

Fatemeh Shams

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
 University of Pennsylvania
 838 Williams Hall
 225 S. 36th Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19104
 (215) 898-6038
 fshams@upenn.edu

Education

2010 - 2015	University of Oxford <i>Oxford, U.K.</i>	D. Phil in Oriental Studies Dissertation: <i>Official Voices of a Revolution: A Social History of Islamic Republican Poetry</i>
2006 - 2008	Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations <i>London, U.K.</i>	M.A. in Muslim Civilizations Dissertation: <i>Death Rituals and Social Class in Modern Iran</i>
2001 - 2004	University of Tehran <i>Tehran, Iran</i>	B.A. in Social Sciences

Academic Experience

2021 - 2022	Frei University <i>Berlin, DE</i>	Affiliated Fellow, Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies
2017 -	University of Pennsylvania <i>Philadelphia, PA, U.S.</i>	Assistant Professor of Persian Literature, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
2017 - 2018	University of Pennsylvania <i>Philadelphia, PA, U.S.</i>	Fellow, Wolf Humanities Forum

2015 -	S.O.A.S. University of London <i>London, U.K.</i>	Associate Member, London Middle East Institute
2015 - 2016	S.O.A.S. University of London <i>London, U.K.</i>	Visiting Teaching Fellow in Persian
2014 - 2016	Courtauld Institute of Art <i>London, U.K.</i>	Tutor in Classical Persian Literature
2013 - 2014	Oriental Institute, Oxford University <i>Oxford, U.K.</i>	Instructor in Persian Language and Literature

Academic Publications

Books

2021	<i>A Revolution in Rhyme: Official Poets of the Islamic Republic</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 371 pages.
------	--

Peer-Reviewed Articles & Book Chapters

2021 <i>In Press</i>	“Prison’s Candle”: A Prison Poem by Ali Shariati, <i>The Shariati Reader</i> , eds. Arash Davari, Siavash Saffari, Maryam Shafe’i (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021).
2021	“The Sensorium of Exile: The Case of Elyas Alavi and Gloria Anzaldúa,” <i>Losing Our Minds, Coming to Our Senses</i> , ed. Mohammad-Mehdi Khorrami, Amir Moosavi (Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2021).
2020	“Dialogues with the Dead: Necropoetics of Zahra’s Paradise,” <i>Iranian Studies</i> , vol. 53, issue 5-6, p. 893-909.
2018	“From Revolution to Silence: A Political Biography of Qaysar Aminpur,” in <i>The Layered Heart: Essays on Persian Poetry</i> , ed. A.A. Seyed Ghorab, (Washington, D.C.: Mage Publishers), p.551-88.
2018	“Village in Contemporary Persian Poetry,” <i>Iranian Studies</i> , vol. 51, p. 1-22.

- 2017 "Islamic Republican War Poetry and Ideology of Warfare", *International Journal of Persian Literature*, vol.1, p. 5-25.
- 2015 "Literature, Art and Ideology Under the Islamic Republic", *New Leaves, Fresh Looks: Essays on Persian Language, Literature, and Culture*, ed. Kamran Talattof, (Abingdon: Routledge), p. 163-192.
- 2015 "Dialectic of Poetry and Power in Iran," *Dirasat Journal*, vol. 3, p.5-38.
- 2014 "State-sponsored Poetry in Iran," *Iran-nameh*, vol.29, p.64-73.

Special Issues

- 2020 Guest Editor, Special Issue in Honor of Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, *Irannamag*, No. 5, Issue 3, Fall 2020, 370 pages.

Academic Translations

- 2021 "A Thousand Years of Persian Poetry by Women," *Interview with Dick Davis*, Asoo website.
- 2014 "Miracles at the Saqqa-khaneh: Power Struggles, Baha'i Program and the Murder of the American Envoy, *Iran-Nameh*, Vol.xxviii, p. 4.16.
- 2013 *Victories over Violence*, Mahnaz Afkhami, Women Learning Partnership (WLP), p.1-256.
- 2012 "Precedents of *The Blind Owl*", Homa Katouzian, *Iran-nameh*, no,1, p. 12-19.
- 2008 "The 30th Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution", Homa Katouzian, *Aein Journal*, no.16, p. 25-30.

Additional Publications

Books of Poetry

- 2016 *When They Broke Down the Door*, trans. Dick Davis (Washington: Mage Publisher), 103 pages.

- 2015 *Writing in the Mist* (London: H&S Media), 67 pages.
- 2013 88, *Persian Edition* (Berlin: Gardoon), 71 pages.

Featured Poems in Anthologies & Journals

- 2021 Four Poems in German Translation to appear in an anthology.
- 2021 “Airport,” *London Poetry Magazine*, Summer Issue.
- 2021 “Acid Throwing,” *The Penguin Book of Feminist Writing*, ed. Hannah Dawson (New York: Penguin Classics), 612.
- 2021 “Four Poems,” *Mirror of My Heart: A Thousand Years of Persian Poetry by Women*, trans. Dick Davis (New York: Penguin Classics), 230-233.
- 2019 “Finger in the Operating Room,” *World Literature Today*, Autumn Issue.
- 2019 “Electrocardiogram,” *A New Divan* (London: Ginko Publishers).
- 2019 “Three Chairs,” *Michigan Quarterly Review*, University of Michigan Press.
- 2019 Ten Poems in German Translation, Berlin International Poetry Festival Special Issue.

Creative Translations & Essays

- 2021 “Under the Waves: The Many Lives of Moniru Ravanipour’s Ahl-e qarq,” *Iranian Studies*.
- 2020 “Poems by Leonard Schwartz,” *Irannamag journal*, No.5, Issue. 3, Fall 2020, p.133-134.
- 2020 “Poems by Elyas Alavi,” *World Literature Today*, Spring Issue.

Honors, Grants, Awards & Fellowships

2021-2022	14-Month Fellowship, Humboldt Foundation, Berlin, Germany
2019-2022	Three-Year Research Affiliation, E.U.M.E., Berlin, Germany
2018	S.A.S. Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, U.S.
2018	University Research Foundation Grant, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, U.S.
2017	Wolf Humanities Forum Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, U.S.
2016	Winner of the Latifeh Yarshater Book Award
2012	Winner of the Jaleh Esfahani Poetry Prize for Best Young Persian Poet
2010	Full Merit-Based Clarendon Scholarship, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
2007	Winner of the Prize for Best Student in Advanced Arabic, Burguiba School, Tunis, Tunisia
2006	Merit-Based Agakhan Scholarship to pursue a M.A. in Muslim Civilizations
2003	Exceptional Talents Grant from University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
2000	Silver Medal, National Olympiad in Persian Literature

Convened Panels for Conferences & Invited Lectures

2021	“Co-optation and Exile in Persian Literature”, Berliner Seminar, E.U.M.E., Berlin, DE (Invited Lecture), December 2021.
2021	Book Talk: <i>A Revolution in Rhyme</i> , University of San Diego (Invited Lecture), December 2021.
2021	Panel Discussion: “Exilic Motifs in Persian Literature”, Annual Gathering of Humboldt Foundation, Köln, Germany (Panelist), November 2021.

- 2021 “Turkish and Iranian Responses to Afghan Refugees”, New York University (Invited Lecture), October 2021.
- 2021 “Supporting Afghanistan’s Scholars for Higher Education in European Institutions”, National University of Ireland (Invited Lecture), September 2021.
- 2021 Book Talk: “*A Revolution in Rhyme: Inventing New Literary Traditions*”, Iran 1400 Project, Washington, D.C. (Invited Lecture), August 2021.
- 2021 “Anatomy of Exile in Masud Sa’d Salman’s Poetry,” *Medieval Studies Conference*, University of Michigan, May 2021.
- 2021 “1979 Revolution and the Limits of an Episodic Approach in Literary Historiography”, University of California, Los Angeles (Invited Lecture), May 2021.
- 2021 “Remembering Which Past? Poetry, Nostalgia and State Building”, University of Washington (Invited Lecture, Afrasiabi Distinguished Lecture), May 2021.
- 2021 “Women Poets: Gendered Personhood and Displacement,” University of Toronto (Invited Lecture), April 2021.
- 2021 Book Talk: *A Revolution in Rhyme* in Conversation with Behrooz Ghamari Tabrizi, Princeton University (Invited Lecture), March 2021.
- 2021 Book Talk: *A Revolution in Rhyme* in Conversation with Zuzanna Olszewska, Middle East Center, Oxford University (Recorded Podcast), March 2021.
- 2021 Book Talk: *A Revolution in Rhyme* in Conversation with Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak and Jocelyn Sharlet, University of Pennsylvania (Organizer & Speaker), February 2021.
- 2021 “Spatial Precarity in Art and Literature of the Persianate World”, University of Pennsylvania (Panel Organizer and Chair), February 2021.
- 2019 “The Iranian Revolution and Its Literary Consequences”, Columbia University (Invited Lecture), December 2019.
- 2019 “Women Persian Poets: 1000 Years of Poetry by Persian Women Poets”, National Museum of Asian Art (Invited Lecture), November 2019.
- 2019 “State, Religion and Literature Production in the Islamic Republic of Iran”, Cornell University (Invited Lecture), September 2019.
- 2019 “Inventing a New Poetic Tradition? The Case of Khamenei’s Poetry Nights”, University of Maryland (Invited Lecture), May 2019

- 2019 “Islamic Republic the Revival of Occasional Poetry”, Princeton University (Invited Lecture), April 2019.
- 2019 “The Ayatollah’s Poets: Islamic Republic and the Making of Official Literature”, Virginia Tech University (Invited Lecture), April 2019.
- 2019 “A War to Remember: Islamic Republican War Poetry”, University of Michigan (Invited Lecture), February 2019.
- 2018 “Persian Literature as World Literature: Border-Crossing and Blurred Boundaries in Persian Literature”, The Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania (Panel Convener and Presenter), November 2018.
- 2018 “Exilic Existence in Persian Literature”, Northeastern University (Invited Lecture), October 2018.
- 2018 “Rhyming in the Name of Revolution: Khamenei’s Poetry Nights”, Yale University (Invited Lecture), June 2018.
- 2017 “Where Is Home? Border-Crossing in Modern Persian Poetry”, Penn Lightbulb Café, World Café Live, Philadelphia, PA (Invited lecture), November 2017.
- 2017 “In Exile at Home, At Home In Exile: Negotiating the Notion of Geographical Borders in Persian Literature”, Persian Literature Unbound, University of California, Irvine (Invited Lecture), April 2017.
- 2017 “Dialogue with the Dead: Conceptions of Afterlife in Persian Gravestone Poetry”, Wolf Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania (Forum Lecture), January 2017.
- 2014 “Official Poetry and Illusion of Power in Iran”, Iranian Studies Biannual Conference, Montreal, QB (Presenter and Panel Organizer), August 2014.
- 2013 “From Bread to Bullet”, Persian Verbal Culture Conference, University of Oxford (Invited Lecture), May 2013.

Media Appearances

- 2021 Interview with Brighton Book Club, “Books for Amnesty,” June 2021. <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/books-for-amnesty/id1397838472?i=1000527020163>
- 2021 Interview with Marty Moss-Coane for NPR, WHYY, “Radio Times,” May 2021. <https://whyy.org/episodes/regional-roundup-05-02-21/>

- 2021 *A Revolution in Rhyme* featured in Penn Today, April 2021.
<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/Persian-poet-Fatemeh-Shams-book-Iran-revolution-in-rhyme>
- 2021 Interview with Jadaliyya on *A Revolution in Rhyme*, February 2021.
<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/42319/Fatemeh-Shams,-A-Revolution-in-Rhyme-Poetic-Co-Option-Under-Islamic-Republic-New-Texts-Out-Now>
- 2019 Interview with The New York Times, “Overlooked No More: Forugh Farrokhzad, Iranian Poet Who Broke Barriers of Sex and Society,” January 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/30/obituaries/forough-farrokhzad-overlooked.html>
- 2017 Interview with The New York Times, “Love, Ecstasy, and Infinity: Mark Morris’s *Laili and Majnun*,” October 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/24/arts/dance/mark-morris-layla-and-majnun.html>
- 2017 Interview with *The Guardian* on Forugh Farrokhzad, February 2017.
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/feb/12/forough-farrokhzad-iranian-poet-ebrahim-golestan-sylvia-plath>

Service to the Field

- 2020 - 2021 Ad-Hoc Translation Committee, Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA)
- 2020 Program Committee Member, Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA)
- 2019 - 2020 Selection Committee for Fulbright Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2019 Fulbright Faculty Committee Member
- 2019 Registered Tutor for Underprivileged Students, University of Pennsylvania
- 2019 - Council Member, Association for Iranian Studies (AIS)
- 2019 - Academic Freedom Committee, Association for Iranian Studies (AIS)
- 2017 - Advisory Board Member, Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania

- 2017 - Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Committee Member,
University of Pennsylvania
- 2017 - Editorial Board Member, *International Journal of Persian Literature*

Service to Penn: Events Organized for NELC, MEC, & SAS

- 2020 Book Talk and Interview with Amir Ahmadi-Arian for *And Then Fish Swallowed Him*, Bob Lucid Memorial Program in Fiction, Kelly Writers House (Organizer, Chair).
- 2020 Book Talk and Interview with Moniroo Ravanipur and Mohammadreza Ghanoonparvar for *Ahl-e Qarq*, Bob Lucid Memorial Program in Fiction, Kelly Writers House (Organizer, Chair).
- 2019 - 2020 Book Talk and Interview with Salar Abdoh for *Tehran in Twilight*, Bob Lucid Memorial Program in Fiction, Kelly Writers House (Organizer, Chair).
- 2019 Azadeh Akhlaghi (Photographer): “Underground Art in Iran,” Weitzman School of Design & Middle East Center (Organizer, Chair).
- 2018 Panel Discussion: “Depiction of Refugees in the Media”, Perry World House (Panelist).
- 2018 Guest Lecture: Paul Sprachman (Rutgers), “Iranian Identity and Persian Historiography” (Organizer, Chair).
- 2018 Guest Lecture: Fatemeh Keshavarz, “Sa’di’s Poetics” (Organizer, Chair).
- 2018 Guest Lecture: Amir Ahmadi-Arian (CUNY), “The Iran-Iraq War in Persian Literature” (Organizer, Chair).
- 2018 Dari Persian Workshop at the Middle East Center (Co-Organizer, Chair).
- 2017 Panel Discussion: “Persian Poetry in Translation with Dick Davis”, Kelly Writers House (Panelist, Organizer).
- 2017 Guest Lecture: Prof. Pamela Karimi (UMass), “Iranian Underground” (Organizer, Chair).
- 2017 Guest Lecture: Nahid Siamdoust (Yale), “Politics of Music in Iran” (Organizer, Chair).

References

Prof. Paul M. Cobb, University of Pennsylvania

Prof. Jamal Elias, University of Pennsylvania

Prof. Al Filreis, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania

Prof. Dick Davis, Ohio State University

Prof. Homa Katouzian, Oxford University

Prof. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of California, Los Angeles

Prof. Fatemeh Keshavarz, University of Maryland

Prof. Paul Losensky, Indiana University