

Zainab Saleh

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Education

- 2011 Columbia University, Department of Anthropology, New York, NY
Doctor of Philosophy
Dissertation: *Diminishing Returns: An Anthropological Study of Iraqis in the United Kingdom.*
- 2006 Columbia University, Department of Anthropology, New York, NY
Master of Philosophy
- 2003 Columbia University, Department of Anthropology, New York, NY
Master of Arts
- 2001 American University of Beirut, Department of Anthropology/Sociology, Beirut, Lebanon
Bachelor of Arts, High Distinction
- 1995 Baghdad University, Department of English, Baghdad, Iraq
Bachelor of Arts

Field of Expertise: Cultural Anthropology, Memory, Diaspora, Gender, Middle East, Nostalgia, Nationalism and Citizenship, Oil, Violence, Sectarianism, Media Studies, Political Mobilization.

Professional Positions

- 2022- Associate Professor of Anthropology at Haverford College
- 2016-2022 Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Haverford College
- 2013-2016 Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Haverford College.
- 2011-13 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the John B. Hurford '60 Center for the Arts and Humanities, and Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Haverford College.
- 2011 (Spring) Sultan Program Postdoctoral Fellowship in Arab Studies, University of California at Berkeley.
- 2010 (Fall) Adjunct Professor, Department of Religion, the New School for Liberal Arts, Eugene Lang College.

Awards and Grants

- 2022 Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, Haverford College.
- 2022 Faculty Research Grant Award, Haverford College.
- 2021 Faculty Research Grant Award, Haverford College.
- 2020 Faculty Research Grant Award, Haverford College.

- 2019 Faculty Research Grant Award, Haverford College.
 2018 Faculty Research Grant Award, Haverford College.
 2017-18 Mellon Philadelphia Area Creative Collaboratives Grant, Haverford College.
 2014 Faculty Research Grant Award, Haverford College.
 2012 Faculty Research Grant Award, Haverford College.
 2008 Scheps Summer Grant, Columbia University.
 2006-07 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation, London, UK.
 2005 Firestone Summer Grant, Columbia University.
 2004 Scheps Summer Grant, Columbia University.
 2002-09 School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship, Columbia University.
 2001 Amal Saidi Honor Award, American University of Beirut.

Publications

Books

- 2021 *Return to Ruin: Iraqi Narratives of Exile and Nostalgia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
 Winner of **The Evelyn Shakir Non-Fiction Award at the Arab American Book Award**
- In Progress *Uprooted Memories: Citizenship, Denaturalization, and Mass Deportation in Iraq*.

Edited Volumes

- In Progress *Thinking with Iraq Today: The Dismembered Present*. Co-edited with Bridget Guarasci and Haytham Bahoora.

Peer Reviewed Journals

- 2023 “Uprooted Memories: Iraqi Jewish Narratives of Displacement and Longing in documentary films. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 43(1): 110-121.
- 2022 “Ethnographic Narratives as Living Archives among the Iraqi Diaspora.” *Journal of Contemporary Iraq and the Arab World* 16(2): 89-102.
- 2021 “Precarious Citizens: Iraqi Jews and the Politics of Belonging.” *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 44(1): 107-122.
- 2018 “Toppling” Saddam Hussein in London: Media, Meaning, and the Construction of an Iraqi Diasporic Community. *American Anthropologist* 120(3): 512-522.
- 2013 “On Iraqi Nationality: Law, Citizenship, and Exclusion.” *Arab Studies Journal* 21(1): 48-78.

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2015 The Islamic State in Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS), *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*.

Edited Journals

- 2015 Editor of a special issue on Iraq entitled “Disinterring Iraq: Writing Silenced Histories of Nation, Nature, and State.” *Arab Studies Journal* 23(1): 120-123.

Book Chapters

- 2022 “The Construction of Diasporic Sensibilities among Iraqis in London.” In Ramy Aly and Dalia Abdelhady, editors. *The Routledge Handbook of Middle Eastern Diaspora*. Routledge Press: 316-327.
- 2012 [Iraq and Its Tahrir Square](#). In Bassam Haddad, Rosie Bsheer, and Ziad Abu-Rish, editors, *The Dawn of the Arab Uprisings: End of an Old Order?* Plato Press: 270-273. Originally published on *Jadaliyya*, February 17, 2011.

Roundtables

- 2015 “Learning from the Diaspora: Towards an Anthropology of Iraqi Exile.” *Arab Studies Journal* 23(1): 252-255.

Book Reviews

- Forthcoming *Meaningless Citizenship: Iraqi Refugees and the Welfare State*, a book by Sally Wesley Bonet (2022), *Mashriq & Mahjar: Journal of Middle East and North African Migration Studies*.
- 2023 *Mediated Lives: Waiting and Hope among Iraqi Refugees in Jordan*, a book by Mirjam Twigt (2022), *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 46(1): 13-15.
- 2022 *The Sultan’s Communists: Moroccan Jews and the Politics of Belonging*, a book by Alma Rachel Heckman (2021). *Politics, Religion & Ideology* 23 (4): 524-526.
- 2022 “Gender Politics, Debility, and Violence,” a review essay of *Women of the Midan: the Untold Stories of Egypt’s Revolutionaries*. By Sherine Hafez. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2019; *Sacrificial Limbs: Masculinity, Disability, and Political Violence in Turkey*. By Salih Can Açıksöz. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2020; *Politics of Rightful Killing: Civil Society, Gender, and Sexuality in Weblogistan*. By Sima Shakhshari. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2020; and *The Right to Main: Debility, Capacity, Disability*. By Jasbir Puar. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2017. *Feminist Studies* 48 (2): 557-572.
- 2020 *Gender, Governance and Islam*, a book by Deniz Kandiyoti, Nadjie Al-Ali, & Kathryn Spellman Poots (2019). *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 52 (4): 797-799.
- 2020 *Familiar Futures: Time, Selfhood, and Sovereignty*, a book by Sara Pursley (2019). *Critical Inquiry* 47(1): 183-184.
- 2018 *Interpreters of Occupation: Gender and the Politics of Belonging in an Iraqi Refugee Network*, a book by Madeline Otis Campbell (2016). *Anthropological Quarterly* 91(1): 409-414.

- 2016 *Iraqi Women in Denmark: Ritual Performance and Belonging in Everyday Life*, a book by Marianne Holm Pedersen (2014). *American Anthropologist* 118 (3): 686-687.
- 2014 *Broken Pots Broken Dreams: Working in Jingdezhen's Porcelain Industry*, a documentary by Maris Gillette (2009). *Visual Anthropology Review* 30 (1): 75-77.

Academic Public Engagements

- Forthcoming "Iraqis Deserve Better Than Saddam Hussein and the U.S. Invasion," Passport: The Newsletter of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.
- 2020 *"The Human Cost of U.S. Interventions in Iraq: A History From the 1960s Through the Post 9/11 Wars*. Costs of War Project. Brown University.
- 2019 ["Seeing the Iraqi Diaspora through US Empire."](#) Middle East Section. *Anthropology News*.

Committee and Academic Service

- 2023 Article Reviewer, *Public Culture*.
- 2023 Manuscript Reviewer, New York University Press.
- 2023 Manuscript Reviewer, Duke University Press.
- 2023 Tenure promotion Reviewer, a liberal art college in New York.
- 2022 Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities.
- 2022 Article Reviewer, *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (two articles).
- 2022 Article Reviewer, *Humanity Journal*.
- 2022-23 Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Haverford College.
- 2022- Book Review Editors for Anthropology/Sociology/Gender Studies, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*.
- 2022- Member of the Editorial Board at *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*.
- 2020- Member, Committee for Academic Freedom, Middle East Studies Association.
- 2021 Article Reviewer, *American Anthropologist*.
- 2021 Article Reviewer, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*.
- 2021-2022 Member of the Nominating Committee, Middle East Studies Association.

- 2020 Article Reviewer, *American Anthropologist*.
- 2020 Article Reviewer, *Feminist Media Studies*.
- 2020-2022 Member of the Planning Committee, The Andrea Mitchell for the Study of Democracy, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2020-2022 Coordinator of the Middle East and Islamic Studies concentration at Haverford College.
- 2019 Article Reviewer, *American Anthropologist*.
- 2018 Article Reviewer, *Arab Studies Journal*.
- 2018 Article Reviewer, *Contemporary Islam*.
- 2018-2019 Departmental committee member, Visual Anthropology search.
- 2017-2019 Coordinator of the Middle East and Islamic Studies concentration at Haverford College.
- 2017-2018 Non-departmental committee member, Religion search (Islam).
- 2017 Article Reviewer, *American Anthropologist*.
- 2016-2017 Committee member, Transnational and Comparative Studies.
- 2014-2015 Coordinator of the Middle East and Islamic Studies concentration at Haverford College.
- 2015 Reviewer of the dissertation prize on modern/medieval Iraq, The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq.
- 2012-2018 Co-editor and translator, Arabian Peninsula Page, [Jadaliyya](#).
- 2011 Article Reviewer, *Sociological Forum*.
- 2010 Article Reviewer, *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*.

Public Lectures and Conferences

Invited Lectures and Talks

Return to Ruin: Iraqi Narratives of Exile and Nostalgia. Book talk. Middle East Center. University of Pennsylvania, September 2021.

Return to Ruin: Iraqi Narratives of Exile and Nostalgia. Book talk. Camden County College, September 2021.

“Enduring in the Shadow of Empire: Authenticity and Resilience among the Iraqi Diaspora.” Department of Anthropology. University of Virginia, April 2021.

“Enduring in the Shadow of Empire: Authenticity and Resilience among the Iraqi Diaspora.” Department of Anthropology. George Washington University, February 2021.

Return to Ruin: Iraqi Narratives of Exile and Nostalgia. Book talk. Center for Middle Eastern Studies. The University of Chicago, October 2020.

“Toppling” Saddam Hussein in London: Media, Meaning, and the Construction of an Iraqi Diasporic Community. Special Collections Series. Bryn Mawr College, October 2018.

“Toppling” Saddam Hussein in London: Media, Meaning, and the Construction of an Iraqi Diasporic Community. Middle East Center. University of Pennsylvania. April 2018.

“Superfluous Nostalgics: Longing for an Idealized Past among Iraqis in London.” Department of Anthropology, Appalachian State University. April 2017.

“The Double Execution of Saddam Hussein: Mediation and the Construction of Iraqi Exilic Imaginaries.” Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Lafayette College, February 2017.

“The Double Execution of Saddam Hussein: Mediation and the Construction of Iraqi Exilic Imaginaries.” Elliot School of International Affairs, the George Washington University, October 2016.

“The Double Execution of Saddam Hussein: Diaspora, Media, and Images.” The Middle East Program, George Mason University, November 2014.

“Social Movements in Iraq.” The Department of History, Yale University, October 2014.

“Iraq Ten Years On: From US Occupation to Systemized Sectarianism.” The Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society, Leiden University, May 2013.

“After the Fall: Distorted Perceptions of Post-Saddam Iraq.” The Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, May 2013.

“Modern Iraqi Art.” Haverford College, March, 2012.

“On Authenticity and Exclusion: The First Iraqi Nationality Law of 1924.” Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California at Berkeley, March, 2011.

“Political Identity and State-Formation in Iraq as Read through British Colonial Archives.”
Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, Emory University, March, 2008.

Conferences

- Keynote speaker “Iraq Unruled: 20 Years After the US Invasion,” University of Toronto, Toronto, April, 2023.
- Panelist “Iraq Unruled: 20 Years After the US Invasion,” University of Toronto, Toronto, April, 2023.
- Panelist “Archive Iraq: Repairing Collective Memory of the Anglo-American Invasion and Occupation,” a hybrid conference on the anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq, including The University of Mosul, Duke University, and New York University, March 2023.
- Panelist “Shock and Awe Revisited,” the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, March 2023.
- Panelist “The Iraq War: A 20 Year Retrospective,” Columbus State University and the National Infantry Museum Foundation, Columbus, GA, March 2023.
- Panelist Beau Beausoleil’s [Shadow and Light](#) Exhibit, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, January 2023.
- Panelist “The War We Lived: Remembering the Iran-Iraq War after 40 Years.” New York University, New York, December 2020.
- Panelist “The Politics of Preservation.” Museum of Modern Art, PS1. New York, January 2020.
- Presenter “Enduring in the Shadow of Empire: Authenticity and Resilience among the Iraqi Diaspora. American Studies Association. Hawaii, November 2019.
- Presenter “Authenticity and Economic Precarity among the Iraqi Diaspora. Middle East Studies Association. New Orleans, November 2019.
- Presenter “On the Edge of Empire: The United States and the Sanctions on Iraq.” American Anthropological Association. Vancouver, November 2019.
- Organizer “U.S. Empire: Past is Present.” American Anthropological Association. Vancouver, November 2019. Co-organized with Anna West.
- Workshop leader “Beyond Turmoil & Conflict: Iraq since 2003.” New York University, March 2019.
- Presenter “Authenticity, Endurance, and the Iraqi Diaspora.” American Anthropological Association. San Jose, November 2018.
- Presenter “Toppling” Saddam Hussein in London: Media, Meaning, and the Construction of an Iraqi Diasporic Community. American Ethnological Association. Philadelphia, March 2018.
- Moderator Reading Ahmed Saadawi’s *Frankenstein in Baghdad*. American Ethnological Association. Philadelphia, March 2018.
- Presenter “Writing Home and Imperial Politics.” American Anthropological Association. Washington, D.C. December 2018.
- Presenter “Nostalgia for the Non-Sectarian.” Arab Traditions of Anti-Sectarianism. Rice University and Houston University. Texas, December 2018.

- Panel Organizer “Iraq's Many Pasts, Iraq's Many Presents: Memory, Archive, and Representation.” Middle East Studies Association. Washington, D.C. November 2017.
- Presenter “Nostalgia for the Revolution.” Middle East Studies Association. Washington, D.C. November 2017.
- Discussant “Dignity from the Margins.” Discussion of Edwin Uto’s Decolonizing Dignity and the role of “Ambivalent Europeans,” and Angie Heo’s “Human Dignity, Supreme Dignity.” Villanova University, October 2017.
- Presenter “Superfluous Nostalgics: Longing for an Idealized Past among Iraqis in London.” American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 2016.
- Discussant New Directions in Arabian Peninsula Studies.’ Discussion of Attiya Ahmed’s “The Spoils of War: Halal Tourism Aspirations and Material Counterpoints.” Yale University, April 2016.
- Presenter “When Return Is No Longer Possible.” American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, November 2015.
- Presenter “The Sexualization of Saddam Hussein: Empire and Sodomy.” American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., December 2014.
- Presenter “Conceptualizing Sectarianism in Iraq.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) meeting, Washington, D.C., November 2014.
- Presenter “Documenting the Experiences of Refugees and the Displaced,” Elliot School of International Affairs, the George Washington University, April 2014.
- Presenter “A Dying Dialect, A Vanishing Community: Iraqi Jews in the London Diaspora.” Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago, March 2014.
- Presenter “Saddam Hussein’s Two Bodies and the US Empire.” American Anthropological Association meeting. Chicago. November 2013.
- Presenter “Researching Iraq Today: Archives, Oral Histories, and Ethnographies.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) meeting, New Orleans, October 2013.
- Discussant ‘Forbidden No More ... The New China in Ethnographic Film.’ Discussion of Maris Gillette’s “Documentary Filmmaking in China’s Porcelain World,” Haverford College, February, 2012.
- Presenter “The Double Execution of Saddam Hussein.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) meeting, Denver, November 2012.
- Presenter “The Politics of Archiving in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Palestine.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) meeting, Washington D.C., December 2011.
- Presenter “Thoughts on the Fall and Execution of Saddam Hussein.” American Anthropological Association meeting, New Orleans, November 2010.
- Presenter “Self-Understanding among Young Iraqis in London.” American Anthropological Association meeting, Philadelphia, December 2009.
- Presenter “Emerging Iraqi Identity: State Formation and Exile (The case of Shia Iraqis in the UK),” American Anthropological Association meeting, San Francisco, November 2008.

Symposium organizing

Organizer, “Shades of Occupation: Iraq After 10 Years,” John B. Hurford ’60 Center for the Arts and Humanities, Haverford College, March, 2013.

Courses Taught

“The Body and Embodiment in the Middle East.”
“Oil, Culture, Power.”
“Ethnography of Islam.”
“History and Theory of Anthropology.”
“Citizenship, Migration, and Belonging.”
“Introduction to Anthropology.”
“Anthropology of the Middle East and North Africa.”
“Memory, History, Anthropology.”
“National Imaginaries in the Middle East.”
“Anthropology of Displacement.”
“Defacement and Commemoration: Monuments and The Nation.”
“Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East.”
“Women’s Narratives in the Arab Middle East.”
“Senior Seminar.”

Professional Career

2012-2018 Co-editor and translator, Arabian Peninsula Page, [Jadaliyya](#).
2009-2010 Organizer of the year-long seminar, “Liberalism and Its Others,” Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Columbia University.
2009 Translator, “Towards a Vision of Sexual and Economic Justice,” Barnard Center for Research on Women, Columbia University.
2009 Guest expert for Jeremy Deller’s “It Is What It Is: Conversations About Iraq.” The New Museum, New York.
1998-1999 Editor, Center for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut, Lebanon.

Journalistic Articles

2014 [Quick Thoughts: Zainab Saleh on Iraq](#). *Jadaliyya*, June 21.
2012 [Beating the Drums of Orientalism](#). *Sightings*, May 17.
2011 [Iraq’s Other War: The 23rd Anniversary of the End of the Iran-Iraq War](#). *Jadaliyya*, August 8.
2011 [Thwar tahit al-ihtilal: al-Intifada al-Iraqiyya of 2011](#). *Jadaliyya*, April 30.
2011 [Al-Iraq wa Sahat Tahrireh](#). *Jadaliyya*, February 12.
2010 [Laylun Wahidun fi Kull al-Mudun: Mawt Graphiki](#) (review essay of Sinan Antoon’s poetry book, *Laylun Wahidun fi Kull al-Mudun*). *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*, December 21.

Memberships

American Anthropological Association
Middle East Studies Association
The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq
American Studies Association

Languages

Arabic: native speaker

Persian: reading knowledge

French: reading knowledge