

# SOMAYEH CHITCHIAN

Architect  
Urban & Migration Research

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somayeh.chitchian@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

- 2013-ongoing **Doctor of Design**, student  
Harvard University | Graduate School of Design (GSD)  
Advisor: Prof. Neil Brenner  
Preliminary dissertation title:  
*Logistification of Migration: Corridors of Circulation, Bordering, and Rebellion*
- 2011-2013 **Master in Design Studies (MDes)** with Distinction  
Harvard University | Graduate School of Design (GSD)  
Critical Conservation concentration | Advisor: Prof. K. Michael Hays
- 2013 Master's thesis: *Other[ed] City: (Re)presentations of Muslim Identities in Contemporary Urban West (the case of the city of Boston)* | [Project link](#)
- 2006-2008 **Master of Science (M.Sc)** in Architecture  
Delft University of Architecture (TU Delft) | The Netherlands  
Chair of Interiors, Buildings, and Cities | [Project link](#)
- 2002-2005 **Bachelor of Science (B.Sc)** in Architecture  
Delft University of Architecture (TU Delft) | The Netherlands

## LANGUAGES

Farsi (Persian)	Native speaker
English	Excellent
Dutch	Very good
Azeri (Turkish)	Elementary

## COMPUTER SKILLS

Adobe	Photoshop
	Illustrator
	InDesign
	Premiere Pro
	Acrobat
GIS	ArcMap
CAD	AutoCad
	Vectorworks
3D	Rhinoceros
	Maya
Microsoft	Excel
	Powerpoint
	Word

## HONORS & AWARDS

- 2015-2019 **Max Planck Institute Doctoral Fellowship**  
Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity | Germany  
Department of Socio-Cultural Diversity | Supervision: Prof. Steven Vertovec
- 2014 **Harvard EDC Student of the Year Award**  
ESRI Development Center | Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis  
Winner best student GIS project | Masters thesis | [Project link](#)
- 2011 **Dr. M. A. Mojtahedi Foundation Fellow**  
California | United States | Fund recipient for Harvard master's degree
- 2010 **Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Fellow**  
Amsterdam | The Netherlands | Fund recipient for Harvard master's degree
- 2010 **Henri F. Benkemper Fonds Fellow**  
Amsterdam | The Netherlands | Fund recipient for Harvard master's degree
- 2004 **BSc5 Winning Semester Project, Delft University of Technology**  
"Restoration and Mixed Use of TU North and Mijnbouwplein #11"

## INTERESTS

Graphic design  
Photography  
Persian calligraphy  
Music & movies  
Traveling  
Hikes & walking  
Organizing social events

## PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming **Urban Geography Journal**  
Special Issue: Urban Studies and Refugee Migration: Conceptual Challenges and Methodological Approaches
- Title *(Re)Spatializing Migration Analysis: The In-betweenness of Space and Subject*

## ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS

- 2019 | winter | **Inside Out: What architectural design can learn from refugees' dwelling experiences in and out of camps**  
Venue: Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity  
Co-organized with Dr. Shahd Wari (MPI-MMG) and Maja Momic (HCU Hamburg)

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## CONFERENCES & SUMMER SCHOOLS

- 2018 | fall | **Spaces & Flows: Ninth International Conference on Urban and ExtraUrban Studies**  
Panel: Migration geographies (1): Migration and back  
Presentation: *Infrastructures of Migration: The In-betweenness of Space and Subject*
- 2018 | fall | **Transregional Academy at National University of Singapore: Infrastructures, Regions, and Urbanizations**  
Organized by: Forum Transregionale Studien, Max Weber Stiftung, NUS, and Asia Research Institute  
Project: *Logistification of Migration: Infrastructures of Mobility, Containment, and Rebellion*
- 2018 | spring | **American Association of Geographers (AAG)**  
Panel: Breaking Boundaries from Bottom to Top: Critical Approaches to Migration  
Presentation: *Migration Question as an Urban Question: Towards New Methodologies and Spatialities of Analysis*
- 2017 | **"Refugee Migration and Urban Studies - Theoretical Challenges and New Approaches"**  
IMISCOE | 14th Annual Conference | "Migration, Diversity, and the City" | Rotterdam  
Presentation title: *(Re)spatializing Migration Studies: Migration Question as an Urban Question*
- 2016 | **"DIVERCITIES: Governing Urban Diversity"**  
University of Vienna | Marie Jahoda Summer School | Sociology depart.  
Presentation title: *(Re)spatializing Migration Studies: Interscalar Urban- and Human (Im)mobility Restructuration*
- 2013 | **"Ways of Knowing: Graduate Conference on Religion"**  
Harvard Divinity School | Second annual conference  
Paper title: *Other[ed] City: (Re)presentations of Muslim Identities in Contemporary Urban West (the case of the city of Boston)* | master's thesis
- 2013 | **"Migration, Mobility, Movement: Crossing Borders in World History"**  
Northeastern University | Department of History  
Fifth annual graduate student conference

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

### Harvard University

- 2015 | spring semester | Teaching Fellow | Master in Design Studies (MDes) | Graduate School of Design (GSD)  
Course: DES03332 - Critical Conservation: Urban Cultural Ecologies of Progressive Places  
Instructors: Susan Nigra Snyder and George E. Thomas
- 2014 | fall semester | Teaching Fellow | Department of Urban Planning and Design | Graduate School of Design  
Course: SES05210 - Cities by Design 1 | Core course for Urban Design students  
Instructors: Rahul Mehrotra and Jana Cephas
- 2013 | fall semester | Teaching Fellow | Master in Design Studies (MDes) | Graduate School of Design (GSD)  
Course: DES03332 - Critical Conservation: Understanding the Urban Cultural Ecology of Progressive Urban Places |  
Teaching staff: Susan Nigra Snyder and George E. Thomas

## RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

### Harvard University

- 2014-2015 | Project Assistant | Frances Loeb Library | Graduate School of Design
- 2014 | spring semester | Conservation proposal for Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA)  
Title: *Conserving the Intangible: Daylight and Kinetic Experience of the Museum*  
Supervisors: Susan Nigra Snyder and George E. Thomas
- 2013 | Master track area assistant | Graduate School of Design  
Master in Design Studies (MDes) | Critical Conservation concentration
- 2013 | summer | Research Assistant | HarvardX | Graduate School of Design  
Course: *The Architectural Imagination* | Supervisor: Prof. K. Michael Hays.

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## RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP (continued)

### Harvard University

2012-2013 Research Assistant | Harvard Law School  
Supervisor: Prof. M. Shahab Ahmed | Text translation

2011-2012 Research Assistant | Gulf Encyclopedia | Graduate School of Design  
Title: *The Gulf Encyclopedia for Sustainable Urbanism (GESU)*

### Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)

2006-2008 Teaching and research assistant | Department of Building Technology

## ORGANIZATIONAL POSITIONS

### Harvard University

2014-2015 Resident Advisor (RA) | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) | Perkins Residence Halls  
Serving as a facility liaison, advisor, mediator, and event planner for the residence halls  
Supervisors: Dean Garth McCavana, Jackie Yun, Ashley Skipwith

2013 Summer Conference Assistant | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)  
| summer | Assistance to the Housing Services staff in the GSAS Residence Halls

## ARCHITECTURE

### 2008 Architect

Imagine Envelope B.V. | The Hague | The Netherlands  
Design of advanced building envelopes | [www.imagine-envelope.com](http://www.imagine-envelope.com) | Project collaborations:

- Project *Rokossowski Boulevard*, Moscow
- Competition office renovation, Köln
- Competition *Neubau Fachhochschule Düsseldorf*

### 2005-2006 Intern architect

Rooijackers+Tomesen Architecten | Amsterdam | The Netherlands  
[www.rooijackers-tomesen.com](http://www.rooijackers-tomesen.com) | Project contributions:

- Garden Pavilion in the Historic Townscape Soest  
Published in the journal *Houtblad*, September, 2006, Volume 18, Nr. 6
- District expansion *Eskopje* at Varsseveld, 2007
- Competition *Museum Reede of Texel*
- Study *Fortress Veghel te Veghel*: Reuse of 20 Grain Silos

## ACTIVITIES & EXHIBITIONS

2017 **Logo Design: AAUD** (Academy for African Urban Diversity)

2015 **"Encounter"** (photo)  
| spring | The Dudley Review | Harvard GSAS literary journal | April 2016, p.16  
Literary journal by GSAS students, featuring their art, writing & music.

2015 **"Street / Documentary Photography"** (exhibition)  
Harvard University | Dudley House | GSAS Student Center | Café Gato Rojo  
Selected work | Dudley House photography class fall 2013 | Instructor: B.D. Colen

2014 **"Encounter"** (photo)  
| spring | Light: The MESSA Journal | University of Chicago | Spring 2014, 3(2), p.32  
Middle Eastern Studies Student's Association (MESSA) | [Journal link](#)

### 2005-2006 The Rich Persia: Study trip and exhibition

Delft University of Technology | The Netherlands  
First student organized architectural study trip to Iran from TU Delft