

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### MARTA SIMIDCHIEVA

Office address: Department of Humanities  
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies  
York University  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3

E-mail: msimid@yorku.ca

**PROFILE** Specialist in Iranian Studies and Islamic culture and civilization  
Experience in teaching, academic research,  
academic and commercial publishing, translation

**Research Interests** Religion, society, culture: History of ideas  
Persianite civilizations: Issues of Modernity and tradition,  
continuity and change  
Gender issues and “the woman question” in Muslim-majority  
nation-states.  
East-West cultural interaction: issues of reception, hybridity and  
cultural authenticity  
Classical and modern Persian literature

**Linguistic abilities** English, Persian and Russian (fluent; working languages)  
German (basic)  
Bulgarian (native language)

## EDUCATION

- 1989 **Ph.D. Iranian Studies** (Scholarship-- Bulgarian Ministry of Culture)  
**Soviet Academy of Sciences**, Moscow  
Dissertation: *Persian Didactic Prose of the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> c. CE: The Qabus-name, Siyasat-name, Chahar maqale*  
Supervisors: M-N.O. Osmanov and N.I. Prigarina
- 1977 **Persian Studies, Graduate Program**  
Department for Foreign Students, **University of Tehran**, Iran  
(Completed eleven credit courses in Persian language, literature, and history)
- 1976 **BA, English Literature** (*summa cum laude*)  
**University of Tehran**, Iran

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TEACHING AND RESEARCH (see Appendix for courses taught)

**YORK UNIVERSITY, TORONTO**

**2009--present** Contract Faculty, **Department of Humanities** (CSS since 2015)

**1999—2008** Contract Faculty, **Division of Humanities**

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**2006—2012** Sessional Lecturer,  
**Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations**

**1996—2006** Research Associate (Status only),  
**Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations**

**1991—1996** Research Associate (Status only),  
**Department of Middle East and Islamic Studies**

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT MISSISSAUGA**

**2004—2006** Sessional Lecturer, **Department of Historical Studies**

**MCMASTER UNIVERSITY, HAMILTON**

**2002--2003** Sessional Faculty, **Department of History**

**UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA, BULGARIA**

**1989—1991** Assistant Professor of Persian culture and civilization  
**Centre for Eastern Languages and Cultures**

**1977—1982** Sessional Instructor, English Language  
**Faculty of Physics and Mathematics**

EDITING AND TRANSLATION:

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK**

**1997** Assistant Editor at *Encyclopaedia Iranica*  
**Center for Iranian Studies**

**“NARODNA KULTURA” PUBLISHING HOUSE, SOFIA, BULGARIA**

<b>1983-1989</b>	Staff Editor of translated literature from English and Persian
<b>1977-1982</b>	<b>Free-lance translator and interpreter, Sofia, Bulgaria</b> (Persian and English)

## MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

<b>2013---present</b>	Association for the Study of Persianite Societies (ASPS)
<b>2016—present</b>	Association for Iranian Studies (AIS)
<b>2006—2016</b>	International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS)
<b>2002---2005</b>	Society for Iranian Studies (SIS)
<b>1995---2013</b>	Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA)
<b>2006</b>	Canadian Comparative Literature Association
<b>2001</b>	Center for Iranian Research and Analysis (CIRA)
<b>1989--1991</b>	Societas Iranologica Europaea

## SERVICE

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES, YORK UNIVERSITY

<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Committee</b> member
<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Committee</b> member

### ASSOCIATION FOR IRANIAN STUDIES (AIS) formerly International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS)

<b>2019—January 2021</b>	<b>Book review editor</b> for <i>Iranian Studies</i> , journal of the Association for Iranian Studies, published by Taylor & Francis
<b>2014</b>	<b>Program Chair</b> , Tenth Biennial Conference, Montreal
<b>2010---2014</b>	<b>Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Iranian Studies</i></b>
<b>2010—2013</b>	<b>Member of the Council of the Society</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>Program Chair</b> , Eighth Biennial Conference, Santa Monica

## PUBLICATIONS

## CHAPTERS IN BOOKS:

- \* “Three songs for Iran: gender and social commitment in the poetry of Parvin E’tesami, Forugh Farrokhzad, and Simin Behbahani.” *Persian Language, Literature and Culture: New Leaves, Fresh Looks* (Iranian Studies). Edited by Kamran Talattof. London and New York: Routledge, 2015. Pp. 48-79.
- \* “Humour for In-Betweeners: Sadeq Hedayat’s Puppet Play *Afsane-ye afarinesh* (The Myth of Creation) as a Cross-cultural Phenomenon” In: *Ruse and Wit: Humor in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Narrative*. Edited by Dominic Parviz Brookshaw. Ilex Foundation, Boston, Massachusetts and Center for Hellenic Studies Trustees for Harvard University, Washington, DC. Cambridge, NA and London, England: Harvard University Press, 2012. Pp. 119-145.
- \* “FitzGerald’s *Rubaiyat* and Agnosticism.” In: *FitzGerald’s Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.: Popularity and Neglect*. Eds. Adrian Poole, Christine van Ruymbeke, William H. Martin and Sandra Mason. London, New York & Delhi: Anthem Press, 2011, Pp. 55-72.
- \* “Men and Women Together: Love, Marriage, and Gender in Forugh Farrokhzād’s First Collection, *Asir*.” In: *Forugh Farrokhzad, Poet of Modern Iran: Iconic Woman and Feminine Pioneer of New Persian Poetry*. Eds. Dominic Parviz Brookshaw and Nasrin Rahimieh, London and New York: I.B.Tauris, 2010. Pp. 19-34.
- \* “Sadeq Hedayat and the Classics: The Case of *The Blind Owl*.” In: *Sadeq Hedayat: His Work and His Wondrous World*. Ed. Homa Katouzian. London and New York: Routledge, 2008. Pp. 20-43.
- \* “Kingship and Legitimacy in Nizam al-Mulk’s *Siyasat-nama*, 5<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> c.” In: *Writers and Rulers: Perspectives from Abbasid to Safavid Times*. Eds. Beatrice Gruendler and Louise Marlow. Literature in Context: Arabisch-Persisch-Türkisch. Wiesbaden: Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, 2004. Pp. 97-131.
- \* “Sova v stranata na slaveite: Sadeq Hedayat i myastoto mu v persiyskata literatura” (An owl in the land of the nightingales: Sadeq Hedayat and his place in Persian literature). In: *Svetlina i syanka* (Chiaroscuro: Selected works of Sadeq Hedayat). Tr. Lyudmila Yaneva. Sofia: RadarPrint, 2001. Pp. 3—14.

## REFEREED ARTICLES IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS:

- \* Zoroastriyskaya mifologiya i iranskiy modernism v “Slepoy sove” Sadeqa Hedayata.. Trudy Instituta Vostokovedeniya RAN. Vyp. XXVIII: Pis’mennye pamyatniki Vostoka: Problemy perevoda i interpretacii. Izbrannye doklady: Tom III. Otv. Red. L.V. Goryaeva and B. N. Nastich [“Zoroastrian mythology and Iranian Modernism in Sadeq Hedayat’s *The Blind Owl*.” *Papers of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences*. Issue 28. *Written Sources of the East: Problems of Translation and Interpretation. Selected Papers*. Vol 3. Edited by L.V. Goryaeva and B. N. Nastich.] Moscow: IOS of RAS, 2020, pp. 186-214.

- \* “Marjane Satrapi’s Persepolis through the Lens of *Persian Historiography*.” *International Journal of Persian Literature*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2017, pp. 87–137. JSTOR, JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/10.5325/intejperslite.2.1.0087](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5325/intejperslite.2.1.0087)
- \* “Mawlana Jalal al-Din Rumi of R. A. Nicholson.” *The Mawlana Rumi Review I*. A Publication of the Rumi Institute, Near East University, Cyprus, and The Rumi Studies Group of the Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, UK , 2010. Pp. 33-68.
- \* “A Muslim Voice In Modern Bulgarian Poetry.” *ISIM Review* #16 [ISIM—International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World], Leiden, Holland, September 2005. Pp. 52-53. (peer reviewed online journal): <https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/handle/1887/16995>
- \* “Rituals of Renewal: Sadeq Hedayat’s *The Blind Owl* and the Wine Myths of Manuchehri.” *Oriente Moderno* XXII (LXXXIII), n.s./1-2003: *La letteratura persiana contemporanea tra tradizione e modernità*. Ed. Natalia L. Tornesello, Rome: Istituto per l’Oriente “C. A. Nallino.” Pp. 219-241.
- \* “Kashifi’s *Badayi’ al-afkar* (10<sup>th</sup> c. AH/15<sup>th</sup> c. CE) and Its Predecessors *al-Mu’jam* (7<sup>th</sup> c. AH/13<sup>th</sup> c. CE) and *Hada’iq al-sihr* (6<sup>th</sup> c. AH/12<sup>th</sup> c. CE): Imitation and Innovation in Timurid Poetics.” *Iranian Studies* 36/4, Dec. 2003 (special jubilee issue on Husain Va’iz Kashifi, d. 910 AH/1504-05CE, Guest editor Maria Subtelny). Pp. 509-531.
- \* “The River That Runs Through It: A Persian Paradigm of Frustrated Desire.” *Edebiyat* 6 1995. Pp. 203 - 222
- \* “The Nightingale and the Blind Owl: Sadiq Hidayat and the Classical Persian Tradition.” *Edebiyat* 5, 1994. Pp. 247-277.

#### ENCYCLOPAEDIA ARTICLES:

\**Encyclopaedia of Asia*. Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Reference Works/Scribners, 2002

“Ansari, Abdullah,”  
 “Azerbaijan,”  
 “Baluchistan,”  
 “Bulgarians,”  
 “Jami, Abdurrahman,”  
 “Khuzistan,”  
 “Khwarazm,”  
 “Sistan”.

#### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

\* "Siyasat-name Revisited: The Question of Authenticity." In: *Proceedings of the Second European Conference of Iranian Studies*. Eds. Bert G. Fragner et al. Rome: Istituto Italiano Per Il Medio Ed Estremo Oriente, 1995. Pp. 657-674.

\* "Books of Counsel: A Cross-Bridge between Two Cultures." In: *Contacts between Cultures: Selected papers from the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Asian and North African Studies, Toronto, August 15-25, 1990*, Vol. I. Ed. A. Harrak. Lampeter, Wales, UK: Edwin Melen Press, 1992. Pp.170-75.

#### POPULAR PRESS:

\* "Olgu-ye Irani-ye meyl-e nakam," tr. Davud Emarati-Moqaddam, *Rudaki: Nashriye-ye farhangi, honari va ejtema'i*, [Rudaki: A Journal on Culture, Art, and Society.] Numbers 19 to 21 ( Mehr-mah 1386 ta Dey o Bahman 1386 / September 2007 to January 2008). Pp. 8-16; 19-41; 13-22. (The article is a translation of "The River That Runs Through It: A Persian Paradigm of Frustrated Desire." *Edebiyat* 6 1995, pp. 203 - 222 )

#### REVIEWS:

\* Book review of *The Future of Iran's Past: Nizam al-Mulk Remembered* by Neguin Yavari. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, , February 2018. 256 pages. \$50.00. Hardcover. ISBN 9780190855109. Reviewed for Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion: <http://readingreligion.org/books/future-irans-past>

\* Book review of *Familiar and Foreign: Identity in Iranian Film and Literature*. Eds. Manijeh Mannani and Veronica Thompson. Edmonton: Athabasca University Press, 2015, reviewed for The University of Toronto Quarterly, Vol 86., Number 3, summer 2017, 291-294.

\* Book review of S. Hedayat, *The Myth of Creation: A Puppet Show in Three Acts*, Tr. M. R. Ghanoonparvar, Costa Mesa: Mazda Publishers, 1998. Reviewed for *Iranian Studies*

\* Book review of *The Politics of Writing in Iran: A History of Modern Persian Literature*, by Kamran Talattof, Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York, 2000, Reviewed for *Iranian Studies* 33: 3-4. September 2000. Pp. 458-463.

\* Book review of *Recasting Persian Poetry: Scenarios of Poetic Modernity in Iran*, by Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, 1995, reviewed for *Iranian Studies* 32:1, January 1999. Pp. 170-172.

\* Book review of *Avicenna and I: The Journey of Spirits*, by Manouchehr Parvin, Mazda Publishers, Costa Mesa, California, 1996, reviewed for *Iranian Studies* 30:3-4, September 1997. Pp. 406-408.

- \* Book review of *Poet and Hero in the Persian Book of Kings* by Olga Davidson, Myth and Poetics Series, Gen. Ed. Gregory Nagy, Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press. 1994, reviewed for *Al-Masaq. Studia Arabo-Islamica Mediterranea. The Medieval Mediterranean: Cultures in Contact*, Vol. 7, 1994, pp. 327-331.

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

### INVITED CONFERENCES:

- \***Paper:** “Zoroastrian Mythology and Iranian Modernism in Sadeq Hedayat’s *The Blind Owl*.”  
Jubilee Conference Dedicated to the 200th Anniversary of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. October 31-November 2, 2018.  
Moscow. (publication of proceedings forthcoming)
- \***Paper:** “The ‘Indian Connection’ in an Allegorical Reading of Hedayat’s *The Blind Owl*.”  
International Seminar “Sadiq Hedayat : A Persian Phoenix in the Indian Island”  
Institute for Indo-Persian Studies  
Powai, Mumbai, 17-18 February 2015
- \***Paper:** “Recasting Persian Poetry: FitzGerald’s *Rubaiyat* as a vehicle of modernity?”  
Conference dedicated to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Edward FitzGerald’s translation of the *Rubayyat* of Omar Khayyam: “Omar Khayyam, FitzGerlad, and the *Rubayyat*”  
Trinity College, Cambridge, 9-10 July 2009
- \* **Paper:** “Men and Women Together: Love, Family, and Gender in the Works of Forugh Farrokhzad: *Asir* (Captive, pub. 1953)”  
40-Year Anniversary Conference Dedicated to Forugh Farrokhzad (1935-1967),  
University of Manchester, 5-9 July 2008.
- \***Paper:** “Molavi/Rumi of R. A. Nicholson.”  
A Conference Celebration of Molana Jalal ad-Din Mohammad Molavi Rumi (1207-73)  
Carleton University, Ottawa, 3-4 November 2007
- \***Paper:** “Modernity and the Persian Classics: *The Blind Owl* as a Blueprint for Literary Reform”  
Middle East History and Theory Workshops: Sadeq Hedayat Centenary Symposium  
Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and the Department of History,  
University of Toronto, 2 November 2003
- \* **Paper:** “The Blind Owl and the Persian Classics”  
Sadeq Hedayat Centenary Conference  
Oxford University, St. Antony’s College, Middle East Centre, 28-29 March 2003
- \***Paper:** “Kingship and legitimacy as reflected in the *Siyasat-nama* (The book of government) by the Seljuq vizier Nizam al-Mulk, 11th c. CE”

Colloquium on Literature and Rulership in Medieval Islam, endorsed by the  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Council on Middle  
East Studies  
Yale University, 23 April 1999

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES:

- \*Paper:** “India—Reflected and Refracted—in Hedayat’s *The Blind Owl*”  
Panel: “Hedayat came, saw, and conquered India,” convened by Syed Akhtar Hussain,  
New Delhi University.  
International Society for Iranian Studies: 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies,  
Vienna, Austria, 2-5 August, 2016
- \*Paper:** “In Search of ‘*Alam-i mithal*’: Hedayat’s *The Blind Owl* and the Persian  
Philosophical Tradition”  
Panel: “Being, Reality, and Meaning in the Fiction of Sadeq Hedayat”  
International Society for Iranian Studies: 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies,  
Istanbul, Turkey, 1-5 August 2012
- \* Paper:** “Sadeq Hedayat’s Puppet Play ‘The Myth of Creation’ as a Cultural Commentary”  
Panel: “The Performing Arts Make History”  
Middle East Studies Association of North America, Annual Conference  
Boston, 21-24 November 2009
- \* Paper:** “Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*: Sketching Iran for the Rest of Us”  
Panel: “Exilic Memory”  
International Society for Iranian Studies: 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Iranian  
Studies  
Toronto, July 31 --August 3, 2008
- \*Paper:** “Three Songs for Iran: Gender and Social Commitment in the Poetry of Parvin  
E’tesami (1907-41) Forough Farrokhzad (1935—67) and Simin Behbahani (1927-).”  
**Panel:** “Contemporary Iranian Women’s Literature”, convened by Nasrin Rahimieh  
Middle East Studies Association of North America Annual Conference,  
Montreal, 17-20 November 2007
- \*Paper:** “Iranian Mythology and the Project of Modernity in Hedayat’s *The Blind Owl*”  
Panel: “Persian Myths and Their Transformation”, convened by Maria Subtelny,  
University of Toronto.  
International Society for Iranian Studies: 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Iranian Studi  
SOAS, University of London, 3-5 August 2006.
- \*Paper:** “The Mountain and the Prophet: Muslim Voices in the Bulgarian Poetry of the  
1980s-1990s”  
Panel: “Islam in the Balkans”, convened by Amila Buturovic, York University  
Middle East Studies Association of North America Annual Conference



Anchorage, Alaska, 6-8 November 2003

**\*Paper:** “*Badaye’ al-afkar fi sanaye’ al-ash’ar* [The wonders of thoughts on the arts of poems]: Hoseyn Va’ez Kashefi as an Appraiser of Poetic Excellence at the Timurid Court of Herat.”

Panel: “Husain Va’iz Kashifi (d. 910/1504-5): Polymath, Popularizer and Preserver.”  
Convened by Maria Subtelny, University of Toronto  
Society for Iranian Studies: 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies  
Bethesda, Maryland, 24-26 May 2002

**\*Paper:** “S. Hedayat’s Novel *The Blind Owl* and the Issue of Continuity in Persian Literature.”

Panel: “The Evolution of the Persian Novel”  
Center for Iranian Research and Analysis (CIRA): 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference “Iran: Between Tradition and Modernity”  
University of Toronto, 28-29 April 2001

**\*Paper:** “Rituals of Renewal: Hedayat’s *The Blind Owl* and the Wine Myths of Manuchehri.”

Middle East Studies Association of North America, Annual Conference  
Orlando, Florida, 16-19 November 2000

**\* Paper:** “The Stuff of Legend: History and Myth-Making in Nizam al-Mulk’s *Siyasat-nama*, 11<sup>th</sup> c. CE”

Middle East Literature Seminar: “Myth and Legend”  
Sponsored by the Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 4 - 6 April 1997

**\*Paper:** “Other Voices, Same Room: Three Muslim Names in Contemporary Bulgarian Poetry Svilen/ Keshif Kapsizov (Muslim Bulgarian/Pomak), Sali Ibrahim (Roma), Aziz Tash (Turk).”

Middle East Literature Seminar: “Speaking to the Other”  
Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. 15 - 17 March 1996

**\*Paper:** “The Headless Shadow and Other Apparitions: Folkloric Fragments in S. Hedayat's *The Blind Owl* “

Middle East Studies Association of North America Annual Conference  
Washington, D.C., 6 – 10 December 1995.

**\*Paper:** “The River That Runs Through It: A Persian Paradigm of Frustrated Desire”

Middle East Literature Seminar: “The Poetics of Sexuality”  
University of Washington in Seattle, 7 – 10 April 1994

**\* Paper:** “Sadeq Hedayat: the Nightingale and the Blind Owl”

Middle East Literature Seminar: “Hybrid Texts”  
Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, 2—4 April 1993

- \* **Paper:** “Patterns of Probity: Incorporated Stories in Persian Books of Advice (focus on the *Qabus-nama*, a mirror for princes by the Ziyarid ruler Unsur al-Maali Keykavus, 11th c. AD)”  
 Joint Meeting of the Middle West Branch of the American Oriental Society,  
 The Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature, The American Schools of  
 Oriental Research - Midwest,  
 University of Toronto, 13 – 16 February 1993
  
- \***Paper:** “A Genre At Crossroads: Interaction of Oral and Written Traditions in Early Persian  
 Books of Advice (focus on the *Qabus-nama* a mirror for princes by the Ziyarid ruler  
 Unsur al-Maali Keykavus, 11<sup>th</sup> c. AD)”  
 The Second Graduate Conference in Difference “Poetics of Change,”  
 The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 2-3 May 1992
  
- \* **Paper:** “Trust the Author, Trust the Scribe: Some Observations Regarding Nizam al-Mulk’s  
 Authorship on the *Siyasat-name*”  
 Societas Iranologica Europaea, 2nd European Conference of Iranian Studies  
 Bamberg, Germany, September 30 - October 4, 1991.
  
- \***Paper:** “A Genre at Crossroads: Persian Books of Advice from the 11th-12th c. AD and Their  
 Pre-Islamic Roots”  
 33rd International Congress of Asian and North African Studies,  
 University of Toronto, Canada, August 1990.

## CANADIAN CONFERENCES

- \* **Paper:** “Sadeq Hedayat’s *Afsane-ye afarinesh*: A Modern Iranian Myth of Creation as a  
 Cross-cultural Phenomenon.”  
 Panel: “Reading the World into World Literature”, convened by Nasrin Rahimieh,  
 McMaster University  
 Canadian Comparative Literature Association. 2006 Congress Of The Humanities And  
 Social Sciences,  
 York University, Toronto, May 27-June 3, 2006.
  
- \***Paper:** “From *Vis and Ramin* to *The Blind Owl*: The Metamorphoses of a Parthian  
 Romance.”  
 Jubilee Session of the Department of Near Eastern Studies: “Vanished Races,  
 Forgotten Faces, Remembered Traces,”  
 University of Toronto, March 1995

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### INTERVIEWS

- \***BBC Radio Persian-language program:** “*Pishgam-e adabiyyat-e modern*”(A pioneer of  
 modern literature).

Interviews of the Iranian writer Mahmud Kianush with literary critics, scholars, and contemporaries of Sadeq Hedayat, aired in fourteen half-hour installments every Saturday, at 5:30 GMT, from Feb. 14, 2004 on. My segments, recorded on Nov. 28, 2003, were included in sessions 12 and 13.

## PUBLIC LECTURES, SEMINARS, AND DISCUSSIONS

**\* Lecture:** “Sadeq Hedayat’s *Afsane-ye afarinesh* [The Myth of Creation]”

Iranian Studies Seminar Series, organized by the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, the Department of History at the University of Toronto; the Foundation for Iranian Studies, and the Initiative of Iranian Studies, Toronto:  
University of Toronto, November 30, 2012, 4-6 pm

**\*Lecture:** “Famous Persian Books of Advice: *The Book of Government* (*Siyasat-nama*) by the Saljuq Vizier Nizam al-Mulk (11th Century)”

The Annual York-Noor Lecture Series 2009-2010  
York University, 22 February, 2010

**\*Lecture:** “*The Rubayyat* (Quatrains) of Omar Khayyam (11th-12th Centuries) and their Victorian Reincarnation and Reception”

The Annual York-Noor Lecture Series 2009-2010  
Noor Cultural Center, Toronto, 21 February 2009

**\*Lecture:** “Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*: Sketching Iran for the Rest of Us”

Persian Lecture Series in Conjunction with the Near Eastern Studies Colloquium Series and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies  
University of Arizona, 29 January 2010

**\*Lecture:** “Humor for In-Betweeners: Sadeq Hedayat’s *Myth of Creation* and the Perils of Cultural Hybridity”

Lecture before the students of the graduate course “Topics in Modern Persian Literature and Iranian Culture”: PRS 496B / 596B: Contemporary Persian Literature. Course Director Kamran Talattof.  
University of Arizona, Department of Near Eastern Studies. 28 January 2010

**\*Lecture:** “Persepolis”

Symposium Persia/Iran  
Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Student Union, Feb. 26—March 18, 2009.  
University of Toronto, 26 February 2009

**\*Lecture:** “Marjane Satrapi’s Graphic Novel *Persepolis*: Sketching Iran for the Rest of Us.”  
Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD)

Toronto, 27 February 2007

**\*Public discussion: “The Jyllans-Posten Muhammad Cartoons Controversy”**

Panel: Prof. Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Prof. Todd Lawson, Dr. Marta Simidchieva  
Historical Studies Seminar Series  
University of Toronto at Mississauga, 16 February, 2006, 7:30-10:00 pm.

**\*Public discussion: “The Jyllans-Posten Muhammad Cartoons Controversy”**

Panel: Prof. Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Prof. Jens Hanssen, Dr. Marta Simidchieva,  
Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto at Mississauga, 8 February,  
2006, 12:00-1:00 pm.

**\*Moderator of Public Discussion “The Hijab and Secularism” with the participation of Dr. Katherine Bullock**, author of *Rethinking Muslim Women and the Veil: Challenging Historical and Modern Stereotypes*. Herndon, VA: The International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2002.

Organized by Rabeea Muhammad, Muslim Students Association  
in connection with the French Parliament ban on head-scarves and conspicuous religious symbols from state schools  
University of Toronto Mississauga, February 2004

**\*Lecture: “The Blind Owl as a Parable of Sacrifice and Rebirth: A Modern Version of an Ancient Story.”**

Conference: “Sadegh Hedayat: Fifty Years On: His Life and Work in Perspective”  
Speakers: Homa Katouzian (Oxford University); Michael Hillmann (University of Texas at Austin); Marta Simidchieva (York University, Toronto)  
*Noor-va-Danesh* [Light and Knowledge], Iranian Muslim Association of the Eastern United States. Rutherford, NJ, 21 October 2001

**WORKS IN PROGRESS:**

**ARTICLE:**

\* “Poetry and the Poet in the Works of Parvin Etesami, Forugh Farrokhzad, and Simin Behbahani”. Special Issue of *Iran Namag* Dedicated to Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak. Guest-editor Fatemeh Shams-Esmaeili (Volume 5, Number 2, Summer 2020)

**BOOK CHAPTER:**

“Sadegh Hedayat’s Novel *The Blind Owl* and the Advent of Iranian Modernism.” *Routledge Handbook on Persian Literature*. Ed. Kamran Talattof.

**BOOK PROJECT**

*HEDAYAT’S BLIND OWL AND PERSIAN TRADITION*. Solicited for the “Modern Intellectual and Political History of the Middle East” Series, Syracuse University Press.

Now almost ten years in the making, this project addresses issues of cultural authenticity, Iranian literary modernity, and deliberate implicit and explicit “references” to the Persian cultural heritage in the iconic Modernist novel of Sadeq Hedayat (pub. 1936-37). Initially conceived as a literary “response” to Michael Beard’s paradigmatic work *Hedayat’s Blind Owl as a Western Novel* (Princeton, 1990), this project expanded beyond purely literary concerns about hypothetical “recastings” by Hedayat of specific classical works or themes, and addresses also the writer’s resort to Iranian folklore, Zoroastrian mythology, Safavid Shii philosophy, and Sufism, as well as the possible influences on him of European Cubism, and of early Orientalist views about India and Persia.

## **APPENDIX: TEACHING IN NORTH AMERICA 1991—2020**

### **YORK UNIVERSITY, TORONTO**

03/01/2020 to 03/31/2021 Instructor Member to the Graduate Program in Interdisciplinary Studies, as recommended by the program.

#### **COURSE DIRECTOR AND / OR TUTORIAL LEADER**

<b>2014—2019</b>	HUMA 1845 6.0 Islamic Traditions
<b>2017 SU; 2018 W</b>	HUMA 1845 6.0 Islamic Traditions (TL in online course)
<b>1999—2014</b>	HUMA 2815 9.0 Islamic Traditions
<b>2012—2017</b>	HUMA3816 3.0 The Balkans: Religion, Culture, and Identity
<b>2016---2018</b>	HUMA 4816 3.0 Women in Islamic Literatures (S1/S2)
<b>2011—2019</b>	HUMA 4816 6.0 Women in Islamic Literatures
<b>2003—2004</b>	HUMA 4816 6.0 Women in Islamic Literatures

#### **SUBSTITUTE TEACHING / GUEST LECTURER**

<b>2016—2017</b> (winter only)	HUMA 3815 6.0 Religion culture and Identity on the Balkans
<b>2012—2013</b>	HUMA 2800 9.0 Introduction to Religious Traditions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Islam: Origins”</li> <li>2. After Muhammad: Issues of religious authority: The establishment of the Caliphate. The crystallization of religious traditions. The ‘Classical Age’ of Islamic civilization”</li> <li>3. “Islam and Modernity: Movements of revival and reform”</li> </ol>
<b>2010--2011</b>	HIST 3180 6.0 The Rise and Fall of the Sasanian Empire <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Early Sasanian Rule”</li> </ol>

**2006--2007**

HUMA 2800 9.0 Introduction to Religious Traditions

1. "Islam and modernity: Movements of revival and reform"
- 2 "Zoroastrianism: Origins, scriptures, history and culture";
2. "Zoroastrianism: 'Good thoughts, good words, good deeds':  
The cosmic struggle and the follower of the 'Good Religion'"

## **UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

### **Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations**

**2006--2012**

NMC 273Y Islamic History to the Fall Of Baghdad (1258)

### **Department of Middle East and Islamic Studies**

**1993--1994**

MEI 480Y: Readings in Classical Persian Literature (in Persian)

**1992—1993**

Non-credit course in colloquial Persian (volunteer)

## **UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA**

### **Department of Historical Studies**

**2006 fall**

HIS 201 Introduction to Middle Eastern History

**2006 winter**

RLG 208 Introduction to Zoroastrian Religious Tradition

**2005 fall**

HIS 201 Islam's History and Culture

**2005 summer**

RLG 204 Introduction to Islam

**2004--2005**

HIS 201 Y5Y Islam's Culture and Civilization

## **MCMASTER UNIVERSITY, HAMILTON**

### **Department of History**

**2002 fall**

History 2EA3E Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean