

## ALISSA J. WALTER

Associate Professor of History, Seattle Pacific University

### EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. in the History of the Middle East and North Africa, Georgetown University, 2018  
Dissertation: "The Ba'ath Party in Baghdad: State-Society Relations through Wars, Sanctions, and Authoritarian Rule, 1950-2003"
- M.A. in Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, 2011  
Thesis: "A Minority Within a Minority: Coptic and Evangelical Women in Egypt, 1854 - 2010"
- Graduate Certificate in Refugee and Humanitarian Emergencies, Georgetown University, 2011
- B.A., History Major, Latin American Studies Minor, Honors Program, Seattle Pacific University, 2008

### EXPERIENCE

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- Associate Professor of History, Seattle Pacific University, 2023 - Present
- Assistant Professor of History, Seattle Pacific University, 2018-2022

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- "The Politics of Memory in Contemporary Baghdad: A Comparative Neighborhood Study" *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 55, no. 2 (Fall 2023): 353-361, with co-author Ali al-Hammood.
- "The Iraqi Ba'ath Party Archives: Practical and Ethical Considerations," *Journal of Contemporary Iraq and the Arab World* 16, no. 1-2 (2022): 117-136.
- "Sex Crimes and Punishments in Baghdad," *Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Studies: Religion, Violence, and the State in Iraq* 35 (2019): 10-16.
- "Petitioning Saddam: Voices from the Iraqi Archives," chapter in *Truth, Silence, and Violence in Emerging States: Histories of the Unspoken*, edited by Aidan Russell (New York: Routledge, 2019), 127-146.
- "Rural Women, Resistance, and the Egyptian Family Planning Program, 1965-1980," *Journal of Women's History* 30, no. 2 (Summer 2018): 12-37.
- "Diaries of Iraqi Soldiers: Views from Inside Saddam's Army," *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies*, 12, no. 2 (Summer 2018): 183-198, with co-author Joseph Sassoon.
- Book review: "Aaron Faust's 'The Ba'athification of Iraq: Saddam Hussein's Totalitarianism,'" *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies* 12, no. 2 (Summer 2018): 213-215.
- "The Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait: New Historical Perspectives," *Middle East Journal* 71, no. 4 (Autumn 2017): 607-682, with co-author Joseph Sassoon.

### WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- Contested City: How Ordinary Iraqis Navigated Life in Baghdad from Saddam Hussein to the American Occupation*: Stanford University Press, forthcoming February 2025
- "Women and Gender in the Ba'ath Party Archives" solicited book chapter for Stanford University Press, edited by Sam Helfont and Lisa Blaydes, forthcoming

### OTHER SCHOLARLY WORKS

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- Submitted 8 tailored expert witness declarations to immigration judges about Iraq country conditions to contextualize asylum-seeker's claims for immigration court proceedings.
- "Misconceptions about Human Trafficking in a Time of Crisis," *Forced Migration Review* 45(2014): 58-59,

with co-author Elzbieta Gozdziaik  
*Urban Refugees in Cairo*, Washington, DC: Center for Contemporary Arab Studies and the Institute for the Study of International Migration, 2012, with co-author Elzbieta Gozdziaik

## INVITED TALKS

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- “20 Years After the Iraq War: Stories and Perspectives,” SPU Weter Award Lecture, 2023
- “The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Iraq War: Perspectives from Iraqi History,” Al Mann Annual Lecture at Seattle University, 2023
- “The Modern History of Iraq and Connections to Present-Day Issues,” briefing for the European Union Advisory Mission in Iraq, 2022
- “*Al-Ahya’ al-Haditha fi Baghdad* [Modern Neighborhoods of Baghdad]” invited talk given in Arabic for the Baghdad Cultural Forum, Baghdad, Iraq, 2022.

## RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS

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- “Women and Gender in the Ba‘th Party Archives: State of the Field and Future Directions” *A Decade of Research Using Iraqi Archives of Ba‘thist Iraq* conference, Stanford University, August 2023
- “Neighborhood Problem Solving in Baghdad: Changes in Local Governance Practices and Perceptions” *Iraq Twenty Years after the US Invasion* conference, Hamburg, Germany, March 2023.
- “Towards an Urban History Understanding of Saddam Hussein’s Local Governance Strategies in Baghdad,” *Iraq in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Renewal of Urban History* conference, Baghdad, Iraq, October 2022
- “Gender Norms, Sex Work, and the Law in Sanctions-Era Iraq,” The Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TARII) research conference, October 2021
- “Ba‘th Party Archives,” at the *Evolution of the Iraqi State* conference at Stanford University, October 2019
- “Sex Crimes and Punishments in Saddam’s Iraq” at the *Religion, Violence, and the State in Iraq* workshop at Brandeis University, April 2019
- “Slums and Subdivisions: The Politics of Housing in Baghdad, 1950-1979” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, November 2018

## CAMPUS TALKS AT SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

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- “Gaza and Israel in Context,” October 2023, sponsored by the History Department
- “Iran’s Morality Police and the Murder of Mahsa Amini,” October 2022, sponsored by the History Department and the School of Theology
- “Survival and State-Society Relations in Baghdad, From Saddam to the Americans” May 2022, sponsored by the Faculty Life Office
- “Wars and Displacement in Afghanistan: A Brief History” April 2022, sponsored by the Social Justice and Cultural Studies Program
- “Immigrants, Refugees, and Borders” February 2022, sponsored by the Social Justice and Cultural Studies Program
- “The War on Terror: Lessons Learned” September 2021, sponsored by the History Department
- “Does the United States Torture?” February 2020, sponsored by the History Department
- “ISIS Explained” January 2019, sponsored the History Department

## LANGUAGES

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Modern Standard Arabic (advanced proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking)  
Iraqi colloquial Arabic (intermediate proficiency in speaking)

Egyptian colloquial Arabic (intermediate proficiency in speaking)  
Spanish (advanced proficiency)  
French (read with a dictionary)

### **RECENT EXTERNAL GRANTS**

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Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Research and Travel Grant, 2020

### **RECENT AWARDS**

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Graves Award in the Humanities for Outstanding Accomplishment in Teaching, 2022, accompanied by a research grant award

Weter Award Lecture, Seattle Pacific University, 2022

Promising Practices in Remote Online Instruction during the Covid-19 Pandemic, SPU School of Education, 2020

Dissertation Prize from The Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TARII), 2019

### **COURSES TAUGHT AT SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY**

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HIS 1734 War on Terror: History of Our Lives

HIS 2857 Historiography: World Historians

HIS 3448 Refugees and Human Trafficking: History of Forced Migration and the Law

HIS 3720 Rise of Islamic Civilization

HIS 3725 Women and Gender in the Middle East

HIS 3730 History of the Modern Middle East

HIS 3813 History Online

HON 2200 History and Representation

UCOR 2000 Emergence of the Modern Global System

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Middle East Studies Association

American Historical Association

The Academic Research Institute in Iraq