

Zahra Takhshid

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Assistant Professor of Law

July 2021-present

(Courses: Torts, Advanced Torts: Defamation and Privacy, Law and Emerging Technologies)

Member of the Network of Experts,

UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence

February 2024-present

Affiliated Faculty, Center for Middle East Studies, Korbel School of International Studies

September 2021-present

Harvard Law School

Harvard Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society- Faculty Associate

September 2020-present

The Lewis Fellow for Law Teaching & Lecturer on Law

July 2019-June 2021

(Course: Common Law and Privacy Torts)

Harvard Law School Program in Islamic Law- Affiliate

August 2019- 2022

University of Arizona

Center for Quantum Networks- Fellow

January 2021- present

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Articles & Essays

Work in Progress

“What I Do Isn’t Stalking:” How Youth Balance Privacy, Care, and Relationships through Location-Sharing Technologies (with Liza Gak, Leo Koepp, Monica Taganas, and Niloufar Salehi).

On Privacy and Happiness

Can LLMs Reason? The Study of *Ijtihad* (juridical reasoning in Islam) and Generative AI.

Published or Forthcoming:

[Consumer Protection and the Illusory Promise of the Unconscionability Defense](#), (with Benjamin Zipursky), 103 TEXAS L. REV. (forthcoming 2025)

[Wearable AI, Bystander Notice, and the Question of Privacy Frictions](#), 104 BOSTON L. REV. (2024) (invited symposium).

[Data as Likeness](#), Georgetown L. J. (forthcoming 2024).

[Children’s Digital Privacy and the Case Against Parental Consent](#), 101 TEXAS L. REV. (2023) (featured on The ALI Adviser).

[Regulating Social Media in the Global South](#), VAND. J. ENT. & TECH. L. (2022) (top ten most downloaded paper on the Journal's website)

[Assumption of Risk in Consumer Contracts and the Distraction of Unconscionability](#), 42 CARDOZO L. REV 6, 27 (2021) (Peer-reviewed in JOTWELL, May 19, 2020).

[Kidney, Money, and the *Shi'ab* Implementation of the Rule of Necessity](#), UCLA J. OF ISLAMIC & N. E. LAW (2021).

[Nonessential Businesses and Liability Waivers in the Time of COVID-19](#), 105 MINNESOTA. L. REV. HEADNOTES 42-53, (2020).

[Retrievable Images on Social Media Platforms: A Call for a New Privacy Tort](#), 68 BUFFALO L. REV. 1 (2020).

[Comparative Study of Bystander Liability in the U.S & the Iranian Legal Systems](#), (with Dr. Mirshekari & Mona Abdi) University of Mazandaran Comparative Law Semiannual L. Rev. [Peer-Reviewed] [in Farsi] (2024).

[An Introductory Study on the Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Tort Law](#), U. OF TEHRAN, J. OF PRIVATE L. (2021) [in Farsi].

[Lessons from Regulating E-Cigarettes: A Case of Coercive Paternalism, Nudging, or Behaviorally Informed Boosting?](#) J. OF BIOMEDICAL L. & ETHICS [Peer-Reviewed] (invited symposium essay) (2020).

[Denied Boarding and Overbooked Flights: A Comparative Study of Contracts of Carriage](#) (with Dr. Izanloo) SHIRAZ U. J. OF LEGAL STUDIES. [Peer-Reviewed] [in Farsi] (2022).

[Defenses to the Tort of Negligence: A Comparative Study of the Iranian and the American Legal Systems](#) (With Dr. Laya Joneydi) LEGAL RESEARCH QUARTERLY, SHAHID BEHESHTI U. L. REV. [Peer-Reviewed] [in Farsi] (2021).

[Defamation and the Concept of Public Figure in the Iranian Legal System](#), 23 COMPARATIVE LAW RESEARCH TARBIAT MODARES U. L. REV., No. 4, 1-35. [Peer-Reviewed] [in Farsi] (2020).

[A Critical Study of the Methodology of Comparative U.S. Tort Law Research](#) (with Dr. Hassan Badini), 49 PRIVATE LAW STUDIES QUARTERLY, U. OF TEHRAN L. REV., No. 2, 217-237. [Peer-Reviewed] [in Farsi] (2019).

International Protection of Child, A Case Study of Girl Child Labor in Bangladesh and Nigeria, (with Dr. Nassrin Mossafa), 6 WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL OF WOMEN'S STUDIES, No. 2 [in Farsi] (2014).

Book Chapters

[Quantum Privacy](#), CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF EMERGING ISSUES AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMERCIAL LAW AND TECHNOLOGY (forthcoming 2024).

Animal Law in Iran (Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law, forthcoming 2025).

Other Writings

[New Mexico v. Google LLC: Children's Privacy and the Promises of Big Tech](#), HARVARD J.L. & TECH. DIGEST (Mar. 2020).

[Organic Labeling: Reconciling Religious Freedom and Animal Welfare in the European Union](#), HARVARD PROGRAM IN ISLAMIC LAW BLOG (Nov. 13, 2019).

SELECTED SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- The AALS 2025 Annual Meeting Torts and Compensation Systems Section Program, panelist [scheduled for January 2025].
- On Privacy and Happiness, The Law and Technology Workshop, via Zoom, [scheduled for December 2024].
- Supreme Court Term in Review, DU Sturm College of Law, August 2024.
- On Privacy and Happiness, DU Sturm College of Law, Faculty Summer Workshop, July 2024.
- Generative AI for Lawyers, Iranian Central Bar Association, via Zoom, July 2024.
- Consumer Protection and the Question of Unconscionability, Fordham Law School, targeted faculty workshop with Ben Zipursky, June 18, 2024.
- Youth Digital Privacy and Social Media, Attorney General Alliance (AGA) Annual Conference, June 2024.
- Generative AI and Data as Likeness, University of Toronto Faculty of Law, June 2024.
- Regulating Social Media in a Sanctioned Economy, Vanderbilt University School of Law, June 2024.
- Generative AI for Lawyers, Arak School of Law, Arak, Iran via Zoom, May 5, 2024.
- An Introduction to Generative AI and the Law, Kharazmi School of Law, Tehran via Zoom, May 4, 2024.
- The Impact of EU AI Act & GDPR on US Legislative Initiatives, University of Tehran School of Law and Political Science, Feb 26, 2024.
- The Challenges of Regulating AI: the Case of Wearable AI, AlZahra University School of Law, 5 March, 2024.
- The Illusory Promise of the Unconscionability Defense in Contract Law, Arkansas University School of Law, presenter, Feb 7, 2024.
- The Future of AI Regulation, panelist, 2023 Annual Colorado Privacy Summit, 28 Sept. 2023.
- The Illusory Promise of the Unconscionability Defense in Contract Law, Faculty Workshop at DU Sturm College of Law, presenter, August 2023
- Privacy Torts for the Digital Age, DU Sturm College of Law, organizer and speaker, March 31, April 1, 2023.
- Blockchains and the Rule of Law, DU Sturm College of Law, commentator, March 16, 2023.
- Global Animal Law Workshop, Harvard Law School, presenter, Nov. 1 2022.
- Transatlantic Quantum Forum, commentator, UCLA, Sept 16, 2022.
- Intellectual Property Law Conference (IPLC), presenter, Stanford Law School, August 11-12.
- Privacy Law Scholars Conference (PLSC), presenter, Northeastern University, June 2-3, 2022.
- Governance of Emerging Technologies and Science, Arizona State University College of Law, presenter, May 19-20, 2022.
- The Legal Dimensions of Quantum Computing, presenter, Lund University Faculty of Law, Sweden, 28-30th April 2022.
- Mohammad and Rana Malas Lecture in Islamic Law, University of Irvine School of Law, 2021-2022 lecturer, Legal and Ethical Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence: An Islamic Law Perspective, April 2022.

Cardozo Arts & Entertainment Law Journal Symposium, Cardozo School of Law, invited speaker, March 31, 2022.

True Cost of Misinformation Workshop, Harvard Kennedy School, Shorenstein Center, Respondent, March 9-10, 2022.

The Quantum Age, Stanford University Cyber Policy Center, Feb 8, 2022.

Children's Digital Privacy and the Case Against Parental Consent, Obligation Discussion Group, University of Oxford, England, February 2022.

Social Media in the Middle East, presenter, the Institute for Comparative and Regional Studies (ICRS), Center for Middle East Studies, Josef Korbel School of International Studies University of Denver, February 1, 2022.

Trust and Transparency, NYU Digital Interests Lab & Yale Information Society Project, panelist, Dec. 10, 2021.

The Future of Human Expertise in the Age of AI-an Interfaith Conversation, Fordham Law School, presenter, Nov. 16, 2021.

Conference on Quantum Technologies, Law, and Public Policy: A Global Perspective, via Zoom. Us., Center for Quantum Networks, Sole Conference Organizer, and Presenter, Emerging Technologies and the Global South, Nov. 18-19, 2021.

Harvard Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Festival of Ideas, Sanctions and Access to Teach, Nov. 9, 2021.

The Internet and the Law: Legal Challenges in the New Digital Age, UC Hastings Law Center and Pound Civil Justice Institute, commentator, Nov. 6 & 7, 2021.

Power and Accountability in Tech Conference, UCLA Institute for Technology, Law & Policy, Children's Privacy, Presenter, Nov. 5, 2021.

Brazilian Institute of Teaching, Development and Research, Courts and Constitutions: a Comparison between the U.S. and Iran's Legal Systems, Sept. 29, 2021.

First Annual Conference of Platform Governance Research, Regulating Social Media in the Global South, Mar.24-25, 2021.

Islamic Law Lab, Harvard Law School, Moderator and Co-organizer, Winter/Spring 2021.

Moderate Globally, Impact Locally: The Global Impacts of Content Moderation, Yale Law School and Wikimedia Initiative on Intermediaries and Information, Panelists, via Zoom.us, Nov. 20-21, 2020.

Disinformation and the Global South, Yale Information Society Project, Yale Law School, via Zoom.us Feb. 25, 2021.

The Eighth Annual Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference, Paper Discussant, Yale Law School, via Zoom.us, Oct. 24-27, 2020.

The Nuts and Bolts of Getting Published at U.S. Law Reviews, Institute of Comparative Law, University of Tehran School of Law and Political Science, Online Workshop, Aug. 10, 2020.

Consumer Contracts and Assumption of Risk, Paul-André Crépeau Centre of Private and Comparative Law, McGill University, via Zoom.us, June 25, 2020.

Retrievable Images and Privacy Torts, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard Law School, Feb. 26, 2020.

Disinformation, Defamation, and Islamic Values, Islamic Law Lecture Series, Program in Islamic Law, Harvard Law School, Mar. 10, 2020.

Facebook and the Global South, Climenko Workshop, Harvard Law School, Dec. 4, 2019.

Rethinking Privacy Torts: The Tort of Unwanted Broadcasting, Climenko Workshop, Harvard Law School, July 17, 2019.

The Seventh Annual Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference, Presenter, Yale Law School, Apr. 25-27th, 2019.

Justice in the Brave New World: Technology and the Role of the Law in the 21st Century, Presenter, Emory School of Law, Oct. 25-26

From Karbala to Myanmar: Fighting Injustice and Keeping Their Stories Alive, Fordham Law School, Speaker, Scheduled for Nov. 28, 2018.

Understanding President Trump's Executive Order on Immigration and Travel Ban, Fordham Law School, Moderator, Feb. 8, 2017.

A Separation: Movie Screening and Discussion, Speaker, Fordham Law School, Mar. 8, 2018.

Food, Blessings, and Piety: An Interfaith Dialog on the Importance of Food in Religion, Speaker, Mar. 23, 2017.

The First and Second National S.J.D. Roundtable, American University Washington College of Law, Respectively November 4-6, 2016, and Nov. 3, 2017.

The 5th Mid-Atlantic S.J.D. Roundtable, Georgetown University Law Center, Nov. 21, 2015.

I Am Your Protector: Promoting a Culture of Reconciliation in Pluralistic Societies, Speaker, Fordham Law School, Feb. 17, 2016.

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Harvard Law School

Common Law and Privacy Torts, Spring 2021.

Data Science and Islamic Law Lab, with Intisar Rabb, Spring 2021.

Comparative Digital Privacy, Teaching Fellow, Winter/Spring 2020.

Fordham Law School

Lecturer in Law, Legal English Institute, Fall 2018.

The Islamic, Catholic and Jewish Laws of War, Economic Regulation and the Environment: A Comparative Approach, Guest lecturer on economic regulations in Islam, Nov. 2018, Nov. 2020, Oct. 2021.

New York University

Legal and Ethical Approaches to Islam, Guest lecturer, Oct. 2016, Oct. 2017.

Other Teaching Experience

Volunteered instructor at schools in Washington D.C. and New York City through programs including *Street Law, Inc.*, *Legal Outreach, Inc.*, and *Youth Law* (2013-2019).

EDUCATION

Fordham University School of Law
The Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.)

New York, N.Y.
August 2015-May 2019

Dissertation: Negligence and the Judicial Review of Exculpatory Clauses, Supervisor: Benjamin C. Zipursky.

Activities: Fellow, Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer's Work (2016-2019); Lecturer in Law, Fordham Legal English Institute (Fall 2018); Research Assistant for Professor Benjamin Zipursky (2019); Fordham S.J.D. Society: Founder and President; LL.M. Legal Writing & Plagiarism Workshop Instructor (2016, 2017); Sanctuary for Families Courtroom Advocates Project, Student Advocate; Legal Outreach, Inc., Debate Coach (2015-2016) -(2018-2019); Youth Law (Winter 2019).

George Washington University Law School
Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Washington, D.C.
August 2014

Honors: Recipient of full tuition Thomas Buergenthal Scholarship.

Activities: GW Street Law: Teaching the Bill of Rights at a Middle School, Recipient of GW Street Law Teacher of the Year Award (2014).

University of Tehran, School of Law and Political Science
Master of Laws (LL.M.) (Private and Islamic Law)

Tehran, Iran
June 2013

Honors: *Summa Cum Laude* (Top 5% of the class), Recognized as Outstanding Talent by University of Tehran. Member of Student Bar Association.

University of Tehran, School of Law and Political Science
Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Tehran, Iran
June 2010

Honors: *Magna Cum Laude* (Top 10% of the class), Recognized as Outstanding Talent by University of Tehran; Recognized as an honor student by Iran's National Elite Organization.

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York; Iran.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Farsi (Native); French (Proficient); Arabic (Conversant Speaking, Advanced Reading).
Programming Languages: Python (Basic).

*Last updated August, 2024.