In *The Thirty Names of Night*, Nadir, a Syrian American trans New Yorker, searches for the connection between his late ornithologist mother and the mysteriously vanished bird artist Laila Z, who both encountered the same rare bird before their deaths. Following his mother’s ghost, Nadir uncovers the silences kept in the name of survival by his own community and learns that Laila Z’s secrets are intimately tied to his family’s—and his own—in ways he never could have expected. In this talk, Zeyn Joukhadar will discuss the process of researching and imagining the queer histories in which Nadir finds precedent for his own life, the search for the sacred in artmaking and embodiment, and the novel’s many birds.