

Curriculum Vitae
Niloofar Haeri

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Positions

Chair of Anthropology 2012-2015; Jan. 2018-June 2019
Director of the Program in Islamic Studies 2014-2019
Program Chair of Islamic Studies 2019-

Education

1991 Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania
1981 Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania.

Languages

Fluent Persian, English, French, Egyptian Arabic

Advanced Classical Arabic (reading and comprehension)
Basic Spanish and Italian

Fellowships & Visiting Posts

2015-2016 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship

2015-2016 Stanford Humanities Center Fellowship

2010-11 Senior Visiting Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology,
 London School of Economics, (LSE) London.

2015-present Associate Member of Group Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités (GSRL), CNRS,
 Paris

October 2007-January 2008

Associate Research Scholar. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), IREMAM (Institut de Recherches et d'Etudes sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman). Aix-en-Provence, France.

January-February 2008 Senior Visiting Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics.
Spring 2002 Exchange researcher, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique CNRS), Paris.

1999-2000 Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, The Bunting Program.

Grants

2019 Discovery Award from the Johns Hopkins Provost office for the project "Invitation to the Masses: Russian and Iranian Revolutions and their Arts of Persuasion", with Professors Anne Moss and Narges Bajoghli. \$100,000.00

2014 Grant from Center for Educational Resources for new course on methodology called Understanding Baltimore (with Jane Guyer). The grant is for two years. Course teaches methodology through ethnography of Baltimore neighborhoods. \$20,000.00

2009 Templeton Foundation grant for guest speakers in course on Anthropology of Prayer. \$6000.00

1999 Summer Faculty Grant, Johns Hopkins University. \$2500.00

1998 National Science Foundation Supplementary grant. (Withdrawn due to date conflicts.)

1995 National Science Foundation grant # SBR9421024 for field research in Egypt, \$90,000.00

1988 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York. Dissertation fieldwork in Cairo, Egypt.

1987 The Institute for Intercultural Studies, New York. Grant-in-aid for fieldwork in Cairo, Egypt.

1983 Title VI Grant for the study of Arabic at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, (June-August).

Teaching Experience

2000-present Professor, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University.

- 1997-2000 Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.
- 1991-1997 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

Fieldwork Experience

- Summer 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 Tehran, Iran
- November 2010-March 2011 Tehran, Iran
- July-November 2010 London, UK
- November-March 2011 Tehran, Iran
- March-June 2008 Tehran, Iran
- May-July 2007 Tehran, Iran
- July-August 2006 Tehran, Iran
- Oct-Dec. 2005 Tehran, Iran
- January 2005 Tehran, Iran
- July-August 2004 Tehran, Iran
- Spring 2002 Le Monde newspaper, Paris, France
- April 2003 Tehran, Iran
- April-July 2003 The Guardian, London, England

Publications

Books, Edited Volumes and Guest Editing of Journals:

- 2020 *Say what your Longing Heart Desires: Women, Prayer and Poetry in Iran*. Stanford University Press.
- 2017 Editor of journal section on the concept of sincerity. "Unbundling Sincerity: Language, Mediation and Interiority in Comparative Perspective." *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, Vol. 7, 1. April 2017.
- 2011 Translation into Arabic of *Sacred Language, Ordinary People*. National Center for Translation, Ministry of Culture, Egypt. Elham Eidarous, translator.
- 2008 *Langue, religion et modernité dans l'espace Musulman*. Guest edited with Catherine Miller. Special issue of *Revue des mondes musulmans et de la Méditerranée* (REMMM). Based on a conference that we organized earlier <http://remmm.revues.org/index5997.html>
- 2003, 2007 *Sacred Language, Ordinary People: Dilemmas of Culture and Politics in Egypt*. Palgrave Macmillan, New York. Reprinted 2007.

- 1998 *New Perspectives in Arabic Linguistics*. Philadelphia, Amsterdam: John Benjamin Publishers. Co-edited by N. Haeri, A. Benamoun and M. Eid.
- 1997 *Structuralist Studies in Arabic Linguistics: Papers Published by Charles Ferguson 1948-1992*. Studies in Semitic Languages and Linguistics, Leiden, New York, Köln: E. J. Brill. Co-written and co-edited with K. Belnap.
- 1996 *The Sociolinguistic Market of Cairo: Gender, Class, and Education*. London, New York: Kegan Paul International.

Articles:

- Forthcoming The Scowling Shari'a: Muslims Views on Prayer. In Canopy Forum. *Canopy Forum* is a new digital scholarship and public education platform of Emory Law School's Center for the Study of Law and Religion.
- Forthcoming Ritual and Language. In *Routledge Handbook of Islamic Ritual and Practice*. Edited by Oliver Leaman.
- 2019 Review article of *The Iranian Metaphysicals: Explorations in Science, Islam and the Uncanny* by Alireza Doostdar. (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2018). In *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 51 (2019).
- 2019 Notes on Ritual Prayer in Iran: Qunut Choices among a Group of Shi'i Women in Iran. In *Approaches to the Qur'an in Contemporary Iran*, edited by Alessandro Cancian. Qur'anic Studies Series 18 (Oxford: Oxford University Press in Association with the Institute of Ismaili Studies, 2019)
- 2019 Form and Ideology: Arabic Sociolinguistics since 2000. With William Cotter. In *Routledge Handbook of Arabic Sociolinguistics*. Edited by Enam Al-Wer and Uri Horesh.
- 2017 Unbundling Sincerity: Mediation and Interiority in Comparative Perspective. Editor of Special Section of *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, Vol. 7, 1. <https://www.haujournal.org/index.php/hau/article/view/hau7.1.013>

- 2017 The Sincere Subject: Mediation and Interiority among a Group of Women in Iran. of *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, Vol. 7, 1.
<https://www.haujournal.org/index.php/hau/article/view/hau7.1.013/2779>
- 2014 La Salat et son langage: Prier hors de la mosquée. In *Dire en Langue: Des Passeurs au Quotidien*. Edited by Myriam Achour. Paris and Tunis: Karthala and IRMC.
- 2013 The Private Performance of Salat Prayers: Repetition, Time and Meaning. *Anthropological Quarterly*, Vol. 84, No. 1.
- 2009 The Elephant in the Room: Language and Literacy in the Arab World. *Cambridge Handbook of Literacy*. Edited by David Olsen and Nancy Torrance. Cambridge University Press.
- 2006 Language and Culture in the Arab world. In *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics*. Ed. Kees Veerstegh et al. Leiden: Brill.
- 2003 The uses and abuses of Classical Arabic. In *Transeuropeennes*, Vol. 23, special issue on Religions in Politics. (French-English bilingual journal published in Paris)
- 2000 Form and ideology: Arabic sociolinguistics and beyond. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 29:61-87.
- 1997 The Reproduction of symbolic capital: Language, state, and class in Egypt. *Current Anthropology*, 38 (5): 795-805, reply: 811-816.

Reviews, Newspaper articles, Commentaries, Dictionary Entries:

- 2011 Do we need the army's helping hand? *Le Monde Diplomatique*, English Edition, October 14. Article was syndicated.
- 2005 Clerical Chic. *The Guardian*. January 5. Article was syndicated.
- 2003 Getting Lost in Translation and Quotation. *The Guardian*, August 30.
- 2003 Speaking up for a Plurality of Muslim Voices. *The Guardian*, July 26.
- 2003 Review article of *Arabic as a Minority Language*. Jonathan Owen (ed.). In *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, 44, 3: 299-302
- 1992 Review article of *Linguistic Variation and Speakers' Attitudes: A Sociolinguistic Study of Some Arabic Dialects*. *Al-Arabiyya* 30:151-157. (Journal of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic).
- 1999 Review article of *Avenues of Participation: Family, Politics, and Networks in Urban Quarters of Cairo*. D. Singerman. Princeton University Press. 1995. In *Current Anthropology*, 40 (2):248-49.
- 1998 Commentary on "Sex, sound symbolism, and sociolinguistics" by M. Gordon and J. Heath. *Current Anthropology* 39 (4):440-42.

- 1996 "Diglossia." Entry for the *Blackwell Dictionary of Anthropology*. Thomas Barfield (ed.). Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
- 1988 Review article of W. Beeman 1986, *Language, Status and Power in Iran*. In *Language in Society* 17: 431-436.

Conferences & Presentations

- 2021 Book launch on New Texts Out Now (Newton) for Jadaliyya website.
- 2021 Book launch. University of Arizona. March 7
- 2021 Book talk. Commonwealth School. Boston. February 4.
- 2021 Book interview. Midday on WYPR. February 3.
- 2020 Book launch. Invited by the Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at Princeton University. November 18.
- 2020 Book launch. Invited by the Stanford Humanities Center. December 10.
- 2020 Book launch. New Books in Islamic Studies Podcast. December 22.
- 2020 Workshop on Islamic Rituals at Dartmouth College, Organized by Professor Kevin Reinhart. February 28-March 2nd.
- 2019 Discussant for panel "What is Islam? Ethnographic Evidence & Anthropological Rendering." American Anthropological Association, Vancouver. November 21st.
- 2019 *The Movable Mosque: Prayer Books and the Uses of Shi'a Liturgy by Women in Contemporary Iran*. Presented at the conference on "Gender, Authenticity, and Islamic Authority," Yale University. October 4-5.
- 2019 "The Story of Moses and the Shepherd: Debating non-Ritual Prayer in Iran." Invited speaker for the Peter Green Lecture at Brown University. April 17.
- 2018 "True and Fake Muslims: Iran after the Islamic Revolution." Invited speaker, Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies (MESAAS) at Columbia University. March 29

- 2017 Fake and True Muslims: Iran after the Revolution. Presented at the Workshop on Fakery, Insincerity, and the Anthropology of Humbuggery. Capri, Italy. September 7-10
- 2016 Organizer and presenter of double session in AAA 2016 on “Interiority, Politics, and the Study of Religions.
- 2015 Debating Materiality of Words in Iran: Prayer, Poetry and the Sincere Subject. Department of Anthropology, Stanford University. October 10.
- 2015 Private prayer and congregational poetry: An ethnography of a group of women in Iran. Yale university, Iran Colloquium, March 27.
- 2015 Debating the materiality of words and things in Iran: Namaz, du’a and the sincere subject. Department of Social Anthropology. Harvard University. February 23rd.
- 2014 What are we up to when we pray? An ethnography of a group of women in Iran. Department of Religious Studies, Northwestern University. October 15
- 2014 Writings on Gravestones: Preliminary Observations. Department of Religious Studies, Northwestern University. October 15, 2014.
- 2014 What Can the Salat Teach us about Language? Keynote address at the Arabic Linguistic Society. University of Florida in Gainesville. March 13.
- 2014 Invited lecture to the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. April 3.
- 2014 Workshop on Prayer at the Department of Anthropology. London School of Economics and Political Science. May 16, 17. Organized by Dr. Fenella Cannell.
- 2014 In the Presence of the Divine: An Ethnographic Study of Praying among Muslim Women in Iran. Oxford Center for Islamic Studies. June 18.
- 2014 The Words of Others: Toward an Anthropology of Sincerity in Islam and Christianity. Faculty of Theology, Conversations between Christianity and Islam. June 17. Oxford University.
- 2014 Invited to Workshop on Comparative Ethnographies of Prayer. Organized by Dr. Fenella Cannell, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics. May 17-18.

- 2014 What Can the Salat Teach us about Language? Keynote address at the Arabic Linguistic Society. University of Florida in Gainesville. March 13.
- 2014 Invited lecture to the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. April 3.
- 2013 Qunut with Rumi : Sources of Variability in the Performance of the Namaz ? Institute for Ismaili Studies, London. September 2-4.
- 2013 Images that come bidden: Techniques of concentration in the performance of namaz/salat prayers. Phenomenology of Islamic Prayer. Columbia University, organized by Dr. Suleiman Bachir Diagne. April 26.
- 2013 The Reflexive Turn in Iran and Forms of Knowledge: Prayer and Poetry in Everyday Life. Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans. October 10.
- 2012 Organized panel at AAA. "At the Borders of Prayer and Poetry: Aesthetic Turns and Ethical Practice." November 14, 2012, San Francisco.
- 2012 The Words of Others: Sincerity in Prayer and Poetry. November 14.
- 2012 Salat et sa langue: Priere en dehors de la mosquée. Invited paper. Conference on Dire en langues : des passeurs au quotidien." Invited by the Institute de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain (IRMC), 20-21 January, Sidi Bou Saïd, Tunis.
- 2012 SlutWalks Revisited: The stakes of sartorial liberation in the public sphere. Commonwealth School, Boston. April 5.
- 2012 Salat Prayers among Women in Iran: Knowledge, Time and Language. April 3. The Middle East Beyond Borders: Culture, Politics, Religion Graduate Workshop Series. Harvard University
- 2011 A Living Ritual: An Ethnography of Islamic Prayers in Iran. George Washington University, Department of Anthropology. October 28.
- 2011 Methodology in the Social Sciences. Department of Anthropology, University of Tehran. March 1.
- 2010 Anthropology of Iran in the United States. Departments of Sociology and Anthropology. December 26.
- 2010 Islam in Comparative Perspective. Middle East Institute and George Washington University. January 26.

- 2010 The private performance of salaah prayers in Iran. Invited lecture. Department of Anthropology, SWANA series, London School of Economics, October 14.
- 2010 What You Show Depends on Who is Looking: The Gaze in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. London School of Fashion, May 25.
- 2008 Rules of the gaze: Modesty and public appearance in Iran. Invited lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago. November 10.
- 2008 The gaze and its discontents: Public dress codes, policy makers and Islamic fashion in Iran. Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics. February 8.
- 2008 The presence in the signifier: Encounters with sacred texts in daily life. CNRS, REMAM, October 24.
- 2008 Est-ce tout commence par un regard? La question du code vestimentaire en Iran. IREMAM and LAMES. December 14.

Professional Membership & Boards

Member of the Advisory Board of the Stanford Humanities Center beginning in 2019.

Member of the editorial board of Language in Society since 2004.

Member of the editorial board of Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia.

American Anthropological Association
 AAA Middle East Section
 AAA Anthropology of Religion
 AAA Linguistic Anthropology

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
 Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

Media Activities

Interviewed on the local NPR station, WYPR, on immigration and Muslim ban. January 30th, 2017.

<http://wypr.org/post/immigration-ban-update-bail-reform-debate-continues>

Member of program on an in-depth conversation on Alison Saar's Strange Fruit at the Baltimore Museum of Art, Saturday, February 4, 2017.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/239986753121042/>

Interviewed on the radio by the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life for the SSRC Initiative on the Study of Prayer:

<http://ircpl.org/new-directions-in-prayer-islamic-prayer/>

Interview at the Stanford Humanities Center

<http://shc.stanford.edu/news/research/stanford-humanities-center-q-linguistic-anthropologist-niloofar-haeri-0>

Member of the panel interviewed for broadcast by WhoWeAm for their radio program called Landscapes. The website is sponsored by UMBC and the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation. I have been interviewed three times. All interviews can be accessed on their website. The last one was on December 21st 2011 (it is still on their front page).

“WhoWeAm (<http://whoweam.com/>) is an effort to begin an online dialog among those from a wide range of disciplines including the science the arts, science, and the humanities.

Landscapes: Photographs of our human environment; scenes pulled from recent events—what might these artifacts say about us? A panel discussion audio recording exploring what the photos reveal about who we are.”

9/04 Interview on the Mark Steiner Show on contemporary politics in Iran

1/04 Interview on the News Hour, BBC, London.

3/03 Interview in CELITH: Centre de Linguistique Théorique.

12/03 Interview on the Mark Steiner Show, public radio.

6/03 Book interviews on two programs for radio BBC, London.

1/97 Guest on public radio talk show devoted to “Ebonics” (The Mark Steiner Show).

1/97 Interviewed on “Ebonics” for WBAL, Channel 11, Baltimore.