THE FOURTH BIENNIAL
CONFERENCE ON

IRANIAN STUDIES

Organized by
The Society for Iranian Studies (SIS)

Cosponsored by
Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)

With the support of
Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute (RCHI)

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THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

The Society for Iranian Studies (SIS) was founded in 1967 as a scholarly association to support the field of Iranian Studies at the international level. The Society's primary goal is to promote high standards of research, scholarship, and instruction on various aspects of Iranian history, religion, languages, literatures, socioeconomic conditions, politics, and the arts. Over the past three decades, SIS has become the principal professional association of scholars and researchers involved in the study of Iran.

The major scholarly arm of the Society is its quarterly journal, *Iranian Studies*, which has been published continuously since 1968, and which is available in most major academic libraries and research institutions around the world. In addition, the Society publishes regularly a newsletter, *SIS News*, cosponsors panels and meetings of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), awards the annual Saidi-Sirjani Memorial Book Award, and organizes seminars and conferences on Iranian studies. Currently, the offices of the Secretariat and the journal are housed at the Hagop Kevorkian Center at New York University.

The Society's membership includes several hundred scholars and students in various disciplines of the field of Iranian studies in the United States, Iran, Europe, Japan, Australia, and elsewhere. SIS is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation registered in the State of New York.

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ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PERSIANATE SOCIETIES

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The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) is a non-governmental, non-political, not-for-profit professional organization for researchers and scholars interested in the culture and civilization of the Persian-speaking societies and the related areas in the Iranian civilizational area. It publishes a Newsletter twice a year (Editor, Professor John Perry, NELC, University of Chicago) and has brought some forty visitors from Iran and Central Asia to take part in academic and cultural conferences and conventions since it began its Travel Fellowship Program in 1998. Membership benefits include the Newsletter, and beginning this year, our annual publication, Studies on Persianate Societies.

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ROSHAN CULTURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE

Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute is a non-profit organization supporting the active preservation, instruction, and transmission of Persian culture, language, literature, history, and heritage through partnerships with other not-for-profit organizations, and institutions such as schools, universities, libraries, museums, and private sector donors. The Institute is dedicated to fostering community among Persian people and those interested in Persian cultural heritage. Additionally, the Institute hopes to encourage inter-cultural communication and community interaction between people of all cultures. The Institute is a non-political, non-partisan organization with no affiliation or attachment to any special interest group.

Roshan is a Persian word, and literally means “clear” or “bright.” As such it is closely associated with “light” and connected to concepts such as clarity, illumination, knowledge, enlightenment, identity, and authenticity. The word Roshan thus eloquently summates the purpose of the Institute.

Objectives:

- Establish or strengthen existing Persian Studies Division at major US universities.
- Assist and provide support for existing US not-for-profit organizations that share the Mission of the Institute.
- Establish a “Graduate Fellowship for Persian Studies.” The Graduate Fellowships provide financial assistance to outstanding graduate students in Persian Studies, engaged in writing their doctoral dissertation.
- Establish a number of “Annual Prizes for Outstanding Achievement by Iranians.” The Annual Prizes are awarded to Iranians for outstanding achievements in the fields of science and technology, social sciences, language and literature, and other fields of the humanities, education, sports, entertainment, and the arts.

The Graduate Fellowship program is open to all nationals, but the dissertation proposal has to be presented to and approved by an accredited USA, Canadian, British, or French university related primarily to Persian language, linguistics, literature, history, geography, civilization, and culture. Applications must be received by March 1st for grants to be awarded by September 1st of the same year. Candidates must supply a cover letter, a full curriculum vitae, a fully accepted and signed by advisor dissertation proposal, and three letters of recommendation (one of them from the dissertation advisor).

Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute
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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AND THE PROGRAM

On behalf of the Program Committee, I would like to welcome you to the Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies. This year’s program consists of over fifty panels, round-table sessions with more than one hundred-fifty presentations, as well as a book exhibit, art exhibits, a filmfest, and other scholarly events. The participation of scholars from many countries including Armenia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, France, Greece, Iran, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States makes this a truly international conference. Historically, the scope of the panels extends from antiquity to the present while thematically they cover virtually all aspects of Iranian studies from social, political, and historical topics to art, archeology, literature, and cinema. One of the two plenary sessions is on the cultural interaction between ancient Iran and the West, while the other focuses on the lives of Iranian women through the arts. The special and round-table sessions on Iranian NGOs, religious fundamentalism, and current events in Afghanistan address the crucial issues with which we are confronted in the early years of the first decade of the twenty-first century and indicate the vital importance of the field of Iranian studies and the work of Iranian studies scholars for the present and future.

The conference this year is organized by the Society for Iranian Studies (SIS) with the support of the cosponsoring organization, Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), and also Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute (RCHI). The program is the result of the combined efforts of the members of the Program Committee who contributed many hours of their time and knowledge during the past two years. But the depth, breadth, and diversity of scholarship represented in the conference presentations is principally owed to all of you who have made this gathering possible with your scholarship and support. To all of you and also the many scholars on whom I have imposed for advice and help to serve as chairs and discussants, I am most grateful, and on behalf of the other members of the committee and the organizing and sponsoring organizations, I wish you an enjoyable and fruitful time at the Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies.

M. R. Ghanoonparvar, Chair
Program Committee

BOOK EXHIBITION
Old Georgetown Room

HOURS:
Thursday, May 23: 4:00PM-7:00PM
Friday, May 24: 9:00AM-6:00PM
Saturday, May 25: 9:00AM-8:00PM
Sunday, May 26: 10:00AM-4:00PM
WELCOMING REMARKS

8:00-8:45 AM, FRIDAY, MAY 24

HAVERFORD BALLROOM

Richard N. Frye
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Society for Iranian Studies

Said Arjomand
President
Association for the Study of Persianate Societies

Elahe Mir-Djalali
President
Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute

M. R. Ghanoonparvar
Chair
Program Committee
FRIDAY, MAY 24

SESSION 1A POTOMAC SUITE 9:00AM-10:30AM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
ANCIENT IRANIAN GLYPHS AND TEXTS
Chair and Discussant: Richard Frye, Harvard University

Pooling Our Resources: A New Approach to Dating the Proto-Literate Glyptic from Susa
Marta Ameri, New York University

Newly Found Avestan and Middle Persian Manuscripts in Iran
Katayun Mazdapour, Cultural Studies and Research Institute (Iran)

The Dual Sense of Sogdian ṣayw (dyw)
Zohreh Zarshenas, Institute for Humanities and Cultural Research (Iran)

SESSION 1B EMBASSY ROOM 9:00AM-10:30AM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
VISUAL INTERPRETATIONS OF TRANSNATIONAL CULTURES
Chair and Discussant: Sussan Babaie, The University of Michigan

Alchemy from both Worlds: A Comparative Study of the Conceptual Works of Four Iranian-American Artists
Hengameh Fouladvand, Center for Iranian Modern Arts, New York

Longing to Belong: The Ambivalent Art of Antoin Sevruguin
Aphrodite Navab, University of Florida

Children of War: Indoctrination through the Media and Textbooks
Efrat Harel, Tel Aviv University (Israel)

SESSION 1C SUSQUEHANNA SUITE 9:00AM-10:30AM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
CONTEMPORARY HUMOR AND SATIRE
Chair and Discussant: Paul Sprachman, Rutgers University

The Shared Language of Humor
Jeannine M. Donna, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Satire in Azerbaijani Contemporary Poetry
Mohammad Haririakbari, Harvard University

Monty Python and the Masnavi: Parrot jokes and anecdotes in Persian, Indian and English literature
John Perry, University of Chicago
SESSION 1D  FELLINI'S BAR  9:00AM-10:30AM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGES SINCE THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION
Chair and Discussant: Akbar A. Mahdi, Ohio Wesleyan University

“Islamic Yuppies?" Iranian State Transformation and the Social Construction of a New Cosmopolitan Citizenship
Farhang Rouhani, Mary Washington College

Cultural Changes in Tehran During the last Two Decades
Taghi Azadarmaki, University of Tehran (Iran)

A Social Typography of Attitudes Toward the Media
Abd al-Rasul Vesal, Iran Newspaper (Iran)

SESSION 1E  CABINET SUITE  9:00AM-10:30AM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
ROUND-TABLE SESSION ON AFGHANISTAN
Moderator: Ali Banuazizi, Boston College

Participants to be announced

SESSION 2A  FELLINI'S BAR  11:00AM-12:30PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
ASPECTS OF FEMINISM IN CONTEMPORARY IRAN
Chair and Discussant: Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Illinois State University

Perils and Promises of “Islamic Feminism”
Nayereh Tohidi, California State University, Northridge

Impact of Women’s Economic Activity on their Individual Attitudes and Family Dynamics
Azadeh Kian-Thiébaut, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France)

Feminism in Iran: A Social Movement or a Pre-Movement?
Valentine Moghadam, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

SESSION 2B  POTOMAC SUITE  11:00AM-12:30PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
PROSODIC DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDIEVAL IRANIAN POETRY
Chair and Discussant: William Hanaway, University of Pennsylvania

Nezami Ganjavi’s Proficiency in ‘Elm-e Badi’
Christine van Ruymbeke, Universite Libre de Bruxelles and University of Cambridge (Belgium)

Persian Poetry in 10th Century Ziyarid and Buyid Courts
Mark David Luce, University of Chicago

What is the Spiritual Seeker to Do? Piety and Practice in Rumi’s' Mathnavi’
Habibeh Rahim, St. John's University
SESSION 2C  EMBASSY ROOM  11:00AM-12:30PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
IRANIANS IN EXILE
Chair and Discussant: Jaleh Pirnazar, University of California at Berkeley

When the Exiles Become the Diaspora: The Politics and Ethics of Using Categories in Writing Transnational Cultures
Nicki Akhavan, University of California, Santa Cruz

Disgruntled Guests: Iranian Subaltern on the Margins of the Tsarist Empire
Touraj Atabaki, Utrecht University (Netherlands)

Left in Exile: Reconfiguring Relations between Two Generations of Iranian Political Refugees
Janet Bauer, Trinity College

Identity and Institutions among Assyrian-Iranians in the United States
Eden Naby

SESSION 2D  SUSQUEHANNA SUITE  11:00AM-12:30PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
SASSANIAN NUMISMATICS AND ICONOGRAPHY: LEGITIMACY AND ORGANIZATION
Chair and Discussant: Prudence Harper, New York Metropolitan Museum of Art

The King as Image of God on Earth: Reinterpreting Sasanid Rock Reliefs
Abolala Soudavar, Independent Scholar

The Organization of Minting in Late Sasanian Iraq
Stuart Sears, American University of Cairo (Egypt)

Sassanian Coins as Historical Documents: Popular Reaction of the Mazdakians to the Sassanian Kings and the Zoroastrian Priesthood
Jamal Torabi-Tabataba’i, Markaz-e Asnad-e Melli, Tabriz (Iran)

SESSION 2E  CABINET SUITE  11:00AM-12:30PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
THE FORMATION OF CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL DOCTRINE IN IRAN
Chair and Discussant: Shahrough Akhavi, University of South Carolina

A Comparative Study of the of the Dualistic Feature of Iranian Political Islam
Mojtaba Mahdavi, University of Western Ontario (Canada)

The Expediency Council Against the Sixth Parliament
A. W. Samii, RFE/RL

Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi’s Political Philosophy and Contemporary Iranian Politics
Sussan Siavoshi, Trinity University

Modern Right: The Newest Episode in the Islamic Republic’s Factional Differentiation
Amir-Mosaddegh Katouzian, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
SESSION 2F  JUDICIARY SUITE  11:00AM-12:30PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
THE IRANIAN ECONOMY
Chair: Sohrab Behdad, Denison University

Iran: State, Economic Decline and the Changing Pattern of Rent-seeking Activities
Parvin Alizadeh, Denison University

The Iranian Economy in Regional and International Perspectives
Massoud Karshenas, University of London (United Kingdom)

Changes in the Hierarchy of Women's Labor in the Post-Revolutionary Iran.
Farhad Nomani, American University of Paris; Sohrab Behdad, Denison University

Discussant: Fatemeh Moghadam: Hofstra University

SESSION 3A  CABINET SUITE  2:00PM-4:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON POST-1992 AFGHANISTAN
Chair:  M. Jamil Hanifi, Michigan State University

Problems in Establishing Political Legitimacy in Afghanistan
Thomas J. Barfield, Boston University

Major Trends Among the Hazaras, Inside and Outside Afghanistan
Robert L. Canfield, Washington University in St. Louis

Weapons of Peace and War: Afghan Women Caught Between 'Tribalism' and 'Ethnic Warfare'
Nelofar Pazira, Concordia University

Marking an Islamic Identity: the Media and the Taleban 2001
Richard L. Tapper, University of London (United Kingdom)

Discussant: Ashraf Ghani, Johns Hopkins University

SESSION 3B  JUDICIARY SUITE  2:00PM-4:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
THEORIZING IRAN'S ENCOUNTER WITH MODERNITY
Chair: Monica Ringer, Williams College

The Construction of Modernity and National Identity in Pre-revolutionary Iran
Monica Ringer, Williams College

Post-revolutionary Intellectuals and the Tradition-Modernity Debate
Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Syracuse University

Critical Theory and the Nature of Iranian Modernity
Farzin Vahdat, Tufts University

Rationality and Modernity in the Work of Muhammad Ali Furughi
Ramin Jahanbegloo, National Endowment for Democracy

Discussant: Shaul Bakhsh, George Mason University
SESSION 3C  POTOMAC SUITE  2:00PM-4:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
THE WOMEN OF KARBALA
Chair and Discussant: Kamran Aghaie, University of Texas at Austin

Karbala Drag Kings and Queens
Negar Mottahedeh, Rutgers University

The Daughters of Karbala: Images of Women in Popular Shi’i Culture In Iran
Faegheh Shirazi, University of Texas at Austin

Sakina: The Narrator of Kerbala
Shemeem Abbas, University of Texas & Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad

Iconography of the Women of Karbala on Tiles, Murals, Stamps, Posters, and Modern Propaganda: Tradition and Modernity
Peter Chelkowski, New York University

SESSION 3D  EMBASSY ROOM  2:00PM-4:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
CRAFTING THE TEXT: ARTISTIC SPACES AND PURSUITS IN CLASSICAL PERSIAN LITERATURE
Chair and Discussant: Julie S. Meisami, Oxford University (United Kingdom)

Portraying Poets: Verbal and Visual Icons of the Practice of Poetry in the Medieval Period
Franklin Lewis, Emory University

Music in the Delhi Sultanate from the Writings of Amir Khusraw Dihlavi and Others
Françoise Nalini Delvoye, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (France)

"Kashmir, Heaven's Peer": Topographical Representation in the Verse Travelogues of Mughal India
Paul Losensky, Indiana University

Celebrating Writing and Books in Mughal and Safavid Poetry
Sunil Sharma, Harvard University

SESSION 3E  FELLINI'S BAR  2:00PM-4:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
ESOTERIC TRADITIONS IN IRANIAN ISLAM
Chair: Farhad Daftary, Institute of Ismaili Studies (United Kingdom)

The Degrees of Esoteric Gnosis and Gnostics in Persian Shi’ite Theosophy: Sa’in al-Din Turkah Isfahani and Abd al-Razzaq Lahiji
Leonard Lewisohn, Institute of Ismaili Studies (United Kingdom)

Nasir al-Din Tusi on Ta’wil
Jalal Badakhshani, Institute of Ismaili Studies (United Kingdom)

Esoteric Dimensions of Knowledge and Intellect in Early Persian Philosophy
Alice Hunsberger, Institute of Ismaili Studies (United Kingdom)

Paradigms and Pitfalls: The Problem of Labeling in Ismaili and Shi’ite Studies
James Morris, University of Exeter (United Kingdom)

Discussant: Mehdi Aminrazavi, Mary Washington College
SESSION 3F  SUSQUEHANNA SUITE  2:00PM-4:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24
ETHNIC LOYALTY AND NATIONAL IDENTITY: JEWS IN 19th AND 20th CENTURY IRAN
Sponsored by the Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History Project
Chair: Houman Sarshar, Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History

The Enemy Within, the Friend Without: the Incident of Akhund Mulla Abdullah
Haideh Sahim, Independent Scholar

1963 and the Politics of Anti-Semitism
Janet Afary, Purdue University

Iranian Jews, National Identity, and Journalism
Jaleh Pimazar, University of California, Berkeley

Iranian Jews and the Islamic Republic
Faryar Nikbakht, Committee for Religious Minority Rights in Iran

SPECIAL EVENING PROGRAM

The Persian Muse:
An Evening of Poetry of Afghanistan, Iran, and Tajikistan

7:30-9:30 PM, Friday, May 24

HAVERFORD BALLROOM
KEYNOTE EVENT

4:30-6:00 PM, FRIDAY, MAY 24

HAVERFORD BALLROOM

Chair and Moderator:
Richard N. Frye, Harvard University

Awards and Announcements

The Persian Translation Prize
Richard Davis, Ohio State University
The Latifeh Yarshater Prize
Mahnaz Afkhami, FIS Executive Director

THE RESURGENCE AND SPIRIT OF PERSIAN CULTURE

Keynote Speaker:
Ehsan Yarshater, Columbia University
SATURDAY, MAY 25

SESSION 4A  SUSQUEHANNA SUITE  8:30AM-10:00AM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
PROBING DOCTRINAL RELATIONS IN PRE-ISLAMIC IRAN
Chair and Discussant: Germot Windfuhr, University of Michigan

The Gathas in the Pahlavi Tradition as Exemplified by Yasna 30
Pallan R. Ichaporia, Mainz University

David and Darius: The Origins and Success of Internationalism
David A. Yeagley, University of Oklahoma

The Influence of the Zoroastrian Clergy on Sassanian Iran
Evangelos Venetis, University of Ioannina (Greece)

SESSION 4B  POTOMAC SUITE  8:30AM-10:00AM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
THE RHETORIC OF MYSTICISM IN IRANIAN POETIC TRADITION
Chair and Discussant: Jo-Ann Gross, The College of New Jersey

Ahmad of Sirhind and the Naqshbandi Conception of “Al-Qayyum”—the “Highest Spiritual Guide”
Caroline G. Sawyer, SUNY College at Old Westbury

‘Attar’s Tadhkirat al-Awliya’ and the Sufi "Tabaqat" Genre
Jawid A. Mojadedi, Columbia University

Sufi Etiquette in the Mesbah al-Hidayat of ‘Izz al-Din Mahmud Kashani
Eve Feuillebois-Pierunek, Sorbonne Nouvelle (France)

SESSION 4C  EMBASSY ROOM  8:30AM-10:00AM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
MEDIEVAL PERSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY
Chair: Elton Daniel, University of Hawaii

The Early Persian Historiography of Anatolia
Charles Melville, Cambridge University (United Kingdom)

Persian Historiography under the Ottomans
Sara Nur Yildiz, University of Chicago

Nami-Isfahani’s Struggle to Define Zand Legitimacy in the Tarikh-i Gitigusha
Ernest Tucker, U.S. Naval Academy

Discussant: Abbas Amanat, Yale University
SESSION 4D  FELLINI'S BAR  8:30AM-10:00AM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
VISUAL ARTS IN PREMODERN IRAN
Chair: Kathryn Babayan, University of Michigan

The Pre-Mongol Mural Painting from Samarkand
Yury Karev, Institute of World History, Moscow & Monde Iranien, CNRS, Paris
(Russia, France)

Visualizing the “Popular” Tales of Shah Isma’il I
Barry Wood, Harvard University

Qajar Portraiture as a Cultural Phenomenon During the Reign of Nasir al-Din Shah
Raisa Amirkhanyan, Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies (Armenia)

Discussant: Maryam Ekhhtiar, Independent Scholar

SESSION 4E  JUDICIARY SUITE  8:30AM-10:00AM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
DILEMMAS FACING THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT: EXTERNAL POLICIES, INTERNAL CRISSES
Chair and Discussant: Reza Sheikholeslami, Oxford University (United Kingdom)

The Position of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Ottawa Convention
Khalil Dokhanchi, University of Wisconsin-Superior

Iran. US, and Central Asia: Competition or Collaboration?"
G. Reza Ghorashi, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Iran’s Water Crisis: The View from Esfahan
Richard Foltz, University of Florida

SESSION 4F  CABINET SUITE  8:30AM-10:00AM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
WOMEN’S CONDITION AND CONCERNS
Chair and Discussant: Zjaleh Hajibashi, University of Virginia

Dynamics of Women's Condition in Iran: Still a Challenge
Jaleh Shaditalab, University of Tehran (Iran)

Giving Birth: Women, Nursing, and Sexual Hygiene in Iran
Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, University of Pennsylvania

Market Fundamentalism versus Religious Fundamentalism: Women’s Employment in Iran
Roksana Bahramitash, Concordia University (Canada)

Women “Accidentally” Different? Women’s Rights Drawn on Abdolkarim Soroush’s Theories
Forough Jahanbakhsh, Queen's University (Canada)
SPECIAL SESSION  CABINET SUITE  10:30AM-12:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
IRANIAN NGOs: PROSPECTS AND MODELS FOR A CIVIL SOCIETY?
Chair: Sussan Tahmasebi, The Iran NGO Initiative

Iranian NGOs: Models of Innovation in the Region
Sussan Tahmasebi, The Iran NGO Initiative

NGOs and the Reform Movement
Mahboubeh Abbas-Gholizadeh, Farzaneh Journal (Iran)

Provincial NGOs
Shahla Akhtari, Hamyaaran NGO Resource Center (Iran)

The Role of Iranian Expatriates in Iran-based NGOs
Abbas Edalat, Imperial College, London (United Kingdom)

Discussant: Ramin Jahanbegloo, National Endowment for Democracy

SESSION 5A  SUSQUEHANNA SUITE  10:30AM-12:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
ASPECTS OF 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY HISTORY
Chair and Discussant: Amir Afkhami, Yale University

Everyday Life in Late Qajar Iran
Shireen Mahdavi, University of Utah

Epistemology and Sociology of Medical Modernization in Qajar Iran
Hormoz Ebrahimnejad, University College London (United Kingdom)

Amir Mo’ayyad Savadkuhi: The Role of Frontier Keepers in Preserving Iran’s National Interest under Special Imposed Conditions
Sahl Ali Madadi, Sepehr Partnership (Iran)

Tabataba’i Diba Geneology: Some Anthropological Observations
Fereydoun Safizadeh, Boston University

SESSION 5B  POTOMAC SUITE  10:30AM-12:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
THE JOURNAL MULLA NASR UD-DIN AND IRAN
Sponsored by "International Society for Azerbaijan Studies"
Chair and Discussant: Thomas Ricks, Villanova University

The Iranian Constitutional and the Young Turk Revolutions as Viewed by Mullah Nasreddin
Evan Siegel, Fordham University

The Body and the Rituals of Muharram in Mulla Nasreddin
Janet Afary, Purdue University

Mulla Nasreddin in Tabriz
Rahim Raisniya, Tabriz University (Iran)

Mulla Nasreddin and its Cartoonists
Hasan Javadi, George Washington University
SESSION 5C  EMBASSY ROOM  10:30AM-12:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25

POPULAR CULTURE IN MEDIEVAL IRAN
Chair and Discussant: Julie S. Meisami, Oxford University (United Kingdom)

Darab's Greek Wife's Bad Breath: Eskandar, Skordion and the Skiphoria
Richard Davis, Ohio State University

Professional Criminals or Popular Heroes? The Concept of 'Ayyari in Medieval Literature
Saghi Gazerani, Ohio State University

Ayyari Ideals and Shi'ite Ideology in the Husayn-i Kurd
Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson, New York University

The "Non-Conformists": Popular Sentiments and Popular Literature in Medieval Iran
Parvaneh Pourshariati, Ohio State University

SESSION 5D  FELLINI'S BAR  10:30AM-12:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25

MINORITY AND ETHNIC ISSUES AT THE DAWN OF THE 20TH CENTURY
Chair and Discussant: David Nejde Yaghoubian, University of California at Berkeley

The Transcaucasian Yezidis: New Ways of Migration, New Dangers to Identity
Victoria Arakelova, Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies, Yerevan (Armenia)

The Assyrians of Urmia in Early 20th Century Persia: A Rising Nation or a Trodden Minority?
Florence Hellot-Bellier, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France)

Perceptions and Constructions of Iranian-Armenian Identity in the Constitutional Period Through a Study of 'Aravot' and 'Zang'
Houri Berberian, California State University, Long Beach

SESSION 6A  FELLINI'S BAR  2:00PM-3:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25

GLOBALIZATION AND IRANIAN CINEMA
Chair and Discussant: Nasrin Rahimich, University of Alberta (Canada)

The Impact of Globalization on Iranian Cinema
Ali Mohammadi, Nottingham Trent University (United Kingdom)

Iranian Cinema in the Context of Third Cinema
Eric Egan, Nottingham Trent University (United Kingdom)

Challenging 'Gheyrat' and Global Sisterhood in Contemporary Iranian Cinema
Nima Naghibi, University of Winnipeg (Canada)
SESSION 6B   CABINET SUITE  2:00PM-3:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
PARADIGMATICOS OF CONTEMPORARY IRANIAN POLITICS
Chair and Discussant: Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Syracuse University

Power and Purity: Iranian Political Culture, Communication, and Identity
Majid Tehranian, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

Separation of Power in Iran: A Critical Analysis
Shahriar Sabet-Saeidi, University of Durham (United Kingdom)

Islamic Democracy: Iran’s Clerical Debate in Historical Perspective
Meir Litvak, Tel Aviv University (Israel)

SESSION 6C   JUDICIARY SUITE  2:00PM-3:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
FOOD AS A MEDIUM OF PUBLIC POLICY AND POPULAR CULTURE
Chair and Discussant: Shireen Mahdavi, University of Utah

Drinking Tea in the Qahvahkhanah: The Politics of Consumption in Qajar Iran
Rudolph P. Matthee, University of Delaware

The Westernization of Iran’s Culinary Culture
Houchang E. Chehabi, Boston University

Ritualistic Foods in Popular Culture of Iran
Faegheh Shirazi, University of Texas

SESSION 6D   SUSQUEHANNA SUITE  2:00PM-3:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES IN IRANIAN LITERARY TRADITION
Chair and Discussant: Kamran Talattof, University of Arizona

The Story of Rabe’e and Baktash as Narrated by Reza-Gholi Khan Hedayat
Bechooz Mahmooedi-Bakhtiari, Allameh Tabatab’i University (Iran)

Metaphors and Meanings in the Qabus-namih
Sohella Amirsoleimani, University of Utah

The Literary School of Shiraz
Kourosh Kamali-Sarvestani, Fars Encyclopedia, Iran (Iran)

SESSION 6E   POTOMAC SUITE  2:00PM-3:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
TRACING VOWELS, MEANING, AND MIGRATIONS
Chair and Discussant: John Perry, University of Chicago

Verb Systems, Language Contact, and Long-Range Dialectology: Tracing European Gypsy Features in the Iranian Pamir Languages
Gernot Windfuhr, University of Michigan

Iranian 'kund(-)'
Garnik Asatryan, Yerevan State University (Armenia)

Vowels Fighting for Their Recognition
Saeed Yousef, University of Michigan
SESSION 6F  EMBASSY ROOM  2:00PM-3:30PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
RESEARCH SOURCES AND RESOURCES (GRADUATE STUDENTS WORKSHOP)

Moderators: Afshin Marashi, University of California, Los Angeles
             Naghmeh Sohrabi, Harvard

SESSION 7A  SUSQUEHANNA SUITE  4:00PM-6:00PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
HUSAIN VA'IZ KASHIFI (910/1504-5): POLYMATH, POPULARIZER & PRESERVER

Chair: Maria Subtelny, University of Toronto (Canada)

The 'Akhlāq-i Muhsini' of Husain Va'iz Kashifi: A Late Medieval Summa on Ethics
Maria Subtelny, University of Toronto (Canada)

Husain Va'iz Kashifi's 'Mavahib-i aliyya': A Unique Persian Commentary for the General Reader
Kristin Sands, New York University

The Function of the Prophets in the 'Mavaheb-e Aliyyeh' of Hosain Va'iz Kashefi
Pierre Lory, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes V, Paris (France)

H.V. Kashefi's 'Rowzato'l Shohada' (The Garden of Martyrs)
Peter Chelkowski, New York University

The Contribution of Husain Va'ez Kashefi to the Transmission of Astrological Texts
Živa Vesel, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France)
Sergei Tourkin, Institute of Oriental Studies (Russia)

'Badaye' al-Afsar fi sanaye al-ash'ar': Hoseyn Va'ez Kashefi as an Appraiser of Poetic Excellence at the Timurid Court of Herat
Marta Simidchieva, York University, Toronto (Canada)

Exploring Timurid Insha: Kashifi's 'Makhzan al-insha'
Colin Paul Mitchell, University of Toronto (Canada)

Discussant: Kathryn Babayan, University of Michigan

SESSION 7B  CABINET SUITE  4:00PM-6:00PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
IRANIAN-ISLAMIC INTELLECTUALS AND WESTERN THOUGHT

Chair and Discussant: Ali Banuazizi, Boston College

The Gadameraian Hermeneutics of Hujjat al-Islam Muhammad Mujtabih-Shabistari: A Case Study of Shi'i “Modernism” in Contemporary Iran
Ashk P. Dahlen, Uppsala University (Sweden)

Iranian Intellectuals and “the West”: A Critique
Afshin Matin-Asgari, California State University, Los Angeles

Malkum Khan, Kasravi, and Shariati on Islam
Asghar Fathi, University of Calgary (Canada)

Weaving Iran into the Tree of Nations: The Globalization of Modernist Islam
Charles Kurzman, University of North Carolina

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SESSION 7C   JUDICIARY SUITE   4:00PM-6:00PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN TODAY’S IRAN:
REFORMS, ETHNICITY, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY
Chair and Discussant: Said Arjomand, SUNY, Stony Brook

Globalization and Contradiction Between the Nation and the State in Iran after the
Islamic Revolution
Masoud Mousavi-Shafaee, University of Tehran (Iran)

Democratization and Social Movements: Implications for Iran
Mehrdad Mashayekhi, George Mason University

The Packaging of Pahlavi Palaces
Alisa Eimen, University of Minnesota

Ethnicity in Iran: Continuity and Change
Sekandar Amanolahi, University of Shiraz (Iran)

SESSION 7D   POTOMAC SUITE   4:00PM-6:00PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
MAJOR TRENDS IN CONTEMPORARY IRANIAN LITERATURE
Chair and Discussant: Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Washington

Houra Yavari, New York State Board of Education

Forough Farrokhzad’s Poetry and Postmodernism
Khatereh Sheibani, University of Alberta (Canada)

“Shahnameh” Symbolism in Hushang Golshiri’s “Davazdah Rokh”
Firoozeh Khazrazi, Princeton University

Vital or Volatile? Gendered Bodies in Two Iranian Novels
Liora Hendelman-Baavur, Tel Aviv University (Israel)

SESSION 7E   FELLINI’S BAR   4:00PM-6:00PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25
ISSUES OF THE REFORM MOVEMENT IN IRAN
Chair: Poopak Taati, Montgomery College

The Convergence of Muslim and Secular Feminism in Iran’s Reformist Movement
Mahbubeh Gholi, Farzaneh Publications (Iran)

Women in the Iranian Press
Lily Farhadpour, Independent Scholar (Iran)

The Reform Movement in Iran and Women’s Empowerment
Nazila Fathi, University of Toronto (Canada)

Human Rights and the Reform Movement in Iran Today
Majid Mohammadi, State University of New York at Stony Brook

Discussant: Nayereh Tohidi, California State University, Northridge
SESSION 7F  EMBASSY ROOM  4:00PM-6:00AM, SATURDAY, MAY 25

THE GREAT GAME IN QAJAR IRAN REEXAMINED:
THE EUROPEAN SCRAMBLE FOR DOMINION
Chair: Amir Afkhami, Yale University

The Great Game and the Struggle for Communication
Michael Rubin, Hebrew University (Israel)

The Scramble for Antiquities: Iran and Iraq Compared
Magnus Bernhardson, Hofstra University

Gun Traffic in South Persia
Arash Khazeni, Yale University

Sanitary “Great Game” Medical Quarantine or Episodes in Russo-British Economic Imperialism in Qajar Iran
Amin Afkhami, Yale University

British Politics in 19th Century Afghanistan: The Bid for Power of Sardar Ayub Khan
Heidi Walcher, SOAS, University of London (United Kingdom)

Discussant: Houchang Chehabi, Boston University

6:00-7:00 PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25

RECEPTION
PLACE: CHESAPEAKE SUITE
Hosted by the Institute of Ismaili Studies

8:30-10:30 PM, SATURDAY, MAY 25

PERSIAN MUSIC
PLACE: CABINET/JUDICIARY SUITE
SUNDAY, MAY 26

SESSION 8A  FELLINI'S BAR  8:30AM-10:00AM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
NARRATIVE IDENTITY IN LATE 20TH CENTURY
Chair and Discussant: Hengameh Fouladvand, Center for Iranian Modern Arts, New York

Doubled Visions/Forked Tongues
Negar Mottahedeh, Rutgers, State University of New Jersey

Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Illinois State University

The “Poetics of the Iranian People”: Making Art in Climates of Censorship and Freedom of Expression
Persis Karim, San Jose State University

SESSION 8B  SUSQUEHANNA SUITE  8:30AM-10:00AM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
MYSTICAL POETRY IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
Chair and Discussant: Richard Davis, Ohio State University

Religion and Mysticism in the Poetry of Rumi and Donne
Manijeh Mannani, University of Alberta (Canada)

The "Sea of Totality" (Bahr-e koll) and The "Sea of Soul" (Darya-ye jan) in the Poetry of 'Attar
David Martin, International Language Institute

Shared Imagery in Solomon's Song of Songs and the Mystical Language of Classical Sufi Love Poetry and Prose
Hossein Kamaly, Columbia University

SESSION 8C  POTOMAC SUITE  8:30AM-10:00AM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
FOSTERING PUBLIC SPIRITEDNESS IN IRANIAN LIFE IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY
Chair and Discussant: Houchang Chehabi, Boston University

David Nejdeh Yaghoubian, University of California at Berkeley

From Violence to Civility: An Essay on the Political Anthropology of the Early Modern Iranian Civil Society
Babak Rahimi, European University Institute (United Kingdom)

Newspapers and the “Public Sphere” in Iran of the 1940s
Negin Nabavi, Princeton University
SESSION 8D  EMBASSY ROOM  8:30AM-10:00AM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
IRANIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY: FROM FEUDALISM TO CENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE
Chair and Discussant: Richard Frye, Harvard University

A Prime Source on Safavid Administration, Society, and Culture: The “Dastur al-Muluk”
M. Ismail Marcinkowski, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (Malaysia)

Strange Bedfellows: The Karaki Mujahids and the Qizilbash at the Safavid Court in the 16th Century
Rula Jurdi Abisaab, University of Akron

Between Heresiography and Historiography: Ilkhanid and Post-Mongol Sources on the Isma‘ili Da‘wah
Elizabeth Alexandrin, McGill University (Canada)

SESSION 8E  JUDICIARY SUITE  8:30AM-10:00AM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
JUDEO-IRANIAN EXPERIENCE
Chair and Discussant: Amnon Netzer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

American Jewry and the Iranian Jewish Community
Leah R. Baer, Independent Scholar

Dual Identity of Iranian Jews
Minoo Soumekh Michlin, Southern Connecticut State University

Judeo-Persian Literature, The Interaction of Iranian and Judaic Concepts: "Farreh" and "Providence"
Nahid Pirnazar, University of California, Los Angeles

SESSION 9A  CABINET SUITE  10:30AM-12:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
SPECIAL SESSION: ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
Chair and Discussant: Ahmad Ashraf, Columbia University

Sacred Texts and the State in Islamic and Christian Fundamentalisms: Two Case Studies: Pakistan and the U.S.
Jon Armajani, St. Mary’s College of Maryland

Contentious Collective Action and "Islamic Fundamentalism" in the Middle East: Opportunity, Framing and Social Change.
Shahrzad Akhavi, University of South Carolina

Religion, Gender, and Politics: An Analysis of Comparative National Surveys in Egypt, Jordan, and Iran
Mansoor Moaddel, University of Eastern Michigan
SESSION 9B  SUSQUEHANNA SUITE  10:30AM-12:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS
Chair and Discussant: Simin Karimi, University of Arizona

The Status of [low] in Spoken Persian
Golnaz Modarresi, University of Texas at Austin

Displaced Agreement Suffix in Suleimaniya Kurdish: A Distributed Morphology Approach
Behrad Aghaei, University of Texas at Austin

Persian Language Textbooks, 1953-2002: Review and Recommendations
Michael Craig Hillmann, University of Texas at Austin

SESSION 9C  FELLINI'S BAR  10:30AM-12:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
IRANIAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: PAST AND PRESENT
Chair and Discussant: Farhang Rajaee, Carleton University (Canada)

Research on Safavid-Siamese Relations: Perspectives and Problems
M. Ismail Marcinkowski, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (Malaysia)

The Persepolis Controversy, an Episode in US-Iranian Relations, 1935-1939
James Goode, Grand Valley State University

The Case of Nissho-Maru: The First Successful Export of Iranian Oil After Its Nationalization
Hashem Rajabzadeh, Osaka University of Foreign Studies (Japan)

The Rule of Law in Iran and its Implications for Iran’s International Relations
Keyvan Tabari

SESSION 9D  POTOMAC SUITE  10:30AM-12:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
RESPONSES TO SUFISM
Chair and Discussant: Franklin Lewis, Emory University

Sufism and Ismailism: A Re-examination of the Symbiotic Relationship Thesis
Shafique Virani, Harvard University

Ahmad Kasravi and Sufism
Lloyd Ridgeon, University of Glasgow (United Kingdom)

Divan by Khumayni as a Reflection of Traditional Iranian Mentality
Firuza Abdullaeva, St. Petersburg State University (Russia)
SESSION 9E  EMBASSY ROOM  10:30AM-12:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAN: NEW SITES, RESOURCES AND RESEARCH
Sponsored by the American Institute of Iranian Studies
Chair and Discussant: Sussan Babaie, University of Michigan

Hacedeh Laleh, University of Tehran (Iran)
Massoud Azarnoush, Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization (Iran)
Kamyar Abdi, University of Michigan

Presentations to be announced.
PLENARY SESSION I

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE AND THE WEST:
CULTURAL INTERACTIONS

1:30-3:30PM, SUNDAY, MAY 26
HAVERFORD BALLROOM

Chair: Margaret C. Miller, University of Toronto (Canada)

*Lydia in the Persian Empire*
Elspeth Dusinberre, University of Colorado

*Persianisms in the North Aegean*
Stavros A. Paspalas, Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (Greece)

*Liquid Assets, or How the Odrysians Made their Metal: The Economy of the Odrysian Princes of Thrace, between Greeks and Persians*
Zofia Archibald, University of Liverpool (United Kingdom)

*The Heritage of Empire: Persian Contributions to Hellenistic Culture*
Susanne Ebbinghaus, Harvard University Art Museum

Discussant: Pierre Briant, College de France (France)

PLENARY SESSION II:

INSIDER/OUTSIDER: IRANIAN WOMEN’S LIVES SEEN THROUGH ART AND LITERATURE IN IRAN AND ABROAD

Sponsored by The Foundation for Iranian Studies
4:00PM-6:00PM SUNDAY, MAY 26
HAVERFORD BALLROOM

Moderator: Mahnaz Afkhami, Foundation for Iranian Studies
Karim Emami: Independent Scholar (Iran)
Fereshteh Daftari: Associate Curator, Museum of Modern Art
Shirin Neshat: Producer/Director
Ghazal: Producer/Director (Iran)
Azar Nafisi: Johns Hopkins University
Nasrin Rahimieh, University of Alberta (Canada)
Printing Persian: An Exhibition of Lithographed Books from Iran and India

Curator: Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi

This exhibition displays some of the finest specimens available of nineteenth-century Persian lithographed books. With an emphasis on graphic design, it exhibits exemplary models of book-covers, headpieces, and colophons with geometric, floral, vegetal, angelic, and medallion designs. It also displays samples of lithographic illustrations from literary, religious, and scientific books printed in Iran and India between 1808 and 1900. Among the early printed and lithographed texts on display are Muntakhib al-Lughat (Calcutta, 1808), Siyar al-Muta‘akhkhirin (Calcutta, 1827), Risalah-i Istishhadat (Bombay, 1828), Burhan-i Qadi (Calcutta, 1835), Jam‘al-Tavarikh (Calcutta, 1836), Muntahi al-Idrāb (Calcutta, 1836), Burhan-i Jam‘ (Tabriz, 1844), Masnavi (Bombay, 1945), Matla‘ al-Ulum va Majma‘ al-Funun (Agrah, 1946), Tuhfat al-‘Alam (Bombay, 1847), Iskandar Namah (Bombay, 1849), Shahnamah (Bombay, 1849), Ganjinah-‘i Mu‘tamd (Tehran, 1849), and Dabistan-i Mazahib (Bombay, 1850). The displayed books document the reciprocal interactions of the Indo-Iranian cultures. They also chronicle the changing conventions of book design.

Sponsored by the Indo-Iranian Persianate Text Series and Persian Imprints.

The Metamorphoses of the Earth:
An Exhibition of Maryam Salour’s Sculptures and Ceramic Works

“Maryam Salour is a polyvalent artist. Simultaneously ceramist, sculpture and painter, she incarnates the three disciplines without confusing them... [W]hether she innovates in the technique of the ceramics by obtaining a blend of unusual colors, or when in sculpture she projects delicate forms resulting from antagonistic or complementary forces, or when in painting she imitates the ruggedness of the mineral nature to create what she personally describes as ‘the four-cornered dream,’ we witness the multiple metamorphoses of the earth itself.”

Dariush Shayanegar

“Her colorful ceramics embody a new outlook on color and glaze, and their rough texture clashes with their smooth everyday functions and forms.... Maryam Salour’s vases are not mere everyday utensils; they are the fusion of her mystic thinking and loving attitude towards Mother Nature.”

Farah Seyyyed-Abolqassem
SIS FILMFEST
The Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies
May 24-26  Hyatt Regency Bethesda

After a successful debut in 2000, the SIS Filmfest will present its second edition during the Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies. Filmfest 2002, curated and organized by film professor Jamsheed Akrami, will focus on documentaries. A mini-retrospective on documentaries by Rakhshan Bani Etemad will pay tribute to a filmmaker who has steadfastly chronicled the plight of Iranian women over the past decade.

This year the number of films selected for screening has risen from 14 to more than 20 titles. The following is a partial list of the entries:

_The Afghan Alphabet_
**Directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf**
2002, 45 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
A veteran filmmaker uses the simple premise of teaching the alphabet to Afghan refugee children to compose a powerful indictment of religious parochialism. Simple and devastating.

_Children of the Sun_
**Directed by Mansooreh Saboori**
2001, 60 min. In English
The search for a perfect location in Iran to view a solar eclipse provides the pretext for an examination of Persian mythology.

_Gol Chador_
**Directed by Amir Ali Abdollah Zadeh**
2001, 35 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
A would-be-mother is desperately seeking someone to adopt her unborn baby. With a POV from behind a flower-patterned chador, the film evokes simultaneously the metaphor of oppression and distancing conferred by the veil.

_The Green Card_
**Directed by Mohammad Jafari**
2001, 27 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
A documentary about Mir Hossein Nouri, who played the Afghan seminarian in Abbas Kiarostami’s _A Taste of Cherry_. He finds himself in a real life quandary not unlike that of Kiarostami’s protagonist.

_I Call Myself Persian: Iranians in America_
**Directed by Tanaz Eshaghian and Sara Nodjoumi**
2002, 27 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
Iranian-American artists and professionals share their experiences of prejudice and cultural bias after the hostage crisis. Expert commentary by Edward Said and Shirin Neshat included.

_The Island_
**Directed by Safoura Ahmadi**
2001, 15 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
A documentary about the circumcision rituals in a southern island in Iran, where an annual date is set to circumcise both boys and girls.
Just A Woman
Directed by Mitra Farahani and Sonbol B. Y.
A young man goes through a sexual transformation and has to endure the hostility of an unforgiving social environment. Touching and saddening.

Last Visit with Iran Daftari
Directed by Rakshan Bani Etemad
1995, 55 min. In Persian
In a loving tribute to one of the matriarchs of Iranian theater and film, Bani Etemad spends two days with Iran Daftari to record her last acting days.

My Name is Rocky
Directed by Bahman Moshar
2001, 57 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
This shocking documentary paints a heartbreaking picture of the growing population of Iranian runaway girls, who are caught in a purgatory of familial pressures and social restrictions.

Najeeb
Directed by Tanaz Eshaghian
2000, 27 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
A 25-year old Jewish Iranian woman living in New York is seriously advised by her traditional family to find herself a husband before it is too late.

Our Time ...
Directed by Rakshan Bani Etemad
2002, 65 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
A two-part documentary: The first chronicles the Iranian teenager’s campaign for the re-election of Khatami; the second follows a destitute single mother running for president in the 2001 elections in Iran.

Shahrbanoo
Directed by Hamid Rahmanian
2002, 58 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
A working class family in Iran is seen through the observant eyes of a visiting Iranian-American couple. The cultural exchange between a young American woman and members of a conservative Iranian family, led by the strong-willed matriarch Shahrbanoo, is highly engaging and surprisingly illuminating.

Sir Alfred of Charles de Gaulle Airport
Directed by Hamid Rahmanian
2001, 29 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
The true story of a distraught middle-aged Iranian refugee, who hides his true identity while taking permanent residence at a French airport. A thought-provoking commentary on the betrayal of identity.

Ta’zieh
Directed by Parviz Jahed
2001, 73 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
A straightforward documentary on the Islamic passion play, ta’zieh, which includes interviews with experts Bahram Bayzai, Jaber Anasori, Laleh Taghian, and Peter Chelckowski.
To Have or Not to Have
Directed by Niki Karimi
2001, 45 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
The acclaimed actress Niki Karimi’s directorial debut portrays childless couples in a traditional culture where infertility can seriously threaten a marriage.

Tabaki
Directed by Bahman Kiarostami
2001, 26 min. In Persian, English Subtitles
This charming documentary about professional mourners in Iran is an uncanny depiction of a peculiar profession in a religious society, and an insightful view on that society itself.

Under the Skin of the City
Directed by Rakshsh Bani Etemad
1996, 35 min. In Persian
A sponsored documentary on addiction in Iran, which illustrates the abundance of drugs and the vulnerability of the youth. Although a government agency sponsored the film, Iranian television refused to broadcast it. Not to be mistaken with a feature film of the same title by Bani Etemad.

Who Do You Show These Movies To?
Directed by Rakshsh Bani Etemad
1994, 82 min. In Persian
Employing an uncompromising cinema-verite style, Rakshsh Bani Etemad chronicles the sordid existence of a shantytown’s downtrodden residents over a span of two years.
The Society for Iranian studies would like to thank the ILEX Foundation
For their generous support for the 2002 Biennial Conference on
Iranian Studies

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