20, 2015
- “The Politics of Platforms: Urban Space, Revolt, and the Question of Agency after the January 25th Revolution in Cairo,” public lecture in the Cities in Development: Spaces, Conflicts and Agency Series, University of Leuven, Belgium, October 27, 2015
- “Rethinking Inequality from the Levant: Capitalism or Commercial Society?,” paper presented at the Inequality, Scale, and Civilization Conference, Max Planck Institute, Halle Germany, July 8–11, 2015
- “Upending Infrastructure: The Levant, Agency, and Infrastructure after the January 25th Revolution in Cairo,” invited lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, May 4, 2015
- “Emergence and Emergency: Sovereignty, the Capitulations, and Social Theory after the January 25th Revolution in Egypt,” keynote plenary speech, American Ethnological Society Annual Meeting, “Emergence,” San Diego, March 12–15, 2015
- “‘Resources in Their Own Right’: Channels, the Phatic Function, and the Question of Neoliberalism (with Thanks to Susan Gal),” Language and Political Economy, University of Chicago, March 6, 2015
- “Before (and After) Growth: Steady States, the Scourge of Accumulation, and an Economic Anthropology for the Anthropocene,” invited lecture, Department of Anthropology, Rice University, October 16, 2014
- “Globalizing Neoliberalisms?,” Neoliberalism and Biopolitics Working Group, Program in Critical Theory, University of California, Berkeley, October 8, 2014
- “Resistance, Revolution, and the Hurly Burly: Anthropology and Social Theory after the January 25 Revolution in Egypt,” invited lecture, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, May 8, 2014
- “On Public Things: National Wealth, Social Infrastructures, and Moral Philosophy in the Aftermath of the January 25th Revolution in Egypt,” invited lecture, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, May 20, 2013
- “Ethnography as Improvisation: Infrastructure, Public Goods, and Semiotic Commons Two Years after the January 25 Revolution in Egypt,” invited lecture, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics, January 25, 2013
- “Ethnography, Disclosure, and Management Practice,” Stanford Humanities Center and Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, January 13, 2011
- “Before Dispossession: Phatic Labor, Social Infrastructures, and the Question of Empowerment in Cairo,” Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley, December 2, 2010
- “Phatic Labor and Poor Theory: Revisiting Empowerment in Cairo,” Critical Theory Institute, University of California at Irvine, February 24, 2010
- “Revisiting Empowerment in Cairo: The Ethnography of Conceptual Work,” Department of Sociology Colloquium, University of Southern California, November 6, 2008
- “Senses and Strategy: Instinct, Strategic Thinking, and the Remaking of Finance in Egypt,” Anthropology Colloquium Series, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University, September 22, 2006

- A Conversation with David Harvey: *Markets of Dispossession: NGOs, Economic Development, and the State in Cairo*, Labyrinth Books, New York City, April 27, 2006
- “Beyond the Analytics of Failure: Methodological Approaches to Studying the Middle East and Africa,” Middle Eastern and African Studies Initiative, University of California at Irvine, March 17, 2006
- “Research as Survival Strategy: Best Practices, NGOs, and Neoliberalism in Egypt,” Anthropology Colloquium Series, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine, March 16, 2006
- “The State, Markets, and the Politics of Value in Cairo,” CUNY Graduate Center Anthropology Colloquium Series, March 10, 2006
- “NGOs, Economic Development, and Dispossession in Cairo,” Department of Anthropology and the Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association Lecture Series, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, January 20, 2006
- “An Eye on the Mediterranean: The Evil Eye and the Mediterranean as Cultural Concepts,” paper presented at the Mediterranean Studies Group, New York University, May 6, 2004

INVITED DISCUSSIONS (PANELS, WORKSHOPS, ROUNDTABLES)

- “The Only Game in Town: Central Banks, Instability, and Avoiding the Next Collapse,” fireside chat with Mohamed el-Erian, Julia Elyachar, and Bill Maurer, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, and the Social of Social Sciences, University of California Irvine, March 7, 2016
- “What’s Wrong with ‘The Political Economy of the Middle East’ (With Apologies to Bruno Latour),” paper presented at the New Directions in Political Economy of the Middle East Workshop, Stanford Humanities Center and History Corner, Stanford University, February 19–21, 2016
- “Upending Infrastructure,” paper for the retreat, “Foundations of Social Agency,” organized by Nick Enfield, Max Planck Institute, Ringberg Castle, Munich, April 14–17, 2014
- “Scholars as Public Intellectuals: An Inter-Disciplinary Roundtable,” Department of History, UC World History, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine, May 11, 2011
- “Speaking out on Egypt,” public meeting organized by the Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies and Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine, February 17, 2011
- “Ljubljana: City of Skyscrapers? An Anthropological View,” round table discussion, Third International Architecture Biennale, Ljubljana, November 24, 2005
- “New Directions in the Anthropologies of Markets and Capitalism,” Wenner-Gren Foundation, New York City, April 9, 2005
- “NGOs, the Evil Eye, and Neoliberalism in Egypt,” paper presented at the Neoliberalism and Democracy: Limits, Alternatives, Possibilities Workshop, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University, April 22–23, 2005
- “After the Strong State: Accounting for Development in the Middle East After the Invasion of Iraq,” paper presented at the Practice of Law and Development: Socio-Legal Approaches Workshop, Cornell Law School, Cornell University, April 18–20, 2004
- “After Development: The Life History of a Neighborhood in Cairo,” paper presented at the Development after Development in the Middle East and Africa Conference, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University, May 15–17, 2003
- “Below the Tip of the Iceberg: Markets and Alternative Economic Identities in Cairo,” paper presented at the Empire of Economy Workshop, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University, May 22–24, 2002
- “Striking for Debt,” paper presented at the Development after Development in the Middle East and Africa Workshop, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University, February 23–24, 2002

PANELS/CONFERENCES/SERIES ORGANIZED

- Explorations in the Anthropology of Proprioception Workshop, School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, to be held March 2026. Organizer and Applicant, Fall 2024
- “Proprioceptive Subjects: Rethinking Autonomy and Embodiment,” co-organizer with Danilyn Rutherford, executive session, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 17, 2023
- “Proprioception on Shaken Ground: Lessons from Microbuses, Wobble Boards, and Fathers of Physiology,” co-organizer with Danilyn Rutherford, executive session, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 17, 2023

- “Celebrating the Life and Work of Talal Asad,” co-organizer with Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, conference, Princeton University, April 14, 2022
- “Insurgent Archives: On the Unwritten, the Storied, and the Sentient,” co-organizer with Joao Biehl, panel, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, November 16, 2018
- “Nuclear Legacies in California and Beyond,” Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, 30th Year Anniversary, University of California at Irvine, May 14, 2015
- “Thinking Past the Unthinkable: Biosecurity, Financial Crisis and Social Conflict after the Arab Spring,” Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, UC Irvine. Conceptualized and organized a broad ranging set of interdisciplinary events, discussions, and funding programs for the Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, 2013–15.
- “After the Arab Spring,” organizer, series of speaker events and student workshops, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, University of California, Irvine. Fall 2013–Spring 2014.
- “Biosecurity and Global Warming,” organizer, series of speaker events and student workshops, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, University of California, Irvine, Fall 2013–Spring 2014.
- “Development after Development in the Middle East and Africa,” co-organizer with Timothy Mitchell, international conference, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University, May 15–17, 2003. Funded by the Ford Foundation program, Crossing Borders: Revitalizing Area Studies.
- “Empire of Economics,” co-organizer with Timothy Mitchell, international workshop, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University, May 22–24, 2002. Funded by the Ford Foundation program, Crossing Borders: Revitalizing Area Studies.
- “Development after Development: Towards a New Geography of Justice in the Middle East?,” co-organizer with Timothy Mitchell, International workshop, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University, February 23–24, 2002. Funded by the Ford Foundation program, Crossing Borders: Revitalizing Area Studies.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Princeton University

Graduate:

- ANT 501: “Proseminar in Anthropological Theory, I” (Fall 2024, 2025)
- ANT 502: “Proseminar in Anthropological Theory, II” (Spring 2017, 2019)
- ANT 754: Reading course: “Advanced Anthropology of Debt” (Fall 2024)
- ANT 504B: “Anthropology of Infrastructure: Advanced Topics in Anthropology (Spring 2021)
- ANT 503B: “Economic Anthropology: Co-seminar in Anthropology (Spring 2023)
- ANT 753: Reading course: “Readings in History of Anthropological Theory” (Fall 2020)

Undergraduate:

- ANT 375: “Economic Anthropology” (Fall 2025)
- ANT 308: “Empires of Debt” (Fall 2024, Spring 2023)

- ANT 390: “Histories of Anthropological Theory (Fall 2022, 2021, 2020)
- ANT 434: “Postcolonialism: Theories and Critiques (Spring 434)
- ANT 319: “Revolt” (Spring 2021, 2019)
- ANT 452: “Alternative Economies: Before (and After) Growth (Fall 2020)
- ANT 434: “Postcolonialism without Colony” (Spring 2019)
- ANT 225: “Debt” (Fall 2018, 2017)
- ANT 404: “Special Topics in Regional Studies” (Fall 2016)

University of California, Irvine

Graduate:

- ANT 501: “Proseminar in Anthropology” (Spring 2014, 2010)
- ANT 289: “The Anthropology of Value” (Winter 2011)
- ANT 523: “Anthropology of Infrastructure” (Winter 2014)
- ANT 509: “Ethnography of Archives” (Spring 2015)
- ANT 289: “Theories of Property” (Fall 2011)

Undergraduate:

- ANT 289: “Alternative Economies” (Spring 2013)
- ANT 289: “Anthropology of Nature” (Spring 2011)
- ANT 289: “NGOs: History, Management, and Knowledge Practices” (Spring 2009)
- ANT 125A/ECON 152A: “Economic Anthropology” (winters 2015, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009).
- ANT 30A: “The Evil Eye, Folklore, and the Mediterranean (Global Issues from an Anthropological Perspective)” (Spring 2008)
- ANT 30A: “Rationality, Witchcraft, and the Evil Eye (Global Issues from an Anthropological Perspective)” (Spring 2010)
- ANT 30A: “Witchcraft and the Evil Eye (Global Issues from an Anthropological Perspective)” (Spring 2009)

New York University

Graduate:

- G68.1781: “Topics in Economic Anthropology of the Middle East: Markets, Value, Property” (Spring 2004)
- G68.1781: “Property, Culture, and Power in the Middle East” (Spring 2001)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Anthropology, Middle East Studies, Political Economy

2022–26	Co-Editor, <i>Cultural Anthropology</i>
2020–present	Editorial Collective, <i>Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East</i>
2022–27	Society of Cultural Anthropology, Member of Board
2023–present	International Advisory Board, Centre for Capitalism Studies, University College London
2022, 2016	Reviewer of Proposals for the Carnegie Corporation
2013–19	Editorial Board, <i>Cultural Anthropology</i>
2013–present	Editorial Board, <i>Critical Historical Studies</i>
2010–18	Editorial Board: <i>Political and Legal Anthropology Review (PoLAR)</i>
2008–present	Editorial Board: <i>International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies</i>
2015–present	Editorial Board, <i>Journal of Cultural Economy</i>
2008–16	Academic Advisory Board, Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion
2015–16	Anonymous Nominator for the MacArthur Fellows Program, The MacArthur Foundation
2006–09	Panel of Reviewers, The Wenner-Gren Foundation
1998–99	Reviewer for the MacArthur Foundation Program in Peace and Security, Research and Writing Grants

Ad-hoc reviewer of manuscripts: *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Antipode*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Contemporary Islam*, *Environment and Planning D*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Journal of Political and Legal Anthropology*, *Public Culture*, *Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Society and Space*, *Socioeconomic Review*, *Law and History Review*, and more

Reviewer of book manuscripts: *Duke University Press*, *University of California Press*, *University of Chicago Press*, *Zed Press*

Princeton University Service

2024–25	Interim Director, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
2024–present	Director of Graduate Studies, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
2024–present	Director of Graduate Research Funding, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
2017–present	Executive Committee, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
2020–24	Executive Committee, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
2021–23	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Anthropology
2020–22	Search Committee, Postdoctoral Fellows, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

<i>2021–23</i>	Search Officer, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies.
<i>2018–19</i>	Search Officer, Department of Anthropology
<i>2016–18</i>	Director, Undergraduate Fellows Program, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
<i>2018–20</i>	Director, Ph.D. Fellows Program, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
<i>2018</i>	Ad-hoc committee, Office of the Dean for Research, Innovation Fund, Committee to review proposals for New Ideas in the Social Sciences
<i>2016–18</i>	Colloquium Committee, Department of Anthropology
<i>2020–23</i>	Curriculum Committee, Department of Anthropology

University of California, Irvine Service

<i>2013–16</i>	Director, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies
<i>2012</i>	Divisional Assembly, School of Social Sciences Representative
<i>2012–14</i>	Masters in Public Policy, Member of Board
<i>2012</i>	Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Social Sciences Core, School of Social Sciences
<i>2011–12</i>	Ad Hoc Committee, Search Committee for Lecturer with Potential Security of Employment, Department of Anthropology
<i>2009–15</i>	Graduate Committee, Department of Anthropology
<i>2008–13</i>	Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors and Financial Aid, University Senate
<i>2007–10</i>	Colloquium Committee, Department of Anthropology
<i>2007–13</i>	Ad Hoc review and promotion committees, Department of Anthropology

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Anthropological Association
- American Ethnological Society
- Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
- Middle Eastern Studies Association
- Society for Cultural Anthropology