

# ERIC LOB

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations, Miami, FL  
Associate Professor of Middle East Comparative Politics, 2020-Present

Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations, Miami, FL  
Assistant Professor of Middle East Comparative Politics, 2014-2020

Brandeis University Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Waltham, MA  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2013-14

## EDUCATION

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Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton, NJ  
PhD, September 2013

- Dissertation: “An Institutional History of the Iranian Construction Jihad: From Inception to Institutionalization (1979-2011).”
- Committee Members: Dr. Mirjam Künkler, Dr. Cyrus Schayegh, Dr. Ezra Suleiman, Dr. Amaney Jamal, and Dr. Michael Reynolds.
- Conducted fieldwork in the Iranian provinces of Azerbaijan, Bushehr, Fars, Golestan, Isfahan, Khurasan, Semnan, Tehran, and Yazd, and in Lebanon’s Southern Beirut, Bekaa Valley, and South (2009-12).
- Visiting scholar at the University of Tehran Faculty of Social Sciences Department of Rural Sociology, Tehran, Iran (Spring 2011), and the French Institute of the Near East (*Institut français du Proche-Orient*), Damascus, Syria (Summer 2010) and Beirut, Lebanon (Summer 2012).

### Intensive Language Programs:

- Dehkoda Institute, Tehran, Iran, Intermediate and Advanced Persian (2009-11).
- Damascus University, Damascus, Syria, Advanced Arabic (2006-7).
- Georgetown University, Washington, DC, Advanced Arabic (2005-6).
- Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC, Elementary Arabic (2003).

Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC  
MA in International Relations, December 2005

University of Pennsylvania Annenberg School, Philadelphia, PA  
BA in Communications, Minor in French, May 1996

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book:

- *Iran’s Reconstruction Jihad: Rural Development and Regime Consolidation after 1979* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020).

### Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

- “Iranian Reconstruction, Development, and Aid in Syria,” *The Middle East Journal* (forthcoming).
- “Construction Jihad: Wartime and Post-War Reconstruction and Development in Lebanon,” in Luigi Narbone (ed.), *Fractured Stability: War Economies and Reconstruction in the MENA* (Florence: European University Institute, 2019), 54-62.
- “Iran and Hizbullah’s Development Organization in Lebanon: The Case of *Jibād al-Binā’*,” *Die Welt des Islams* 59.3-4 (2019): 411-42.
- “The Politics of Development and Security in Iran’s Border Provinces,” *The Middle East Journal* 73.2 (2019): 263-84 (with Nader Habibi).

- “Construction Jihad: State-Building and Development in Iran and Lebanon’s Shi‘i Territories,” *Third World Quarterly* 39.11 (2018): 2103-25.
- “War, Mobilization, and Development in the Islamic Republic of Iran: From the Construction Jihad to the Trench Builders Association (1979-2013),” in Ángel Alcalde and Xosé Manoel Núñez Seixas (eds.), *War Veterans and the World after 1945: Cold War Politics, Decolonization, Memory* (London: Routledge 2018), 150-66.
- “Researching Hizbullah in Lebanon,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49.3 (2017): 521-25.
- “Development, Mobilization and War: The Iranian Construction Jihad, Construction Mobilization and Trench Builders Association,” in Narges Bajoghli and Amir Moosavi (eds.), *Debating the Iran-Iraq War in Contemporary Iran* (London: Routledge, 2018), 23-42 (Reprinted from *Middle East Critique* 26.1 (2017): 25-44).
- “The Islamic Republic of Iran’s Foreign Policy and Construction Jihad’s Developmental Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 48.2 (2016): 313-38.

### Review Essays and Book Reviews:

- “Regime Resilience, Social Welfare, and Economic Development in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” *Bustan* 9.2 (2018): 111-31.
- “Review of Misagh Parsa’s Democracy in Iran,” *The Middle East Journal* 71.3 (2017): 495-97.
- “Review of Ronen Cohen’s Revolution Under Attack,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 48.3 (2016): 599-601.
- “The Evolution of Scholarship on Middle East Authoritarianism: Essentialism, Democratization, and Resilience,” *Iranian Studies* 48.3 (2015): 489-99.
- “Review of Mary Hegland’s Days of Revolution,” *Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia* 2.1 (2014): 112-15.

### Op-Eds and Policy Briefs:

- “The Promise and Politicization of Post-War Reconstruction in Haret Hreik,” TRAF0 Blog for Transregional Research, February 18, 2020.
- “Mobilizing Construction Jihad in Revolutionary Iran,” *Maydan*, February 4, 2020.
- “Roundtable: Backdrop & Reverberations of Soleimani’s Assassination (Part 1: Iran),” *Jadaliyya*, January 15, 2020 (with Maryam Alemzadeh and Arshin Adib-Moghaddam).
- “There’s a battle in Iran over the IRGC’s business empire,” *The Washington Post*, January 5, 2017 (with Nader Habibi).
- “Realists Should Expect America and Turkey to Stick Together,” *The National Interest*, August 24, 2016.
- “What Iran will really do with its sanctions relief windfall,” *The Washington Post*, November 4, 2015.
- “Understanding Iran’s Supreme Leader on the Nuclear Deal,” *POMEPS Studies: Iran and the Nuclear Deal* 13 (April 29, 2015), 18-20 (Reprinted from *The Washington Post*, April 14, 2015) (with Amir Hossein Mahdavi).
- “Is Hezbollah Confronting a Crisis of Popular Legitimacy?” *Crown Center Middle East Brief* 78 (March 2014).

### CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PAPERS

- “Iranian Reconstruction, Development, and Aid in Syria: Geopolitical Interests, Conflict-Based Drivers, and Transnational Linkages,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (October 2020).
- “Rural Reconstruction, Development, and Aid in the Islamic Republic of Iran: The Case of the Construction Jihad,” George Mason University Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies Conference “Islam and Humanitarianism,” Fairfax, VA (November 2019), and The Muslim World journal workshop on Islam and humanitarianism (September 2020).
- “The Promise: The Politicization of Post-War Reconstruction in Southern Beirut,” Orient-Institut Beirut International Conference “Reconstructing Neighborhoods of War,” Beirut, Lebanon (December 2018).
- “Construction Jihad: A Model for Wartime and Post-War Reconstruction, Development, and Stabilisation in the MENA?” European University Institute Annual Conference “Exiting war economy dynamics,” Florence, Italy (November 2018).

- “The Contradictions and Consequences of Civil Society and Governance in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX (November 2018).
- “Iran’s Foreign Policy and Developmental Activities in Africa (1985-2018),” University of Cambridge Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge, United Kingdom (August 2018).
- “The Cultural Production of Jihadi Culture and Management,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (November 2017).
- “Development, Mobilization, and War in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” LMU Munich International Workshop ‘War Veterans and the World after 1945,’ Munich, Germany (July 2017).
- “Construction Jihad: State-Building and Development in Lebanon’s Shi’i Territories,” Arab Council for the Social Sciences Third Conference, Beirut, Lebanon (March 2017).
- “Iran and Hizbullah’s Development Organization in Lebanon: The Case of *Jibād al-Binā’*,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (November 2016).
- “The Islamic Republic of Iran’s Foreign Policy and Construction Jihad’s Developmental Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa,” Tel Aviv University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Conference on Islam in Africa, Tel Aviv and Beersheba, Israel (May 2016).
- “Development as Politics: The Iranian Construction Jihad and Revolutionary Regime Consolidation,” Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL (April 2016).
- “The Overseas Operations of the Iranian Construction and Agricultural Jihad in Sub-Saharan Africa (1984-2009),” Swiss Society for African Studies Conference “Islam in Africa,” Berne, Switzerland (April 2015), Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Annual Conference, Washington, DC (October 2014), and Afro-Middle East Centre Conference “In Whose Interests? Exploring Middle East Involvement in Africa,” Pretoria, South Africa (November 2013).
- “The Iranian Construction Jihad: Islam and Nationalism in Post-Revolutionary Developmental and Political Discourse,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (November 2014).
- “The Iranian Construction Jihad: Social and Political Currents of Modern Iranian History,” Association for the Study of Persianate Societies Sixth Biennial Convention, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina (September 2013).
- “The Iranian Construction Jihad: The Inception and Institutionalization of a Revolutionary Movement (1979-2011),” New York University Iranian Studies Initiative Junior Scholars Research Workshop, New York, NY (May 2013).
- “Lebanese Hezbollah and the Arab Spring: A Crisis of Legitimacy?” Arab Council for the Social Sciences Inaugural Conference on Arab Transformations, Beirut, Lebanon (March 2013).
- “The Iranian Construction Jihad and the Genesis of a Revolutionary Movement,” Irmgard Coninx Foundation Sixteenth Roundtables on Rebellion to Revolution, Berlin, Germany (October 2012).
- “The Legacy of the Iranian Construction Jihad: Micro-Mobilization or Regime Mouthpiece?” Association for Iranian Studies Ninth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, Istanbul, Turkey (August 2012).
- “Construction Jihad and the End of the Iranian Revolution,” Harvard University Mahindra Humanities Center Graduate Student Conference “How to End a Revolution?” Cambridge, MA (April 2012).
- “The Iranian Construction Jihad: From Inception to Institutionalization (1979-2011),” Princeton University Arab Political Development Workshop, Princeton, NJ (December 2011).
- “The Iranian Construction Jihad: A Case of Elite Counter-Mobilization,” American Sociological Association Collective Behavior and Social Movements Workshop, Las Vegas, NV (August 2011).
- “Rural Mobilization and Power Consolidation in Post-Revolutionary Iran and Syria,” Princeton University Arab Political Development Workshop, Princeton, NJ (October 2010).
- “A Tale of Two Revolutions: Syrian and Iranian Land Reform,” Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship Workshop, San Diego, CA (June 2010) and Philadelphia, PA (September 2010).

## INVITED PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

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### Panels:

- “An Update on Europe-Iran Relations,” Florida International University Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Miami, FL (November 2020).
- “Reframing Syrian Refugee Insecurity through a Feminist Lens,” Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (October 2020).
- “Terrorism, Violent Extremism, and U.S. National Security Interests,” Florida International University Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, Miami, FL (September 2020).
- “Iran and the Coronavirus: From Government Management to Economic Sanctions,” Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (April 2020).
- “Troubled Waters: US-Iran Relations and Diplomacy,” Iranian Cultural Society of South Florida, Miami, FL (February 2020).
- “Turmoil in the Middle East,” Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (January 2020).
- “The Iranian Revolution at Forty,” Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (February 2019).
- “The Legacy of George H.W. Bush,” Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (December 2018).
- “The First World War and the Making of the Modern Middle East,” Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (October 2018).
- “What Threat Does Iran Pose to the US?” University of Nebraska, Omaha and Lincoln, NE (September 2018).
- “The Balfour Declaration and the Making of the Modern Middle East,” Florida International University Jewish Museum of Florida, Miami, FL (February 2018).
- “The Future of Violent Extremism Globally,” Florida International University Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, Miami, FL (February 2018).
- “Macro and Micro Causes of Political Violence and Terrorism,” Florida International University Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, Miami, FL (February 2017).
- “Terrorism, Domestic and International,” Broward County Crime Commission Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL (February 2017).
- “Doing Research in Iran: Strategies and Experiences,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (November 2016).
- “Living in an Age of Uncertainty: Panel and Discussion on Terrorism with Experts at Florida International University,” Florida International University, Miami, FL (November 2016).
- “People on the Move,” Amnesty International Art for Amnesty Opening Reception, Miami, FL (August 2016).
- “Trouble in Turkey: Erdogan and the Consequences of a Failed ‘Coup’,” Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (July 2016).
- “The Iranian Nuclear Deal,” Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (March 2016).
- “The Iranian Army Corps of Engineers,” Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations, Miami, FL (March 2016).
- “Security in the Middle East,” Florida International University Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, Miami, FL (February 2016).
- “The Syrian Crisis in Focus,” Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (October 2015).
- “Development as Politics: Iran’s Construction Jihad,” Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations, Miami, FL (February 2015).

- “Current Conflicts in the Middle East: Iraq and Gaza,” Florida International University School of International and Public Affairs, Miami, FL (September 2014).
- “Two-State Solution: Limits and Opportunities,” Bentley University Department of Global Studies, Waltham, MA (April 2014).
- “Iran: From Elections until Now,” Harvard University Center for Middle East Studies, Cambridge, MA (October 2013).
- “Taking the ‘Social’ Seriously: Ethnographies of Power in Contemporary Iran,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (December 2011).

#### **Presentations:**

- “The US Election: Implications for Iran-US Relations,” Imam Sadiq University Department of International Relations, Faculty of Political Science and Islamic Studies, Tehran, Iran (August 2020).
- “Iranian Reconstruction, Development, and Aid in Syria,” National Defense University, Washington, DC (June 2020) and University of Oklahoma Farzaneh Family Center for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies, Norman, OK (November 2019).
- “US-Iran Relations: On the Brink,” Florida International University School of International and Public Affairs Consular Corps of Miami Luncheon Keynote Address (September 2019).
- “Terrorism and Violent Extremism,” Florida International University Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, Miami, FL (March 2018).
- “Is Hezbollah Confronting a Crisis of Popular Legitimacy?” Brandeis University Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Waltham, MA, and Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations, Miami, FL (February 2014).
- “The Iranian Construction Jihad: Theoretical and Sociological Implications (in Persian),” University of Tehran Faculty of Social Sciences Department of Rural Sociology, Tehran, Iran (March 2011), and Islamic Azad University Department of Rural Sociology, Semnan, Iran (April 2011).

#### **AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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- Provost-Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab Humanities Research Grant (2020-21)
- Article Prize, Honorable Mention, Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Society (2020)
- Seed Funding for Interdisciplinary Faculty Research, Florida International University (2019-20).
- Kluge Fellowship, John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress (2017-18).
- Humanities Research Grant, Florida International University (2016).
- Global Learning Faculty Fellowship, Florida International University (2016).
- Morris and Anita Broad Research Fellowship Award, Florida International University (2015-18).
- Best Ph.D. Dissertation Award, Foundation for Iranian Studies (2014).
- Mashayekhi Dissertation Award (First Honorable Mention), Association for Iranian Studies (2014).
- Best Conference Paper, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (2014).
- Research Grant, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (2014).
- Travel Grant, American Institute of Iranian Studies (2013).
- Lawrence of Arabia Academic Fellowship, Princeton University Near Eastern Studies Program (2013).
- International Essay Competition Award and Travel Grant, Irmgard Coninx Foundation (2012).
- TRE Grant, George Washington University Project on Middle East Political Science (2012).
- Travel Grant, Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel, Princeton University Graduate School (2011).
- Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (2010).
- Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, Princeton University Near Eastern Studies Program (2008-11).

#### **TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

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##### **Undergraduate:**

- Arab-Israeli Conflict (CPO 4401), Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Spring 2016-20).

- Political Violence and Revolution (CPO 4057), Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Spring 2015-19, Fall 2020).
- Politics of the Middle East (CPO 3403), Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Fall 2014-16, 2018-20, Summer 2017-19).
- International Relations of the Middle East (INR 3274), Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Spring & Fall 2015).
- Independent Study of Elementary Arabic (INR 4905), Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Spring 2015).
- Guest Lecturer, “The Iranian Reconstruction Revisited: A Critical Reexamination of President Hashemi Rafsanjani’s Political, Economic, and Sociocultural Policies (1989-97),” *The Iranian Revolution: From Monarchy to the Islamic Republic* (HIST 112), Brandeis University Department of History (Fall 2013).
- Assistant Instructor to Dr. Nancy Coffin, Elementary Arabic (ARA 102), Princeton University Department of Near Eastern Studies (Spring 2012).
- Assistant Instructor to Dr. Bernard Haykel, *The Politics of Modern Islam* (NES 269/ POL 353), Princeton University Departments of Near Eastern Studies and Politics (Fall 2009).
- Assistant Instructor to Dr. Hebatalla Elkhateeb-Musharraf, Advanced Arabic (ARA 301), Princeton University Department of Near Eastern Studies (Fall 2008).

#### **Graduate:**

- Approaches to Area Studies (INR 5017), Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Spring 2020).
- Seminar in Politics of the Middle East (CPO 6407), Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Fall 2016, 2018-19).
- Dissertation Committee Member, “A Regional Power in the Making: Making Sense of Ethiopia’s Influence in the Horn of Africa,” Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Fall 2020).
- Dissertation Committee Member, “Rethinking Why Gender Norms Matter: The Case of Syrian Women Refugees in Lebanon,” Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Spring 2019).
- Dissertation Committee Member, “Dynamics of Iranian-Saudi Relations in the Persian Gulf Regional Security Complex (1921-79),” Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (Spring 2018).
- Instructor, Elementary Arabic, Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (Spring 2009).

#### **PROFESSIONAL, DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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##### **Professional:**

- Panel Co-Organizer, “An Update on Europe-Iran Relations,” Florida International University Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Miami, FL (November 2020).
- Panel Organizer, “State and Societal Resilience and Vulnerability in Post-Revolutionary Iran: Between the Local and Transnational,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (October 2020).
- Board of Trustees Member, American Institute of Iranian Studies, 2018-20.
- Reviewer, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 2020.
- Reviewer, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 2020.
- Reviewer, Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.
- Reviewer, Routledge, 2018.
- Referee, *Middle East Critique*, 2018.
- Referee, *Third World Quarterly*, 2017, 2020.

- Panel Co-Organizer, “Contested Cultures of Revolution: Cultural Production in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (November 2017).
- Roundtable Co-Organizer, “Fieldwork in the Middle East: Challenges and Possibilities,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49.3 (2017): 501-33 (with Paola Rivetti).
- Reviewer, Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- Referee, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 2015.
- Referee, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 2009.

### **Departmental and University:**

- Graduate Faculty and Dissertation Advisor Status Committee, Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (2020).
- Evaluating Teaching Project Committee, Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (2019-20).
- Tenure, Promotion and Personnel Committee, Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (2018-20).
- Political Science Assessments Coordinator, Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (2016-19).
- Political Science Graduate Program Committee, Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (2015-16, 2020-21).
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Graduate Student Development and Seminars, Florida International University Department of Politics and International Relations (2014-15).
- Discussant, Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium on Islamist Resurgence in Syria and Tunisia, Princeton University Department of Near Eastern Studies (2013).
- Graduate Student Committee, Princeton University Department of Near Eastern Studies (2012-13).
- Group Leader, Dissertation Writing Workshop, Princeton University Writing Center (2012-13).
- Discussant, Workshop on Contemporary Arab Regionalism and Authoritarianism, Princeton University Department of Near Eastern Studies (2010).
- Organizer of Weekly Arabic Language Table, Princeton University Program of Near Eastern Studies and Forbes College (2009-13).
- Graduate Residential Adviser, Princeton University Forbes College (2009-13).

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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- American Institute of Iranian Studies
- American Political Science Association
- American Sociological Association
- Arab Council for the Social Sciences
- Association for Iranian Studies
- Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa
- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
- French Institute of the Near East (*Institut français du Proche-Orient*)
- Middle East Studies Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Social Science Research Council

### **LANGUAGES AND TRAVEL**

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- Proficient in written and spoken Arabic, Persian, and French.
- Traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, including Egypt, Iran, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen.

Last updated: October 18, 2020