From Istanbul to Chicago: 
Iranian Diaspora Across Time and Space

FEB. 25, 2018  |  4:00 PM  |  121 DODD HALL

FARIBA ZARINEBAF (UC RIVERSIDE)

Historians have not studied Iranian migration in a systematic manner due largely to the spread of this migration across the globe and the absence of centralized archives, centers, and museums devoted to the study of Iranian migration even in such places as Los Angeles, which encompasses a large Iranian diasporic population.

This presentation will trace the first Iranian migration to Istanbul during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries based on the author’s previous study of this community. Istanbul has been home to a large Iranian presence since Iran’s first Constitutional Revolution, and an even larger migration after the Islamic Revolution in 1979. In addition, it represents a major center of Iranian tourism (Iranians make up the first or second largest number of tourists to Turkey in the past few years). The lecture shall offer some preliminary findings and then make comparisons with the communities in Chicago and possibly Los Angeles.