SARA NAGHIBIZADEH

PHD STUDENT IN THE ALLIANCE FOR SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ETHICAL, AND CULTURAL THOUGHT

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student, ASPECT (Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought)
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech | August 2024 –2028 (expected graduation date)

Master of Arts, Urban Planning and Management
School of Urban Planning, University of Tehran, Iran | Sep 2021 – July 2023
- **GPA**: 3.9/4 (University Ranking: 1st in Iran)
- **Thesis**: *Investigating Invited and Invented Spaces for Raising Public Grievance in Urban Governance: Case Study of Ekbatan Neighborhood*

Bachelor of Arts, Urban Planning and Design
School of Urban Planning, University of Tehran, Iran | Sep 2017 – Sep 2021
- **GPA**: 3.9/4 (University Ranking: 1st in Iran)
- **Thesis**: *Social-Spatial Modernization in Lalehzar Street, Iran: The Palimpsest Idea*

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

- Teaching Assistant, Department of History, Virginia Tech. Aug – Dec 2024
  Course Title: American History in the 1960s
  Responsibilities: Assist in delivering lectures and leading discussions / Grading assignments, exams, and other assessments

- Teaching Assistant, Department of Urban Planning, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. Oct 2021 – Jan 22
  Course Title: History of Iranian-Islamic cities
  Responsibilities: Provided feedback on students' assignments and Participated in developing the course syllabus.

- Teaching Assistant, Department of Urban Planning, University of Tehran. Feb 2021 – July 2021
  Course Title: Urban Planning Studio
  Responsibilities: Guided and assisted students in developing their final project and Provided feedback on their projects throughout the semester.

Graduate Research Assistant:

- Research Assistant for middle-class activism in Iran at "the Global South" Research Hub
  University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. June 2022 – Aug 2024
  Responsibilities: Conducting comprehensive research, Collecting and analyzing data, and Writing reports and academic papers based on research findings.

Related experiences:

- Virginia Tech Community Change Collaborative (2024)
  Member since Sep 2024- Educational discussions surrounding examination and analysis of methods, frameworks, and forces shaping community development and engagement based on weekly meetings.

Internship:

- Planning Intern, Ensan Shahr NGO, Tehran, Iran. June 2022 – Dec 2022
  Responsibilities: Assisting in Participatory Planning for vulnerable neighborhoods, Planning projects to empower various communities, and organizing and holding a 3-day workshop for improving water consumption and sustainable agriculture.

Additional experience:

- Data Collection and analysis for children-oriented urban area projects
  Tehran Municipality District 1, Oct 2020 – Dec 2020

  - Research and Collect data for children-oriented projects in three neighborhoods in Tehran.
  - Participated in meetings with managers and conducted interviews with the public.

- The event planning of the Urban and Architecture Annual Conference
  City Council of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. Mar 2019

NOTABLE COURSES AND PROJECTS

Publications:

- Article (Under review), Differentiated Citizenship and Urban Activism: Insights from Tehran's Planning Conflicts, co-authored, employed qualitative methods, 2024
- Naghibizadeh, S., Naderi, M., Mousavi, N., Hosseini, N. (2022). Housing, only a shelter, or beyond that? A Manifesto for the Right to a House, in Rocco, R. & Newton, C., A Manifesto for the Just City (Vol.2). Delft: TU Delft Open, available at: https://doi.org/10.34641/mg.36
- Master's Thesis, Investigating the invited and invented Spaces for raising the public grievance in the urban management system, Case study: Ekbatan town, Oct 2022- Jul 2023
- Book Chapter, Building More Resilient Cities in the Climate Change Era, a systematic literature review, co-authored, employed Mixed methods, 2024

CERTIFICATES

- "Just City" Certificate sponsored by TU Delft, IHS Erasmus, the University of Illinois, Winston-Salem University, and other partners, Feb 2022.
  - Online workshop focused on various range of topics including Urban Planning.
  - Worked on a manifesto that was about justice in urban areas.
- CitiesX Harvard Certificate from EDX online course provider, April 2020. Instructed by Prof. Edward Glaeser.
- Cultural impact of housing displacement gentrification certificate from Coursera online course (In the process)
- GIS Certificate from University of Tehran, Oct 2019.
- Urban Housing Certificate from a summer school which took place by Iran Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, June 2019.
- Photography and Photoshop Software Certificate from Tehran Institute of Technology, Feb 2018.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- **Excellence Scholarship,** Awarded Merit-based admission offer by Supporter Foundation of the University of Tehran, qualified for taking the postgraduate program without a national entrance exam.

- **Brilliant Talents Scholarship,** Ranked within the top 5% of Undergraduate students in that year's (2017) program. School of Planning, University of Tehran

MEMBERSHIP

- **Member of the Students' Scientific Association of Urban Planning.**
  University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. Sep 2018 – June 2019.
- Organized and held conferences, seminars, lectures, documentary sessions, community consultation events, and field trips in urban-related fields.

SKILLS

Languages: Persian (Native), English (C1)

Research Methods: Maxqda for qualitative data analysis

Urban Planning Software: ArcGIS, AutoCAD

3D Design Software: SketchUp

Other Software: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word

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

- Assistant Prof. Dr. Mojgan Taheri Tafti, School of Urban Planning, University of Tehran, Iran
  M.tafti@ut.ac.ir