

## Thomas Simsarian Dolan

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### **EDUCATION**

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

**Dissertation:** “Unusual Figures: Empire, Race and Unseeing the Global Middle East”

**Dissertation Committee:** Elisabeth R. Anker, Dina Rizk Houry, Melani McAlister, Gayle Wald

**Comprehensive Examinations:** *United States and the Middle East, Political and Critical Theory* (with Distinction), *Critical Race Studies*

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

**New York University**, M.A., American Studies (2012-2014)

**Yale University**, B.A., History; B.A. International Studies (2001-2005)

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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

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)

George Washington American Studies Selective Excellence Fellowship (2017)

Loeb Institute for Religious Freedom Research Grant (2017)

Jeffrey C. Kasch Foundation Research Grant (2017)

Bentley Historical Library Bordin-Gillette Fellowship (2017)

Bouchet Graduate Honor Society (2017)

LGBTQ Scholars of Color National Conference (2017)

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

George Washington American Studies Academic Excellence Award (Summers 2015-2020)

Armenian General Benevolent Union Graduate Fellowship (2012-2015)

Stanton Wheeler Award for Outstanding Artistic Contributions (2005)

Yale Presidential Public Service Fellowship (2004)

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**Columbian College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Instructor** (Spring 2019)

*American Constructions of the Middle East*

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, The George Washington University (2014-2020)

*US Media and Cultural History* (Melani McAlister)

*The African-American Experience* (Calvin Warren)

*Film and Politics* (Elisabeth R. Anker)

*Science, Politics and Society in Modern America* (Jamie Cohen-Cole)

*World War II in History and Memory* (Thomas A. Guglielmo)

**Guest Editor**, *Contemporaries* at Post45, *Critique in the Trump Era* (2019)

**Research Assistant**, The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar (Fall 2017)

**Conference Organizer**, *From Tahrir Square to Zuccotti Park: De-Centering American Studies in a Transforming World* (2018)

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

**Co-Organizer**, *Collected Stories 2016 - GWU American Studies Departmental Conference* (2016)

### **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

“Mapping MESA's Margins: Assumptions, Anxieties and Absences,” *Middle East Studies Association* (Forthcoming, 2021)

“Arab American Studies Association: Institutional Borders, Canonization, and the Idea of Revolt,” *American Studies Association* (Forthcoming, 2021)

“Envisioning Armenian-American Futures,” *American Studies Association* (Forthcoming, 2021)

“Critical Muslim Studies Part II,” *Association for Asian Studies Digital Dialogue* (2021)

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

“Hamilton and Hart-Celler: ‘The Walls of Prejudice’ and ‘The People That Get Ignored’” (in revision - *Journal of American Ethnic History*)

“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’ “The Societal Relevance of Science Journalism: Arab-German Perspectives” Conference*, Berlin (2017)

“Empty Space: Unsettling Empire in Syrian Detroit,” *American Studies Association*, Chicago (2017)

“‘Bodak Yellow,’ Shakira, and the Invisible Arab,” *Georgetown-Qatar* (2017)

“Revitalizing Space, Erasing Place: Race in Marginalia” (Chair), *Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment “Rust/Resistance: Works of Recovery,”* Wayne State (2017)

“Her Hips Don’t Lie: Hearing without Seeing the Global Middle East,” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, Chicago (2017)

“Middle Eastern Americans and Race: A Heuristic,” *Bouquet Graduate Honors Society*, Yale (2017)

### **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

"Artsakh and Ethnic Studies," *The Armenian Weekly*, 11/18/2020.

“Shakira Personifies a Multicultural Identity in a Globalized World,” *Arab America*, 3/11/20

“Lost and Found,” *Medium* 6/2/20

“The Mecca Tales: Telling Real Stories of Middle Easterners and Muslims on the American Stage,” *Muftah* 10/24/17

“Why Israel: BDS and Hard Truths,” *Huffington Post*, 8/21/17

“Whose Taboo Is It Anyway?” *Huffington Post*, 6/16/17

“Re-Orienting How American Theater Covers Islam,” *HowlRound* 6/1/17

“Broadway’s Aladdin Needs More Middle Eastern Actors,” *Huffington Post* 2/1/17

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

“MENA Representation,” *The Netflix Institute* (2021)

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

"Queer MENASA Dancy Partayyy," *Ars Nova* (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/DiversAbility at Yale* (2021)

“Solidarity and Allyship: LGBTQ and Black Communities,” *PennGALA/YaleGALA* (2020)

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

“American Immigration Past and Present,” *House of Sweden/Embassy* (2019)

"DiversAbility: Perspectives on Disability, Equity & Inclusion at Yale and Beyond," *GW/Yale* (2019)

"De-stigmatizing Disability: Tribulations and Triumphs of Disability at Yale," *Yale Medicine* (2019)

“TELL 45: Lost and Found,” *New York LGBT Community Center* (2018)

### **EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

**Olympiad Academia**, *Teacher*, New York (2009-present)

**Education Dynamics**, *Independent Consultant*, New York, (2013-2014)

**California Faith for Equality**, *Faith Organizer*, Los Angeles, CA (2008-2009)

**EssayEdge**, *Quality Control Editor*, Los Angeles (2005-2009)

**Columbia Artists Management, Inc.**, *Management Assistant*, New York, NY (2005-2006)

**Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)**, *Special Events Assistant*, New York, NY (2005)

**Arts & Business Council/Americans for the Arts**, *National Programs Associate*, (2004)

**Arts Council of Greater New Haven**, *Presidential Public Service Fellow* (2003)

**Yale University Art Gallery**, *Events Coordinator and Docent*, New Haven, CT (2002-2005)

### **PERFORMING EXPERIENCE**

**Actor:** Comedy Central, ViacomCBS, Madison Square Garden, 92Y, Studio 54, Long Wharf Theater, Signature Theater, New Ohio Theater, Symphony Space, New Center, Yale School of Drama, Madrid Theatre, Civic Light Opera of the South Bay, Hudson Theater, International City Theater, Bootleg Theatre, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Caldwell Theatre

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

### **SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

**Yale Alumni Association Board of Governors** (2018-Present)

**Yale Arab Alumni Association**, *Board Member/Secretary* (2018-Present)

**Yale Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association** *Appointed Delegate* (2017-Present)  
**Y-Apply**, *Board Member*, New York (2012-Present)  
**MENA Arts Advisory Coalition**, *Academic Advisory Council* (2018-Present)  
**MENASA Artists Coalition**, *Organizing Committee* (2016-Present)  
**Citizen Observer Initiative**, *Transparency Armenia Representative* (2017)  
**DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities**, *Grant Reviewer* (2017)

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

**French:** reading, writing, speaking (fluent)

**Spanish:** reading, writing, speaking (fluent)

**Arabic:** reading, writing, speaking (advanced beginning)

**Armenian:** reading, writing, speaking (beginning)