

# LYDIA HARRINGTON

Somerville, MA | [lydia-harrington.com](http://lydia-harrington.com) | [lharrin@bu.edu](mailto:lharrin@bu.edu)

## EDUCATION

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**PhD** **2022 Boston University**, History of Art & Architecture: Islamic Art and Architecture and Modern Architecture

**MA** **2014 University of Washington**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

**BA** **2010 Hampshire College**, Middle Eastern Studies, Art and Architectural History

## SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

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### **Research, Archival, and Curatorial Consultant, Boston, MA**

Jan 2024 – present

- Dance Elixir Live: archiving video and photograph archive of performance art: inventory, storage, creating metadata, and making files publicly accessible through an online database
- Arab American National Museum: for an upcoming exhibition on Arab Massachusetts: contributing historical research, connecting with exhibition and program venues in Boston, on the exhibition advisory board
- Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture: consultant on the Philly Arab History Project including grant applications

### **Senior Curator, The Syria Museum, Syrian American Council**

June 2023 – February 2024

Leading initiatives to preserve and present the cultural heritage of Syria to the general public with a special emphasis on the Syrian American community and the Syrian diaspora worldwide.

### **Post-Doctoral Fellow, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Sept 2022 – May 2023

Book project: *“Improve and Reform Them”: Creating Citizenship and Crafts in Vocational Schools of the Ottoman East*; gave a lecture based on the book project; wrote and submitted an article for publication to an academic journal; gave a lecture on modern Turkish architecture and urbanism at Wellesley College; week-long Arabic manuscripts workshop at Harvard University; coursework in ArcGIS, Python, Latex, R, and GitHub.

### **Co-creator, Researcher and Curator, *Wandering Boston’s Little Syria***

February 2020 – present

Digital, archival, and oral history research; leading walking tours; curating an exhibition at MIT’s Rotch Library; curating an exhibition and organizing a live, hybrid event at Massachusetts Historical Society; published an article in English and Arabic in *Al-Jumhuriya*; creating and managing a physical and digital archive; creating a digital tour with a grant from the Leventhal Map and Education Center at Boston Public Library.

### **PhD Candidate, Boston University**

Sept 2014 – March 2022

- Recipient of numerous fellowships, scholarships, and grants totaling \$150,000+
- Researcher, Writer, and Project Manager: planned project, carried out extensive research on visual and written documents and architectural sites in Turkey, Lebanon, the UK, and the US, and completing a 200+ page dissertation on educational institutional architecture history in the Late Ottoman Empire
- Research Assistant to three professors in preparing books and articles for publication: copyediting, creating a bibliography, creating transliterations from Arabic and Turkish, and gaining image permissions
- Junior Editor of Boston University’s *SEQUITUR* Journal: writing and sending out calls for submissions of articles, reviews, and visual essays, selecting submissions, communicating with authors on multiple revisions, obtaining image permissions, publishing online, and writing editor contributions
- Instructor of Record for “Islamic Art and Architecture”: delivering biweekly lectures; assigning and grading exams, formal visual analysis papers based on museum visits, and group digital exhibitions; and holding biweekly office hours
- Teaching Fellow for “Art History Survey II: Renaissance to Today” and “Islamic Art and Architecture”: leading weekly discussion sections for fifteen to thirty students, grading papers and exams, holding weekly office hours, and attending weekly lectures.

## **SELECTED CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **Curator of “Boston’s Little Syria”**

Dec 2022 – March 2023 at MIT’s Rotch Library; April 2023 at Massachusetts Historical Society; January – May 2024 at the Grossmann Gallery at UMass Boston’s Healey Library. Exhibition focuses on the history of Boston’s former Little Syria neighborhood, active from the 1880s to 1950s, focusing on what does and doesn’t remain of the neighborhood in contemporary Boston’s cityscape, and uses objects such as records, music instruments, photographs, property maps, memoirs, and oral histories to recreate it.

### **Curatorial Research Intern, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**

May – June 2019

In preparation for an exhibition of Isabella Stewart Gardner’s travel albums: reviewing and editing transcriptions of the albums; doing research on photographers whose photographs appear in the albums; helping with general curatorial tasks. Funded by the Boston University Center for the Humanities.

### **Collections Intern, MIT Museum**

Sept 2016 – May 2017

Creating and updating information on original documents in MIMSY XG database; helping visiting researchers access and photograph architectural plans. Working especially with Berenice Abbott’s personal collection, The Architects’ Collaborative collection, and MIT architecture student drawings collection

## **SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND GRANTS**

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Small Grant for Early Career Digital Publications from the Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library, 2022-2023, for *Mapping Little Syria*, a digital map using LMEC’s Atlascope tool.

Boston University Center for the Humanities Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, 2020-2021.

Fellowship Fund in Persianate Studies, Boston University Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, for dissertation research in UK archives, November to December 2019.

Summer PhD Internship, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, funded by Boston University Center for the Humanities, Summer 2019.

Graduate Research Abroad Fund, Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, for dissertation research in Turkey and Lebanon, Fall 2018.

Summer Language Grant, Institute of Turkish Studies, to attend the Ottoman Studies Foundation’s Intensive Ottoman and Turkish Summer School at Cunda, Turkey, Summer 2017.

Travel grant, Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Boston University, travel to Turkey, Summer 2017.

Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Boston University, for research in Turkey, Summer 2016.

Travel grant, Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Boston University, travel to Turkey, Summer 2016.

Summer Language Grant, Institute of Turkish Studies, for Ottoman, Turkish, and Persian study, Koç University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Summer 2015.

Boston University Arts Research Grant, for travel to Turkey, Summer 2015.

Travel grant, Boston University Graduate Student History of Art & Architecture Association, for travel to Turkey, Summer 2015.

Summer Fellowship, American Research Institute in Turkey, for Intensive Advanced Turkish Language Study at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Summer 2014.

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for advanced Turkish study at University of Washington, Winter and Spring Quarters 2014 (funded by the US Department of Education).

FLAS Fellowship for upper intermediate Turkish language study at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey, Summer 2013 (funded by the US Department of Education).

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

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“‘Improve and Reform Them’: Creating Citizenship and Crafts in the Vocational School of Late Ottoman Baghdad,” 2025, forthcoming.

“Walking Boston’s Little Syria: Public History from the Ottoman Empire to Urban Renewal” with Chloe Bordewich, in *Arab American Public History*, ed. Edward Curtis IV (under contract with Temple University Press, expected 2025)

“Wandering in Boston’s Little Syria” / سوريا الصغيرة في بوسطن: قصة هي مهجري ولد أبنائه تجاراً *Al-Jumhuriya* Journal, in English and Arabic, November 17, 2022.

Exhibition review “*Modernisms: Iranian, Turkish, and Indian Highlights from New York University’s Abby Weed Grey Collection* at Grey Art Gallery, September 10-December 7, 2019” in *YILLIK: Annual of Istanbul Studies* (Dec 2020).

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS**

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“‘The hands of the compassionate’: the Damascus vocational school and imperial patronage at the end of the Ottoman Empire,” *Empire’s Province into National City: Architecture and the Dissolution of the Ottoman Empire* symposium, Cornell University and University of Rochester (online), March 15, 2022.

“Orphans, Invalids, and Strollers: Constructing a modern, Ottoman square in turn-of-the-century Beirut,” *Single-Slide Sohbat* graduate workshop, Yale University, History of Art Department (online), January 23, 2021.

## **SELECTED CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

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New England Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians’ 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Symposium, Boston University, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Solicited student nominations from professors at New England institutions, selected papers, created thematic panels, and publicized the event widely.

## **SELECTED TALKS AND TOURS**

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“Modern Architectures of Turkey,” for ARTH 228: What is Modern Architecture?, Wellesley College, March 10, 2023.

“Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian’s *Pentagon*.” Gallery talk for International Women’s Day. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, March 8, 2020.

## **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

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English	native speaker	Arabic (Levantine)	intermediate
French	advanced	Ottoman Turkish	intermediate
Modern Turkish	advanced	Spanish	elementary
Arabic (MSA)	intermediate	Persian	elementary

## **SKILLS**

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TMS, ArcGIS, HTML, InDesign, Photoshop, Omeka, WordPress, Microsoft Office, CRMs, Asana, Canva  
Collections building and management, object handling and repair, exhibition planning and installation, loans  
University-level teaching, lecturing, translation, grant writing, editing, budgeting, analytical writing, donor relations,  
Extensive research experience (library, archival, internet, oral history), in Turkey, Lebanon, the UK, and the US

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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Historians of Islamic Art Association  
Society of Architectural Historians  
Middle East Librarians Association

Middle East Studies Association  
Association of Middle East Children and Youth Studies  
American Curators of Asian Art