

Cameron Cross

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Current position

Assistant Professor of Iranian Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Areas of specialization

Iranian Studies; Persian and Arabic Literature; Comparative Literature

Research interests

Romance and epic; genre theory; medieval practices of performance, adaptation, and translation; notions of the “self” through gender, class, ethnicity, and affect; animal/monster studies; love theory; cinema studies; speech and the ineffable

Education and training

Academic degrees

- 2015 PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
- 2010 MA in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
- 2007 MA in Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago
- 2004 BA in History and Italian, University of Colorado at Boulder

Languages

Speaking and reading proficiency in Persian and Arabic
Reading proficiency in French, Italian, and Spanish
Some training in Middle Persian (Pahlavi), Latin, German, and Georgian

Publications, translations, & talks

Journal articles

- 2017 “The Tree Atop the Mountain: Mobad Manikan and the Elusive Promises of Masculinity.” *Iran Namag* [forthcoming].
- 2016 “The Many Colors of Love in Nizāmī’s *Haft Paykar*: Beyond the Spectrum.” *Interfaces: A Journal of Medieval European Literatures* 2: 52–96. doi: [10.13130/interfaces-7663](https://doi.org/10.13130/interfaces-7663).
- 2015 “‘If Death Is Just, What Is Injustice?’ Illicit Rage in ‘Rostam and Sohrab’ and ‘The Knight’s Tale’.” *Iranian Studies* 48.3: 395–422. doi: [10.1080/00210862.2014.1000620](https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2014.1000620).

Translations

- “Ireneczka,” in *Life and Letters of an Iranian Communist: Stories of Bozorg Alavi*, ed. Franklin Lewis [forthcoming].
- 2016 “Athena,” tr. of *Āsinā* by Maryam Hooleh, in *Absinthe: A Journal of World Literature in Translation* 22 (2016) [forthcoming].
- 2013 “House of Flesh,” tr. of *Bayt min laḥm* by Yousef Idris, presented at *Angle of Vision: Then, Now, and the Arabic Novel* (Chicago 2013) and self-published at <http://sites.lsa.umich.edu/kchalipa/?p=82>.

Conference Presentations

- 2018 “Taming the Dragon: The Ongoing Question of Evil in the *Kush-nāma* and *Bahman-nāma* of Irānshān b. Abi’l-Khayr.” Association of the Study of Persianate Societies (Tbilisi).
- 2017 “New Meanings in Old Stories: The Rise of the Persian Romance.” International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI).
- 2016 “Love, Death, and Conversion in Damascus and Córdoba: The Case of *Vargā & Golshāh* and *Floire & Blancheflor*.” *Literary Encounters Across the Mediterranean*, Middle East Studies Association (Boston).
- 2016 “The Rise of Romance: A Framework for Inquiry.” *Theorizing Medieval European Literatures, c. 500–c. 1500*, Centre for Medieval Literature (York).
- 2016 “Songs and Laments: The Affective Role of Embedded Performance in Persian Romance.” “Imagined” *Performance Contexts in Medieval Persian Literature*, Modern Language Association (Austin, TX).
- 2015 “The Man Inside the Mountain: Kingship and Masculinity in Medieval Persian Literature.” Near Eastern Studies Lecture Series at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor); Accoutrements of Power: The Portrayal of Kingship in the Medieval Islamic World, Middle East Studies Association (Denver).
- 2015 “Minstrels and Wordsmiths: More Lyrics in the Romance.” *Permutations of Desire in Persian Literature*, American Comparative Literature Association (Seattle).

- 2013–14 “An Affair of Conscience: The Ethics of Seduction in *Vis-o-Rāmin*.” Modern Language Association (Chicago), the Illinois Medieval Association (Chicago); the International Society for Iranian Studies (Montréal).
- 2013 “Finding Romance: *Vis*, *Varqa*, and the Origins of a Genre.” Middle East Studies Association (New Orleans).
- 2012 “Knowledge Fair and Foul: The *Haft Paykar* Interprets Itself.” Middle East Studies Association (Denver).
- 2012 “Killed by Fate, Buried in Snow: Pride and Self-Deception in the *Šāhnāma*.” International Society for Iranian Studies (Istanbul).
- 2011 “If Death is Just, What is Injustice?”: Illicit Rage in *Sohrāb and Rostam* and the *Knight’s Tale*. Middle East Studies Association (Washington, DC).
- 2011 “Sekandar Immortal: To be a World-Conqueror in Firdawsī’s *Shāhnāma*.” American Oriental Society (Chicago).
- 2011 “‘That Melodious Linguist’: Birds in Medieval Christian and Islamic Cosmography.” Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies Graduate Student Conference (Chicago); see proceedings [here](#).
- 2010 “The *Haft Paykar*: Love, Color, and the Universe.” Middle East Studies Association (Boston); Middle East History and Theory Conference (Chicago).
- 2010 “Metaphor, Catalyst, and Brother: Writing Animals in Arabic Literature.” Animals and Animality Across the Humanities and Social Sciences (Kingston, Ontario).
- 2010 “The ‘Social Man’ in Weblogestan: A Reading of Mohammad Ali Abtahi.” Islam and the Media (Boulder, Colorado).
- 2006 “‘Marmulak’: Art Cinema, Iranian Cinema, National Cinema.” Middle East History and Theory Conference (Chicago).

Grants, honors, & awards

- 2016 “Honorable Mention” – Best Ph.D. Dissertation of the Year on a Topic of Iranian Studies of the Foundation for Iranian Studies ([online announcement](#))
- 2014 Research grant from the American Institute of Iranian Studies
- 2013 Certificate of Distinction, Waheed Samy Excellence in Arabic Writing Contest
- 2013 Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA): CASA II Fellow
- 2006, 2008 Houtan Scholarship Foundation Recipient
- 2007–08 Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA): CASA Fellow
- 2006–10 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow: Arabic
- 2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow: Persian

Teaching & service

Courses developed and taught at U-M

- FA15, FA16 Iranian Cinema
- FA15, WN17 *Shahnameh*: Iranian Myth, Epic, and History
- WN16 Change and Continuity: Persian Literature in Translation
- FA16 Modern Persian Poetry
- WN17 Travelers and Travelogues: Mapping the Middle East

Departmental and professional service

- 2015–17 Member of the Near Eastern Studies Lecture Series Committee
- 2016–17 NES Undergraduate Advisor
- 2016 Member of the Roth Prize in Literary Translation Committee, administered by the American Institute for Iranian Studies
- 2016 Founder of the Great Lakes Adiban Society
- Member of the following professional organizations: Middle East Studies Association; Modern Language Association; International Society for Iranian Studies; Association for the Study of Persianate Societies