Kristen J Alff

Assistant Professor of History and International Studies
North Carolina State University

EDUCATION

PhD, Stanford University, History Department 2019
Dissertation: "The Business of Property: Levantine Joint-Stock Companies, Land, Law, and Capitalist Development around the Mediterranean, 1850-1925."
Committee: Joel Beinin, Priya Satia, Ali Yaycioglu

Oral Examination in History, with distinction
Fields: The Modern Middle East, The Ottoman Empire, British and French Empires, Islamic Republics: Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan

MA, Middle East History, Stanford University 2014

MA, Middle East Studies, The American University in Cairo, Egypt 2009
Thesis: "The Kurds and Nationalism: The Curtailment of Minority Rights in British Mandate Iraq, 1921-1932" (Chair: Joel Beinin)

BS/BA, Magna Cum Laude, Boston University, Boston MA 2001
Bachelor of Arts, English Department
Bachelor of Science, School of Education

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, North Carolina State University, Department of History and International Studies Program 2020
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Virginia, Department of History 2019
Lecturer, Stanford University 2017

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Arabic, German, French, Hebrew, Ottoman Turkish

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters and Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"Family Partnerships to Joint-stock Companies in the Ottoman Eastern Mediterranean" in ed. Meltem Toksoz, *The Routledge History of the Ottoman Empire* (Routledge Press, under advance contract)

"Changing Capitalist Structures and Settler-Colonial Land Purchases in Northern Palestine, 1897-1922" *International Journal of Middle East Studies,* 55 (Nov. 2023).

"Landed Property, Capital Accumulation, and Polymorphous Capitalism in Egypt and the Levant, 1850-1920" in eds. Joel Beinin, Bassam Haddad, Sherene Seikaly, *Critical Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa*, (Stanford University Press, 2021).

"The Business of Property: Land, Law, and Capitalism Around the Mediterranean," *Enterprise and Society*, 21:4 (Dec. 2020).

"Levantine Joint-Stock Companies, Trans-Mediterranean Partnerships and Nineteenth-Century Capitalist Development," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 60:1 (January 2018).

Book

Kristen Alff, *Violent Interests: Capitalism and Social Transformation in the Eastern Mediterranean, 1830s-1940s* (Stanford University Press, forthcoming, June 16, 2026.

Public Scholarship

"A British Inheritance: The Importance of World War I in the History of Labor Zionism," *Broadsides* January 12, 2024. https://www.nacbs.org/post/a-british-inheritance-the-importance-of-world-war-i-in-the-history-of-labor-zionism.

"The Sursock Family Companies, Property, and Influence in the First Globalization Era" Sursock Museum, 2023-2024.

"The Sursock Family Companies, Property, and Influence in the First Globalization Era" Sursock Museum, 2023-2024 (Arabic Translation).

"Property Disputes in Israel come with a Complicated Back Story – and tend to end with Palestinian Dispossession," *The Conversation*, June 14, 2021.

"The Limited Corporation: A History of Global Capitalism," *The Economic Historian*, June 8, 2021.

"Short Teaching Module: The Forgotten Beirut-based Companies in the Global History of Capitalism" *World History Commons*, 2021. https://worldhistorycommons.org/short-teaching-module-forgotten-beirut-based-companies-global-history-capitalism.

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship ($60,000)	2023
NC State Critical DEI Grant ($1,600)	2023
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend (6,000)	2020
Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies Conference Grant	2017
Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship	2017-2018
Council of American Overseas Research Centers Research Fellowship	2015
Social Science Research Council, Mellon-IDRF (*declined*)	2015-2016
Palestine American Research Center Fellowship	2014-2015
The History Project Research Grant, Harvard University	2013

SELECTED AWARDS

National Humanities Center Summer, one-month Residency Award	2022
Herman E. Krooss Best Dissertation in Business History Prize, Finalist	2020
World History Association Annual WHA Dissertation Prize	2020
Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellowship	2016

BOOK REVIEWS

T.G Fraser, *Contested Lands: A History of the Middle East since the First World War,* Haus Publishing, University of Chicago Press, 2022 reviewed for *History: Reviews of New Books*, 50:5 (Nov 2022).

Noura Erakat, *Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine*, Stanford University Press, 2019 reviewed for *Arab Studies Quarterly* 43:4 (2020).

INVITED TALKS

"Levantine Joint-Stock Companies & Global Capitalism, 1830-1930" UNC, Charlotte, April 17, 2023.

"Agricultural Companies and Palestinian Resistance," New Directions in Palestinian History, symposium, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 11, 2025

"Globalizing the History of Capitalism," Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Boston (virtual), April 2022.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Partnerships to Joint-stock Companies: Accumulating Capital in Nineteenth-Century Eastern Mediterranean Contexts," conference, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, Jan. 4, 2025.

"Unveiling Myths of Limited Liability: Gender, Marriage and the Early-20th Century Levantine Company," conference, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Dec. 2022.

"What is Lost in the "Great Divergence"? 'Non-Capitalist' Capital Accumulation in the Nineteenth-Century Levant" *Presidential Session: Beyond the Great Divergence*, World Economic History Congress XIX, Paris, July 2022.

"Correcting Bodies: Incarceration to Militarization as Strategies for Ongoing Dispossession, 1870-1920," conference, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto (virtual), Dec. 2021.

"The Agrarian Question in Palestine: Rethinking Labor, Capital, and Conflict," conference, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (virtual), Oct. 2020.

"How Crises of World War I Changed Capitalism in the Levant," conference, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Nov. 2019.

"'All We Have Left Are Our Houses!': Forgotten Voices in the Development of Middle Eastern Capitalism," conference, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 2018.

ROUNDTABLES

"Global Southern Companies as Central to a Globalized History of Capitalism" Presidential Roundtable, conference, American Historical Association, New Orleans (virtual), Jan. 2022.

"History on the Move: Mobility and Circulation in and Beyond the Modern Middle East," Middle East Studies Association Meeting, New Orleans, Nov. 2019.

DISCUSSANT

"Restating Capitalism: History, Theory, and Social Transformation in the Middle East and North Africa," discussant, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Dec. 2022.

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

North Carolina State University, Assistant Professor of History and International Studies

IS 393 Theories of Globalization
IS/HI 495 Oil and Crisis in the Persian Gulf

IS 491 International Studies Capstone Seminar
HI 270 The History of the Modern Middle East
HI 466 The History of the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict
HI 599 Political Economy of the Middle East and Global South

University of Virginia, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
HI 4511 Capitalism in the Middle East
HI 2021 The Middle East and North Africa (500-1500)
HI 2022 The Middle East and North Africa (1500-Present)

Stanford University, Lecturer
HI 281G The Middle East and the World
HI 208K Capitalism and the Global South

OTHER ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

George Mason University, Political Economy Summer Institute
"Corporate Capitalism in the Colonized World," Summer 2018

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Avon High School, English Teacher, grades 9-11	2010-2011
Keio Junior Boys High School, English and Communications Teacher	2002-2005
Lincoln Elementary School, Reading and Writing Instructor	2000-2002

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, Search Committee for Distinguished Professor of Migration Studies (2025-2026)
Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor of African History (2024-2025)
Member, Search Committee for Associate Dean of International and Global Studies (2022-2023)
Member and Organizer, Curriculum Committee charged with creation of new pre-law track (2021-2023)
Member, Ad-hoc Anti-Racism Committee (2020-2021)
Faculty Advisor,

UNIVERSITY SERVICE, ADVISING

Faculty Advisor

- Middle East Refugee Aid (MERA) Inc. Nonprofit on Campus (UNC-NC State), (Oct 2024-present)

Supervisor, MA Thesis:

- Reese Hollister, Master of International Studies (2025- present)

Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, History:

- Rachel Beth Acher, ""Reimagining American Exceptionalism: US Foreign Policy in Iran, Capitalism, and Modern Conservatism (1944-1989)" (submitted Feb 2023).
- Isaac Ali, "REDACTED: Epistemicide of Medical Knowledge and its Consequences on Palestinian Health" (submitted March 2025).
- Nada Elraddaf, "Black Pather's Projects and Palestinian Nationalism, 1967-1972" (in progress)
- Nour Makhlof, "The Historical Transformation of Palestinian Embroidery Under Displacement and Conflict" (in progress).

Supervisor, Office of Undergraduate Research Project

- Siham Hashi, "Regan, Is it the Hostages or the Soviet Union?" (2022-2023)

Committee Member, History Dept.

- James Britt, MA Thesis, The Wall around a House: Borders and the Emirate of Afghanistan 1888-1901 (submitted March 2023).

OTHER SERVICE

Peer Reviewer
- manuscript articles in journals: CSSH, IJMES,
- book manuscript, Anthem Press (August 2020)

Panelist for NEH Summer Stipends Program, (October 2023)

External Reviewer/Examiner, Political Economy, Honors Program, Swarthmore College (2021)

Organizer/coordinator, "Minority Communities, Rights, Political Economies and States in the Modern Middle East and Central Asia," interdisciplinary workshop, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, 2015-2017.

Co-coordinator, "New Directions in Political Economy of the Middle East," international workshop, Stanford University, February 2016.

Translator, "Tahrir Documents," Arabic, Cairo, 2010-2011
Program Assistant, Egyptian Center for Women's Rights (ECWR), 2005-2009

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS

Political Economy Project Group
American Historical Association
Middle East Studies Association
Economic History Association
Business History Conference
World History Association