



SAHAR SADEGHI

# CONDITIONAL BELONGING

The Racialization  
of Iranians in the Wake  
of Anti-Muslim Politics

BIM



BOOK TALK WITH SAHAR SADEGHI:

## “Conditional Belonging: The Racialization of Iranians in the Wake of Anti-Muslim Politics.”

*Monday, July 8, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM*

**Location:**

BIM, Anton-Wilhelm-Amo-Straße 40/41, 5. OG, Room 507

**Abstract:**

Iranians have a complex relationship with race. Despite being categorized as "white" by the US census, many Iranian Americans face marginalization and daily racial and political stigma. In contrast, Iranian Germans, seen as 'good foreigners' after decades in Germany, still experience marginalization and discrimination, revealing the limits of integration and citizenship. "Conditional Belonging" explores these contradictions through a comparative analysis of the Iranian diaspora in the US and Germany, focusing on how immigrants are racialized differently. Drawing from 88 interviews with first- and second-generation Iranians in California and Hamburg, Sahar Sadeghi shows how global events, political policies, and social climates shape Iranians' sense of belonging in their adopted countries.