

KEANU M. HEYDARI

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT

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Princeton, NJ

LANGUAGES

English (native)
Persian (advanced; ACTFL certified)
French (advanced)
German (advanced)
Spanish (basic)
Arabic (basic)

RESEARCH AREAS

Modern European history
Modern Iran and the Iranian diaspora
Migration and student activism
Surveillance and print culture
20th century Reformed theology
History of Christianity

EDUCATION

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

2026–present

M.Div., Francis Grimke Scholar; expected May 2029.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies

2018–2026

Ph.D. in History, December 2026 (dissertation defended July 28, 2026).

Dissertation: “General Intelligence: Iranian Student Activism and the Documentary Politics of Sojourn in France, 1945–1979.”

Committee: Profs. Joshua Cole (chair), Rita Chin, Adi Saleem, and Afshin Matin-Asgari.

M.A. in History, June 2022.

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Language Institute (MEDLI)

Summer 2022

Intermediate Persian.

University of California, Los Angeles

2013–2017

B.A. in History, *cum laude* with College Honors; minor in French.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Heydari, Keanu. “L’exil politique, les carrières migratoires et l’Union des étudiants iraniens en France : Une étude de cas” (“Political Exile, Migratory Careers, and the Union of Iranian Students in France: A Case Study”). In *L’exil iranien, la diversité d’un phénomène (Iranian Exile: The Diversity of a Phenomenon)*, edited by Nader Vahabi. Errances. Orizons, 2023.

Book Reviews

Heydari, Keanu. Review of *Apocalypses in Context: Apocalyptic Currents Through History*, 2nd ed., edited by Kelly J. Murphy and Justin Jeffcoat Schedtler. [H-Environment](#), H-Net Reviews, August 2026.

Heydari, Keanu. Review of *Repeating Revolutions: The French Revolution and the Algerian War*, by Timothy Scott Johnson. [Logos: A Journal of Modern Society and Culture](#) 25, no. 1 (2026).

Translations

Heydari, Keanu, trans. “[Syria After Assad](#).” By Azzam Amin. *New International*, January 19, 2026.

Heydari, Keanu, trans. “[Washington is no Ally](#).” By Arnaud Le Gall. *New International*, December 19, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu, trans. [“The Global March to Gaza.”](#) By Meriem Hadjal. *New International*, July 6, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu, trans. [“Öcalan’s Last Call.”](#) By Alice Celik. *New International*, May 23, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu, trans. [“Turkey’s Political Crisis & Democratic Movement.”](#) By Emre Öngün. *New International*, April 17, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu, trans. [“The Defeat of Biopolitics.”](#) By Pierre-Yves Cadalen. *New International*, April 7, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu, trans. “Underground Jansenist Journalism: The *Nouvelles ecclésiastiques*.” In *Jansenism: An International Anthology*, edited by Shaun Blanchard and Richard T. Yoder. Catholic University of America Press, 2024.

Public-Facing Work

Heydari, Keanu. [“Casualty and Legitimacy: A Post-1979 Perspective on Iran’s 2026 Mass Violence.”](#) *Clio and the Contemporary* (blog), March 6, 2026.

Heydari, Keanu. [“What We Lose When Confessions Are Treated as Optional.”](#) *The Presbyterian Outlook*, February 12, 2026.

Heydari, Keanu. [“What’s Really In Our ‘#1’ Plastics?”](#) *Ecology Center* (blog), December 16, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu. [“When AI Comes to Town: The Ypsilanti Data Center and Environmental Responsibility.”](#) *Ecology Center* (blog), December 2, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu. [“The Ecology Center is Leading on Lead: From Crisis to Leadership.”](#) *Ecology Center* (blog), October 30, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu. [“Reading, Remembering, and Reorienting for Comprehensive Exams.”](#) *Clio and the Contemporary* (blog), October 22, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu. [“Iran, Israel, & the Logic of Escalation.”](#) *New International*, June 19, 2025.

Heydari, Keanu. [“Threads of Belonging, Echoes of Exile.”](#) *New International*, November 18, 2024.

Heydari, Keanu. [“Feature Archive: Iranian Student Activism and Social Movements in Paris.”](#) *French History Network Blog* (blog), May 2, 2022.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Francis Grimke Scholarship, Princeton Theological Seminary	2026
Rackham Doctoral Intern Fellowship, University of Michigan	2025
Rackham Research, Study and Travel Grant, University of Michigan	2025
William Shorrock Travel Award, French Colonial Historical Society	2024
Classical Translations Contest (Middle East Studies), University of Michigan	2023
Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan	2023
Rackham Language Training Grant, University of Michigan	2020
History Department Service Award, UCLA	2017

INVITED LECTURES

["Earth Day 2026: AI, Data Centers, and the Hidden Environmental Costs."](#) Michigan Friends Center, Chelsea, MI. April 25, 2026.

"The French Revolution: Human Rights and the Contradictions of Universalism." Origins of the Modern World (Prof. Elena M. Rosario), Fairfield University [Zoom]. November 10, 2025.

"The European Union and Its Current Geopolitical Challenges." History of European Integration (Prof. Dario Gaggio), University of Michigan. December 4, 2023.

"Religion, Collaboration, Resistance: Interpreting Religious Reactions to Nazism in Europe." Europe in the Era of Total War (Prof. Kate Wroblewski), University of Michigan. December 6, 2022.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND WORKSHOPS

Papers Read at Academic Conferences and Symposia

"Making Barth Useful? American Reception and the Critique of Religion," American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Denver, CO. November 23, 2026. [Forthcoming].

"Testimony Against the Grain: Surveillance, Knowledge Production, and Iranian Student Politics in Postwar France," University College Dublin, Migration Beyond Emergency: Tracing Testimony and Diaspora Symposium. May 28, 2026. [Zoom].

"Licensing Dissent: Iranian Student Activism, Police Surveillance, and the Grammar of 'Liberty' in Postwar Paris, 1946–1979," Society for French Historical Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA. March 7, 2026.

"Celibate Gay Christians, Tradwives, and Christian Nationalists: The Discursive Regime of Mandatory Heterosexuality in Contemporary American Evangelicalism," American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Diego, CA. November 23, 2024.

"Constructing Diaspora Politics: The Case of Long-Distance Nationalism in Iranian Student Activism in France in the 1960s and 70s," Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada. November 2, 2024.

"A Secret Desire for Liberation: Iranian Student Radicals' Imagination of France, National Liberation, and Artistic Development in the 1950s," French Colonial Historical Society, Charlottesville, VA. May 23, 2024.

"Exit, Loyalty, Suffering: Iranian Student Political Activism and Masculinity in Postwar France," Society for French Historical Studies Annual Conference, Hempstead, NY. March 15, 2024.

"Kharej az keshvar: The Psychic Afterlives of Diasporic Iranian Nostalgic Imaginaries in France," Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. November 18, 2023.

"Political Exile, Migratory Careers, and the Union of Iranian Students in France (U.E.I.F.) in the 1960s and 1970s," Society for French Historical Studies and Western Society for French History Joint Annual Conference, Detroit, MI. March 18, 2023.

"Celibate Gay Christians: Vies singulières devenues d'étranges poèmes," American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Denver, CO. November 19, 2022.

“Persian Shah, Parisian Shah: Cultural Anxiety, Orientalism, and Militarization in Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar’s 1873 Visit to France,” Durham University Institute for Advanced Study, Modern Travel, Modern Landscapes: Connections and Exchanges in Europe, c. 1850–1950 Conference. July 6, 2022. [Zoom].

Workshops

“How Difference Becomes Political: Iranian Students in Postwar Paris and the Politics of Belonging,” University of Michigan History Inclusion Council event: Divergent Diversity: In Dialogue. March 13, 2026.

“Reimagining Exile: Decolonial Perspectives on Iranian Student Movements in France, 1945–1979,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Workshop: Towards a Decolonial Methodology. April 4, 2025.

“Iranian Students in France in the Postwar Years,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Workshop: The Consequences of Colonialism, Capitalism, and Empire: Looking Out from the Archive. November 17, 2023.

“Nostalgia, Diaspora, & Iranian Neo-Monarchists,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Workshop: Violence, Witnessing, and Recovering the Archives. October 15, 2021.

“Persian Shah, Parisian Shah: Cultural Anxiety, Orientalism, and Militarization in Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar’s 1873 Visit to France,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Workshop: Exploring Topographies: Real and Imaginary. April 2, 2021.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Archival Researcher and Translator

2023–2026

International Institute of Social History (IISH), Amsterdam. Digitized and inventoried the Confederation of Iranian Students (National Union) oral-history audio collection (COLL00061) on site at the invitation of Prof. Afshin Matin-Asgari, then transcribed and translated the Persian-language interviews. Translated and annotated some fifty Persian-language documents from the CISNU papers (ARCH02886, ARCH02952) as bilingual editions with scholarly apparatus.

Graduate Student Researcher

Winter 2023

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Curated bibliographic data under Prof. Yi-Li Wu’s supervision for the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Medicine* series (vol. 5, *Global Eighteenth-Century Medicine*).

Graduate Student Researcher

Spring/Summer 2020

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Established a bibliography of contemporary writing on affect, speed, mobility, and slowness under Prof. Helmut Puff’s supervision for his 2023 publication, *The Antechamber: Toward a History of Waiting* (Stanford University Press).

Graduate Student Researcher

Winter 2019

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Researched and contextualized primary sources under Profs. Jeffrey Veidlinger and Rita Chin’s supervision for a collaborative public-history project with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the digital collection [“Everyday Encounters with Fascism.”](#)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

All courses taught at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Instructor of Record

History 195, “The Writing of History: Student Activism & Resistance” Fall 2024, Winter 2026

Graduate Student Instructor

History 322, “The Origins of Nazism” (Prof. Scott Spector) Winter 2024

History 312, “History of European Integration” (Prof. Dario Gaggio) Fall 2023

History 443 / Islam 443 / Mideast 487, “Modern Middle East History” (Prof. Juan Cole) Winter 2023

History 314, “France and the World in the 20th Century” (Prof. Joshua Cole) Winter 2021

History 318, “Europe in the Era of Total War” (Profs. Joshua Cole, Kate Wroblewski) Fall 2020, Fall 2022

History 313 / French 344, “The Revolutionary Century” (Prof. Joshua Cole) Winter 2020

History 386 / Judaic 386 / Germanic 391, “The Holocaust” (Prof. Jeffrey Veidlinger) Fall 2019

Grader

History 240, “The World Since 1492” (Prof. Douglas Northrop) Summer 2025, Summer 2026

History 340 / Mideast 340 / MENAS 340 / REES 340, “From Genghis Khan to the Taliban: Modern Central Asia” (Prof. Douglas Northrop) Summer 2025, Summer 2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE

Council Member, Student Government Association, Princeton Theological Seminary 2026–2027

Graduate Partner, Sidney Fine Teaching Partnership (with Prof. Douglas Northrop), Department of History, University of Michigan Spring/Summer 2026

- Co-designed a new 300-level global history course, “Empire as a Modern System: Eurasia and the World in Comparative and Connective Perspective, 1750–Present,” drafting the syllabus, curating a primary-source packet, and designing a sequence of evidence-centered “sources labs.”
- Developed AI-aware assessment models emphasizing staged drafting, in-class writing, and source-grounded portfolios.
- Delivered a Canvas-ready course materials package, including assignment prompts and grading rubrics, for future offerings.

Personal Assistant to Prof. Robin Mitchell, Department of History, University at Buffalo 2025–present

- Provide administrative and editorial support: CV and website maintenance, correspondence, manuscript editing, and syllabus accessibility remediation.

Environmental Storytelling Intern , The Ecology Center, Ann Arbor (Rackham Doctoral Intern Fellowship Program)	Winter 2025
• Wrote public-facing content such as feature stories, toolkits, and press materials supporting the organization’s advocacy and education work. • Translated technical research into accessible language. • Contributed to digital communications planning and campaign strategy.	
Graduate Student Instructional Consultant , Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), University of Michigan	2022–2026
• Conducted 50+ teaching observations and prepared pedagogical reports. • Provided guidance on syllabus design and teaching statements. • Integrated equity-informed approaches into instructional development. • Interpreted qualitative and quantitative data to strengthen teaching practices.	
<i>Graduate-instructor workshops designed and facilitated for CRLT:</i>	
Designing for Access: Integrating Accessibility into Everyday GSI Teaching. Sole designer and facilitator of a two-hour synchronous session (May 12, 2026) introducing Universal Design for Learning as a framework for graduate teaching practice. Participants applied UDL principles to redesign a discussion section and then an assignment prompt, and each left with one concrete change to make in their teaching the following week.	
Planting the SEED: Structuring Equity, Engagement, and Discourse. Co-designer and co-facilitator of a session on discussion-based teaching (May 15, 2025), leading segments on structuring discussions for fuller participation and on building identity-aware classroom norms. Emphasized concrete facilitation moves and course-design choices that ease common participation bottlenecks.	
Critical Dialogue in Community: Navigating Moments of Friction, Tension, and Conflict as GSIs. Co-developer and co-facilitator of an interactive session (May 16, 2024) on managing conflict within instructional teams and classroom discussions. Participants worked through realistic scenarios and developed language tools and facilitation strategies for de-escalation and repair.	
Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Seminar , Rackham Graduate School and CRLT, University of Michigan	May–June 2026
Community Engaged Course Design Workshop (CECDW) , Rackham Program in Public Scholarship and the Edward Ginsberg Center	Winter 2026

ECCLESIAL SERVICE

Inquirer for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament , Presbytery of Detroit, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	2025–present
Ordained Deacon , First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor (three-year term)	2024–2026

- Taught adult education and confirmation; served on the Worship Committee.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association · Society for French Historical Studies · Society for the Study of French History · Western Society for French History · Association for Iranian Studies · Middle East Studies Association · French Colonial Historical Society · American Academy of Religion

EDITORIAL AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The New International. Editor and Translator, 2024–present.

Life Under the Word. Founder and author, theology blog, 2025–present.

PODCAST APPEARANCES

Forms Podcast	October 2021
Tears of Eden	April 2022
Mammonburg Podcast	May 2022
Fruitless Podcast	May 2022
Forms Podcast	July 2022
Mammonburg Podcast	October 2022
Fruitless Podcast	November 2023
Fruitless Podcast	January 2024
Fruitless Podcast	June 2025
Varn Vlog	October 2025