**NERINA RUSTOMJI**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2023-present Professor of History, St. John’s University

2011–2023 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 Houri: 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**

“Visual Depictions of Muslim Heroines: Byron's *Beauties* and American *Houri*s,” in *Islamic Ecumene: Comparing Muslim Societies*. Ed. Eric Tagliacozzo and David Stephan Powers. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2023, 191-199.

"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. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017, 266-277.

"Beauty in the Garden: Aesthetics and the *Wildan*, *Ghilman*, and *Hur*" *Roads to Paradise*. Eds. Sebastian Guenther and Todd Lewis. Leiden: Brill., 2017, 295-310.

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

**SELECT PRESENTATIONS**

“Punishment and Exhortation in Islamic Hell,” Asia Society New York, April 2023.

 “Reflections on Sex in Paradise,” Sexual Knowledge in the Islamic World, Swedish Institute Istanbul. October 2022.

“The Beauty of the Houri: Images and Interpretations of the Heavenly Virgins,” The University of Texas. March 2022.

“Images of Afterlives and Afterworlds in the Islamic Garden,” Society for Asian Art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. February 2021.

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

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

**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