

VITAE

Sahar Aghasafari

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EDUCATION

- 2016-2022** **Ph.D., Art Education,**
The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
- 2016-2022** **Certificate Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies, College of Education,**
The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
- 2013-2015** **M.A, Art Education,**
The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.
- 2005-2007** **M.A, Arts' Research,**
The University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.
- 2001-2005** **B.F.A, Fabric Design and Print,**
The University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022-present** **Assistant Professor of Art & Graphic Design,** University of South Carolina,
Lancaster.
Courses taught: History of Western Art I (ARTH 105), Design Technology and Concepts (ARTS 102), Typographic Design I (ARTS 245), Typographic Design II (ARTS 246), Fundamentals of Art (ARTS 103H), Interdisciplinary Relationships in the Arts (ARTE 260), Special Topics in Art Education-STEAM (ARTE 201), Introduction to Art, Art Appreciation (ARTE 101E).
- 2023-present** **Artist in Residence and Director of Digital Production (honorary position),** STAR Scholars Network, an international forum of scholars that advances global social mobility using research and advocacy.
Responsibilities: Design digital media and publications, oversee various aspects of STAR Scholars' activities, and mentor and supervise internship scholars in digital and print production.
- 2018-2023** **Architecture, Urban & Graphic Design Instructor,** Summer Academy Camps,
University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
Taught three different classes during summers to eighth to twelve grade students.
- 2017-2022** **Instructor of Record,** Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia, Athens,
Georgia.
Courses taught: Graphic Survey (ARGD 2010), Typography (ARGD 2030).
- 2017-2022** **Graduate Teaching Assistant,** Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia,
Athens, Georgia.

Courses assisted: Design History II (ARID 3220), Design History I (ARID 3210), Design Professional Practices (ARGD 4080), History of Graphic Design (ARGD 3070E), Typography (ARGD 2030E), Art Appreciation (ARTS 2000E), and Strategic Visual Thinking (ARTS 2100E).

- 2018** **Graduate Assistant**, Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
Graduate Publication Book Designer.
- 2017** **Graduate Research Assistant**, Department of Mathematics (Institute of Bioinformatics), University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
Graphic Designer of scientific papers in the Fall.
- 2017** **Art Instructor**, *Leadership Without Limits Program*, Department of Education, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
Taught art class during summer (Jun) to eighth- to twelve-grade students.
- 2017** **Graduate Research Assistant**, Engineering Department, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
Graphic Designer for Engineering Projects in the Spring.
- 2015-2016** **Elementary School Teacher**, Southgate Academy, Tucson, Arizona.
Taught to Pre-K students.
- 2015** **After School Teacher**, La Paloma Academy, Tucson, Arizona.
Taught Art to second-grade students.
- 2009-2013** **Faculty Member of Fabric Design**, Department of Art, University of Najaf-Abad, Najaf-Abad, Isfahan.
Taught Drawing, Fabric Design, Silk Screen, Batik Design, and the History of Fabrics and Clothes in Iran.
- 2009-2010** **Vice President of Education and Research**, University of Azad, Arak.
- 2005-2009** **Chair and Faculty Member of Graphic Design**, Department of Art, University of Azad, Arak.
Visual Arts Supervisor at the University of Azad, Arak.
Research and Education Committee Member, Arak.
- 2006-2009** **Instructor of Graphic Design**, Department of Art, University of Elmi-Karbordi, Arak.
Taught Poster Design, Logo Design, and the History of Design.
- 2005-2013** **Fabric Designer**, Aras Factory, Tehran.
Designed Fabrics.

SKILLS

Software: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, InCopy, Adobe Character Animator, SketchUp.

Artistic Skill: Proficient in all painting and drawing techniques, including watercolor, oil painting, airbrush, Ecoline, color pencil, pastel, crayon, Conte pencil, charcoal, ink, and digital media creation using Adobe Express.

GRANTS AND FUNDINGS

- Pending** **Aghasafari, S.**, Cai, L., Muhammad, E. A., & Needles, T. (Pending). *InterArtistry: Innovating STEM Education through AI-Integrated Media Arts*. National Science Foundation: NSF (ITEST Program). Government Agency, VA, \$619,112.00.
- 2024** **Aghasafari, S.**, & Bernecky, T. (2024). *Heartbeats and Molecules: A Graphic Journey Through the Science of Life*. Palmetto Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE). University of South Carolina, SC, \$2,500.
- Swails, N., & **Aghasafari, S.** (2024). *Relieve Stress Workshops with Art for Women*. University of South Carolina Lancaster, SC, \$2,526.
- Aghasafari, S.**, & Cai, L. (2024). *ChemArtistry: Integrating Media Arts into the Study of Fundamental Chemistry*. Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE), University of South Carolina, SC, \$5,997.
- 2023** **Aghasafari, S.** (2023). *Multimedia Arts Learning: Connecting STEAM among Special Education Students*. USC Lancaster Research and Productive Scholarship Grant, University of South Carolina Lancaster, SC, \$9,378.80.
- 2019** Bivins, K., & **Aghasafari, S.** (2019). *Engaging Freshman Biology Students in Art to Increase Learning and Motivation at Cedar Shoals High School*. Foundation for Excellence in Education, Clarke County School District, Athens, GA, \$500.

AWARDS

- Accepted into Signature Membership (Juried) at the National Association of Women Artists, Inc. (NAWA), 2023.
- First Place in Poster Design among Faculty, 16th Festival of Art in Iran, 2012.
- Second place in Poster Design among Faculty, 15th Festival of Art in Iran, 2011.
- First Place in Graphics Field among Faculty, 4th Festival of Art of the 5th District, the Universities of Azad in Iran, 2009.
- First place in Fabrics Design and Print among Faculty, The 2nd Festival of Art of the 5th district, Azad Universities of Iran, 2006.
- The Best Art Instructor Selected at the University of Najaf Abad, 2012.
- The Cultured Artist Honor in the Celebration of the Elected and Genius Faculty Members and University of Azad Arak students, 2006, 2007.

SCHOLARSHIP

Vince Dooley Scholarship, The University of Georgia, 2021.

Mary Rosenblatt Graduate Award Scholarship, The University of Georgia, 2019.

W. Robert Nix Award of Excellence in Art Education, The University of Georgia, 2017, 2021.

Arrowmont Scholarship, The University of Georgia, 2017.

Pooia Graduate Scholarship, Professional Organization of Iranian Americans, Atlanta, 2016.

Sue W Cromartie Art Education Scholarship, The University of Georgia, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.

Roshan Graduate Scholarship, The University of Arizona, Spring, 2014, 2015.

Graduate Thesis/Dissertation Award, The University of Arizona, Fall, 2014, 2015.

Fine Arts Graduate Scholarship, The University of Arizona, Fall & Spring, 2013, 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

Aghasafari, S., Needles, T., & Malloy, M. (Under Review). Multimedia Arts Learning: Connecting STEAM among Special Education Students. *Discover Education*.

Aghasafari, S. Needles, T. (Under Review) Enhancing STEAM Education Through Media Arts: A Multidisciplinary Approach. Connected Arts Networks, *Art Education*.

Aghasafari, S., & Malloy, M. (Under Review). Exploring the Intersection of Media Arts and Science: A STEAM Learning Journey. *Journal of Research in STEM Education*.

Aghasafari, S., & Malloy, M. (forthcoming). Blending Media Arts with Mathematics: Insights and Innovations in STEAM Education. *Journal of Mathematics & Technology*.

Aghasafari, S. (2024). Creative Visual Arts and Biology Processes: Examining Emergent Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers Meanings. *European Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 1(3), 200- 209.

Aghasafari, S. (2023). Visual Arts Integration as a Way of Meanings: Centering Emergent Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers through Graphic Story and Biology. *Visual Inquiry Journal*, 12(1), 21-41.

Safari, H., **Aghasafari, S***. (2023). Exploring Page Layout Principles in Iranian Manuscripts: A Comprehensive Review from Seljuk to Safavid Era. *IDA: International Design and Art Journal*, 5(2), 176-190.

Aghasafari, S. (2023). Virtual Visual Arts Integration and Biology: More Favor or Challenges for Emergent Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education*, 12(1), 44-61.

Aghasafari, S., Bivins, K., Muhammad, E.A., & Nordgren, B. (2022). Art Integration and Identity: Empowering Bi/Multilingual High School Learners. *Art Education*, 75 (5), 32-37.

Aghasafari, S., Bivins, K., & Nordgren, B. (2021). Arts Integration and Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy: Supporting Bi/Multilingual High School Learners in Biology. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education*, 10 (1), 59-81.

Zhang, M. Y., Harman, R., **Aghasafari, S.**, & Delahunty, M. B. (2021). Multimodal Composing in a Multilingual Classroom: Design-Based Research and Embodied Systemic Functional Linguistics. In D. Shin., T. Cimasko, & Y, Yi. (Eds.), *Multimodal composing in K-16 ESL and EFL education* (pp. 35-53). London: Springer.

Aghasafari, S. (2019). [Review of the book *Art as a Way of Talking for Emergent Bilingual Youth: A Foundation for Literacy in Pre-K-12 Schools*, by B.R. Berriz, A.C. Wager & V.M. Poey]. *Visual Inquiry: Learning & Teaching Art*, 8(1), 91-93. Retrieved from doi: 10.1386/vi.8.1.91_5.

Aghasafari, S. Haj Ahmadi, S., & Fadaei, M. (2012). Fabric Design on Usage of Sarough Carpet. The University of Yazd, *International Textile Journal*, 8 (1), 11-17.

Haj Ahmadi, S. Fadaei, M., & **Aghasafari, S.** (2012). Antimicrobial Finishing of Wool Fibers Treated with Natural Dyes Sumac and Nettle. *International Textile Journal*, 8 (1), 20-26.

Haj Ahmadi, S. **Aghasafari, S.** Fadaei, M., & Rostami Rad, Sh. (2011). Antimicrobial Properties of Some Natural Colors Common in Hand-Woven Carpet. The University of Azad Najaf Abad, *National Journal of Hand-Woven Carpet Production, History, Culture, and Art both in Iran and the World*. 50-56.

Haj Ahmadi, S. **Aghasafari, S.**, & Fadaei, M (2011). Anti-Microbial Properties of Sumac and Pomegranate on Some Pathogenic Zoonotic Bacteria. The University of Yasuj, *Iranian Journal of Public Health*, 32- 38.

Aghasafari, S. (2009). Iran's local clothes. *The University of Azad Najaf Abad*. 7 (1), 10-20.

PUBLICATION DESIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Aghasafari, S. (2023- present). Book cover design for STAR Scholars publication series [Graphic Design]. In STAR Scholars (Ed.), *Publications in educational and social science disciplines*. STAR Scholars Network.

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATION

Aghasafari, S., & Needles, T. (2025). Presenting Media Arts in STEAM Education: Enhancing Skills for Emerging Technologies. *NAEA National Convention*, Louisville, KY.

Aghasafari, S. (2025). Presenting Enhancing STEM Education for Special Education Students through Multimedia Arts Integration, *AESJ Art and Education for Social Justice Symposium*, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

- Aghasafari, S., & Cai, L.** (Online 2024). Presenting ChemArtistry: Integrating Media Arts into the Study of Fundamental Chemistry. *Science and Sensibility: Art Meets Method A Transdisciplinary Conference*, London, UK.
- Cai, L., & **Aghasafari, S.** (2024). Presenting ChemArtistry: Integrating Media Arts into the Study of Fundamental Chemistry in the Age of AI. *SERMACS The Southeastern Meetings of the American Chemical Society*, Atlanta, GA.
- Aghasafari, S., & Cai, L.** (2024). Presenting ChemArtistry: Integrating Media Arts into the Study of Fundamental Chemistry. *South Carolina Art Education Association*, Greenville, SC.
- Aghasafari, S., & Needles, T.** (Online 2024). Presenting Enhancing STEAM Education Through Media Arts: A Multidisciplinary Approach. *The STAR Global Conference*, University of Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Aghasafari, S., & Needles, T.** (2024). Presented Multimedia Arts Learning: Connecting STEAM among Special Education Students with AI. *ISTE International Society for Technology in Education*, Denver, Co.
- Aghasafari, S., & Needles, T.** (2024). Presented Media Arts: Connecting STEAM Learning with Special Education Students, *NAEA National Convention*, Minneapolis, MN.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2024). Presented two sessions in STEAM learning journey. In *Digital Playground* (co-sponsored by Adobe Creative Education Community and Wacom) [Conference session]. NAEA National Convention, Minneapolis, MN.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2023). Presented Exploring the Intersection of Media Arts and Science: A STEAM Learning Journey. *AERI Art Education Research Institute*, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- Aghasafari, S.** (Online 2023). Presented Virtual Visual Arts Integration and Biology: More Favor or Challenges for Emergent Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers. *STAR Global Conference 2023-Uvigo UNESCO Chair: Transformative Education for an Interconnected and Equitable World*. University of Vigo, Spain.
- Aghasafari, S.** (Online 2023). Presented Exploring Emergent and Bi/Multilingual Student Learning Experiences through the Integration of Visual Arts in a High School Biology Class. *District administrators, teachers, staff, and the general community, Clarke County School District*, Athens, GA.
- Aghasafari, S., & Needles, T.** (2023). Presented Best Practices in incorporating STEAM Learning. *NAEA National Convention*, San Antonio, TX.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2022). Presented Investigating How Emergent Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers Construct Meanings Through the Integration of Visual Arts and Biology. *AERI Art Education Research Institute*, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

- Aghasafari, S.** (2022). Presented Iranian National Art Curriculum: How a Multicultural Education Reform Can Help. *MESA Middle East Studies Association*, Denver, CO.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2022). Presented Virtual Visual Arts Integration and Biology: More Favor or Challenging for Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers. *NAEA National Convention*, New York, NY.
- Aghasafari, S.** (Online 2022). Presented Investigating How Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers Construct Meanings Through the Integration of Visual Arts and Biology. *ECQI 2022 - 5th European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, KU Leuven, Belgium.
- Aghasafari, S.,** Bivins, K., & Nordgren, B. (2020). Presented Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy and Art Integration to Support Emergent Bilingual Ninth Graders in a Biology Classroom. *AESJ Art and Education for Social Justice Symposium*, Athens, GA.
- Aghasafari, S.** Harman, R. Zhang, M. Y., & Delahunty, M. B. (2019). Presented Art Integration in Social Studies Curriculum: Multilingual High School Learners Engage in Immigration Problem Solving. *GAEA Georgia Art Education Association*, Young Harris College, GA.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2019). Presented My Interdisciplinary Experiences Leading up to being a Graduate Student: An Autoethnographic Journey. *ICQI International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2019). Presented an Autoethnographic Journey of My Identity as a Persian Artist in the U.S. Through Graphic Story. *ICQI International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2018). Presented Art Integration into Biology Curriculum, *Georgia STEM/ STEAM Forum*, Athens, GA.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2018). Presented Art Integration into Biology Curriculum, *GAEA Georgia Art Education Association*, Jekyll Island, GA.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2018). Presented the Iranian National Art Curriculum and an Appropriate Strategy for Developing Multicultural Education, *The Eighteenth Annual Southwest Graduate Conference in Middle Eastern and North African Studies*, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2018). Presented Teachers' Roles Based on Freire's Critical Pedagogy Theory. *International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2017). Presented the History of Art Education in Georgia and Beyond (Lamar Dodd Heart Project). *GAEA Georgia Art Education Association*, Augusta, GA.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2017). Presented Multicultural Lesson Plan: Gender Issue. *Georgia Art Education Association*, Augusta, GA.

GUEST SPEAKERS
Invited Guest Speaker

- Aghasafari, S.** (2024, February). *Enhancing STEAM Education Through Media Arts: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. Faculty Forum Presentation, USC Lancaster, SC.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2023, April). *Incorporating STEAM learning* [Invited speaker presentation]. Research Club, University of South Carolina Lancaster, Lancaster, SC.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2023, March). *Graphic design for non-designers* [Invited speaker presentation]. Administrative Professionals Day, University of Georgia Continuing Education, Athens, GA.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2023, January). *Artist talk at solo exhibit reception* [Personal presentation]. Bradley Gallery, University of South Carolina Lancaster, Lancaster, SC.
- Aghasafari, S.** (2021, November). *Supporting emergent bilingual students in biology through visual art* [Invited speaker presentation]. Student Post-Baccalaureate Credential Program, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Editorial Board Member**, *Visual Arts Research (VAR)*. (2024-present).
- Reviewer**, *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education*, 2020- present.
- Reviewer**, *International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE24)*, 2023.
- Reviewer**, *Science Education Journal*, 2023- present.
- Welfare and Grievance Committee** (Humanities Representative), 2023- present.
- Curriculum Committee** (Humanities Representative), USC Lancaster, 2022- present.
- Scholarship Committee** (Humanities Representative), USC Lancaster, 2022- present.
- Palmetto Faculty Senate** (Welfare Committee), USC Lancaster, 2022- present.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Work as an ASCD+ISTE Community Leader, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), and International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), 2024-present.
- Worked as a Student Teaching in Art Education Supervisor, University of Georgia, 2021-2022.
- Facilitated Art Activity in Family Day, Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, Georgia, 2018.
- Facilitated "Poetober" Masking Workshop, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 2016.
- Conducted Art Activities with Children at the Annual Lick Skillet Artists Market, The Lyndon House Arts Foundation, Athens, Georgia, 2016.
- Worked as a Teacher at Desert Spring Children's Center, Tucson, Arizona, 2015.

LANGUAGES

Persian (Native), English (Proficient), and Arabic (Intermediate).

EXHIBITIONS

- Organized Student Research Exhibition titled "Unveiling the Symphony of Self and Scholarship," University of South Carolina Lancaster, 2024.

Participated in an Online Group Exhibition, “Persian Tigress Serenade: The Velvet Bond,” National Association of Women Artists (NAWA), 2023.

Organized Student Research Exhibition titled “Bridging Artistry and Inquiry,” University of South Carolina Lancaster, 2023.

Participated in Solo Exhibition, Bradley Gallery, University of South Carolina Lancaster, 2023.

Participated in a Group Exhibition, “Artists in Education,” Lancaster County Council of the Arts, 2022.

Organized Graphic design students' Exhibition titled “Concept, Design & Creativity,” University of South Carolina Lancaster, 2022, 2023.

Participated in Solo Exhibition, Glass Gallery, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 2020.

Participated in the International Art Walk Group Exhibition, The Office of Global Engagement, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 2019.

Participated in a Group Exhibition by the Iranian Artists, The Woodruff Arts Center, Beauchamp C. Carr Gallery, Atlanta, 2019.

Organized Batik Printing Exhibition of Student Fabric Design, University of Najaf-Abad, 2011.

Organized Visual Arts Competition of the 2nd Art-Culture Festival, University of Azad Arak, 2008.

Organized Poster Design Workshop Titled “Research and Student,” University of Azad Arak, 2008.

Organized Poster Design Exhibition of Student Graphic Design, University of Azad Arak, 2007.

Organized Typography Exhibition of Student Graphic Design, University of Azad Arak, 2007.

Organized Poster Design and Typography Exhibition of Graphic Design, University of Azad, 2007.

Organized a Professional Lecture in the Graphics Department, University of Azad Arak, 2007.

Participated in the 1st Entrepreneurship Exhibition of Graduate Students, Markazi, Iran, 2007.

Participated in Solo Exhibition of Fabrics Design and Print, Farhang Sara Gallery, Arak, 2004.

Participated in Solo Local Handicrafts' Exhibition, Arak, 2002-2004.

Participated in Group Exhibition of Fabrics Design and Print, Jahan Nama Gallery, Tehran, 2003.

Participated in Group Exhibition of Fabrics Design and Print, Sheikh Hadi Gallery, Tehran, 2002.

EXHIBITION EVALUATION

Evaluator of Art-Culture Competition of Azad University of Najaf Abad, 2009.

Evaluator of the Poster Design Workshop of Graphics Design Students, The Week of Research, 2008.

Evaluator of the Second Art-Culture Competition of Azad Universities in 5th District, 2008.

Evaluator of the First Art-Culture Competition of Azad Universities in the 5th District, 2007.

Evaluator of Art-Culture Competition, University of Azad Arak, Arak, 2007.

Evaluator of Art Competition, Art Society, Arak, Markazi Province, 2007.

WORKSHOPS

Web3 & the Evolution of Education Unconference, Virtual in the Ed3verse, November 2022.

Achieving Instructional Equity in Hybrid and Virtual Learning Spaces: Inclusive Art Room Strategies for Meeting the Diverse Needs of Students with Disabilities, August 2021.

Visual Note Taking: Using Words and Pictures in the Art Education Classroom and Beyond, Jun 2021.

Implementing Project Based Learning, Jun 2021.

Improvisation for 21st Century Thinking, Jun 2021.

Utilizing Community and Business Partnership in the Classroom, Jun 2021.

Simple Strategies for Arts Integration, April 2021.

Protect Children (EDU-GA), January 2020-2023.

USG Cybersecurity Awareness Training, March 2020-2023.

STEM/STEAM Student Panel: High School Students, October 2020.

Mandated Reporters: Critical Links in Protecting Children in Georgia, May 2018-2023.

Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research, September 2017-2023.

Teaching Artist Training Day, The Center for Innovative Teaching, Jun 2019.

NVIVO Workshop, University of Georgia, February 2018.

Fibers Workshop, Arrowmont (School of Arts and Crafts), Jun 2017.

The Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Georgia, Jun 2017.

The Women of Color Focus Group Workshop, University of Georgia, July 2017.

ATLAS.ti Workshop, University of Georgia, October 2017.

CERTIFICATES

Teaching Certificate, the Inclusive University of Elmi- Karbordi, 2007.

Artist's Certificate in Batik Printing, Kalaghei, From the Bureau of Handicrafts of Markazi, 2003.

Management Certificate, From the Proficiency Training Administration, 2003.

Certificate of Training School of Fabrics Design and Print, the Bureau of Proficiency of Markazi, 2003.