

Zamira Abman

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EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara, CA

Ph.D. in History (2009-2015)

- Research areas: Soviet Union/Russia, Central Asia, Europe, and Modern Middle East
- Advisor: Adrienne Edgar

University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

M.A. in International Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution (2004-2006)

American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

B.A. in American Studies (Major) and Comparative and International Politics (Minor) (2004)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

San Diego State University

- Assistant Professor, History and Comparative International Studies Departments (Fall 2024–Present)
 - Director and undergraduate advisor for Comparative and International Studies Major (since Fall 2018 to Present)
 - Program development, advising, curriculum creation, and program assessment
 - Lecturer in History, Women’s Studies, Comparative International Studies, and the Weber Honors College (Fall 2015-Spring 2023)
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PUBLICATIONS

- *Coerced Liberation: Muslim Women in Soviet Tajikistan*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2024.
- “Marriage and Margins: Gendered Belonging in Chala-Jewish Muslim Lives.” *Central Asian Survey*. October 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2025.2550402>
- “History of Women’s Movements in Soviet Tajikistan: Early to Mid-20th Century.” In *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, edited by Suad Joseph, vol. 4, Leiden: Brill, 2019.
- “Women and Islam: Analysis of the Soviet Atheist Propaganda, 1953-1982.” In *Women and Gender in Twentieth Century Russia and the Soviet Union*, edited by Melanie Ilic, pp. 299-314. New York: Palgrave Handbook, 2017.

In-Progress Research

- Beyond Water Wars: Untangling Conflict and Cooperation in the Isfara–Batken Valley Research supported by ACLS Fellowship submitted to *Central Asian Survey*, December 2025.
- *Bridging Worlds: The History of the Chala—Jewish-Muslims in Soviet Tajikistan*. Under advance contract with University of Toronto Press (Four chapters completed; one final chapters in progress)

Book Reviews

Collectivization Generation: Oral Histories of a Social Revolution in Uzbekistan by Marianne Kamp, *American Historical Review* 130, Issue 4, December 2025, Pages 1732-1733.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhaf557>

Moscow's Heavy Shadow: The Violent Collapse of the USSR by Scarborough, Isaac McKean. *Slavic Review* 83, no. 1 (2024): 192–194. <https://doi.org/10.1017/slr.2024.477>

Grant Review: ISRF (Independent Social Research Foundation) Flexible Grants for Small Groups, 2024.

Journal Article Review: *Women in Dagestan*, *Slavic Review*, 2021.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

2026: Critical Thinking Grant Award, SDSU

2026: CAL Microgrant, SDSU

2025: IRA Award, College of Arts and Letters, San Diego State University

Comparative and International Studies (CINTS) Speaker Series: "Soviet Legacies in Central Asia"

2025: Most Influential Faculty Award for Comparative International Studies (CINTS)

2025: SDSU Outstanding Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (RSCA)

2024: American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship, NY

2024: CAL Microgrant, SDSU

2024: Most Influential Faculty Award for Comparative International Studies (CINTS), SDSU

2023: Most Influential Faculty Award for History, SDSU

2023: Most Influential Faculty Award for CINTS, SDSU

2023: Critical Thinking Grant Award, SDSU

2023: CAL Microgrant, SDSU

2022: AAUW American Short-Term Research Publication Grant

2022: Most Influential Faculty Award for the Weber Honors College, SDSU

2022: Most Influential Faculty Award for CINTS, SDSU

2022: Darlene Shiley Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching for the Weber Honors College, SDSU

2021: Most Influential Faculty Award for Social Science, SDSU

2020: Critical Thinking Grant Award, San Diego State University

2019: Most Influential Faculty Award CINTS, SDSU

2019: Grossmont College Canvas Training Certification

2015: UCSB Affiliates Graduate Fellowship

2015: UCSB Academic Senate Nomination for Excellence in Teaching

2014: Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, Pre-doctoral Fellowship, UCSB

2014: Albert and Elaine Borchard European Studies Fellowship, UCSB

2012-2014: Center for Middle Eastern Studies Summer Research Award, UCSB

2013: Steve and Barbara Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy, Department of Religious Studies, UCSB

2012-2013: Dean's Graduate Fellowship, UCSB

2012-2013: Fellowship, American Association of University Women, Washington, D.C.

2009-2012: The Global Supplementary Grant, Open Society Institute, New York City, NY

2010-2011: The Stephen and Eloise Hay Prize, Islamic Studies, UCSB

2000-2004: George Soros Full Scholarship, AUCA, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

- 2024: ASEES Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, Presenter, “*Bridging Worlds: The Shaping of Social and Personal Identities Among Muslim Jewish-Chala People in Soviet Tajikistan*”
- 2016: Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, UCSB; “The beneficiaries of Soviet state feminism: Tajik women professionals and their short-lived influence: 1953-1982”
- 2014: The Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, San Antonio, TX; “The Emancipation of the Muslim Women of Tajikistan under the Khrushchev regime, 1953-1964”
- 2014: Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UCSB; Conference on Women, Children, and Human Rights in the Middle East; “State feminism in Muslim Central Asia, 1924-1982”
- 2014: UCSB/GWU/LSE International Graduate Conference on the Cold War, UCSB; “The Emancipation of the Muslim women of Tajikistan under the Khrushchev regime, 1953-1964”
- 2013: 3rd Annual Graduate Student Islamic Studies Conference, UCSB; Theme: Reconstituting Female Authority. “The revival of the *zhensoveti*—women’s councils, emancipation of the Muslim women of Tajikistan under the Khrushchev regime, 1953-1964”
- 2012: Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University; “Emancipation of Muslim Women of Central Asia, 1945-1982: Analysis of Soviet propaganda in women’s periodicals”

PUBLIC LECTURES AND EVENTS

- 2025:** Invited speaker, *University of California, Santa Barbara, History Department* — Presentation: *Coerced Liberation: Muslim Women in Soviet Tajikistan*
- 2025:** Invited speaker, *UCSB History Department, Kruzok Seminar* — Presentation: *Construction of National and Personal Identities: Oral Histories of Jewish Muslims (Chala) in Soviet Tajikistan, 1920s–1990s*
- 2024:** Organizer and speaker, *European Studies Department and Comparative International Studies Program, SDSU* — Event: *Ukraine at the Crossroads: Assessing Two Years of War and Current Trends*
- 2023:** Invited speaker, *UCSD Extension, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute* — Presentation: *The Soviet Emancipation of Women, 1920s–1980s*
- 2023:** Invited speaker, *AAUW Monterey Peninsula and Santa Cruz County Branches, Annual Luncheon* — Presentation: *The Soviet Emancipation of Women, 1920s–1980s*
- 2022:** Invited speaker, *AAUW California Branch, Annual Fund Event* — Presentation: *The Soviet Emancipation of Muslim Women, 1920s–1980s*
- 2022:** Organizer, *Voices from Ukraine* — In collaboration with the European Studies Department, SDSU
- 2021:** Organizer, *Building Solidarity with Afghan Women* — In collaboration with the Women’s Studies Department and the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, SDSU

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught at SDSU (2015–Present)

CINTS 400: Capstone course for CINTS seniors
HIST 100: World history from the beginning to 1700
HIST 101: World History from 1700 to present
HIST 106: Western Civilization
HIST 411: World History for Teachers
HONORS 113: Gender in the Middle East
HONORS 313: The Soviet Experiment and its Legacy
HONORS 495: Capstone course Honors seniors
WMNST 560: Women in Muslim Societies

Grossmont College

- Lecturer (2016-2022): Courses in Middle Eastern and World History

Mesa College

- Lecturer (Fall 2016-2018): Courses in Modern Middle East and Western Civilization

University of California, Santa Barbara

- Instructor and Teaching Assistant (2009-2019): Courses in Modern Middle East and Feminist Studies
- **Oral History Specialist**
Conducted oral history interviews in Tajikistan for Adrienne Edgar's *Intermarriage and the Friendship of Peoples* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2023), during summer 2011–2012.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- **Research Specialist, Project Manager, and Community Organizer**
University of Minnesota / Sabes JCC / Jewish Community Action (2007–2009)
- **Research Intern**
Counterpart International, Washington, D.C. (2007)
- **Consultant**
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, St. Paul, MN (Fall 2006)
- **Intern**
The Carter Center, Atlanta, Georgia (2005)
- **Election Observer**
The Carter Center election observer in Monrovia, Liberia (2005)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- **English** (Fluent)
- **Tajik/Farsi** (Native)
- **Russian** (Fluent)
- **Uzbek** (Proficient)

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Member** of the Council of Chairs and Directors, College of Arts and Letters, SDSU (2018-Fall 2024)
- **Member** of the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, SDSU (2019-present)

- **Member** of the SDSU Academic Senate (2021-2024)
- **Faculty Advisor** for the Middle Eastern Student Association, Grossmont College (2019-2021)
- **Member** of the International Studies Curriculum Committee, SDSU (2019)
- **Advisor** for Preposterone Acapella Group, SDSU (2018-2019)
- **Member** of the Diversity Committee at Mesa College (Fall 2016-2018)