

Zamira Abman

Assistant Professor, History and European Studies

San Diego State University

Email: zyusufjonova@sdsu.edu

Phone: (805) 377-5957

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara, CA

Ph.D. in Modern European History (2009-2015)

- Research Areas: Soviet Union/Russia, Central Asia, Modern Middle East
- Advisor: Adrienne Edgar

University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

M.A. in International Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution (2004-2006)

American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

B.A. in American Studies (Major) and Comparative and International Politics (Minor) (2004)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

San Diego State University

- Assistant Professor, History and European Studies Departments (Fall 2024–Present)
 - Director of Comparative and International Studies Major (Fall 2018–Present)
 - Program development, advising, curriculum creation, and program assessment
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PUBLICATIONS

Book

- *Coerced Liberation: Muslim Women in Soviet Tajikistan* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2024)

Articles and Book Chapters

- "History of Women's Movements in Soviet Tajikistan: Early to Mid-20th Century," *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures* (Brill, 2019)
- "Women and Islam: Analysis of the Soviet Atheist Propaganda, 1953-1982." In *Women and Gender in Twentieth Century Russia and the Soviet Union* (New York: Palgrave Handbook, 2017)
- "Peacebuilding in Tajikistan: The Beyond Intractability Project," (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2005)

In-Progress Research

- *Construction of National and Personal Identities: Oral History of Jewish Muslims-Chala individuals in Soviet Tajikistan, 1920s-1990s* (Under consideration by University of Toronto Press, 2025)

- The Inevitable Conflict: Soviet Delimitation of Central Asia and the Water Wars (ACLS fellowship awarded for research)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

2024: American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship, NY
 2024: CAL Microgrant, SDSU
 2024: Most Influential Faculty Award for Comparative and International Studies, SDSU
 2023: Most Influential Faculty Award for History, SDSU
 2023: Most Influential Faculty Award for CINTS, SDSU
 2023: Critical Thinking Grant Award, SDSU
 2023: CAL Microgrant, SDSU
 2022: AAUW American Short-Term Research Publication Grant
 2022: Most Influential Faculty Award for the Weber Honors College, SDSU
 2022: Most Influential Faculty Award for CINTS, SDSU
 2022: Darlene Shiley Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching for the Weber Honors College, SDSU
 2021: Most Influential Faculty Award for Social Science, SDSU
 2020: Critical Thinking Grant Award, San Diego State University
 2019: Most Influential Faculty Award CINTS, SDSU
 2019: Grossmont College Canvas Training Certification
 2015: UCSB Affiliates Graduate Fellowship
 2015: UCSB Academic Senate Nomination for Excellence in Teaching
 2014: Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, Pre-doctoral Fellowship, UCSB
 2014: Albert and Elaine Borchard European Studies Fellowship, UCSB
 2012-2014: Center for Middle Eastern Studies Summer Research Award, UCSB
 2013: Steve and Barbara Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy, Department of Religious Studies, UCSB
 2012-2013: Dean's Graduate Fellowship, UCSB
 2012-2013: Fellowship, American Association of University Women, Washington, D.C.
 2009-2012: The Global Supplementary Grant, Open Society Institute, New York City, NY
 2010-2011: The Stephen and Eloise Hay Prize, Islamic Studies, UCSB
 2000-2004: George Soros Full Scholarship, AUCA, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, EVENTS, AND INVITED TALKS

- 2024: ASEEES Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, Presenter, "*Bridging Worlds: The Shaping of Social and Personal Identities Among Muslim Jewish-Chala People in Soviet Tajikistan*"
- 2024: The European Studies Department and the Comparative and International Studies Program event, Ukraine at the Crossroads: Assessing Two Years of War and Current Trends, SDSU
- 2023: UCSD Extensions, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; Guest speaker, The Soviet emancipation of women, 1920s-1980s
- 2023: AAUW Monterey Peninsula and Santa Cruz County Branches, Annual Luncheon; Guest Speaker, The Soviet emancipation of women, 1920s-1980s

- 2022: AAUW (The American Association of University Women) California Branch Annual Fund Event; Guest Speaker, The Soviet emancipation of Muslim Women, 1920s-1980s
- 2022: Organized an event, “Voices from Ukraine,” in collaboration with the European Studies Department, San Diego State University
- 2021: Organized an event, “Building Solidarity with Afghan Women,” in collaboration with the Women’s Studies and the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, San Diego State University
- 2016: Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, UCSB; “The beneficiaries of Soviet state feminism: Tajik women professionals and their short-lived influence: 1953-1982”
- 2014: The Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, San Antonio, TX; “The Emancipation of the Muslim Women of Tajikistan under the Khrushchev regime, 1953-1964”
- 2014: Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UCSB; Conference on Women, Children, and Human Rights in the Middle East; “State feminism in Muslim Central Asia, 1924-1982”
- 2014: UCSB/GWU/LSE International Graduate Conference on the Cold War, UCSB; “The Emancipation of the Muslim women of Tajikistan under the Khrushchev regime, 1953-1964”
- 2013: 3rd Annual Graduate Student Islamic Studies Conference, UCSB; Theme: Reconstituting Female Authority. “The revival of the zhensovety—women’s councils, emancipation of the Muslim women of Tajikistan under the Khrushchev regime, 1953-1964”
- 2012: Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University; “Emancipation of Muslim Women of Central Asia, 1945-1982: Analysis of Soviet propaganda in women’s periodicals”

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

San Diego State University

- Core Faculty at the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies (2018-Present)
- Lecturer in History, Women’s Studies, European Studies, and the Weber Honors College (2015-2023) Courses taught include:
WMNST 560: Women in Muslim Societies
HONORS 495: Capstone course Honors seniors
EUROP 430: Muslims in Europe
HIST 411: World History for Teachers
CINTS 400: Capstone course for CINTS seniors
HONORS 313: The Soviet Experiment and its Legacy
HONORS 113: Gender in the Middle East
HIST 106: Western Civilization
HIST 101: World History from 1700 to present
HIST 100: World history from the beginning to 1700

Grossmont College

- Lecturer (2016-2022): Courses in Middle Eastern and World History

Mesa College

- Lecturer (Fall 2016-2018): Courses in Modern Middle East and Western Civilization

University of California, Santa Barbara

- Instructor and Teaching Assistant (2009-2019): Courses in Modern Middle East and Feminist Studies
- **Oral History Specialist**
Conducted oral history interviews in Tajikistan for Adrienne Edgar's *Intermarriage and the Friendship of Peoples* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2023) during 2011–2012.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- **Research Specialist, Project Manager, and Community Organizer**
University of Minnesota and Jewish Community Action, Twin Cities, MN (2007-2009)
- **Research Intern**
Counterpart International, Washington, D.C. (2007)
- **Consultant**
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, St. Paul, MN (Fall 2006)
- **Election Observer**
The Carter Center, Monrovia, Liberia (2005)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- **English** (Fluent)
- **Tajik/Farsi** (Native)
- **Russian** (Fluent)
- **Uzbek, Kyrgyz** (Proficient)

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Member** of the Chairs and Directors Committee, College of Arts and Letters, SDSU (2018-present)
- **Member** of the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, SDSU (2019-present)
- **Member** of the SDSU Academic Senate (2021-2024)
- **Faculty Advisor** for the Middle Eastern Student Association, Grossmont College (2019-2021)
- **Member** of the International Studies Curriculum Committee, SDSU (2019)
- **Advisor** for Preposterone Acapella Group, SDSU (2018-2019)
- **Member** of the Diversity Committee at Mesa College (Fall 2016-2018)

REVIEWS

- **Book Review:** *Moscow's Heavy Shadow: The Violent Collapse of the USSR* by Isaac McKean Scarborough, *Slavic Review Journal*, 2024
- **Grant Review:** ISRF Flexible Grants for Small Groups, 2024
- **Journal Article Review:** *Women in the Public Sphere of Dagestan*, *Slavic Review Journal*, 2021