

Roxanne Varzi
Associate Professor of Anthropology and Visual Studies
University of California Irvine
 Departments of **Anthropology, Visual Studies and Film and Media Studies**
 Programs in **Religious Studies, Persian Studies and PhD Program in Critical Theory, PhD**
Program in Culture and Theory

EDUCATION

- 2002 **Ph.D. Columbia University, New York, NY**
 Social Cultural Anthropology
 Dissertation: Visionary Terrains of post-Revolution Iran: War, Media, Youth Culture, Religion and Public Space
- 1999 **MPhil. Columbia University, New York, NY**
 Social Cultural Anthropology
Concentration: Islam and State Formation; Media, Violence and Modernity
- 1993 **B.A. The American University, Washington D.C.**
 International Relations
Concentration: Conflict Resolution & Middle East Studies
- 1995-97 **The University of Washington, Seattle, WA**
 Graduate Coursework in Persian Language, Literature and Anthropology
Concentration: POW accounts and theories of martyrdom in the Iran/Iraq War
- 1994, 1996 **Teheran University, Deh Kodah Institute, Teheran, Iran**
 Persian Language and Literature
- 1991-92 **American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt**
Concentration: Arabic Language and Literature

POSITIONS HELD

- 2009-present **University of California, Irvine, Irvine California, Associate Professor,**
 Department of Anthropology
 Department of Film and Media Studies
 Department of Visual Studies
 Culture and Theory PhD program, Middle East and Africa Major, Persian Studies Minor, Middle East Major, Religious Studies Steering Committee and faculty Member, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies and International Studies
- 2005- 2009 **University of California, Irvine, Irvine California, Assistant Professor,**

Department of Anthropology

- 2007 **University of Lund**, Sweden, Assistant Professor in the EAP Program for the UC/Lund Summer Exchange.
- 2004-5 **School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London**, London, England
Lecturer of Anthropology and Near Eastern Studies (Assistant Professor)
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
- 2002-04 **New York University**, New York, NY
Woodrow Wilson Post-Doctoral Fellow and Instructor, Department of Anthropology

PUBLICATIONS

Sole Authored Scholarly Books

- 2016 *Last Scene Underground: An Ethnographic Novel of Iran*, Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
- 2016 *Last Scene Underground: An Ethnographic Novel of Iran*, Audible Books Edition.
- 2006 *Warring Souls: Media, Martyrdom and Youth in post-Revolution Iran*, Durham: Duke University Press.

Sole-Authored Scholarly Articles

- 2014 "Pictura Poesis: The interplay of Poetry, Image and Ethnography in Forough Farrokhzad's "The House is Black" *Off Screen* Volume 18, Issue 9
- 2014 "Keeping it Reel: 'Reality's' Role in the Production and Reception of Independent Iranian Cinema," *Film International* Volume 12 no. 3
- 2013 "Facing the Future: The Artistic and Diasporic Afterlife of the Iran-Iraq War." *Anthropology of the Middle East*, 8:1
- 2013 "On The Whole World Blind," *Public Books*, April 2013
- 2011 "Iran's French Revolution: Religion, Philosophy, and Crowds" *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Volume 637 Issue 1 pp. 53 - 63.
- 2008 "Iran's Pieta: Motherhood, Sacrifice and Film in the aftermath of the Iran-Iraq War" *Feminist Review*, 88:1-13.
- 2000 "Iran Gardi" *Public Culture* 11(3):557-563.

- 1998 “Mercury Rising: Tajik Refugees in Kyrgyzstan” *Silk Road, Journal of Central Asian Studies* 1(2):48-53.

Sole-authored Scholarly Book Chapters

- 2014 “A Grave State: Rakshan Bani-Etemad’s Mainline” in *Iranian Cinema in a Global Context: Politics, Policy, Form*; Edited by Peter Decherney and Blake Attwood, Routledge Press
- 2002 “A Ghost in the Machine: The Cinema of the Iranian Sacred Defense” *The New Iranian Cinema: Politics, Representation and Identity*, edited by Richard Tapper, p154-166, London: IB Tauris.

Sole-authored Scholarly Essays in non-Academic Venues

- 2017 “Bin Ich Eine Immigrantin?” *Le Monde Diplomatique*
- 2017 “Am I an Immigrant” *London Review of Books Blog*
- 2016 “Persia is My Heart” *Academic Books Combined*
- 2015 “Fictive Truths” *Aeon Magazine of Ideas and Culture*
- 2014 “Ethnographic Fiction: The Space Between” *Savage Minds*, Anthropology blog.
- 2008 “Miniskirt Democracy: Muslim Women’s Memoirs” A review of *Soft Weapons: Autobiography in Transit* by Gillian Whitlock and *Prisoner of Tehran*, Marina Nemat *London Review of Books*, July 31, 2008
- 2008 “Seeking Martyrdom: Dying for an ideal” in *Tehran Transit*, edited by Maziar Bahari and Malu Halasa. Trolley Books; Garnet and Salis Verlag Publishers for the German language edition, London, 2008.
- 2007 “Diary: A Visit to the Martyr Museum,” *London Review of Books*, March 8, 2007, pp.1-5.
- 2005 “Pulling Focus on Kiarostami’s Iran,” *Eastern Art Report* 5(2):19-24.

Scholarly Review Essays and Encyclopedia Entries

- 2017 Review, Mohammad Malas, *The Dream: The Diary of a Film* (Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2016) *Anthropology of the Middle East* 12:1
- 2003 Entries: Yusuf Shahin, Nagib Mahfouz, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Makhmalbaf family, Tahimeh Milani, Persian script, Shiism, Rakhsahan Bani Etemad, Ali Khameini,

Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa, Second Edition, Macmillan Reference.

- 2002 “Picturing Change: Mohsen Makmalbaf’s Kandehar” *American Anthropologist* 104:931-934.

Multi-Authored Research Publication

- 2011 “Youth in Iran” Background paper and situation analysis for “Research and Policy Forum on Youth in the Arab World” part of publication: “A Generation On the Move: Insights into the conditions, aspirations and activism of Arab Youth.” **Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy & International Affairs**, American University of Beirut Press.

Ethnographic Films

- 2009 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, 35 minutes, Filmed in Iran, Produced in the U.S.A. Writer, producer, director, cinematographer and editor. Experimental ethnographic film on the aftermath of the Iran-Iraq war. Distributed by **Documentary Educational Resources (DER)** 2009.

Ethnographic Short Stories

- 2017 “Yankee Go Home” In press.
- 2007 “Mashti,” *Anthropology and Humanism Quarterly*, Vol. 32, 2, p 202-209, Winner Short Story Award for Fiction, 2007.
- 2006 “The Witness,” in *Let Me Tell You Where I’ve Been: New Writing By Women Of The Iranian Diaspora*, edited by Persis Karim, 216-219, Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press.
- 2000 “The Caravan” Front page, Vol 13:1, *New York Press*.
- 1999 “The Pelican” *A World Between: Fiction, Poetry and Essays by Iranian-Americans*, Edited by Persis Karim, 214-227, New York: George Braziller.
- 1999 “Refugee” *American Magazine*, Washington, D.C.: American University Press, 50:3, 1999.

Ethnographic/Art Installations

2017 *Salton Sublime* Video and sound, commissioned by the Ohrenhoch Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2017 Premiere Ohrenhoch Gallery, Berlin, Germany

- 2017 Off-Screen Festival, **Camra**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2017 **SoundPedro**, San Pedro Arts Center, CA
- 2017 Miami Independent Film Festival, (MINDIE) Miami, FL
- 2016 *Magic of Persia Contemporary Art Prize* participated in Zoya Sardashti's curated **The Future of Iranian Theatre**, is a collection of singular, interdependent stories at <http://mopcap.com/en/curate-archive/>
- 2011 *The Whole World Blind*, 30-minute looped sound installation on the power of war images.
- 2014 **Anthropologie Numerique**, Le Cube, Paris, France
- 2014 Off-Screen Festival, **Camra**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 **Public Books** at publicbooks.org, a project of *Public Culture Journal*
- 2012 **Ethnographic Terminalia**, American Anthropological Association meetings, **SOMarts Gallery**, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 **Uqbar Gallery**, Berlin, Germany
- 2011 **Soundwalk** Long Beach, CA, Premier

HONORS

- 2016 **Gold Medal**, *Last Scene Underground: An Ethnographic Novel of Iran*, Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. **Gold Medalist (in fiction) in the 2016 Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY), sponsored by the Independent Publisher Book Awards.**
- 2015 Invited artist, **Bid Book, Sienna's Application for European Capital of Culture**
- 2007 Winner, Short Story Award for Ethnographic Fiction, **Society of Humanistic Anthropology.**
- 2007 *Warring Souls: media, martyrdom and youth in post-Revolution Iran*, Short-listed for the **British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Book Prize.**
- 2007 *Warring Souls: media, martyrdom and youth in post-Revolution Iran*, Short-listed for the **Cambridge University, Middle East Center**, British-Kuwait Friendship Book Prize in Middle Eastern Society
- 2003 **Foundation for Iranian Studies**, Honorable Mention for Best Dissertation Award.

1993 Petra Kelly Memorial Award, School of International Service, **American University**, Washington D.C.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2016 **Documentary Production Grant**, Center for Ethnography, and Persian Studies Center, UCI

2015 **Teaching and Technology Innovation Award Social Sciences**, UCI, to develop an online course, Declined

2015 **Faculty Research Grant** Center for Persian Studies, UCI, for Documentary production

2012/13 **President's Faculty Research Fellowships in the Humanities** University of California, UC Humanities Research Institute, CA

2012/13 Research Fellow, **IFK Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften**, Vienna, Austria

2012/12 **Center for Global Peace and Citizenship**, UCI, seed grant.

2007/8 Fellow, **Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin**, (Institute for Advanced Sciences/Studies) and guest fellow also at the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung (Center for Culture and Literature), Berlin, Germany.

2007/8 Junior Faculty Career Development Award, **University of California, Irvine**.

2004/5 **Distinguished Senior Iranian Visiting Fellow**, St. Antony's College, **Oxford University**, England

2002/4 **Woodrow Wilson Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities**, International Center for Advanced Studies, **New York University**.

2003 **University of Pennsylvania**, Department of Middle East Studies, post-production grant for documentary.

2001/2 Rockefeller Post-Doctoral Fellow, **The Kroc Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies**, **University of Notre Dame**, Indiana. (Declined)

2002 Markle Foundation New Media Fellow, **Centre for Law, Media and Society**, **Wolfson College, Oxford University**, Oxford, UK, Hilary Term.

1999/2 **Fulbright-Hayes**, Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, Tehran, Iran.

1997/2 Presidential Scholarship, **Columbia University**, New York, NY.

1997/02 Faculty Fellow, Anthropology Department, **Columbia University**, New York, NY.

1998-99 Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, **Columbia University**, New York, NY.

1998 Scheps Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Award, Department of Anthropology, **Columbia University**, New York, NY.

1996-97 Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA.

1995 Social Science Research Council Grant, Summer Institute for the Study of Central Asian Languages, Tajik Language, **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA.

Research and Teaching Interests

Media Anthropology; experimentation in Ethnographic Methods; Ethnographic filmmaking; Sound ethnography; Iranian Cinema; World Cinema; Production of Space (cities, public performance, rituals, memorials) Iran; Islam (mysticism, pop religion, religion and the state); Cultural production and war (museums, cemeteries, shrines, martyrdom); Anthropology of Performance (Iranian theater and film); anthropology of art.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED

- 2014 University of California, **UCHRI** Multi-Campus Working Group on Religion and Public Space, Sacramento Site Visit, Sacramento, CA
- 2012/13 **Paris, Tehran, Vienna:** Research funded by IFK, Vienna, UCHRI, Center for Global Peace and Citizenship, UCI, on the life and work of Henry Corbin and his influence on Iranian Revolutionaries.
- 2007/8 **Berlin, Germany:** Research funded by the Wissenschaft Collegem zu Berlin on Iranian Performance in Europe, especially theater created for an Islamic Revolutionary stage in Tehran and performed on a secular stage in Berlin.
- 1999-2000 **Tehran, Iran: Fulbright Hayes Doctoral Dissertation Research Award.** Research for Dissertation on Production of Public Space and Culture in post-Revolution Tehran and the effects on secular youth born after the Revolution.
- 1994, 96, 98 **Tehran, Iran:** Farabi Film Foundation and the National Film Archive, Interviewed film directors and producers. Watched and analyzed Post-Revolution films. Visited film shoots, interviewed actors and crew.
- 1998 **Osh, Kyrgyzstan:** Interviewed Tajik Refugees and UNHCR Field workers.

- 1994/1996 **Tehran, Iran:** Museum of Contemporary Art and Tehran University Faculty of Fine Arts, Interviewed painters, professors and art students.
- 1991-1992 **Cairo, Egypt:** Interviewed Egyptian and Lebanese women writers.

COURSES DEVELOPED & TAUGHT

Anthropology PhD Dissertation writing seminar, UCI, Winter 2016, Spring, 2017

Anthropology of Religion Undergraduate, UCI Winter 2015

Anthropology PhD Pro-Seminar C, UCI, Spring 2015

Modern Iran: Cinema and Society UCI, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

Advanced Anthropology Writing Seminar, Undergraduate, (180W) UCI, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall, 2012, Spring 2013, Winter 2014

Cinema and the City, Graduate and Undergraduate, UCI, Fall 2010,

Anthropology of Performance Graduate Seminar, UCI, Spring 2010 (canceled after first week due to low enrollment)

Visual Anthropology Undergraduate, Fall 2008 UCI, Winter 2009, Spring 2011

Visual Anthropology, Graduate Seminar, Fall 2008, Spring, 2015 Spring 2017

Anthropology of War (30A) Fall 2005 UCI, Fall 2006 UCI, 2007 Lund, Sweden, 2017 UCDC, Washington D.C.

Modern Iran Spring 2004 NYU Winter 2006 UCI, Fall 2006 UCI, Spring 2010, Winter, 2011

Visual Culture and Anthropology of Film, Graduate Seminar, Spring 2006 UCI

Producing the Middle East, Graduate Seminar, Spring 2007, Fall 2010, Winter 2011

Ethnography of the Near and Middle East Fall 2004 (M.A and B.A.) SOAS

Anthropology of Film Spring 2005 (M.A and B.A.) SOAS

Culture and Media of War Spring 2003, NYU

ACADEMIC TALKS

Keynotes, Plenaries and Invited Colloquiums

- 2017 Keynote Speaker, *Festival of the Arts*, California State University, Sacramento, CA
- 2017 Peter Sellars and Roxanne Varzi in conversation about *Last Scene Underground*, *Illuminations* and *Anthropology*, University of California, Irvine
- 2017 On the Psyche and the Boundary of the Political, Screening Scholarship, “Ethnographic Play” **Special Panel, CAMRA**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 “Engaging Iran” San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
- 2016 Book Reading, *Last Scene Underground*, *New Writing Series*, **Department of Writing**, UC San Diego, CA
- 2016 “Ethnographic writing, Colloquium, **Department of Anthropology**, UC San Diego, CA
- 2015 MRG Working Group on Religion in Public Sphere, UCHRI 2015: UC, Santa Barbara
- 2014 “Academia and Activism,” **Keynote address at CAMRA**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2012 “Iran’s French Revolution,” **Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften**, Vienna, Austria
- 2011 The Martyrdom Mystique: The Iran-Iraq War and its Artistic Afterlife, *Ritual Dynamics Socio-Cultural Processes from a Historical and Culturally Comparative Perspective*, Lecture and workshop, **The University of Heidelberg**, Germany
- 2011 **Plenary**, Zarrin-Kelk retrospective, **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 **Plenary**, *Document: Iranian-Americans in Los Angeles*, **Fowler Museum UCLA**, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 Document/Documenta, Colloquium, Comparative Literature Department, **UC, Irvine**, Irvine, CA
- 2010 “Reel Life: Experiments in Ethnographic Film-making,” Anthropology working group Culture, Power, and Social Change **UCLA**, Los Angeles, CA
- 2009 **Keynote**, *Rethinking Jihad: Ideas, Politics and Conflict in the Arab World* and

Beyond, Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, **University of Edinburgh, Scotland**

- 2008 “Hanna Arendt in Tehran: Performing the Middle East in Berlin”
Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, (Institute for Advanced Sciences/Studies) Berlin, Germany
- 2008 “Projecting/re-projecting the Nation During and After war,” **Frankfurt University** (Germany), Department of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology. Research Group: Transnationalism and Critical Ethnography, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2008 **Plenary**, *The Cinema of Rakshan Bani-Etemad*, University of London, **School of Oriental and African Studies**, London, England
- 2007 “Ethnography to Film,” (post-film Colloquium) Anthropology Department, **Pomona College**, Claremont, CA
- 2007 **Distinguished Lecture**, *Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies Lecture Series*, **Stanford University**, Palo Alto, CA
- 2007 “Mosques and Museums,” Anthropology Colloquium, **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA
- 2007 “The Mourning After the Iran Iraq War,” Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Colloquium Series, sponsored by **Wellesley College**, Wellesley, MA
- 2006 “Reel to Real: War, the visual medium and the channeling of a new Islamic Reality in post-Revolution Iran,” Visual Culture Colloquium, **State University of New York**, Binghamton, New York
- 2006 “Iran, the Censoring Muse,” *Mellon Colloquium on Anthropology, History and the Critical Imagination*, **New School University**, New York, NY
- 2005 “Colloquium and seminar on the Iran-Iraq War,” **St Antony’s College, Oxford University**, Oxford, England
- 2004 “Dying to be displayed: Post-war Public culture in Tehran,” Anthropology Colloquium, **University of Chicago**
- 2004 “Filming the Iran-Iraq War,” Anthropology Colloquium, **Notre Dame University**, South Bend, IN
- 2003 “Taziyeh and War” *Spectacles of Suffering*, Center for Religion and Media Workshop, **New York University**, New York
- 2003 “Martyrs and Monuments: The Cultural Aftermath of the Iran-Iraq War,”

Department of Anthropology Colloquium, **New York University**, New York

- 2003 “Iranian War Films,” *Colloquium Series is Social Construction and Subjectivity*, Institute for the Humanities, **University of Manitoba**, Winnipeg, Canada
- 2003 “Shooting Soldiers, Shooting Film: The Cinema of the Iranian Sacred Defense,” International Center for Advanced Studies, **New York University**, New York
- 2003 “Shooting Soldiers, Shooting Film: The Cinema of the Iranian Sacred Defense,” *Area Studies Art Series Lecture*, **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA
- 2002 “Visionary Terrains of post-Revolution Iran,” *Clash of Civilizations Lectures*, St. Antony’s College, **Oxford University**, Oxford, England,
- 1996 "Mercury Rising: Tajik Refugees in Kyrgyzstan," **University of Washington**, Department of Anthropology Colloquium, Seattle, WA

Papers Presented at Conferences and Symposiums

- 2017 “Filming in the Dark: the long exposure and short death of a film soundtrack” “Exposure” *American Ethnological Society*, Stanford University
- 2015 “Who Writes Iran,” Roundtable, *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meetings*, Denver, CO
- 2015 *Last Scene Underground* Book Talk and Launch, Persian Center, UCI
- 2014 Spiritual Topographies, “Moving Messiahs,” **UCHRI MRG**, UC Davis, CA
- 2014 “Intimacies of War,” **University of Colorado**, Boulder, CO
- 2014 “Being Undisciplined: What Are the Stakes of Interdisciplinary Work Today?” Department of History, **UCI**, Irvine, CA
- 2014 “Acting Out in Tehran” Performing the Iranian State, **UCSD**, San Diego, CA
- 2014 “On the Ethnography of Sound,” **Le Cube**, Anthropologie Numerique, Paris, France
- 2013 “Iran: Art and Discourse,” **The Asia Society**, New York, NY
- 2013 “Spaced Out: Visual Shifts and Life in Contemporary Tehran,” From Tehran to Tahrir, Public Space Redefined, **University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg Center**, Philadelphia, PA
- 2011 “In between Iran and a Rock Space: Neo-reality and the exportation of

- performance in No One Knows about Persian Cats,” *Cinema in Iran: Circulation, Censorship and Cultural Production*, **Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry**, Berlin, Germany
- 2011 Living Peace Series: Women, War & Peace, **Center for Living Peace and UCI**, Irvine, CA
- 2011 Invited Speaker, **George Washington University**, *Iran in Transition*, Washington, DC
- 2011 *Documenting War* panel, **Cultural Studies Association**, Annual conference, Chicago, Ill
- 2010 “Love and Terror” participant, conference and workshop sponsored by the **Center for Ethnography, UC Irvine**, Irvine, CA
- 2010 “Portraits,” Rethinking Iranian Nationalism, **University of Texas**, Austin, TX
- 2009 Walls Conference, “Black Walls” German Studies Department Workshop, **University of California**, Irvine, Irvine, CA
- 2008 “Women on the Edge,” Visioning the Urban, Gender Studies Workshop at the Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women's Studies, **American University in Cairo**, Cairo Egypt
- 2007 “Mothers, martyrdom, memorials and media in the Iran-Iraq War” *Symposium on Middle Eastern Media*, School of Communications, **Northwestern University**, Evanston, Illinois
- 2006 “Public Space in Tehran” *Middle East Experts Workshop*, **University of Chicago**, Chicago, Illinois
- 2002 “Visionary Terrains: Youth, Identity and Space in post-Revolution Iran,” *Middle East Studies Association 36th Annual Meeting*, Washington D.C.
- 2002 “Writing and Researching Iran” *Bicultural Ways of Knowing: Iranian-American Narratives*, Teachers College, **Columbia University**, New York, NY
- 2001 “Neo-realism and Ethnography: a Question of Frame and Focus,” *Critique Journal's Annual Symposium*, St. Paul, MN
- 2001 “Shifting Subjects: Teens in Tehran,” *Cities and Citizenship: Questions of Comparison* sponsored by the **Social Science Research Council and Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Moyen-Orient Contemporain**, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2000 “Re-forming Religious Identity in Iran,” *Public Policy and National Identity in a*

Comparative Perspective, **Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ

- 1999 "A Ghost in the Machine: The Cinema of the Iranian Sacred Defense," *Iranian Cinema Conference and Film Festival*, University of London, **School of Oriental and African Studies, National Film Theatre**, London, England
- 1998 "The Pelican," *Second Generation Iranian Writers*, Departments of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies, **University of Texas at Austin**, Austin, TX
- 1997 "Iran Gardi: The Moving Image," *Iranian Studies Conference*, **University of California**, Los Angeles, CA
- 1996 "Majnun's Mask: Madness and Love in Medieval Islamic Court Poetry," *JUSUR Conference for Middle East Studies*, **University of California**, Los Angeles, CA
- 1996 "Majnun's Mask: Madness and Love in Medieval Islamic Court Poetry," *Medievalist Studies Association Annual Conference*, Departments of Comparative Literature and English, University of California Berkeley, CA

Invited Discussant and Respondent

- 2015 "Anthropology in Transit" Graduate conference, discussant, **UCI**, Irvine, CA
- 2011 "Women and War" Panelist with Geena Davis and Abigail Disney, UCI, **Center for Living Peace**, Irvine, CA
- 2011 Discussant, *Finders/Seekers: Travel Encounters in and Out of Persiante Lands*, **UCLA**, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 Discussant, *Engaging Adversarial States Research Project*, funded by the National Science Foundation, **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 Chair, Panel on Diaspora, *Annual Iranian Studies Conference*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 Respondent, Center for Ethnography, *Death Penalty Seminar*, **University of California, Irvine**, Irvine, CA
- 2006 Presented in Persian and English a poem by Saadi on behalf of the Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies, UC Irvine, at the *Encyclopedia Iranica, Annual Fund-Raising Gala*, Ritz Carlton, San Francisco, CA
- 2005 Discussant, "Lively Capitol," **University of California**, Irvine, Irvine, CA
- 2005 Discussant, "Private lives, Public Selves," **St Antony's College, Oxford University**, Oxford, England
- 2003 Documentary, work-in-progress screening, **Duke University**, Durham, NC

- 2003 Discussant, “*Mystic Iran*,” Post-film Panel, **Asia Society**, New York, NY
- 2002 Chair, “Women in Iranian Cinema” *The Making of Iranian Cinema: Two Decades and a Century*, **Walter Reade Theater Lincoln Center**, New York, NY

FILM SCREENINGS

- 2015 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **UCI Persian Studies Center**, Irvine, CA
- 2013 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **Noor Film Festival**, Laemmle Theater, Beverly Hills, CA
- 2013 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Department of Anthropology and Department of Film, **Yale University**, New Haven, CT
- 2012-13 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **Iranian Film Festival Australia**, BRISBANE, MELBOURNE, CANBERRA, SYDNEY, ADELAIDE
- 2011 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **INTIMATE LENS FILM FESTIVAL**, Caserta, Italy
- 2011 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **Visual Methods Research Conference**, Milton Keynes, UK
- 2010 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **Iranian International Film Festival**, Art Institute, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening **NewFilmmaker’s @ Anthology Film Archives**, New York, NY
- 2010 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening **Film and Media Center**, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA
- 2010 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening **Third Women's Film Festival**, Chennai, India
- 2010 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **5th Annual Women's International Film & Arts Festival**, Miami
- 2009 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening **International Festival of Ethnological Film**, Belgrade, Serbia
- 2009 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening **Days of Ethnographic Film**, Moscow, Russia

- 2009 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **DocuDays, Beirut International Documentary Festival**, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2009 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **DOCSDF**, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2008 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **Society for Visual Anthropology, Film, Video and Interactive Media Festival**, American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Francisco, CA
- 2008 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting; Film Festival**, Washington, DC
- 2008 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **Chapman University**, Orange, CA
- 2008 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **Uqbar Project Space Gallery**, Berlin Germany
- 2008 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening, **Boston International Film Festival**, Boston Massachusetts
- 2008 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening **NewFilmmaker Series LA**, Museum of Architecture and Design, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening and discussion **Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung (Center for Culture and Literature)**, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, Screening and discussion, **Anthropology Department**, Pomona College, Claremont, CA

Art Exhibitions/Installations

- 2017 *Salton Sublime* **Miami Independent Film Festival**, Miami, FL
- 2017 *Salton Sublime* **SoundPedro**, San Pedro Arts Center, Ca
- 2017 *Salton Sublime* commissioned by the **Ohrenhoch Gallery**, Berlin, Germany, February 2017.
- 2017 *Salton Sublime* **CAMRA**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 *The Whole World Blind*, **CAMRA**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2012 *The Whole World Blind*, Ethnographic Terminalia at **SOMArts**, in collaboration with American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA and the Society for Visual anthropology
- 2011 *The Whole World Blind*, **UQBAR Gallery**, Berlin, Germany.

2011 *The Whole World Blind*, **Soundwalk**, Long Beach, CA.

Reviews of *Last Scene Underground: An Ethnographic Novel of Iran*

- 2017 **Anthropology News**, *Getting Credit*, From the President of the American Anthropological Association, Alisse Waterston May 1, 2017
- 2017 **3 Am Magazine**, Review of *Last Scene Underground* by Ather Zia, <http://www.3ammagazine.com/3am/last-scene-underground-review/>
- 2017 **Stanford University Press**, Video Reading and interview about *Last Scene Underground*
- 2016 **Qantara** Review of *Last Scene Underground* by Marian Brehmer, “Finding Freedom in the Catacombs”
- 2016 *Lebensrealitäten Anderer: Jugendkultur im Iran* Stephanie Majerus, **Woxx**, Luxembourg (<http://www.woxx.lu/lebensrealitaeten-anderer-jugendkultur-im-iran/>)
- 2016 Featured on **Humanities Headlines** with Humanities Dean Georges Van Den Abbeele, UC Irvine

Reviews of *Plastic Flowers* in Peer-Reviewed Professional Journals

- 2011 *Ideologues of Martyrdom in Postwar Iran and the Culture of Mourning the Dead (Varzi's Plastic Flowers Never Die)* Plastic Flowers Never Die by Roxanne Varzi by: Jens Kreinath **Current Anthropology**, Vol. 52, No. 4 (August 2011), pp. 614-615 The University of Chicago Press
- 2011 Plastic Flowers Never Die. Directed by Roxanne Varzi, Maryam Kashani, **Visual Anthropology Review**, Volume 27, Issue 1, pages 111–112, Spring 2011
- 2010 Best Iranian Revolution Titles, (Top Ten) **IMDB**
- 2009 *Iranian Films to go to International Festivals*, **Press TV**
- 2009 **National Association of Librarians**
- 2008 Ideologues of Martyrdom in Postwar Iran and the Culture of Mourning the Dead, Reviewed work(s): Plastic Flowers Never Die. Film. Directed by Roxanne Varzi, 35 min. Documentary Educational Resources, Watertown, MA.
- 2008 Anthropology Review Database by Dr David Eller, <http://wings.buffalo.edu/ARD/cgi/showme.cgi?keycode=3503>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Books Talks for the General Public

- 2017 **Los Angeles Times Festival of Books**, “Last Scene Underground” Author signing and presentation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 **Book Culture**, “Last Scene Underground” Book talk and signing, New York, NY
- 2016 **Elliot Bay Book Company**, “Last Scene Underground” Book talk and signing, Seattle, WA
- 2015 **Pages Bookstore**, “Last Scene Underground” Book talk and signing, Detroit, MI
- 2015 **Osher Lifelong Learning**, University of California Woodbridge Campus, Irvine, CA, two-part class on underground art in Iran
- 2008 **Osher Lifelong Learning**, University of California Faculty Club, Irvine, CA
- 2006 **Arteaste and Jonathon Shore Gallery**, Book Party, New York, NY
- 2006 **Elliot Bay Book Company**- Reading from *Warring Souls*, Seattle, WA
- 2006 **Cody's Books** - Reading from *Warring Souls*, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 **Intersection for the Arts**- reading from *Let Me Tell You Where I Have Been*, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 **Pacific Art Center** sponsored by the Levantine Center-Reading from *Warring Souls*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 **Beverly Hills Public Library**-Reading from *Let Me Tell You Where I Have Been*, sponsored by the Levantine Center, Beverly Hills, CA
- 2006 **PepperTree Bookstore**- Reading from *Warring Souls* Palm Springs, CA.
- 2006 **Book Soup**- Reading from *Warring Souls* Costa Mesa, CA
- 1999 **Asia Society**, Reading from *A World Between: Fiction, Poetry and Essays by Iranian-Americans* New York, NY
- 1999 **Barnes and Noble, Union Square**, Reading from *A World Between: Fiction, Poetry and Essays by Iranian-Americans* New York, NY

Media

- 2016 *Shock and fear, or hope for change? Three views on what a Trump presidency means for Muslim Americans, Middle Eastern Americans and in the Middle East* Op-Ed in **Detroit Free Press**
- 2015 Quoted in, *Iran nuclear deal offers flicker of hope to Persians in Southern California* **Los Angeles Times** By Saher Baloch and Sara Parvini
- 2014 Quoted in, *Filmmakers Clash as Rouhani's Agenda Leaves Iranians Divided - Bloomberg News*, by Ladane Nasser, Bloomberg News, quoted from interview with author.
- 2014 **Impolite Conversations**, meta-ethno-non/fictional representation of the conversations; a show by John Jackson Jr. and Cora Daniels
- 2013 Quoted in, *Self-storage Industry Keeps on Keeping* **OCRegister** - Feb 8, 2013
- 2011 Guest, **Earmeal**, "Whole World Blind," evocative interviews with LA's most accomplished contemporary and up and coming artists, LARTstream.
- 2010 Guest, **KCRW To the Point**, Warren Olney on Anniversary of Iranian Revolution
- 2009 Quoted in, **Epoca weekly magazine Interview** for article on Iran
- 2009 Quoted in, **NEW YORK TIMES**: News analysis by NEIL MacFARQUHAR
- 2009 Guest, **KALW 91.7**, Interview with Sandip Roy on "Your Call"
- 2009 Guest, **Storytelling in Tehran**, Featured Profile on UCI Website
- 2008 Guest, **KALW 91.7**, Interview with Sandip Roy on "Your Call"
- 2006 **France 2fr** Warring Souls Book reading in L.A by Roxanne Varzi aired on French Television show on Iran: "Doit-on diaboliser l'Iran?"
- 2006 Quoted in, **OC Register**, Interview as Iran Expert on Nuclear Issue.
- 2006 Guest, **MSNBC The Most with Allison Stewart**, appeared as expert on Iran Nuclear Issue
- 2006 Guest, **UpFront** Interview with Sandip Roy about youth in Iran, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 **Stopsmilingonline.com** two-part exclusive online Interview with Michael Helke, Chicago and London.

- 2006 **Washington State Television**, Author's Hour, Reading at Elliot Bay, Seattle.
- 2006 Guest, **KUOW**-Weekday Interview with Steve Scher, "Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Iran" Seattle, WA.
- 2006 Guest, **BBC Persian Service** –Interview with Sarah Nasarzadeh on Sexuality and youth in Iran, London, UK.
- 2006 Guest, **WUNC** "The Story" –"Modern Iran" Durham, NC.
- 2006 Guest, **Time Warner Cable TV10** "Conversations with Gloria Greer" Palm Springs, CA.
- 2006 Guest, **KIRN** "A night of Insights"- Interview, show on religion and spirituality in Iran, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2006 Guest, **KQED** "The Forum" with Michael Krasny- Interview with authors from *Let Me Tell You Where I Have Been*, San Francisco, CA.
- 2006 Guest, **WBEZ** "Worldview" - Interview about *Warring Souls* Chicago, IL
- 2006 Guest, **KPFK**- Radio Intifada- interview on Iran, Los Angeles, CA
- 2002 **FRONTLINE**, Television Show "Muslims," Translated Persian to English.
- 2002 **ACLU**, pamphlet, "Know your Rights," Translated English text to Persian.
- 1999 Guest, **WNYC**, "New York and Company", Iranian-American anthology of creative writings, New York, NY.
- 1999 Guest, **BBC**, Iranian War Cinema, London, UK.
- 1995 Guest, **Issues and Opinions**, Political Talk Show on domestic political trends in Iran, Washington D.C.

Reviews of *Warring Souls* in Peer-Reviewed Professional Journals

- 2009 R-13 Review of *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran* by Jennifer Riggan, *Arab Media and Society* Issue 8, Spring 2009
- 2009 R-12 Review of *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran* by Peter Chelkowski, in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* volume 29, Number 2, pp. 343-345

- 2007 R-11 Review of *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran* by Vron Ware in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, volume 33 p 242–246
- 2007 R-10 Review of *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran* by Karen Wells, *Visual Communication* 6(3) p 359-362
- 2007 R-9 Review of *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran* by Lori Allen, in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol, 39, p 683-685.
- 2007 R-8 Review of *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran* by Patricia J Higgins, in *American Anthropologist*, State University New York, Plattsburgh.
- 2007 R-7 Review of *Warring Souls: Youth, Media, and Martyrdom in Post-Revolution Iran* by Alireza Doostar, Harvard University, in *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 4001-4003
- 2007 R-6 Review of “warring Souls”, Courtney Desiree Morris, University of Texas, Austin, aaanet.org/cae/aeq/br/38_2_varzi.htm
- 2007 R-5 Review of “warring Souls”, Rose Carmen Goldberg *Journal of International Affairs*; Spring 2007; 60, 2; ABI/INFORM Global Pg. 221
- 2007 R-4 Review of “Warring Souls” in *H-Net Reviews* by Faegheh Shirazi, University of Texas at Austin, March hnet.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=147481177685811
- 2007 R-3 Listed as book of critical interest, *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 33, No. 2, winter 2007 Journals.uchicago.edu/CI/journal/issues/v33n2/330212/330212.html
- 2007 R-2 Review of “Warring Souls” by Ali Akbar Mahdi, Ohio Wesleyan University in *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 6, No. 1, Winter 2007, Page 158
- 2007 R-1 Review in *M/C Reviews-Cultural Studies*, by Emma Connelly, May 10, 2007 <http://reviews.media-culture.org.au/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=2031>

References to Book in Media

- 2010 *Let The Swords Encircle Me*, Scott Peterson, Simon and Schuster, NY.

- 2008 *From Oil Boom to Youth Boom*, Brookings Institute, Washington D.C,
http://www.shababinclusion.org/section/multimedia/diane_singerman
- 2007 Review of “Warring Souls” in *Azure (Ideas for the Jewish Nation)* by Marla Braverman Spring 5767/2007, No. 28
azure.org.il/magazine/magazine.asp?id=379
- 2006 Reference to “Warring Souls” in article *Critical Mass: U.S.-Iranian Relationship*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Vol. 53, Issue 13, Page B4, November 17, 2006, Chronicle.com
- 2006 Quoted in, “A Collision of Prose and Politics: A prominent professor's attack on a best-selling memoir sparks debate among Iranian scholars in the U.S.” Richard Byrne, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 13, 2006
- 2006 Footnoted in, “Manipulating Private Lives and Public Spaces in Qashqa'i Society in Iran,” Lois Beck and Julia Huang *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 26.2 (2006) 303-325
- 2004 Roxanne Varzi’s fieldwork is discussed as an example of the new innovative work of the next generation of Iran anthropologists in the editor’s introduction to the special issue of Iranian Studies (was asked to send an article, was unable to). In Erika Friedl; Mary Elaine Hegland, *Iranian Studies*, Volume 37, Number 4, December 2004, pp. 569-573(5), Routledge, part of the Taylor & Francis Group.
- 2006 Quoted in photo essay *Young in Every Aspect of Life* on Photographer Nader Davoodi’s website, September 4, 2006
http://www.naderdavoodi.net/archives/2006/09/young_in_every.html
- 2006 **Stopsmilgonline.com** two-part exclusive online Interview with Michael Helke, Chicago and London.

Editorial Board Member, *American Anthropologist* 2015-present

Board Member, **Society for Humanistic Anthropology**, 2017-2020

Social Sciences Executive Committee UCI 2015-present

Academic Committee on Undergraduate Coursework, UCI 2013-2017

Member, **Committee on Middle East Major**, UCI 2014

Faculty Member, **Global Middle East Studies**, 2014-present

Member, **Committee on Persian Studies Minor** UCI 2014

Member, **Steering Committee Religious Studies** UCI 2015-present

Selection Board, UCI, **Fulbright Hayes Committee** 2017

UCI Faculty **Disability Ally** 2017-present

Member, **MRG Working Group on Religion in Public Sphere**, UCHRI 2012-2015

Editorial Board Member, *The Journal of Media Sociology*, 2007-present

Cultural Consultant, **In the Garden**, Orange County Reparatory Theater, Costa Mesa, CA 2012

Executive Committee member, **American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting**, 2009

Languages

Persian, Fluent

MEMBERSHIPS (Current and Past)

American Anthropological Association
Middle East Studies Association
Society for Humanistic Anthropology
Society for Visual Anthropology
International Society for Iranian Studies
Cultural Studies Association
American Ethnological Society