

**Arzoo Osanloo**  
*Law, Societies and Justice Program*  
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### **Employment**

#### **University of Washington, College of Arts and Sciences, Seattle, WA**

Associate Professor, Law, Societies, and Justice Program 2009-present.

Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Law, Societies and Justice Program, 2002-2009

- Adjunct Appointments: Anthropology, Women's Studies, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, and Comparative Religion.
- Theoretical areas: anthropology of law, women's rights, gender studies, human rights, and Islam.
- Geographical areas: Muslim Middle East and North Africa, particularly Iran, also Pakistan, U.S.

### **Education**

#### **Stanford University, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Stanford, CA**

Doctor of Philosophy, Cultural and Social Anthropology, August 2002.

- Dissertation Title: *At the Juncture of Islam and Republic: Socio-legal Constructions of Women's Rights in Iran.*
- Masters in Cultural and Social Anthropology, May 1997.
- Teaching Assistant in Department of Anthropology, 1996-7 and fall 2000.
- Research specialties: human rights, transnational law, women's studies, globalization, Islam.

#### **American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.**

Juris Doctorate *cum laude*, 1993.

- Administrative Law Journal.
- **Institute of Transnational Law**, Université Libre de Bruxelles; Brussels, Belgium, Emphasis on European Community and International Law, summer 1991.
- **International Human Rights Clinic**, *see page 7.*

#### **University of Colorado, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Boulder, CO**

Bachelor of Arts *cum laude*, 1990.

- Double major in French and English.
- **Université de Bordeaux III**, Study Abroad, Talence, France, 1988-89.

### **Publications**

#### ***Book:***

- The Politics of Women's Rights in Iran. Princeton University Press 2009.

#### ***Articles in Progress:***

- Islamic legal reasoning transcript (invited for edited volume)

#### ***Peer-Reviewed Articles:***

- (*in press*) When Blood Has Been Spilled: Gendered Logics of Criminal Sanctioning in Islamic Law (in Iran). In, Gender and "Traditional" Islamic Practices. Rogaia Abu Sharif, ed. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- (*in press*) Refusing Mercy: The Hunger Strike Controversy as a Challenge to the State's Monopoly on Violence in Iran. In, Policing and Prisons in the Middle East. Laleh Khalili and Jillian Schwedler, eds. Columbia University Press 2009.

- Whence the Law: Politics of ‘Women’s Rights,’ Regime Change and the Vestiges of Reform in the Islamic Republic of Iran, *Radical History Review*, Issue 101: 42-58, Spring 2008.
- The Measure of Mercy: Islamic Justice, Sovereign Power, and Human Rights in Iran, *Cultural Anthropology*, 21(4): 570-602, November 2006.
- Islamico-civil ‘rights talk’: women, subjectivity, and law in Iranian family court, *American Ethnologist*, 33(2): 191-209, May 2006.
- Doing the ‘Rights’ Thing: Methods and Challenges of Fieldwork in Iran, *Iranian Studies* 37(4): 675-684, December 2004.

#### ***Book Reviews and Commentaries:***

- Invited Commentary: On Agamben’s Zone of Indistinction in post-Soviet Russia (Article by Alexei Yurchak). *Current Anthropology*, April 2008.
- Invited Book Review: What We Owe Iraq: *War and the Ethics of Nation-Building* (2004) by Noah Feldman in *Journal of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs*. LXI (3):766-768, Summer 2006.

#### **Fellowships and Awards**

- Royalty Research Fund Award, University of Washington, August 2009 – August 2010.
- Mortar Board Undergraduate Honor’s Society, Excellence in Teaching Award, 2008.
- Schwartz Endowment, Office of Global Affairs, University of Washington, Travel Award, Fall 2007.
- 4x4 Teaching Fellowship Award, University of Washington, 2006-07.
- Jackson School, International Studies, Course Development Grant, University of Washington, 2007.
- Center Fellowship, International Center for Advanced Study, New York University, 2005-06.
- Society of Scholars, Simpson Center for Humanities, University of Washington, 2005-06 (declined).
- Marc Lindenberg Center Mobility Grant, University of Washington, summer 2005.
- Curriculum Transformation Project Award, Dean’s Office, University of Washington, 2003-04.
- Geballe Dissertation Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, 2001-2002.
- Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University, Mellon Dissertation Grant, spring 2000-winter 2001.
- Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, O’bie Shultz Fellowship, fall 2000.
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Stanford University, Graduate Research Opportunity Grant for Doctoral Research in Tehran, Iran, 1999.
- Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University, Mellon Grant for Doctoral Research in Tehran, Iran, 1998-1999.
- Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, Mellon Bridge Grant, summer 1998.
- Law and Society Association, Graduate Student Conference Bursary, spring 1998.
- International Area Studies/Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley, spring 1998.
- Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, Pre-dissertation Grant, California, summer 1997.
- Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, Pre-dissertation Grant, Pakistan, summer 1996.
- Department of Anthropology, Stanford University/Mellon, Graduate Fellowship, 1995-98.
- American University, Washington College of Law, Dean's Fellowship in Gender and Law, Supervising Professor, Joan C. Williams, fall 1991.

#### **Invited Scholarly Presentations (selected)**

*In the Absence of Proof: Sworn Oaths in Iranian Criminal Sanctioning, Islamic Legal Reasoning*

Conference, University of Washington, School of Law, June 5, 2009.

*Republicanizing Islam: Gender, Power and Law in Iran*, Department of Anthropology Colloquium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February 9, 2009.

*Doing the 'Cultural Work': Women's Scriptural Reading Groups in Iran*, Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Annual Symposium, Wesleyan University, October 10, 2008.

*Women and Islamico-civil rights talk in Iran*, "Who's Afraid of Sharia?" Workshop, Center for the Critical Analysis of Social Difference, Columbia University, October 3, 2008.

*The Non-state Pardon: Islamic criminal sanctioning and the mandate of forgiveness in Iran*, University of Puget Sound, April 24, 2008.

*When Blood Has Been Spilled: Gendered Logics of Criminal Sanctioning in Iranian Islamic Law*. Gender and Politics of 'Traditional' Muslim Practices, Pembroke Center, Brown University, March 7, 2008.

*La Notion de "pardon" dans la justice Islamique (The notion of "pardon" in Islamic Justice)*. French Institute for Iranian Studies in Iran, Tehran, Iran, November 14, 2007 (in French and Persian).

*The Mischievous Gaze: "Women's Rights" as Exhibition at the Brink of War with Iran*. Department of Anthropology Colloquium, University of California, Berkeley, October 15, 2007.

*Whence the Law: Politics of 'Women's Rights,' Regime Change and the Vestiges of Reform in the Islamic Republic of Iran*, Symposium: The State of Middle East Studies, Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University, May 17, 2007.

*Forging a Rift: Discourse and Politics in Iranian Human Rights*. Middle East Studies, University of Arizona, November 2, 2006.

*Human Rights in Iran: The Politics and Prose of a Discursive Space*, International Center for Advanced Studies, New York University, April 21, 2006.

*Goli Goes to Court: Women's Rights and Politics in the Islamic Republic of Iran*, Class Lecture for Prof. Lila Abu-Lughod, Columbia University, April 17, 2006.

*There Are No Ladies Here: Women's Rights, Regime Change and the Vestiges of Reform in the Islamic Republic of Iran*, Middle East Studies, Yale University. April 12, 2006.

*The Measure of Mercy: Islamic Justice, Sovereign Power and Human Rights in Iran*, International Center for Advanced Studies, New York University, October 21, 2005.

*Women and Civil Society in Contemporary Iran*, Near East Center, Cornell University, April 7, 2005.

*Human rights, rule of law, civil society: old words, new times*, West Coast Law & Society Retreat, Oakland, CA, March 12, 2005.

*Righting Wrongs: Liberal Strategies for Pre-empting War in Iran and Beyond*, Project for Critical Asian Studies and Simpson Center for the Humanities UW, February 22, 2005.

*The Measure of Mercy: Human Rights in Iran*, Anthropology Fall Colloquium, University of Washington, December 8, 2003.

*Women's rights and new legal formations in Iran*, Law and Society, Green College, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, October 30, 2003.

*(Re) Visiting Islam's Republic: Personal Reflections on Women's Rights in Iran*, Keynote Address, 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Anthropology and Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA, April 13, 2002.

*Islamico-civil "rights-talk": Iranian Women and politico-legal mobilization in family court*, Department of Anthropology Winter Colloquium, University of Washington, March 10, 2003.

*At the Juncture of Islam and Republic: Socio-Legal Implications for Women's Rights in Iran*, University of Washington, Comparative Law and Society Studies Center, University of Washington, November 26, 2001.

*Revealing Liberal Islam: Conditions for Women's Rights in Iran*, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, November 15, 2001.

### **Conference Papers (selected)**

- Legal Mobilization and Women's Rights in Post-Election Iran*. West Coast Law and Society Retreat, Stanford University School of Law, Stanford, CA, October 16-17, 2009.
- Policing Humanity: Sovereignty, Law and Hunger Strikes in Iran*. Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Berlin, Germany, July 24-30, 2007.
- Refusing Mercy: Challenging the State's Monopoly on Violence in Iran*. Middle East Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 20, 2006.
- Refusing to Live in the Service of Life: Challenging the State's Monopoly on Legitimate Violence in Iran*, American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., December 3, 2005.
- The Pardon Power in the U.S. and Iran: Subjects and Sovereigns in Comparative Perspective*, Law and Society Association, Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, June 4, 2005.
- Women Lawyers in Iran: At the Vanguard of Reform*, International Sociological Association, Working Group on the Legal Profession, Ile de Berder, France, July 2, 2004.
- The Modern State, Sovereign Authority and Human Rights: What is the Measure of Mercy?* Society for Cultural Anthropology, Portland, OR, April 30, 2004.
- Iran's Islamico-civil courts, hybridized subjectivity and new understandings of Justice*, Human Rights from the Bottom-Up Conference, University of Washington, April 2, 2004.
- Rethinking the 'Clash': rights-talk in post-revolutionary Iran*, American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 23, 2003.
- Performing Rights, Transforming Identity, Women's Rights Practice in Tehran's Family Court*, American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November 30, 2001.
- Islamic Human Rights: Romancing and Resisting Human Rights in Iran*, MacArthur Consortium Gender in an International Context Workshop, University of Minnesota, November 3, 2001.
- Performing Identity: Shifting Discourses of Women's Rights in Iran*, American Ethnological Society Conference, Montréal, Canada, May 5, 2001.
- Practicing Mercy: The 'Eventing' of Islamic Human Rights in Iran*, American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 2000.
- Development of Human Rights through Corporate Accountability*, Graduate Student Workshop, Law and Society Association, Snowmass, Colorado, June 1998.
- Human Rights, Islam and Women in Pakistan: A Local Perspective*, American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 1996.

### **Invited Public Presentations (selected)**

- Iran, Women and Geopolitical Conflict*, Stroum Jewish Community Center, Mercer Island, Washington, October 28, 2009.
- Legacy of Iran's 2009 Presidential Election*, Moderator, University of Washington, Middle East Center, October 3, 2009.
- Iran, Women and Human Rights*, Voices Education Project: Workshop on Iran, Seattle, October 3, 2009.
- Critical Understandings of Women's Rights in Iran*, Revolution Books, Seattle, July 18, 2009.
- Radio Interviews: KUOW The Conversation June 16, 18, 2009.
- Career Paths in Human Rights: From Lawyer to Scholar (and Back)*, Faculty Spotlight Series, Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, Ethnic Cultural Center, University of Washington, May 21, 2009.
- Discussing 'The Politics of Women's Rights in Iran'*, Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, May 20, 2009 (radio program recorded for statewide broadcast).
- Contemporary Issues in Iranian Women's Rights*, Keynote Address, Northwest International Education Association, Bothell, Washington, May 15, 2009.
- Writing Women's Rights in Iran*, Elliot Bay Bookstore, Seattle, Washington, April 29, 2009.
- Radio Interview: ORF Austrian National Radio, April 4, 2009.

*Modern Iran: The Future of the Past*, Panel Discussant, University of Washington, April 2, 2009.

*The Politics of 'Women's Rights' in Iran*, South Puget Sound Community College, Olympia, Washington, January 22, 2009.

*The Politics of Women's Rights in Iran*, The Fieldston School, New York, New York, November 13, 2008.

*A Discussion on Contemporary Refugee Issues*, Community College Master Teachers Institute with Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, July 11, 2008.

*Geopolitics and Women's Rights in Iran*, Teachers as Scholars Seminar, Seattle Arts & Lectures with Simpson Center for the Humanities, February 9 & March 2, 2008.

*Young Global Leaders Summit on US-Iran Relations and Islam*, Moderator, Americans for Informed Democracy, Seattle University, February 12, 2008.

*Media Coverage and the US and Iranian Relations*, Iranian-American Community Alliance, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, January 31, 2008.

*Representing Others: Iran and its complicated relationship with the West*, Edmonds Community College, Global Futures Series, Seattle, WA, January 23, 2008.

*What do Women's Rights in Iran have to do with the War on Terror?* Americans for Informed Democracy, Seattle, WA, October 20, 2007.

*Teaching Race, Gender, Ethnicity in Transnational Perspective*, National Women's Studies Association Conference, Oakland, CA, June 18, 2006.

*The Conditions of Women's Rights in Iran: Politics, Discourse, and Practice*, Islam and Modernity: New Approaches in Middle Eastern Scholarship, NYU Community College Teachers Workshop, New York, April 8, 2006.

*The Discourse of "Women's Rights": Examining Women's Empowerment Movements in Iran*, Community College Masters Teachers Institute, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, July 8, 2005.

*The State and women's rights in Iran*, Edmonds Community College, Edmonds, WA, February 18, 2004.

*The Body and the Soul: Women in Muslim Societies and the Politics of Intervention*, Caught in Conflict: Women and Military Intervention, AAUW, Northwest Puget Sound Regional Meeting, Shoreline Community College, October 11, 2003.

*Women in the emerging civil society*, The Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States: Dilemmas and Prospects since the fall of Saddam, Middle East Center, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, June 11, 2003.

*Women's rights and status in postcolonial societies*, North Seattle Community College, May 22, 2003.

*Regional perspective: Iraq, Iran and Syria in the aftermath of war*, JSIS Open Classroom Series, Beyond Baghdad, May 13, 2003.

*At the Juncture of Islam and Republic: New Possibilities for Women's Status*, Open Classroom Series, Gender and Islam, Jackson School for International Studies, University of Washington, December 5, 2002.

*Iranian Women's Socio-Legal Discourses of Rights*, Women's Voices in Muslim Law and Society, Stanford Law School, March 7, 2002.

*Emerging Spaces of Empowerment: Locating Iranian Women's Rights-Talk*, In Visible Crisis: Health and Human Rights in Middle East Documentary Film Festival, Stanford University, February 10, 2002.

*Women's Rights in Iran: Some Considerations for Asylum Officers*, San Francisco Asylum Office, San Francisco, March 6, 2001.

*Women's Legal and Social Rights in U.S. and Iran: Commonalities and Differences*, Women's Qur'anic meeting, Tehran, Iran, November 1999 (in Persian).

### **Courses Designed and Taught**

*Engendering the Global War in Terror*, LSJ 490/ANTH 490/SIS 490 (enrollment 30)  
 Anthropology, Law, Societies and Justice, and School for International Studies, University of Washington

- Focus on the disparate impact of war and state security apparatuses on the lives of women and children. Students explore the distinct impact of the “global war on terror” (GWOT) on women and gender relations, with a specific emphasis on the impact of the GWOT on the lives of people living in the Middle East and North Africa region and of people of Middle Eastern descent living elsewhere.

*Women’s Rights and Politics in Muslim Societies, LSJ 421/ANTH 498 (enrollment 25)*  
 Anthropology & Law, Societies and Justice, University of Washington

- Focus on women's political and legal status in Muslim-majority societies, with emphasis on lived experiences. Unpack stereotypes of women in Muslim societies. Readings focus on local settings and examine particular conditions, including the political, economic, social and historical, through which women perceive their roles, rights, and identities. Students engage with feminist and post-colonial theories, and theories of the state. Students are introduced to debates about human rights and women’s rights in Islam and examine relationship between Islam and human rights.

*Human Rights Law in Culture and Practice, LSJ 321/ANTH 323 (enrollment 100-125)*  
 Anthropology & Law, Societies and Justice, University of Washington

- Approach key human rights issues with aim of gaining deeper understanding of the meaning and practices of topics in human rights. Examine historical and theoretical foundations of human rights, institutions that make up the international and regional human rights systems, analyze complexities, including legal, social, economic, historical, and political, surrounding specific questions in human rights. Students are introduced to relevant topical issues such as nation-state sovereignty, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, genocide, persecution and torture, "the disappeareds," refugees and asylum seekers, and venues for making legal claims. Consider, also, "culture" as an indicator of human rights variance.

*Seeking Refuge: Perspectives on Asylum-Seekers and Refugees, LSJ 425/ANTH 497 (enrollment 25)*  
 Anthropology & Law, Societies and Justice, University of Washington

- International laws pertaining to asylum-seekers and refugees have been integrated into U.S. domestic law through numerous Congressional acts. This course examines the creation, production and proliferation of law and legal categories relating to the status of refugees and asylum-seekers in the U.S and abroad. This course integrates anthropological perspectives on law's ability to create meaning in the examination of the deeper implications of asylum and refugee law in American society and beyond. Case studies shed light on disparately impacted groups, such as women and children.

*Critical Reflections on Production of Knowledge in Middle East Studies, ANTH 569 (enrollment 6)*  
 Anthropology, University of Washington

- This course casts a critical eye on the production of knowledge on and about the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Drawing from anthropological tools for critique, we will focus on discerning how colonial and western histories, writings, and policies have shaped our understandings of the MENA region. In doing so, we will be questioning the apparently static nature of various topics and categories that we take for granted, such as modernity, Islamic law and practice, religious revival, gender relations, and the role of women. In addition, we will shed light on new approaches to the study of the region, particularly with regard to nationalism, Muslim diasporic communities, and the politics of rights.

*Modernity and Anthropological Critiques, ANTH 567 (core graduate seminar; enrollment 12)*  
 Anthropology, University of Washington

- Explore key concepts in modernity, building on previous core courses, to make sense of how anthropologists employ social theories of modernity, both in their field research and data collection and in their ethnographic writings. Focus on the formation of the triad – state, property and self – defined and refined since the European Enlightenment, and through which

our contemporary worldviews are shaped, including the academy, the disciplines, anthropology, and how we study 'others' and ourselves. In addition, encounter critiques of modernity as a structured social order, a 'meta-narrative,' and a singular epistemology.

*Law, Liberalism and Modernity, ANTH 533 (graduate seminar; enrollment 15)*  
Anthropology, University of Washington

- Examines relationship between law, culture and power in contemporary societies. Students grapple with modern liberal law through post-structuralist interventions, including feminist and critical race theories, which consider human subjectivity, agency and identity. Explore how law in society plays a constitutive and productive role, not just a repressive or coercive one. Consider relationship between liberal law and the body, possessive individualism and discourses of rights.

*Culture and Rights: Exploring Meanings and Practices of Human Rights, ANTH 150 (enrollment 25)*  
Anthropology, University of Washington

- Students approach two complex issues within the human rights context: culture and rights. With the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of the meanings and practices of human rights, this course focuses on examining the complexity of culture and the rights-based concept of "human rights" in evaluating social, legal, political, and economic questions in the world. Students will be introduced to relevant topical issues such as nation-state sovereignty, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, torture, "the disappeared," refugees, and venues for enforcement.

*Arab and American Identities in Tension and Cooperation, CHID 471 Study Abroad Dialogue Course*  
Exploration Seminar in Cyprus, Program in Comparative History of Ideas, University of Washington

- Students gain better understanding of "American" and "Arab" identities while living in formerly divided Cypriot village. Discussions introduce students to a range of perspectives. Cyprus, historically a meeting place for political summits serves as the location for students for the University of Washington and The American University of Cairo to engage in dialogue, share ideas, and confront perceptions. Use variety of texts to critically examine how ideas of national, ethnic and other forms of identity inform and are informed by constructions of "the other," history, and memory in current conflicts. Discussions seek to consider new approaches for communication, empathy, healing and reconciliation.

### **Conference/Lecture Series Organizer**

*Iranian Futures: Reflections on 25 Years of Islamic Republic, Middle East Center, University of Washington, 2004-2005 (organizer of lecture series featuring internationally renowned scholars of Iranian studies).*

*Human Rights from the 'Bottom-Up' Lecture Series and Conference, LSJ/CLASS, University of Washington, 2003-4 (co-organizer, featuring internationally renowned human rights activists).*

### **National Peer Reviewer**

*Frequent reviewer for journals, including American Anthropologist, American Ethnologist, Current Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, and others;*

*National Science Foundation, reviewer, doctoral dissertation improvement grants (March 2008 - present).*

*Proposal Reviewer for American Councils for International Education.*

*Editorial Board, Journal of Legal Anthropology.*

### **Relevant Legal Experience**

**Van Der Hout & Brigagliano, Attorney**  
San Francisco, CA, 9/97 - 12/98, 4/00 - 9/01

- Immigration and Asylum and Refugee practice. Prepared and filed applications in support of asylum-seekers or persons in removal proceedings before U.S. Immigration Court. Processed asylum claims from all over the world, with specialized practice in Iranian, Afghan, and Fijian-South Asian women and men.

**Wasserman, Mancini & Chang, Attorney**  
Washington, D.C., 3/94 - 8/95

- Immigration and Asylum and Refugee practice. Represented clients in immigration matters. Prepared business, nonimmigrant and immigrant visa applications. Prepared employment certification applications and adjustment of status applications for both U.S. and consular processing. Represented asylum-seekers and others in deportation hearings in U.S. Immigration Court and Board of Immigration Appeals. Filed immigration related complaints in U.S. District Court and U.S. Court of Appeals. Extensive experience in multi-cultural client counseling.

**International Human Rights Law Clinic of American University, Student Attorney**  
Washington, D.C., 8/92 - 5/93

- Represented refugees in their claims for asylum. Extensive client counseling and negotiating with government agencies. Wrote client statements, pre-hearing and appellate briefs. Filed motions and litigated in U.S. Immigration Court. Human rights lobbying included writing and filing petitions before Congressional sub-committee on labor violations by various countries; writing and filing petition to Congress comparing U.S. law with Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; writing and filing petition with Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for D.C. statehood.

**United States Immigration Court, Law Clerk to Judge John F. Gossart, Jr.**  
Baltimore, MD, Summer 1992

- Researched deportation and exclusion cases, drafted opinions in alien-smuggling case and asylum cases. Revised court's local rules and drafted the court's pleading format.

**Languages:** *French, fluent in writing, reading and speaking; Persian, fluent in speaking, proficient in reading and writing.*

**Bar Membership:** *Admitted in Maryland.*

**Organization Membership:** *American Anthropological Association, Law and Society Association, Middle East Studies Association, and Association for Middle East Women's Studies.*