THOMAS SIMSARIAN DOLAN

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Emory University
Adjunct Faculty, Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies (2024-Present)
American Council of Learned Societies Emerging Voices Fellow (2022-2024)

University of Florida
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Arts, Migration, and Entrepreneurship (2023-Present)

American University in Cairo
Visiting Assistant Professor of History (2021-2022)

EDUCATION

The George Washington University, Ph.D. American Studies (2021)

- **Dissertation**: "Unusual Figures: Empire, Race and Unseeing the Global Middle East"
- **Co-Chairs:** Dina Rizk Khoury, Melani McAlister; **Committee Members:** Gayle Wald, Elisabeth R. Anker
- **Comprehensive Examinations:** *United States and the Middle East*, *Political and Critical Theory* (with Distinction), *Critical Race Studies*

New York University, M.A. American Studies (2014)

Yale University, B.A. History; B.A. International Studies (2005)

AWARDS & HONORS

New York State AANHPI History Advisory Committee (Nominated/Pending State Legislature Approval, 2026)

New York Public Library Vartan Gregorian Center for Research in the Humanities (2025)

Mellon Faculty Seminar: Communicating the Humanities (Emory, 2024)

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research/Knights of Vartan Research Grant (2024, 2023)

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Project Grant (2023)

American Geographical Society Research Fellowship (2023)

ACLS Emerging Voices Fellow, Johns Hopkins University Africana Studies Center (Declined, 2022)

Boston University Public History Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Archives (Declined, 2022)

Fulbright US Teaching Scholar, American University in Cairo (2021-2022)

Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship (2021)

Institute for Middle East Studies Research Grant (2020, 2017)

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Graduate Instructorship Award (2019)

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Global Excellence Scholarship (2016-2018)

Dr. Philip M. Kayal Fund for Arab American Research (2017)

Bentley Historical Library Bordin-Gillette Fellowship (2017)

Loeb Institute for Religious Freedom Research Grant (2017)

Jeffrey C. Kasch Foundation Research Grant (2017)

Bouchet Graduate Honor Society (2017)

The George Washington University American Studies Selective Excellence Fellowship (2017)

The New School Institute for Critical Social Inquiry Fellow (2015)

Writing in the Disciplines Graduate Student Fellowship (2014-2016)

Armenian General Benevolent Union Graduate Fellowship (2012-2015)

Yale Stanton Wheeler Award for Outstanding Artistic Contributions (2005)

Yale Presidential Public Service Fellowship (2004)

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS

Ambigua Gens: Making and Unmaking the Modern Middle East (in revision)

Battleground Artsakh: The 44-Day War that Revealed Armenia's Chronic Diplomatic, Security and Defense Failures (under review, University of Exeter Press)

AGBU in the World: A New History of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (in process)

Armenian Food: A Cuisine Beyond the Nation, with Aline Kamakian (in process)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Medz Nakba: Genocide, Media, and Crises of Recognition: A Review of Mischa *Geracoulis's Media Framing and the Destruction of Cultural Heritage: News Narratives about Artsakh and Gaza* (Routledge, 2025)"
International Journal of Middle East Studies (Forthcoming)

"Thinking SWANA from the -stans: Armenia, Afghanistan and Spivak's *Other Asias"*
Journal of Asian American Studies. Volume 26, No. 2 (June 2023)

"Aliya Hassen: Transnational Islam, Ecumenism, and American Activism"
Mashriq & Mahjar. Volume 7, No. 1 (2020)

BOOK CHAPTERS

"The Ottoman Mosque" & **"Ibrahim Abu-Lughod"**
Hidden Voices: Muslim Americans. New York Department of Education, 2025

"Armenian Americans" & **"Islamophobia"**
Mosaic: Themes in Asian American Studies. Gibbs Smith Education, 2025

"Rich Muslim, Bad Muslim: The Political Economy of Islamophobia"
Global Histories and Practices of Islamophobia, ed. Karine Walther & Abdullah Al-Arian. (Hurst Publishing, forthcoming March 2027)

"Edward Said: Looking toward Armenia"
The Making of Armenian America, ed. Khatchig Mouradian (forthcoming)

BOOK REVIEWS

"Review of Vartan Matiossian. *The Color of Choice: The Armenians and the Politics of Race in the United States and Germany (1890–1945)* (Brill, 2025). $139.00 (e-Book / Hardcover)."
Journal of Transnational American Studies 17.2 (2026).

"Review of Charlotte Karem Albrecht. Possible Histories: Arab Americans and the Queer Ecology of Peddling. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2023. 232 pp. $29.95 (paperback)." *Review of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 60, No. 2 (2026)

"Review: *Remnants: Embodied Archives of the Armenian Genocide,* by Elyse Semerdjian*."*
Ethnic Studies Review 47 no. 1 (2024)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

"It's Time the U.S. Census Counted Armenian Americans"
Newsweek. August 23, 2024.

"Opinion: The next Census could reveal a very different America"
CNN.com, April 30, 2024

"Armenians and Arab American Organized: Solidarities and Missed Connections"
Center for Arab Narratives, April 3, 2024

"Decolonizing Dune: Reimagining MENA and the Muslim World"
Tropics of Meta, December 20, 2021

"Netflix Ottomans"
Armenian America, December 20, 2021

"Even as Prince, Rami Malek isn't a 'White guy'"
Egypt Migrations, November 19, 2021

"Artsakh and Ethnic Studies"
The Armenian Weekly, November 18, 2020

"Shakira Personifies a Multicultural Identity in a Globalized World"
Arab America, March 11, 2020

"Lost and Found"
Medium June 2, 2020

"The Mecca Tales: Telling Real Stories of Middle Easterners and Muslims on the American Stage"
Muftah October 24, 2017

"Why Israel: BDS and Hard Truths"
Huffington Post, August 21, 2017

"Whose Taboo Is It Anyway?"
Huffington Post, June 16, 2017

"Re-Orienting How American Theater Covers Islam"
HowlRound, June 1, 2017

"Broadway's Aladdin Needs More Middle Eastern Actors"
Huffington Post, February 1, 2017

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

"Waarom Is Shakira Zo'n Ultiem Wk Boegbeeld?"
Rewind HUMAN. (Netherlands, 2026)

"Dis-Orienting Media: The Creative Vision of Arab American Cultural Production"
Film Quarterly (2024)

"'Dune 2' Criticized for Lack of Middle Eastern and North African Inclusion and Influences: 'A Missed Opportunity'"
Variety (2024)

"The 1A Record Club listens to Shakira's 'Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran'"
NPR 1A (2024)

"No Box to Check: When the Census Doesn't Reflect You."
The New York Times (2024)

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Edward Said: Looking Toward Armenia"
The Making of Armenian America, The Armenian Center at Columbia University / NAASR (2026)

"'Meeting Asian / Arab American Studies,' 20 Years Later"
Presidential Plenary, Association for Asian American Studies (2025)

"Rich Muslim, Bad Muslim: The Political Economy of Islamophobia"
Global Histories and Practices of Islamophobia, Georgetown-Qatar (2023)

"Transnational Anti-Racist Movements"
Middle East Studies Association (2022)

"Mapping MESA's Margins: Assumptions, Anxieties and Absences"
Middle East Studies Association (2021)

"Arab American Studies Association: Institutional Borders, Canonization, and the Idea of Revolt"
American Studies Association (2021)

"Envisioning Armenian-American Futures"
American Studies Association (2021)

"Unsettling Racial Geographies in Middle Eastern Diasporas"
Middle East Studies Association (2020)

"Hamilton and Hart-Celler: 'The Walls of Prejudice' and 'The People That Get Ignored'"
From Tahrir Square to Zuccotti Park: De-Centering American Studies in a Transforming World, The Doha Institute (2018)

"Expertise and Authority: Journalistic Priorities in the Arab World"
Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin (2017)

"Empty Space: Unsettling Empire in Syrian Detroit"
American Studies Association (2017)

"Revitalizing Space, Erasing Place: Race in Marginalia"
Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (2017)

"Her Hips Don't Lie: Hearing without Seeing the Global Middle East"
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (2017)

"Middle Eastern Americans and Race: A Heuristic"
Bouchet Graduate Honors Society, Yale (2017)

INVITED LECTURES & PUBLIC TALKS

"MENA Assembly"
The Brearley School (2026)

"The Sultan of New York: Uncovering New York's Early Armenian Presence"
New York Public Library (2026)

"No Consensus on the Census"
Yale University (2026)

"Where is M.E.? Locating Armenia in the Middle East"
Armenian Institute, UK (2025)

"Making 'MENA': Histories of the "Middle East," Race, and the US Census
University of Michigan (2024)

"Defining MENA: A History of the Term 'MENA,' Its Addition to the US Census, and the Racialization of MENA Peoples"
Yale University (2024)

"Are Armenian-Americans White? Race, Ethnicity, and Armenian-American Identity"
National Association for Armenian Studies & Research (2024)

Harvard Extension School Career and Academic Resource Podcast (2024)

"Armenians and Empire: Points of Contact and Contradiction"

NYU Kevorkian Center K-12 Summer Institute (2023)

“Immigrant, Refugee and Citizen Futures: Anti-Armenian Racism and Armenian-American Organizing Past and Present”
Asian and Asian American Research Institute, CUNY (2023)

“MENA and SWANA Categories and their Implications on Public Policy, Research, and Higher Ed”
Arab American Studies Association (2023)

“Reading the Signs of her Body: Shakira’s Global Middle East”
Latin American and Latinx Faculty Research Seminar, Emory University (2023)

“Aliya Hassen: Transnational Networks, Ecumenism, and American Islam”
Asian and Middle Eastern Faculty Seminar, Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University (2023)

"Selling Kabul: Representing Afghanistan and the Broader Middle East"
Signature Theatre (2023)

"Asian American Experience and Entertainment"
Signature Theatre (2023)

“Armenian America”
Armenian Genocide Commemoration Event, Armenian Assembly of America (2023)

***Flee* Screening & Talkback**
Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry/Departments of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, & Film/Refugee Women’s Network (2023)

Omar Offendum & DJ Thanks Joey Performance & Talkback
Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry/Departments of Theater, Film, Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies/Arab Cultural Association (2023)

“Brokers and Gunsmiths: Scenes from Ottoman America”
Emory Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies (2022)

“Thinking SWANA from the -Stans: Armenia, Afghanistan and Spivak’s *Other Asias*”
Asian and Middle Eastern Faculty Seminar, Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University (2022)

“Race, Representation, and Activism”
Model Arab League Convention, Georgia State University (2022)

“Walk Like an Egyptian: Media and Myth in Contemporary US Representations,”
Tahrir Cultural Center Oriental Hall, American University in Cairo (2022)

“Armenians and Memory”
Cairo Institute for Liberal Studies (2022)

“But They Can Represent Themselves: MENA Representation and Activism in American Culture”
Prince Alwaleed Center for American Studies and Research, American University in Cairo (2022)

“Muslims at Midcentury: Aliya Hassen and Activism”
Association for Asian Studies Digital Dialogue (2021)

“Race, Empire and the Global Middle East: A Conversation”
Egypt Migrations (2021)

“Race, Identity & the Future of Armenian-American Studies”
Armenian American Action Network (2021)

“MENA Representation”
The Netflix Institute (2021)

“Authenticity vs. Opportunity: New Possibilities in MENASA Recognition and Representation”
Ars Nova (2021)

"'Hi, Are You Single' Viewing and Talkback with Ryan J. Haddad"
Woolly Mammoth Theatre (2021)

“Middle Eastern Diaspora and Race”
afikra Conversations (2020)

“Solidarity and Allyship: LGBTQ and Black Communities”
Penn GALA/Yale GALA (2020)

“Navigating the New Middle East: Challenges and Obstacles to Fieldwork”
Institute for Middle East Studies (2019)

“It’s Complicated: America’s Relationship with Immigration”
Elective (2019)

“American Immigration Past and Present”
House of Sweden / Swedish Boys and Girls Scouts (2019)

"Perspectives on Disability, Equity & Inclusion at Yale and Beyond"
George Washington & Yale Offices of Diversity and Inclusion (2019)

"De-stigmatizing Disability: Tribulations and Triumphs of Disability"
Yale School of Medicine (2019)

"TELL 45: Lost and Found"
New York LGBT Community Center (2018)

"'Bodak Yellow,' Shakira, and the Invisible Arab"
Georgetown-Qatar (2017)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Emory University

MESAS 270: Race & the Middle East (Spring 2024)
MESAS 270W: The Middle East in US Media and Culture (Spring 2023)

American University in Cairo

HIST 2096: Popular Culture and Music History **(**Spring 2022)
HIST 4188: Arab American Autobiography (Spring 2022)
HIST 2096: Interpreting Politics and Culture (Summer 2022)

The George Washington University

AMST 3950: American Constructions of the Middle East (Spring 2019)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

The George Washington University

AMST & HIST 2320: US Media and Cultural History (Melani McAlister, Fall 2018, Fall 2020)
AMST 2490W: The African-American Experience (Calvin Warren, Spring 2016)
AMST 1100: Film and Politics (Elisabeth R. Anker, Fall 2015)
AMST 2490W: Science, Politics and Society in Modern America (Jamie Cohen-Cole, Spring 2015)
AMST & HIST 2730W: World War II in History and Memory (Thomas A. Guglielmo, Fall 2014)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Natalie Kamajian (UCLA)
Dissertation Committee Member (2026-Present)

Yale University MENA Cultural Community
Advisory Committee (2025-Present)

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research 70th Anniversary Gala
Emcee (2025)

Arab American Book Awards / Arab American National Museum
Nonfiction Academic Judge (2024, 2025)

Association for Asian American Studies
Co-Coordinator Critical SWANA Diaspora Studies Section (2023-2025)

National Council for History Education
Primacy Source Curriculum Researcher (2024)

Asian and Middle Eastern Seminar, Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry
Steering Committee (2023-2024)

Center for Faculty Development and Excellence, **Emory University**
Ethics and Community Engagement Academic Learning Community (2023)

Justice Armenia's Security Reform Research Project
Editor (2023)

Contemporaries* at Post45 - *Critique in the Trump Era
Co-editor (2019)

Global American Studies Masters Program Proposal, The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies / Georgetown University Qatar
Research Assistant (Fall 2017/Winter 2018)

The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies
Conference Co-organizer – "From Tahrir Square to Zuccotti Park: De-Centering American Studies in a Transforming World" (2018)

Institute for Middle East Studies
Planning Committee – "Infrastructure, New Materialism & the Agency of Objects" (2019)

George Washington American Studies Department
Conference Co-organizer – "Collected Stories" (2016)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

County of Los Angeles Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative
Consultant, Data and Demographic Equity (2025-2026)

Gibbs Smith Education
Review Editor (2024)

Y-Apply
Executive Director (2021-2024); Board Member (2012-2024)

SAG-AFTRA National MENA Committee
Member (2021-Present)

Yale Whiffenpoof Alumni, Inc.
Board of Trustees (2021-Present)

MENA Arts Advocacy Coalition
Academic Advisor (2018-Present)

Yale Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association
Board Member (2021-Present)

Yale Arab Alumni Association
Secretary (2018-Present)

Armenian-American Action Network
Academic Advisor (2020-2024)

Yale Alumni Association
Board of Governors (2018-2021)

Citizen Observer Initiative
Transparency Armenia Representative (2017)

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
Grant Reviewer (2017)

Education Dynamics
Consultant (2013-2014)

California Faith for Equality
Faith Organizer (2008-2009)

EssayEdge
Quality Control Editor (2005-2009)

Columbia Artists Management, Inc.
Management Assistant (2005-2006)

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
Special Events Assistant (2005)

Arts & Business Council/Americans for the Arts

National Programs Associate (2004)

Singer/Actor
Comedy Central, ViacomCBS, Madison Square Garden, 92Y (NYC), Studio 54, Long Wharf Theater, Signature Theater (NYC), New Ohio Theater (NYC), Symphony Space (NYC), Yale School of Drama, Madrid Theatre (LA), Civic Light Opera of the South Bay, Hudson Theater (LA), International City Theater (Long Beach), Bootleg Theatre (LA), Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Caldwell Theatre (Boca Raton)

Producer/Assistant Director/Stage Manager/Dramaturg
Alice Tully Hall (NYC), Town Hall (NYC), Broad Stage (LA), Merkin Concert Hall (NYC), The Cherry Lane Theatre (NYC); Atlantic Theater Company (NYC), Abingdon Theatre (NYC), Ars Nova (NYC), Marines Memorial Theatre (SF), Palace of the Arts (SF), Playwrights Horizons (NYC), Danspace (NYC), Dixon Place (NYC), Hudson Guild Theater (NYC)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association
Middle East Studies Association
Association for Asian American Studies
Society for Cinema and Media Studies
Society for Armenian Studies
National Association for Armenian Studies and Research
Arab American Studies Association
SAG-AFTRA
Actors' Equity Association

LANGAUGE PROFICIENCY

English - Native
French - Fluent
Spanish - Fluent
Arabic - Advanced Beginning
Armenian - Beginning

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Melani McAlister
Professor of American Studies and International Affairs
The George Washington University
mmc@gwu.edu

Dina Rizk Khoury
Professor Emeritus of History and International Affairs
The George Washington University
dikhy@email.gwu.edu

Gayle Wald
Professor of English and American Studies
The George Washington University
gwald@gwu.edu

Elisabeth R. Anker
Professor of American Studies and Political Science
The George Washington University
anker@gwu.edu