

Kouross Esmaeli

[IMDB](#)

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Academic Positions

Pomona College (2023-present)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Studies

Pitzer College (2019-2023)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Studies

The American University of Beirut (2018-19)
Visiting Assistant Professor at the al-Waleed Center for American Studies and Research (joint)
Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies

Education

PhD. (2018) *Department of Media, Culture, and Communication*, New York University
Dissertation: “Testing Technology: Digital Mediation of Education in New York”
Committee: Lily Chumley (Co-chair), Natasha Schull (Co-chair), Gary Anderson, Erica Robles-Anderson, Michael Ralph

M.A. (1998), *Department of Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures*, Columbia University, New York, NY

B.A. (1990), *History*, Columbia University, New York, NY

Journalism & Documentary Production

Producer, *Zoom In* Instructional Videos, 20 min, *Center for Children and Technology* (2014-15)

Producer, [Justice on Trial: The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal](#), 70 min. *Big Noise Films* (2010)

Producer, [Building Blocks: The Use of Blocks in Early Childhood Instruction](#), 28 min., *Long Island University Teacher Resource Center* (2010)

Producer, [Yo Soy el Army: America's New Military Caste](#), 27 min. *Big Noise Films* (2010)

Producer, *Forgotten: Health Care on the Rez*, 28 min. *Same Shade Prod.* (2009)

Co-Producer, [Elections under Threat: 2008 Iranian Parliamentary Elections](#), 22 min., *Aljazeera English, Democracy Now!*, 2008

Executive Producer, *Katrina: Man-Made Disaster*, 27 min., *Big Noise Films*, 2008

Executive Producer, *Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan* 26 min., *Big Noise Films*, 2008

Co-Producer, [The Jena 6](#), 27 min., *Democracy Now!*, *Press TV*, *Current TV*, 2007

Producer, [Khalass!: the Lebanese Elections of 2007](#) 14 min., *Same Shade Productions*, 2007

Producer, [Legacy of the Imam: Iran Transsexual Support Society](#), 14 min., 2007

Current TV, 2006-2008

Exec. Producer, *A View from Iran*, 4:30 min., 2008

Producer, [The Basij: Iran's Culture Cops](#), 12 min., 2007

Producer, [Tomato Unrest in Iran](#), 7 min., 2007

Co-Producer, *Iran's Nuclear Ambitions*, 5 min., 2006

Co-Producer, *Gays, Transsexuals & Iran's Sexual Politics*, 10 min., 2006

Co-Producer, *Iranian Vote*, 7 min., 2006

Co-Producer, *Nose jobs in Iran*, 10 min., 2006

MTV, 2003-2004

Co-Producer: [True Life: I'm in Baghdad](#), 58 min., air date 2/26/2004

Field Producer: *Gideon's Diary In Baghdad*, 28 min., air date 1/7/2004

Segment Producer: *MTV News Reports from Baghdad*, 2004

Paper Tiger Television, 2001-2003

[One Year after 9/11: Who's Paying the Price?](#), 26 min., 2002

Segments from the NYC Anti-War Movement, 2003

Turning Tragedy into War, 28 min., 2001

Artistic Works

Public Photo Exhibit, [Greetings without Flowers: Photographs from Iraq](#) New York City & Boston (2005)
& Traveling across US with "Eyes Wide Open" (2005-2007)

Short Film, *Whistle*, 13-min. (2001). Official selection at:

- * *After the Revolution: Contemporary Artists from Iran*. Koldo Mitxelena Museum, San Sebastian, Spain (2005)
- * *San Francisco Lesbian and Gay International Film Festival*, (June 2001)
- * *Iranian Diaspora Film Festival*, Toronto and New York, (May-June 2001)
- * *Wandering Eye Film Festival*, New York, (Feb. 2001)

Publications

Book, *Schools and Screens: American Education in the Digital Age*, Temple University Press, *Forthcoming*, 2025

OpEd, [How 9/11 Changed my Life](#), *American Prospect*, 9/11/2021

Book Review, [The Films of Mohsen Makhmalbaf](#), by Eric Egan, *Journal of the International Society for Iranian Studies*, 2011

Book Review, [Iran: A People Interrupted](#), by Hamid Dabashi, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and Middle East* (English) Duke U. Press, Vol. 28. No. 2, 2008
in *Jahan-e Ketab* (Persian), Tehran, vol. 14, nos. 7/8, 2008

Honors and Awards

Pitzer Faculty Research & Development Grant, 2020-21

Leboff Dissertation Completion Grant, New York University, Dpt. of Media, Culture, & Communication, 2016-17

Steinhardt Fellow, New York University, Dpt. of Media, Culture, & Communication, 2010-2015

Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Television Network Documentary for MTV's "True Life: I'm in Baghdad" (co-producer), Radio-Television News Directors Association, 2005

Invited Artist, Art & Recovery Artist Program, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, 2005

Grant for Public Art, Gunk Foundation, New York & Boston, 2005

Artist-in-Residence, Alwan Center for the Arts, New York, 2005

President's Fellow, Columbia University, 1992-1998

Fellow, Center for Arabic Study Abroad I (CASA) (Egypt), 1991-92

Curating

Curator, *MIX: New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival*, Queer Diasporas: The Muslim and Middle Eastern Lesbian & Gay Experience, (Nov. 2002)

Organizer, *Two Decades and a Century: The Making of Iranian Cinema*, Lincoln Center (Nov. 2002)

Co-Curator, *Iranian Diaspora Film Festival*, Cantor Film Center (June 2002)

Co-Curator, *Arab and Iranian Film Festival*, Alwan / Cantor Film Center (Feb. 2002)

Lectures, Presentations & Interviews

Public Lecture, *The Day I Became a Muslim: American Identity in the aftermath of 9/11*, Santa Monica College, March 2022

Presentation, *American Covenant: Techno-Futures and the Production of a Digitized Education System*, Working Group on Political Economy, University of Toronto, March 2021

Presentation, *Institutional Racism: Disrupting Forms of Discrimination in Education*, Claremont McKenna College, Sept. 2020

Public Lecture, *The “Entrepreneur”: Educating Americans for the Digital Age*, American University of Paris, May 2019

Presentation, *Producing the Entrepreneurial Self: Biopolitics of Public Education in NYC*, Anthropology Society in Lebanon, December 2018

Panel Discussion, *US Midterm Elections: What the Results Mean for the US and the World*, Center for American Studies & Research, AUB, November 2018

Presentation, *A (momentary) crisis of private property: the marketization of online educational software*, Doctoral Research Council, NYU, March 2017

Presentation, *Who’s the teacher Here? ... Or ... EdTech in the Age of School Reform*, Expertise from Margin to Center Conference, Columbia University, April 2016

Organizer, *Technology, Privacy & the Future of Education*, Forum for Steinhardt’s 125th Anniversary, NYU, March 2016

Presentation, *Who’s the “Smart” Kid in School These Days? Social Reproduction in a Test-Driven Educational System*, Annual Meeting of Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), Denver, Nov. 2015

Presentation, *Intelligence in a Connected Society: Digitization of Human Psychometrics*, ‘Connected Life’ Conference, Oxford University, June 2015

Presentation, *The Future of Intelligence: Human Psychometrics in a Digital Society*, Human Futures Conference, Rutgers University, May 2015

Presentation, *Our Children Are(n't) Corn: Uses of Big Data in Education*, Postman Graduate Conference, Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, NYU, Feb. 2014

Presentation, *Regimes of Experimentality*, Atlantic East Philosophy of Education Conference, NYC, Feb. 2013

Organizer, *Para|Sites: Location and Dislocations of Media*, Postman Graduate Conference, Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, NYU, Feb. 2013

Presentation, *Children and Experimentality in Educational Settings*, Teachers College Philosophy of Education Graduate Conference, NYC, Oct. 2012

Organizer, *Thinking Through Collapse*, Postman Graduate Conference, Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, NYU, March 2012

Rountable, *Art, Politics and Critical Engagement Today*, Postman Graduate Conference, NYU, March 2012

Lecture, *How Iranians became White: the construction of Iran's Aryan past from the Constitutional Period to Early years of Reza Shah*, UCLA Colloquium on Iranian Studies, March 1998

Lecture, *Racial Ideologies of Modern Iranian Nationalism*, Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Conference, Boston Nov. 1997

Teaching

Pomona College, *Introduction to Digital Media*, F2023, S2024

Pomona College, *The Dialectical Image*, S2024

Pomona College, *Capitalism, Technology & Race*, F2023

Pomona College, *Self-Representation of Islam & the MidEast in American Media*, F2023

Pitzer College, *Capitalism, Technology & Race*, F2019, F2020, F2021, S2022,

Pitzer College, *Digital Ethnography*, F2019, F2020, F2021

Pitzer College, *Introduction to Digital Media*, S2020, S2021, S2022,

Pitzer College, *Contemporary American Media*, S2020, S2021, S2022

Pitzer College, *Middle Eastern Media*, S2020, S2021

Pitzer College, *American Media in the Trump Era*, S2020

American University in Beirut, *American Society, Culture & Politics in the Trump Era* (undergraduate & graduate), S2019

American University in Beirut, *Digital Ethnography & Filmmaking* (undergraduate), S2019

American University in Beirut, *Introduction to Digital Culture* (undergraduate), F2018

American University in Beirut, *Theory & Method in Transnational American Studies* (graduate), F2018

NYU, *Introduction to Human Culture & Communication*, S/F2014, F2016, S/F2017

Fordham University, NYC, *Introduction to Media & Communication*, Spring 2016

NYU, *Cultural Capital: Media and the Arts in NYC* (co-instructor), Summer 2015

NYU, *Marxism and Culture*, Spring 2015

School of Visual Arts, NYC, *The Poverty & Wealth of Nations*, Spring 2008

New England Institute of Art (Boston) *Documentary Filmmaking, Photography, Videography, History of the Moving Image, Studio Production*, 2005-2007

Teaching Assistant (NYU)

Copyright, Commerce & Culture (Fall 2015)

Introduction to Digital Culture (Fall 2015)

History of Media and Communication (Spring 2013)

Introduction to Media Studies (Fall 2012)

Teaching Artist (K12)

Lyons Community High School, NYC, (2014-15)

Youth-Produced Documentary: [Black Lives Matter](#)

New Design High School, NYC (Fall 2012- Spring 2014)

Youth-Produced Media: [Mediastorm](#)

Pace U. High School, NYC (2008)

Youth-Produced documentary: [Chinatown in the Aftermath](#)

Languages & Professional Affiliations

English	Fluent (speak, read, translate, write, interpret)
Persian	Fluent (speak, read, translate, write, interpret)

Arabic	Near fluent (speak, read, translate)
French	Highly proficient (speak, read, translate)
Spanish	Proficient (speak, read)

American Studies Association (2018-present)

American Anthropology Association (2018-present)

American Educational Research Association (2019)

Arab & Middle Eastern Journalists Association (2015-present)

Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association, Board of Directors (2009-2011)

Producer, Boomgen TV (2009-2010)