

"The Jewish Exemption Claim: Addressing Questions about Iranian-Jews during the Iran-Iraq War."

Thursday, March 31 at
4 pm (zoom)

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for the Study of Jewish Life

Featuring: Neda Bolourchi, associate Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Post-Doctoral Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Her research examines the transformative discourse on Iran as sacred during the twentieth century across the political and religious spectra.

In this talk, Neda Bolourchi addresses the "Jewish Exemption Claim." In doing so, she examines two competing narratives about Jews during the Iran-Iraq War. On the one hand is an examination of the claim that the Iranian government exempted its Jewish population from war front service and Jewish communities did not serve in the Iranian military from 1980 to 1986 (75% of the war). On the other hand, she examines archives, governance reasons, and oral histories from war front participants that undercut the idea of an exemption and unsettle this decades long claim.

