

Ali-Reza Mirsajadi

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

The Theatre School at DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Assistant Professor of Theatre Studies (tenure-track)

- Directing I, Directing II
- Directing Musical Theatre
- History of Dramatic Literature II, History of Dramatic Literature III
- Verbatim Theatre
- Beyond the Binary: Trans and GNC Theatre
- Black American Theatre
- Performing the MENA World
- Introduction to Theatre Studies
- Drag 101

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Visiting Assistant Professor in Theatre and Performance Studies, 2019-2020

- Script Analysis
- Introduction to Performance Studies
- Middle Eastern Theatre and Politics (Ph.D.-level course)

Emerson College, Boston, MA

Affiliated Faculty in Performing Arts, 2016-2018

- African American Theatre and Culture
- Perspectives in World Theatre

EDUCATION:

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance Studies, 2019

- Dissertation Title: "Directing Between the Lines: Iranian Theatre and the Aesthetics of Ambiguity"
- Dissertation Committee: Dr. Noe Montez (chair), Dr. Heather Nathans, Dr. Kamran Rastegar, Dr. Sheida Dayani

M.A. in Drama, 2015

- Thesis Title: "Spectrums of Truth: Transcribing Reality in the Documentary Musical"
- Thesis Committee: Dr. Barbara Wallace Grossman (chair), Dr. Laurence Senelick, Dr. Noe Montez

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

B.A. in Theatre Arts, 2011

- Honors Thesis: Queer Representation in Post-Revolutionary Iranian Theatre"
- Thesis Advisor: Dr. Cary Mazer

Areas of Specialization: Global Theatre History and Dramatic Literature, Directing Theory and Practice, Middle Eastern Theatre and Culture, Dramaturgy, Black American Performance, Gender and Sexuality

Studies, Queer and Trans Theory/Performance, Critical Race Studies, Cultural Studies, Musical Theatre Studies, Performance Theory, Documentary and Reality Studies, Adaptation Studies

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS:

Book Contract

Oblivion and Other Plays from Post-Revolutionary Iran

co-edited and translated alongside Dr. Nahid Ahmadian

In Performance Series, Seagull Books, University of Chicago Press, Forthcoming June 2025

<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/O/bo245013186.html>

Books in Progress

Manuscript: *Performing the Polyseme: Theatre and Ambiguity in Contemporary Iran*

Textbook: *Untitled History of Dramatic Literature Project*

co-edited and written alongside Emilio Williams and Dr. Coya Paz Brownrigg

Funded and published by Illinois State Library Open Education Resources Grant

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“The Case for *Al-Mutayyim*: Queer Genealogies and Theatre Historiography”

Forthcoming in *Theatre History Studies*, 2025.

“And of Clay We Are Created: Zahra Sabri’s *Count to One* and War’s Material Ephemerality”

TDR, Volume 66, Issue 3 (September 2022).

“2020 ATHE Conference Roundtable: Pedagogy and Absence”

Theatre Topics, Volume 31, Issue 1 (March 2021).

“Reading *Hamlet* in Tehran: Neoliberalism and the Politics of Politicizing”

Theatre Journal, Volume 72, Issue 1 (March 2020).

“Provocative Puppetry: *The House of Bernarda Alba* and Zahra Sabri’s *Yas-e Tamam*”

Puppetry International, (34) 2013.

Articles in Refereed Edited Collections

“Building a Home, or the Labor of Queer Kinship in *Close to Home*”

The Methuen Drama Book of Trans Plays, volume 2, ed. Lindsey Mantoan, Angela Schiller, and Leanna Keyes, Bloomsbury Press, Forthcoming in 2025

“‘Challenging Every Memory’: Manifesting Futurity in *The Devils Between Us*”

Co-written with Yasmin Zacaria Mikhael

The Methuen Drama Book of Trans Plays, ed. Lindsey Mantoan, Angela Schiller, and Leanna Keyes, Bloomsbury Press, May 2021.

Book Reviews

***Middle Eastern American Theatre: Communities, Cultures and Artists* by Michael Malek Najjar**

Theatre Annual, 2021.

***Theatre of Real People: Diverse Encounters at Berlin's Hebbel am Ufer and Beyond* by Meg Mumford and Ulrike Garde**

Theatre Survey, Volume 58, Issue 2 (May 2017).

***Indifference to Difference: On Queer Universalism* by Madhavi Menon**

Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, Volume 32, Number 1 (Fall 2017).

Public Humanities Engagement

"Erasing the Middle East: White Gatekeeping and the Painful Path of Progress"

HowlRound Theatre Commons, 2020.

"The Middle East and Theatre"

Forthcoming on *Systemic Stage* Podcast, 2021

"Marg Bar ____"

Language Log, University of Pennsylvania, 2017.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Full-Conference Plenary: "To Play with Clay: Notes on Death and Degrowth in Persian Performance"

American Society for Theatre Research, Seattle, 2024

"The Case for Al-Mutayyim: Queer Genealogies, Homonationalism, and Theatre History"

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Madison, WI, 2024

"Siyah Bazi, Then and Now: Blackface Performance in the MENA World."

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, 2022

"Centering the MENA World in the TAPS Classroom"

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, 2022

"Mothers and Others: Coalitional Maternalism in Naghmeh Samini's *The Child*"

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, 2022

"'They shall know my secret who turns me over': Manijeh Mohamedi and Iran's Revolutionary Theatre"

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Cleveland, 2022

Books in Progress: *Performing the Polyseme: Theatre and Ambiguity in Contemporary Iran*

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Cleveland, 2022

"Taking to the Streets: Manijeh Mohamedi and Interweaving Performance Cultures of the Iranian Revolution"

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2021

“Racial Mothers and Others: Naghmeh Samini’s *Bacheh* and Resisting a Homogenous Iran”

Middle East Studies Association, Online, 2020

“And of Clay We Are Created: Zahra Sabri’s *Count to One* and War’s Material Ephemerality”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2020

“Disgraced by *Disgraced*: Muslim Rage and the American Canon”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2020

“After *After Orlando*: Musings on Quare Terror”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2020

“Subversion and the Cyberpublic: Queer Performance and Communion in MENA Instagram”

American Society for Theatre Research, Alexandria, VA, 2019

“Radical Islam: The Political Utility and Futility of Muslim Feminists”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, FL, 2019

“Creating Through Obstruction: Artistically Generative Censorship in Iranian Performance”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Cleveland, OH, 2019

“Counter-History as Protest: Dramaturging Boston’s African American Freedom Trail”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Boston, MA, 2018

“The Curious Case of *Hedda Gabler*: Rewriting Censorship in the Iranian Theatre”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Boston, MA, 2018

Articles in Progress: “Reading *Hamlet* in Tehran: Neoliberalism and the Politics of Politicizing”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Milwaukee, WI, 2018

“‘KILL THE ORANGE GRINGO’: Monica Palacios’ Queer Universalism and the Politics of Resistance”

American Literature Association, Latina/o/x Society, San Francisco, CA, 2018

“An Iranian Willy Loman: Performing Arthur Miller and American Identity in Iran”

American Literature Association, American Theatre and Drama Society, Boston, MA, 2017

“Antigone in Wonderland, or, Notes on the Political Efficacy of Being Lost in Translation”

American Society for Theatre Research, Minneapolis, MN, 2016

“What do you call a Problem Like Afra?: Queer Counterpublics, the Utopian Performative, and the Iranian Avant-Garde”

American Society for Theatre Research, Baltimore, MD, 2014

“Relocating Langston: Filling Holes, Queering Icons”

American Literature Association, American Theatre and Drama Society, Boston, MA, 2013

“Spectrums of Truth: Transcribing Reality in the Documentary Musical”

American Society for Theatre Research, Dallas, TX, 2013

“There are No Homosexuals in Iran: Subversive Identity in Iranian Theatre”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, LGBTQ Debut Panel, Washington, D.C., 2012

“Kim Jong-Il Sat on a Wall: How Trauma Cracked Collectivist North Korea”

American Society for Theatre Research, Nashville, TN, 2012

“A View from the Bridge: Queerness in Iranian Theatre”

Comparative Drama Conference, Baltimore, MD, 2012

Convener, Moderator, or Respondent

Panel convener: “Blood, Violence, and Collective Imaginaries”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Madison, WI, 2024

Roundtable convener: “Racial Reckonings: Colorism and Anti-Blackness in MENA and its Diasporas”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, 2022

Roundtable convener: “MENA Theatre at White Institutions”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, 2022

Panel convener: “Dramaturgies of MENA Motherhood”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, 2022

Panel convener: “Staging Politics Through MENA Theatre”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit, 2022

Respondent: “Academia and the Next Generation”

Middle Eastern and North African Theatre Makers Alliance Convening, University of Oregon, 2021

Plenary convener: “Toward Anti-Racist Theatre Pedagogies”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2021

Roundtable convener: “Queering MENA: Visibility and Conflicting Intersectionalities”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online, 2020

Panel convener: “Embodying Muslim Intersectionality: Diasporic Performance and Transitional Narratives of Difference in the US”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, FL, 2019

Panel convener: “Restaging Islam: The Changing Landscape of Middle Eastern Theatre and Politics”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, FL, 2019

Working group convener: “Arousing Activism: Revolutionary Impulses in Middle East Performance”

American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, CA, 2018

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

Sunday Scholars Talkback, Notes from the Field

TimeLine Theatre, 2024

Queer Beirut and Coalitional Casting Models for MENA Performance

University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts, 2023

“Contemporary Theatre in the Middle East and Northern Africa”

University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 2022

“Middle Eastern Goddess Finds Political Asylum in Free Theatre”

Evanston Public Library, 2021

The Itkin Address

The Theatre School at DePaul University, New Student Convocation Ceremony, 2020

“Postcolonial *Hamlets*: Globalization and Adaptation”

Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh, 2020

“Iranian Indigenous Performance and *Ta'ziyeh*”

Graduate Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2020

“Anti-Racism and Plastic Representation”

The Theatre School at DePaul University, Student Call-In with Azar Kazemi, 2020

“Rewriting *Ta'ziyeh* through the Ages”

Graduate Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2018

“Graduate School Matriculation Keynote”

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Tufts University, 2016

TEACHING:

The Theatre School at DePaul University

Directing sequence

History of Dramatic Literature sequence

Black American Theatre

Staging Musical Theatre and Opera

Beyond the Binary: Trans and GNC Theatre

Introduction to Theatre Studies

Performing the MENA World

Verbatim Performance

Drag 101

University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts

Introduction to Dramatic Arts

Enjoying Performances

Middle Eastern Theatre and Politics (Ph.D.-level)

Directed Study in Dramaturgy

Emerson College School of Performing Arts

African American Theatre and Culture
Perspectives in World Theatre

Tufts University Department of Drama and Dance

Introduction to Acting
First-Year Showcase

ADVISING:

The Theatre School at DePaul University

Leading Faculty Advisor, LABs, 2023-present
Faculty Advisor Council, LABs, 2021-present
Faculty Advisor, Literary Database for Equity and Inclusion, 2020-present
Faculty Advisor, Prototypes, 2021-present
Faculty Thesis Advisor, Genevieve Swanson, 2021-2022
Faculty Directing Advisor, Luke Riggs, 2021
Faculty Directing Advisor, Genevieve Swanson, 2022
Faculty Directing Advisor, Artemis Westover, 2023
Master's Thesis Advisor, Ethan Silk, 2023
Faculty Independent Study Advisor, Ethan Silk, 2023

Previous Institutions

Faculty Advisor, Dramaturgy directed study on *Appropriate*, University of Pittsburgh, 2020
Faculty Advisor, Student Teaching directed study for Introduction to Dramatic Arts, University of Pittsburgh, 2020

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS:

Robert A. Schanke Theatre Research Award, "The Case for *Al-Mutayyim*: Queer Genealogies, Homonationalism, and Theatre History," Mid-America Theatre Conference, 2024
DePaul University Research Council Paid Pre-Tenure Leave, 2024-2025
DePaul University Research Council Competitive Research Grant (\$3885), 2023
American Theatre and Drama Society First Book Bootcamp Fellow, 2021
Year of Creativity Grant (\$5000), University of Pittsburgh Office of the Provost, 2020
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Award for Outstanding Academic Scholarship, Tufts University, 2019
Professor Kalman A. Burnim Prize for Scholarly Excellence in Drama and Dance, 2019
Tufts DIVERSITY Grant (\$2100), 2019
Helen Krich Chinoy Dissertation Award, American Society for Theatre Research, 2018
Harvard Mellon School of Theatre and Performance Research Fellow in "Public Humanities," 2018
Feature Article on Wiki Edu, "Roundup: African American Theatre," 2018
Tufts DIVERSITY Grant (\$2100), 2017
Center for Humanities at Tufts Dissertation Fellowship, 2017
Tufts University Graduate Institute for Teaching Fellowship, 2017
Northwestern Summer Institute for Performance Studies Fellow, 2016
Tufts University Graduate Student Research Award, \$1000, 2015
Tufts University Special Mention for Outstanding Graduate Student Contribution to Undergraduate Education, 2013

University of Pennsylvania George and Jane Wallace Theatre Award, 2010

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

DePaul University

Artistic Director, Chicago Playworks for Families and Young Audiences, 2024-2027

Board, DePaul University Muslim Faculty/Staff Affinity Group, 2024-present

DePaul University Honors Program Faculty Committee, 2023-present

DePaul Teaching and Learning Technology Committee, 2022-present

The Theatre School Anti-Racism Task Force, 2021-present

The Theatre School Lab Committee, 2021-present

Chair, The Theatre School Stage Management Search Committee, 2022-2023

The Theatre School Dean Search Committee, 2021-2022

Chair, Theatre Studies Term Faculty Search Committee, 2021

The Theatre School Season Selection Committee, 2020-2021

Lead Organizer, The Theatre School Community Identity Survey, 2020-2021

The Theatre School artEquity Core Team Member, 2021

Service to the Field

Ad-Hoc Reviewer for Iowa University Press, 2024-present

Ad-Hoc Reviewer for *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, 2025-present

VP of Marketing and Membership, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2022-2024

Conference Committee, American Society for Theatre Research, 2023-2024

Chair/Focus Group Representative, Middle Eastern Theatre focus group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2019-2022

Artistic Associate, Medina Theatre Collective, 2021-present

Conference Committee, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2020-2021

Advisory Committee, The Road Less Traveled: A Festival of Theatre and Ideas, Silk Road Rising, 2021-present

Ad-Hoc Reviewer for Routledge, *Puppetry International*, *Arab Stages*, 2021 - present

Founder, Middle Eastern Theatre focus group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2018

Organizer, Fourth Triennial Consortium of Graduate Directors in Theatre and Performance Studies, 2018

Member and Web Editor, Graduate Student Caucus Web Committee for American Society for Theatre Research, 2013-2015

Previous Institutions

Coordinator of Islamicate Faculty Working Group, University of Pittsburgh, 2020

Laboratory Season Selection Committee, University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts, 2019-2020

Graduate Faculty Committee, University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts, 2019-2020

Producer and Organizer, Monica Palacios DIVERSITY performance at Tufts, 2017

Selection Committee, Tufts Graduate Student Research Award, 2017-2018

President, Student Theatre Association for Graduate Education, 2016-2017

Assistant to Director of Graduate Studies, Theatre and Performance Studies, Tufts University, 2017-2019

Treasurer, Student Theatre Association for Graduate Education, 2012-2013

LANGUAGES:

Fluency in Farsi, intermediate comprehension in Spanish, basic reading comprehension in Arabic and German

CREATIVE ACTIVITY (select):

Directing

(upcoming) *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*
My Name is Inanna
The Devils Between Us (staged reading)
Christmas Mubarak (co-director)
The Hijabis (staged reading)
The Gaza Monologues (co-director)
how to clean your room
Home
The Hungry Woman: A Mexican Medea
Hedwig and the Angry Inch
Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play
La Lune
A Man of No Importance
[title of show]
Falsettos
Over the Rainbow Cabaret

Musical Directing

Christmas Mubarak
Next to Normal
The Tempest
Camelot (a cappella re-orchestration)
The 25th Annual... Spelling Bee
Over the Rainbow Cabaret
Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog

Dramaturgy

Cheating Fate
Appropriate
Next to Normal
Obstacle Course
Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes
The Good Times Are Killing Me
The Laramie Project (asst.)
Laramie: 10 Years Later (asst.)
El Gato Con Botas (asst.)

Translations

Home
The Child
Hamlet

Playwriting

Transfixed

Training

Acting
 Directing
 Musical Theatre

Playwright

Mo Willems and Deborah Wicks La Puma
 Ezzat Goushegir
 Sharifa Yasmin
 Corey Pond
 Rohina Malik
 ASHTAR Theatre
 j. chavez
 Naghmeh Samini
 Cherrie Moraga
 Stephen Trask and John Cameron Mitchell
 Anne Washburn
 Cassandra Ichniowski
 Terrence McNally, Ahrens & Flaherty
 Hunter Bell and Jeff Bowen
 James Lapine and William Finn
 Various Artists

Composer/Lyricist

Various Artists
 Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey
 The Decemberists
 Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe
 William Finn
 Various Artists
 Joss Whedon et al

Director

Karim Chebli and Sara Abdo
 Ricardo Vila-Roger
 Niffer Clarke
 Jamil Khoury
 Heather Nathans
 Marcia Ferguson
 Moises Kaufman
 Moises Kaufman
 Moises Kaufman

Playwright

Naghmeh Samini
 Naghmeh Samini
 Mohammad Charmshir

Theatre

Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Bruce Montgomery Theatre

Instructor

Marcia Ferguson, James Schlatter
 Moisés Kaufman, Marcia Ferguson
 David Fox

Theatre

The Theatre School at DePaul
 Red Tape Theatre
 American Blues Theatre
 Silk Road Rising
 Broken Nose Theatre
 Stanford University
 The Theatre School at DePaul
 The Theatre School at DePaul
 Tufts University
 Tufts University
 Tufts University
 Philadelphia Fringe Festival
 Tufts University
 Tufts University
 University of Pennsylvania
 Tufts University

Theatre

Silk Road Rising
 Tufts University
 Philadelphia Fringe Festival
 University of Pennsylvania
 Tufts University
 Tufts University
 University of Pennsylvania

Theatre

U of Pittsburgh Stages
 U of Pittsburgh Stages
 U of Pittsburgh Stages
 Silk Road Rising, Tufts U
 Tufts University
 University of Pennsylvania
 Tectonic Theatre Project
 Tectonic Theatre Project
 Tectonic Theatre Project

Theatre

The Kennedy Center
 (unproduced)
 (unproduced)

Devised Performance
Playwriting
Dramaturgy
Voice for the Actor

Moises Kaufman and Tectonic Theatre Project, Cary Mazer
Kim Euell, P. Seth Bauer
Cary Mazer
Andrew Borthwick-Leslie