Curriculum Vitae

Setareh Shafizadeh
Anthropology (Anthropological Archaeology)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Lithic technology and technological organization; hunter-gatherer subsistence, mobility, and occupation intensity; Middle and Later Stone Age transitions in southern Africa; site and assemblage formation in cave contexts; integration of cave and high-mountain landscape archaeology; paleoenvironmental reconstruction and human adaptation during the Middle and Late Pleistocene; archaeology of the Near East.

EDUCATION

PhD Student, Anthropology (Archaeology), 2026- Present
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Doctoral Studies, Anthropology (Archaeology), 2022–2026
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Research Committee: Prof. Ben Marwick, Prof. Ben Fitzhugh, Prof. Jade d'Alpoim Guedes

MA, Prehistoric Archaeology, 2011–2014
Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran
Thesis: *Levallois Technology in Iran; Case Study: Mirak, Cheshmeh Agha, Farsan*

BA, Archaeology, 2006–2010
University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

PUBLICATIONS

Marwick, B., Poole, A. M., Zhang, A., **Shafizadeh, S.**, and Beck, J. (2026). *Hire Ed: Job Market Dynamics for Tenure-Track Faculty Positions in Archaeology*. American Antiquity.

Shafizadeh, S., Khaki, M., & Marwick, B. (2025). *Between Nomads and Settlers: A Quantitative Analysis of Lithic Assemblages from Tula'i (Tuleii), Zagros, Iran*. *Lithic Technology*, 1–17. https://doi.org/10.1080/01977261.2025.2577033.

Shafizadeh, S., & Marwick, B. (2023). *Book Review: The Upper Paleolithic of Zagros. Lithic Technology*, 0(0), 1–3. https://doi.org/10.1080/01977261.2023.2185741.

Khaki, M., & **Shafizadeh**, S. (2013). T*ula'i Lithic Assemblage: A Preliminary Report*. International Congress of Young Archaeologists, Tehran, Iran. (In Farsi).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Shafizadeh, S., Michaud, E., Amelang, D., Jiang, J., Snelling, C., Faith, T., Chase, B., Pargeter, J., & Marwick, B. (2026). Adaptive Behavior during the MIS 3–2 Ecological Transition: Fire Technology and Occupation Intensity at Boomplaas Cave, South Africa. Presented at NWEEHB Conference, 2026.

Shafizadeh, S., Michael, E., Snelling, C., Faith, T., Chazan, M., Pargeter, J., & Marwick, B. (2024). Magnetic Susceptibility Analysis at Boomplaas Cave Indicates the Shifting Nature of Site Use Over Time and Patterning in Site Occupation Intensity. Presented at SASQUA Conference, South Africa, May 2024.

Poole, A. M., Zhang, A., **Shafizadeh, S.**, Beck, J., & Marwick, B. (2024). Careers in Ruins: Academic Archaeology Job Trends from 2013–2023. Poster presented at the SAA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, April 2024. DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/J58KH.

Shafizadeh, S., & Marwick, B. (2021). Levallois Technology in Iran: Analysis of Assemblages from Cheshmeh-Agha, Farsan, and Mirak. Poster presented at the 13th International Symposium on Knappable Materials (Rock & Roll), Tarragona, Spain, October 2021.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, Geoarchaeology Lab, 2022–2023
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

- Analyzed sediment samples from Angkorian-period sites (Cambodia) using geoarchaeological techniques.
- Managed and mentored undergraduate students on sediment processing and analytical workflows.
- Operated laboratory instruments and prepared samples.
- Collaborated with faculty on research design and data interpretation for Boomplaas Cave and Angkorian projects.

Graduate Research Assistant, 2024
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

- Conducted micromorphological analysis of thin sections from Malaverd Cave, Iran.
- Prepared a written report summarizing sedimentary structures and site formation processes.

Research Assistant, National Museum of Iran, 2017–2019
Tehran, Iran

- Documented and cataloged lithic assemblages from sites including Abdolhosein and Tula'i.
- Performed lithic photography, illustration, and classification.
- Prepared archival reports for the museum.

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Boomplaas Project. Collaboration involving UW, NYU, and Western Washington University. Conducting magnetic susceptibility and environmental magnetism analyses, with portions of the laboratory work completed at UW and additional analyses at the Western Washington University Paleomagnetism Lab. Integrating stratigraphic, paleoenvironmental, and other geoarchaeological datasets to reconstruct MSA–LSA occupation patterns at Boomplaas Cave.

SASQUA Research Network. International collaboration with South African archaeologists working on Boomplaas Cave materials. Contributed to research design, quantitative analysis, and interpretation in coordination with Ben Marwick (UW). Mentored two undergraduate students on magnetic susceptibility methods. Consulted with Justin Pargeter (NYU) on broader archaeological context and with Brian Chase (Institut des Sciences de l'Évolution de Montpellier) and Tyler Faith (University of Utah) on paleoenvironmental interpretation and MIS 3 context.

Tula'i Lithic Assemblages Project. Collaborative research with the National Museum of Iran on the quantitative and technological analysis of Neolithic lithic assemblages from Tula'i. Maintained close coordination with Dr. Fereidoun Biglari, head of the Paleolithic Department. Obtained additional contextual information from the museum and consulted Frank Hole, the excavator of the site, whose notes and interpretations informed the analysis and supported publication.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Boomplaas Cave, Excavation Project, HOMER Project, South Africa. Director: Dr. Justin Pargeter, NYU, 2023.
Participated in MSA–LSA excavations and learned stratigraphic excavation techniques specific to deep, well-preserved cave sequences. Responsibilities included excavating units, recording finds, managing artifact labeling and provenience data, and collecting geoarchaeological samples. Worked closely with South African archaeologists and gained field experience in southern African Stone Age contexts.

Ghare-Boof Cave Excavation Project, Tübingen Iranian Stone Age Research Project (TISARP), Iran. Director: Dr. Mohsen Zeidi, 2015.
Middle and Upper Paleolithic cave site in the Zagros Mountains. Work included recording and cataloging finds, sorting and classifying lithics, conducting field and lab analyses, and contributing to data organization. Gained experience in Zagros Paleolithic variability.

Mirak Archaeological Survey, Semnan, Iran. Director: Mr. Hasan Rezvani, 2015.
Middle Paleolithic open-air site at the northern edge of the Iranian Central Desert. Participated in excavations and pedestrian surveys; cataloged and classified lithic materials; contributed to reporting and basic spatial documentation.

Damghani Excavation Project, Sabzevar, Iran. Director: Dr. Emran Garazhian, 2014.
Gained experience in stratigraphic recording, sediment analysis, and pedestrian survey. Studied lithic materials from comprehensive surveys and classified stone artifacts, which expanded my understanding of lithic technologies beyond the Paleolithic. Learned to draw detailed trench sections using CorelDraw and assisted with both field excavation and post-excavation data management.

Sagzabad Excavation Qazvin Plain, Iran. Director: Dr. Hasan Fazeli Nashli, 2009.
Participated in field excavation and gained introductory experience in archaeological documentation and material processing.

Sagzabad Plain Archeological Survey, Qazvin, Iran. Director: Dr. Kamal Aldin Niknami, 2009.
Took part in systematic pedestrian surveys, surface collection, and basic artifact documentation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, ARCHY 484: Archaeological GIS, 2025
Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, USA. Supervisor: Prof Marcos Llobera.

Teaching Assistant, ARCHY 488: Lithic Technology, 2025
Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, USA. Supervisor: Prof Ben Marwick.

- Supported students in lithic analysis exercises and updated tutorials.
- Taught and managed two labs on lithic analysis in RStudio.

Teaching Assistant, ARCHY 205: Principles of Archaeology, 2024
Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, USA. Supervisor: Prof Ben Fitzhugh.

Teaching Assistant, ARCHY 269: Special Topics in Archaeology (Contemporary Archaeology), 2024
Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, USA. Supervisor: Prof Sara Gonzalez.

Teaching Assistant, ARCHY 486: Geoarchaeology Lab, 2023
Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, USA. Supervisor: Prof Ben Marwick.

- Managed and invited two guest lecturers.
- Designed two new labs focusing on “Micromorphology” and “Rocks and Minerals.”

Teaching Assistant, ARCHY 205: Principles of Archaeology, 2023
Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, USA. Supervisor: Prof Ben Fitzhugh.

- Designed the lab "Whose Heritage?" to educate students on cultural heritage issues and community engagement in archaeology.

TECHNICAL & ANALYTICAL SKILLS

Lithic Analysis: Lithic classification, illustration, debitage identification, quantitative lithic analysis, raw material identification, typological analysis, core reduction and flake production analysis, platform attribute analysis.

Field Methods: Archaeological excavation, pedestrian survey, stratigraphic recording.

Software: RStudio; Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop; Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint; Zotero; Google Workspace (Google Docs, Sheets, Slides); ArcGIS.

Laboratory: Soil and sediment analysis; optical and petrographic microscopy; magnetic measurements (environmental magnetism, magnetic susceptibility); micromorphology thin-section description; FTIR.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Short Course: International Field School on Site Formation, Stratigraphy, and Geoarchaeology, 2024
American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece
Completed intensive field and laboratory training in soil micromorphology and stratigraphy at the Malcolm H. Wiener Laboratory with Dr. Takis Karkanas and Dr. Paul Goldberg. Focused on site formation processes, microstratigraphic interpretation, and geoarchaeological methods in the Athenian Agora.

Short Course: Archaeological Soil and Sediment Micromorphology, 2024
American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece
Advanced training in soil formation processes, pedogenesis, natural and anthropogenic site processes, optical mineralogy, thin-section description, and sediment microstructure analysis, taught by Dr. Takis Karkanas and Dr. Paul Goldberg.

Workshop: Archaeological Field Technician Training, 2024
Perteet Inc. and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, USA
Hands-on training in screening methods, lithic identification, debitage analysis, field cataloging, and CRM protocols, with emphasis on ethical collaboration with Indigenous communities.

Lab Safety Training, 2022
University of Washington, Seattle, USA
Comprehensive training in laboratory chemical safety, fume hood operation, fire extinguisher use, electrical safety, and best practices for safe and effective lab work.

Workshop: Terminology and Technology of Lithic Materials (4 sessions), 2016
Institute of Archaeology, University of Tehran, Iran
Focused training in lithic material terminology, technological identification, and classification.

Workshop: Drawing Stone Artifacts, 2011
Institute of Archaeology, University of Tehran, Iran
Technical training in illustration and documentation of lithic artifacts.

Graphic Design Program, 2014–2016
Academic Center of Art, University of Tehran, Iran

Two-year short-term program covering photography and software training in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and CorelDRAW; skills applied extensively in artifact illustration and archaeological reporting.

AWARDS & FUNDING

Pre-Dissertation Pilot Research Fund, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, 2025
Yeager Career and Research Support Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, 2025.

Travel Award, MELC department, University of Washington, for participation in micromorphology and geoarchaeology workshops, 2024.

Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies, Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of Washington, 2023–24.

HOMER Project full scholarship for field school training at Boomplaas Cave, South Africa, 2023

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Quaternary Research Center, University of Washington, 2024–present
Association for Washington Archaeology, 2024–present