

Alize Arıcan

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EDUCATION

2016–21	Ph.D. , Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago <i>Dissertation</i> : “Figuring It Out: Inhabiting Urban Transformation in Tarlabası, Istanbul”
2014–16	M.A. , Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago
2009–14	B.A. , Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University (Istanbul, Turkey) with High Honors

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

2024–	Assistant Professor , Department of Anthropology, Gender Studies, and International Studies, City University of New York—City College
2022–24	Postdoctoral Scholar , Society of Fellows, Boston University
2021–22	Postdoctoral Associate , Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University—New Brunswick
2019–20	Visiting Affiliate , Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin
2017–18	Visiting Fellow , Istanbul Studies Center, Istanbul Kadir Has University
2017	Summer Fellow , Institute of Critical Social Inquiry, The New School for Social Research

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban and political anthropology, care, migration, displacement, race and racialization, temporality, futurity, dispossession, Middle East, Turkey, Blackness and anti-Blackness, engaged ethnography, community archives, multimodal research

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

In progress *Figuring It Out: The Politics of the Future in Istanbul*

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2023	“Counterfactual Future-Thinking” <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> (special issue eds. Nikhil Anand and Jenny Lindblad)
2022	“Rumor as Archive: The Story of the Golden Cross in Taksim 360” <i>Journal of Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association</i> 8(1):109–128.

- 2021 “1237, or, Dying Elsewhere” *Current Anthropology* 62(1): 110–116.
- 2020 “Care in Tarlabası amidst Heightened Inequalities, Urban Transformation, and Coronavirus” *Radical Housing Journal* 2(2): 219–228.
- 2020 “Behind the Scaffolding in Tarlabası, Istanbul: Manipulations of Time, Delay, and Power” *City & Society* 32(3): 482–507.
- Winner of the 2019 Middle East Section at the American Anthropological Association’s Best Student Paper Prize
- 2019 “The Ghost of Karl Marx” *entanglements: experiments in multimodal ethnography* 2(2): 27–32.
- In progress “Cultivating Potentialities: Inhabiting Urban Transformation in Tarlabası”
In preparation for submission to *American Anthropologist*
- Winner of the 2019 Middle East Studies Association’s Best Graduate Paper Prize
- In progress “Figuring It Out: Care and Futurity in Tarlabası, Istanbul”
In preparation for submission to *Cultural Anthropology*
- Winner of the 2020 American Ethnological Society’s Elsie Clews Parsons Prize

Editor-Reviewed Articles and Public Scholarship

- 2022 “Fragment as Verb, Method, and Knowing in the City”
Invited piece for *Society and Space*, Book Forum on *Fragments of the City: Making and Remaking Urban Worlds* by Colin McFarlane
- 2020 “In the Pursuit of ‘Reality’ in Tarlabası and Dolapdere”
Invited article for *Beyond Istanbul: Special Issue on Beyoğlu* (in both English and Turkish)
- 2020 “AE Interviews Fırat Bozçalı”
American Ethnologist website
- 2020 “AE Interviews Hayal Akarsu”
American Ethnologist website
- 2020 “Relationship-Making, Scaffolding, and a Pandemic”
Invited article for *Anthropology News*
- 2020 “Technologies of Representation: Possibilities of Social Media in Tarlabası, Istanbul”
Invited blog post for *Platypus: Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing (CASTAC) Blog*
- 2020 “Urban Transformation and Resistance in Tarlabası: The Politics of a Delayed Construction Project in Istanbul”
Interviewed by Cihan Tekay for *Status/الوضع* Podcast and *Jadaliyya*
- 2019 “AE Interviews Chloe Ahmann”
American Ethnologist website

2019 “What We’re Reading, Summer 2019” (with Gina Athena Ulysse, Carole McGranahan, Brittany Birberick, Chris Loperena, and Marc Edelman)
[American Ethnologist](#) website

2019 “Limits and Possibilities of Urban Ethnography”
Invited article for [Beyond Istanbul: Special Issue on Urban Political Ecology](#)

Book Reviews

In progress “*The Surrounds: Urban Life within and beyond Capture* by Abdoumalig Simone” *American Ethnologist*, invited review.

2023 “[Love, Sex, and Morality—and Other Triads.](#)” *Current Anthropology* 64(1):123–24.

2020 “*Globalized Authoritarianism: Megaprojects, Slums, and Class Relations in Urban Morocco* by Koenraad Bogaert” [City & Society](#) 33(2): 1–4.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Awards

2021 **Outstanding Dissertation Award**, University of Illinois at Chicago
2020 **Elsie Clews Parsons Prize**, American Ethnological Society
2019 **Best Graduate Paper Prize**, Middle East Studies Association
2019 **Best Student Paper Prize**, Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association
2017 **16th Annual Alice J. Dan Dissertation Award for Research on Women and Gender**, University of Illinois at Chicago

Extramural Grants and Fellowships

2022–24 **Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Society of Fellows, Boston University
2022–24 **Emerging Voices Fellowship**, American Council of Learned Societies (*declined*)
2022–24 **Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Keyman Turkish Studies Program, Northwestern University (*declined*)
2022–23 **Marilyn J. Gittell Postdoctoral Fellowship**, City University of New York—Graduate Center (*declined*)
2021–22 **Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University
2021 **Wadad Kadi Fellowship**, Middle East Studies Association
2020–21 **Dissertation Writing Grant**, The Institute of Turkish Studies
2019 **AES Diversity Travel Grant**, American Ethnological Society
2016–18 **Humanities Without Walls Grant**, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Intramural Grants and Fellowships

2022–23	Center on Forced Displacement Seed Grant , Boston University
2020–21	Dean’s Scholar Fellowship , University of Illinois at Chicago
2018–19	Gender and Women’s Studies Completion Award , University of Illinois at Chicago
2018	Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy Dissertation Grant , University of Illinois at Chicago
2016	Chancellor’s Graduate Research Award , University of Illinois at Chicago
2016	Provost’s Award for Graduate Research , University of Illinois at Chicago
2014–15	University Fellowship , University of Illinois at Chicago

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Spring 2024 (<i>scheduled</i>)	Anthropology of the Middle East Department of Anthropology, Boston University
Spring 2023	Racial Formations in the Global South Department of Anthropology, Boston University
Fall 2021	Urban Futures Honors College, Rutgers University—New Brunswick

Teaching Assistant

Summer 2019	Human Adventure Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago
Spring 2017	Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago
Fall 2016	Human Evolution Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago
Spring 2016	Introduction to Economic Geography Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago
Fall 2015	Introduction to Cultural Geography Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago
Fall and Spring 2013	History of Political Thought I and II Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures and Talks

- 2023 “Transience and Blackness: West African Futures in Istanbul”
Guest lecture, *The Anthropology of Global Racisms* course (March 7),
Tufts University, Medford, MA
- 2023 “Figuring It Out: Kurdish and Black Lives, Care, and Urban Futures
in Istanbul”
Invited talk, Department of Sociology and Anthropology (February
27), Spelman College, online
- 2023 “Figuring It Out: Kurdish and Black Lives, Care, and Urban Futures
in Istanbul”
Invited talk, Department of International Studies (February 24),
Spelman College, online
- 2023 “Figuring It Out: Care, Futurity, and Urban Transformation in
Istanbul”
Invited lecture, Department of Anthropology (February 22),
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
- 2023 “Figuring It Out: Care, Futurity, and Urban Transformation in
Istanbul”
Invited talk, Department of Anthropology, Gender Studies, and
International Studies (February 14), CUNY—City College, New
York, NY
- 2023 “Figuring It Out: Caring Toward Migrant Futures in Istanbul”
Invited talk, Department of Anthropology (January 30), The New
School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2023 “Figuring It Out: The Politics of the Future”
Invited talk, Department of Sociology and Anthropology (January
10), CUNY—College of Staten Island, online
- 2022 “Applying for Postdoctoral Fellowships in Anthropology”
Invited presentation, *Department of Anthropology Talks* (October 20),
University of Illinois at Chicago, online
- 2022 “Rumor as Archive: The Story of the Golden Cross in Tarlabası”
Invited presentation, *W’OTSAp in Ottoman and Turkish Studies Speaker
Series* (July 8), Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, online
- 2022 “Transience and Blackness: West African Futures in Istanbul”
Invited lecture, *Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program: Reflections on
Whiteness, Blackness, and Race in the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of
Turkey Speaker Series* (May 25), Northwestern University, online
- 2022 “Temporalities of Urban Life: Figuring It Out in Istanbul”
Invited talk, Department of Integrative and Global Studies (February
28), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA
- 2022 “Figuring It Out: The Politics of the Future”
Invited talk, Department of Anthropology (February 17), Smith
College, online

- 2021 “Figuring It Out: The Politics of the Future”
Invited talk, Department of Geography (December 6), Durham University, online
- 2021 “Figuring It Out, Caring Towards the Future”
Invited lecture for *African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literature (AMESALL) Lecture Series* (October 8), Rutgers University—New Brunswick, online
- 2019 “What Does Solidarity Look like during Extended Urban Transformation? Caring in/for/with Tarlabası”
Invited presentation, *All Have the Same Breath: The Symposium* (March 1–2), University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2018 “‘Analyzing’ and ‘Trying to Understand Who These People Are’: For What and for Whom?”
Invited presentation, *Southern Perspectives on Migration* (September 5–7), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018 “Limits and Possibilities of Urban Ethnography”
Invited lecture, *Urban Political Ecology Summer School 2018* (June 18–July 1), Center for Spatial Justice, Istanbul, Turkey

Panels and Conferences Organized

- 2022 “Displacement/Emplacement: Pasts, Presents, Futures”
Panel co-organizer, *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting* (November 9–13), Seattle, WA
Discussant: Caroline Melly
- 2022 “Struggles for Academic Freedom: Experiences from Egypt, Iran, Palestine, and Turkey”
Event co-organizer, *American Anthropological Association Middle East Section* (October 27), online
- 2022 “Commoning the Future”
Conference co-organizer, Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University (March 25), New Brunswick, NJ
Keynote speaker: Fred Moten
- 2021 “Living, Hoping, and Acting towards Urban Futures”
Chair and panel organizer, *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting* (November 17–21), Baltimore, MD
Discussant: Jonathan Shapiro Anjaria
- 2021 “Black Commons”
Conference co-organizer, Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University (September 22), online
Speakers: Keisha-Khan Perry, Sarah Cervenak, J. Cameron Carter, Kofi Boone

2019 “Projects in Process: The *Longue Durée* of Urban Transformations, Securitizations, and Material Flows”
Chair and panel organizer, *American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropology Society Annual Meeting* (November 20–24), Vancouver, BC
Discussants: Elizabeth Ferry and Erik Harms

2019 “Cultivating Temporal Subjectivities in Turkey”
Chair and panel organizer, *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* (November 14–17), New Orleans, LA
Discussant: Farha Ghannam

Discussant

2023 “Liberating Temporality and Spatiality Conference: Plenary Panel”
Discussant and moderator (March 4), The Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Women, Culture & Sexuality, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

2023 “Author Meets Critics: Victims of Commemoration by Eray Çaylı”
Discussant (February 10), online

2022 “The New Commons”
Discussant, *Commoning the Future Conference*, Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University (March 25), New Brunswick, NJ

2022 “New Subjects/Objects of Anthropological Research”
Discussant, *Second City Anthropology Conference* (April 22), University of Illinois at Chicago, online

Conference Presentations

2023 “Figuring It Out: Migrant Futures in Istanbul”
Paper presentation, *American Ethnological Society Meeting* (March 23–25), Princeton, NJ

2022 “Transience, Interrupted: Istanbul’s Black Futures”
Paper presentation, *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting* (November 9–13), Seattle, WA

2021 “Dying Elsewhere”
Paper presentation, *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* (November 29–December 3), online

2021 “Figuring It Out”
Paper presentation, *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting* (November 17–21), Baltimore, MD

2020 “Figuring It Out in Tarlabaşı, Istanbul”
Invited presentation, *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* (October 10–13), online

2019 “Caring Ahead: Delays and Futures in Tarlabaşı, Istanbul”
Paper presentation, *American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropology Society Annual Meeting* (November 20–24), Vancouver, BC

- 2019 “Caring Ahead: Delays and Futures in Tarlabası, Istanbul”
Paper presentation, *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* (November 14–17), New Orleans, LA
- 2019 “Surfacing Tarlabası”
Paper presentation, *New Directions in Anthropology Conference* (April 5–6), University of Texas—Austin, Austin, TX
- 2019 “Caring Ahead: Delays and Futures in Tarlabası, Istanbul”
Paper presentation, *American Ethnological Society Spring Meeting* (March 14–16), St. Louis, MO
- 2019 “Behind the Scaffolding in Tarlabası: Manipulations of Time, Delays, and Power”
Paper presentation, *Anthropology in Transit Conference* (February 22–23), University of California—Irvine, Irvine, CA
- 2018 “Care across Species and Movements in Tarlabası, Istanbul”
Paper presentation, *Political Ecology as Practice: Reports from the Field* (September 21), University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2018 “Urban Transformation and Securitization in Tarlabası: Competing Cosmopolitanisms or Bodies without Organs?”
Paper presentation, *American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting* (March 29–April 1), Los Angeles, CA

Workshops

- 2020 “Cultivating Potentialities: Inhabiting Urban Transformation in Tarlabası”
Paper presentation, *Keyman Article Workshop* (April 9), Northwestern University, online
- 2020 “Cultivating Potentialities: Inhabiting Urban Transformation in Tarlabası”
Paper presentation and discussion, *Political Anthropology/Political Ecology Working Group*, Harvard University (September 18), online
- 2020 Selected participant with stipend for *Radical Housing Encounters: Translocal Conversations on Knowledge and Praxis—An Antipode Foundation International Workshop*, Radical Housing Collective (May 20–22), San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico
- 2019 “Behind the Scaffolding in Tarlabası: Manipulations of Time, Delays, and Power”
Paper presentation and discussion in the *Urban Workshop* (May 23), University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2019 “Behind the Scaffolding in Tarlabası: Manipulations of Time, Delays, and Power”
Paper presentation and discussion, *Turkey Working Group Paper Workshop* (May 3), Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Roundtables

- 2023 “On Not Being There”
Roundtable participation, *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* (November 2–5), Montréal, QC
- 2022 “Soon They Won’t Be Here Anyway”
Roundtable participation, *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* (December 1–4), Denver, CO
- 2020 “Behind the Scaffolding in Tarlaşa: Manipulations of Time, Delays, and Power”
Roundtable participation, *16th Biennial European Association of Social Anthropologists Conference* (July 21–24), online

Public Presentations

- 2018 “Caring on the Surfaces of Tarlaşa”
Presentation of collaborative work with artist Tamara Becerra Valdez, *Chicago Art Book Fair* (November 17), Chicago, IL

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2019 **Arab American Students Survey Project**, Arab American Cultural Center, University of Illinois at Chicago
Conducted qualitative and survey research on the needs and challenges of Arab American students on campus
- 2018–20 **Mellon Engaged Humanities Project**, Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago
Syllabus development for the Mellon Engaged Humanities Class, *Immigration, Race, and Social Justice: From Japanese Internment to the Muslim Ban*, on Arab and Asian American social movements

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 **All Have the Same Breath**
Exhibition of collective research materials and sculpture pieces by Tamara Becerra Valdez, based on collective fieldwork in Tarlaşa, Istanbul (January 18–March 9), [Gallery 400](#), Chicago, IL

SERVICE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Academic Service

- 2023–present **Advisory board member**, *YILLIK: Annual of Istanbul Studies*
- 2022 **Selection committee member**, Photography Competition, Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association
- 2022 **Co-chair member**, Best Student Paper Prize Award Committee, Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association

2021–2022	Participant , “ <i>Futures</i> ” Seminar, Institute for Research on Women, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
2021–2022	Contributing Editor , <i>Platypus Blog</i>
2021–2023	Editor , Middle East Section Column, <i>Anthropology News</i>
2020–23	Student Seat , Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association
2020–present	Host , <i>Mobilities and Methods Lab/New Books Network Podcast</i> , University of Illinois at Chicago
2020–2022	Content Creator and Member , <i>Emergent Futures CoLab</i>
2020–present	Peer reviewer , <i>Anthropology of the Middle East, Ethos, Geopolitics, Journal of Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, Political and Legal Anthropology Review, Radical Housing Journal, Social Anthropology/ Anthropologie Sociale</i>
2019–21	Editorial Intern , <i>American Ethnologist</i>
2014–15	Graduate Student Council Representative , Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago

Podcast Hosting (selected)

2023	“The Ends of Paradise: Race, Extraction, and the Struggle for Black Life in Honduras” Interview with Christopher Loperena for the New Books Network Podcast
2022	“Sextarianism: Sovereignty, Secularism, and the State in Lebanon” Interview with Maya Mikdashi for the New Books Network Podcast
2021	“Precarious Hope: Migration and the Limits of Belonging in Turkey” Interview with Ayşe Parla for the New Books Network Podcast
2021	“Building Socialism: The Afterlife of East German Architecture in Urban Vietnam” Interview with Christina Schwenkel for the New Books Network Podcast
2020	“Beyond Exception: New Interpretations of the Arabian Peninsula” Interview with Ahmed Kanna, Amélie Le Renard, and Neha Vora for the New Books Network Podcast
2020	“Black in Place: The Spatial Aesthetics of Race in a Post-Chocolate City” Interview with Brandi Thompson Summers for the New Books Network Podcast

Community Service

2017–present	Tarlabaşı Solidarity Group , Organizer Provided engaged assistance to women, children, and migrants living in the neighborhood
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- 2016–19 **Chicago Committee for Solidarity with Kurdistan and Rojava,**
Founding Member and Organizer
Organized demonstrations and events to engender awareness and
solidarity for the Kurdish movement
- 2015–17 **Pilsen Alliance,** Organizer
Organized events and rallies against gentrification, worked with
community members against efforts to deport undocumented
residents in Chicago
- 2013–18 **Tarlabası Community Center,** Volunteer
Tutored young women living in Tarlabası and designed educational
projects for children in the neighborhood

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Turkish (Native)

English (Fluent)

German (Fluent; Sprachdiplom Stufe II)

Software Competency: Atlas.ti, Dedoose, Statistical Package for Social Sciences

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association

American Ethnological Society

Critical Urban Anthropology Association

Middle East Section

Society for Cultural Anthropology

European Association of Social Anthropologists

Middle East Studies Association

The Association of Middle East Anthropology