

NERINA RUSTOMJI

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2011–present Associate Professor of History, St. John's University
2006–2011 Assistant Professor of History, St. John's University
2003–2006 Assistant Professor of History and Religion, Bard College

EDUCATION

2003 Ph.D. Columbia University, Department of History
1998 M.Phil. Columbia University, Department of History
1997 M.A. Columbia University, Department of History
1995 B.A. University of Texas, Department of History and Middle Eastern Studies

BOOKS

The Beauty of the Houris: Heavenly Virgins, Feminine Ideals. Oxford University Press, 2021.

The Garden and the Fire: Heaven and Hell in Islamic Culture. Columbia University Press, 2009. Paperback Edition, 2013. Awarded Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2009.

SELECT ARTICLES

"Are Houris Heavenly Concubines?" in *Songs and Sons: Women, Slavery and Social Mobility in the Medieval Islamic World*. Eds. Matthew Gordon and Kathryn Hain. Oxford University Press, 2017.

"Beauty in the Garden: Aesthetics and the *Wildan*, *Ghilman*, and *Hur*" in *Roads to Paradise*. Eds. Sebastian Gunther and Todd Lewis. Brill, 2017.

"Teaching Middle East History after 9/11" in *Recovering 9/11 in New York*. Eds. Robert Fanuzzi and Michael Wolfe, et al. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014.

SELECT TALKS

"Images of Afterlives and Afterworlds in the Islamic Garden," Asian Art Museum of San Francisco (virtual). February 2021.

"Images of the Afterlife in Islamic Gardens," Lahore Literary Festival at Asia Society, New York City. May 2019.

"9/11: Making a History," Gilder Lehrman Workshop for Secondary School Teachers. November 2019.

"Byron's Houris in America: Visual Depictions of Muslim Heroines in *Les Dames de Byron* and *The Gallery of Byron Beauties*," *America and the Muslim Worlds, ca. 1500-1900*. McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania. March 2017.

"Visions of the Houris: Pure Female Companions of Paradise in Muslim Imaginations" Franklin and Marshall College, Islam, Gender, and Sexuality Series. October 2016.

"Otherworldly Beings in Islam," Symposium on Otherworldly Beings, University of Washington, Seattle. May 2015.

"The Atlantic Houris," Organization of American Historians. April 2014.

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS

2014–2016 Noma Study Room and MARLI Fellow at the New York Public Library
2009 American Council of Overseas Research Fellowship at American Center of Oriental Research in
Amman
2007–2008 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship