

Ciruce A. Movahedi-Lankarani

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D., History 2020 (expected)

Dissertation: *The Domain of Gas: Energy Technologies and the Environment in Modern Iran*

Modern Iran is ordered around the consumption of natural gas energy, a phenomenon that reflects intertwined impulses toward independence and environmental management. During the second half of the twentieth century, nonhuman factors like hydrocarbons, topography, and air pollution became entangled with competing notions of modernity, prosperity, and the environment to create developmental imaginaries that remained stable across a revolutionary divide. This perspective sheds light on the how the development of a member of the Global South was intertwined and co-constituted with energy technologies and the environment.

Committee: Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History (Chair),

Eve M. Troutt Powell, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of History,

Nikhil Anand, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Toby C. Jones, Associate Professor of History (Rutgers University)

Exam Fields: The Modern Middle East, Cultural and Intellectual History of the Modern Middle East, International Development and the Global Cold War

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

M.A., Social Sciences 2012

Thesis: "Taming the Machine: Technological Modernity in the Propaganda of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1979-1988"

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

B.S., Computer Science 2005

B.S., Mathematics 2005

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

President Gutmann Leadership Award, University of Pennsylvania 2018

International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council 2016 – 2017

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania 2014 – 2015

Haney Foundation Fellow, University of Pennsylvania 2013 – 2014

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania 2013 – 2020

The Earl S. and Esther B. Johnson Prize, University of Chicago 2013

University Unendowed Scholarship, University of Chicago 2011 – 2012

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Panels Organized

"Political Ecologies in the Modern Middle East" 2019

Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 14-17

“Energy Transitions in the Middle East” 2018
 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 15-18

Papers Presented

“Slaying Civilization’s Ghoul: Natural Gas Energy and Air Pollution in Iran, 1960-1995” 2020
 American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference; Ottawa, Canada, March 25-28

“Natural Gas Geology and Imagined Nationalist Futures in Iran” 2019
 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting; New Orleans, LA, November 14-17

“Subduing Civilization’s Ogre: Natural Gas, Technology, and the Environment in Iran” 2019
 Energy, Culture and Society in the Global South, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge, May 31-June 1

“Clear Skies: Natural Gas, the Environment, and Iranian Modernization” 2018
 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 15-18

“Natural Gas, Political Culture, and Public Discourse in Iran” 2018
 Petrocultures 2018, University of Glasgow, August 29-September 1

“Taming the Machine: Technology in the Political Art of the Islamic Republic, 1978-1988” 2015
 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 21-24

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

“Artistic Depictions of Technology and the Revolution” 2019
 Symposium on the Iranian Revolution at 40, University of Pennsylvania, February 11

“Technology in the Propaganda of the Islamic Republic of Iran” 2014
 Middle East Center Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, December 2

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant, Department of History 2014 – 2016

“Europe in the World since the First World War,” upper level, lecture and recitation, (Spring 2016)

“The History of the Modern Middle East since 1800,” introductory, lecture and recitation (Fall 2014, Fall 2015)

“A World at War,” upper level, lecture and recitation (Spring 2015)

RESEARCH POSITIONS

University of Chicago

Research Assistant, bibliographic and grant search for new book project 2012

ACADEMIC SERVICE

University of Pennsylvania

Graduate Committee Representative, Clio: The History Graduate Student Group 2014 – 2016
 Graduate student representative to the faculty committee supervising graduate education and admissions in the Department of History.

University of Chicago

Peer Reviewer 2012
 Lights: The Middle Eastern Studies Students’ Association Journal

NONACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer
Lockheed-Martin Corporation, Orlando, FL

2006 – 2010

LANGUAGES

English (native), Persian/Farsi (fluency), German (reading knowledge)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
American Society for Environmental History
Association for Iranian Studies
Middle East Studies Association

REFERENCES

Contact information provided upon request.