

Sahba Shayani

Curriculum Vitae

Department Near Eastern Languages & Cultures
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Program of Iranian Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures (NELC), University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), 2020
M.A., Program of Iranian Studies, Dept. of NELC, UCLA, 2011
B.A., Department of English, UCLA, 2008

APPOINTMENTS

Program of Iranian Studies, Dep of NELC, UCLA Lecturer in Persian	(2023 – Present)
The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford Senior Lecturer in Persian	(2015 – 2023)
Brasenose College, University of Oxford Retained Lecturer	(2017 – 2023)

PUBLICATIONS

2023 "Literary Imitation in Three Poems Attributed to Tahirih Qurrat al-‘Ayn,"
 HAWWA: Journal of Women in the Middle East & Islamic Cultures.
 Sasha Dehghani and Omid Ghaemmaghami (eds.). 34 mss. pp. Brill.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025 – Present	Secretary of the Farhang Foundation
2022 – Present	Executive Secretary of the American Association of Teachers of Persian (AATP)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of NELC, UCLA

Iranian 140: Persian Belles Lettres (Adabiyyat) Fall 2025
Iranian 141: Persian Analytical Poetry, Winter 2026
Iranian 102ABC: Intermediate Persian, 2023 – Present
Iranian 103A: Advanced Persian: Introduction to Classical Persian Poetry, 2023 – Present
Iranian 103C: Advanced Persian: Introduction to Contemporary Poetry & Prose, 2023 – Present
Iranian 20ABC: Accelerated Elementary Persian, 2023 – 2025

The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford

First Year Main Persian Language, 2015 – 2023
First Year Subsidiary Persian Language, 2015 – 2023
Third Year Main Persian: Persian to English Translation, Michaelmas Term 2020; 2021 – 2022
Fourth Year Main Persian: Persian to English Translation & Composition, 2015 – 2023
Persian Language for Advanced Graduate Students, 2016 – 2017; 2020 – 2021
Modern Persian Literature, Trinity Term 2018; Trinity Term 2019; Hilary Term 2021
Second Year Subsidiary Persian Language, 2015 – 2019
Third Year Main Persian: English to Persian Translation & Composition, 2015 – 2019
Classical Persian Poetry, Trinity Term 2017; Trinity Term 2018
Persian Language for Intermediate Heritage Students, 2015
Media Persian, Michaelmas Term 2015

Department of NELC, UCLA

The Making of the Modern Middle East, Teaching Assistant (TA), Spring 2015
Women and Power in the Ancient World, TA, Winter 2015
Jerusalem: Holy City, TA, Fall 2014
Elementary Persian, TA (Sole Instructor of the Course), 2011 – 2012
Intensive Advanced Persian, TA, Summer 2009
Intensive Intermediate Persian, TA, Summer 2009

STARTalk Summer Heritage Language Institute, UCLA

Elementary Persian for High School Students, Instructor, Summer 2015
Elementary Persian for High School Students, Co-Instructor, Summer 2012

Persian Summer Institute, University of Texas at Austin

Visionary Women in Iranian Culture, Literature, and History,
Course Designer and Instructor, Summer 2013 and 2014

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

Papers Presented

- 2024 “Shirin: From Ferdowsi to Nezāmi,” Yarshater Center & Iranian Studies Symposium and Workshop: Nezāmi and the Iranian World, UCLA Nov. 21–22
- 2024 “The Enigma of Vis: “Infamous the World Over for Obscenity” or an “Emblem” of Loyalty?” Fourteenth Biennial Conference of AIS, Aug. 12 – 15
- 2022 “Unadulterated Sweetness: The Case of Shirin from Ferdowsi to Nezami,” Thirteenth Biennial Conference of AIS, Aug. 29 – Sep. 2
- 2018 “Persian Language Teacher Education: Innovative Approaches to Integrating Language and Content (Roundtable),” Twelfth Biennial Conference of AIS, Aug. 14 – 17
- 2016 “The Confirmation of Gender & Authority in a Selection of Poems Attributed to Tāhere Qorrat al-^cEyn,” Gender & Authority Research Network Seminars, University of Oxford, Oct. 19
- 2016 “Roundtable Discussion: The Current State of Persian Instruction at Colleges and Universities,” Eleventh Biennial Conference of AIS, Aug. 2 – 5
- 2016 “Unveiling the Re-veiled Through Literary Imitation: Poems Attributed to Tāhere Qorrat al-^cEyn,” Eleventh Biennial Conference of the Association for Iranian Studies (AIS), Aug. 2 – 5
- 2012 “A Key to the Sublime: An Analysis of *kh^wāb* in Rumi’s *Masnavi-ye Ma^cnavi*,” Ninth Biennial Conference of ISIS, Aug. 1 – 5
- 2010 “An Exile on Native Soil: An Analysis of Exile in the Later Poetry of Nader Naderpour,” Eighth Biennial Conference of The International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS), May 27 – 30

GUEST LECTURES

National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City

- 2023 Women of the Earlier *Shahnameh*: Liminality and Agency, September 27

The Danish-Iranian Cultural Institute

- 2021 زن ایرانی در ادبیات کهن سرزمین ما، از فردوسی تا نظامی (Iranian Women in Classical Persian Literature: From Ferdowsi to Neẓāmi), December 5

Digital Museum

- 2021 “Persian: Literature and Mother Tongue,” International Mother Language Day Event Series, February 21

The Iran Society

- 2021 The Women of the *Shahnameh*, February 15

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- 2020 The Character of Vis in the Romance of *Vis o Rāmin*, August 27

The Oriental Institute, The University of Oxford

- 2021 “Language Teaching Training,” Methodological Tools of a DPhil Student, session III, co-lecture with Dr. Emine Çakır, Lecturer in Turkish, March 5
- 2018 – 2021 “Women in Ferdowsi’s *Shāhnāmeḥ*,” Islamic History & Cultures Lectures for First Year Undergraduates, Hilary Term 2018
- 2018 – 2021 “An Introduction to Persian Literature,” Islamic History & Cultures Lectures for First Year Undergraduates, Hilary Term 2018
- 2017 “Archetypal Qualities of Key Female Characters in Classical Persian Epic Poetry,” Departmental Research Conversation Along with Dr. David Zakarian, Michaelmas Term 2017

Department of NELC, UCLA

- 2015 “Important Historical and Literary Female Figures in Ancient Persia,” Women and Power in the Ancient World, Winter Quarter

SERVICES TO THE UNIVERSITY

2025 – Present	Departmental Lecturer Representative at NELC Faculty Meetings, UCLA
2022 – 2023	Language Teaching Officer (line manager) for all language lecturers in Oriental Studies (OS), Oxford
2021 – 2023	Researcher Representative on the University of Oxford's Race Equality Task Force
2017 – 2023	Teaching Persian Taster Sessions to Prospective Students of OS from Family's with a Low Socio-Economic Background (UNIQ)
2017 – 2023	Persian Program Representative for Prospective Students of OS at Oxford Open Days
2016 – 2023	Persian First Preliminary Exam Coordinator in OS
2016 – 2023	Persian Language Year Abroad Assisting Coordinator in OS
2020 – 2022	Harassment Officer in OS
2016 – 2019	Senior Member of the Oxford University Iranian Society

SERVICES TO PROFESSION

2025 – Present	Assisting graduate students with preparation for their doctoral exams through textual selections, weekly meetings, and review of translation work
2025 – Present	Editor of the Association for Iranian Studies' Quarterly Newsletter
2018 – 2020	Convener of weekly Persian Film Nights for students at the Oriental Institute
2011 – 2013	Student Council Representative, International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS)
2010	Chair of Biennial Conference Registration Committee, ISIS

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2017 – 2019	Award for Excellence in Teaching
2013 – 2014	Roshan Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies, UCLA
2012 – 2013	Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, UCLA
2010 – 2011	Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship in Arabic, UCLA
2008 – 2010	Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, UCLA
2006 – 2008	UCLA Alumni Scholarship, UCLA
2006 – 2008	UC Regents Scholarship, UCLA

RELATED EXPERIENCE

2018	Consultant Translator for The Institute of Ismaili Studies on the Encyclopaedia Islamica Project
2009 – 2015	Editing and Digitisation of Intermediate Persian Texts in Collaboration with the Center for Digital Humanities (CDH) at UCLA
2011 – 2013	Remastering of CDs Accompanying the <i>Proficiency in Persian</i> textbook series in Collaboration with the CDH at UCLA
2009 – 2010	Remastering of “Persian Handwriting” DVD used in UCLA’s Elementary Persian Courses in Collaboration with the CDH at UCLA

LANGUAGES

English	Native
Persian	Native
Spanish	High Intermediate
French	Reading Knowledge
Arabic	Reading Knowledge
German	Reading Knowledge
Middle Persian	One Year of Coursework

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Teachers of Persian (2015 – Present)
 Association for Iranian Studies (2009 – Present)