

# THOMAS SIMSARIAN DOLAN

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### **Emory University**

ACLS Emerging Voices Fellow in Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies (2022-2024)

### **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”
- **Advisors:** Dina Rizk Khoury, Melani McAlister, 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

### **American Geographical Society Research Fellowship (2023)**

### **National Association for Armenian Studies and Research/Knights of Vartan Research Grant (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)**

### **Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship (2021)**

### **Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Graduate Instructorship Award (2019)**

### **Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Global Excellence Scholarship (2016-2018)**

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

### **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)**

## **PUBLICATIONS**

BOOK MANUSCRIPT (in progress):

***Unusual Figures: Race, Empire and Unseeing the Middle East***

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

**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)

**Hart-Celler: 'The Walls of Prejudice' and 'The People That Get Ignored'**  
*Journal of American Ethnic History* (in revision)

BOOK CHAPTERS:

**Rich Muslim, Bad Muslim: The Political Economy of Islamophobia**  
*Global Histories and Practices of Islamophobia*, ed. Karine Walther & Abdullah Al-Arian  
(Forthcoming, co-authored with Dr. Zaynab Quadri)

**Even as Prince, Rami Malek isn't a 'White guy'**  
*Egypt in Global and Comparative Perspectives*, ed. Michael Akladios (Forthcoming, 2023)

**‘We Will Not Be Erased’: Enduring Inequality and the Impacts of Armenian American Invisibility on the U.S. Census**

*Our Story in Numbers: A Demographic Perspective of Global MENA Communities.* ed. Gigi Awad and Rita Stephan. (Forthcoming)

**PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

**“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

**CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**“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”**

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**

**“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)

**“Brokers and Gunsmiths: Scenes from Ottoman America”**

Emory Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies (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)

**“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)

**“Critical Muslim Studies II”**

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)

**“Navigating the New Middle East: Challenges and Obstacles to Fieldwork”**

Institute for Middle East Studies (2019)

**“‘Bodak Yellow,’ Shakira, and the Invisible Arab”**

Georgetown-Qatar (2017)

**INVITED PUBLIC TALKS & WORKSHOPS**

**"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)

**“Asian and Middle Eastern Seminar”**

Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University (2022)

**“Race, Representation, and Activism”**

The Arab League, Georgia State (2022)

**“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)

**"Robert Andy Coombs '20 MFA Virtual Viewing and Talk"**

Yale GALA (2021)

**"Hale' & 'The Life and Times of Stephen Hawking' Viewing and Talkback"**

Yale GALA/Yale in Hollywood/Disability at Yale (2021)

**“afikra Conversations”**

afikra (2020)

**“Solidarity and Allyship: LGBTQ and Black Communities”**

Penn GALA/Yale GALA (2020)

**“It’s Complicated: America’s Relationship with Immigration”**

Elective (2019)

**“American Immigration Past and Present”**

House of Sweden (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)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD**

**Emory University**

*MESAS 270: Racing 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)

**SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY**

**Critical SWANA Studies Section, Association for Asian American Studies**

Co-coordinator (2023-Present)

**Asian and Middle Eastern Seminar, Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry**

Steering Committee (2023-Present)

**Justice Armenia's Security Reform Research Project**

Editor (2023-PRESENT)

***Contemporaries at Post45, Critique in the Trump Era***

Co-editor (2019)

**Global American Studies Masters Program Proposal, The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies**

Research Assistant (Fall 2017/Winter 2018)

**From Tahrir Square to Zuccotti Park: De-Centering American Studies in a Transforming World, The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies/Qatar Foundation**

Conference Organizer (2018)

**Infrastructure, New Materialism & the Agency of Objects, Institute for Middle East Studies**

Planning Committee (2019)

**Collected Stories 2016 - GWU American Studies Departmental Conference**

Co-organizer (2016)

**ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT & SERVICE**

**Y-Apply**

Executive Director (2021-Present); Board Member (2012-Present)

**MENA Arts Advocacy Coalition**

Academic Advisor (2018-Present)

**Armenian-American Action Network**

Academic Advisor (2020-Present)

**SAG-AFTRA National MENA Committee**

Member (2021-Present)

**Yale Whiffenpoof Alumni, Inc.**

Board of Trustees (2021-Present)

**Yale Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association**

Board Member (2021-Present)

**Yale Arab Alumni Association**

Secretary (2018-Present)

**Yale Alumni Association**

Board of Governors (2018-2021)

**MENASA Artists Coalition**

Co-Founder (2016-Present)

**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**

**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

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**Dina Rizk Khoury**

Professor Emeritus of History and International Affairs

The George Washington University

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**Gayle Wald**

Professor of English and American Studies

The George Washington University

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**Elisabeth R. Anker**

Professor of American Studies and Political Science

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