

## **Dr. Alda Benjamin bio**

**Dr. Alda Benjamin** is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Dayton where she teaches courses on the modern history of the Middle East. Recently, she was the Avimalek Betyousef Faculty Fellow in the Department of History and the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to that, she was Fellow at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Pennsylvania Museum and the Smithsonian. Most recently she was the research director of a US state department funded cultural heritage preservation project focusing on marginalized communities in Iraq, including Assyrians and Yazidis.

Her book, *Assyrians in Modern Iraq: Negotiating Political and Cultural Space* (Cambridge University Press, February 2022), is a monograph on twentieth-century Iraqi intellectual history based on extensive primary research from within the country. Drawing upon oral and ethnographic sources and archival documents, in Arabic and modern Aramaic, uncovered at the Iraqi National Archives in Baghdad and private collections from the north, it explores the role of minorities in Iraq's intellectual and mostly leftist opposition. Among other publications, she also has edited a special issue "Narratives of Co-existence and Pluralism in Northern Iraq" for the *Journal of Contemporary Iraq and the Arab World* (June 2020), as well as a roundtable, "Pluralism and Minoritization in the Middle East" for the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (November 2018).