Programme of the
First AIS Online Symposium
21st and 22nd October 2023

~ Schematic Schedule ~

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Detailed Programme

Day 1: Saturday, 21 October 2023

16:30-17:00: Welcoming Addresses and Opening

- Presidential Welcome by Prof. Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet (16:30-16:40)
- Welcome and Opening: the AIS Online Symposium Committee – Dr. Khodadad Rezakhani (Chair); Dr. Niki Akhavan; and Dr. Amir Moosavi (16:40-16:50)

Panel 1/I/1: Art and Visual Studies

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee

Chair: Amir Moosavi (Rutgers)

Participants

Mandana Naviafar (Duke University)
  - Radiographic Vision and Politics of Visuality in Radiograph of a Family

Negar Habibi (University of Geneva)
  - The Splendour of Persian Art in Geneva: A Forgotten Heritage

Shima Boka (Independent Scholar/University of Art)
  - Establishing a modern style in contemporary Iranian architecture as reflected in the writings of architect Vartan Hovanessian

Katy Shahandeh (SOAS, University of London)
  - The Semiotics of Subversion: Iranian Women Artists Contesting Orientalist Tropes
Panel 2/I/1: Iran’s #MeToo Movement: Confluences of Power and Privilege

Organiser: Maryam Zehtabi (University of Virginia)

Chair: Maryam Zehtabi

Participants

Yalda N. Hamidi (Minnesota State University (MNSU) Mankato)
- Rhetorical Listening to the Iranian #MeToo Movement in Diaspora

Dilyana Mincheva (McMaster University) & Niloofar Hamoon (McMaster University)
- The Iranian #MeToo and the Double Bind of Iranian Feminism: Between Religion, the Global Gender Struggle and Liberal Feminism

Paria Rahimi (Western University)
- #Unveiling_the_Iranian_MeToo_in_Three_Acts: Symptomatic Reading of Iranian MeToo through the Lens of Political Economy

Session II, Day 1: 18:30-20:00 GMT

Panel 1/II/1: Alternative Visions of Modernity

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee

Chair: Robert Steele (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Participants

Boshra Moossavi (Independent Scholar)
- The Idea of Heritage in Nineteenth-Century Iran: Nādir Mīrzā’s Account on Tabriz
Ida Meftahi (Boise State University)

- Rape on Lalehzar Street: Gendering Allied Occupation of Iran, 1941-1945

Pouran Lashini (University of Texas, Dallas)

- The Artistic Influence of Āshūrā in Iran Since the Nineteenth Century

Panel 2/II/1: Roundtable on the Conversion Caucus

Organiser: Ruzbeh Hodiwala (SOAS, University of London)

Moderator: Ruzbeh Hodiwala

Participants

Ana Maria Raietparvar (Universidade Federal Fluminense)
Benedikt Römer (Bundeswehr University, Munich)
Edith Szanto (University of Alabama)
Navid Fozi-Abivard (Bridgewater State University)
Ruzbeh Hodiwala (SOAS, University of London)

Session III, Day 1: 20:00-21:30 GMT

Panel 1/III/1: Iran and the World

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee

Chair: Rowena Abdul Razak (Queen Mary)
Participants

Denis Volkov (HSE University) and Mojgan Samadi (HSE University)
- The Modern Persian vs the New Soviet Man

Matteo Miele (University of Florence)
- An unofficial Chinese mission to Afghanistan in 1939

Sara Zanotta (Università degli Studi di Pavia)
- Iranian Constitutionalists in an Italian Archive

Panel 2/III/1: Social Expressions, from Discontent to Anger

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee

Chair: Janet Afary (UC Santa Barbara)

Participants

Marie Ostby (Connecticut College)
- Translating Iranian Anger

Pouya Nekouei (University of Texas, Austin)
- Gender and singing in Iran During the Pahlavi Period (1940 – 1960)

Navid Zarrinal (Stanford University)
- West Asia, Colonialism, and Intellectuals: The Origins of Iran’s Discourse of Misery

Farinaz Kavianfar (École Pratique des Hautes Études - Université PSL)
- Jami’s Golden Chain: The Role of Timurid Kingship in Human Felicity
Session IV, Day 1: 21:30-23:00 GMT

Panel 1/IV/1: Gender, Choice, and Power

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee
Chair: Lior Sternfeld (Pennsylvania State University)

Participants
Mary Elaine Hegland (Santa Clara University) and Maryam Karimi
  • Widows’ Self-Sufficient Lives in an Iranian Village
Yasmine Ansari (University of Edinburgh)
  • Contraception in Modern Iran
Razieh Araghi (University of Michigan)
  • Translated Role Models for Iranian Women
Jim Bunton (Des Moines Area Community College)
  • Trauma and Memory in Christian Iranian Women’s Memoirs

Panel 2/IV/1: Medieval Arts and Science

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee
Chair: Khodadad Rezakhani

Participants
Ali Olomi (Loyola Marymount University)
  • A Persian Apocalypse: astral sciences, history writing, and identity formation in the Abbasid dynasty
Kaveh Niazi (Independent Scholar)
  • A 13th Century Astronomical Compendium: Athīr al-Dīn Abharī’s Summary of Ptolemy’s the Almagest.
Seddigheh Kardan (McGill University)
  • Passionate Scribe and Prudent Author: ʿAṭṭār-i Tūnī and His Identity
Márton Székely (Eötvös Loránd University)
  • Beyond Dīvān and Tazkira: Ghaznavid Court Poetry in 14-15th Century Jungs

Session V, Day 1: 23:00-00:30 GMT

Panel 1/V/1: Self-Definition, Belonging, and Exclusion

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee
Chair: James Gustafson (Indiana State University)
Participants
Kevan Harris (University of California, Los Angeles)
  • Linguistic homogenization contra ethnic self-identification: New evidence from the Iran Social Survey
Mert Aydemir (Bogazici University)
  • An Alternative Vision for Iranian Identity: The Case of Āsār-e ʿAjam by Forsat al-Dowle Shirazi
Olivia Glombitza (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
Day 2: 22 October 2023
Session I, Day 2: 17:00-18:30 GMT

Panel 1/I/2: Myths and Religions of Iran

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee

Chair: Khodadad Rezakhani

Participants
Gad Barnea (University of Haifa)
  • The Significance of rtacā brzmniy in Xerxes’ Cultic Reform
Taylor Nasim Stone (San Francisco State University)
  • Sacred Snake Blood: The Dualism of Serpent Symbol Context in the Shahnameh and Kurdish Folklore
Farmehr Amirdoost (Concordia University)
  • When Nothing Existed Except Darkness: Temporality In The Third Book Of Dēnkard

Panel 2/I/2: Illuminating the Neglected Gems: Unveiling Untold Aspects of the Kalīla wa Dimna

Organiser: Hamed Nayyeri Adl (University of Göttingen)

Moderator: Hamed Nayyeri Adl
Participants

Hamed NayyeriAdl (University of Göttingen)
- Fictionality of a Preface, its Features and Functions

Hossein (Kaveh) Kardgar (University of Göttingen)
- Kalīla wa Dimna in Nizami’s Romance Khosrow wa Shīrīn

Mohammad Golshan (University of Göttingen)
- Medical Hints in Kalīla wa Dimna

Panel 1/II/2: Politics: Discourses and Practices

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee

Chair: Niki Akhavan (the Catholic University of American)

Participants

Samaneh Oladi (Virginia Commonwealth University)
- Faith-based Activism in the Iranian Sociopolitical Discourse

Camron Michael Amin (University of Michigan-Dearborn), Julio Borquez (University of Michigan-Dearborn) and Razieh Araghi (University of Michigan)
- Iran Specialists in the US Respond to the Muslim Ban, Covid, and Women, Life, Freedom

Parisa Delshad (University of Valladolid)
- “So, You Wanna Be Free?”: A Rhetorical Analysis of Roya Hakakian’s Neoliberal Conceptualization of Freedom
Omer Carmi (Tel Aviv University)
  • "There is No Such a Thing as Shooting an Arrow in the Dark": Khamenei's Concept of Flexibility

Panel 2/II/2: Qajar Images: History and Context

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee
Chair: Negar Habibi (University of Geneva)

Participants
Staci Scheiwiller (California State University, Stanislaus)
  • Harem Politics and Photography: The Photographs of Khanom Bashi
Haleh Hajyasini (University of Art, Tehran)
  • Emergence of Iranian Architectural Historiography in the Qajar Era
Hossein Nakhaei (University of Pittsburgh)
  • Persian Pavilion and British Petroleum:

Session III, Day 2, 20:00-21:30

Panel 1/III/2: Historicizing the #MeToo Movement in Iran and Beyond: Cultural Productions and Digital Media

Organiser: Claudia Yaghoobi (UNC Chapel Hill)
Moderator: Claudia Yaghoobi
Participants

Esha Momeni (University of California, Los Angeles)
- Like a Wrapped Chocolate: The Islamic Republic’s Politics of Hijab and the Normalization of Sexual Harassment

Golnar Gishnizjani (University of Turku)
- Whose Voice Is Missing? MeToo Digital Storytelling on Instagram and the Politics of Inclusion

Yasamin Rezai (University of Miami) & Mehdy Sedaghat Payam (University of Maryland)
- Exploring #MeToo in Iran: Computational Analysis of Twitter Data and Cultural Implications

Janet Afary (University of California, Santa Barbara)
- Patriarchalism, Male Abuse, and the Sources of the #MeToo Movement in the Muslim Middle East

Panel 2/III/2: Visual Culture and Representation

Organiser: AIS Symposium Committee

Chair: Mira Xenia Schwerda (University of Edinburgh)

Participants

Navid Darvishzadeh (Georgia State University)
- Gilles Deleuze and Iranian Modern Cinema: Powers of the False and the Practices of Dissimulation

Maryam Zehtabi (University of Virginia)
- Hush! Girls Don’t Scream (2013) by Puran Derakhshandeh and the #MeToo Movement in Iran

Joanna Azami (Ohio University)
- TBA
Asal Rashid Mahmoodi (University of New South Wales)

- “Vaghti Mard Gham Dare, Ye Kooh Dard Dare”: Gheyrat’s Effects on the Lives of Iranian Men and Women

Panel IV/2: Visualizing Women’s Histories in Iran from the Late Nineteenth Century until Today

Organiser: Belle Cheves and Mira Xenia Schwerda

Chair: Amy Motlagh (University of California, Davis)

Participants

Belle Cheves (Harvard University)
- Sitting on the Peacock Throne: The Queen Mother and Kin(g)ship in the Naseri Era

Natasha Morris (SOAS/Courtauld, University of London)
- The Bibi-Lakkat Complex: Representations of Femininity and Female: Responses to Vice in the Ludic Arts of Qajar Iran

Mira Xenia Schwerda (University of Edinburgh)
- The Counterimage: Visualizing Resistance in Virtual and Physical Space

Claudia Yaghoobi (UNC Chapel Hill)
- Women’s “Micro-rebellions” via Cultural and Artistic Productions

Panel 2/IV/2: Roundtable on Publishing in Iran

Organiser: Laetitia Nanquette (University of New South Wales)
**Moderator:** Laetitia Nanquette

**Participants**

Laetitia Nanquette (University of New South Wales)

Farshad Sonboldel (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Mahdi Ganjavi (Northwestern University)

Borna Izadpanah (University of Reading)

Hosna Sheikholeslami (Denison University)