

## Sharon C. Smith, Ph.D.

  
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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Graduate Program in the History and Theory of Art and Architecture, Binghamton University (SUNY)

M.A. San Jose State University, Art History

B.A. San Jose State University, *summa cum laude*, Art History

Areas of specialization: art and architecture of Muslim cultures; art and architecture of Italian Renaissance/Early Modern Italy

## Supplemental education academic

- Aga Khan University (International)—Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations Short-Course, “Mosques in Sub-Saharan Africa”
- Aga Khan University, Institute for Global Health and Development (Pakistan), “Water and Global Health: Complexities and Challenges”
- Harvard University, Derek Bok Teaching and Learning Center, Higher Education Teaching Certificate
- Monterey Institute for International Studies, Monterey, California, Arabic immersion course
- CSU Firenze (California State University at Florence, Italy), Italian language and art history
- Istituto Michelangelo, Florence, Italy, Italian language and culture

## professional development

- Photoshop and Creative Cloud professional training
- Title IX Compliance Training
- Educause and Nercomp – 2018 Manager Series
- Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response (CSMPR)

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

August 2018 - Curator for Middle East and North Africa, History, and Religion  
Associate Academic  
Affiliated Faculty, Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies (CAIS)  
Officer, Center for Maghrib Studies (CMS)  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ

August 2011 - Founding Program Head

August 2018     Aga Khan Documentation Center  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

January 2012 - P.I. & Co-Director, Archnet.org (<http://archnet.org>)  
August 2018     Aga Khan Documentation Center at MIT/Aga Khan Trust for Culture  
Cambridge, MA/Geneva, Switzerland

October 2013 - Consultant  
March 2014     Museum of Islamic Art, Education Division, Doha, Qatar

January 2011 - Imaging Editor  
August 2018     *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Cultures of the Islamic World*  
Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

August 2003 - Visual Resources Librarian for Islamic Art and Architecture (2010-2011)  
August 2011     Visual Materials Cataloger for Islamic Art (2003-2010)  
Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Documentation Center, Fine Arts  
Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2007             Instructor  
Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies Outreach/Primary  
Source  
Cambridge, MA/Watertown, MA

2002             Contributor/General Consultant, Arab Art & Architecture National Institute for  
Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE)  
Arab Culture and Civilization Web Resource

2002, 2000,     Lecturer  
& 1999           Department of Art History, Binghamton University, SUNY, Binghamton, NY

## **SERVICE/AWARDS/HONORS/PROJECTS**

2021             Participating Expert, Afghanistan Documentary Heritage Collaboration

2021             Chair, Endangered Libraries and Archives Committee, Middle East  
Librarians Association (MELA)

2021             Program Committee, CRL (Center for Research Libraries) Annual Meeting,  
“Diversity as Knowledge”, Chicago, IL, 20-22 April 2022

2021             Lead, ASU Library International Studies Task Force

2020 – 2023     Named partner, Collections and Services Policy Committee (CSPC)  
International Collections and Content Group, Center for Research Libraries  
(CRL)

2020 – 2021	Appointed to Renaissance Society of America (RSA) Professional Development Discussion Group: On responsibility and diversity across the academy
2020	Founding member Middle East Librarians' Social Justice Committee
2020 – 2023	Chair Elect, Arizona State University Library Assembly
2020	Lead P.I. for Access and Preservation, ASU Library and The School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies "Documenting Beth Hebrew Congregation within Greater AZ Context"
2019	Co-P.I. ASU, The Center for Religion and Conflict, "Syrian Democracy Project"
2019	Co-P.I. ASU, The Institute for Humanities Research Cluster in collaboration with Tempe Sister Cities and the Tempe Historical Museum, "Citizen Diplomacy Project"
2018	Original P.I. representing LayerCake for MIT for <i>MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) Global Seed Fund</i> grant in conjunction with Project Cornelia at the University of Leuven
2018	Winner of the <i>Mohamed Makiya Prize - For the Middle Eastern Architectural Personality of the Year: Tamayouz Excellence Award (Aga Khan Documentation Center, 2015-2017)</i>
2018	Named to the Advisory Board of <i>Muslim Material Cultures: Archeology, Anthropology, and Art in Context</i>
2018	Named to the International Advisory Board for <i>Archnet-IJAR (International Journal of Architectural Research)</i>
2018 -	Italian Art Society (IAS) Membership, Outreach, and Development Committee
2017 – 2021	Renaissance Society of America (RSA) Mentoring Program
2017 -	Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) Mentoring Program
2017	Ex-officio Board Member Middle East Materials Project (MEMP), Center for Research Libraries (CRL)
2017 – 2018	P.I. MIT, LayerCake (a 3-axis interactive mapping tool)
2016 - 2017	President, Middle East Librarians Association
2016	Judge (Architecture), Islamic Scholarship Fund, Berkeley, CA

2016 - 2018	Participating Expert, UNESCO Safeguarding of Syria's Cultural Heritage Committee
2015	Invited guest critic to MIT, School of Architecture and Planning, SMArchS students' Pre-Thesis/Thesis Review
2015	Infinite Mile Award, MIT Libraries, Community Building category (Team award, Aga Khan Documentation Center at MIT)
2015 - 2016	Vice-President/President Elect/Program Chair (2016 Annual Meeting) Middle East Librarians Association
2013 - 2017	Board of Directors Newsletter Editor, 2014-2017 Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC)
2013 - ∞	Fellow of the Institute Tangier American Legation Institute for Studies Tangier, Morocco
2011 - 2013	Member-at-large Middle East Librarians Association
2011 - 2018	Board of Trustees, American Institute of Pakistan Studies
2011 - 2018	Board of Directors, American Institute of Yemeni Studies
2010 - 2012	Editor, SAHARA (SAH Architecture Resources Archive) Society of Architectural Historians

## **PRESENTATIONS (selected)**

### **Conferences**

- 2019 "Of architecture, icons, and meaning: Encountering the pre-modern city", presenter  
CIHA (Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art), 35th Congress, *Motion: Transformation*, Florence, Italy
- 2019 *Mamluk Aesthetics and Renaissance Italians, Out from the Ottoman Shadow*, panel co-organizer and respondent, Renaissance Society of America, Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada
- 2018 "Can the digital save cultural heritage? Baghdad: A case study", presenter, Digital Research in Humanities and Art (DRHA), Malta

- 2018 “Generic Encounters: The Real and the Imagined”, co-author and presenter  
*Medievalists Without Borders* (a roundtable), International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2018 “Built Cultural Heritage: Documenting and Preserving Cultural Heritage of Northern Morocco”, TALIM (Tangier American Legation in Morocco) April Seminar Tangier, Morocco
- 2017 *Arabic-script typography: history, technology, and aesthetics*, panel chair  
MESA (Middle East Studies Association) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- 2017 *Chronicles and Curation: Documenting Cultural Transitions in the Wider Middle East (in 2 parts)*, panel chair, BRISMES (British Society for Middle Eastern Studies) Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2017 “Where Do We Go From Here?: Mapping Assets in Digital Humanities”, presenter  
*Digital Humanities and Art History I: Geomapping*  
Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- Negotiating the Levant*, panel chair, Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2016 “The Past Demands an Answer: What Becomes of History in the Age of Digital Media?”, presenter, *Media in Muslim Contexts: Inventing and Re-inventing Identities*  
Aga Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, London, England
- 2016 Program Chair (<https://www.mela.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Mela-Program-2016final4.pdf>)  
Middle East Librarians Association Annual Meeting, Cambridge, MA
- 2016 *Cultural Dialogues: Nodes, networks, and sites of intersection*, panel co-organizer  
BRISMES Annual Conference *Networks: Connecting the Middle East through Time, Space and Cyberspace*,  
University of Wales Trinity St David, Lampeter, Wales
- “A Giraffe in the City: Implications of the 1489 Mamluk-Florentine Treaty”, presenter  
BRISMES Annual Conference *Networks: Connecting the Middle East through Time, Space and Cyberspace*, University of Wales Trinity St David, Lampeter, Wales
- 2016 “Influence Explained”, present/panel discussant, *Authority and Dissent in Medieval Art History Today: A Roundtable Discussion in Memory and Celebration of Barbara Abou-El-Haj* International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2016 “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Documenting Architectural Heritage in the Age of Digital Reproduction”, co-presenter, Renaissance Society of America Annual

Conference, Boston, MA

- 2016 *New Frontiers in Gulf Urbanism*, co-organizer; Opening Remarks  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- 2015 *Renaissance Studies and New Technologies II: Roundtable:  
Constructing Digital Research Communities*, presenter and panel  
discussant, Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference,  
Berlin, Germany
- 2014 “Documenting Syria: Heritage and Loss”, presenter, Syrian Studies Association Panel  
Discussion, *New Perspectives on the Syrian Conflict* Middle East Studies Annual  
Meeting, Washington, DC
- 2014 *Reading the Politics of Digitization*, panel co-chair, Middle East Studies Annual  
Meeting, Washington, DC
- 2014 “Evolving Systems of Documentation in Islamic Environmental Design”, presenter  
*The Orangi Pilot Project and Legacy of Perween Rehman in Karachi, Pakistan*  
Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, MIT Cambridge, MA
- 2013 “Behind the Curtain Wall: Building the New Archnet”, presenter  
Middle East Librarians Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2012 “Architecture and Outreach”, presenter  
MEOC (Middle East Outreach Council): Nuts and Bolts Workshop for Outreach  
Coordinators, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 2011 “New Tools: Introduction to Archnet 2.0”, presenter  
Middle East Librarians Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- 2007 “Teaching with Media Resources in Middle Eastern Studies”, presenter  
NITLE (National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education) Symposium  
Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL
- 2007 “Commensurate Studies in Art History: An Approach in the Post-Orientalism Era”,  
presenter, Graduate Student Research Day, *Making a Difference through Research*,  
Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY
- 2006 “A passage to India: urban change in Alexandria and Cairo in the fifteenth and nineteenth  
centuries”, co-author (with Cristina Pallini, Ph.D., Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy)  
Twelfth International Planning History Conference, Cross National Transfer of Planning  
Ideas and Local Identity, New Delhi, India

### **Invited lectures**

- 2018 “Archiving the Past (is) Documenting for the Future,” *People-to-People International: Innovation and Technology Around the World* (delegation from Kazakhstan)  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 2017 “Tools of the Trade”  
Aga Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, London, England
- 2017 “How Many Words is a Picture Worth?: Documenting in the Time of Snapshots and Sound Bites”, University College London Public Lecture Series, Doha, Qatar
- 2017 “Digital Humanities in the Academic Library: What, Why, How”  
University College London-Qatar (seminar presentation), Doha, Qatar
- 2017 “West to East and Back Again: Mapping Ibn Jubayr’s Hajj Journey”, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
- 2016 Invited speaker, *Settled Topographies: From Gibraltar to the Ganges*, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England
- 2016 “The Allure of the Digital Humanities in Times of Crisis: Documenting Disruption in the Middle East”, Western University, London, Canada
- 2015 “Preserving Place: Issues and Insights in Documenting Cultural Heritage in the Modern Middle East”, Aga Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, London, England
- 2014 “Resource for architecture in the Muslim world”  
SCOPA sponsored talk (Steering Committee for Outreach and Public Access)  
Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2014 “A Unique Scholarly Resource”  
Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Qatar University  
DAUP Public Seminar #5 Doha, Qatar
- 2013 “If We (re)Build it, Will They Come? Construction and Community in the Digital World”, Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar
- 2012 “Mamluks and Medici: A Tale of Contact, Trade, and Receptivity”  
Tuesday Night Lecture Series, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
- 2011 “Encounters and Exchanges Along the Silk Road(s): Art and Culture”  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- 2011 “Architecture and Identity: The Case of Amir Azbak min Tutukh and the Development of Azbakiyya in Mamluk Cairo”  
State University of New York, College at Oneonta, Oneonta, NY

- 2009 “Islamic Art and Architecture: An Introduction”  
Bunker Hill Community College, Boston, MA
- 2008 “The Reception of Middle Eastern Forms in the European Renaissance”  
Boston University, Boston, MA
- 2007 “Introduction to Islamic Architecture” (fall and spring semesters),  
Northeastern University, School of Architecture, Boston, MA
- 2007 “Islamic Architecture”  
Qutbi Masjid, North Billerica, MA (sponsored by SAH, New England Chapter, and  
Anjuman-e-Ezzi [Boston] - the Congregation of Dawoodi Bohras

## **WORKSHOPS (select)**

- 2021 *Interrupted and restricted: Digital Humanities and Ethics in a time of crisis*  
A virtual roundtable co-organized with Walid Ghali, Ph.D. (Aga Khan University,  
London)
- 2019 *Artistic Pluralism in the Medieval Mediterranean*  
Co-organizer with Filiz Cakir Phillip Ph.D. (curator, Aga Khan Museum) and Bradley  
Cavallo, Ph.D. (independent scholar)  
Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada
- 2018 *Documenting the Cultural Heritage of Northern Morocco*  
TALIM April Seminar co-organized with Michael Toler, Ph.D. and in  
partnership with the *Office Cherifien de Phosphates*  
Tangier American Legation Institute for Studies  
Tangier, Morocco
- 2011 Instructor: “Encounters and Exchanges Along the Silk Road(s): Art and Culture”,  
Primary Source Summer Institutes (in collaboration with Boston University)  
*Crossroads of Culture: Interconnections in Asia from 600-1500 CE*  
Sackler Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2007 Instructor: “Doorways to Islamic Art”  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Outreach, Harvard University and Primary  
Source (Two full day workshops for public school, K-12, teachers: Warwick, RI;  
Pembroke, MA)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2021 Smith, Sharon C. “Of architecture, icons, and meaning: Encountering the pre-modern  
city”. *Proceedings of CIHA (Comité International d’Histoire de l’Art), 35th Congress,  
Motion: Transformation, Florence, Italy (2019)*. Bologna, Italy: Bononia University Press



- (forthcoming)
- 2021 Smith, Sharon C. Guest Editor, *Journal of Material Cultures in the Muslim World: Special Volume. Flow: The Work of Water*. Editor-in-Chief, Stéphane Pradines. Lieden: Brill, 2021 (in progress)
- 2021 Smith, Sharon C., “Documenting Islamic Architecture: Objectives and Outcomes in a Time of War”. *International Journal of Islamic Architecture (IJIA)*, 10, no. 1 (1 January 2021): 159-170.
- 2021 Benkert, Volker, and Kelly Bitler, Jason Bruner, Lauren McArthur Harris, Kevin McHugh, David Pijawka, Sharon C. Smith, Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Marc Vance, “A Monument to Resilience: One Phoenix Building and the Three Communities It Served, 1955-2021”. *The Journal of Arizona History*, 62, no. 2, (Summer 2021): 249-269.
- 2020 Smith, Sharon C., contributor, “Translations and observations in the letters of Alessandra Strozzi and Margherita Datini” for Hannah Barker, *Teaching Medieval Slavery and Captivity: Pedagogical resources for a global perspective* (<http://medievalslavery.org/>), (in progress)
- 2020 Smith, Sharon C. *The Modern Regionalized: A Tribute to Rifat Chadirji*. 30 April 2020. Available on Archnet, <http://archnet.org/publications/14059>
- 2020 Smith, Sharon C. and Karen Leal. Editors and contributor for *Festschrift for (confidential)*, in progress
- 2019 Smith, Sharon C. Review of Michèle Valerie Cloonan. *The Monumental Challenge of Preservation: The Past in a Volatile World*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2018, for *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture* (Berlin; Boston: de Gruyter/Saur) Volume 48, Issue 3-4 (Oct 2019): 137
- 2018 Smith, Sharon C. “Presidential Address, Middle East Librarians Association, 17 November 2017”. *MELA NOTES: Journal of Middle East Librarianship*, edited by Marlis J. Saleh, Number 91 (2018) n.p.: Middle East Librarians Association, 2018: 102-109
- 2015 Hedrick, Christian A., and Sharon C. Smith, “Sites of Mughal Heritage”. In *The Heritage of the Mughal World*, edited by Philip Jodidio. Munich-New York: Prestel, 2015
- 2013 ماساتشوستس معهد في الإسلاميين للمعماريين أورشيف «مشواره» يهدي مكة محمد العراقي المعماري  
20 September 2013, co-authored with Prof. Nasser Rabbat, *Asharq al-Aswat*, London, UK  
<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=54&article=744045&issueno=12715#.UIBBVhCSuSu>
- 2011 - Imaging Consultant, *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Cultures of the Islamic World*, Leiden: Brill

- 2002 Digital publication: “Introduction to Art and Architecture of the Arab World, with selected readings”, National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE): *Arab Culture and Civilization Web Resource* (Funded by the Mellon Foundation)

## **EXHIBITIONS (select)**

- 2017 Curator, *Through the Eyes of Durdy Bayramov: Turkmen Village Life, 1960 – 80s*, Rotch Library, MIT, Cambridge, MA, August-November 2017
- 2016 Curator, *José Luis Argüello, AKPIA Posters (2001-2016)*, Rotch Library, MIT, Cambridge, MA, November 2016
- 2016 Curator, *Elements*, Rotch Library, MIT, Cambridge, MA, September-October 2016
- 2016 Curator for MIT, *Architecture on the Fringe*, Rotch Library, MIT, Cambridge, MA, March- May 2016
- 2015 Curator for MIT, *Creative Dissent: Arts of the Arab World Uprisings*, Wolk Gallery, MIT, Cambridge, MA, September-December 2015
- 2013 Curator, *Mohamed Makiya and the Khulafa Mosque Project(s)*, Rotch Library, MIT, Cambridge, MA, June-August 2013
- 2009 Collaborator (contributing photographer), “PROXY Florence,” exhibited at *Beyond Media 2009 Festival, Visions*, Stazione Leopolda, Florence, Italy, 9-17 July 2009
- 2004 Consultant, “Closely Focused, Intensely Felt: Selections from the Normal Jean Calderwood Collection of Islamic Art,” Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 7 August 2004-2 January 2005

## **LANGUAGES READ/SPOKEN**

Italian Fluent reading, speaking  
French Fluent reading, some speaking  
Arabic Intermediate reading  
Spanish Intermediate reading, some speaking

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
ICOMOS: Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites  
Association of Critical Heritage Studies  
Renaissance Society of America  
Italian Art Society  
Middle East Librarians Association