



Assyrian Studies
ASSOCIATION

2023 ASSYRIAN STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

AUGUST 11 - 13, 2023

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
HUMANITIES CENTER
424 SANTA TERESA STREET
STANFORD, CA 94305

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Symposium Chairs

Alexandra Lazar
University of California, Davis

Hannibal Travis
Florida International University

Sargon Donabed
Roger Williams University

Daniel Tower
University of Sydney

Cynthia Yonan
Assyrian Studies Association

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Assyrian Studies
ASSOCIATION

The Assyrian Studies Association (ASA), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization that promotes interest in the academic study of the longue durée of the Assyro-Mesopotamian heritage by supporting research, scholarly publications, and collaborative projects. It facilitates contact and exchange of information among scholars, academic organizations, and communities across various disciplines. ASA functions as an instrument to advance academic studies on an academic level.

Welcome Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 2023 Assyrian Studies Symposium, hosted by Stanford University Humanities Center. This year's theme is *Formative History, Challenges, and New Directions*. It highlights the rich history of the Assyrian people and avenues for future research and scholarship. The panel sessions, roundtables, and special presentations are designed to encourage scholars to think creatively about how they can engage in the field of Assyrian Studies to pursue their research in Assyrian cultural preservation, continuity, and inclusivity.

Our esteemed presenters and distinguished scholars have dedicated their careers to advancing the field of Assyrian Studies. Our sponsors, whose commitment to the preservation and advancement of Assyrian Studies has been truly remarkable, include Stanford Humanities Center, iStorage Limited, Arak Lamassu, the University of Salamanca and the Nineveh Chair, Roger Williams University, Assyrian Aid Society of America, and Miner Family Wines.

We hope the Symposium will provide a platform for intellectual exchange, new insights, and thought-provoking discussions among our distinguished scholars.

Best,

The 2023 Assyrian Studies Symposium Chairs:

Sargon Donabed

Alexandra Lazar

Hannibal Travis

Daniel Tower

Cynthia Yonan



Thank You to our Sponsors, Donors, and Volunteers

Donors, Sponsors, and Volunteers,

On behalf of the Symposium Chairs of the 2023 Assyrian Studies Symposium hosted at Stanford University, we would like to express gratitude for your generous support. Your commitment to the preservation and advancement of Assyrian Studies has played a pivotal role in making this event possible.

Your support directly impacts the quality of the Symposium, providing a platform for intellectual exchange and fostering a sense of community among researchers and enthusiasts alike.

With sincere appreciation,
2023 Assyrian Studies Symposium Chairs



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Thank You to the Stanford Humanities Center



Faculty and Staff of the Stanford Humanities Center,

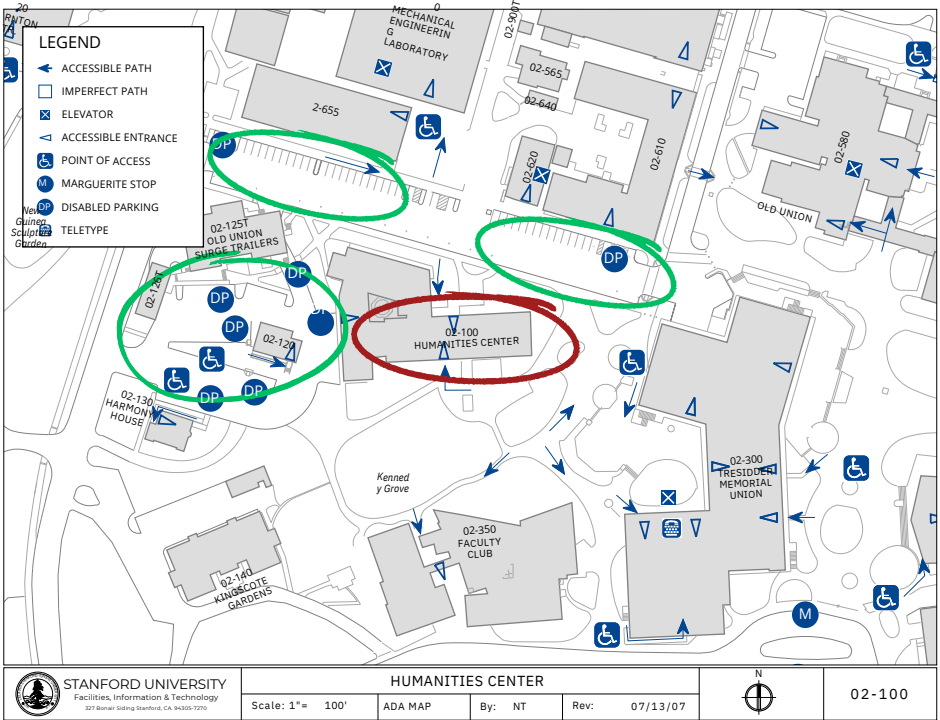
Thank you for your gracious hospitality and invaluable support in hosting this significant event for the Assyrian Studies Association.

Sincerest gratitude to Building Manager & Reservations Administrator Patricia Terrazas, Director of the Stanford Humanities Center Professor Roland Greene, and Associate Director Helen Malko for your dedication, professionalism, and unwavering support in ensuring the success of the 2023 Assyrian Studies Symposium. Your expertise and meticulous attention to detail have been instrumental in offering a seamless and enriching experience for all participants.

We look forward to the scholarly collaborations within the distinguished confines of the Stanford Humanities Center.

Best,
The 2023 Assyrian Studies Symposium Chairs

Guide to the Stanford Humanities Center



Address:
424 Santa Teresa Street, Stanford, CA 94305

Parking & Transportation:

The green circles on the map indicates the nearest parking to the Stanford Humanities Center. The closest disabled parking is at the corner of Lomita Drive and Santa Teresa Street near the west side of the Humanities Center.

Accessible Entrance:

The main entrance is located on the north side of the building, along Santa Teresa Street, and is equipped with a power-operated door. There is another accessible entrance on the south side of the building (Faculty Club side) and on the west side of the building (near the Black Community Services Center). There is no elevator in the building.

Restrooms:

Wheelchair accessible restrooms are located off of the main lobby. After entering the main lobby, turn left down the first hallway and the restrooms will be on the left.

Hotel Information

Sheraton Palo Alto

Address: 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Phone: (650) 328-2800

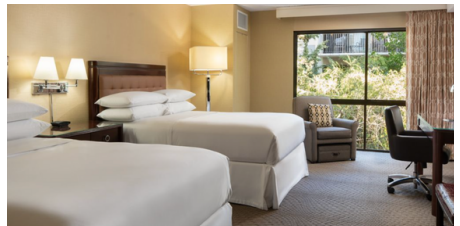
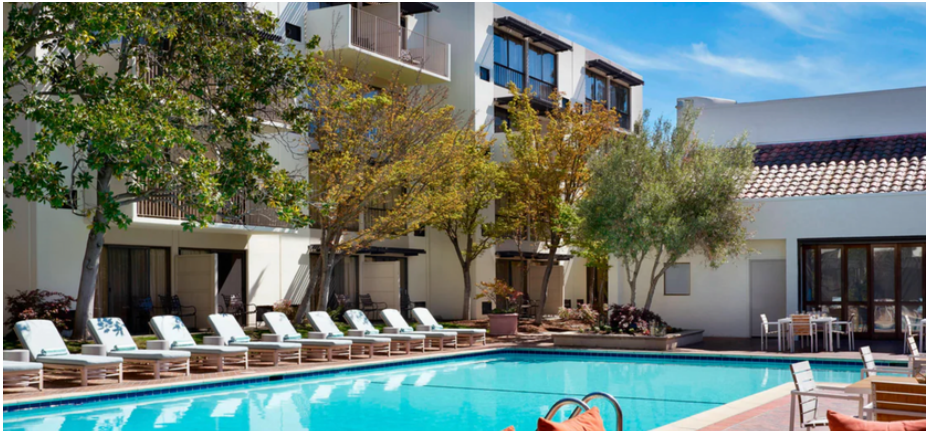
Miles from Stanford University's Humanities Center (location of symposium):

1.6 miles (30 minute walk)

Parking: \$10 daily

Promo Code: To enter the promo code **S23**, please use this [link](#) or visit [Marriott.com](#) and select Sheraton Palo Alto Hotel. Under *special rate*, please select *corp/promo code* and enter the code above.

The Sheraton Palo Alto Hotel sits next to the entrance of Stanford University and is walking distance from the Caltrain for visits to San Francisco and San Jose. Tour the campus of Stanford University or walk to downtown Palo Alto to visit local restaurants and shops. At night, return to our hotel after a game at nearby Stanford Stadium. The Poolside Grill lets you grab a bite to eat and relax by our heated outdoor pool. Make use of our hotel meeting rooms and access an on-site planning specialist to help ensure your productivity when in Palo Alto. Our event venues offer spacious newly renovated ballrooms, custom catering and outdoor spaces to watch the sunset. Hotel amenities include free Wi-Fi, self-parking and an on-site fitness center.



Symposium Program Overview

Friday, August 11, 2023

Event	Time	Location
Continental Breakfast: the Assyrian Studies Association	9am	SHC* - Board Room
Welcome Remarks & Introduction: Stanford Humanities Center and Introduction Assyrian Studies Association	9:30am-10:00am	SHC - Levinthal Hall
The Status of Assyrian Studies as a Discipline (Roundtable Discussion)	10:00am-11:30am	SHC - Levinthal Hall
Lunch (on your own)	11:30am-1:00pm	
Modes of Cultural Preservation (Panel Discussion)	1:00pm-2:30pm	SHC - Levinthal Hall
Ethnographic Methodologies: Assyrian Folklore, Modern Culture, and Expressions (Panel Discussion)	2:30pm-4:00pm	SHC - Levinthal Hall
Assyrian Prayer Bowl Archive Showcase with Esther Elia	4:00pm-5:00pm	SHC - Board Room
Cocktail Reception Sponsored by Lamassu Arak and Miner Family Wines	5:00pm-7:00pm	SHC - Patio

*Stanford Humanities Center

Symposium Program Overview

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Event	Time	Location
Continental Breakfast: Assyrian Studies Association	9am	SHC - Board Room
Social and Political Movements (Panel Discussion)	9:30am-11:00am	SHC - Levinthal Hall
Inclusivity and Acknowledgment: History and Policy (Panel Discussion)	11:00pm-12:30pm	SHC - Levinthal Hall
Lunch (on your own)	12:30pm-2:00pm	
Assyrian Diaspora: Exploring Historical Expulsions, Resettlements and Contemporary Perspectives (Panel Discussion)	2:00pm-3:30pm	SHC - Levinthal Hall
Assyrian Struggle: Grievances, Genocidal Impact, and Marginalization (Panel Discussion)	3:30pm-4:30pm	SHC - Levinthal Hall
Break	4:30pm-5:00pm	
Assyrian Identity in the Genomic Era: Lessons From History and Contemporary Usage (Roundtable Discussion)	5:00pm-6:00pm	SHC - Levinthal Hall
Preview Film of "Assyrians in Motion" with Ruth Kambar and Annie Elias	6:00pm-7:00pm	SHC - Levinthal Hall

Symposium Program Overview

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Event	Time	Location
Continental Breakfast: Assyrian Studies Association	9am	SHC - Board Room
Assyrian Studies Association General Meeting (all are welcome)	9:30- 11:00am	SHC - Board Room
Closing Remarks: Stanford Humanities Center and Assyrian Studies Association	11-11:30am	SHC - Levinthal Hall

Symposium Program Descriptions

Friday, August 11, 2023

Welcome Remarks: Stanford Humanities Center, 9:30am

Helen Malko, Associate Director Stanford Humanities Center

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Introduction: the Assyrian Studies Association, 9:45am

Sargon Donabed, Roger Williams University

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

The Status of Assyrian Studies as a Discipline, 10:00am–11:30am

Roundtable Discussion

Michel Shamooun–Pour, Binghamton University
Alexandra Lazar, University of California, Davis
Nahrain Bet Younadam, The University of Arizona
Sargon Donabed, Roger Williams University

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Modes of Cultural Preservation, 1:00pm–2:30pm

Panel Session

Esther Elia, University of New Mexico – *Incantation Bowls and the Pathway to Trans-Indigenous Exchange*

Daniel Tower, University of Sydney and Noor Matti, Shlama Foundation (virtual) – *Mapping Assyrian Populations in Their Iraqi Homeland: Introducing the Mapping Assyria Database*

Basima Jacobs, Immigrants Working Centre Organization – *The Assyrian Character Recognition Systems*

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Ethnographic Methodologies: Assyrian Folklore, Modern Culture, and Expressions, 2:30pm–4:00pm

Panel Session

Julye Bidmead, Chapman University – *The Citadel Outlets: Ancient Assyrian Symbols in Modern Culture*

Eve Sada, CSWR, Harvard University – *Recognizing the Historical Origins and Continued Survival of Ancient Assyrian Christian Chants*

Joseph Hermiz, University of Chicago (virtual) – *Passport Fraud and Citizen Surveillance: Assyrian Immigration in the United States during World War I*

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Assyrian Prayer Bowl Archive Showcase with Esther Elia, 4:00pm–5:00pm

Artistic Event

Esther Elia is an Assyrian–Irish American artist from Turlock, California. In her showcase, Esther delves into the fascinating origins and history of the prayer bowls and the craftsmanship behind making the bowls.

Stanford Humanities Center, *Board Room*

Cocktail Reception sponsored by Lamassu Arak and Miner Family Wines, 5:00pm–7:00pm

Join us for an extraordinary evening of delight at our exclusive cocktail reception, proudly sponsored by Lamassu Arak and Miner Family Wines. Capture this unique opportunity to network with our presenters, exchange ideas, spark creativity, and forge future connections.

Stanford Humanities Center, *Patio*

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Social and Political Movements, 9:30am–11:00am

Panel Session

Abdulmesih BarAbraham, Mor Afrem Foundation (virtual) – *Was there an Assyrian Tehlirian?*

Lawrence Nader Makho, University of Zakho (virtual) – *Assyrian Political Parties and Organizations in Iraq 1933–1988* (Presented in Assyrian)

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Inclusivity and Acknowledgment: History and Policy, 11:30am–12:30pm

Panel Session

Efrem Yildiz – Nineveh Chair Salamanca – *The Assyrian Language and its Development in the Diaspora and the Assyrian Homeland* (Presented in English and Assyrian)

Mikhael Benjamin, Nineveh Center for Minority Rights – *Absence of Rule of Law and Demographic Changes in Iraq: The Assyrian Case* (Presented in Assyrian)

Arbella Bet–Shlimon, University of Washington (virtual) – *Historiography of the Simele Massacre and Atrocity Denial in Middle East*

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Assyrian Diaspora: Exploring Historical Expulsions, Resettlements and Contemporary Perspectives, 2:00pm–3:30pm

Panel Session

Mark Tomass, Harvard University (virtual) – *The 1924 Expulsion of the Assyrians of Urfa*

Nashie Shamoon, Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington (virtual) – *New Directions and the Next Generation of Australasian–Assyrians*

Ruth Kamar, New York University – *Assyrians in Motion*

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Assyrian Struggle: Grievances, Genocidal Impact, and Marginalization, 3:30pm–4:30pm

Panel Session

Nahrain Bet Younam, The University of Arizona – *Territorial Autonomy and Ethnic Protests: How Regional Autonomy Shaped Grievances and Protests by Assyrians in Northern Iraq*

Alexandra Lazar, University of California, Davis – *The Demographic Consequences of Repeated Acts of Genocide on the Assyrian Population*

Mary Isaac, University of California, Irvine – *The Legacy of Marginalization: How Pre-Migration Minoritization Impacts Integration*

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Assyrian Identity in the Genomic Era: Lessons From History and Contemporary Usage, 5:00pm–6:00pm

Roundtable Discussion

Michel Shamoon–Pour, Binghamton University
Sargon Donabed, Roger Williams University

Recent advances in generation and analysis of genomic data have resulted in an explosion of genetic information from global populations, and an exponential growth of paleogenomic data acquired from ancient and historical remains. In academia, population genetic and paleogenomic research have become a great additions to archeological and historical studies, providing new perspectives on past demographic events and processes. Outside the realm of academia, the development of low-cost sequencing methods has led to formation of a new industry that promotes genetic ancestry testing by publicizing it as a determinant of identity (ethnic and otherwise). In this special session/conversation, we will first review the current status of research on the genetics of Assyrians and the significance of findings from academic and the general public perspectives. We will also discuss Assyrian identity in its various forms, the challenges to Assyrian scholars, and question whether the establishment of genomics as a new identity dimension calls for a collaborative approach. We will debunk misconceptions about genetic identity and provide the Assyrian community with more accessible reports of scholarly studies and resources.

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Preview Film of *Assyrians in Motion* with Ruth Kamar and Annie Elias, 6:00pm–7:00pm

Step into a time capsule as we invite you to a one-of-a-kind event—a special preview of *Assyrians in Motion*. This extraordinary film, captured in 1937, offers a glimpse into the lives of Assyrians living in Philadelphia, PA.; Elizabeth, NJ; Yonkers, NY; and New Britain, CT. Joining us for this exclusive occasion are the ethnographic researchers of the film, Ruth Kamar and Annie Elias. Following the preview, we invite you to a Q&A session with Ruth Kamar and Annie Elias.

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Assyrian Studies Association General Meeting, 9:30am–11:00am

All attendees and presenters are welcome to attend our general meeting.

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

Closing reception by Stanford Humanities Center and Assyrian Studies Association, 11:–11:30am

Stanford Humanities Center, *Levinthal Hall*

2023 Assyrian Studies Symposium Chairs Biographies

Sargon Donabed, PhD

Associate Professor of History, Roger Williams University

Sargon Donabed is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. He holds a PhD in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations from the University of Toronto and a MSci from Canisius College in Anthrozoology/Animal Studies. In addition, he is a TAARII recipient (the American Academic Research Institute in Iraq). He serves on the advisory board of the journal, *Chronos*, published by the University of Balamand and is also the editor for the book series *Alternative Histories: Narratives from the Middle East and Mediterranean*, Edinburgh University Press. Donabed is also published in a variety of journals from *Folklore to National Identities, Perspectives on History*, and the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. He is also the author of *Reforging a Forgotten History: Iraq and the Assyrians in the 20th Century* (Edinburgh University Press, 2015) and co-editor and contributor to numerous works including *The Assyrian Heritage: Threads of Continuity and Influence* (Uppsala University, 2012). He has been a visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School and Brown University and lectured at various universities around the world. In addition, Donabed has been featured by major academic and cultural institutions like the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City for his expertise on the Assyrian heritage.

Alexandra Lazar, MA

Ph.D. Student, University of California, Davis

Alexandra Lazar is the Executive Director at the Assyrian Studies Association. She is currently obtaining her Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of California, Davis, where her fields of interests are international relations and comparative politics. Her research focuses on bilateral/multilateral agreements, political violence such as terrorisms impact on society and human rights. She has also studied political economy, comparative politics, and voting behavior at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), where she earned her Master's degree. Prior to CSULA, she earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communications at the University of California, Davis.

Cynthia Yonan,

Assyrian Studies Association

Cynthia Yonan is a medical speech-language pathologist working in acute-care hospitals. As an Assyrian, Yonan's interests lie in Assyrian language preservation and Assyrian literature. Yonan has played an active role in fundraising for the 2023 Assyrian Studies Symposium.

Hannibal Travis, Esq.

Florida International University

Hannibal Travis is a professor of law at Florida International University, the Public Research University of Miami. His research in Assyrian studies and in genocide studies includes *Genocide in the Middle East: The Ottoman Empire, Iraq, and Sudan*, Carolina Academic Press, 2010; *The Assyrian Genocide: Cultural and Political Legacies*, Travis ed., Routledge 2017; "Native Christians Massacred": The Ottoman Genocide of the Assyrians during World War I, *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*; "The Assyrian Genocide: A Tale of Oblivion and Denial," *Forgotten Genocides: Oblivion, Denial, and Memory*, Rene Lemarchand ed., University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011; "Constructing 'The Armenian Genocide': How Genocide Scholars Unremembered the Assyrian and Greek Genocides in the Ottoman Empire, in *Hidden Genocides: Power, Knowledge, and Memory* (Alex Hinton, Douglas Irvin-Erickson, & Thomas LaPointe eds., Rutgers University Press, 2013), and much more.

Daniel Tower, PhD

University of Sydney

Daniel J. Tower is an academic, engineer, and researcher, whose work focuses on the intersection between the geography of armed conflict, visual anthropology, and the built environment. Tower completed his PhD at the University of Sydney in 2020. His doctoral thesis investigated the territoriality of religious violence during the rise of ISIS in northern Iraq, through which he created a novel spatial methodology to assess ethnic and religious divisiveness using ArcGIS mapping technologies. Alongside his academic research, Tower works as an engineering consultant specializing in bridge design and construction.

Presenters' Biographies

Helen Malko, PhD

Associate Director at Stanford Humanities Center

Helen Malko joined the Stanford Humanities Center as the Associate Director in January 2023, coming from the American Center of Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan. Before joining ACOR, she worked at Columbia University in the City of New York, where she managed various academic programs and projects in the Department of Art History and Archaeology and the Middle East Institute. She was the Program Manager for the Mellon Fellowship Program for Emerging Displaced Scholars at Columbia's Global Center in Amman. Her research centers on archaeology and cultural heritage of the Middle East, cultural representation in museums, and cultural memory. She holds a PhD in Anthropology and Archaeology from Stony Brook University and an MA and a BA degree from Baghdad University.

Eve Sada, PhD

CSWR, Harvard University

Eve Georges Sada is an Assyrian scholar born and raised in Iraq. Sada completed both her Master's degree in Music Education (2010) and a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Choral Conducting (2021) at the University of Oklahoma. Her research, *Assyrian-Syriac Chants from the liturgy of the Church of the East*, examined the earliest surviving chants and hymns composed by the Church of the East theologians and poets, Mar Aprem (Ephrem) and Mar Narsai, between the fourth and seventh centuries. Sada provided examples of the chants in Syriac with English translations for the main celebrated Feasts of the Church. She discussed the main five genres of the Church of the East hymnody of Sogh'yāthā, Madrāshe, Tešbhātha, ʿOnyatha, and Memre and investigated the earliest known church women's choirs. Sada also worked as a Lecturer in Music at The University of Jordan (JU) in Amman, Jordan (2011–2016), while also serving as an Assistant Dean for The School of Arts and Design at JU.

Michel Shamooun-Pour, PhD

Research Assistant Professor, Binghamton University

Michel Shamooun-Pour is a molecular anthropologist specializing in population genetics and paleogenomics. He is currently a Research Assistant Professor with the Binghamton University's First-Year Research Immersion Program. His research primarily focuses on the genetic histories of the Middle East and Caucasus populations. Shamooun-Pour has worked with members of Assyrian communities in the United States to reconstruct genetic matrilineages and patrilineages of pre-Genocide Assyrian settlements. A microbiologist by training, Shamooun-Pour's research also includes the diagnostics of Lyme disease. As an educator, he emphasizes the health impact of socioeconomic disparities and systemic racism in the United States.

Nashie Shamooun, PhD Student

Victoria University of Wellington

Nashie Shamooun is a Political Science PhD student at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Her research examines the contemporary Assyrian identity as seen by young Assyrians in New Zealand, Australia, and Sweden. Shamooun research interests include diasporas, post-memory, identity-formation and identity-maintenance, Middle East politics, Syrian refugee communities based in the Middle East, refugee-background communities in New Zealand, and ethnic minority representation in politics.

Alexandra Lazar, PhD Student

University of California, Davis

Alexandra is the Executive Director at the Assyrian Studies Association. She is currently obtaining her Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of California, Davis where her fields of interest are international relations and comparative politics. Lazar's research focuses on bilateral/multilateral agreements, political violence (in particular terrorism) and the impact it has on society and human rights. She has also studied political economy, comparative politics, and voting behavior at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) where she earned her Master's of Art degree. Prior to CSULA, she earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communications at the University of California, Davis.

Esther Elia, MFA
University of New Mexico

Esther Elia (she/her) is from Turlock, California. She received a BFA in Illustration from California College of the Arts, and a Masters of Fine Arts in Painting/Drawing from the University of New Mexico. Elia's art practice focuses on the Assyrian experience in diaspora, and uses painting and sculpture to explore themes of creating homeland and culture as a currently stateless nation. Elia uses storytelling as a tool for community healing of decolonized Assyrians and collects contemporary Assyrian histories as a salve to the Western institutional canon and its hyper-focus of Assyrians solely within their ancient context. Her work has been displayed in the deYoung Museum, San Francisco Arts Commission Galleries, Facebook offices, Reconstructed Mag, Guggenheim Summer College Workshop website, and in the Assyrian region of Iraq (Nahla).

Daniel Tower, PhD
University of Sydney

Daniel J. Tower is an academic, engineer, and researcher, whose work focuses on the intersection between the geography of armed conflict, visual anthropology, and the built environment. Tower completed his PhD at the University of Sydney in 2020. His doctoral thesis investigated the territoriality of religious violence during the rise of ISIS in northern Iraq, through which he created a novel spatial methodology to assess ethnic and religious divisiveness using ArcGIS mapping technologies. Alongside his academic research, Tower works as an engineering consultant specializing in bridge design and construction.

Joseph Hermiz, PhD Candidate
University of Chicago

Joseph Hermiz is a PhD candidate at the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations whose research focuses on the effect of World War I on Assyrians on the American homefront. Hermiz sheds light on a transformative period by examining the intricate consequences of this war on the Assyrian community in the United States. This era spurred a significant influx of Assyrian immigrants, the formation of Assyrian organizations, and the initiation of campaigns to raise awareness about the political situation of the Assyrians. While previous scholarly work has largely overlooked this aspect of the Assyrian diaspora, Hermiz's research serves as the first comprehensive exploration of the impact of World War I on the Assyrian community in the United States.

Efrem Yildiz, PhD
Nineveh Chair, University of Salamanca

Efrem Yildiz is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Philology, Department of Hebrew and Aramaic Studies, of the University of Salamanca. Yildiz is specialized in Aramaic history, language and literature. He is a member of the Commission of the Degree in Hebrew and Aramaic Studies. He is a committee member of several scientific journals, the co-author of books and articles in journals on Aramaic language, literature, history and culture of the Aramaic-speaking peoples. In 2022, Yildiz published, *Grammar of the Modern Assyrian Language*, Akkad Books, 2020. In addition, Yildiz served as Vice-Rector for International Relations at the University of Salamanca from 2017 to 2022.

Mary Isaac, PhD Candidate
University of California, Irvine

Mary Isaac is a PhD candidate in political science at the University of California, Irvine. Her research looks at how the legacy of conflict and political marginalization impact refugees' integration and political behaviors within their host states. Isaac's dissertation aims to improve refugee policy interventions by showing that different pre-migration conditions and experiences for different ethnic groups require unique treatment within host states. She serves as a Pedagogical Fellow for UC Irvine's Division of Teaching Excellence and Chair for the Comparative Politics Working Group, and the Pedagogical Consultant for the Political Science Department. Isaac is pursuing a career as a political science professor at a teaching-centered institute and is expected to be on the job market in 2024.

Mark Tomass, PhD
Harvard University

Mark Tomass is a monetary economist, specializing in financial markets. In the past 30 years, he taught money and banking, international trade and finance, and economic systems in various business schools in the United States and Europe, where he also designed accredited graduate and undergraduate business programs. His research focuses on using the proper economic methodology for understanding monetary and financial crises, the working of economic systems, organized crime, and violent group conflict in the Middle East. His work on Assyrians focused on the Assyrian community of Aleppo, where he argued that the fragmentation of the Assyrian identity is a result of their fragmented social and economic infrastructure.

Ruth Kamar, PhD
New York University

Ruth Kamar is a public school English teacher and adjunct professor at the State University of New York, Westchester Community College. Kamar earned her doctorate from New York University in 2013. Her research created a verbal testament to Assyrian Americans, *A Family Archive: Construction of Identity in the Assyrian American Diaspora*. Her work stemmed from an NEH Fellowship in the study of Folklore, resulting in her process of recording Assyrian American life narratives, which eventually laid the foundation for her doctoral research. Kamar analyzed a collection of life narratives and complementary texts, which provided a unique window into an immigrant Assyrian family and its Assyrian American identity. *A Family Archive: Construction of Identity in the Assyrian American Diaspora* sought to identify personal myths, pedagogical indicators, intertextuality, geographical and historical references in oral narratives that the community employs to establish and perform identity. In 2019, Kamar published *Images of America: Assyrians of Yonkers*, Arcadia Publishing. In 2022, Kamar served as co-director the historical exhibition, Tell Our Stories: Artifacts from the Assyrian Genocide, which was hosted by California State University, Stanislaus and funded by funded by a California Humanities grant and in-kind with California State University, Stanislaus. Kamar currently chairs the Assyrian Studies Association's digital archive committee.

Nahrain Bet Younam, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher, The University of Arizona

Nahrain Bet Younam is the inaugural Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona. Dr. Bet Younam earned her PhD in political science from the University of California, Davis in June 2022. Her work explores issues of human rights including local ethnic minority protests and self-determination movements. Her book project examines how regional autonomy arrangements shape grievances by regional ethnic minority groups and motivate new claims for self-determination. Her work has been funded by the U.S. Institute of Peace and the Russell J. Dorothy S. Bilinski Educational Foundation. At the University of Arizona, Dr. Bet Younam works under the mentorship of Dr. Alex Braithwaite in the School of Government and Public Policy and participates with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. In May 2023, Dr. Bet Younam earned the Postdoc Pathways Program certificate from the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Network at the University of Arizona.

Lawrence Nader Makho, MS
University of Zakho

Lawrence N. Makho was born in Baghdad and completed his primary and secondary education in Assyrian schools. Makho pursued his higher education at the University of Zakho, where he attended the Department of History and was a Faculty member of that department from 2007 to 2011. Since 2013, he has been teaching History at 1 Nissan School in the town of Sarsing, Iraq. Makho successfully completed his Master's degree in 2023 at the University of Zakho. The focus of his thesis is: *The Assyrians of Hakkari in Iraq: A Historical Study from 1933 to 1988*.

Abdulmesih BarAbraham, PhD
New York University

Abdulmesih BarAbraham is a native of Midyat who migrated in the course of family reunification in 1967 to Germany. He has a Master of Science degree in Engineering from the University of Erlangen/Nürnberg, where he acquired knowledge in Near Eastern history and languages (Syriac, Turkish, and Arabic). In his professional career he worked for an international German Corporation in Munich, Germany and in Santa Clara, California, serving in different management positions. As an independent researcher he has published numerous articles including book chapters on Assyrian related topics, such as the minority situation in the Middle East, genocide, migration, and diaspora. Among others, he is the author of "Turkey's Key Arguments in Denying the Assyrian Genocide," in David Gaunt et. al. (Eds.), *Let them Not Return: Sayfo – The Genocide Against the Assyrian, Syriac, and Chaldean Christians in the Ottoman Empire*, New, Berghahn Books, 2017. BarAbraham is Chairman of Board of Trustees of both, the Ypken-bar-Yoken Foundation and the Mor Afrem Foundation, Germany. He is also the secretary of the Suryoye Theological Seminary in Salzburg, Austria.

Julye Bidmead, PhD
Chapman University

Julye Bidmead is the Director of the Center for Undergraduate Excellence and Associate Professor in Religious Studies at Chapman University, Orange, CA where she teaches classes such as "Deities, Demons, and Monsters: Mesopotamian Myths," "Genesis and Gender," "Archaeology of the Ancient Near East," and "Deconstructing Hogwarts: Religion, Race, and Gender in Harry Potter." Prior to Chapman, she taught at Miami University (OH) and California State University, Fresno. Bidmead holds a PhD in Religion from Vanderbilt University, which focused on the religions and cultures of ancient Israel, Canaan, and Mesopotamia. She has held supervisory positions at many archaeological digs in Israel, including the Megiddo Expedition, Lahav Research Project, and the Jezreel Expedition. Her publications include *The Akitu Festival: Religious Continuity and Royal Legitimation in Mesopotamia*, Gorgias Press, 2014; *Invest Your Humanity: Celebrating Marvin Meyer*, Pickwick Publications, 2014; and numerous articles on Near Eastern religions, ritual studies, magic, and gender. Bidmead is currently finishing a manuscript, *Recovering Women's Rituals in the Ancient Near East*, that uncovers and examines women's religious and domestic rituals in antiquity.

Mikhael Benjamin, BA
Nineveh Center for Minority Rights

Michael Benjamin is an Assyrian activist and serves on the Board of Directors of the Nineveh Center for Minority Rights in Iraq. He received his BA in Accounting at the University of Mosul and is one of co-founders of the Alliance of Iraqi Minorities (AIM), which consists of 28 local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working for minority rights, among them 14 NGOs represents 14 different Iraqi ethno-religious linguistic groups. Most recently, Benjamin become the chairman of the Board of Directors for AIM. Before co-founding AIM, Benjamin played a vital role in raising awareness of the rights of minorities in Iraq, including (educational rights in minority languages and political participation), but with more focus on their right to lands. Benjamin was the former Senior Minority Fellow at the Human Rights Office within the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). He has also worked on the Modern Assyrian Language Documentation Project (MALDP), implemented by the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge. In 2020, he was a Fellow with the US Department of State exchange program, the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), under the theme "Cultural Preservation for Minority Communities." He also Implemented a one-year project, "Documenting the Language of the Modern Assyrian Mountaineers of Nala: an Ancient Language through Migration and Oblivion," funded and supported by: Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP), SOAS University of London.

Arbella Bet-Shlimon, PhD
Assistant Professor of History, University of Washington

Arbella Bet-Shlimon is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Washington, Seattle. She is the author of *City of Black Gold: Oil, Ethnicity, and the Making of Modern Kirkuk*, Stanford University Press, 2019. A historian of modern Iraq and the Persian Gulf, Bet-Shlimon's current research focuses on how people articulate their politics through emerging concepts of identity and how those types of self-fashioning develop in relation to phenomena like colonialism, urbanization, and environmental change.

Noor Matti, BS
Shlama Foundation

Matti was raised in Ankawa, Erbil until his family was forced to flee in the 1992 political strife in Iraq. In 2008, after graduating from Wayne State University, Matti returned to live in Ankawa. In 2012, he joined Babylon Media and help launched the country's first ever all-English radio station, named Babylon FM. In 2014, he co-founded the Shlama Foundation and took on the role of operation manager. In 2018 Matti worked with Chemonics's USAID-OTI program to implement major projects in the Nineveh Plains that saw significant rehabilitation in Bakhdeda, Bartella, Tel Keppe, Batnaya, Tesqopa, and Alqosh. He currently continues to dedicate countless of volunteer hours to keep the Shlama Foundation going, and is also an employee at Chemonics, where large scale USAID projects are being implemented in Iraq.

Sargon Donabed, PhD
Associate Professor of History, Roger Williams University

Sargon Donabed is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. He holds a PhD in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations from the University of Toronto and a MSci from Canisius College in Anthrozoology/Animal Studies. In addition, he is a TAARII recipient (the American Academic Research Institute in Iraq). He serves on the advisory board of the journal, *Chronos*, published by the University of Balamand and is also the editor for the book series *Alternative Histories: Narratives from the Middle East and Mediterranean*, Edinburgh University Press. Donabed is also published in a variety of journals from *Folklore to National Identities*, *Perspectives on History*, and the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. He is also the author of *Reforging a Forgotten History: Iraq and the Assyrians in the 20th Century* (Edinburgh University Press, 2015) and co-editor and contributor to numerous works including *The Assyrian Heritage: Threads of Continuity and Influence* (Uppsala University, 2012). He has been a visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School and Brown University and lectured at various universities around the world. In addition, Donabed has been featured by major academic and cultural institutions like the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City for his expertise on the Assyrian heritage.

Stanford Points of Interest

On-Campus Sites & Activities

Hoover Tower

Enjoy a panoramic view of the Stanford campus and the surrounding Bay Area from the Hoover Tower observation platform.

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

The 1,189 acre Preserve provides a natural laboratory for researchers from all over the world, educational experiences to students and docent-led visitors, and refuge to native plants and animals.

Memorial Church

Explore Memorial Church and its fascinating history, including stories of its endurance through two damaging earthquakes.

Rodin Sculpture Garden

The Rodin Sculpture Garden is open all hours, with lighting for nighttime viewing.

Cantor Arts Center

The Cantor Arts Center's diverse collections span continents, cultures, and 4,000 years of art history and include the largest gathering of Rodin bronzes outside Paris. Come see a wide range of changing exhibitions and take advantage of docent tours, lectures, gallery talks, symposia, classes, and special events.

Arizona Garden

The garden, also known as the Cactus Garden, was designed for Jane and Leland Stanford by landscape architect Rudolf Ulrich between 1881 and 1883. There are many unusual plants within the garden. Selections from the Cacti family include columnar, barrel and monstrose forms. Selections of succulents include Aloes, Crassulas and rosette-forming Agaves.

Bing Concert Hall

Bing Concert Hall is home to many of the Department of Music's ensembles, including the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Stanford Wind Ensemble, Stanford Jazz Orchestra, and Stanford Taiko. Bing is also host to many other Department of Music groups and events throughout the year.

- **August 12 Performance** – *The Stanford Summer Chorus*, under the direction of Rafael Ornes, presents their 2023 concert, "California Dreamin'" – featuring music by Ron Kean, Eric Whitacre, and Henry Mollicone.

Stanford Shopping Center

On campus open-air shopping and dining destination with Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, Wilkes Bashford and more than 140 world-class specialty stores, ranging from luxury brands to local favorites.

Off-Campus Sites & Activities

Explore Downtown Palo Alto

Defined roughly by Alma and Webster streets and Lytton and Forest avenues, downtown Palo Alto is a charming combination of small-town accessibility and urban ambience. Outdoor cafes, tiny coffee shops, bookstores, mom-and-pop specialty shops, national chains, art galleries, two movie theaters and numerous restaurants attract shoppers, eaters and entertainment-seekers of all ages.

Watch a Movie at Stanford Theatre

The Summer Film Festival, running from July 1–September 3 is featuring the Best of Cary Grant and Alfred Hitchcock movies.

- August 10–11 Showtimes: *People Will Talk (1951)* 7:30pm, *Every Girl Should Be Married (1948)* 5:55pm, 9:30pm
- August 12–13 Showtimes: *To Catch a Thief (1955)* 3:30pm, 7:30pm, *An Affair to Remember (1957)* 5:25, 9:25pm

Baylands Nature Preserve

Bounded by Mountain View and East Palo Alto, the 1,940-acre Baylands Preserve is one of the largest tracts of undisturbed marshland remaining in the San Francisco Bay. Fifteen miles of multi-use trails provide access to a unique mixture of tidal and fresh water habitats. Many consider this area to be one of the best bird watching areas on the west coast. The preserve has a substantial resident population of birds as well as being a major migratory stopover on the Pacific Flyway.

Dine at Bird Dog

Regarded as one of the best restaurants in Palo Alto, Chef Robbie Wilson delivers a remix of East-West cuisine in a dining room featuring white concrete walls dotted with colorful ducks. Must-tries include the warm spiced roti (complimentary with every meal) and the wood-grilled avocado filled with homemade ponzu and fresh wasabi. *Restaurant is open Tuesday-Saturday and reservations are required.*

Visit the Computer History Museum

Explore the Computer History Museum located nearby Mountain View that celebrates the coding power of the present while taking a deep dive into the past. Curious adults and younger “engineers in training” will appreciate the signature exhibit, “Revolution,” which takes visitors through the first 2,000 years of the evolution of computing. *Museum is open Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-5pm.*

Nearby Restaurants, Cafes, and Eateries

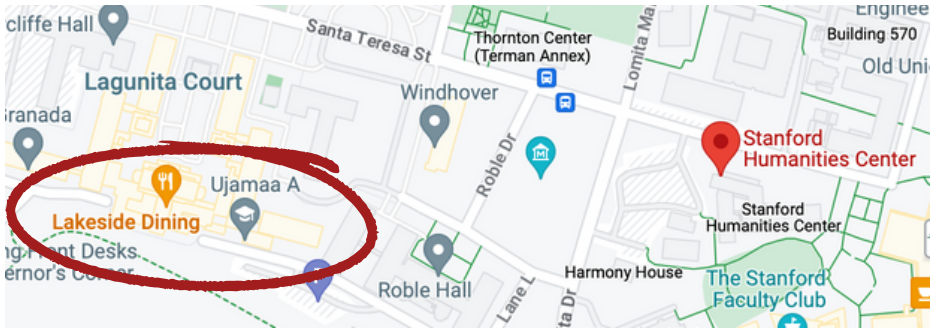
Lakeside Dining and Arrillaga Family Dining Commons

326 Santa Teresa Street, Stanford, CA 94305

Breakfast Hours: 7am–9:30am

Lunch Hours: 11am–2pm

Dinner Hours: 5pm–8pm

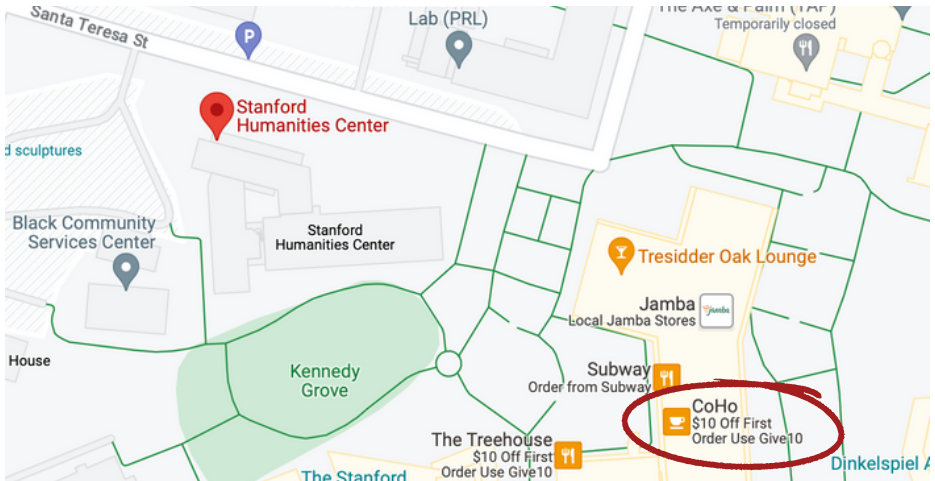


Coho

459 Lagunita Dr, Stanford, CA 94305

Friday–Saturday Hours: 8am–8pm

Sunday Hours: 8am–midnight



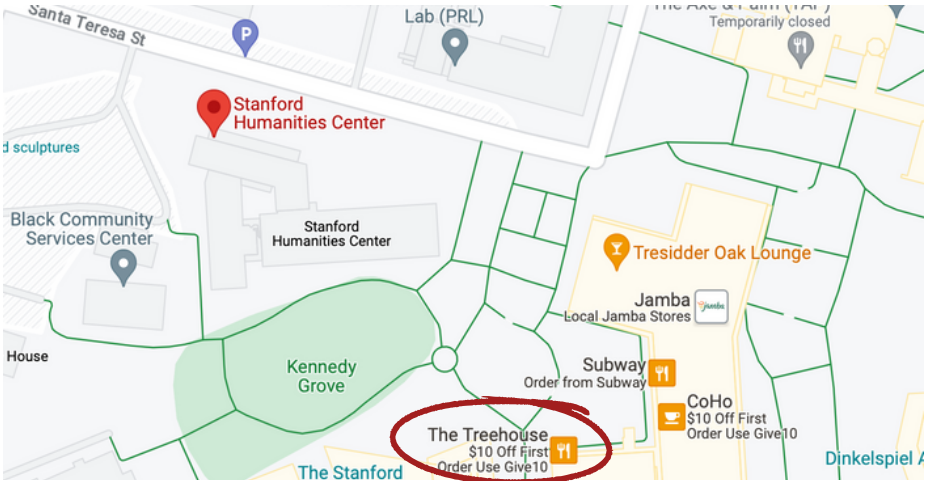
Nearby Restaurants, Cafes, and Eateries

The Treehouse

459 Lagunita Dr, Stanford, CA 94305

Friday Hours: 8am-10pm

Sunday Hours: 10am-4pm



Subway

459 Lagunita Dr, Stanford, CA 94305

Friday Hours: 9am-8pm

Saturday-Sunday Hours: 11am-6pm



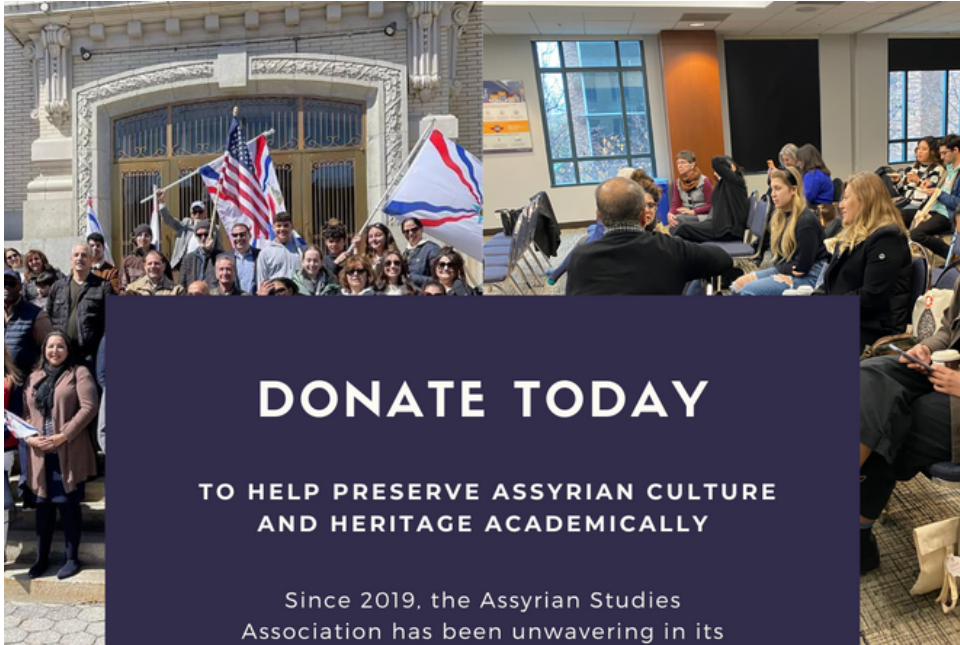
A background image showing a group of people in a meeting room. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, orange-toned lighting. The people are standing and appear to be in conversation. The room has a drop ceiling with recessed lights.

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