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Faith and Firepower:  
The Iranian Revolutionary Guards and the Iran-Iraq War

Thursday, September 7, 2017
4:00pm—5:30pm
White Hall 205
Emory University

Dr. Tracy Samuel will discuss her current book project, which examines how Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC or Revolutionary Guards) has documented the Iran-Iraq War (1980-88) in its own publications on the conflict. As Dr. Tracy Samuel’s research demonstrates, the analysis of the war presented in the IRGC sources challenges many of the prevailing characterizations of the Islamic Republic, which are often based on Western sources and perspectives, and which give much weight to the rhetoric Iranian leaders used during (and after) the war and the importance of faith and revolutionary fervor in understanding the Islamic Republic. In contrast, the IRGC sources reveal that the war was a weighty and calamitous matter for Iran that the Revolutionary Guards and others struggled to prosecute and survive, and that to do so they relied on all the tools at their disposal, which included both faith—religious commitment, revolutionary ideology, and popular morale—and firepower—military professionalism, strategy, and weapons.

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