

Zamira Abman

Assistant Professor, Departments of History and Comparative International Studies

San Diego State University

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EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara, CA

Ph.D. in History (2009-2015)

- Research areas: Soviet Union/Russia, Central Asia, Europe, and 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 Comparative International Studies Departments (Fall 2024–Present)
 - Director of Comparative and International Studies Major (Fall 2018–Present)
 - Program development, advising, curriculum creation, and program assessment
 - Lecturer in History, Women's Studies, Comparative International Studies, and the Weber Honors College (Fall 2015-Spring 2023)
 - Core Faculty at the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies (2018-Present)
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PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Book

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

In-Progress Research

- *Bridging Worlds: The History of the Chala—Jewish-Muslims in Soviet Tajikistan* (under contract with University of Toronto Press)
- "Marriage and Margins: Gendered Belonging in Chala Lives," under review at *Central Asian Survey*, June 2025.
- "The Inevitable Conflict: Soviet Delimitation of Central Asia and the Water Wars" (supported by ACLS Fellowship)

Articles and Book Chapters

- "History of Women's Movements in Soviet Tajikistan: Early to Mid-20th Century." In *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, edited by Suad Joseph, Vol. 4, Leiden: 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*, edited by Melanie Ilic, pp. 299-314. New York: Palgrave Handbook, 2017.

- "Peacebuilding in Tajikistan: The Beyond Intractability Project," (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2005)

Reviews

- *Moscow's Heavy Shadow: The Violent Collapse of the USSR* by Isaac McKean
Scarborough, *Slavic Review*, Vol. 83 , Issue 3 , Fall 2024 , p. 664 – 665.
- **Grant Review:** ISRF Flexible Grants for Small Groups, 2024
- **Journal Article Review:** *Women in Dagestan*, *Slavic Review*, 2021

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

2025: Most Influential Faculty Award for Comparative International Studies (CINTS)
 2025: SDSU Outstanding Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (RSCA)
 2024: American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship, NY
 2024: CAL Microgrant, SDSU
 2024: Most Influential Faculty Award for Comparative International Studies (CINTS), 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

- 2024: ASEES Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, Presenter, "*Bridging Worlds: The Shaping of Social and Personal Identities Among Muslim Jewish-Chala People in Soviet Tajikistan*"

- 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 *zhensovet*—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”

PUBLIC LECTURES AND EVENTS

- 2024: The European Studies Department and the Comparative 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

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught at SDSU (2015–Present)

CINTS 400: Capstone course for CINTS seniors
 HIST 100: World history from the beginning to 1700
 HIST 101: World History from 1700 to present
 HIST 106: Western Civilization
 HIST 411: World History for Teachers
 HONORS 113: Gender in the Middle East
 HONORS 313: The Soviet Experiment and its Legacy
 HONORS 495: Capstone course Honors seniors

WMNST 560: Women in Muslim Societies

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 summer 2011–2012.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- **Research Specialist, Project Manager, and Community Organizer**
Research Specialist, Project Manager, and Community Organizer, University of Minnesota / Sabes JCC / Jewish Community Action (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** (Proficient)

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Member** of the Council of Chairs and Directors, College of Arts and Letters, SDSU (2018-Fall 2024)
- **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)