

# Mandana E. Limbert

Associate Professor  
Department of Anthropology  
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## Professional Experience:

Associate Professor Department of Anthropology, Queens College and the Graduate Center, CUNY	2007 – pres.
Department Chair Department of Anthropology, Queens College	2014 – 2016
Deputy Director Middle Eastern Studies Program, Graduate Center, CUNY	2012 – 2013
Visiting Associate Professor Department of History, North Carolina State University	2009 – 2010
Assistant Professor Department of Anthropology, Queens College, CUNY	2002 – 2007

## Education:

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. • PhD in Anthropology and Near Eastern Studies	Sept. 1993 - August 2002
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. • MA in Near Eastern Studies	Sept. 1991 - May 1993
Brown University, Providence, R.I. • BA Independent Major: Middle Eastern Studies/Contemporary Iran • Graduated with Honors	Sept. 1987 - May 1991
Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales Paris, France • Persian Language, Demographics of Iran, Turkey, and Afghanistan, and Kurdish History	Oct. 1989 - June 1990

## Grants and Fellowships:

*City University of New York*

- National Endowment for the Humanities, University Fellowship, 2016-2017.
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Faculty Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center, 2012-2013.
- PSC-CUNY Summer Research Grant: 2011.
- American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 2007-2008.

- School of American Research award for seminar, “The Politics of Resources and their Temporalities”: 2005-2006.
- PSC-CUNY Summer Research Grant: 2004
- Co-PI with Beth Baron, CUNY Faculty Development Grant for Workshop: “Slavery and Race in the Middle East”, April 2004.
- Faculty Writing Fellowship: Spring 2004
- PSC-CUNY Summer Research Grant: 2003

*Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin)*

- Summer Academy Fellow: 07/02

*University of California, Berkeley*

- Post-doctoral Fellow, Center for Middle Eastern Studies: 09/01 - 06/02

*New York University*

- Post-doctoral Fellow, Middle East Studies Department: 09/00 - 08/01

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

- Department of Anthropology Research Grant: 01/00 - 05/00
- Community of Scholars Fellow, Institute for Research on Women and Gender: 05/99 - 12/99
- Rackham Predissertation Fellowship: 09/98 - 09/99
- Department of Anthropology Research Grant: 06/98 - 08/98
- IIE Fulbright Fellowship: 09/96 - 12/97
- Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Fellowship (declined): 09/96 - 09/97
- Rackham Dissertation Grant: 03/96
- George and Celeste Hourani Fellowship: 01/96 - 05/96
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship: 09/95 - 12/95
- Radcliffe/Ramsdell Fellowship for Religious Education: 05/95
- International Institute Predissertation Travel Grant: 06/94 - 08/94
- George and Celeste Hourani Fellowship: 01/93 - 05/93
- Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship: 09/91 - 05/92

#### Publications:

- in progress, manuscript *Oman, Zanzibar, and the Politics of Becoming Arab*.
- in progress, review article, “Oceans, Law, and the Politics of Movement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*.
- 2016, “Liquid Oman: Oil, Water, and Causality in Southern Arabia” *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. 22(1): 147-162.
- 2015, “Reserves, Secrecy, and the Science of Oil Prognostication in Southern Arabia” In *Subterranean Estates: Lifeworlds of Oil and Gas*, edited by Hannah Appel, Arthur Mason, and Michael Watts, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- 2015, “Law, Marriage, and the Production of Place in Southern Arabia” In *Asia: Inside-Out*, edited by Eric Tagliocozzo and Helen Siu, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- 2014, “Caste, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Arabness in Southern Arabia” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. ” 34(4): 590-598.
- 2014, “On Learning Ibadism and Being Ibadi” In *On Ibadism*, edited by Angeliki Ziaka, New York: Georg Olms Verlag.
- 2014, book review, Fida J. Adely “Gendered Paradoxes: Educating Jordanian Women in Nation, Faith, and Progress” Chicago: University of Chicago Press, *American Ethnologist*. 41(3).

- 2013, “If You Catch Me Again At It, Put Me to Death: Slave-trading, Paper Trails, and British Bureaucracy in the Indian Ocean” In *Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Indian Ocean*, edited by Robert Harms and Bernard Freamon, New Haven: Yale University Press.
- 2011, “The Miracle of History: Temporality and Uncertainty in Southern Arabia” In *Anthrohistory: Unsettling Knowledge, Questioning Discipline*, edited by David William Cohen, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- 2010, *In the Time of Oil: Piety, Memory, and Social life in an Omani Town*, Stanford University Press.
- 2008, with Elizabeth Ferry, *Timely Assets: The Politics of Resources and their Temporalities*, Santa Fe: School of American Research, Advanced Seminar Series.
- 2008, “Depleted Futures: Anticipating the End of Oil in Oman” In *Timely Assets: The Politics of Resources and their Temporalities*, edited by Mandana E. Limbert and Elizabeth Ferry. Santa Fe: School of American Research, Advanced Seminar Series.
- 2008, book review, “Nostalgia for the Modern: State Secularism and Everyday Politics in Turkey” by Esra Ozyurek, *American Ethnologist*. 35(4): xxx-xxx.
- 2008, “The Sacred Date: Gifts of God in an Omani Town” *Ethnos*. 73(3): 361-376.
- 2008, “In the Ruins of Bahla: Reconstructed Forts and Crumbling Walls in an Omani Town” *Social Text* 95. 26(2): 83-103.
- 2007, “Race, Gender and Difference. Oman, The Gulf, and Yemen” In *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, Volume VI. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, pp. 80-81.
- 2007, “Slavery. Gulf and Saudi Arabia” In *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, Volume VI. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, pp. 243-244.
- 2007, “Marriage, Status and the Politics of Nationality in Oman” In *The Gulf Family: Kinship policies and Modernity*, edited by Alanoud Alsharekh. London: Saqi Books, pp. 167-179.
- 2006, “Cultivating Good Citizens and Religious Virtue” In *Teaching Islam: textbooks and religion in the Middle East*, edited by Eleanor Doumato and Gregory Starrett. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, pp. 159-191.
- 2006, reprint and abridged, “Study-Groups, Gender and the Tradition of Knowledge in Bahla” In *Oman: studies on politics, economics and culture in the Sultanate*, edited by Andrzej Kapiszewski. Cracow, Poland: Jagiellonian University in Krakow, pp. 159-175.
- 2006, book review, “Makran, Oman and Zanzibar” by Beatrice Nicolini. *Iranian Studies*. 39(1): 128-131.
- 2006, “Spirit Possession. Arab States”, In *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, Volume III. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, pp. 425-426.
- 2005, “Personal Memories, Revolutionary States and Indian Ocean Migrations” *MIT-EJMES*. 5: 21-33.
- 2005, “Gender, Religious Knowledge and Education in an Omani Town” In *Monarchies and Nations: Globalization and Identity in the Arab States of the Gulf*, edited by Paul Dresch and James Piscatori. London: I.B. Taurus, pp. 182-202.
- 2005, “Social Hierarchies. Modern: Gulf and Yemen” In *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, Volume II. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, pp. 145-146.
- 2002, “Visions of Iran: Persian Language Television in the United States” In *Social Constructions of Nationalism*, edited by Fatma M. Gocek. Albany: State University of New York Press, pp. 251-271.
- 2001, “The Senses of Water in an Omani Town” *Social Text*. 19(3): 35-55.
- 2000, book review, “Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization” by Arjun Appadurai. *Etnosistemi* 7: 101-103.
- 1999, “Placing Tradition: The Geopoetics of Town and Country in Oman” *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*. 9(2): 300-318.
- with J. Dickinson, 1998 “Introduction: Linguistic Form and Social Action” In *Michigan Discussions in Anthropology* 13. Ann Arbor: Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, pp. 1-11.

#### Invited Presentations:

- Discussant at Workshop, “Histories of the Unseen,” *NYU Abu Dhabi*, May 2017
- Discussant at Workshop, “Soil, Flesh, Flows: Environmental Temporalities and Expertise in the Middle East,” *Harvard University*, April 2017
- Presented, “Local Questions and National Answers in late 20<sup>th</sup> Century *Fatawa* from *al-Dakhiliyya*” for the conference Religion and Policy in Oman, *Oxford University*, May 2016.

- Presented, “Infrastructure Politics in the Middle East” *New York University*, May 2016.
- Presented, “Caste, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Arabness in Southern Arabia” *Harvard University*, March 2016.
- Presented, “From Colonial Documentation to Citizenship Boundaries: Marriage Policy across two ‘Nahdas,’ for the Ibadism Conference, *Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia*, June 2016.
- Presented, “In the Time of Oil” *New York University, Abu Dhabi*, April 2015.
- Presented, “Caste, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Arabness in Southern Arabia” *Brandeis University*, January 2015.
- Presented, “Dress and Politics between Oman and Zanzibar” *Smithsonian Institution, Museum of African History*, November 2014.
- Presented, “Muhammad bin Abdullah al-Salimi: Historian, Revolutionary, and a New Oman” for the Ibadism conference, *Cambridge University*, June 2014.
- Presented, “Oil, Water, and the Writing of History in Southern Arabia” *Zentrum Moderner Orient*, Berlin, Germany. December 2013.
- Presented, Keynote Lecture, “Development Fatigue” Sarah Lawrence College, March 2013.
- Presented, Keynote Lecture, “From Dakhiliya to Zanzibar: the management and ideals of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Travel” Sultan Qaboos University, December 2012.
- Presented, “Oman, Zanzibar, and the Politics of Becoming Arab” *Comparative Muslim Societies Seminar*, Cornell University, September 2012.
- Presented, “Deferral, Depletion, and Oil Projections in Southern Arabia” for the conference *Oil-Talk: Retelling the Political and Cultural Economy of Oil and Gas*, Columbia University, April 2012.
- Presented, “Marriage, Travel, and the Limits of Indian Ocean Connections” for the conference *Networks in the Muslim World*, Yale University, April 2012.
- Presented, “Oil and Water: Reflections on Liquids in a Desert” Yale University, February 2012.
- Presented, “Place through Prayer: Travel Prayer between Oman and Zanzibar” for the conference *Asia: Inside Out*, Yale University and Cornell University Conference, Doha, Qatar, December 2011.
- Discussant for Professor Steven Caton’s presentation “The Politics of Water Knowledge in Yemen” Harvard University, May 2009.
- Presented, “Genealogy, Status, and Marriage in Oman” for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gilder Lehrman Center Conference for the *Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition*, Yale University, November 2008.
- Presented, “Water Stories and Water Minutes in Southern Arabia” for the workshop Water and Society, Harvard University, May 2008.
- Presented, “Intimate Matters: the management of marriage in Oman” for the Conference *GCC: Gender, Connectivity and Change in the Gulf Arab States*, University of California, Irvine, April 2008.
- Presented, “Oman, Zanzibar, and the Politics of Travel Prayer” Middle East Center, George Washington University, November 2007.
- Discussant for Professor Brinkley Messick’s presentation “Anthropology, Philology and Islamic Texts”, The New York Academy of Sciences, January 2007.
- Organized and Presented, *The Politics of Resources and their Temporalities*, School of American Research, Santa Fe, October 2005.
- Presented, “Marriage and the Politics of Identity in an Omani Town” School of Oriental and African Studies, London, April 2005.
- Presented, “Oman, East Africa and the Politics of Marriage” Transregional Institute, Princeton University, November 2004.
- Discussant at Columbia University conference *The Persian Gulf in History* Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2004.
- Discussant at workshop *American Missionaries in the Middle East* Graduate Center, CUNY, October 2004.
- Presented, “Arabs, Zanzibaris and the Management of Marriage” for the workshop *Race and Slavery between the Middle East and Africa* Graduate Center, CUNY (organized by Beth Baron and myself), May 2004.
- Presented, “Asphalt and Mud Brick: Roads, Forts and the Politics of Construction in an Omani Oasis Town” for the SSRC conference *Comparative Urban Landscapes*, Istanbul, Turkey, January 2004.
- Presented, “Citizenship and Religion in Omani Schools” for the conference *Constructs of Inclusion and Exclusion* Brown University, November 2003.

- Presented, “In the Dreamtime of Oil: development, depletion and doom in Oman” Department of Anthropology, The Graduate Center, CUNY, October 2003.
- Presented, “Gender, Piety and Religious Knowledge” Program in Women’s Studies, Queens College, CUNY, September 2003.
- Presented, “Wealth, Development and the Limits of Oil in Oman” for the conference *Development after Development: Towards a New Geography of Justice in the Middle East?*, Part II. New York University, May 2003.
- Presented, “Genealogy, Race and the Politics of Becoming Arab in Oman”, Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center, The Graduate Center, CUNY, May 2003.
- Presented, “Memories of Zanzibar”, Center for Middle East Studies, University of California, Berkeley, April 2002.
- Presented, “Water, Progress and the Politics of Privacy in an Omani Town” for the conference *Development after Development: Towards a New Geography of Justice in the Middle East?*, Part I. New York University, February 2002.
- Organized, Invited Session, American Ethnological Society “Expertise, Experience and Authoritative Knowledge” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, December 2001.
- Presented, “Gendered Authority: women’s study circles in Oman” for the conference *Connections and Identities: Re-examining the Arab Gulf*, Oxford University, September 2001.
- Presented, “Remembering Zanzibar: Omani Women’s Stories of Travel and Return”, Department of Middle East Studies, New York University, February 2001.
- Presented, “Gender, Religious Knowledge and Education” Center for Arab Studies, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., October 2000.
- Presented, “Schools of Nostalgia: religious studies in an Omani town” Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 2000.

#### Conference Papers and Presentations:

- Discussant, “Historical Perspectives on the Life Worlds of Middle Eastern Oil” Annual Meetings of the Middle East Studies Association, November 2017.
- Presented, “Road Building and Development Fatigue in Southern Arabia” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, December 2015.
- Presented, “Prognostication, Oil Reserves, and Unknowability in the Sultanate of Oman” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, December 2015.
- Discussant, “The Future Strikes Back!” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, December 2015.
- Presented, “Oil, Water, and the Writing of History in Southern Arabia” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association” Invited Session, December 2012.
- Discussant, “Prognosis Politics: Visions of Resource Futures” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association” Invited Session, December 2012.
- Discussant, “Decentering Muscat: Makran, Zanzibar, and the Omani Empire in the Indian Ocean, c. 1800-1964” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Denver, CO, December 2012.
- Presented, “Violence, Nostalgia, and Self-Formation in Omani Accounts of the Zanzibar Revolution” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, December 2011.
- Discussant, “Examining Environments: New Themes in the Environmental Anthropology of the Middle East” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, December 2011.
- Presented, “Oil Projections, Fortune Telling, and the Politics of Knowledge in an Omani town” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009.
- Presented, “Travel Prayers, Marriages and Belonging in Zanzibar” Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Toronto, Canada, April 2007.
- Presented, “Managing God’s Property: religious endowments and statehood in Southern Arabia” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, November 2005.
- Presented, “The Management of Marriage: unions, registration and identity in colonial Zanzibar” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 2005.
- Presented, “The Gulf Cooperation Council, History, and the Politics of Becoming Arab” Sixth Annual Mediterranean Conference Meeting, European University Institute, Fiesole, Italy, March 2005.

- Presented, “Oil, Religion and their Ambivalent Futures in Oman” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 2003.
- Presented, “Intimate Identities: Marriage, Race and Religion in an Omani Town” Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Providence, RI, April 2003.
- Presented, “Marriage, Race and East African Histories in an Omani Town” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 2002.
- Presented, “Fear, Health and the Boundaries of Knowledge” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, December 2001.
- Presented, “Circles of Knowledge, State Schools and Study Groups: negotiating forms of knowledge and places of authority in Bahla” First Annual Mediterranean Conference Meeting, European University Institute, Fiesole, Italy, March 2000.
- Presented, “Rural Spaces and Social Categories in Oman” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 1999.
- Presented, “Charity, Privacy, and Nostalgia: Water in an Omani Town” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 1998.
- Presented, “The Social World of Women’s Coffee-Groups in Bahla” Meeting of German and International Research on Oman, Bonn, Germany, June 1998.
- Presented, “Gender and Music in Abbasid Court Life” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Research Triangle, North Carolina, November 1993.

Current Memberships:

American Anthropological Association  
 American Ethnological Society  
 Society for Cultural Anthropology  
 Middle Eastern Studies Association

Editorial Positions and Service to Profession:

Book Review Editor for Anthropology, International Journal of Middle East Studies, 2008-2013  
 Editorial Board Member, International Journal of Middle East Studies, 2013-2014  
 George Hourani Book Prize Committee Member, 2012-2013  
 Program Committee Member, Middle East Studies Association, 2013

Manuscript and Fellowship Evaluator:

American Ethnologist  
 Cultural Anthropology  
 Comparative Studies in Society and History  
 Duke University Press  
 International Journal of Middle East Studies  
 Identities  
 Journal of Arabian Studies  
 Journal of Islamic Architecture  
 Journal of Linguistic Anthropology  
 University of Chicago Press  
 Student Award for Middle East Section, American Anthropological Association  
 Wenner-Gren Foundation  
 Women’s History Review  
 Stanford University Press

Languages:

Arabic (modern standard and Omani dialect), French, Italian, Persian.

Doctoral Committees:

CUNY (Supervisor): Caitlyn Bolton, Amir Reicher Atir, Shima Houshyar, Nick Glastonbury, China Sajadian, Scott Erich.

CUNY (Committee Member): Shea McManus, Raja Abillama, Duygu Parmaksizoglu, Andrew Hernann, Mark Drury, James Blair, Ahmed Sherif, Alexandra Schindler, Madhuri Karak, Oscar Pedroza, Zeynep Oguz, Claire Panetta, Dean Sharp, Ola Galal, Jeffrey Culang.

EXTERNAL: Robin Steiner