



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

انجمن بین المللی ایران شناسی

www.iranianstudies.com

ISIS Newsletter | Volume 34, Number 4 | October 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear ISIS Members,

The Fall newsletter bears a number of new and interesting features – beginning with a photo essay by female Singaporean photographer, Zann Huizhen Huang who recently traveled through Iran, a research report on the correlation between election outcomes and oil politics, the report on the Society's successful 2014 biennial conference just held in Montréal, member news, calls for submissions, and alerts of upcoming events. Sadly, it also features the last note of our outgoing president Mehrzad Boroujerdi, whose term has been one of the most active in the history of the organization.

For the next issue, due to be out in May 2015, we once again ask for submissions – research reports are particularly welcome.

As usual, this newsletter will also be posted at <http://iranianstudies.com/about/newsletters>, where you will find the entire archive of ISIS newsletters published to date.

Thank you to all those who contributed.

Mirjam Künkler, Princeton University

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

My term as President of the International Society for Iranian Studies will end shortly as my good friend Touraj Atabaki takes the helm. I want to use this opportunity to report on some of the accomplishments of the last two years, and there is no better place to do so than on the pages of the ISIS newsletter that we revived in June 2013 after a nine year hiatus. During my tenure, we managed to put online the entire archive of this newsletter spanning 35 years (1969-2004) as well as the Society's biennial conference programs dating back to 1998. Our organization's outreach was enhanced by creating a new Facebook page in May 2013 that has so far been liked by over 1,800 people, and, in tandem, we made numerous improvements to our website (listing all honorary and life members, former Presidents, as well as past award recipients, adding videos and photos, and facilitating online nominations for all awards, etc.).

The Society has now set a record for its regular membership (see chart on next page) and the number of institutional members increased fourfold.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2014

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- RIVANNE SANDLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & TREASURER
- HOMA KATOUIAN
JOURNAL EDITOR
- HOUCANG CHEHABI
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COUNCIL 2014

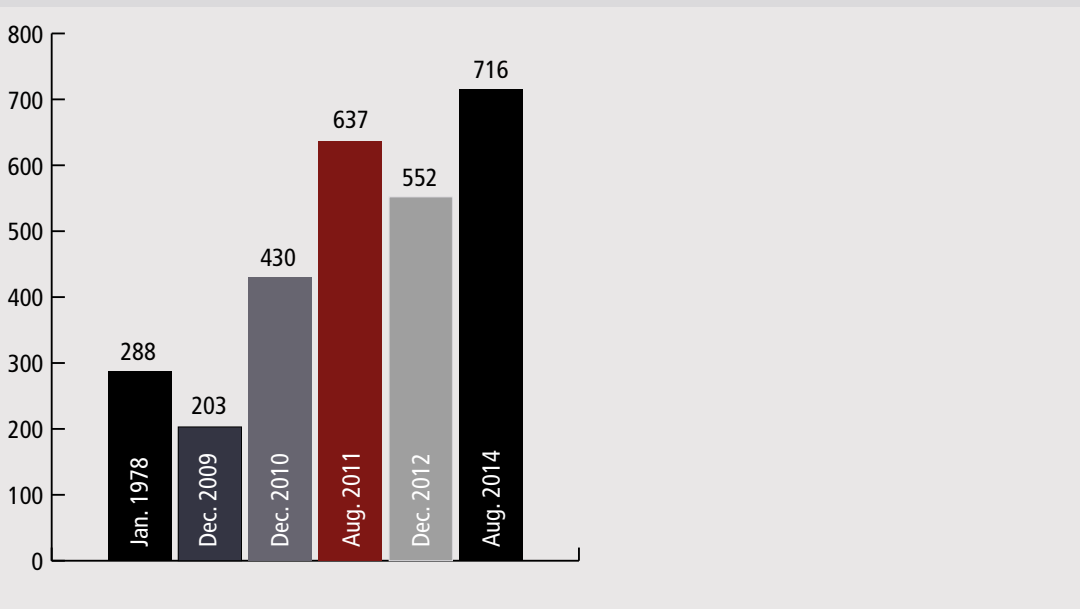
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PRESIDENT’S NOTE CONT’D

As the data below shows, we currently have a healthy mix of members, and we should be able to improve these numbers in the coming years given the increasing interest in the field of Iranian Studies.



MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE (AS OF AUGUST 2014)

Type	Number	% of Total
Individual*	311	43%
Student	250	35%
Independent Scholar	93	13%
Lifetime	36	5%
Institutional	26	4%
Total	716	100%

*excluding students, independent scholars and lifetime members

Our recent conference in Montreal was the second largest in the history of our organization, and it was enjoyable and a great success (see the conference chair’s report in this newsletter).

Iranian Studies, volume 47, number 6, 2014 has been published. 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

ISIS CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE DATA

Year	Location	# of Panels	# of Presenters
1998	Bethesda	34	154
2000	Bethesda	48	222
2002	Bethesda	50	168
2004	Bethesda	45	202
2006	London	80	335
2008	Toronto	71	177
2010	Santa Monica	65	319
2012	Istanbul	112	442
2014	Montreal	100	424

One of my most important tasks as President was to try and codify rules and procedures to establish greater uniformity and transparency. Toward that end, during my tenure we adopted written policies on the appointment of honorary members and established guidelines for choosing Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. Furthermore, a set of bylaws for our journal, *IRANIAN STUDIES*, has been drafted and will be put to a vote next month during the ISIS Council meeting at MESA. A renewal contract will also be signed with Taylor & Francis, which publishes our journal.

There are other positive things to report. We finally managed to make the number of our Council Members consistent with what is stipulated in our Constitution, added a new dissertation award (named after the late Mehrdad Mashayekhi), supported a record number of graduate students to attend the Montreal conference, and chose Vienna as the venue for our 2016 biennial conference. Thanks to donations and prudent financial oversight, our organization is also in good financial shape (see Treasurer’s Report in this newsletter).

As I hand over things to Touraj, I feel pleased about all that the Society has accomplished over the last couple of years and want to express my sincere thanks to every one of you, and in particular my thanks to Homa Katouzian (journal editor), Mirjam Künkler (newsletter editor), Rivanne Sandler (Executive Director), and Marta Simidchieva (Program Chair of the Montreal conference).

I look forward to seeing many of you during our General Meeting on November 22 at 6:30 P.M. at Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Park Tower Suite 8216 (L) during the MESA conference.

Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Syracuse University

IMPRESSIONS FROM MARIVAN, KERMAN, SHAHR-E-KORD, ESFAHAN, AND QOM, 2006-2012

A photoessay by Zann Huizhen Huang

My interest in Iran was first sparked by the media attention surrounding its ambiguous nuclear programme in 2006. As a self-funded photographer who was still fresh and green in the field, I thought Iran was an ideal place to build my portfolio of work among a Southeast Asian audience. On what would be the first of many trips there in the subsequent years, I realized this would prove true. Iran's multi-dimensional diversity is not adequately represented in the international media. I was determined to show a different side through images that defy conventions.

As a sole female traveller, I often got invited into homes. It was indeed a rare privilege for me to witness a *Naqshbandi* ritual in the county of Marivan in the Kurdish heartlands of Iran. While the female members of the family had to leave the room where the trance took place, I was especially invited to photo-document the entire ritual. It was an honor to witness the following scenes, usually reserved for the initiated only – a 14-year-old boy swallowing broken pieces of glass, a man pointing a dagger at his eyeball, and a whole group of men chanting 'Allahu Akbar' while they bowed up and down with their long hair.

The second photo was taken during the same trip. It shows a group of women covered from head to toe in black chadors, paddling in a 'swan boat' on a hot summer's day on Lake Zarivar, also in the county of Marivan. I wanted to capture this scene in both its comedy and serenity.

Under Iranian law, male and female are often segregated in public domains such as trains, buses and mosques. It is considered taboo for an unrelated male and female to strike up conversations in public. However, an interesting scene caught my eye in the city of Qom: a group of women in chador were seen temporarily 'communicating with their eyes' with some men.



The majority of Iran's population is made up of young people under the age of 30. This is the generation that has been exposed to MTV and the internet. Some young people, especially women, try to rebel against the regime by pushing the boundaries of what is deemed acceptable public behaviour. In this photo, a woman is seen kissing a man (both unmarried) in a *chāykhāneh* (traditional teahouse) in Kerman.



In this photo taken in Esfahan, I chanced upon a religious play being performed in *Naqsh-e Jahān* square. All actors were men, some also playing women's roles, as was the case in this scene.





In the summer of 2009 when the Green Movement erupted which saw many protestors taking to the streets after the election fallout, I saw two torn posters of the presidential candidates Mousavi and Ahmadinejad superimposed on one another on a tree trunk. This image was taken in Shahr-e Kord.

As a lone female traveller from Singapore, I often attracted a lot of curiosity in Iran. During my multiple trips from 2006-2012, my eyes had seen wondrous sights and I was showered with much hospitality and kindness. I hope the photographs impart these sentiments.

Zann Huizhen Huang began her first serious foray into photojournalism after the tsunami in January 2005. In 2007, she became the field editor (Middle East) for the Asian Geographic magazine.

Zann has covered humanitarian and socio-political issues in Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Laos, Sri Lanka, China, Turkey, Tunisia, Thailand and the Philippines. Her works have been published in Time magazine, Le Monde, Geo Italia, L'expresso etc. Her works have garnered awards such as the UNICEF Photographer of the Year Award 2007 (Honourable Mention) and Le Grand Prix Carre International du Reportage Humainitaire Award 2007 - Top 5 finalists.

Zann Huizhen Huang can be reached at eyeofzann@yahoo.com, and on LinkedIn. Some of her photographs can be viewed [here](#).

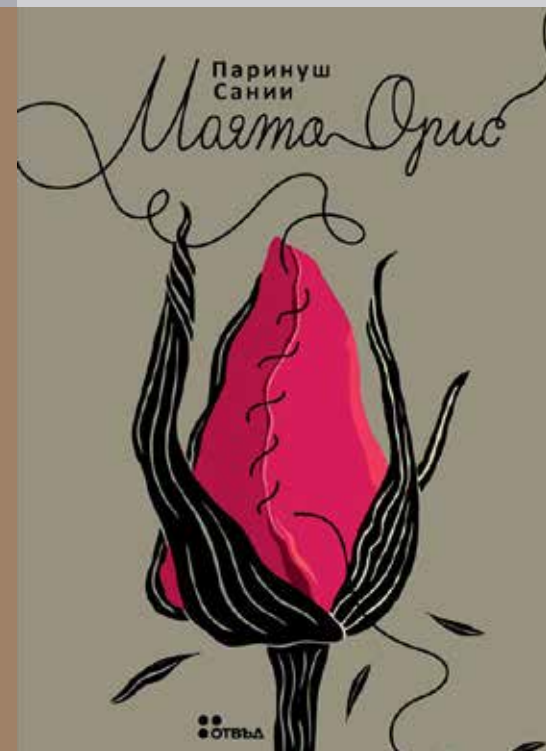
PARINOUSH SANIEE IN BULGARIAN

Iranian writer Parinoush Saniee, author of the international bestseller *Sahm-e man* (tr. into English by Sara Khalili as *The Book of Fate*) attended the launching of the Bulgarian translation of her book in Sofia this past June.

First published in 2003 in Iran by Ruzbehan publications, *Sahm-e man* has since been translated into more than 20 languages, earning the prestigious Giovanni Boccaccio Literary prize for best foreign writer in 2010.

Translated into Bulgarian by Ludmila Yaneva and published by the publishing house "Janet 45", the novel, which spans the life story of an Iranian woman during the last 50 years of Iran's turbulent history, was greeted with lively interest by literary critics and the media. At the publisher's invitation, Parinoush Saniee arrived in Bulgaria on June 25, 2014 to present the book to the larger public at the official book launches in the cities of Sofia and Plovdiv, and through interviews on the cultural programs of two Bulgarian TV channels and several radio stations.

"I wanted to introduce to the reader a generation of Iranian women, with all the difficulties they encounter," stated the author. "The book draws on my experiences and observations as a practicing sociologist; observations which, distilled into a work of fiction, are likely to reach a much larger audience than the dry exposition of a research paper."



MEMBER NEWS

Roham Alvandi has published *Nixon, Kissinger, and the Shah: The United States and Iran in the Cold War*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Omid Azadibougar's book *The Persian Novel Ideology, Fiction and Form in the Periphery* was published by Rodopi, 2014.

Mehrzaad Boroujerdi became Chair of the Political Science Department at Syracuse University. He also received two grants from Syracuse University and the Carnegie Corporation of New York to organize an international symposium on *Iranian Nuclear Negotiation Strategy* at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC (October 2014).

Mohammad Ali Kadivar's article "Alliances and Perception Profiles in the Iranian Reform Movement, 1997 to 2005" was published in the *American Sociological Review* 78(6):1063–86.

Shivan Mahendrarajah was awarded a John F. Richards Fellowship by the *American Institute of Afghanistan Studies* to commence work on a history of Herat in the Mongol period (ca. 1220 to ca. 1381). Dr. Mahendrarajah will hold the fellowship at the University of Cambridge where he recently completed his dissertation, "The Sufi Shaykhs of Jam: A history, from the Il-Khans to the Timurids." The monograph is based in part on the dissertation, and will explicate social and economic aspects of Herat's renaissance.

Sahar Maranlou has published the book *Access to Justice in Iran: Women, Perceptions and Reality*, Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Kamran Matin's book *Recasting Iranian Modernity: International Relations and Social Change* was published in Routledge's Iranian Studies Series, 2013. Matin also published an introductory piece on *Recasting Iranian Modernity* on BBC Persian website, an interview about *Recasting Iranian Modernity* with *Jadaliyya*, which includes excerpts from the book, and *Sharg* daily newspaper (Iran) which published the Persian translation of an abridged version of Chapter 3 in its August 2014 supplement devoted to the anniversary of the Constitutional Revolution.

Vera Basch Moreen published *Catalog of Judeo-Persian Manuscripts in the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America*. Leiden and Boston: Brill 2015. The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York, will hold a book launch on October 23, 2014, at 6:00 PM, along with a small exhibit of its Judeo-Persian manuscripts.

Ali Mozaffari's book *Forming National Identity in Iran: The Idea of Homeland Derived from Ancient Persian and Islamic Imaginations of Place*, was published in 2014 by London: I.B. Tauris.

Laetitia Nanquette has published the articles "Refugee Life Writing in Australia: Testimonies by Iranians" In *Postcolonial Text*, 9:2, 2014; and "The Third Space of Contemporary Iranian Exilic Poetry" In *Antipodes: A Global Journal of Australian/New Zealand Literature* (December 2014).

Babak Rezvani's book *Conflict and Peace in Central Eurasia: Theoretical Explanations and Explorations* is forthcoming with Brill Publishers.

Amin Saikal's book *Zone Of Crisis: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq*, has been published by I.B. Tauris, July 2014.

Roman Seidel's dissertation in philosophy is forthcoming in November 2014 as "Kant in Teheran. Anfänge, Ansätze und Kontexte der Kantrezeption in Iran." [Kant in Tehran: Origins, Approaches, and Contexts of Kant's Reception in Iran]. Series: *Welten des Islams - Worlds of Islam - Mondes de l'Islam*. De Gruyter.

Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi, Persian language instructor at Oxford and McGill, has published *What the Persian Media Says*, Routledge, 2014.

Abolala Soudavar has published the book *Mithraic Societies: From Brotherhood to Religion's Adversary*, 2014 (as online PDF on Academia.edu, with print copy available at LULU.com), as well as the articles "Histoire d'une imposture ou naissance d'un mythe: "Tamerlan", in *Le pouvoir en actes. Fonder, dire, montrer, contrefaire l'autorité*, ed. E. Marguin-Hamon, Paris: Archives Nationales, 2013, pp. 188-91. "The Patronage of the Vizier Mirzā Salmān," *Muqarnas* vol. 30 (2013), pp. 213-34. "Astyages, Cyrus and Zoroaster: Solving a Historical Dilemma," in *IRAN* 2012 issue, pp. 45-78. "Achaemenid History Derailed by Avestology, Assessing *La religion des Achéménides: confrontation des sources*" (Paper presented at a conference held at the Collège de France, Paris, Nov. 7-8, 2013), posted on Academia.edu (2013). "Chaos in Methodology, Reflections on "Cyrus the Great: Life and Lore" (Paper presented at a conference held in UCLA, Oct. 28-29, 2013), posted on Academia.edu (2013).

A DOCTORAL RESEARCHER'S REPORT

OIL AND POLITICS IN IRAN'S MAJLES-E SHURĀ-YE ESLĀMI

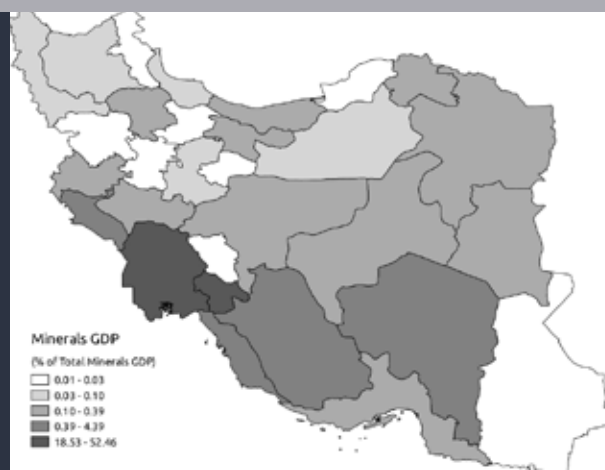
Paasha Mahdavi, University of California, Los Angeles

In Iranian parliamentary elections since 1980, less than thirty percent of politicians running again for office retained their seats. Meanwhile, incumbent members of parliament running in districts rich in oil and natural resources have seen better results, with a forty percent reelection rate. What explains this divergence in electoral fortunes? Why do incumbent representatives from resource-rich districts have an electoral advantage at the polls?

In an article forthcoming in *World Politics* (Apr 2015), I answer these questions by studying the patterns in election outcomes for members of parliament (MPs) seeking reelection to Iran's *Majles-e Shurā-ye Eslāmi*. In short, I argue that MPs in districts engaged in natural-resource production (I refer to these later as “resource-rich districts”) are more likely to get reelected into office because resource revenue is used to provide schools, hospitals, infrastructure, and jobs to voters. These incumbent MPs can gain an edge in the polls because they demonstrate their ability to deliver necessary goods to voters in their districts. Incumbents in resource-poor districts do not have the same opportunities to spend on their voters. Not surprisingly, they are routinely cast out of office in favor of other challengers.

Iranian parliamentary elections offer valuable case studies for analyzing the effects of natural resource wealth on how long politicians are able to stay in office. One reason for this is geographical. The distribution of natural resources varies greatly across the country, as shown in the map below. Most of the Iranian resource-wealth is stored in two provinces, Khuzestan and Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, both of which sit atop the country's vast oil and gas fields. Beyond these two, however, there are a handful of other provinces rich in minerals and in petroleum, such as Bushehr, Fars, Ilam, and Kerman. This variance in natural resource wealth allows for a comparison of election outcomes across regions to test whether or not resources play a role in improving the lot of incumbent MPs.

Figure: Geographic distribution in 2008 of natural resource wealth by province as percent of national natural resource GDP, ranging from 0.01% to a maximum of 52.46% (the maximum value across all years is 65.28%, occurring in Khuzestan province in 1995). Source: Ministry of Interior.



Studying Iranian parliamentary elections also offers a chance to capture how voting rules shape electoral outcomes. Iran's electoral rule for the *Majles* is what political scientists call a “mixed-member system”. This means that in some districts there is only one representative elected to the *Majles*, while in other districts there are two or more representatives. The former case is called a “single-member district”. In the province of Yazd, for example, there are four separate districts, and in each district there is only one MP. The city of Tabriz, on the other hand, comprises one district that is represented by six MPs. This is an example of a “multi-member district”. A full list of all 31 provinces is shown below and includes information for the number of seats (in other words, the number of representatives in parliament) over three different elections, along with the number of districts in each province for the election in 2008, the most recent one which I analyzed.

	1988	Seats 1996	2008	Districts 2008
Ardebil		6	7	5
East Azerbaijan	24	17	17	13
West Azerbaijan	11	11	12	9
Bushehr*	3	3	3	3
Chahar Mahal & Bakhtiari*	2	3	3	3
Esfahan	19	19	19	15
Fars	16	17	18	15
Gilan	13	13	13	11
Golestan			7	6
Hamedan	9	9	9	7
Hormozgan	4	4	5	3
Ilam	2	2	3	2
Kerman	10	10	10	9
Kermanshah	8	8	8	6
Khorasan	24	24		
North Khorasan			4	3
Khorasan-e Razavi			17	12
South Khorasan*			4	4
Khuzestan	17	17	18	14
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad*	2	2	3	3
Kordestan	6	6	6	5
Lorestan	7	7	9	7
Markazi	7	5	7	6
Mazandaran	17	18	12	9
Qazvin			4	3
Qom		2	3	1
Semnan*	4	4	4	4
Sistan & Baluchestan	7	7	8	6
Tehran	41	37	38	8
Yazd*	3	3	4	4
Zanjan	9	6	5	4
Total number of seats	265	265	285	200

(*) denotes a province with only single-member districts as of 2008.

(**bold**) denotes a resource-rich province (> 1% share of national GDP generated by resources)

Table: Seat distribution in the Iranian parliament by province, select years, and districts per province, 2008. Source: Ministry of Interior. Note: Ardebil split from West Azerbaijan in 1994; Qazvin split from Tehran in 1993 (with seats first being added in the 2000 election); and Golestan split from Mazandaran in 1997. Khorasan was split into three provinces in 2004. This list does not include at-large seats constitutionally allocated to religious minorities. The increasing seat numbers reflect growing population trends by province.

Why do electoral rules matter? The fact that Iranian districts are divided into single-member and multi-member districts offers a chance to study not only the effects of natural resource wealth, but also how the rules of the game play a role in how long politicians remain in office. My argument about how resource wealth can boost an incumbent's chances of staying in power, based on how the MP spends this wealth, would suggest that these effects are strongest where the MP is the most "visible" to voters. Indeed, this is the case in single-member districts, where a politician can reap the full reward of doing right by her district, without having to share the glory with other MPs in office. Similarly, an incumbent failing to appease his voters cannot place the blame for his failures on other MPs. In this way, the single-member district makes the MP most "visible" to his or her voters.

To test my argument, I analyzed the results from four consecutive parliamentary elections (in the years 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008). I found that members of parliament running for reelection in resource-rich districts fared better in the polls than those running in resource-poor districts. As I expected, this effect was even stronger for incumbents competing in single-member districts.

Specifically, results from a statistical analysis of 1,075 district-level elections indicate that a one percentage point increase in natural resource revenues increases the chances of an incumbent MP's reelection by 3.7 percentage points. Consider a deputy running in a province whose minerals contribute 0.1% to national resource GDP. Were her province to discover a new oil field, accounting for 5% of the national-resource GDP, her chances of being elected would increase by 15 percentage points. In a context where incumbents are only reelected 30% of the time, such an increase in reelection probability is considerable, though still modest when compared to developed democracies such as the United States or France.

But what drives this pattern? What explains how natural resource production can influence election outcomes for MPs? One of the mechanisms behind the relationship between resources and MP reelection is the process of revenue allocation from Tehran to the provinces and to the districts. This money is then allocated by MPs for providing much-needed goods and services, such as hospitals, schools, and state-sponsored employment at the local level.

Iran's provincial revenue distribution is constitutionally mandated, as Article 48 requires "just distribution of national incomes among provinces and distribution of economic projects on the basis of needs and potentials of each area." On top of this mostly population-based redistribution formula, each province is allocated two percent of the gross domestic product that it generates for the country.¹ For example, in 2006 the oil-rich province of Khuzestan added 370 trillion *rials* to total national income from natural resources of 2,300 trillion *rials*, so that on top of its existing revenue distribution based on its population, the provincial government was allocated 7.4 trillion *rials* (2% of its value added to Resource GDP).² From there, the revenues are distributed to districts by the unelected *ostāndārs* (provincial governors).

How politicians spend this money is what keeps them in office, I argue. To see whether or not MPs were spending revenues on their constituents, I analyzed annual records of the number of schools, hospitals, and jobs created in each province from 1998 to 2008, provided by the Statistical Centre of Iran (*Markaz-e Amar*). Based on these data, it would seem that resource revenues are being used to provide goods and services to voters: the more resource-rich a province is in a given year, the more hospitals, school teachers, and general state-sponsored employment are allocated to that province.

This was true not only for the levels of these goods, but for changes as well. That is, resource-rich provinces not only have more school teachers per student, but this number was increasing over time. The same is the case for the changes in hospitals, hospital beds per capita, and public employment (excluding employment in state-owned resource companies such as the National Iranian Oil Company).

Lastly, my work addresses what Kaveh Ehsani has termed "The Oil Complex". This refers to scholarly work where researchers attribute socio-political outcomes to an inanimate substance such as crude oil, without heeding the role of the surrounding institutions that connect oil to politics, economics, and the social structure. Here, I have shown that it is not oil *specifically* that affects incumbency reelection in Iran, but rather how oil money is distributed and spent within the country. For the time being, incumbent MPs in Iran face an uphill battle in getting reelected, unless they are fortunate enough to represent districts gifted with natural resource production.

¹ Formally this is calculated as two percent of the value-added GDP produced by a given province, as measured by the Statistical Centre of Iran (*Markaz-e Amar*). The revenue is allocated to each province as it is stated in the national budget (in the form of "Development Plans"), which the parliament passes every five years but revises annually. MPs are the primary authors of budget bills and only rarely do other branches of government override budgetary allocations made to provinces.

² The "2% rule" is not necessarily followed in practice over time. Especially during the Ahmadinejad administration (2005-2013), the president and cabinet effectively cut the discretionary spending powers of MPs, so that the distribution of public and private goods was determined more by the executive and by *bonyād* organizations than by parliament. This has continued under the new president Rouhani, to the point that all eighteen MPs from Khuzestan have resigned in protest against budget cuts to their province. However, this was not the case prior to 2005, when MPs maintained their power over the purse. Ever since Rafsanjani's creation of five-year plans in 1988-89, for instance, MPs have been able to direct government revenues to their districts. This period coincides with most of the data in this paper, as I analyze incumbency patterns across the five elections from 1992 to 2008, effectively covering MP behavior from 1988 to 2008.

PHD DISSERTATIONS RECENTLY COMPLETED

Arash Sarkohi completed his dissertation titled “Der Demokratie- und Menschenrechts-diskurs der religiösen Reformer in Iran und die Universalität der Menschenrechte” [“The human rights and democracy discourse of the religious reformist thinkers in Iran and the universalism debate on human rights”] at the Free University of Berlin in the philosophy department. The dissertation has been published as a book with the publishing house “Ergon” in May 2014 and is available in bookstores and online (ISBN: 978-3-95650-022-0).

Shivan Mahendrarajah’s dissertation “The Sufi Shaykhs of Jam: A history, from the Il-Khans to the Timurids,” was examined and passed following a *viva voce* held on May 30, 2014 at the Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge.

The dissertation is a history about a Sufi shrine and the social-religious class that fiercely protected the legacy of the Muslim saint buried there. It examines the mystical community at Turbat-i Jam (Iran) that venerated *Shaykh al-Islam* Ahmad-i Jam (d. 1141). The period of inquiry is from the Mongol irruptions (ca. 1220), to the collapse of the Timurid dynasty in Persia (ca. 1506). The dissertation shows that the Shaykhs were a *patriciate* ruling a semi-autonomous polity, and that a symbiotic relationship persisted between the Shaykhs of Jam and the Kart *maliks* of Herat, and later with the Timurids.

Part I introduces the saint, his descendants, and the shrine-complex at Jam. Explicated is the patronage that the shrine received as mosques, portals (*iwans*), domes (*gunbads*), and madrasas, pious endowments (*waqfs*) and royal land grants (*soyurghals*). It explores the relationships of the Shaykhs of Jam with the Mongol rulers of Persia (the Il-Khans) based in western Persia; the Kart dynasty ruling from Herat as Mongol vassals (1245-1381); and the Timurid court in Samarqand and in Herat.

Part II covers religion and politics. Firstly, it examines the purported Sunni-Shi’a divide following the emergence of the Sarbadars of Sabzavar (a “Shi’i Republic,” 1336-81) in late Il-Khanid Persia. It is shown that the divide was exaggerated, and that the Shaykhs and the Karts maintained an extended peace with the Sarbadars. Secondly, once the last Kart malik, Pir ‘Ali, broke the peace and de-stabilized Khurasan, the Shaykhs and their confederate Mawlana Zayn al-Din Taybadi (d. 1389), acted to depose the *malik*. They allied with Tamerlane (d. 1405) who was then preparing to invade Persia. The Shaykhs were favored and protected by Timur and his successors.

Part III: The Shaykhs’ mystical doctrines are explicated. Initially, the Sufis at Jam practiced *‘irfan* (gnosis) without a strict mystical method (*suluk*). In the 9th/15th century, certain Shaykhs became affiliated with the Khwajagan-Naqshbandiyya. This section provides a select history of this mystical brotherhood, from their hazy Transoxianan origins to their activities in Cisoxiana, and explications of their doctrines and practices, are given. An exposition on the hybrid mystical practices of the Shaykhs of Jam – the blending of “traditional” Jami doctrines with Naqshbandi doctrines – is delivered.

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CALLS FOR NOMINATION

AWARD FOR A EUROPEAN PH.D. THESIS IN IRANIAN STUDIES

The Societas Iranologica Europea invites applications for the third edition of the S.I.E. Award for a European Ph.D. thesis in Iranian Studies. We look for outstanding theses defended at European universities by young scholars. Our aim is to promote scientific research in Europe in the field of Iranian studies.

To be eligible, candidates must have completed and successfully defended their Ph.D. (or equivalent) dissertation in any field of Iranian Studies at any European academic institution between 1 April 2011 and 31 December 2014. The thesis can be published or unpublished. The prize will be awarded at the Eighth European Conference of Iranian Studies that shall take place in September 2015 in St. Petersburg (Russia). The amount of the award is 2000 €.

Candidates should send a copy of his/her dissertation together with evidence for the successful completion of the Ph.D. or equivalent degree and a curriculum vitae to the Secretary of the S.I.E., Dr. Florian Schwarz. The award committee reserves the right to request additional materials from candidates and/or supervisors.

All documents must be sent electronically as pdf files to the attention of Dr. Florian Schwarz, Secretary of the S.I.E.: florian.schwarz AT oeaw.ac.at. The deadline is 31 January 2015.

ISIS DISSERTATION AWARDS

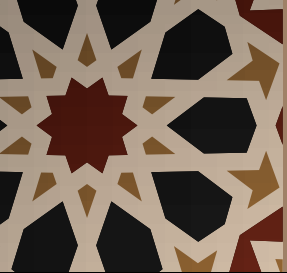
The 2014 Rahim M. Irvani Dissertation Award has been given to Samad Alavi for his doctoral dissertation entitled “The Poetics of Commitment in Modern Persian: A Case of Three Revolutionary Poets in Iran,” which was successfully defended and submitted in December 2013 at the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley, under the supervision of Profs. Shahwali Ahmadi (chair), Muhammad Siddiq, and Robert Kaufman.

Samad Alavi’s dissertation is a study of the political poetry composed by Sa’id-e Soltanpur, Mohammad Mokhtari and M.R. Shafi’i-Kadkani, all poets who wrote before and after the Islamic revolution. His analysis engages with the term *ta’ahhod* (commitment) that refers to “an on-going, unresolved debate in Persian poetics, not a discrete literary-historical phenomenon.” The award committee noted that it “was impressed by the author’s command of the argument, style of writing, and the sensitive readings of literary texts, as well as the apt and a *propos* manner in which Persian and Western literary theory is applied to literary works. His translations of the poems discussed are lucid and careful, capturing the aesthetic qualities of the original. This original piece of scholarship is sure to have a large impact on Persian literary studies or years to come, and stands out as a model of literary analysis of modern poetry that can be fruitfully applied to other bodies of modern Persian poetry.”

The 2014 Mehrdad Mashayekhi Dissertation Award has been granted to Nazanin Shahrokni for her dissertation entitled “The State and the Paradox of Gender Segregation in Iran,” submitted to the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, written under the supervision of Profs. Raka Ray (chair), Michael Burawoy, and Cihan Tugal.

Shahrokni’s dissertation dissects the variety of forces that impact the process of policy formation regarding gender segregation in varied spaces - public transportation, parks and sports arenas. Combining policy analysis, ethnographic fieldwork, and extensive review of Iranian press coverage of gender segregation, Shahrokni demonstrates that policies of gender segregation can have exclusionary or inclusionary strategies and outcomes. Provisions regarding women-only spaces in buses, metro, and public parks seem to have facilitated women’s inclusion in public spaces while the exclusion of women from sports arenas reflects the continuing resistance to the integration of women as full participants in the post-revolutionary nationalist spectacles. In order to make her points, Shahrokni skillfully engages with the global literatures on gender relations, public transportation, and sports. The award committee was impressed by the theoretical, empirical, and methodological sophistication of this dissertation.

In addition, the committee awarded honorable mentions for two other dissertations. The first Honorable Mention goes to Eric Sander Lob’s dissertation entitled “An Institutional History of the Iranian Construction Jihad: From Inception to Institutionalization (1979-2011),” submitted to the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the Princeton University under the supervision of Profs. Mirjam Künkler (chair), Cyrus Schayegh, and Michael Reynolds. The second Honorable Mention belongs to Khadijeh (Nahid) Keshavarz for her dissertation entitled “Les Traces du Mouvement des Femmes en Iran (1989-2009): Luttes, Defis, Reussites,” submitted to the Department of Sociology at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, under the supervision of Profs. Farhad Khosrokhavar (chair), Marie Ladier-Fouladi, and Saeed Paivandi.



THE 2014 ISIS CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL

THE PROGRAM CHAIR’S REMARKS

Montreal is a city of discreet charm, and our conference venue -- the Hilton Bonaventure Hotel--held one of its many surprises: Located at the heart of Downtown, across the central train station and above Montreal’s underground maze of shops, restaurants, and passageways, it ensures its guests’ tranquility by elevating them high above the crowds and the big-city hubbub. The entrance of this pent-house-style hotel leads not to the lobby, but to elevators which shoot noiselessly sixteen floors up, to a roof-top reception area and restaurants, amidst a “secret garden” of shrubs, mature trees, drifts of tall grasses and wild-flowers, a duck-pond, and a brook, nestled amidst the City skyscrapers.



The Place Bonaventure complex: Its 2.5 acres of rooftop gardens were built for the Montreal Expo 67, and embody the architects’ vision of sustainable urban development, inspired by the Habitat for Humanity focus of this event.

On the eve of the conference we were expecting 419 participants—presenters, panel chairs, discussants, convenors—representing academic institutions from 25 countries.¹ Our conference program listed 84 panels with 315 individual-paper presenters, as well as seven Round Tables. Alongside the academic sessions it also featured five Literary Salon readings, the screening of a rare film classic by the director Arby Ovanessian; three book launches; a mentoring session for graduate students; a concert, and various receptions. Much anticipated among the latter were the ISIS general membership meeting and awards ceremony, and McGill University’s reception featuring Ziba Mir-Hosseini’s keynote lecture “On Understanding Shari’a: The Challenge of Gender Equality”.

¹ Austria, Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Portugal, South Korea, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and USA.



According to Bardia Saadi-nejad, a Montreal-based artist, his design of the conference poster was inspired by two fundamental concepts: One was the abstract form of interweaving circles, representing symbolically the coming together of scholars from different countries and diverse academic fields who share the same research area—Iranian studies. The second was the circular Persian musical instrument Daf, a large frame-drum used in popular and classical music, in Nowruz ceremonies and on festive occasions, from the Sassanian era to the present. These two major concepts prompted him to include in the poster diverse circle-shaped objects representing the pre-Islamic and Islamic cultural heritage, as well as the turquoise circle encompassing the title Tenth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, which mirrors the circular logo of the Society at the head of the page.

The call for papers for the Tenth Biennial, sent out in February 2013, brought in over 500 paper and panel proposals which fall roughly into the following 11 categories:

DISCIPLINE	PROPOSALS
01 • Religion	10%
02 • Political science, economics, social sciences	16%
03 • History and historiography	17%
04 • Literature	16%
05 • Linguistics	3%
06 • Art, architecture, urban planning	14%
07 • Cinema, media, communications	4%
08 • Culture, science, education	6%
09 • Gende	5%
10 • Diaspora	3%
11 • Pre-Islamic Legacies	6%

The Program Committee was selected from nominations put forward by the members of the Society’s Council. Twenty-nine highly regarded scholars from a broad spectrum of academic institutions and geographic regions kindly accepted our invitation to sit on it, and volunteered their time and expertise in adjudicating the proposals. See here for the list of Program Committee adjudicators.

On August 6 and 7 Montreal greeted us all. A seasoned team of McGill-University event-managers and student Conference Assistants helped with the final hectic preparations, staffed the reception area and information desk, and later on were at hand in the halls to direct visitors and assist presenters.

Like the conferences before it, the 10th Biennial offered a rich palette of fascinating topics, rendering futile our efforts to avoid overlaps of panels that might attract the same audiences. No matter what their area of interest, conference-goers still had to make hard choices at every turn. Having agonized over decisions on which disciplines should be assigned to the limited number of bigger rooms, we decided to start keeping track of audience flow, for the benefit of future Program Chairs. The results of this informal survey confirmed some presuppositions and debunked others: Thus panels on political science, cinema, gender, and religion drew—as expected—substantial audiences.



Panel 92: “New Approaches to Islamic Legal Thought”, convened by Ahmad Kazemi-Moussavi, with the participation of Abdolkarim Soroush, Mohsen Kadivar, and Rasool Nafisi.

The surprise of the conference—at least for me—was the strong attraction of art panels of every description, as well as of panels on premodern literature and history. Usually, high-profile names on a panel's list of participants affect substantially the session's "draw". That factor did not seem to be at play in the case of the above-mentioned panels: Sessions featuring novice- and well-established presenters were equally well attended, indicating that their attraction lay not in "star power" but in the subject-matter itself.

The 10th Biennial also introduced some novel ideas, which resonated deeply with the audience. Thus on the President's initiative, the general meeting started with a moving cinematic tribute to ISIS members who had passed away since 2012. Another kind of retrospective was launched for the first time by two Round Tables dedicated to the scholarship of the modern historian Ervand Abrahamian (convened by Touraj Atabaki) and of the political science expert Hossein Bashiriyeh (convened by Mehrzad Boroujerdi). In the presence of the two guests of honour, eminent experts in the field—some of them former students of Abrahamian and Bashiriyeh—presented seminal works of each scholar, and spoke about their impact on the next generation of academics.

After three intensive days, the academic presentations were brought to a close on August 9, at 5:30 pm, with the last battery of eight panels. But it was not yet time to say goodbye. The conference concluded with a concert of Iranian music from the 1940s-1970s, performed by the classical vocalist Sepideh Raissadat and her ensemble. Its long final encore signalled the end of this year's fest of Iranian Studies.

This conference has been a memorable journey for me. Thank you—all who attended it! All -- whose scholarly contributions and innovative research gave it substance, and drew us to this gathering! All—whose dedicated efforts and financial support made it happen. See you again in two years—in Vienna!

Marta Simidchieva,
Program Chair of the 2014 ISIS Conference in Montreal

Sepideh Raissadat, born in Tehran and based in Toronto, is a noted classical Persian music singer and Setar soloist. She is a student of Parissa, the famous singer of classical Persian music (Radif), of the composer Parviz Meshkati, and of the renowned master of the Tar and Setar Mohammad Reza Lotfi. Currently, her major research interest is the Sassanian musical heritage.



Session 44: "Discussing Ervand Abrahamian's Work". From left: Afshin Matin-Asgari, Ervand Abrahamian, Maziar Behrooz, Valentine Moghadam, Touraj Atabaki, Kaveh Ehsani, Azadeh Kian, Mehrzad Boroujerdi



Welcoming Remarks to the 2014 ISIS Conference by Dr. Marc Garneau, Liberal member of the parliament of Canada, representing the downtown of Montreal¹.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests and members of the organizing committee,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to address this esteemed audience and to welcome delegates to Montreal for the Tenth Biennial International Iranian Studies Conference. The Iranian Studies Organization has chosen to hold the conference in Canada, which is fitting place for a conference that brings together a diverse field of scholars from the Middle East, the Caucasus, the Far East, Europe, Russia and North America. I commend the Iranian Studies organization for offering an excellent example of collaboration, demonstrating that we can work across national, political, linguistic, religious and ethnic boundaries to promote dialogue.

I was advised that there are more than 450 delegates attending the conference this week and I hope that you will get the chance to explore the city during your stay. Montreal has become a very popular destination for international conferences. It is a city that continues to welcome scholars and students from around the world to study and teach at our French and English universities. As the former Chancellor of Carleton University, located in our nation's capital, I value, like many of you, the contribution that the International Iranian Studies Conference will bring to Canadian scholarship, helping us to deepen our understanding of Iranian studies and culture.

As a Member of Parliament for Westmount Ville Marie, a riding that is home to many students, scholars, and business-owners from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds, I am attuned to the importance of our academic institutions that develop collaborations and exchanges with scholars worldwide. Cultivating an open and secure environment for education, research and public discourse builds confident communities. In Bikhu Parekh's words we are "a community of citizens and a community of communities."

Canada is a country built with the hard work and dedication of newcomers, who have enriched and strengthened our communities at home and maintain strong relationships with extended families abroad. As Canadians, we are constantly looking to strengthen the cohesion among our communities here at home and abroad. It is in the very nature of who we are as a nation.

Iran is a nation with a rich history and Persian scholars have been a source of knowledge for humankind for hundreds of years. Many Canadians who are not familiar with the valuable contributions of Persian scholarship may not realize that the systems of government that organize our society today originated from what is now Iran. I won't rattle off statistics or list your achievements as you know what they are. I will make note of some key contributions that I'm sure will be addressed over the next few days at this conference.

¹A former astronaut, Dr. Garneau was the first Canadian in outer space.

1) In 500 BC, for example, the first taxation system was developed under the Achaemenid Empire.

2) In 576 – 530 BC, Cyrus developed the precursors to efficient government to administer and govern the Persian Empire. A system of government was developed that was emulated by other cultures. The empire was separated into smaller entities to support day-to-day control by regional administrations. This early experiment in governance stood the test of time and is now the same system of government in many countries today.

There are many more examples of Persian scholarly contributions throughout history. As the Foreign Affairs Critic for the Liberal Party of Canada, I believe that international relations should be based on open consultation and collaboration among countries, and on engagement through honest dialogue. Canada has consistently advocated for this principle and we will continue to do so. One of our significant achievements in this direction, championed by our last Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin was the creation of the G20.

International conferences, like the Iranian Studies conference that focus on the richness of language, culture, religion and people, help promote and enhance the dialogue between cultures and civilizations. At a time when permanent mobility has rapidly increased, diversity has replaced homogeneity in the makeup of the populations of most countries. This has grown interdependency among countries and stresses the need to understand diverse cultures and values.

The aim of dialogue is to foster understanding; to strengthen pluralism within society, to eliminate stereotypes and prejudices and to promote dialogue. Human beings, despite national boundaries and differences, are really parts of a single whole.

As someone who has had the privilege of seeing planet Earth from space, I am particularly conscious of the fact that seven billion of us, spread over about 200 countries live on our planet and that we must find a way of getting along. We share a great deal, including our oceans and our atmosphere and we are surrounded by the blackness of space and there is nowhere else for us to go. It is in our interest to get along with each other and to learn from each other.

While Rumi may be the most popular poet in North America, Saadi seems to have more geo-political relevance. The same bait or couplet that Obama cites in his speeches also appears on the entrance to the Hall of Nations of the United Nations building in New York.

The poem is "Humanity"

Human beings are members of a whole. In creation of one essence and soul.

If one member is afflicted with pain, Other members uneasy will remain.

If you have no sympathy for human pain, The name of human you cannot retain.

Thank you. I wish you all a successful and productive conference and hope that you enjoy your stay in Montreal.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE BIENNIAL ISIS CONFERENCE (2014)

Every two years, the International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS) is responsible for planning and financing an academic conference for its members to present their research to colleagues. The Tenth Biennial Conference took place at the Hilton Bonaventure in Montreal, Canada in August 2014.

Balancing expenses and revenue is a continuing challenge for a scholarly society with limited sources of income; this is especially so in the biennial years. The primary source of income for the society is membership dues which are used to support membership services such as the website. In a biennial year, the society relies on additional revenue from pre-registration and onsite registration from the conference. This year's revenue from pre-registration was \$37,240 (400 registrations), and onsite registration came to \$10,280. Book exhibition rental fees brought in an additional \$8,350.

The content of conference expenses remains constant from biennial to biennial although the ultimate figures change. This is to be expected given the two-year intervals, changing locations, and different local arrangement committees. The costs associated with the Tenth Biennial Conference are listed below by category.

The Hilton Bonaventure Hotel invoiced ISIS for \$75,484. This figure included the hotel AV equipment for seminar rooms and extra-curricular events, the opening reception and the McGill reception, and the closing concert, as well as hotel food and beverages (twice-daily coffee breaks, food for lunchtime seminars, and the award ceremony hors-d'oeuvres).

The costs associated with travel and hotel accommodation for guests (invited speakers and special guests, plus the nine graduate student travel grants offset by donor contributions) were \$14,153.

Registration expenses amounted to \$4,860, which included badges, badge holders and lanyards, conference bags, and the conference poster. Usually the conference program would be a printing expense for the Society; however, the cost of designing and printing the 2014 conference program was assumed by Concordia University.

The costs (other than food/beverages) associated with the Special Events category (the closing concert and the commemorative video for the opening ISIS Award Ceremony) were \$7,000.

Administrative costs came to \$19,735, which included the website for the onsite submission system and subsequent program management, the program chair's honorarium, payment for the program administrative assistant, on-site sundries, and the pre-conference onsite inspection of venues.

The cost of ISIS-administered awards which were distributed to awardees at the Opening Night Reception and Award Ceremony came to \$17,000. This figure includes the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Saidi-Sirjani Book Award, the Ehsan Yarshater Book Award, the Rahim M. Irvani Best Dissertation Award, and the Mehrdad Mashayekhi Dissertation Award.

The ISIS fiscal year ends on September 30, at which time all financial records kept by the Society's Treasurer are passed to the Society's accounting firm for the preparation of the year-end financial report. Our report of conference expenses/revenue is not official until such time as this financial report is completed. However, the trajectory is clear enough. Conference expenses invariably outstrip the sources of income available to ISIS, and it normally uses its savings to make up the difference. Yet, ISIS will be on a good financial footing going into the financial year 2015. There are a few reasons for this belief. The contract negotiated between ISIS (with the assistance of its conference management consulting firm at no extra cost to ISIS) and the Hilton Montreal Bonaventure was advantageous to ISIS. The hotel was generous in offering us conference space at no extra charge. Additionally, there was no minimum food and beverage fee imposed on us. Furthermore, income from sponsors and donors, both institutional and private (cited with appreciation in the conference program), amounted to \$54,674 and substantially offset our conference expenses. Montreal was a well-attended conference. And, last but not least, expenses and revenue were followed and reviewed regularly to ensure fiscal responsibility.

The Society used its savings to make up the difference of \$20,688 between conference expenses of \$131,232 and conference revenues of \$110,544. The current bank balance is \$45,861, which is adequate to carry on the daily and ongoing business of the Society.

WOMEN'S WORLDS IN QAJAR IRAN

<http://www.qajarwomen.org>, has launched a new feature: People (<http://www.qajarwomen.org/en/people/manifest.html>). Every person in the database now has a page, displaying all the information available in the database on that person. A dynamic visual timeline of relevant events, a biography that may come in both short and long versions, and hyperlinks to related people and items will all offer scholars a clearer view of the world inhabited by the individuals in the archive.

LIKE OUR ISIS FACEBOOK PAGE!

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INTERNATIONALSOCIETYFORIRANIANSTUDIES](https://www.facebook.com/internationalsocietyforiranianstudies)

CONFERENCE REPORTS

On May 30 and 31, 2014, the International Qajar Studies Association held its fourteenth annual conference at the University of Bamberg, Germany. The university's Institute of Oriental Studies hosted the event, which was organized by Roxane Haag-Higuchi. The theme of the conference was "Literature and Writing in Qajar Iran," and a total of seven panels brought together scholars from Austria, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Poland, and the United States, as well as six scholars from various universities in Iran. IS editor Homa Katouzian gave the keynote address on "Poet-Laureate Bahar in the Constitutional Era," and former IS editor Abbas Amanat gave a lecture on "Pure Persian Style (*parsi-negari*) and the Emergence of National Historiography in Qajar Iran: Jalal al-Din Mirza and *Nameh-e Khosravan*." The Baroque city of Bamberg provided an idyllic setting for intellectual exchanges and conference dinners in the course of which new friendships were formed and old friendships were deepened.

On May 24, 2014, the Shahnama Centre for Persian Studies was inaugurated at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge. Made possible by a generous endowment grant from Bitā Daryabari, it is headed by ISIS Council member Firūza Abdullaeva. Growing out of the Shahnama Project founded by Charles Melville, it aims to bring that project to fruition and contribute to the growth of Persian studies at Cambridge and in the UK in general. At the inauguration, Sir Richard Dearlove, Master of Pembroke, welcomed the guests and especially Bitā Drayabari, who spoke of the role of Persian literature in providing a proper appreciation of Iran and her contribution to civilization. Short talks about the *Shahnama* were given by Olga Davidson as well as ISIS Council members Sussan Babaie and Touraj Daryaei, after which Firūza Abdullaeva introduced participants to the accompanying exhibition of medieval *Shahnama* manuscripts (including some copies currently on loan to Pembroke as well as a recent gift to the Centre) and contemporary art dedicated to the idea of the *Shahnama* (including works by Fereydoun Ave and Siamack Filizadeh). The organizers produced a handsome 70-page booklet to accompany the event.

Princeton University's Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies was officially inaugurated on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, with a Lecture by the Honorable James A. Baker III '52, 61st US Secretary of State, titled "Iran: 35 Years after the Revolution." The aim of the center is to support teaching and research on all aspects of Iran and Persian Gulf studies. The center pursues a comprehensively interdisciplinary approach to advancing understanding of Iran and the Persian Gulf, with special attention to the region's role and significance in the contemporary world. The associated faculty, research scholars and students explore a broad range of topics, including policy issues such as the impact of Iran and the Persian Gulf on regional and international security, oil and energy markets, trade and global finance. But the center is also concerned with teaching and research that address the history, politics, society, economics, religion, literature, art and culture of the region, from ancient Iran to the modern states that border the Persian Gulf.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

TRANSNATIONAL AND TRANSGENERATIONAL IN CENTRAL AND WEST ASIA AND THEIR DIASPORAS

Sat 14 Mar - Mon 16 Mar 2015, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Deadline: 31 October 2014

Scholars of West and Central Asia and their diasporas are invited to submit proposals for pre-arranged panels or individual papers in all subfields of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The conference will focus on the transnational – links and intersections between Central and West Asian states or between the region and its diasporic communities, as well as the transgenerational – links between generations in familial, educational, sociocultural and political contexts in the region and its diasporas.

Papers and panels may examine the development or the disruption of such links through social and cultural change, migration, political transitions or globalisation. We are interested in the ways transnational and transgenerational connections are represented or reflected in music, film, media, literature and other arts, as well as the findings of historical and anthropological research.

Selected papers will be published in a special issue of *Anthropology of the Middle East* (journals.berghahnbooks.com/ame)

Please submit a 300-word abstract and biographical note to Roya Salamati (roya.salamati@monash.edu) by 31 October 2014.

SYMPOSIA IRANICA SECOND BIENNIAL IRANIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

The University of Cambridge, 8-9 April 2015

Deadline: 15 November 2014

Applications are warmly invited for papers that relate to any aspect of Iranian studies in any discipline within the humanities and social sciences. This includes but is by no means limited to: ancient through to contemporary history and historiography; anthropology; archaeology; cultural heritage and conservation; social and political theory; Diaspora and area studies; ecology and the environment; economics; historical geography; history of medicine; art and architecture history; education; international relations and political science; epigraphy, languages, literature, linguistics and philology; new media and communication studies; philosophy; religions and theology; classical studies; sociology; film studies and the performing arts. Comparative themes and interdisciplinary approaches are also very welcome. All proposals are subject to double blind peer review.

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome proposals from the following:

- Postgraduate students (currently enrolled or graduating in 2014);
- PhD students at any stage of their degree; and
- Post-docs (subject to graduation within the last three years).

MORE INFORMATION

For details on the conference, see website: symposia-iranica.com

F. [Facebook.com/SymposiaIranica](https://www.facebook.com/SymposiaIranica) T. [Twitter.com/SymposiaIranica](https://twitter.com/SymposiaIranica)

8TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF IRANIAN STUDIES

St. Petersburg, 15-19 September 2015

Deadline: 1 November 2014

The 8th Conference of Iranian Studies of the Societas Iranologica Europaea (SIE) will take place in Saint Petersburg at the State Hermitage Museum and at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts from Tuesday September 15th to Saturday September 19th, 2015.

Proposals for presentations that relate to any aspect of Iranian Studies are welcome. Should you decide to present a paper, please complete the pre-registration form available on the conference website <http://ecis8.orientalstudies.ru/>. Abstracts of no more than 1500 characters should be sent by November 1, 2014 to the organizing committee at the following e-mail address: ecis8@yandex.ru.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

WORKSHOP ON INTERROGATING CHANGE: CENTRAL ASIA BETWEEN TIMELESSNESS AND MUTABILITY

October 17, 9:00am-4:30P.M. • Hamilton Hall Room 569, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

Robert Crews, Stanford University

PRESENTERS:

Sarah Cameron, University of Maryland, College Park; **Devin DeWeese**, Indiana University; **Benjamin Gatling**, Duke University; **Maya Peterson**, University of California, Santa Cruz; **Kevin Schwartz**, University of Maryland, College Park; **Eren Tasar**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

RSVP appreciated but not required: Kevin Schwartz (kls@umd.edu) or Eren Tasar (etasar@email.unc.edu)*

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

This workshop revisits the academic compartmentalization that has characterized studies of Central Eurasia by re-imagining this region as an experientially interconnected sphere of commonalities and convergences transcending national borders and conventional disciplinary boundaries. The organizers envision a novel topography of nineteenth and twentieth century Central Eurasia as a distinct space at once Islamic and Asian. Such a configuration opens up new possibilities for conceptualizing the region as an integral participant in a broader landscape incorporating the Middle East, South Asia, China, and Russia. In bringing together a variety of scholars with different expertise in the study of Central Asia, this workshop revisits longstanding scholarly boundaries and explores how Central Asian Studies can offer unique contributions to broader debates in the humanities and social sciences.

RUSSO-PERSIAN,WORKSHOP 2014 WINNING AND LOSING THE GREAT GAME

Literature, Art and Diplomacy between Russia and Iran

November 7 and 8, 2014 • Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

ORGANIZERS:

Angela Brintlinger, Firuza Melville, Jennifer Siegel

TENTATIVE PROGRAM OF SPEAKERS:

Marina Alexidze (Tbilisi National University): “The Caucasus in Russian Oriental Policy in the 1820s and Mir Fettakh the Mujtahid”

Abbas Amanat (Yale University): “John Malcolm and the Beginning of Anglo-Russian Rivalries”

Assef Ashraf (Yale University): “The Russian Presence in Tabriz”

Anna Aydinyan (U of Penn), “Yuri Tynianov’s Influence on Twentieth Century Perceptions of Persian Politics (On Page and Screen)”

Dariusz Borbor (Research Institute and Library of Iranian Studies): “The Role of the Borbor Tribe in the Russo-Persian Wars of 1826-27”

George Bournoutian (Iona College): “From Tabriz to St. Petersburg”

Angela Brintlinger (Ohio State University) and **Firuza Melville** (Cambridge University): “From Glorious Beginnings to Tragic Ends: Griboedov and Khosrow Mirza”

Laila Diba (NY art historian) “Border Crossings: Iranian Artists in the Russian Empire and Post-Imperial Domains”

Sara Dickinson (U of Genoa): “The Paradigm of Oriental Princeling as Unreliable Friend”

Irina Koshoridze (Tbilisi Museum) and **Marina Dgebuadze** (National Museum of Georgia): “Unknown miniatures from Georgian National Museum - in light of Russian-Persian relations in the early 19th century”

Catherine O’Neil (USNA): “Romance and Ruin: Chavchavadze, “Gokcha,” and the Armenian Question”

Svetlana Ravandi-Fedai (Oriental Institute, Moscow): “The 1828 Treaty of Turkmenchay in Russo-Iranian Perspective”

David Schimmelpennick van der Oye (Brock University): “Tsar and Shah: Russia encounters Persia”

WORKSHOP ON CONTENT-BASED INSTRUCTION AND TASK-BASED LANGUAGE TEACHING AND THEIR APPLICATIONS IN PERSIAN INSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT

Nov. 22, 3-5 P.M., Washington D.C

The American Association of Teachers of Persian (AATP) will convene a workshop on Content-Based Instruction and Task-Based Language Teaching and Their Applications in Persian Instruction and Materials Development at MESA 2014. Saturday Nov. 22, 3-5 P.M. Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC Room: Taft (M).

PROGRAM:

Chair: **Ramin Sarraf** (National University)

Content-Based Instruction: Curricular Planning in a Sheltered Model for Advanced-Level Persian.

Presenter: **Nahal Akbari** (University of Maryland)

Learning of Persian by Song and Verse with the Golha Programs and Website.

Presenter: **Jane Lewisohn** (University of Exeter, U.K.)

Teaching Persian Dialects.

Presenter: **Corey Miller & Thomas Triebwasser** (University of Maryland)

Developing Online Narration & Role-Play Tasks Based on TBLT: A Hands-on Example from Persian.

Presenter: **Peyman Nojournian** (University of Southern California)

How to Provide Content-Based Instruction and Task-Based Language Teaching in a Persian Intermediate Language Course Using Smart Curriculum and Flipped Classrooms.

Presenter: **Sepideh Vistamehr** (George Washington University)

CONFERENCE “TRADITION AND INNOVATION – AVICENNA AND MULLĀ ṢADRĀ IN DIALOGUE”

November 28th and 29th, 2014 at the University of Erlangen, Germany.
Universitätsstraße 4, 91054 Erlangen, Sitzungssaal Universitätsbibliothek, Room 2.011

The two philosophers and mystics Abū Alī al-Husain ibn Abdullāh ibn Sīnā (980-1037), known as Avicenna, and Ṣadr ad-Dīn aš-Šīrāzī, known as Mullā Ṣadrā (1572-1640), have contributed much to the development of theology of Sufism. The work of Mullā Ṣadrā is not conceivable without the work of Avicenna - because Mullā Ṣadrā developed his theological thought in dialogue with the writings of his predecessors and with the philosophy of Avicenna. This link between both thinkers has got until now little attention. Thus, on the one hand, Mullā Ṣadrā worked in the tradition begun by Avicenna to bring Greek and Islamic thinking together, but, on the other hand, he developed his own way to continue the tradition innovatively. This dialogue between theology and philosophy provides the model for the conference, which aims to prove its relevance and viability.

In this dialogical tradition the participants will give a presentation on Mullā Ṣadrā or Avicenna, or on the philosophy that connects the two scholars with each other. In this sense, the presentations will establish a dialogue with each other. Respectively, two presentations should have one common theme which can be found in the works of both Mulla Sadra and Avicenna: for example anthropological themes such as freedom of man, his body, the soul, etc. Convergences in the thinking and philosophy of Mullā Ṣadrā and Avicenna are to be highlighted. However, the conference focuses not only on reception, but also on innovation. Thus, participants will also look for the effect, aftereffect and benefit of Mullā Ṣadrā's and Avicenna's thoughts within the Islamic world yesterday and today, and will ask how their theories can be developed further to fit today's problems.

More information about the conference proceedings can be found on the conference website.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

JOURNAL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

The Journal of Oriental and African Studies (JOAS) (<http://joastudies.wordpress.com>) invites ISIS members to submit papers as well as book reviews for publication. Interested members should contact the journal's editor, Prof. Athanasius Th. Photopoulos, at joas AT ornet.gr.

FELLOWSHIPS

AHMANSON-GETTY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AT UCLA

This theme-based resident fellowship program, established with the support of the Ahmanson Foundation of Los Angeles and the J. Paul Getty Trust, is designed to encourage the participation of junior scholars in the Center's yearlong core programs. The core program for year 2015–2016 is "The Frontiers of Persian Learning: Testing the Limits of a Eurasian Lingua Franca, 1600–1900," directed by Nile Green (UCLA). Scholars will need to have received their doctorates in the last six years, (no earlier than July 1, 2009 and no later than September 30, 2015). Scholars whose research pertains to the announced theme are eligible to apply. Fellows are expected to make a substantive contribution to the Center's workshops and seminars. Awards are for three consecutive quarters in residence at the Clark. Stipend: \$42,000 for the three-quarter period together with paid medical benefits for scholar and dependents. Combined fellowship information can be found here: www.c1718cs.ucla.edu/fellowships

Post-doctoral application forms can be accessed directly via this link: www.c1718cs.ucla.edu/postdoc-app

Application deadline: 1 February, 2015.

JOBS

THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR TENURE-TRACK OR TENURED POSITION IN THE FIELD OF PRE-ISLAMIC IRANIAN STUDIES.

Job requirements: Comprehensive knowledge of pre-Islamic Iranian history from the beginning of the Achaemenian period to the rise of Islam; knowledge of the history of religions in Iran; first-hand acquaintance with the historical, literary and religious sources relating to Iran (in its widest historical definition, i.e. including the relevant areas of Central Asia). Acquaintance with and interest in the cultural and political contacts of Iran with neighboring cultures in different periods, in particular those of Judaism and Christianity, is desirable. An ability to teach and do research in the languages of ancient Iran is an advantage. The eligible candidates should be in possession of a doctoral degree in one of the following fields: History, Archaeology, Iranian Languages, Religious Studies, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Classical Studies, Near Eastern Studies, Linguistics, Art History, or any other appropriate field. The language of instruction at the Hebrew University is Hebrew, but candidates who do not possess a mastery of Hebrew will be given the time to acquire facility with Hebrew during the first years of their appointment.

Only candidates with Ph.D. will be considered.

Responsibilities include teaching required and elective courses in candidate's field(s) of specialization (at the B.A. and M.A. degree levels) and related disciplines. The main language of instruction is Hebrew. Successful candidates are expected to conduct independent and original research at the highest academic level, demonstrate academic leadership, apply for Israeli and international research grants, and cooperate with other researchers within the Faculty of Humanities and other Faculties. For the list of documents to be submitted and other relevant information, please visit: <http://www.hum.huji.ac.il/new.php?cat=5297>

For more information, please contact Dr. Julia Rubanovich at Rubanovich.Julia@mail.huji.ac.il

Complete applications must be submitted by **November 2, 2014**.

THE FARZANEH FAMILY PROFESSORSHIP IN IRANIAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA TENURED OR TENURE-TRACK

The University of Oklahoma's Department of International and Area Studies (IAS) is looking for an accomplished scholar in modern Iranian studies to bring his/her established record of excellence in research and teaching to fill the position of Farzaneh Family Professorship in Iranian Studies.

The position is tenured or tenure-track and is open to rank. Assistant, Associate and Full Professors are encouraged to apply. This new position complements the Farzaneh Family Chair in Iranian Studies, the catalyst for a rapidly growing Iranian Studies program. Salary is competitive; the appointment will begin on August 16, 2015.

Qualifications

- Ph.D.
- An established record of excellence in research and teaching at an institution of higher education on the subject of modern Iran since 1945.
- Applicants from disciplines in the social sciences (broadly conceived) will be considered.

Key Responsibilities

- The teaching load will be two courses per semester (2-2).
- The faculty member hired for this position will be expected to contribute to an interdisciplinary curriculum with topical and area studies courses.

The scholar who assumes the Farzaneh Family Professorship in Iranian Studies will join a diverse and interdisciplinary faculty within IAS and across the university. The Department of International and Area Studies, housed within the expanding College of International Studies, offers seven undergraduate degrees to approximately 400 majors, and an MA in International Studies with 40 students enrolled. Undergraduate programs include a major in Middle Eastern Studies. The Department of International and Area Studies has approximately 20 full-time faculty with collective research strengths in the areas of development, security, and national identity. For more information, please visit the IAS website at <https://www.ou.edu/content/cis/ias.html>.

Application materials from both domestic and international applicants should be submitted electronically.

Applicants should include a letter of application addressing research and teaching interests, a curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, a writing sample (consisting of a single publication or document), and any supporting documentation of their teaching record. Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2014, and will continue until the position has been filled.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PERSIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

The Department of Comparative Literature at Stanford University is seeking applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in Persian literature and culture, funded by an endowment gift from Bitā Daryabari. Candidates should combine a research specialization with the ability to teach a broad range of courses across Persian literature. Comparative and/or theoretical approaches are welcome. Applicants will be expected to have the PhD in hand by the appointment start date of 9/1/2015 and to teach courses at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Native or near-native fluency in Persian (and English) is expected. In addition to participating in Comparative Literature within the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, the successful candidate will have significant involvement in the Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies.

All applications materials must be submitted online via www.AcademicJobsOnline.org. For full consideration, please transmit your cover letter, curriculum vitae, list of publications, statements of research and teaching interests (no more than three (3) pages), teaching evaluations (if applicable), a writing sample the length of a typical research article or book chapter, along with three confidential letters of reference, (to the attention of DLCL Persian Search Committee Chair) by **November 15, 2014**.

Inquiries (only) should be directed to Christine Onorato, Department Administrator, 650-723-4183, (conorato@stanford.edu), or Allen Sciutto at 650-724-1240 or (allen.sciutto@stanford.edu).

Submit your application and materials at <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/4283>.