



# ASSOCIATION FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

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<http://associationforiranianstudies.org>

AIS Newsletter | Volume 42, Number 2 | October 2021

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

The current issue once again attests to the vibrancy of the AIS community, with reports on several new initiatives, from mentoring to the activities of our academic freedom committee. The association's flagship journal, *Iranian Studies*, has moved to Cambridge University Press, and a new mentorship committee has taken up its work. Several universities share their exciting Iranian Studies program and dissertation news. Further, we learn about select Zoroastrian Treasures from the British Library, and the activities of the G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies in Tblisi, Georgia.

I thank all contributors for their thoughtful submissions to this issue and wish everyone a healthy and fulfilling autumn of 2021. As always, please do get in touch, so that we can feature your exciting research, training and program news in future issues.

**Mirjam Künkler**

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021

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ABOUT/OFFICERS/2020](http://associationforiranianstudies.org/about/officers/2020)

## NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear AIS Membership,

It gives me great pleasure to announce the establishment of a mentorship committee for the Association for Iranian Studies. This new initiative was conceived in early 2021 by AIS Council. In the Spring of 2021, the task force, consisting of Arang Keshavarzian, Mana Kia, and two Council members, Hosna Sheikholeslami, Lior Sternfeld, and myself assessed the mentorship needs of AIS, and proposed the creation of a permanent mentorship committee. With the full support of our Council, we formed the committee in September 2021, defined its mission, and have started to plan a series of initiatives.

Our membership's gratitude goes out to the task force members and members of the Mentorship Committee who have generously given of their time and expertise.

Below please find the committee's announcement of its mission and call for participants in two of its early initiatives. I hope all of our members find ways to take part in these and upcoming events as mentors or mentees.

Sincerely,  
**Naghmeh Sohrabi**  
President, Association for Iranian Studies

### AIS MENTORSHIP

Dear AIS Membership,

The AIS mentorship initiative aims to become a resource for the Iranian Studies community in all stages of their career. Aside from the objective difficulties of being a scholar of Iran today, we can benefit from one another's experiences in navigating careers paths. The initiative is about getting people more involved in developing the field, helping students and early career scholars acclimate to the academic world, making more resources available to them, and improving our publications (journal articles and book development workshops). Additionally, we

aim to increase the presence of Iran-based authors in our field. We wish to mentor Iran-based authors through this process. Finally, we hope to empower Iran-based authors and scholars to compete on the international job market.

The mission of the committee is to build networks of mentorship between senior and mid-career scholars, and academics at earlier stages of their careers, and promote a culture of diversity and inclusion in the field of Iranian Studies. In the coming year, and in the years to come, we hope you will participate in the initiatives of the mentorship committee.

Our first two initiatives are listed below:

1• Mentorship Questionnaire: To build a mentorship network, we hope to generate a database of potential mentors and mentees. This would allow us to match the needs of those seeking mentorship with the expertise of those willing to serve as mentors. If you would like to participate either as a mentor or mentee, we encourage you to complete the mentorship questionnaire at the following link: <https://associationforiranianstudies.org/mentorship>

2• New and first book celebration. We hope to establish a celebration of new and first books at AIS biennial conferences. This informal reception will bring scholars from various stages of their careers together to recognize newly published monographs in the field of Iranian Studies. The first reception will take place at the Salamanca 2022 conference and will highlight books published by AIS members since 2018. If you wish to participate, please email the title of your book, ISBN, publisher name, whether it's your 1st book, and your Salamanca 2022 attendance status to [mentorship@associationforiranianstudies.org](mailto:mentorship@associationforiranianstudies.org) by Oct. 25, 2021.

More initiatives are in the planning stages, so please be on the lookout for more updates from the mentorship committee.

Sincerely,  
**AIS Mentorship Committee**  
Lior Sternfeld (Chair)  
Paola Rivetti (Iranian Studies journal representative)  
Hosna Sheikholeslami  
Afshin Marashi

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## NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION CONT'D

### FROM THE EDITOR OF IRANIAN STUDIES

The journal's last double issue of 2021 marked the ending of a productive ten-year partnership with Taylor and Francis. We now look forward to working with our new publisher, Cambridge University Press. At the time of writing, the transition from T&F to CUP is almost complete. All unpublished manuscripts have been exported to the CUP ScholarOne platform, and those that have since been accepted, are in the hands of its production department. Our first quarterly issue will be published in January of 2022, followed by three others in April, July, and October.

By the end of September 2021, we received 233 article-length manuscripts from about two dozen countries. Even though Iran tops its neighbors in the number of submissions, the journal has received manuscripts from many parts of the region, including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Tajikistan, and India. As for the readership beyond the circulation of the printed editions, readers have downloaded articles and book reviews 46,885 times from the online site from the beginning of the year until the end of September.

Since January 2021, there have been several changes in the makeup of the editorial team. I would like to express my gratitude to all its members, past and present, for their dedication to upholding the scholarly quality of the journal. To make the working of the team truly collaborative we have set up two quarterly group meetings (one for associate editors and one for book review editors). I am grateful for the ideas, initiatives, and enthusiasm shown by all my talented and dedicated editorial colleagues. So far, our collective efforts have led to some decisions which will hopefully contribute to the fulfillment of a major goal for Iranian Studies: the expansion of publishing opportunities for non-Western as well as social sciences scholars. In the coming year, the journal will add a series of short reviews (between 150-300 words) dedicated to recent Persian language books. We will seek Iran-based scholars to write some of these reviews. Our next step will be to expand this new feature to include reviews of books written in other non-European languages. Another initiative on our agenda is to carve a space for round tables, with social sciences-related topics and those originated by scholars from regions with Iranian legacies.

We anticipate that these initial steps will increase opportunities for realizing our goal. I hope that we can count on the support and collaboration of many interested groups, particularly the active participation of the editorial and advisory boards of the journal. I end with a heartfelt wish for a healthy and happy fall season for all.

#### Sussan Siavoshi

Editor-in-Chief

Iranian Studies, Department of Political Science, Trinity University

<http://associationforiranianstudies.org/Journal>

### AIS 2022 CONFERENCE NEWS

It is our great pleasure to announce that the **AIS2022 Biennial Conference of Iranian Studies** will take place at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Salamanca from **August 30 to September 2, 2022**. The AIS2022 Conference is planned as a primarily in person event but will also accommodate online proposals for those who cannot physically attend for whatever reason.

Updates on the program and conference logistics will be posted at <https://associationforiranianstudies.org/conferences/2022>

### AIS COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM

On September 6, 2021, the AIS Committee for Academic Freedom issued a letter on recent events in Afghanistan.

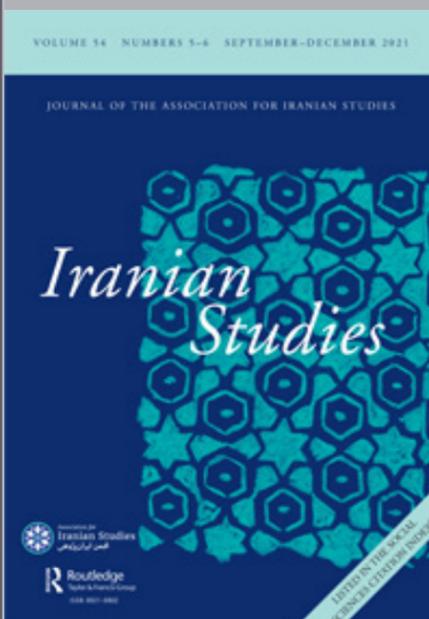
<https://associationforiranianstudies.org/sites/default/files/AIS-CAF%20Statement%20on%20Recent%20Events%20in%20Afghanistan.pdf>

AIS-CAF also issued a statement on the tragic bombing in a school in Kabul in May 2021. The statement can be found at:

<https://associationforiranianstudies.org/sites/default/files/Afghan%20bombing%20Letter%20CAF.pdf>

Further, in light of the May 2021 violence in Palestine/Israel, AIS-Council issued a statement condemning those events and declaring its support for all peaceful efforts to establish equal rights for Palestinian citizens of Israel, and for independence for Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza. The statement can be found at:

<https://associationforiranianstudies.org/sites/default/files/Council-Statement%20-%20Palestine.pdf>



## AIS AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

AIS has traditionally included an Awards Ceremony in the Opening Welcome on the first evening of a Biennial Conference and 2022 will be no exception. Typically, some of the awardees will be present to the delight of the audience. Help us to recognize and celebrate outstanding colleagues and their work by participating in the awards process. Please nominate a scholarly work published in the past two years that especially caught your interest and admiration. The Book Awards are listed below. Please visit the AIS awards page: <https://associationforiranianstudies.org/awards> to access descriptions and past awardees and the NOMINATION form (information is added as it becomes available).

Please note that the DEADLINE for nominations is **December 1, 2021**, unless otherwise indicated.

### THE SAIDI-SIRJANI BOOK AWARD

### The LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### The EHSAN YARSHATER BOOK AWARD

### THE LATIFEH YARSHATER BOOK AWARD

### The MEHRDAD MASHAYEKHI DISSERTATION AWARD

### THE PARVIZ SHAHRIARI BOOK AWARD THE SHARMIN AND BIJAN MOSSAVAR-RAHIMI CENTRE FOR IRAN AND PERSIAN GULF STUDIES BOOK AWARD

The Association of Iranian Studies is very pleased to announce two new institutional members:

**The Foundation for Iranian Studies.**

**The School of Advanced International Studies,  
Johns Hopkins University**

We thank both for their support.

## I.B. Tauris Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Persian Literature

### SUBMIT YOUR BOOK PROPOSAL

This series provides a forum for cutting-edge scholarship in the field of Persian literary studies. Covering the first millennium of literary production in New Persian, circa 850-1850 AD, across the full expanse of the Persianate world, from Anatolia and the Caucasus, through Iran and Afghanistan, to Central and South Asia, books in the series will challenge received understandings of the primary source material and offer new ways of approaching both familiar and obscure texts.

We encourage submissions which take a comparative approach that spans genres, periods, regions, and/or languages, as well as studies of distinct periods and individual poets.

#### Series Editor

**Dominic Parviz Brookshaw**, Associate Professor of Persian Literature, University of Oxford, UK

#### Advisory Board

- + **Leili Anvar**, Associate Professor of Persian, INALCO, Paris
- + **Shahzad Bashir**, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Humanities, Brown University
- + **Alyssa Gabbay**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- + **Sunil Sharma**, Professor of Persianate & Comparative Literature, Boston University
- + **Christine van Ruymbeke**, Ali Reza & M. Soudavar Reader in Persian Studies, University of Cambridge

#### Want to find out more about the series?

**Contact:** Rory Gormley, Commissioning Editor, [rory.gormley@bloomsbury.com](mailto:rory.gormley@bloomsbury.com)

#### Interested in submitting a proposal?

**Contact:** Professor Dominic Brookshaw, [dominic.brookshaw@orinst.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dominic.brookshaw@orinst.ox.ac.uk)

#### Peer Review and Publishing Process

All books are subject to strict, double-blind peer review. Monographs will first appear in hardback, with a guaranteed paperback 18 months later.

#### Forthcoming Books

*Persian and Arabic Literary Communities in the Seventeenth Century:*  
*Migrant Poets between Arabia, Iran and India* by James White



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B L O O M S B U R Y

## MEMBER NEWS

**Ervand Abrahamian** has published the book *Oil Crisis in Iran: From Nationalism to Coup d'Etat* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). The book is an analysis of recently declassified US documents on the Mossadeq administration.

**Tamar Abuladze** and **Helen Giunashvili** have published the article “Georgia and Iran: Historical-Cultural Context and Tendencies of Georgian Renaissance (according to Georgian handwritten heritage)” in *PRO GEORGIA. JOURNAL OF KARTVELOLOGICAL STUDIES*, No 31, 2021, pp. 173-193.

**Abbas Aghdassi** has published the edited volume *Perspectives on Academic Persian*, Springer Series Language and Policy (LAPO), Vol. 25.

**Soraya Batmanghelichi's** book *Revolutionary Bodies: Technologies of Gender, Sex, and Self in Contemporary Iran* has been published by Bloomsbury Press, 2021.

**Stephanie Cronin** has published the book *Social Histories of Iran. Modernism and Marginality in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

**Touraj Daryaei**, former AIS president, has been elected to the **European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA)**. As part of the EASA, Prof. Daryaei will contribute his expertise on Iranian history, civilization, languages and literature; Zoroastrianism; numismatics; and world history.

**Pedram Dibazar** has published the book *Urban and Visual Culture in Contemporary Iran: Non-visibility and the Politics of Everyday Presence* (Bloomsbury, 2020).

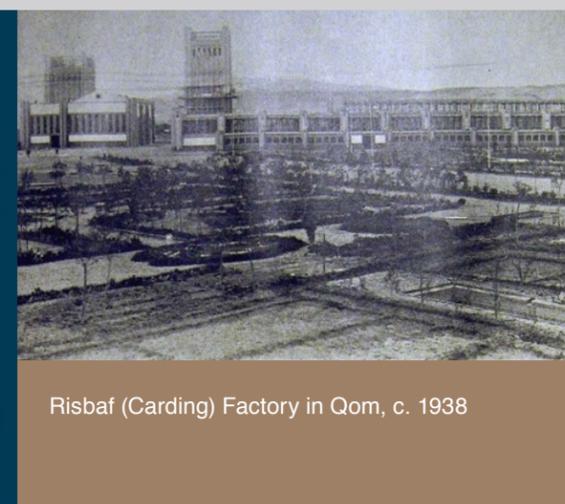
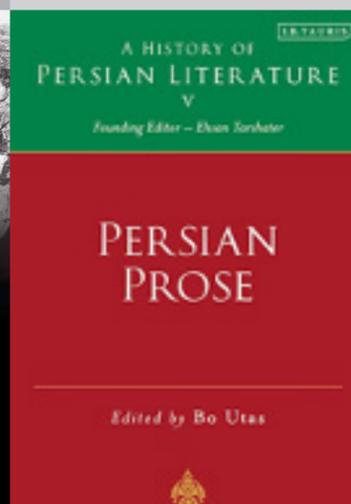
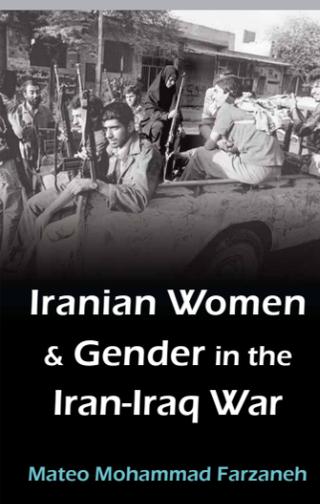
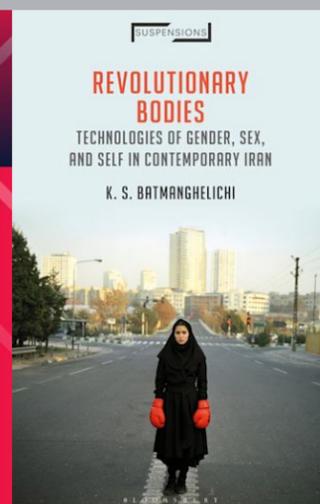
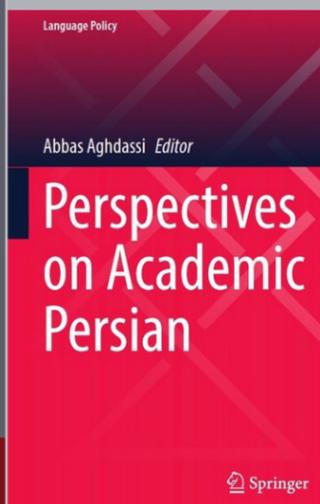
**Mateo Farzaneh's** book *Iranian Women and Gender in the Iran-Iraq War* has been published by Syracuse University Press, 2021.

**Raheleh Filsoofi** of Vanderbilt University has received a Tennessee Art Commission Grant for an Interactive Multimedia Installation and Performance to be held at the New Gallery, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN, January – March 2022. Ms Filsoofi has also received The Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation Grant for her curatorial project “Uncovered Spaces”, an international exhibition and panel to be held in Spring 2022 at the International Museum of Art and Science in McAllen and Edinburg, Texas.

**Willem Floor** has published “The Gates of Isfahan in the Safavid and Qajar Periods,” *Studia Iranica* 49/2 (2020), pp. 243-74, *The Rebel Bandits of Tangestan* (Washington DC: MAGE 2021), “The Economy” in: *The Safavid World*, ed. R. Mathee. New York: Routledge. 2022, pp. 244-63; “The Safavid Court and Government” in *ibid*, pp. 203-34; “Trade in Safavid Iran” *ibid*, pp. 264-84; and “The Safavid Army: continuity and change,” *ibid*, pp. 224-43.

**Willem Floor** and **Mohammad Faghfoory** have co-authored the article “Shah Esma'il – Deputy of the Hidden Imam?” *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 171 (2021), pp. 375-88.

**Ali Gheissari** has published “*Resāle, Maqāle, and Ketāb: An Overview of Persian Expository and Analytical Prose*,” in Ehsan Yarshater (Founding Editor), *A History of Persian Literature, Volume V: Persian Prose*, edited by Bo Utas, London: I. B. Tauris, 2021, pp. 146-216; “Yādi-az Majmu'eh-ye Risbāf-e Qom” (Recollections of the Risbāf [Carding] Complex in Qom), in *Sad-Sālegi-ye Howzeh-ye Qom* (The Centennial of the Seminary Center in Qom), ed. by Rasul Ja'fariān, Qom: Nashr-e Movarreh, 1400 (2021), pp. 575-622; “A Transcript by Mirzā Hasan Roshdieh (a pioneer of modern education in Iran), 1942” (“Maktubi az Mirzā Hasan Roshdieh”), edited with an introductory note and additions, new revised edition, in *Bukhārā, Vol. 26 (No. 144)*, Mordād-Shahrivar 1400 (August-September 2021), pp. 74-95; *The American College of Tehran: A Memorial Album, 1932*, Persian introduction translated by Ali Moazzami, “Yādemāni az Kālej-e Āmrikāi-ye Tehran, 1311,” *Bukhārā, Vol. 26 (No. 145)*, Mordād-Shahrivar 1400 (August-September 2021), pp. 106-167.



Risbaf (Carding) Factory in Qom, c. 1938

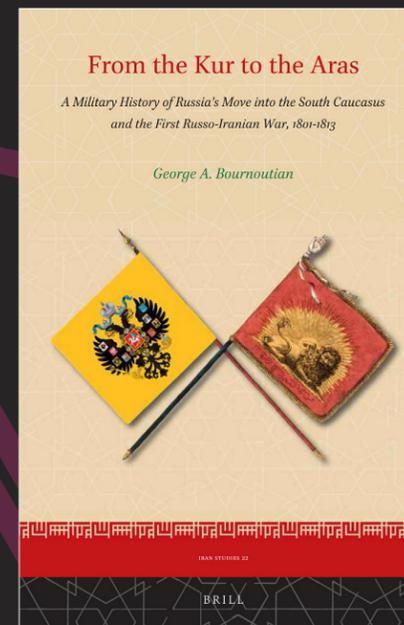
## MEMBER NEWS CONT'D

- Shahla Haeri** has published a new book titled *The Unforgettable Queens of Islam: Succession, Authority, Gender* (Cambridge University Press, 2020).
- Kaveh Hemmat** of Benedictine University has been awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to collaborate with scholars from around the globe to produce an annotated translation of the “Book of China,” a description of China’s government and society, written in Persian in 1516 by Ali Akbar Khatayi, a merchant from Central Asia, who travelled to Beijing and then back across the continent to Istanbul. The collaborators on this grant are Paul Buell (University of North Georgia), John Curry (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Ralph Kauz (Bonn University), Hyunhee Park (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY), and David M. Robinson (Colgate University).
- Rudi Matthee** has published the edited volume *The Safavid World* (Routledge, 2022), containing inter alia his chapter on “Safavid Iran from Shah Safi to Shah Soltan Hoseyn: Stability and Stasis,” pp. 144-63.
- Ali Paya** has published the monograph *Methods, Methodologies, and Perspectives in the Humanities and Social Sciences with particular reference to Islamic Studies. A Critical Rationalist Interpretation* (ICAS Pres, 2021).
- Babak Rahimi** of UC San Diego has published the edited volume *Performing Iran. Culture, Performance, Theatre* (Bloomsbury, 2021).
- Matthew K. Shannon** of Emory & Henry College has published the edited volume *American-Iranian Dialogues. From Constitution to White Revolution, c. 1890s-1960s* (Bloomsbury, 2021).

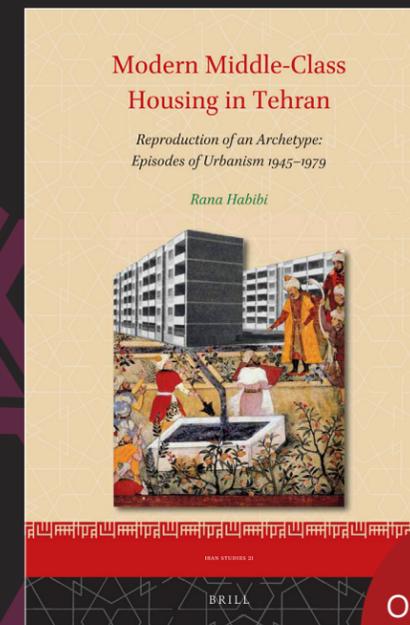
## Recent titles in the Iran Studies Book Series

Editors: **Ali Gheissari, Yann Richard, Christoph Werner**

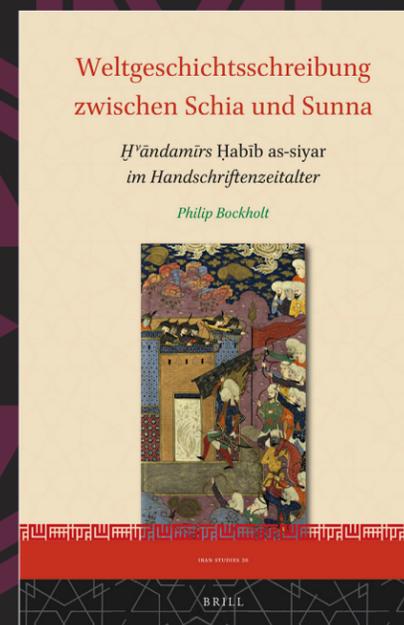
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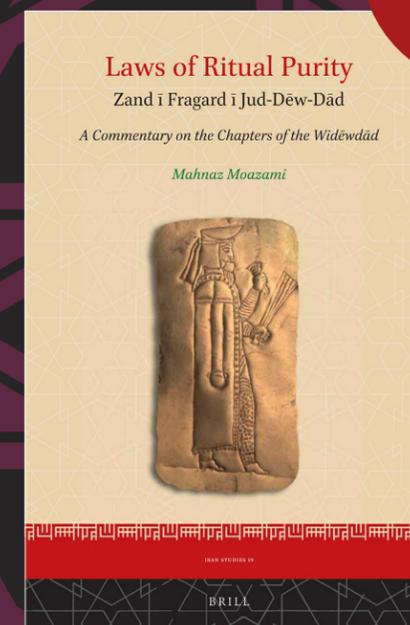
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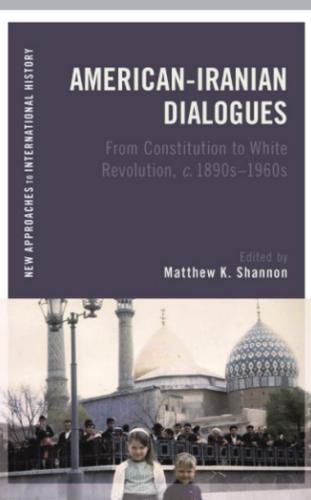
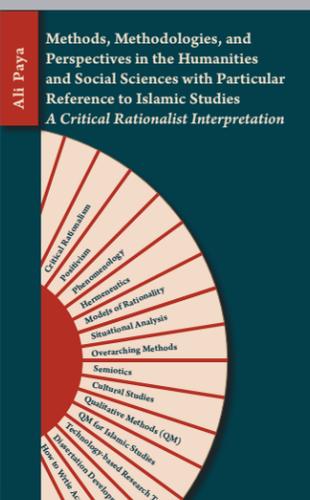
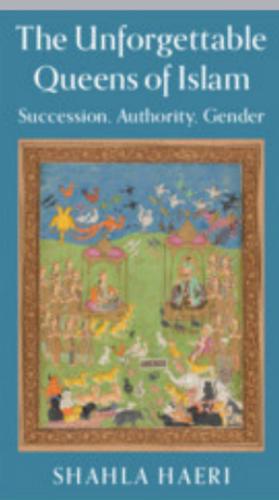
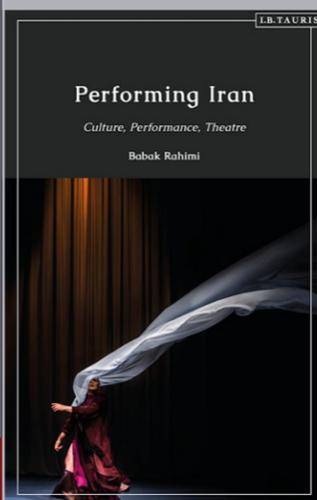
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## OBITUARY

### Abdol Majid Bayat, founder of the Mossadegh Foundation and the Library of Iranology, Passes Away in Switzerland



Abdol Majid Bayat at the Library of Iranology in Geneva, 2013.

© Photo: Pejman Akbarzadeh

On September 13, 2021, Abdol Majid Bayat, the eldest grandson of Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh, passed away in Switzerland. He was 96 years old.

Bayat was the founder of Mossadegh Foundation and its Library of Iranology in Geneva. For over two decades, the Mossadegh Foundation and its library has served as a hub for researchers of Persian culture and history in Geneva. The collection holds more than 8000 items and used to be run by Mr. Bayat himself.

The foundation started its work in 2000. In an interview with Pejman Akbarzadeh which was recently aired from Voice of America, Mr. Bayat stated “My grandfather had indicated to me that he did not wish a sculpture or a monument for him to be erected in his honor. I then asked ‘what about a library’? He said: “It’s fine”. Therefore, I found this place for the library.”

The Mossadegh Foundation and its library have been active in Geneva, while activities in Persian and Iranian Studies at the University of Geneva were halted after the 1979 Revolution. Mr. Bayat in the above-mentioned interview said: “The University of Geneva had a Chair for Iranian Studies and a small library attached to it which was financed by the Iranian government. After the revolution, the government stopped its support. The university in response, immediately discontinued the chair.”

The Mossadegh Foundation and its library for some time was offering the “Mossadegh Prize” to distinguished scholarly works and also was hosting conferences. However, in recent years only the library section had been in operation.

- **VIDEO:** Voice of America’s Persian Service produced a special program on the Mossadegh Foundation and its Library of Iranology. It can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olleHM4M8Sg>

Iranian Studies vol. 54 (nos. 05-06), September-December 2021, has been published and is posted on the publisher’s website: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cist20/current>

It is available to the AIS membership on the AIS website and via the Journal’s archive: <https://associationforiranianstudies.org/>  
<https://associationforiranianstudies.org/journal/archives>

From 2022, Iranian Studies will be published by **Cambridge University Press**.

### Golnoush Khaleghi (1941-2021), Iran's First Female Conductor

Golnoush Khaleghi, the first female Iranian conductor and daughter of legendary composer Rouhollah Khaleghi, passed away on February 14, 2021. She was 80 years old.

The year 1974 was the beginning of Golnoush Khaleghi's professional career. After studying abroad in Salzburg and Wisconsin, she was invited to establish the National Radio and Television's choir, known as 'Hamavazan', in Tehran. This choral group performed various concerts focused on Western classical music.

"The national television at that time had a successful chamber orchestra which had been formed some years earlier. They were going to expand the activities of this orchestra and have a professional choral group to collaborate with it. Therefore, when I suggested to establish a choral group, National Television warmly received the idea," Khaleghi said in a 2016 interview with BBC's Pejman Akbarzadeh.

The choral group's career expanded in subsequent years, but the 1979 Revolution halted its activities. The last work of the choir was the clandestine recording of the Azadi anthem, written by Golnoush Khaleghi with lyrics by Fereydoun Moshiri.



Golnoush Khaleghi in Tehran, 1975.  
Photo: NIRT Archive

Khaleghi reminisced in the same interview: "One day as I was heading to the television studio, the chief sound engineer said to me "I've heard that you have written a beautiful anthem!" The choir members had told him. He asked me "Are you not willing to record this work?" I replied: "I would love to record it but don't know if I am allowed to." He said: "The authorities will surely not allow you to record it, but we will do it secretly!" - The chief sound engineer was Yousef Shahab. He went on, "I will provide you a studio but if the Revolutionary Guard finds out about that, they will not allow you to record. So, you can perform just twice, and you must perform well during this session!" Choir members had already rehearsed so we performed twice with the orchestra and recorded the piece..."

Less than a year after the revolution, Golnoush Khaleghi moved to the United States. In 1985 she established the Rouhollah Khaleghi Orchestra in Washington DC and performed new arrangements of works by Persian music masters. The orchestra's activities ceased after some years due to financial difficulties.

In 1990, for the 25th anniversary of Rouhollah Khaleghi's death, Golnoush Khaleghi travelled to Iran to conduct some concerts. Because she was a woman, the authorities did not allow her to conduct on stage. Khaleghi remembered: "Although I was going to cover my hair during the performance and wear Islamic dress, they did not allow me to conduct on the stage. Later when they tried to be kind, they told me 'You may perform for women!' - I said 'I will never do that. If I perform a concert it should be free for all to come and listen. Why should it be just for women?!'"

Golnoush Khaleghi later established the Rouhollah Khaleghi Artistic Center in the United States to preserve her father's legacy. These efforts led to the publication of Rouhollah Khaleghi's work in Iran and the United States, but many of her own compositions have not yet been released.

The program "I Will Never Perform Just for Women" by Pejman Akbarzadeh. BBC Persian Service, 15 February 2021: <https://www.bbc.com/persian/arts-56067150> includes footage of Golnoush Khaleghi's work.

## DISSERTATION NEWS

### Staging Iranian Cinema at the Berlinale

by Viktor Ullmann, Ph.D. dissertation deposited at the Freie Universität Berlin, September 2021

The dissertation analyzes the representation of Iranian films and filmmakers at the Berlinale during Dieter Kosslick's long tenure as festival director (2001–2019). Since this representation unfolded not only on the silver screen, but especially on the various stages of the festival, from the red carpet to the press conference to the awards ceremony, the analysis is dedicated to the performative dimension of the phenomenon. The dissertation, with its disciplinary home in Islamic Studies, borrows methodological approaches from theater studies.

The dissertation first reviews the phenomenon of late 19th century world exhibitions, from which the film festival format evolved in the 1930s. Here, crucial elements of cultural representation at urban mass events were established, from the form of the national competition crowned by the host to the exhibition of the non-West and the exotic at separate colonial exhibitions.

Since the performances of the Berlinale take place in the scenery of Berlin, a look into the recent history and the character of the city is also necessary. Taking cues from Martina Löw's proposal to examine cities in terms of their specific "inherent logic," the dissertation subsequently addresses the trope of the divided city. Soon after the war, West Berlin was framed as a beacon of liberalism through spectacularly staged efforts like the Berlin Airlift of 1948/49. The origin of the Berlinale, which in 1951 was founded as a "Schaufenster der Freien Welt" (Showcase of the Free World), is to be understood in this context, too. In later years, the Berlinale established itself as an explicitly political festival and a "bridge between East and West," which in the 1980s started an effort to showcase East German and the wider East Bloc cinema. Many of these representational traditions and visual tropes, the origins of which are traced in the first half of the dissertation, impacted the staging of Iranian films and filmmakers at the Berlinale from 2006 onwards.

Iranian cinema's wave of success at international film festivals had already ebbed down in the late 1990s, but under the new festival director Dieter Kosslick, the Berlinale began to invite films from the Islamic Republic extensively in the 2000s to offer its stages to Iranian filmmakers. The paradigms of censorship, repression, and rebellion, which impacted the presentation and reading of these films from the beginning, were seamlessly embedded into the brand of the "political festival" as well as into Kosslick's understanding of the political as a spectacular counterweight to entertainment and glamour.

The most emblematic case for this branding of the festival as a platform for the cinematic rebellion of Iranian filmmakers is Jafar Panahi, with whose work the last two chapters of the dissertation are concerned. After the director was convicted to a 20-year occupational ban and a prohibition to travel to foreign film festivals in 2010, he emerged as the poster boy of political cinema at the Berlinale. In 2011, the festival invited him into the international jury and dedicated large parts of its 61st edition to the absent filmmaker. Two years later, this performance evolved onto the silver screen, when his film *Pardeh* (Closed Curtain) was shown in the festival competition. While this cinematic therapy session presented Panahi as a depressed and restricted filmmaker, he returned in good spirits in 2015. In his film *Taxi*, he can be seen as a witty rebel who is back behind the driving wheel and in control of his creative process, breaking his chains with the help of the Berlinale live in front of the audiences.

Given the myth of the suffering and isolated city of Berlin, which after 1945 with international support regained its status as a global metropolis, Panahi's three-part stage play of the absent jury member to the silenced filmmaker who finally celebrates his comeback live in front of a global audience on the stage of the Berlinale thus turned out to be extremely suitable for the festival, which accordingly crowned him with the Golden Bear in 2015.

Following an analysis of his staging in Berlin as well as his films *Pardeh* and *Taxi*, the dissertation concludes that the performances of Iranian films and filmmakers at the Berlinale are far more telling of the character and the needs of the festival (and its host city) than about the actual state of Iranian cinema.

The Yarshater Center is pleased to announce that Volume XVI of Columbia University's *Encyclopaedia Iranica* has now been published by Brill (<https://brill.com/flyer/title/61057>). This bound volume replaces the older unbound fascicles XVI.1 through XVI.6 dating from 2012-2020. It covers the same alphabetical range, Kashan to Khorasan, but as a revised and expanded edition adds over forty pages of new material, incorporates numerous addenda and corrigenda as well as updated articles, and includes improved maps and colour illustrations.

## PROGRAM NEWS

### Pourdavoud Center Video Library Announcement:

The UCLA Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World is pleased to announce that a new series of lectures has been uploaded to our online video library. During the 2020-2021 academic year, fifteen professionally recorded lectures were added to the growing library. Prompted by the coronavirus outbreak, the Pourdavoud Center reassessed its strategy in terms of public programming and decided that all events from this past academic year were to be held live online before being recorded by expert videographers in the home cities of our guest speakers. Subsequently, these recordings were edited at UCLA, in order to maintain the high quality of the Pourdavoud Center's video library, which makes them citable scholarly tools. Towards this end, the Center has formed a network of videographers across the globe, who shall be producing in decentralized fashion what used to be exclusively generated at UCLA. The Pourdavoud Center is committed to maintaining and promoting intellectual excellence and will continue to share original scholarship with our audiences worldwide. Plans are underway to continue adding videos to the library for the upcoming academic year.

To view all lectures in the video library, please visit <https://pourdavoud.ucla.edu/videos/>.

### UCLA Archaeological Gazetteer of Iran Announcement:

The UCLA Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World hosted the public launch of our new major research project, the UCLA Archaeological Gazetteer of Iran in March 2021. This project is a free-access, web-based encyclopedia of archaeological sites, places, and monuments in the greater Iranian World. The Pourdavoud Center envisions the Gazetteer to become a major vehicle for archaeological research on ancient Iran, as well as a digital resource for scholars and students worldwide. As a research tool that provides the essential, up-to-date information on archaeological sites in a digital format, the Gazetteer consists of three main components: a map on which archaeological sites are plotted with the option of zooming and filtering according to historical periods, a catalogue of sites arranged alphabetically and chronologically, and a section for digitized publications and online sources relating to ancient Iranian studies. The Gazetteer is intended to cover all archaeological sites of ancient Iran regardless of the present-day political borders of the country, thus expanding its functionality and use to adjacent regions (Transoxiana, Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Asia Minor, Arabia, and Egypt). The Gazetteer's entries are structured to include name(s) of sites, their location and geographical coordinates, their history and description, full records of archaeological

exploration, maps, illustrations, and a bibliography for each site. There is no limit for the length of entries or illustrations; their content depends on the volume of archaeological data available. We invite you to visit the UCLA Archaeological Gazetteer of Iran at [irangazetteer.humspace.ucla.edu](http://irangazetteer.humspace.ucla.edu).

### Iranian Cinema and Women Poets Digital Compendia at the University of Toronto

The University of Toronto is delighted to announce an innovative multiyear partnership with the Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation. The new alliance will be dedicated to sharing with the world digital research compendia in two key fields: Iranian Women Poets and Iranian Cinema.

**Iranian Women Poets (IWP)** is an integrative reference work of medieval, modern, and contemporary women poets writing in Persian. Informed by several decades of transdisciplinary recuperative research in Persian literary studies, IWP provides literary-historical articles on female poets and their poetic agency, imagination, tropes, narratives, and lives and the provenance and literary/historical significance of their poetry. As a digital compendium, IWP is an academic reconceptualization of women poets' biographical dictionaries (*taḍkira*), which began with the mid-sixteenth century *Javāher-al-'Ajāyeb* (Jewels of Wonder) of Faḳri Herāvi.

**Iranian Cinema (IC)** is an authoritative reference work of all aspects of film and motion picture production in Iran. Spanning from the rudimentary film industry of the late-19th century to the counterintuitive surge of internationally acclaimed cinema following the Iranian Revolution of 1979, Iranian cinema has proven to be one of the most active sites of cultural production in modern Iran. IC provides historical articles on Iranian cinema, genres, film movements, filmographies, scenarists, directors, composers, stars, lyrists, cinematographers, set designers, sound specialists, editors, choreographers, film studios, movie theaters, film posters, film critics, and audiences, among other subjects related to this theme.

The Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation will publish the digital research compendia via its website, freely accessible to all.

Over the past decades, the University of Toronto has devoted significant resources to the development of Iranian Studies. In 2020 the University announced the establishment of the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies, which brings together over twenty academics from various disciplines in social science and humanities. The extraordinary depth, breadth and the high quality of research produced at the University, the variety of courses that are offered, and the significant number of excellent students and graduates in the fields related to Iranian civilization all make the University a natural partner for the Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation.



## PROGRAM NEWS CONT'D

Professor Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi will be the Principal Investigator for both projects. While the research effort will draw on academic expertise across the world, the research and editorial team will be based in the Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations of the University of Toronto. This will include a dedicated Managing Editor, two Associate Editors dedicated to each compendium project, two Post-Doctoral Fellows or Research Associates, and four graduate (PhD level) and four undergraduate research assistants. The research assistants will be co-funded by the Foundation and by the University, demonstrating shared commitment to the project.

The Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation and the University of Toronto enthusiastically look forward to working together on these important thematic compendia in the coming years and sharing this research widely on open-access platforms easily available to diverse readers and researchers worldwide.

If you are interested in contributing to the Iranian Cinema and Women Poets Compendia, please email Mohamad Tavakoli [here](#).

## Congratulations

### Dr. Jane Mikkelson

*Winner of the Jafar and Shokoh  
Farzaneh Prize for Best Article on  
Persian Literature*

For her article: "Flights of Imagination: Avicenna's  
Phoenix ('Anqā) and Bedil's Figuration for the Lyric Self,"  
*Journal of South Asian Intellectual History* 2 (2019): 28-72.



Jane Mikkelson is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Virginia (College Fellows). In 2019, she received a joint Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in South Asian Languages and Civilizations and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Her research focuses on comparative literature, Persian literature and Islamic thought, translation studies, and theories of literature, with a particular interest in comparative projects that connect early modern Near Eastern, South Asian and European literary and religious cultures. Her work has been published in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, *University of Toronto Quarterly*, *Journal of South Asian Intellectual History*, *Modern Philology* and elsewhere. Her first book project, *Steadfast Imagining*, examines practices of lyric meditation in the early modern Persianate world, situating these practices alongside premodern theories of literature and of the imagination.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

*The Roshan Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Persian and Iranian Studies offers MA and PhD degrees focusing on a) modern or classical Persian literature and culture or b) Iranian (or other Persian speaking societies') history, religion, social organization, and politics. The program benefits from the long tradition of Persian and Iranian studies at the University of Arizona's School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies (formerly the Department of Near Eastern Studies) which also offers undergraduate degrees focusing on Persian. The program intends to prepare graduates to work in academic, public, and private positions where extensive and expert knowledge of Iran and other Persian speaking societies such as Afghanistan and Tajikistan is required. In addition to the completion of core courses, superior language competency in Persian is expected. The Roshan Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Persian and Iranian Studies also creates a broad forum for scholarly activities around Persian and Iranian studies on campus and in the wider community.*



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## PROGRAM NEWS CONT'D

### SAIS Rethinking Iran Initiative Releases Dynamic Pedagogical Tools for Educators and Researchers

The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies's (SAIS) Rethinking Iran Initiative is pleased to announce the launch of new digital resources from the Iran Under Sanctions Project summarizing the impact of sanctions on Iran for academics and researchers interested in critical engagement on Iran and the larger Middle East.

“Iran Under Sanctions” and “Life Under Sanctions” are a collection of infographics and visual narratives that can serve as dynamic pedagogical tools for educators seeking to engage their students in interdisciplinary learning regarding the impact of U.S. sanctions on Iran’s economy, society, politics and culture. “Iran Under Sanctions” succinctly summarizes key takeaways of the impact of sanctions while “Life Under Sanctions” brings to life ethnographic accounts that collectively provide a holistic portrait of the impact of sanctions on everyday life in Iran.

In the coming months, SAIS Rethinking Iran plans to release more curricular material suitable for upper-level high schools, undergraduate programs, and graduate programs.

For future announcements, please subscribe to SAIS Rethinking Iran’s [mailing list](#).

<https://www.rethinkingiran.com/>

## Prince Baysunghur, Before and After: Timurid Manuscripts in Context

5–6 November 2021  
Online via Zoom  
Advance registration essential

Click here for the [full program](#) and [registration](#).

Organized by the Persian Manuscripts Association and sponsored by Sabine Schmidtke, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

### Program

All timings in Eastern Standard Time (EST)

#### Friday, 5 November 2021

09.45-10.00	Opening remarks
10.00-11.30	<b>Panel 1</b> Barbara Brend (Chair) Bernard O’Kane Robert Hillenbrand Maria Subtelny
11.30-12.00	Break
12.00-13.30	<b>Panel 2</b> Shiva Mihan (Chair) Cailah Jackson Ilse Sturkenboom Ali Shapouran

#### Saturday, 6 November 2021

10.00-11.30	<b>Panel 3</b> Bernard O’Kane (Chair) Shiva Mihan Simon Rettig Moya Carey
11.30-12.00	Break
12.00-13.30	<b>Panel 4</b> Beatrice Manz (Chair) Francis Richard Sunil Sharma Matthew Melvin-Koushki
13.30-13.45	Closing remarks



‘Conference Panellists Having a Civilized Discussion’, *Gulistan*, 1427, Herat, Chester Beatty, Dublin, Per 119.4

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Association

### The G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies, Tbilisi, Georgia Selected Papers 1960-2020

In 2020, an extensive volume was published of articles dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies, incorporated in 2010 into Ilia State University (*Selected Papers 1960-2020*, Tbilisi: Universalis Publishing House, 590 pages). The editor of this collection is the director of the Institute, Professor George Sanikidze.

The volume has a wide-ranging introduction penned by G. Sanikidze, which focuses on the formation of the Institute, its founders, its main research projects, and its leading scholars in past and present (pp. 9-19). It also provides detailed information on the current organizational structure of the institute (the administration, departments and staff) (pp. 13-17), and an overview of conferences held between 2013 and 2019. It also lists ongoing research projects, select past projects, and publications in special collections of articles and proceedings of conferences as well as current and past periodicals.

The next part of the volume (pp. 23-546) presents 68 articles, all penned by the researchers of the Institute, published at various times and in various periodicals and proceedings in English, French and German. The volume is further accompanied by rich illustration materials.

The development of Oriental Studies in Georgia owes much to the scholarly and pedagogic activities of the prominent scholars Ivane Javakhishvili (1876-1940), Giorgi Akhvlediani (1887-1973), Akaki Shanidze (1887-1987), and Justine Abuladze (1874-1962), among others. This distinguished generation of Georgian scholars has paved the way for the formation of the national Institute for Oriental Studies, first at the Tbilisi State University, and later at the Georgian Academy of Sciences, which have found wide international recognition.

The Institute of Oriental Studies was established in 1960 at the initiative of the outstanding scholar George (Giorgi) Tsereteli (1904-1973).<sup>1</sup> It was formed on the basis of the relevant departments and teams of Orientalists from different centers of the Georgian Academy of Sciences and since 1973 bears the name of its founder. After Tsereteli, from 1973 till 1995 the Institute was directed by his disciple, Thomas Gamkrelidze (1929-2021), also an outstanding scholar.<sup>2</sup>

The main research directions of the Institute have from the beginning been comprised of the studies of central problems in oriental philology, linguistics, history

<sup>1</sup> See Thomas Gamkrelidze, "Academician George V. Tsereteli", in the above-mentioned volume, pp. 23-27.

<sup>2</sup> See R. Schmitt, "Über Thomas V. Gamkrelidze und sein Oeuvre", in the mentioned volume, pp. 28-32.

of the Near and Middle East and studies of the cultural-historic relations of the countries of these regions with Georgia.

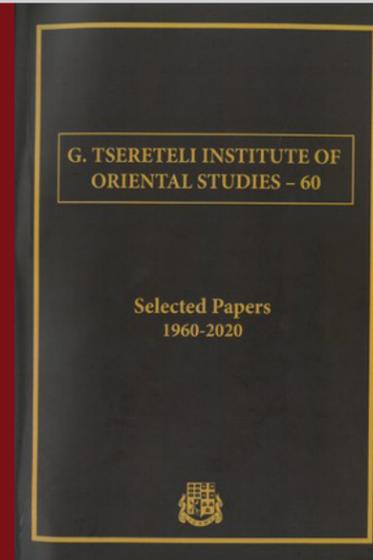
The following departments were formed upon the foundation of the Institute: the Department of Ancient Oriental Languages (headed by T. Gamkrelidze), the Department of Indo-Iranian languages, headed by Professor Jamshid Giunashvili (1931-2017)<sup>3</sup>; The Department of Semitic Studies headed by Konstantin Tsereteli (1921-2004); The Department of Turkish Studies headed by Sergi Jikia (1898-1993); The Department of Byzantine Studies headed by Simon Qaukhchishvili (1895-1981); The Department of Persian Philology headed by Professor Vladimer Puturidze (1893-1966) from 1960 to 1966; and the Department of the History of the Middle East headed by Valerian Gabashvili (1911-1985).

Across the years, the structure of the Institute has been changing and the scope of studies has been expanding. New topical directions were added to the traditional branches of Oriental Studies.

The G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies, which has emerged as one of the world's important centers of Oriental Studies since its foundation in 1960, maintains this tradition up to this day. The newly published volume will be of utmost importance in preserving the contributions of the Georgian Oriental Studies for the scholarly world at large.

*Dr. Helen Giunashvili, G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies*

<sup>3</sup> Jamshid Giunashvili also served as the deputy director of the institute from 1973 to 1994, as the first Ambassador of Georgia to the Islamic Republic of Iran (1994-2004), the founder and chairman of the Association of Georgian-Iranian Scientific and Cultural Relations and Cooperation, and as honorary member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature (Tehran).



## RESEARCH REPORT

### Iranian Women and Gender in the Iran-Iraq War

The narrative of the Iran-Iraq War has remained part of an exclusive domain of the Islamic Republic since the war's beginning in September 1980. It contains a male dominated analysis based on an ideological conceptualization of the conflict. This prevents the public from readily looking at its multiple dimensions and consequences. The state almost always highlights one ramification of the war, which is mostly perceived as an orchestrated threat of the outside world against Iran. That is how the state justifies its policy of keeping constant vigilance against foreign aggression. By doing so, the state has denied many necessary social programs that would have benefitted the citizens in exchange for programs in national security that led to building a robust defense system taking financial sources away from social needs. Although such assertions may be true to a certain extent for all nations that expect the enemy to attack at any time, it has kept scholars from understanding what Iranian society experienced during the conflict and its significant consequences. Some of the reasons for academia to ignore the war have to do with the difficulty one experiences in trying to access relevant source materials. Most primary sources related to the war are under lock and key, for the reasons mentioned above. However, not few relevant sources are actually readily available, although not in an organized fashion or where one would expect them. The works on the war that are currently available in English in good measure focus on its geopolitical, military, energy, and political aspects. For the material published in Persian one can find a vast amount of published books, articles, blogs, talks available in print and digital format, many of which are ideologically driven. Yet in the midst of this multitude of publications that are by and large subsidized by the Iranian state, there are women's stories in the war. These stories amount to plenty of material, which, if examined objectively, can effectively reveal women's agency and involvement in the war that until now has been ignored by scholars.

It is noteworthy that although for the past two decades women have taken the initiative and begun to write or tell of their involvement in the war in various capacities, the state still tries to present their involvement based on certain patriarchal understandings of women's contributions as mothers, wives, and sisters and not as fighters, journalists, surgeons, pilots, or first responders, among other key roles. From the beginning of the war to the end (September 1980-July 1988) out of 20,187 articles printed in Iranian newspapers and weekly magazines, only 93 pointed to women by mentioning them in the context of mother (*mādar*), sister (*khwāhar*), wife (*hamsar*), or simply woman (*zan*). The 93 articles related to women contextualize their participation in their roles as mothers and wives of brave men, men who sacrificed everything by leaving home in order to defend the nation/ancestral land (*mihan, vatan/sar-zamin*).

As for women, the official narrative depicts them as females who stayed home, became lonely, waited, cried, were helpless and uninvolved in the manly affairs of the state. Attributes such as prowess, agency, and resolve were reserved for men while women were portrayed as weak, meek, and pitiful.

My research, however, proved something entirely different. After I conducted my preliminary research in the summer of 2009, the span of my inquiry evolved and became more in-depth and complex over the years. What became obvious was that the perception of women's involvement in the war as provided by the Iranian state was not only incorrect but misogynistic, biased, and male-exclusive, because of age old beliefs in women's incapability and the gendering of their role in the war. This official prejudice against women was based on socially accepted gender roles that have roots in both the traditional (*sonnati*) and modern, religious and secular culture of Iran that was also apparent during the monarchical rule of the Pahlavis. The irony was that the same prejudice that the patriarchy had against these women was the same in the case of the scholarship that was done or lack thereof outside and inside Iran.

Scholars' biases against a group of women that many Iranians associate with the main body of the Islamic Republic because they were involved in the war kept them outside the historical discourse. As a consequence, what has been taking place is the selective choosing of "favorite" women to be examined rather than the ones that one might not see eye-to-eye with intellectually, socially, fashionably, or politically.

Therefore, by ignoring women involved in the war, we were left with an unbalanced understanding of the situation of the entire body of women in the latter part of the 1900s and the early part of the twenty-first century. Although I hope my new book, *Iranian Women and Gender in the Iran-Iraq War* (Syracuse University Press, 2021) offers some introductory perspective on the women discussed here, it leaves us with a world of questions that needs the attention of serious scholars in the field of women and gender, and Iranian studies. The war has not ended for the female disabled veterans, the wives and mothers who continue to care for their disabled loved ones, the daughters of the martyred and many more challenges that the state and society for one reason or the other ignore. The war has not ended for those women who were left with raising fatherless children with little to no assistance from the government and the social consequences are yet to be fully examined.

I would like to thank the Persian Heritage Foundation, the Farzaneh Family Foundation, the Ilex Foundation, and the American Institute for Iranian Studies for their support of this research and the book publication.

*Mateo Mohammad Farzaneh, Northeastern Illinois University*

# MODERN IRAN

## A HISTORY IN DOCUMENTS

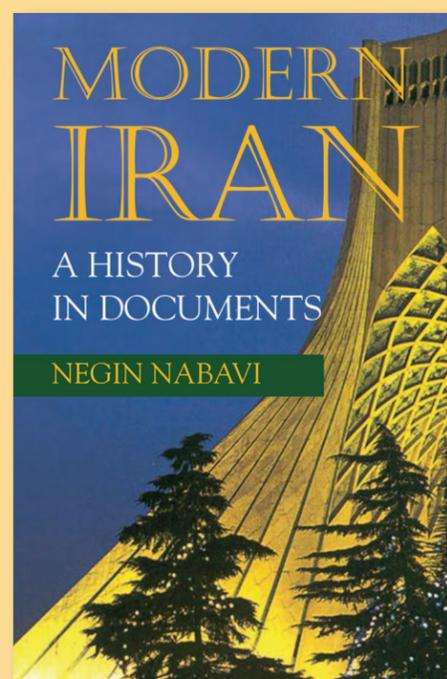
Edited, translated, and introduced by Negin Nabavi

Now Also in Paperback

Covering the period from the early nineteenth century to the present day, *Modern Iran: A History in Documents* brings together primary sources in translation that shed light on the political, social, cultural, and intellectual history of modern Iran. This book comprises a wide variety of documents from newspapers, periodicals, diaries, memoirs, letters, speeches, and essays, all of which have been translated from the Persian for the first time. It captures the momentous changes that society has undergone, encompassing not only political events and developments, but also ideas, perceptions, and mindsets. In addition to well-known texts from diplomatic conventions, the book features passages by lesser-known men and women who describe the reception of and response to major developments across the social strata. The book is divided into ten chapters, with the final one bringing together documents that offer insights into recent events; these documents highlight contrasting viewpoints expressed in the Iranian press regarding the nuclear agreement reached in 2015 between Iran and six world powers.

**Negin Nabavi**, associate professor at Montclair State University, is the author of *Intellectuals and the State in Iran: Politics, Discourse, and the Dilemma of Authenticity* and *Iran: From Theocracy to the Green Movement*.

The book is divided into ten chapters, with the last one bringing together documents that offer insights into recent events.



### Part One – IRAN IN THE “LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY”: 1785–1911

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- Chapter 2: Reforms, Economic Concessions, and Expressions of Dissent
- Chapter 3: Constitution and Constitutionalism: Debates and Developments

### Part Two – 1911–1978

- Chapter 4: War, Coup D’État, Hopes, and Disillusionment
- Chapter 5: State-Building, the Politics of Modernization, and Its Discontents
- Chapter 6: Intellectuals, Islam, and the Search for “Cultural Authenticity”

### Part Three – THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION: 1978–1979

- Chapter 7: The Months Leading to the 1979 Revolution

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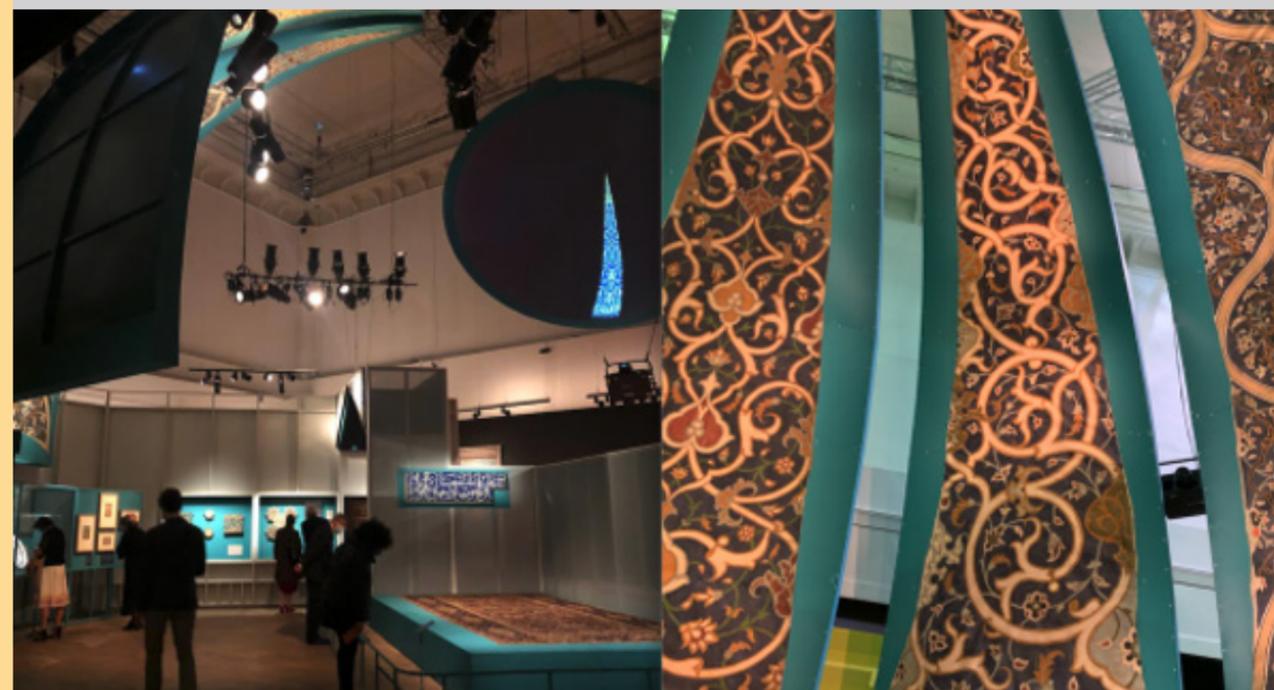
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## EPIC IRAN: Some Zoroastrian Treasures from the British Library



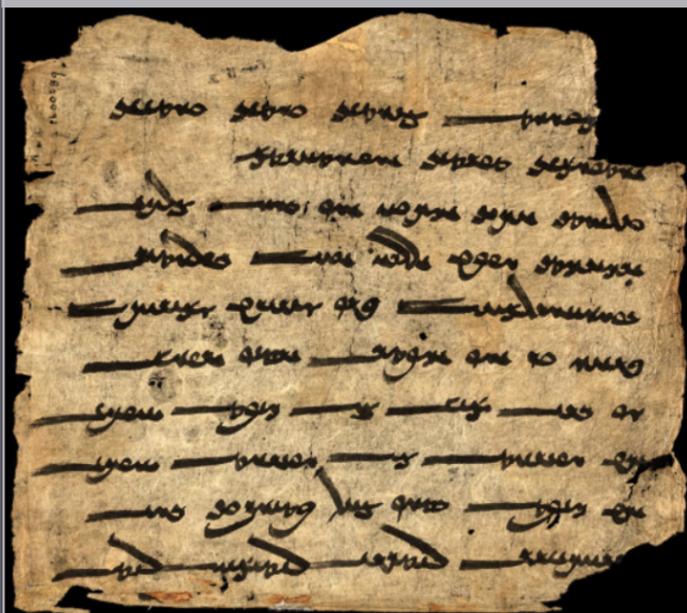
The British Library has an unrivalled collection of Zoroastrian manuscripts. Here three manuscripts are introduced which were also part of the 2021 exhibition *Epic Iran*, held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Zoroastrianism, the religion of the ancient Iranians, owes its name to Zarathushtra (Zoroaster) whose hymns (*Gathas*) are thought to have been composed 1500-1000 BCE. It teaches the importance of good thoughts, words, and actions, in a dualistic cosmos where the forces of the All-knowing Lord, Ahura Mazda, are constantly opposed by those of the Evil Spirit, Angra Mainyu. Originating in Central Asia, Zoroastrianism spread east to China and south to Iran where it became the main religion from the sixth century BCE until the mid-seventh century CE. After the arrival of Islam, Zoroastrian refugees from Iran established settlements in Gujarat, India, where they were called Parsis (“Persians”). Zoroastrian diaspora communities have since become established worldwide.

Zoroastrianism is essentially an oral religion. The oldest scriptures, referred to as the Avesta or Zend, are in an Old Iranian language, Avestan. They were not written down, however, until around the sixth century CE during the Sasanian period, many centuries after their composition. Even after that, the main liturgical texts were

## EPIC IRAN CONT'D

transmitted orally. This is partly the reason that, apart from the *Ashem vohu* fragment mentioned below, there are no manuscripts surviving from before the end of the thirteenth century.



The *Ashem vohu* prayer transcribed in Sogdian script, dating from around the ninth century CE (British Library, Or.8212/84). Public domain

### The earliest extant Zoroastrian text, the Ashem Vohu prayer

This fragment dates from around the ninth century CE and comes, not from India or Iran, the lands associated today with the Zoroastrianism, but from Dunhuang in Central China, where it was discovered in the Mogao caves by Aurel Stein in 1907. It contains a short text in Sogdian (a middle-Iranian language) about the prophet Zarathushtra followed by a phonetic transcription into the Sogdian script of one of the holiest Zoroastrian prayers, the *Ashem vohu*, composed originally in Avestan. Remarkably, the language of the prayer is neither recognisable as Sogdian nor Avestan, but is likely to represent a much older Iranian dialect, perhaps an archaic form of Avestan. The prayer must have been preserved orally in this ancient form, which remained unaffected by the codification of the Avesta in the Sasanian period, when the sacred texts were first written down (N. Sims-Williams, *The everlasting flame*, p.94).

Zoroastrianism was carried eastwards to China from the early centuries of the first millennium CE by Sogdian traders, whose homeland was the area of Samarkand in present-day Uzbekistan. This document provides written evidence for its continuation

there up to the ninth century and, more importantly, it is the only example of its kind, dating from about four centuries earlier than any other surviving Zoroastrian text.

### An illustrated law book

The *Videvdad Sadah* is a liturgical presentation in Avestan of the most important of Zoroastrian legal works, the *Videvdad* ('Law repudiating the demons'). The text, described as *sadah* ('clean'), i.e. unaccompanied by any commentary, is recited in a ritual context. This opening shows the beginning of chapter nine which concerns the nine-night purification ritual (*barashnum nuh shab*) for someone who has been defiled by contact with a dead body.

Most of the Zoroastrian manuscripts at the British Library originate from India, copied by and for the Parsi community which traditionally emigrated from Iran from about the eighth century onwards. This beautifully written and decorated copy, however, was made in Yazd, Iran, in 1647 by a Zoroastrian Mihrban Anushirvan Bahram Shah who copied it for a Zoroastrian of Kirman called Marzban Sandal Khusraw. Whereas Zoroastrian manuscripts are generally unillustrated except for small devices such as verse dividers and occasional diagrams, this one, exceptionally, contains seven coloured illustrations six of trees and one diagram. The heading here has been decorated very much in the style of contemporary illuminated Islamic manuscripts.

This copy was most likely brought to India from Iran by the Iranian poet and writer, Siyavakhsh Urmazdyar, himself a descendant of the original patron, in the mid-nineteenth century before being acquired by Burjorji Sorabji Ashburner (fl.1817-1895), a successful Bombay businessman who presented it the Royal Society, London in May 1864. Transferred to the India Office Library in 1876, it was incorporated into the British Library collection in 1982.



The opening to chapter nine of the *Videvdad Sadah* (British Library, RSPA 230, ff. 151r-152v). Public domain

## EPIC IRAN CONT'D

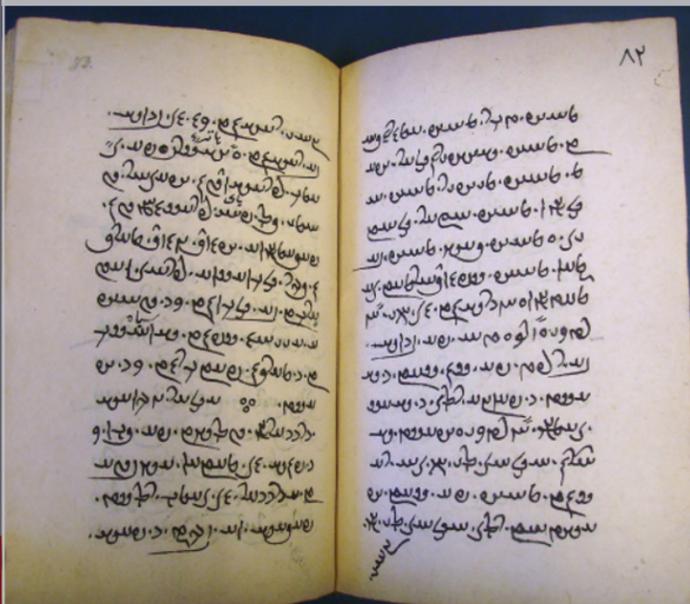
### The Bundahishn ('Primal Creation')

The *Bundahishn*, or 'Primal Creation,' is perhaps the most important Zoroastrian work on cosmogony and cosmography. Composed in Pahlavi (Middle Persian) during the early Islamic period, it is conventionally dated to the ninth century. It presents the Zoroastrian world view beginning with a detailed account of the perfect creation of the All-knowing Lord, Ahura Mazda (Ohrmazd in Middle Persian), which was attacked by the Evil Spirit, Angra Mainyu (Ahriman), and contaminated with disease and death. The cosmic drama culminates in the resurrection of the dead and the defeat and removal of Evil from Ohrmazd's world and its perfection at the end of time. The cosmographic parts of the text include descriptions of the world's lands, rivers, lakes, mountains, plants animals, and human races.

The text of the *Bundahishn* is preserved in two distinct versions, an Indian and a more complete Iranian one. This manuscript gives the text of the Indian *Bundahishn* and is written in **Pazand**, a phonetic Avestan script. Copied in India in the seventeenth or eighteenth century, it was acquired by East India Company surgeon **Samuel Guise (1751-1811)** while working at the East India factory at Surat and was purchased by the East India Company Library after his death.

Readers visiting the British Library can also see a small display of Zoroastrian manuscripts in the **Sir John Ritblat Gallery: Treasures of the British Library**.

*Ursula Sims-Williams, British Library, Lead Curator Persian CCBY*



Chapter 27 of the Bundahishn, 'On the nature of the plants' (British Library, Mss Avestan 22, ff. 82v-83r). Public domain

### Further Reading

Domenico Agostini and Samuel Thrope (tr), *The Bundahishn: the Zoroastrian Book of Creation*, New York, 2020

Almut Hintze, 'An introduction to Zoroastrianism,' in British Library, *Discovering Sacred Texts*, September 2019

Jenny Rose, 'Zoroastrianism from the early modern period,' in British Library, *Discovering Sacred Texts*, September 2019

Ursula Sims-Williams, 'Zoroastrianism in late antiquity,' in British Library, *Discovering Sacred Texts*, September 2019

-----, 'Zoroastrian Manuscripts in the British Library, London', in A. Cantera (ed.) *The Transmission of the Avesta* (Wiesbaden, 2012): 173-94

-----, 'Digital Zoroastrian at the British Library'

Sarah Stewart with Firoza Punthakey Mistree, Ursula Sims-Williams, *The everlasting flame: Zoroastrianism in history and imagination*, London; New York, 2013

[This text has been reproduced with kind permission from the **Asian and African Studies Blog of the British Library**.]

## UPCOMING LECTURES

### Forthcoming Baskerville Institute Lectures

• **Professor Richard Garlitz**: "Mission for Development: Utah Universities and Economic Development in Iran" October 27th, 2021 at 12:00 PM (MST)

--> [Register Here](#)

• **Liora Hendelman-Baavur** Book Talk: "Creating the Modern Iranian Woman: Popular Culture between Two Revolutions (The Global Middle East)" November 22th, 2021 at 12:00 PM (MST) or 9 PM Tel Aviv --> [Register Here](#)

• **James Goode** Book Talk: "Living, Loving Iran: A Memoir" December 13th, 2021 12:00 – 1:30 PM (MST) --> [Register Here](#)

• **Hooman Estelami** Book Talk: "The Americans of Urumia: Iran's First Americans and their Mission to the Assyrian Christians" January 22nd, 2022 at 12:00 PM (MST) --> [Register Here](#)

• **Suzanne Maloney**: "The Iranian Revolution at 43: Sources of Tensions and Conflict with the United States" February 14th, 2022 at 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM (MST) --> [Register Here](#)

## UPCOMING LECTURES CONT'D

### Iranian Studies at MESA

The following Iran-related panel will be held at the Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association 2021. The Meeting will be held virtually. To register, please visit <https://mesana.org/annual-meeting/registration>.

#### Crises of Representation, Reform, and Recovery in 18th-21st c France, Iran, & Turkey

Tuesday, 11/30/21, 11:30 am

#### Iranian Cineture: Local Narratives, Global Receptions

Tuesday, 11/30/21, 11:30 am

#### Conceptual Histories of Reform (Islāhāt) in Contemporary Iran: Critical Lineages of a Familiar Idea

Wednesday, 12/01/21, 11:30 am

#### Iranian Studies Unbound: Emerging Global Approaches to the Field (Part I)

Wednesday, 12/01/21, 11:30 am

#### Iranian Studies Unbound: Emerging Global Approaches to the Field (Pt.II)

Wednesday, 12/01/21, 2:00 pm

#### The Future of Academic Studies on the Iran-Iraq War

Thursday, 12/02/21, 2:00 pm

#### Environmental Histories of 20th Century Iran through Local, National, Colonial, and Trans-National Perspectives

Friday, 12/03/21, 11:30 am

#### Iranian Women Poets: Diversity at the Margins of Modernity

Friday, 12/03/21, 11:30 am

#### The Forgotten Mundane: Contemporary Iran Beneath and Beyond Politics

Friday, 12/03/21, 11:30 am

#### Iran's New Century and the Formation of National Identity

Friday, 12/03/21, 2:00 pm

#### Mapping Art Histories in the Arab World, Iran, and Turkey

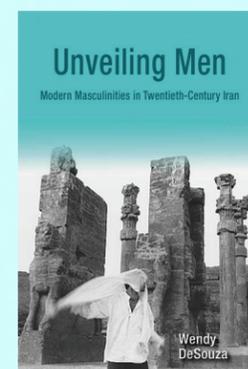
Friday, 12/03/21, 2:00 pm

The American Association of Teachers of Persian will hold its annual business meeting and award ceremony on December 4th. Access data can be viewed via the following zoom links:

- Saturday, December 4th from 2:00-3:00pm (ET)  
AATP Annual General Meeting ([Zoom Link](#))
- Saturday, December 4th from 3:00-4:00pm (ET)  
AATP Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony for Dr. M.R. Ghanoonparvar ([Zoom Link](#))

# Syracuse University Press

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## Unveiling Men

MODERN MASCULINITIES IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY IRAN

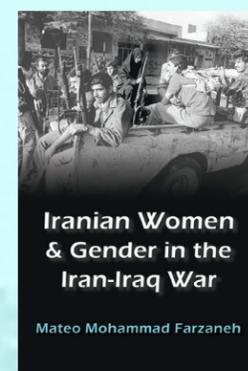
Wendy DeSouza

“Engaging a variety of primary source materials . . . *Unveiling Men* offers a useful articulation of the genesis of modern Iranian masculinity.”—*Choice*

“A much-needed, risk-taking book that begins an essential conversation in the study of masculinity in Iran.”—*Iranian Studies*

Paper \$24.95s 9780815636038

eBook 9780815654490



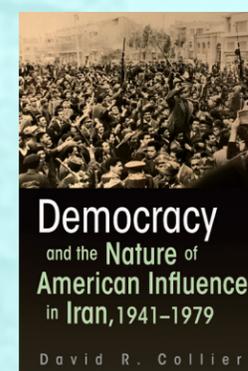
## Iranian Women and Gender in the Iran-Iraq War

Mateo Mohammad Farzaneh

“Farzaneh’s illuminating research is useful for women’s rights activists, anthropologists, sociologists, and political scientists who seek to acquire an in-depth understanding of the largely untold stories of and myriad roles played by Iranian women during the Iran-Iraq War and in Iran’s patriarchal system.”—*Middle East Journal*

Paper \$24.95s 9780815637103

eBook 9780815655169



## Democracy and the Nature of American Influence in Iran, 1941-1979

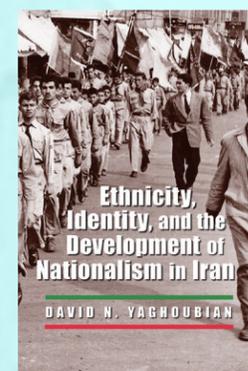
David R. Collier

“An incredibly timely work.”—*Democratization Journal*

“Collier sheds light on the debate over the extent of Shah’s dependence (Shah the puppet or otherwise) but does not resolve it. This is an important and thorough contribution to the literature.”—*Choice*

Paper \$44.95s 9780815635123

eBook 9780815653974



## Ethnicity, Identity, and the Development of Nationalism in Iran

David N. Yaghoobian

“In this insightful and original book, Yaghoobian examines Iranian nationalism from the perspective of the country’s Armenian minority. He makes an important contribution to the study of nationalism by linking a view from below—which focuses on how individuals are drawn to, interact with, and help shape nationalism—and a view of nationalism from the perspective of state minorities”—*American Ethnologist*

Hardcover \$49.95s 9780815633594

eBook 9780815652724

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

*Oxford Bibliographies Online (OBO)*--an online platform for up-to-date and annotated bibliographies - is calling for articles for the page **Spotlight in Iranian and Persian Studies** ([link](#)). The idea is to cover various aspects of Iranian Studies, bibliographically.

Iranian and Persian Studies is a new Spotlight in Oxford Bibliographies Online (OBO). The hub, evolving regularly, will curate annotated bibliographies that include topics on almost every aspect of Iran and the Persianate World. The available scholarship in many European, as well as, west Asian languages, has touched upon many areas and periods of Iran—pre-, early, and post-Islamic. However, not many indices and bibliographies provide timely access to authentic bibliographies in the field so to facilitate scholarly workload in the age of widespread misinformation.

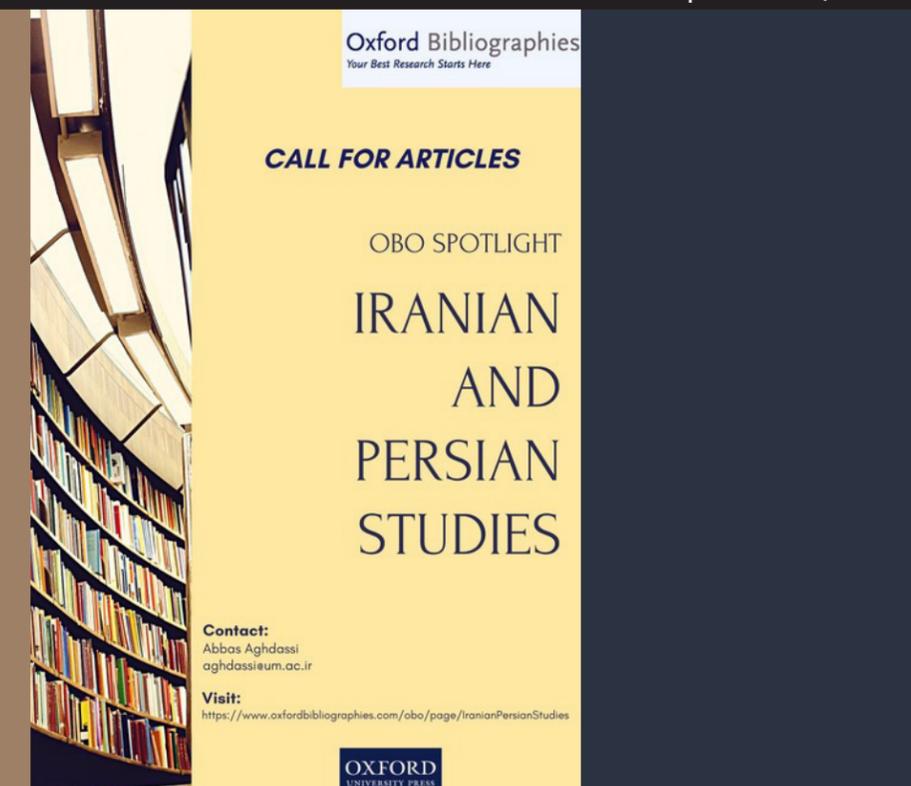
This open call welcomes proposals for new annotated bibliographies written from both disciplinary and interdisciplinary backgrounds on every corner of Iranian and Persian Studies.

Primarily, each annotated bibliography will be linked to one of the existing modules in OBO, including (but not limited to), Anthropology, Architecture, Art History, Cinema and Media Studies, International Relations, Islamic Studies, Linguistics, Literary and Critical Theory, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology. The new bibliography will also appear under the OBO Spotlight in Iranian and Persian Studies. The new spotlight might later develop into a separate module in OBO.

Broadly defined, new articles will be categorized under one of the eight following themes,

1. GENERAL
2. PEOPLE
3. HISTORY
4. CULTURE & SOCIETY
5. PLACES & GEOGRAPHY
6. RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY
7. ARTS & LITERATURE
8. POLITICS & ECONOMY

Scholars, researchers, and academics are encouraged to send an abstract of their proposed bibliography (max. 200 words) and a short bio-note to the spotlight curator, Abbas Aghdassi ([aghdassi@um.ac.ir](mailto:aghdassi@um.ac.ir)). To have a clearer view of OBO's annotated bibliographies, potential authors are invited to see the Anatomy of an Article ([link](#)), and the Author Guidelines ([link](#)).



## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### Socio-Historical Study of Religion in Greater Khorasan

*Special Section in Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion (RSSR)*  
BRILL, Volume 33, 2022

Greater Khorasan, once the crossroad of various religions, historically extended from northeast Iran to some central Asian countries, Afghanistan, parts of Pakistan, and northwest India. Regardless of the historical significance of this region in pre-, early, and post-Islam periods, Greater Khorasan is of great contemporary importance because it influenced—and continues to do so—the foundations for religiosity and spirituality in a vast area that (re)produces current religious thoughts and movements. Although previous studies documented religion and society in this area from historical lenses, the literature remains semi-silent on the contemporary sociological and psychological developments of religion(s) in Greater Khorasan.

This call intends to cover a number of questions: Broadly framed, will historical roots find contemporary religious resonance in modern-day Greater Khorasan? Does attachment to a common historical background provide room for frameworks of understanding religion and religiosity in this region? How will narratives of the past shape the future of religion in this area?

## CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS CONT'D

In *Socio-Historical Study of Religion in Greater Khorasan*, we like to discover how historical understanding of Greater Khorasan finds contemporary relevance in religion and religiosity. Comparative studies, new models and approaches, and multidisciplinary investigations are highly encouraged.

Potential themes in the special section will include, (but not necessarily limited to),

- Revivalism of pre-Islamic traditions and denominations in Greater Khorasan
- Greater Khorasan, rationalism and anti-rationalism
- Others and otherism in socio-cultural interactions of Greater Khorasan
- Pre- and/or post-Mongol Sufism in Greater Khorasan
- (Trans-)National identities and modern self in Greater Khorasan
- Christian and Jewish narratives in Greater Khorasan
- Muslim and non-Muslim relations in Greater Khorasan

We invite scholars, researchers, and academics to send an **abstract** of their proposed papers (max. 200 words), a short bio-note (150 words), institutional affiliation/s (if relevant), and contact details to the guest editors, Morteza Daneshyar, Vali Abdi, and Abbas Aghdassi before **October 31, 2021**.

Abstracts and subsequent papers should be submitted in English.

Notification of abstract acceptance will be communicated by November 1, 2021. Following the notification, authors will be invited to submit their full paper by March 1, 2022. Papers would then undergo peer-reviews, at which point authors will be notified if papers are accepted for inclusion and if revisions are required.

We plan to publish the accepted papers in Brill's *Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion* (RSSR), volume 33, Special Section 1—tentatively planned for November 2022. Please, note that COVID might affect this date.

Please, circulate this call. For any general queries, please contact Abbas Aghdassi ([aghdassi@um.ac.ir](mailto:aghdassi@um.ac.ir)).

### Guest editors:

Morteza Daneshyar, ed., ([daneshyar@ferdowsi.um.ac.ir](mailto:daneshyar@ferdowsi.um.ac.ir))

Vali Abdi, ed., ([v\\_abdi@ferdowsi.um.ac.ir](mailto:v_abdi@ferdowsi.um.ac.ir))

Abbas Aghdassi, ed., ([aghdassi@um.ac.ir](mailto:aghdassi@um.ac.ir))

RESEARCH IN THE  
SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC  
STUDY OF RELIGION  
(RSSR)

ISSN: 1046-8064  
Publisher: BRILL  
Vol. 33 (Nov. 2022)  
Special Section 1

### Call for Papers

## SOCIO-HISTORICAL STUDY OF RELIGION IN GREATER KHORASAN

Abstract Proposal  
October 15, 2021

### GUEST EDITORS

Morteza Daneshyar  
Vali Abdi  
Abbas Aghdassi

CONTACT: [aghdassi@um.ac.ir](mailto:aghdassi@um.ac.ir)

VISIT: <https://brill.com/View/serial/RSSR>



## CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

**Oklahoma State University (OSU)** is accepting applications for a tenure-track faculty member in the School of Global Studies and Partnerships (SGSP). We are seeking excellent teachers and scholars with an interdisciplinary focus and whose work is related to international development, defined broadly. The appointed professor will teach up to four courses per year in the graduate program in the School's Global Development and Leadership concentration in one or more of the following or related topics: global leadership, economic development, human rights, migration/refugee issues, food security, impact of climate change, or other relevant areas. We are particularly interested in candidates with the background and interest in serving as the Inaugural Iranian and Persian Gulf Program Chair to manage the IPGS program, which examines critical issues related to the Iranian and Persian Gulf region, such as food security, water issues, and sustainability.

The posting can be accessed here: <https://okstate.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?site=8&id=9938>

### Contact: Dr. Randy Kluver, Associate Provost and Dean

Don and Cathey Humphreys Chair in Global Studies, School of Global Studies and Partnerships, Oklahoma State University

## CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS CONT'D

### The Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center, Princeton University Postdoctoral Research Associate/Associate Research Scholar

The Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at Princeton University invites applications for a postdoctoral research associate or more senior researcher position(s) in the relevant fields of Iran and the Persian Gulf studies in the 19th - 21st century.

Anticipated to start in September 2022, the position is open to scholars of all academic disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. This full-time, twelve-month position is renewable annually for up to three years, subject to satisfactory performance and available funding. The center promotes interdisciplinary approaches to advancing the study of Iran and the Persian Gulf, with special attention to the region's role and significance in the contemporary world. The goal of the program is to support outstanding scholars of Iran and the wider Persianate world at an early stage of their careers and thus to strengthen the field of Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies in the United States and abroad.

In addition to their salary, researchers receive funding (up to \$4,000 per academic year) for research related expenses (books, conferences, travel expenses, etc.). The

center provides office space and staff support as well as a taxable moving allowance to help defray domestic or international moving expenses. Researchers are required to be in residence in Princeton or the local vicinity, or demonstrate to the program's satisfaction the ability to be on campus on a daily basis and on short notice in order to fulfill responsibilities relating to in-person participation. They are responsible for their own accommodations.

Candidates are required to apply online at <https://www.princeton.edu/acad-positions/position/22703> and submit the following documents: (1) cover letter with title and summary of proposed research project (200 words); (2) research proposal (max. 1500 words), including description of project, bibliography, timetable, explicit goals, and the reason for pursuing at Princeton; (3) curriculum vitae and list of publications; (4) sample chapter (in English) of dissertation or other recent work; (5) contact information for three references.

**DEADLINE:** All materials must be received by Friday, December 10, 2021, 11:59 p.m. EST. Preferred start date is September 1, 2022. This position is subject to the University's background check policy.

**Essential Qualifications:** Ph.D. required. Researchers may not pursue another degree while in this appointment, nor may they hold any other fellowships or visiting positions concurrently. Appointment cannot be deferred to a later term.

**Preferred Qualifications:** Applicants should have completed a Ph.D. within the last three years although more senior candidates may be considered.

**Instructions for Applying:** Complete the online application and click "Apply to this Posting" at the top of the posting details page. Documents that can be associated with this posting: Cover letter, Statement of Research Interest, Resume/CV, Bibliography/Publications List, Writing Sample, Other Document 1 Proposed Start Date: 09-01-2022 End date, if a Term Appointment: 09-01-2023

This twelve-month position may be renewed for up to three years, subject to satisfactory performance and the availability of funds.

**EEO Statement:** Princeton University is an equal opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

### Assistant Professor of Modern Persian Literature and Culture Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia

The Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia (Vancouver Campus), invites applications for a tenure-track appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor in the field of Modern Persian Literature and Culture.

Requirements include: a Ph.D. in modern Persian Literature or a closely related subject (or the expectation of having successfully defended the dissertation before July 1, 2022); evidence of excellence or strong potential in research and undergraduate and graduate teaching; organizational and leadership skills; a strong track record of participation in team work and program affairs; and experience in community outreach and program building.

## CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS CONT'D

Preference will be given to applicants with the ability to teach courses in English about modern Persian Literature in English Translation, History of Modern Persian Literature, Modern Persian Society and Culture through Literature and Film, and/or Iranian Cinema.

Applicants are expected to have native or near native proficiency in Persian, and the successful candidate will be expected to work closely with tenure-stream Asian Studies faculty in South Asian and Persianate and Islamic history and culture, and with any future hires in the area of Persian/Iranian Studies. Information about the Department can be found on its website, [www.asia.ubc.ca](http://www.asia.ubc.ca).

The application dossier should include: a letter of application, curriculum vitae, one writing sample (maximum 30 pages), two sample course syllabi, evidence of teaching effectiveness, a one-page statement about your experience working with a diverse student and faculty body and your contributions or potential contributions to creating/advancing a culture of equity and inclusion, and the names and contact information for three confidential references. The deadline for receipt of applications is **December 3, 2021**. The anticipated start date of employment is July 1, 2022. All application materials should be submitted online at <http://asia.ubc.ca/careers>. Inquiries may be sent to [asia.jobsearch@ubc.ca](mailto:asia.jobsearch@ubc.ca).

Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.

This position is subject to final budgetary approval. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Given the uncertainty caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, applicants must be prepared to conduct interviews remotely if circumstances require. A successful applicant may be asked to consider an offer containing a deadline without having been able to make an in-person visit to campus if travel and other restrictions are still in place.



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## Antoin Sevruguin Past and Present

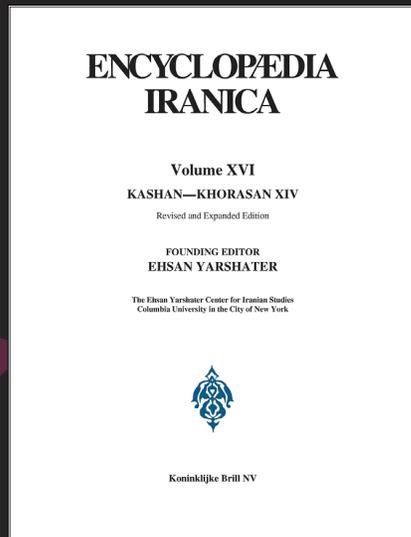
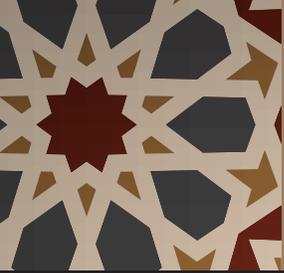
edited by Tasha Vorderstrasse



Explore the changing world of late nineteenth-century Iran through the gaze of one of its most renowned photographers, Antoin Sevruguin. This volume, which will be accompanied by a forthcoming exhibition, publishes for the first time the Oriental Institute Museum's complete collection of nineteenth-century Iranian photographs, most of which were created by Sevruguin. Sevruguin's artfully staged photographs still resonate with us today. Accompanying the print catalog is a series of essays that investigate Sevruguin's life and photographic career, including the lasting impact of his unique vision, as demonstrated by the work of contemporary artist Yassaman Ameri.

368 pages | 259 color illus | Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago | October 2020  
hardcover | ISBN 9781614910541 | \$130.00

available from **ISD** Distributor of Scholarly Books  
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# Encyclopædia Iranica

– Volume XVI

Kashan – Khorasan XIV

*Revised and Expanded Edition*

Editor: **Elton L. Daniel**

July 2021 | Hardback | ISBN: 978-90-04-47290-7 |  
Pages: 750 pp. | Price: €250 / US\$350

<https://brill.com/view/title/61057>

The Encyclopædia Iranica is dedicated to the study of Iranian civilization in the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Indian Subcontinent. It also includes scholarly articles related to the reciprocal influences between Persia and its neighbors, extending from pre-history to the present. The disciplines represented include: anthropology, archaeology, geography, art history, ethnology, sociology, economics, history of religion, philosophy,

mysticism, history of science and medicine, Islamic history, botany, zoology, folklore, development of agriculture and industry, political science, international relations, and diplomatic history.

Volume XVI starts with the article on Kashan and ends with the entry on Khorasan XIV. Ethnology Of Qajar And Pahlavi Khorasan.



## Encyclopædia Iranica Online

Encyclopædia Iranica is the most renowned reference work in the field of Iran studies. Founded by the late Professor Ehsan Yarshater and edited at the Ehsan Yarshater Center for Iranian Studies at Columbia University, this monumental international project brings together the scholarship about Iran of thousands of authors around the world.

Find the online, open access version at:  
[brill.com/eiro](http://brill.com/eiro).

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