Dear ISIS Members,

Et voilà the fall 2013 issue of the revived ISIS newsletter.

A new section I would like to draw your attention to, and which we hope to feature regularly from now on, is a list of publications on Iran that have appeared in the recent past both inside the country and outside. The list aims to be as comprehensive as possible.

Other sections you will recognize from our spring newsletter include news on recent library acquisitions and cataloguing developments, awards granted by ISIS and sister organizations, abstracts of recently defended dissertations, grant schemes of relevance to the field, member news, and references to upcoming conferences and meetings.

The newsletter will also be posted at http://iranianstudies.com/about/newsletters, where you will find the entire archive of ISIS newsletters published to date throughout the years.

The next newsletter shall appear in April 2014. Until then, we hope you will enjoy the following pages. Thanks as always are due to all contributors, and in particular to graphic designer Maha Younes, who has once again embedded the text in an aesthetic frame.

We look forward to your contributions to the next issue, and, on that note, invite you to get in touch should you have suggestions on new features to be introduced.

Mirjam Künkler, Princeton University

http://iranianstudies.com/about/newsletters
MEMBER NEWS


The Encyclopaedia Iranica has published Fascicle 2 of Volume XVI in July 2013, available at www.iranicaonline.org


Mohammad T. Imanpour, Associate Professor of History at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, has published The Land Parsa: The first Persian homeland (Lambert Academic Publishing, 2012).

Homa Katouzian is one of the 2013 recipients of the SINA Prize (Spirit of Iranian Noted Achievers – www.sinairan.org). The SINA Award for outstanding Iranian achievers is a way of formally recognizing and honoring Iranians of today who have earned worldwide acclaim for their significant contributions to the world of knowledge through their course of life.

M. Mehdì Khorrani and Robert D. McChesney, as principal investigator, have been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities two-year grant beginning October 1, 2013, in “Scholarly Editions”; for the translation of volume four of Fayz Muhammad Katib Hazarah, Sirdj al-tawârîkh.

Afsaneh Najmabadi, PI of Women’s Worlds in Qajar Iran, received a grant from Roshan Cultural Institute for the development of a Research Platform linked with WWQI site. An article about this digital archive will appear in the November issue of Perspectives, the newsletter of the American Historical Association. Najmabadi published an article titled “Genus Of Sex Or The Sexing Of Jins” in the International Journal of Middle East Studies 45 (2013), 211–231. Her book Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same-Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran will be published by Duke University Press in December 2013.

Alam Saleh, Lecturer in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Bradford, has published Ethnic Identity and the State in Iran, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Iranian Studies, volume 46, number 5, October 2013 has been published: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cist20/current

This issue and the Iranian Studies Journal archives are available to ISIS members by logging into their account on the ISIS website www.iranianstudies.com
REPORT ON RESEARCH TRIP TO ISFAHAN (MAY 2013):

Tracing Nosrat Amin’s Scholarly and Social Activities

Maryam Javanshir Rutner, PhD Candidate at New York University

With the generous financial support from the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (DMG, German Oriental Society), I had the privilege of undertaking a research trip to Isfahan this past summer to investigate the life and works of Nosrat Amin (Banu Isfahani, d. 1983), Iran’s most outstanding mojtaheda of the 20th century. Amin is the main figure in my dissertation project, which broadly deals with Shi’i female religious authority in 20th century Iran.1

Even though at least four popular biographies have been written in Persian about Amin, there still remain many uncertainties about her life, her scholarship, her role as an innovative pedagogue, and her normative commitments. The main goal of the trip to Isfahan was to address these uncertainties by identifying archival resources, collecting testimonies of Amin’s former students, and interviewing contemporaries of Amin.

One of the uncertainties relates to two educational institutions that Amin founded in the 1960s in Isfahan. The biographies as well as my informants have made contradictory assertions as to what actually happened to these institutions after the 1979 revolution. One of the two institutions is Maktab-e Fatemeh, where female students were educated in the Islamic Sciences up to the end of the second (satu) cycle of the three cycles in traditional religious schooling. The other school is the Dabirestan-e Amin, a girls’ high school. During my trip, I was able to locate both institutions, but I could only research the history of the maktab. I plan to visit the dabirestan again during a future search trip.

Amin’s maktab is located in Kuche-ye Amin, behind Bid Abad Bazaar, and it is now in a devastated condition (as can be seen on the picture).2 The current director confirmed that the maktab had been closed down and revived time and again after the revolution; this usually happened after the death of a director or when a director was too old to manage the affairs of the maktab. The maktab opened its doors again in 2012. A ‘faithful member of the neighborhood’, as the director introduced him, currently supports the maktab financially and the director runs its curriculum affairs; which mostly consists of deciding which parts and in which order the Qur’an is being read. She is also one of the very few teachers at the maktab. The teachers are expected to have completed the second level (sath-e dow) of the contemporary degree program at the religious seminary (hawza ‘elmiyyeh) for female students. At present, the maktab offers Qur’an lessons three days a week for two to three hours in the mornings that are mostly frequented by women from the neighborhood. These women are not students (talabeh) enrolled in a degree program of religious sciences, but instead women who wish to be able to read the Qur’an and who otherwise mostly work as housewives.

Apart from researching the post-1979 history of the maktab, I also wished to find out more about the post-revolutionary reception of Amin’s 15-volume tafsir Makhzan al-Irfan, and to this effect investigated whether the tafsir is being read or taught in the maktab today. Apparently, the women at the maktab do not read any tafsir work at all. While this is being done in the religious seminaries that offer degree programs, the director indicated that Amin’s tafsir would not be read there either, neither by male nor female students. Instead, the religious seminaries for women teach either the Nemunah by Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi or al-Mizan by ‘Allameh Tabataba’i. It is interesting to note that Makhzan al-Irfan is believed to be too difficult to teach to female seminary students, but otherwise held to be an ‘irfani (mystical) work for the literate masses (‘amma) by contemporary ‘ulama’ and scholars of religious sciences, whom I have interviewed about Amin’s works. At the same time, these scholars admitted not to have read the work. As of yet, a comprehensive and analytical engagement with Amin’s tafsir does not exist that would shed light on the quality and objectives of Amin’s tafsir. This is one of the lacuna I seek to fill with my dissertation.

1 See also my article forthcoming in the Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies (JMEWS), titled “Nusrat Amin: The Changing Authority of A Female Religious Scholar.”
2 See also the public letter to the Isfahan municipality posted here: http://meis.as.nyu.edu/object/aminmaktab. Please email me at Maryam Rutner mr2842@nyu.edu if you would consider signing it.
Amin Banani, founder of the Iranian Studies Program at UCLA, died July 28 in Santa Monica at the age of 86. In 1991, he helped launch the western world’s first bachelor of arts program in Iranian studies.

An emeritus professor of history and Persian literature, Banani once served as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and acting director of the Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA.

Banani graduated with a major in history from Stanford University in 1947. He obtained his M.A. from Columbia University in 1949 and returned to Stanford for his Ph.D., which he received in 1959.

His academic career began in 1956 when he taught history at the Overseas Program of the University of Maryland in Athens, Greece, until 1958. He became an instructor at Stanford University and then taught as an assistant professor of humanities at Reed College from 1959-61. From 1961-63, he worked as a research fellow and assistant professor at Harvard University.

In September 1963, he was invited to UCLA by Professor Gustave von Grunebaum to establish a program of Persian studies.

Banani served on the Board of Directors of the Middle East Studies Association of North America and on the Executive Council of the Society for Iranian Studies. He was vice president of the American Association of Iranian Studies.


He is survived by his wife Sheila Wolcott, daughters Susanne and Laila, and two grandchildren.

Dr. Nasser Sharify, Dean Emeritus of Pratt Institute and renowned Persian poet and scholar, passed away on August 23, 2013. Sharify, considered a father of International Librarianship, died peacefully, with his daughter and son-in-law at his side.

At the time of his death, Sharify was the Distinguished Professor and Dean Emeritus at the Graduate School of Information and Library Science at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. From 1968-1987 he served as Dean at Pratt. A year later in 1988, Pratt Institute established the Nasser Sharify Lecture Series, which was created to honor Dean Sharify’s 40 years of contributions to library and information science. In 1999, the American Library Association adopted a resolution to express its ‘profound appreciation to Nasser Sharify for his extraordinary and exemplary service to librarianship.’

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NEW IRANIAN STUDIES PROGRAMS AND CENTERS

In February 2012 the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Concordia University in Montréal, Canada voted to establish a Centre for Iranian Studies, the first such formal academic unit at a Canadian university. This initiative built upon an existing Iranian Studies programme established in 2007 with an undergraduate minor in Iranian Studies. The Centre groups together faculty from different departments and disciplines, including the Director, Richard Foltz, who is a cultural historian, Lynda Clarke, who is a specialist in Shi’ism and formerly taught Persian Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, Mark Hale, a linguist specializing in ancient Iranian Languages who previously taught at Harvard, Homa Hoodfar, an anthropologist specializing in women’s studies, and Manya Saadi-nejad, a specialist in Iranian mythology who also teaches Modern Persian. The Centre recently sponsored a public lecture by Dr. John Curtis of the British Museum on the Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia. Currently some 15 MA and PhD students are affiliated with the Centre, a number of whom have been awarded scholarships from the PARSA, Houtan, and Soudavar Foundations.

The Centre for Iranian Studies at Concordia is an institutional member of ISIS and is the main host institution for the 2014 ISIS meeting in Montréal.

AWARDS

New ISIS Dissertation Award

In May 2013 ISIS signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Mehrdad Mashayekhi Foundation to establish the Mehrdad Mashayekhi Dissertation Award. Dr. Mashayekhi (1953-2011) was a sociologist who dedicated his life to the cause of democracy and social justice in Iran. This new dissertation award is presented biannually to the author of an exceptional Ph.D. dissertation dealing with the broad themes of politics and the public sphere in Iran, written in any language. The first Mehrdad Mashayekhi Dissertation Award will be presented at the Opening Reception of the Tenth ISIS Biennial Conference in Montreal, Canada (August 2014). The award ceremony. The members of the award committee are Farideh Farni (Chair; University of Hawai’i at Manoa), Ali Akbar Mahdi (California State University, Northridge) and Charles Kurzman (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). ISIS is now calling for nominations for dissertations completed in Winter 2010-Fall 2013. SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2014. To nominate a dissertation for this award, visit http://iranianstudies.com/awards/bestDissertation

The Rahim M. Irvani Dissertation Award is presented biennially to the author of an exceptional PhD dissertation on Persian literature and its cognate fields, written in any language. Established by Zinat Irvani in memory of her philanthropist husband, in addition to a cash prize, this award also includes the option of a contract for the publication of the revised and peer-reviewed manuscript by I.B. Tauris. ISIS is now calling for nominations for dissertations completed between Winter 2012-Fall 2013. The second Rahim Irvani Award will be presented at the Opening Reception of the Tenth ISIS Biennial Conference (August 2014) in Montreal, Canada. Nominators should be the thesis supervisor or member of the thesis committee. SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2014. To nominate a dissertation for this award, visit http://iranianstudies.com/awards/bestDissertation

The Ehsan Yarshater Book Award is to advance the scholarship on Ancient Iranian Civilization and its cognate fields. Professor Ehsan Yarshater is an internationally recognized scholar who has made a major contribution to the field of Iranian Studies. The ISIS Council designated Professor Yarshater an honorary member in 1999. To nominate a book for this award, visit http://iranianstudies.com/awards/ehsanYarshater

The Latifeh Yarshater Award was instituted by the Persian Heritage Foundation to honor the memory of Latifeh Yarshater and her lifelong dedication to the improvement of Iranian women’s human rights. The purpose of the award is to encourage scholarship in Iranian Studies focused on the condition of women in Persian speaking societies and to promote women’s rights in these societies. To nominate a scholar for this award, visit http://iranianstudies.com/awards/latifehYarshater

VISIT THE NEW FACEBOOK PAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES AT:
HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INTERNATIONALSOCIETYFORIRANIANSTUDIES
PHD DISSERTATIONS (recently completed or about to complete)

Sara Sajoughi, PhD candidate in the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota is writing a dissertation titled “Burning Visions: The Iranian New Wave and the Politics of the Image, 1962-1979.” For the 2013-2014 academic year, the research is being supported by a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship. The dissertation focuses particularly on the New Wave’s expression of social antagonism in Iran. Through formal analyses of key New Wave films by figures such as Forough Farrokhzad, Fereydoun Rahnema, Parviz Kimiavi, and Kamran Shirdel, this project demonstrates that the New Wave draws on centuries of varied media practices in order to put forth its own intermedial history of art and antagonism. The dissertation argues that the formal experimentation evident during this period challenges the reigning discourses within which Iranian cinema has been understood, namely realism, narrative art cinema, and theories of national cinema. The project offers both a new theory of cinema and a social history of contemporary Iranian visual culture.

Shawhin Roudbari


Shawhin’s dissertation explores ways migration, travel, and globally circulating media affect modern Iranian architecture through its professional associations, publications, awards, and competitions. After providing a history of transnationalism in the founding of Iran’s modern architecture profession, the dissertation investigates ways architects were persecuted during the revolution and how the subsequent political isolation of Iran inhibited the advance of design practice through the 1990s. The dissertation then examines how global networks of Iranian architects mobilized domestic institutions and external networks to usher a rapid, unbridled expansion of the field with its attending promises and pitfalls. It is argued that the sudden exposure to global networks of design practice have disrupted structures of authority in Iran’s profession and that the case of Iran uniquely highlights a breakdown of hierarchy in the architecture profession globally. Shawhin hopes to expand his research on transnationalism, migration, and professional institutions when he joins the faculty at the University of Colorado at Boulder as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Environmental Design in spring 2014. See also shawhinroudbari.com.

NEW MAGAZINE

Cine-eye, a Persian-language cultural magazine was launched in Toronto earlier this year. It is edited by Iranian film critic Parviz Jahed and has published four issues so far. More information at:

https://www.facebook.com/CineEyeMagazine
SIXTH ASPS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Report on the Sixth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), held September 2-6, 2013 in Sarajevo

Dubbed “an historic event the likes of which shall occur every 100 years in Sarajevo,” Sarajevo hosted the past ASPS biennial conference in which a great number of highly acclaimed international scholars from over 20 countries, as well as some of the most prestigious academic institutions from Asia, Europe and North America participated. Especially noteworthy was the truly international presence of scholars from the Persianate world, which besides scholars from the US and Europe included colleagues from Armenia, Georgia, Tajikistan, India, Iran, and of course Bosnia-Herzegovina. ASPS/SARAJEVO 2013 hosted around 46 panels and close to 250 participants. The conference show-cased a rich array of scholarly papers, presented by some of the most renowned as well as younger scholars in the field of Persianate studies.

ASPS/SARAJEVO 2013 was the result of collaboration between ASPS and its hosts and co-sponsors in Sarajevo. Foremost amongst these latter were the Bosniak Institute, Adil Zulfikarpašić Foundation, Sarajevo, which, under the directorship of Ms. Amina Rizvanbegović-Džudžić, graciously provided the conference with the historic and exquisite site of the Bosniac Institute as a venue. Another important partner and one of the main sponsors of the Conference was the Oriental Institute, Sarajevo, under the directorship of Dr. Behija Zlatar, which provided logistic and administrative support.

ASPS/Sarajevo 2013 was also most fortunate in obtaining the co-sponsorship of the Gazi Husrev Beg Library, which under the directorship of Mr. Mustafa Jahić, and Mr. Osman Lavić, its librarian, show-cased an exhibition, held throughout the conference, of some of the most unique, early modern, Persian manuscripts, from amongst thousands, currently held at the Gazi Husrev Beg library. The participants were especially impressed by the great wealth and number of early modern manuscripts held at the Gazi Husrev Beg library, and the knowledge that the participants garnered of the very existence of this rich treasure of Persian MSS. in Sarajevo, has already paved the way for research possibilities for the participants in the Gazi Husrev Beg library. The library also graciously opened the doors of its small and exquisite museum to the participants of the Conference for duration of the conference. Throughout the Conference, the Bosniac Institute also show-cased a small collection of its rare Persian MSS., numbered close to a thousand in total, for the benefit of participants, which was held at the beautiful Ottoman hamam of the Bosniac Institute. Among other highlights of the Conference was also an exhibition of exquisite Sarajevan calligraphy, which was opened on Sept. 3rd in the Gazi Husrev Beg Khaneqah, and a book exhibit, held at the Bosniac Institute.

ASPS/SARAJEVO 2013, was honored to have the co-sponsorship of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sarajevo; St. Anthony Franciscan Monastery, Sarajevo; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Ministry of Culture, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Honorable Professor Doctor Ivo Komšić, Mayor of Sarajevo; the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the honorable Salmir Kaplan, Minister, and finally the Academy of Fine Arts, Sarajevo, and professor Cazim Hadžimejić.

Professor Said Amir Arjomand, who functioned as the Master of Ceremonies, began the Inaugural Night of the Conference with highlighting the achievements of ASPS in launching one of the largest ASPS conferences in the history of the Association. Ms. Amina Rizvanbegović-Džudžić, the Director of the Bosniac Institute, delivered a speech wherein she detailed the fascinating history of the Bosniac Institute and its founder, Adil Zulfikarpašić and the Adil Zulfikarpaslic Foundation. Dr. Ahmed Zildžić, recently appointed Regional Director of the ASPS in the Balkans (Oriental Institute, Sarajevo) and Professor Snježana Buzov, both also members of the Board of Directors of ASPS and the Chairs of the Host Committee of the Organization of the Conference, followed suit, with Dr. Zildžić providing the audience with the history of the destructions wrought on the Oriental Institute and its extensive Persian manuscript collections during the war years, and its revival in its aftermath.

Professor Salma Faroqui then delivered a Memorandum by Vice Chankellor, Professor Mohammad Myian, in which the details of a new and unprecedented, Visiting Scholar Fellowship (to be announced in upcoming months), and the collaboration between MANUU and ASPS were outlined.

By far one of the greatest highlights of ASPS/SARAJEVO 2013 was the Association’s unique and unprecedented ceremonies for honoring and paying tribute to the leading fiction-writer of 20th and 21st centuries Iran, Mr. Mahmoud Dowlatabadi. The event was organized through the Artistic Directorship of Ms. Ariana Barkeshi, the Iranian “Keyboard Scheherazade,” and the Artistic Director of the Conference. Following the introduction by the Master of Ceremonies of the Tribute Night, Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Mr. Dowlatabadi delivered a key-note speech, Words Etched in Rock, The Artist’s View of His Life and Art, where the audience was captivated by a poignant and touching piece, composed and read by the writer, of his life and work. Maestro Ariana Barkeshi’s brilliant performance of pieces by modern Iranian composers, Aminollah Hossein and Alireza Mashayeki, then alternated with readings of excerpts of the work of Mr. Dowlatabadi by the writer himself.

The renowned Persian classical vocalist and musician, Ms. Sepideh Raissadat, and her ensemble, Mr. Pasha Karami and Mr. Iman Vaziri joined the eastern musical tradition with that of the Balkans, with the performance of the celebrated Amira Medunjanin, on Sept. 5th, for a memorable night of music. On Sept. 6th, a substantial number of the participants joined on the trip that ASPS/SARAJEVO had organized to the beautiful Persianate city, of Mostar, where, on the way, they also paid a visit to a beautiful khaneqah near the city and had lunch (trotul) by the river. Parvaneh Pourhariati, ASPS President
The Foundation for Iranian Studies has conferred its 2012 award for the best Ph.D. Dissertation on a Topic of Iranian Studies to D. Gershon Lewental’s dissertation “Qâdisiyyah, then and now: A case study of history and memory, religion, and nationalism in Middle Eastern discourse,” submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences at Brandeis University.

In making its decision, the Committee noted that D. Gershon Lewental has made an “exceptional contribution to the field of Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies” by, among other achievements, “stating clearly the study’s problematic… constructing an adequate and efficient theoretical framework… developing and using successfully a rigorous methodology to bring together a significant array of primary and secondary sources, including several hitherto unknown or unpublished sources, to support an innovative approach to the study of history and historiography in general and of the Middle East in particular, using the Battle of Qâdisiyyah as a case… meticulously comparing sources on Qâdesiyyah selected judiciously from different ethnic, linguistic, social, and cultural milieus at successive historical periods to elucidate the impact of ideology, religion, and politics on shaping facts, structuring literature, and creating and imprinting history, signifying that good scholarship ought to view, treat, assess, and produce history critically… identifying openings to further study of the evolution of Islam, ethnicity and nationalism in Iran, the Middle East, and beyond… excellent organization of the work.”

The Committee also cited Alireza Mohammadi Doostdar’s dissertation “Fantasies of Reason: Science, Superstition, and the Supernatural in Iran” submitted to the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, and Matthew Melvin-Koushki’s dissertation “The Quest for a Universal Science: The Occult Philosophy of Sa’in al-Din Turka Isfahani (1369-1432) and Intellectual Millenarianism in Early Timurid Iran” submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School, Yale University, with honorable mention for superior scholarship, originality, clarity, and significant contribution to Iranian Studies.

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THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES (ISIS)

TENTH BIENNIAL IRANIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE
Montréal, Québec, Canada, Hilton Bonaventure Hotel
Wednesday August 6, 2014- Sunday August 10, 2014

PROGRAM CHAIR’S UPDATE:

The ISIS Call for Papers for its 10th Biennial Conference, to be held in Montreal in 2014, had a robust response: By June 30, 2013—the deadline for the submission of proposals—we had received over 400 proposals from individual participants, roughly half of which were for presentations in pre-organized panels.

In preparation for the adjudication process, the proposals were divided into the following broad categories: 01—Religion; 02—Political science, economics, social studies; 03—History and historiography; 04—Literature; 05—Linguistics; 06—Art, architecture, urban planning; 07—Cinema, media, communications; 08—Culture, science, education; 09—Gender; 10—Diaspora; 11—Pre-Islamic legacies. These proposals were assigned for assessment to the members of the Program Committee—twenty-nine highly regarded scholars from across the globe, whose research covers the disciplines listed above.

The reviews were conducted “blindly”, through the newly-refurbished adjudication system on the ISIS website, created and managed by our Web designer Pendar Yousefi. It allows reviewers long-distance access to the abstracts, but keeps confidential the personal information of the applicants (name, status, academic affiliation, country of residence), to ensure the impartiality of the assessments.

The deadline for submitting the reviews was September 30, 2013. All assessments are now in our system, and we are embarking on the next stage of the adjudication process: namely, the processing of the assessment results and drawing up a list of selected candidates. This selection is done on the bases of the adjudication ratings of the applicants’ proposals, and taking into account the limitations of space and time, which the Conference schedule imposes on us. We hope to be able to announce the results of the selection process towards the end of October or early November.

All applicants will receive in their ISIS My Accounts a notification regarding the outcome of the adjudication, and the status of their proposal. A list of candidates, selected for participation in the conference, will also be posted on the ISIS website. The names and academic affiliations of the Program Committee members will be made public at the same time. The publication of the results will also be announced by e-mail, through the ISIS group list.

Marta Simitchieva  •  2014 ISIS Conference, Program Chair

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF IRANIAN STUDIES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Persian Language Study in Tehran

AlIrS offers two-month fellowships for advanced language study in Tehran at the Dehkhoda Institute. Applicants must be U.S. citizens who are enrolled in a Doctoral or Masters program in the humanities or social sciences, have an approved research topic that requires use of Persian, and have completed at least one full academic year of Persian language study. Applications must include a curriculum vitae and be made in the form of a letter, giving the following information: citizenship; research plans; level of Persian attained and what degree of proficiency is required; academic affiliation and status (stage of progress towards the doctorate); names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees (including the primary academic advisor). Referees should e-mail their letters of recommendation directly to AlIrS and include mention of relevance of Persian to the dissertation; evaluation of the project and how study in Iran will enhance dissertation work; student’s level of maturity and adaptability to conditions in Iran. The deadline for receiving applications is January 10. The deadline for receiving letters of recommendation is January 15. Please check with AlIrS for program information before applying for this grant. ais@nyc.rr.com

Pre-doctoral Dissertation Research in Iranian Studies

AlIrS offers fellowships for one- to two-month research travel to countries with resources essential to the dissertation. These fellowships enable students in the field of Iranian Studies to acquaint themselves with the range of academic activities and resources in relevant foreign countries. It is the responsibility of the applicant to receive permission to conduct the intended research from the pertinent authorities prior to making the application. Applicants must be U.S. citizens who are enrolled in a Doctoral program in the humanities or social sciences and have an approved research topic. Applications must include a curriculum vitae and be made in the form of a letter, giving the following information: citizenship; research plans; academic affiliation and status (stage of progress towards the doctorate); names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees (including the primary academic advisor). Referees should e-mail their letters of recommendation directly to AlIrS and include an evaluation of the project and how study at the particular foreign resource(s) will enhance dissertation work. The deadline for receiving applications is January 10. The deadline for receiving letters of recommendation is January 15. Applications should be e-mailed to: ais@nyc.rr.com
Short-term Senior Fellowships in Iranian Studies

AIIrS offers short-term senior fellowships for research travel to Iran of up to four weeks' duration but will also consider short-term visits to other countries with resources essential to the research. These fellowships enable established scholars with research interests in the field of Iranian Studies to acquaint themselves with the range of academic activities and resources in Iran or relevant other countries. It is the responsibility of the applicant to receive permission to conduct the intended research from the pertinent Iranian or other-country authorities prior to making the application. Authors must be U.S. citizens and preference will be given to tenured faculty members and museum staff with some knowledge of Persian and a record of research in the humanities or the social sciences relating to Iran. Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a letter explaining why the opportunity afforded by the fellowship would benefit the applicant's work. Also included must be the names and addresses of the relevant contacts in Iran who have provided permission to research; the names and e-mail addresses of two referees and a curriculum vitae. Please specify preferred dates of travel. Applications should be e-mailed to: aii@nyc.rr.com

Senior Fellowships for Iranian Scholars

AIIrS offers senior fellowships for a period of up to three months for established scholars in Iran with research interests in the field of Iranian Studies to acquaint themselves with the range of academic activities and resources in the U.S. and work collaboratively with U.S. scholars. Applicants must be Iranian citizens and preference will be given to tenured faculty members and museum staff with English fluency, a record of research in the humanities or the social sciences relating to Iran, and publications in scholarly journals. Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a curriculum vitae and a letter explaining why the applicant's project and the opportunity of pursuing research in the United States (citing names of specific libraries, archival collections and/or conferences that will have a direct bearing on the research) would enhance the results. The applicant should also include three letters of reference from colleagues well-acquainted with the applicant's work, including at least one reference from the applicant's home institution. Preference will be given to applicants providing the names of relevant contacts in the U.S. who have extended an invitation and permission to conduct the research, and copies of such letters of invitation/permission should be submitted along with the application. Please specify preferred dates of travel. Applications should be submitted at least eight months prior to desired travel dates and should be e-mailed to: aii@nyc.rr.com

Conference Attendance Fellowships for Iranian Scholars

AIIrS offers fellowships for short visits for Iranian scholars with research interests in the field of Iranian Studies to deliver papers at conferences in the U.S. Applicants must be Iranian citizens and preference will be given to tenured faculty members and museum staff with English fluency, a record of research in the humanities or the social sciences relating to Iran, and publications in scholarly journals. Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a curriculum vitae and a letter explaining the applicant's paper topic and how the opportunity of attending the conference would benefit the research and the conference. The applicant must include a letter of invitation from the conference mentioning the topic of the paper to be delivered. Applications should be submitted at least eight months prior to desired travel dates and should be e-mailed to: aii@nyc.rr.com • Website: www.simorgh-aiis.org

BRISMES Annual Conference 2014, 14-16 June, University of Sussex

The British Society for Middle Eastern Studies calls for submissions for its 2014 annual conference, which will be held at the University of Sussex on 14-16 June 2014. The deadline for submitting paper and panel proposals is 5 December 2013. Proposals must be no longer than 250 words and submitted electronically via the conference website www.brismes2014.co.uk. Proposals for complete panel sessions are particularly welcome. There will be a number of dedicated, professional development and policy-relevant sessions. Please feel free to communicate ideas for these sessions via the conference website. For further information and the Meeting Theme, “The Middle East in Global Perspective: Interactions Across Time and Space”, please visit the conference website www.brismes2014.co.uk.

Northeastern Illinois University to Name Hall After Late Prime Minister Mossadegh

Chicago—Northeastern Illinois University will make history when it names a student area in its College of Business and Management Building in honor of the late Iranian Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh on Oct. 5. This is the first time a university has honored the prime minister. The hall, which will be named Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh Servant Leaders Hall, is a gathering place for Northeastern students, faculty and staff and is used for many events and receptions throughout the year. Along with naming the hall, Northeastern Illinois University has established an endowed student scholarship and lecture fund under the name of the former prime minister. For more information, see http://www.neiu.edu/About%20NEIU/NEIU%20Foundation/MMLF/About/About_Dr_Mossadegh_Campaign.html.
POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant Professor of Contemporary Iran. Indiana University, Bloomington, Central Eurasian Studies Department, seeks a tenure-track Assistant Professor of contemporary Iran with disciplinary specialization in anthropology or sociology.

Applicants should have a strong record in the study of issues within Iranian societies during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Native or near-native fluency in Persian/Farsi is expected as is fieldwork in Iran and/or among Iranian diasporas. Proficiency in other Iranian, Central Asian, and European languages will be valuable.

Candidates should have the Ph.D. at time of appointment and demonstrate commitment to research, teaching, and working on program development with Indiana University’s world-class faculty of Iranian and Central Asian studies.

The appointment will begin fall 2014. Application materials, including a cover letter, CV, three reference letters, samples of published or in-press work, and teaching evaluations should be submitted online at http://indiana.peopleadmin.com/postings/.

Inquiries and any hard copy submissions can be directed to:
Ms. Jackie Breeding CEUS, Goodbody Hall 157, 1011 East Third St., Bloomington, IN 47405-7005 or jmbreedi@indiana.edu.

Applications received by November 30, 2013 are assured full consideration.

ISIS-SPONSORED PANEL AT MESA

ISIS is interested in sponsoring one or two pre-organized panels at next year’s Middle East Studies Association Conference which will be held in Washington, DC November 22-25, 2014. If you are interested in putting together such a panel, please contact ISIS President Mehrzad Boroujedi at mborouje@syr.edu

WORKSHOP

‘Of Ālimahs, Muhaddithahs, and Mujtahidahs’: “The Past and Present of Female Religious Authority in Shi‘i Islam” Princeton University, 6-8 March 2014

Conveners: Mirjam Künkler (Princeton University, USA) and Keiko Sakurai (Waseda University, Japan)

We invite paper proposals that focus on Shi‘ite female religious authority across any time period. The workshop has the aim of taking stock of the research developments in this field and establishing a research network of those scholars working on the issue in diverse geographic environments and across various time frames. The network can then identify possibilities and occasions for further research collaborations and the development of larger, comparative and inter-disciplinary research projects incorporating the findings developed here.

Deadline for proposals 1 November 2013
The call for papers is posted at: http://www.kikou.waseda.ac.jp/ias/data/files/CIPFemRelAuth.pdf
The New Series also contains numerous collections of poetry by both famous and lesser known poets in Persian. The entire works of Tughrayi Mashhadi are collected in a two-volume manuscript dated 1696 (no. 372-373), and there is an autograph collection of the poems of Musahibi Na’ini, written in 1893-1902 (no. 132). While there is ample representation of poets hailing from Persia, there are also manuscripts of Persian poetry by Indian poets, such as Ghanimat (no. 2065) and Ghaws (no. 2068). Also worth mentioning is the small collection of Ottoman Turkish poetry, which includes the Tale of Seyfûlmulûk by an unknown author (no. 1585).

While the bulk of the series is comprised of Shi’ite works and Persian poetry, there are substantial holdings in medicine, history, grammar, lexicology, astronomy, astrology, occultism, Sufism, and Sunni law. For example, Bektashi Sufi doctrine and practice is addressed by a collection of Ottoman Turkish texts which includes the Fakname attributed to Ja’far al-Sadiq (no. 2043), and in Persian of Indian origin are several commentaries by Parvanah Shah on the Siraj-i anjan, a Sufi treatise written by Muhammad Siraj Allah and Abd Siraj al-Rahman (no. 1794, no. 1812, and no. 1853). The tradition of illumination is well-attested in the series, a striking example being a richly illuminated copy of the Mi’at kalimah with interleaver Persian translation (no. 710). Additionally, a few manuscripts contain miniatures, such as Layla va Majnun by Hatifi (no. 1585) and a Persian translation of the Ramayana (no. 1751).

For more information about the cataloging, contact Denise L. Soufi, Islamic Manuscripts Cataloger, at delsoufi@princeton.edu; for information about the overall project, contact Don C. Skemer, Curator of Manuscripts, at dcskemer@princeton.edu

**LIST OF BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON IRAN**


Griffiths, Rudyard; Charles Krauthammer; Amos Yadlin; Fareed Zakaria; Seyyed Vâli Reza Nasr (eds.). Can the World Tolerate an Iran with Nuclear Weapons?: The Munk Debate on Iran. Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 2013.


