

Melinda Marie Cohoon

PhD Candidate in Near and Middle Eastern Studies
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Near and Middle Eastern Studies 2017–Expected 2024

University of Washington (UW), Seattle, WA

Dissertation: “Affective Entanglements and Precarious Lifeworlds: Iranian Gamers in Culture”

Advisors: Arzoo Osanloo (chair), Selim Kuru, Sareeta Amrute, and Jinha Lee

M.A. in International Studies-Middle East 2015-2017

University of Washington (UW), Seattle, WA

Thesis: “The Imperial Frontier: Tribal Dynamics and Oil in Qajar Persia, 1901-1910”

Advisors: Arbella Bet-Shlimon, and Ellis Goldberg

B.A. in History and Urban Honors 2011–2014

Portland State University (PSU), Portland, OR

Magna Cum Laude

Honors Thesis: “Palestinian Women of the Intifada: The Women’s Committees, 1987-1988”

TEACHING & SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LSJ 321: Human Rights Law in Culture and Practice, TA, UW	Spring 2023
JSIS 201: The Making of the 21 st Century, TA, UW	Winter 2023
NEAR E 101: Gateway to the Near East, TA, UW	Autumn 2022
Marlowe in Sheets Digital Project, IT Consultant, UW	Summer 2022
Simpson Center Grant for HSTCMP 590, GSA, UW	Summer 2021
HSTAFM 162: History of the Islamic World, Reader/Grader, UW	Summer 2021
HSTAFM 162: History of the Islamic World, Reader/Grader, UW	Spring 2021
JSIS 202: Cultural Interactions in an Interdependent World, TA, UW	Spring 2019
HSTAFM 163: History of the Modern Middle East, TA, UW	Winter 2019
JSIS 544: Reading Seminar on Middle East Studies, RA, UW	Autumn 2018
Arabic Translator for the Department of History, GSA, UW	Winter 2017–Spring 2017
GLP Fellow, Slade Gorton Policy Center, Seattle, WA	Winter 2016–Spring 2016

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed

Journal Article: “Thinking with bell hooks and Paulo Freire: A Syllabus for the Digital Middle East,” Forthcoming 2023.

Journal Article: “The Digital Borderlands: (Counter)Discourse and Metadata Analysis of Iranian Video Games,” *Interdisciplinary Digital Engagement in Arts & Humanities*, December 15, 2022. <https://ideah.pubpub.org/pub/5b0xzm66>.

UPDATED 01/02/2023 1

Journal Article: “Digital Iran: Soft Power and Affect in Video Games,” *Interdisciplinary Digital Engagement in Arts & Humanities*, 2(1), July 28, 2021. DOI: 10.21428/f1f23564.3d7610e0.

Book Review: “Paulo Lemos Horta’s *Marvellous Thieves: Secret Authors of the Arabian Nights*,” *Review of Middle East Studies*, 53(2), December 2019. DOI: 10.1017/rms.2019.47.

Journal Article: “The British-American Imperial Agenda in Iraq: The Oil and Railway line from Kirkuk to Haifa, 1920-1932,” *PSU McNair Scholars Online Journal*, 9, 2015. DOI: 10.15760/mcnair.2015.30.

Non-refereed

Case Analysis: “Information Controls in Iranian Cyberspace: A Soft War Strategy,” *The Iranian Studies Unit Series: Case Analysis*, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, May 8, 2022. <https://bit.ly/3MPWPHe>.

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

Multiplatform Project: “Digital Iran: Anticolonial and Imperial Narratives of Iran in Video Games,” latest update January 15, 2021. <http://digitaliranproject.com>, https://www.twitch.tv/digital_iran, and https://twitter.com/IranDH_project.

Omeka Project: “The Digital Borderlands: Glocalizing Iranian Video Games,” latest update June 1, 2020. <http://iranianvideogames.com/cms/>.

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Social Data Research/Dissertation Fellowship, Social Science Research Council	2020-2021
Google Conference Scholarship Program	2021
Diversity & Inclusion in Esports Category (Finalist), #TheGameHERSAwards	2020
Digital Humanities Summer Institute Tuition Scholarship, DHSI, UVic (<i>Declined</i>)	2020
Digital Humanities Summer Institute Tuition Scholarship, DHSI, UVic	2019

INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Digital Humanities Summer Fellowship for Digital Projects, Simpson Center, UW	2023
NELC Top Off Scholarship, NELC, UW	2021-2022
Roshan Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies, NELC, UW	2021-2022
Roshan Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies, NELC, UW	2020-2021
Maurice and Lois Schwartz Fellowship, NELC, UW	2020-2021
Digital Humanities Summer Fellowship for Digital Projects, Simpson Center, UW	2020
Roshan Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies, UW	2019-2020
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Persian (Summer), MEC, UW	2019

UPDATED 01/02/2023 2

Carolee Danz Endowed Scholarship (Spring), UW Libraries	2019
Easa A. Bateh Fellowship (Summer), NELC, UW	2018
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Turkish (Summer), UW (<i>Declined</i>)	2018
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Arabic, MEC, UW	2017-2018
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Arabic (Summer), UW (<i>Declined</i>)	2017
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Arabic, MEC, UW	2016-2017
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Arabic (Summer), MEC, UW	2016
The Henry M. Jackson Top Scholar Fellowship, UW	2015-2016
Ronald E. McNair Research Fellowship Program, PSU	2013-2014
The Diversity Enrichment Scholarship, DMSS, PSU	2013-2014
President's Equal Access Scholarship, DMSS, PSU	2013-2014

GRANTS & HONORARIUMS

NELC Travel - Lodging Per Diem, MELC, UW	2022
Near & Middle Eastern Studies Professionalization Award, NMES, UW	2022
Graduate Student Conference Presentation Award, UW	2022
Gateway to the Near East Lecture Honorarium, MELC, UW	2022
Digital Forays Lightning Talks Honorarium, Kevorkian Center, NYU (<i>Delayed</i>)	2021
Graduate Research Cluster Grant, Simpson Center, UW	2019-2020
Digital Humanities Summer Institute Travel Grant, Simpson Center, UW	2019
Digital Humanities Summer Institute Travel Grant, Simpson Center, UW	2018
Ronald E. McNair Travel Grant, PSU	2014

TECHNICAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Digital Research Project Consulting & Mentorship

Programs, Tools, and Platforms: Omeka Classic, OmekaS, Neatline, Docker, WordPress, Canvas, Alma Library Management System, Scalar, Visual Code Studio, Excel, CSV, Atlas.Ti, NVivo, XMedia Recode, Open Broadcasting System, Streamlabs, Audacity, Twitch.TV

Languages, Scripts, Subsets: JavaScript (D3), CSS, JSON, HTML Basic

Research Methods: Participant-Observation, Textual and Discourse Analysis, Interviews, Virtual Ethnography, Web Scraping and Data Mining using Python, HAR, and R, Data Visualization

Persian & Arabic: Advanced reading, speaking, and writing

French: Intermediate reading, speaking, and writing

MEDIA & IMPACT

Interview: "Video Games, Politics, and Foreign Policy," Melinda Cohoon interviewed by Yogasai Gazula, *Humanist Huskies*, March 10, 2022. <https://bit.ly/3nU50ru>.

Interview: "Student profile: Melinda Cohoon – Exploring the Political Worlds of Online Videogaming, between Iranian Gamers and the 2020 US Election," Melinda Cohoon

interviewed by Will Bamber, Near and Middle East Studies, October 30, 2020.
<https://bit.ly/3RW0sfe>.

Interview: “The Right to Play Games,” Melinda Cohoon interviewed by Kate Stringer, The Graduate School, October 28, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3QIOab6>.

Newsletter: “Near and Middle Eastern Studies Students Present a Virtual Panel at the 2020 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting,” *Middle East Center Newsletter*, Fall 2020. <https://bit.ly/3aoDdfL>.

Blog post co-authored with Victoria Rahbar: “Reading and Playing Right to Left: Preserving Japanese Comics and Iranian Video Games,” *News & Events*, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, June 29, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3PjcCQ0>.

Newsletter: “An Interview with Journalist and Iran Specialist Barbara Slavin,” Interviewed by Melinda Cohoon, *Middle East Center Newsletter*, Fall 2019. <https://bit.ly/3GsCFks>.

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Panel Presenter: “Politics of the Everyday: Iranian Women Gamers and Cyberspace Censorship,” “Panel: Rethinking Women’s Empowerment,” Middle East Studies Association Conference, December 1, 2022.

Public Panel Presenter: *Human Rights Huddle: Protest, Censorship, and Repression in Iran*, Physicians for Human Rights, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, November 15, 2022.

Lecture: “Internet and Political Controls of Cyberspace in Iran,” *Near East 101: Gateway to the Near East*, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, November 9, 2022.

Lecture: “Video Games and the Iranian Gaming Industry,” *Near East 101: Gateway to the Near East*, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, November 9, 2022.

Public Panel Presenter: *Iran: Gender & Rights After State Violence*, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures and The Middle East Center, University of Washington-Bothell, October 8, 2022.

Conference Presenter: “Digital Iran Reloaded: Preserving Video Games and Ethnographic Data,” *Open Digital Collaborative Project Preservation in the Humanities Conference*, University of Victoria, BC, CA, June 7, 2022.

Panel Chair: “Panel 3: Bodily Knowledge Part 1,” *Dismantling the Body: Possibilities and Limitations in Art Making*, The Graduate Students of Art History, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, May 19, 2022. <https://bit.ly/3LDjqWr>.

Panel Presenter: “EverybodyHacks Interdisciplinary Panel,” *GeoDat*, Geography Data Science, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, April 8, 2022. <https://bit.ly/3yS6pVI>.

UPDATED 01/02/2023 4

Invited TALK: “Iranian Gamers on Social Media, Twitch, and World of Warcraft,” *Near East 101: Gateway to NELC Digital*, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, November 3, 2021.

Panel Presenter: “Affective Entanglements: Iranian and Iranian American Gamers on Social Media and World of Warcraft,” “STS Alter-ed” Panel, *Good Relations: Practices and Methods in Unequal and Uncertain Worlds*, Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, October 8, 2021.

Conference Presenter: “Critical Digital Pedagogy and Mentorship: A Syllabus for the Digital Middle East,” *Open/Social/Digital Humanities Pedagogy, Training, and Mentorship*, University of Victoria, BC, CA, June 17, 2021.

Conference Presenter: “Digital Iran Project Management,” *Project Management in the Humanities Virtual Conference*, University of Victoria, BC, CA, June 9, 2021.

Conference Presenter: “Digital Iran: Narratives of (De)colonization in Video Games,” *Digital Humanities Summer Institute Virtual Conference & Colloquium*, University of Victoria, BC, CA, June 7, 2021.

Moderator: “In Conversation with Mana Kia: Persianate Selves,” *Persian Studies Workshop Series Spring 2021* sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern languages and Civilization and Persian and Iranian Studies Program, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, March 9, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeuM1aETb3U>.

Showcase Presenter: “Digital Iran: Narratives of (De)colonization in Video Games,” *Hacking the Academy: Simpson Center Digital Humanities Summer Fellows Showcase*, University of Washington, October 13, 2020.

Invited TALK: “Digital Iran: Anticolonial and Imperial Narratives of Iran in Video Games,” Society of Scholars Virtual Meeting, Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, October 7, 2020.

Panel Presenter: “The Affective Entanglement: Iranian Women Gamers Online,” “Ethnographies of the Everyday: Negotiating Iranian Subjectivities through Gender Performance, Music, and Video Games” Panel, *Middle East Studies Association Virtual Conference*, October 6, 2020.

Workshop Co-presenter with Victoria Rahbar: “Reading and Playing Right to Left: Preserving Japanese Comics and Iranian Video Games,” *The Right to Left Virtual Workshop*, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, CA, June 7, 2020.

Conference Presenter: “The Digital Borderlands: Glocalizing Iranian Video Games,” *Digital Humanities Summer Institute Virtual Conference & Colloquium*, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, CA, June 2, 2020.

Workshop Lead with Arna Elezovic and Ayda Apa Pomesnikov, “Introduction to Interdisciplinary Ethnographies: Defining Ethnography in Anthropology and Science and Technology Studies,” *Interdisciplinary Ethnographies Workshop Series* sponsored by the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, December 2, 2019.

Capstone Presenter: “Reimagining History through Digital Cultural Artifacts: A Teaching Method,” *NMES Capstone* sponsored by the Walter M. Chapin Simpson Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, May 4, 2018.

Conference Presenter: “The Imperial Frontier: Tribal Dynamics and Oil in Qajar Persia, 1901-1910,” *Graduate Student Conference in Middle East Studies*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, May 19, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory
Islamicate Digital Humanities Network
Middle East Studies Association
Society for Social Studies of Science