Katayoun *Matloubi*, PhD

Holocaust & Memory Studies · Iranian Jewish History · Vichy France & Archival Testimony

Research Associate, Inclusive History Project, University of Michigan–Dearborn · Research Associate, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University · Part-Time Faculty, Washtenaw Community College
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RESEARCH PROFILE

Scholar of Holocaust and memory studies, Iranian Jewish history, and transnational Middle Eastern Jewish experience. My current archival project, *Classified Between: An Iranian Jewish Student in Vichy France, 1941–1944*, examines how Vichy officials classified a Jewish student of Iranian nationality, comparing French police files with a 1941 diary and later testimony. During the USHMM's August 2026 workshop on internment, I worked with the Museum's French police microfilm. My book project develops a rhetoric of obliquity in Holocaust literature and film. I bring French- and Persian-language research, translation, oral-history methods, and museum education to questions of Jewish testimony and belonging.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2026–present	**Research Associate**, Inclusive History Project, University of Michigan–Dearborn
2026–present	**Part-Time Faculty, History**, Washtenaw Community College
2026	**Research Associate**, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University
2025–2026	**Non-Residential Research Fellow**, USC Shoah Foundation
2024–2025	**Researcher**, UConn Global Affairs & Dodd Center for Human Rights, University of Connecticut
2021–2024	**Graduate Instructor**, Department of Literatures, Cultures & Languages, University of Connecticut

EDUCATION

2025	**Ph.D., Contemporary French Literature and Francophone Studies**, University of Connecticut Dissertation: *Representing the Holocaust in Novels and Films: Anna Langfus and Six Directors*. Advisor: Roger Célestin.
2025	**Graduate Certificate in Human Rights**, University of Connecticut
2018	**M.A., French Literature**, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran Thesis: *Studying Alimentation as a Social and Cultural Marker in Two Novels by Annie Ernaux*
2015	**B.A., French Language & Literature**, University of Tabriz, Iran

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"The Persistence of the Void: Formal Absence in Holocaust Representation from Langfus to *Ida*." *Holocaust Studies*. Published online (open access), October 16, 2026. DOI 10.1080/17504902.2026.2742079.

"Knowing Non-Knowledge: Perpetrator Memory and Mnemonic Form in *The Zone of Interest*." *Memory Studies*. Revised version submitted November 13, 2026; under review.

"Oblique Testimony: Holocaust Representation in Literature and Visual Art through Langfus and Boltanski." *Journal of Holocaust Research*. Second revision in preparation. With José Luis Falconi.

Book Review

Review of Roy Grundmann, *On Shoreless Sea: The MS St. Louis Refugee Ship in History, Film, and Popular Memory* (SUNY Press, 2025). *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*. Accepted; forthcoming.

Work in Progress

The Rhetoric of Obliquity: Anna Langfus, Holocaust Cinema, and the Ethics of Indirection. Book manuscript complete; in preparation for publication.

"Iran, Jews, Israel, and Palestine under the Pahlavi Dynasty (1925–1979): Strategic Pragmatism, Ideological Duality, and Post-Revolutionary Legacies." Article in progress.

FELLOWSHIPS, RESEARCH PROGRAMS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2026 **Jacob and Yetta Gelman International Research Workshop**, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "The Social Worlds of Internment: Entangled Histories of Inmates in Concentration Camps (1933–1945)," August 3–14, 2026. Research in the Shapell Center Reading Room.

2026 **Selected Participant, Broadening Academia Initiative Writing Retreat**, USHMM Great Oak Manor, July 19–24, 2026.

2026 **Trans-Atlantic Summer Institute (TASI) Fellow**, Center for German & European Studies, University of Minnesota, supported by DAAD; Leuphana University Lüneburg and Marc Bloch Center, Berlin, June 29–July 10, 2026.

2026 **Research Travel Grant**, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University

2025 **Curt C. and Else Silberman Faculty Seminar Fellow**, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Jewish Experiences Under Nazi and Soviet Occupation of Eastern Europe."

2025 **George Mills Harper Graduate Student Travel Fund Award**, SAMLA 97 (one of two recipients)

2025 **GAIN25 Conference Grant**, German Academic International Network

University of Connecticut: Summer Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2025) · HRRC International Conference Participation Award (2025) · Global Affairs Conference Travel Fund (2025) · Conference Participation Fellowship (2023) · Patti Parlette Peace Prize (2023) · Graduate School Fellowship (2021, 2023)

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Classified Between: An Iranian Jewish Student in Vichy France, 1941–1944. Archival project comparing Menashe Ezrapour's 1941 French diary, if accessible, with French police records on internment, foreign workers, and nationality in 1942–44, and with his later oral testimony. Ezrapour was a Jewish engineering student from Hamadan. Uses USHMM collections, including RG-43.016M.

Machine Translation and Holocaust Memory Distortion. Examines neural machine-translation errors in Persian and French Holocaust testimony using USHMM archival materials. Presented at POLIN Museum's "Confronting Holocaust Distortion" conference, November 2025.

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH AND CERTIFICATION

2026 **Interviewer Certification**, USC Shoah Foundation. Witness-led interview protocols, testimony architecture analysis, informed consent procedures, and archival metadata standards. Conducted two French-language interview sessions, July 27 and August 20, 2026.

2022–2023 **Oral History Archive Research**, UCLA Oral History Research Center (Iranian Jewish Collection) & Harvard Iranian Oral History Project. Analysis of Persian-language Iranian Jewish community testimony; translation of Persian-language recordings into English for exhibition development at the Museum of Tolerance, Los Angeles.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Winter 2027 **HST 230: History of the Holocaust**, Washtenaw Community College. Instructor of record.

Fall 2026 **HST 109: The Early Modern World**, Washtenaw Community College.

2021–2024 **University of Connecticut**, Instructor of Record. Eleven sections of Elementary French I and II as sole instructor of record: syllabus design, assessment, grading, and advising.

2013–2018 **Tak Sokhan Language Institute**, Tabriz, Iran. Instructor of French and English.

INVITED TALKS

2026 "When Tehran Opened Its Doors: Iranian Hospitality and the Jewish Refugees of the Second World War," Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center, Philadelphia, PA

2024 "Read Silence: Why and How?" Roundtable participant, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute

CAMPUS AND PEDAGOGICAL EVENTS

2026 "Genocide, Historical Trauma, and Survivor Testimony as Frameworks for Understanding Oppression," Guest Lecture, BASC 5300: Human Oppression, University of Connecticut

2023 "Holocaust Testimony and the Ethics of Representation," public roundtable and film screening (*Claude Lanzmann: Spectres of the Shoah*). Organized and facilitated. University of Connecticut.

2023 "Rhetorics of Obliquity: The Necessity of Traumatic Representation," Department of Art, University of Connecticut

SELECTED REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

2026 "Listening in the Aftermath: Sound, Memory, and Oblique Testimony in the Art of Boltanski, Shalev-Gerz, Sedira, and Bartana," 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, University of Notre Dame

2025 "AI, Translation, and Holocaust Memory Distortion," POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland

2025 "Disorienting Knowledge: Négar Djavadi's Philosophical Fiction at the Crossroads of Identity and Aesthetics," SAMLA, Atlanta, GA

2025 "Coded Racial Rhetoric in Digital Discourse: Sustaining Human Rights against Far-Right Threats to Democracy," University of Tübingen, Germany. With C. Mortley

2024 "The Art of Oblique Testimony: Anna Langfus and Christian Boltanski's Vague Renarration of Trauma," 20th/21st-Century French & Francophone Studies International Colloquium. With José Luis Falconi

PUBLIC HUMANITIES AND OUTREACH

2024–present **Educational Consultant**, Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center, Philadelphia, PA. Curriculum and programming for Holocaust education; review of educational materials for scholarly accuracy.

2022–2023 **Exhibition Writer (Contract Project)**, Museum of Tolerance, Los Angeles. Historical research briefs and interpretive texts for an exhibition on antisemitism in Tehran.

2020 **Volunteer Translator**, United Nations

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2026–present Steering Committee, Abrahamic Programs, University of Connecticut

2025 Panel Chair & Organizer, "Knowledge After Catastrophe: Trauma, Testimony, and the Ethics of Representation," SAMLA, Atlanta, GA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024–2026 Belfer National Conference for Holocaust Education, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Teaching Certificates (24 hours each), 2024 and 2025; attendee, 2026.

2025 “Values That Matter: The Ethics of Democratic Resilience,” workshop led by Marco Krüger, University of Tübingen

LANGUAGES

Azeri (native) · Persian (bilingual: research, translation, archival) · English (full professional proficiency) · French (near-native: research, teaching, publication) · Ottoman Turkish (full professional) · Arabic (reading)