

Armin Firouzi

PhD Student in Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought (ASPECT), Department of Religion and Culture, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech. August 2023- 2027 (expected graduation date)

Related Courses: Displacement Studies / Cultural Heritage Preservation, Non-Profit Advocacy, and Social Change / Politics of Memory / Culture, Politics, Development / Art, Culture, and Society
CGPA: 3.92/4

Master of Science in Cultural Heritage Studies. Faculty of Architecture, Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus. September 2019-July 2021

Related Courses: Workshop in Building Conservation / Workshop in Urban Conservation / Contemporary Approaches in Architectural Conservation / Historic Structural Systems / Philosophy and Theory of Conservation / Understanding the Heritage
Master's Thesis: Zoroastrian Heritage in Yazd from the Perspective of Right to the City
CGPA: 3.94/4

Bachelor of Science in Architecture. Cultural Heritage Education Center, Tehran, Iran. September 2014-February 2018

Final Project: Architectural History of Parand Stone Castle (Ancient Rey)
CGPA: 18.15/20

WORK EXPERIENCES

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of History, Virginia Tech. August 2023-December 2024

- Course Title: Critical Reading and Analysis in History (Undergraduate)
Responsibilities: Assist in delivering lectures and leading discussions / Grading assignments, exams, and other assessments / Guidance and support of students through office hours and online communications.
- Course Title: History of the United States (Undergraduate)
Responsibilities: Developing course syllabus on "Urbanization History" / Assist in delivering lectures and leading discussions / Giving exams and grading.
- Course Title: History of Science and Technology (Undergraduate)
Responsibilities: Assist in delivering lectures and leading discussions / Grading assignments, exams, and other assessments / Organization and design of course materials (for a few sessions) / Guidance and support of students through office hours and online communications.

Program Associate in the Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) Program of Religious Diversity and Democracy, Dialogue Institute, Temple University. June & July 2024

Responsibilities: Organize, design, and implement programs on Religious Freedom and Democracy in contract with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the State Department. Responsible for managing program schedule, coordinating with core staff and arranging program logistics. Facilitated discussions and seminars and educated college exchange students on American values regarding civil liberties, democracy, and religion.

Guest Lecturer, Department of Architecture and Urban Sciences, Technical and Vocational University, Tehran, Iran. February 2022-May 2022

Course Title: Introduction to Restoration of Architectural Monuments (Undergraduate)

Responsibilities: Delivery of lectures / Q&A discussion sessions with the students / Preparing presentation materials

RELATED EXPERIENCES

Virginia Tech Community Change Collaborative (2023-2024)

Member (since October 2023) and President (since September 2024) - Educational discussions surrounding examination and analysis of methods, frameworks, and forces shaping community development and engagement based on weekly meetings. Discussions targeted to the establishment of sustainable, cross-sectoral partnerships by applying qualitative and mixed methods approaches.

Johns Hopkins University summer school in Racial Politics, Political Science Department (June 10-14 2024)

The Summer School worked to examine and challenge prevailing methodological presumptions in political science through careful consideration of the discipline's historical entanglement with racist conceptions.

Trustees without Borders Podcast Series (April 2024)

Podcast host of the episode: "On Urban Heritage Planning in Tehran and Beyond — A Dialogue of Hope and Responsibility."

21C Eco Village Esquisse. (2022)

Group discussions around earthen architecture examples, their sustainability features, and construction techniques in weekly meetings / Discussions around design of prototype eco village for the time of crisis / Discussions around community engagement for this purpose.

Historic Urban Revitalization Workshop in Walled City of Nicosia, North Cyprus. (2021)

Documentation of the Arab Ahmet District / Restitution analysis / Study of structures and materials, façade elements, occupancy and ownership, changes and interventions / Conservation proposals for revitalization of the district with cultural tourism approach.

Registration of a Medieval House in Walled City of Famagusta on the listing for the Department of Antiquity, North Cyprus. (2020)

Documentation of the historic mansion / Investigation and study of the architectural characteristics and elements / Material deterioration analysis / Chronological study / Submission of the report to Famagusta Department of Antiquity / Proposal for the restoration.

Creating a Digital Cultural Heritage Community. KU Leuven University: Online through edX. (2020)

Learned how to create and reflect on user engagement with online collections, how to curate and annotate digital cultural heritage, what strategies can be used to educate audiences, how to access and use digital repositories and platforms, how to creatively engage with photography and dance content.

Cultural Heritage in Transformation. RWTH Aachen University: Online through edX. (2020)

Learned about the process of defining cultural heritage, various methods to explore cultural heritage, practices dedicated to sustaining cultural heritage and its assets, and adaptation strategies regarding the utilization and the management of cultural heritage.

Digital Documentation of Cultural Heritage, Workshop by UNDP, North Cyprus. (2019)

Participated in the education workshop to learn 3D laser scanning and photogrammetry for digital documentation of cultural heritage.

Collaboration in Urban Photography for the Book "Tehran Cityscape in Qajar Citadel" by Memarzadeh, M. Yasavoli Publication, Tehran. (2016)

Photographic documentation of historic facades in Tehran's older Citadel / Collaboration with the author and the editor to ensure compliance with the content.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Firouzi, A. (2025). Zoroastrianism in Yazd; Right to the City and Politics of Identity. Conservation Theory and the Urban Realpolitik, edited by Solmaz Yadollahi. Birkhäuser (De Gruyter) in the book series of the DFG Research Training Group 1913 “Cultural and Technological Significance of Historic Buildings”, (To be published in January 2025).

Firouzi, A. & Aardic, A. (2024). Rethinking the Concept of “Right to the City” through History of Othering. Presented at the 27th *Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference*, Virginia Tech.

Firouzi, A. (2023). Historic Urban Landscape and Development Issues in Iran. *Journal of Sustainable Engineering & Built Environment*, 2(1), 8-13.

Firouzi, A. (2020). Cultural Heritage Management During COVID-19 Pandemic; Limitations and Possibilities 5th International Conference on Applied Researches in Science and Engineering; Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Firouzi, A. (2017). Evolution of Historic Contexts through Infill Developments (Parand Stone Castle) 5th International Congress on Civil Engineering, Architecture, and Urban Development; Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran.

Firouzi, A. (2016). The necessity of Conservation and Restoration of Historic Urban Bodies International Conference on Civil Engineering, Architecture, and Cityscape; Istanbul University, Turkey.

LANGUAGES

English / Persian as mother tongue / Turkish

HONORS AND AWARDS

Awardee of Johns Hopkins University fully-funded program in Racial Politics summer school, Department of Political Science. June 10-14 2024

Honored for the best design of Bastak cultural symbol/urban element. Bastak Municipality, Hormozgan, Iran. (2022)

CERTIFICATES

CITI Certificate for “Human Subjects Protection in Social and Behavioral Research” (2024)

CITI Certificate for “Financial Conflict of Interest Training Requirement for Sponsored Research” (2024)

Wissen Certificate of Participation in 5th International Conference on Applied Researches in Science and Engineering. University of Amsterdam, Netherlands (2021).

Acknowledgement for Accomplishment of Documentation and Report on the Medieval House in Walled City of Famagusta. Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus (2020).

Certificate of Participation in Educational Course in 5th International Congress on Civil Engineering, Architecture, and Urban Development. Shahid Beheshti University, Iran (2018).

Certificate of Course Workshop and attendance in International Conference on Civil Engineering, Architecture, and Cityscape. Istanbul University, Turkey (2016).

REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. Max Stephenson, Institute for Policy and Governance, Virginia Tech
mstephen@vt.edu

Prof. Dr. Brian Britt, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech
bbritt@vt.edu

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Christine Labuski, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech
chrislab@vt.edu