

# Cameron Lindley Cross

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Department of Middle East Studies  
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## Current Position

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

## Research Interests

Comparative literature; romance and epic; genre theory; medieval practices of performance, adaptation, and translation; selfhood in gender, class, ethnicity, and affect; animal/monster studies; love theory; cinema studies; philosophy of language

## Education & 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

### RESEARCH 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 & Presentations

### MONOGRAPHS

- 2022 *Love at a Crux: The New Persian Romance in a Global Middle Ages* (University of Toronto Press) [forthcoming].

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2022 “Poetic Alchemy: The Rise of Persian Romance in a Comparative Context.” *Medieval Encounters* [forthcoming].
- 2018 “The Lives and Afterlives of *Vis and Rāmin*.” *Iranian Studies* 51 (4): 517–56. DOI: [10.1080/00210862.2018.1440967](https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2018.1440967)
- 2018 “A Tree Atop the Mountain: Mobad Manikan and the Elusive Promises of Masculinity.” *Iran Namag* 3 (1): xxvi–lxiii ([LINK](#)).
- 2016 “The Many Colors of Love in Niẓāmī’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

- “Ireneckza” and “The Best of Stories,” in *Life and Letters of an Iranian Communist: Stories of Bozorg Alavi*, ed. Franklin Lewis [forthcoming].
- 2019 “From Qazvin to Tus: A Personal Memoir” (tr. of the Persian by Mohammad-Jafar Yahaghi), in *Iranian Studies* 52 (5–6): 1041–44. DOI: [10.1080/00210862.2019.1654279](https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2019.1654279)
- 2018 “Athena” (tr. of *Asina* by Maryam Hooleh), in *Absinthe: A Journal of World Literature in Translation* 24 ([HDL.HANDLE.NET/2027/SPO.13469760.0024.105](https://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.13469760.0024.105)).

### INVITED TALKS

- 2020 *The Truthful Lie: On History, Poetry, and the Renovation of Persian Romance*. “Poetry in the Eastern Mediterranean from the 11th to the 15th Centuries: Transcultural Perspectives,” Workshop at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Medieval Research, Division of Byzantine Studies (Vienna, [Jan 24](#)).
- 2019 *The Sources of Varqa & Golshāh*. Persian and Iranian Studies in Honor of Heshmat Moayyad: A Two-day Conference at the University of Chicago ([Mar 8](#)).
- 2018 *Salvation Through Sin: How a Queen Rewrote the Rules of Romance*. Columbia University Seminar on Iranian Studies (New York, [Nov 9](#)); University of Tennessee, Gender and Sexuality in Historical Perspective series (Knoxville, [Oct 15](#)); The Ohio State University, Dept. of Near Eastern Cultures and Civilizations Spring Lecture series ([Apr 12, 2019](#)).
- 2018 *The Girl Next Door: Reading the Margin as a Site of Continuity*. Mediterranean Seminar, “Margins of the Mediterranean,” University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, [Oct 27](#)).
- 2016 *The Rise of Romance: A Framework for Inquiry*. Centre for Medieval Literature (York).

## CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 *Love Resurrected: The Persian Romance in a Global Middle Ages*. “Diversity in/and the Global Middle Ages I”; International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, [May 11](#)).
- 2019 *Grammars of Globality*. “Shared Moveable Worlds” Workshop, Centre for Medieval Literature (Copenhagen, May 27–29); “De-centering the Global Middle Ages” symposium, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, [Feb 9](#)).
- 2019 *Romance Renewed*. Yarshater Young Scholars Workshop, Roshan Institute for Persian Studies at the University of Maryland (College Park, May 17).
- 2018 *“I Know It When I See It”: Towards a Theory of the Romance Genre*. Middle East Studies Association (San Antonio, [Nov 17](#)); Great Lakes Adiban Society Workshop (Chicago, [Oct 7](#)).
- 2018 *A Dying Man in a Deathless Body: The (Hor)cruxes of Kingship*. Association for Iranian Studies (Irvine, [Aug 16](#)); Middle East History and Theory Conference (Chicago, [May 5](#)).
- 2018 *Dragon-Spawn, Elephant-Men, and the Quiddity of Evil in Persian Epic*. International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, [May 11](#)).
- 2018 *Taming the Dragon: The Ongoing Question of Evil in the Kush-nāma and Bahman-nāma of Irānshāh b. Abī’l-Khayr* [In Persian: ادامه مسئله شرارت در کوشنامه و بهمن‌نامه و ایرانشاه بن ابی‌الخیر]. Association of the Study of Persianate Societies (Tbilisi, [Mar 18](#)).
- 2017 *New Meanings in Old Stories: The Rise of the Persian Romance*. International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, [May 12](#)).
- 2016 *Love, Death, and Conversion in Damascus and Córdoba: The Case of Varqa & Golshāh and Floire & Blancheflor*. Middle East Studies Association (Boston).
- 2016 *Songs and Laments: The Affective Role of Embedded Performance in Persian Romance*. Modern Language Association (Austin, TX).
- 2015 *The Man Inside the Mountain: Kingship and Masculinity in Medieval Persian Literature*. Middle East Studies Association (Denver).
- 2015 *Minstrels and Wordsmiths: More Lyrics in the Romance*. 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 Association 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*. Association 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).
- 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 Conference, University of Colorado (Boulder).

## Teaching & Service

### COURSES DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT

#### *Survey and Introductory Courses*

- MIDEAST 291 | Travelers and Travelogues: Mapping the Middle East
- MIDEAST 295 | Beyond Human: Animals, Jinn, Monsters, and Angels in Islamic Cultures
- MIDEAST 309 | Sin, Sex, and Desire: Romance in the Middle East

#### *Iranian Studies*

- MIDEAST 324 | Change and Continuity: Persian Literature in Translation
- MIDEAST 327 | *Shahnameh*: Iranian Myth, Epic, and History
- MIDEAST 331–SAC 321 | Iranian Cinema: Re/presenting a Nation
- MIDEAST 427 | Rumi and the Great Persian Mystical Poets

#### *Advanced Persian*

- PERSIAN 404 | Singing Revolution: Poetry and Politics in Modern Iran
- PERSIAN 504 | Modern Persian Fiction: Short Stories and Novellas
- MIDEAST 517 | Sa'di and Medieval Islamic Humanism (Classical Persian Texts)

### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2021–22 Member of the MES Graduate Program Committee  
2018–21 Executive Committee member of the Center for Middle East and North African Studies  
2018– Worked with colleagues to revamp the Persian language program at U-M  
2017–18 Executive Committee member of the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program  
2017– Established and maintained [Iranian Studies @ U-M website](#)  
2016– Established and organized the annual [Iranian Film Festival](#) of Ann Arbor  
2016– Established and coordinated the [Persian Roundtable](#) lecture series  
2016–21 Undergraduate advisor for department  
2015–17 Member of the departmental Lecture Series Committee

### STUDENT ADVISING

SECONDARY ADVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER: Keemia Soheil, (BA, English); Ameena Yovan (MA, CMENAS); Shahla Farghadani (PhD, MES); Barış Ekiz (PhD, MES); Amit Sadan (PhD, MES); Graham Liddell (PhD, Comparative Literature); Sandra Williams (PhD, History of Art)

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2018– Associate Editor in Classical Literature for the journal *Iranian Studies*
- 2017– Organized panels on Islamicate literature at the International Congress for Medieval Studies and annual workshops with the Great Lakes Adiban Society
- 2017 Member of the Association for Iranian Studies Biennial Conference Program Committee
- 2016– Peer-reviewed submissions to *Iranian Studies*
- 2016– Member of the Roth Prize in Literary Translation Committee
- 2016 Established 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; Great Lakes Adiban Society

## Grants & 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