



ASSOCIATION FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

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<http://associationforiranianstudies.org>

AIS Newsletter | Volume 45, Number 2 | Fall 2024

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Greetings to you all from a frosty Oxford! As I take over as AIS President, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our outgoing President, Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet (UPenn), for all the time, effort, and passion she has put into leading our association over the past two years. I look forward to drawing on Firoozeh's expertise as I assume my new responsibilities, and I am most grateful for her support. It is that time of year when we bid farewell to outgoing members of the Council, while simultaneously welcoming newly elected members. We are sorry to see two of our Council members, Assef Ashraf (Cambridge) and Nahid Siamdoust (UT Austin), and one of our student representatives, Sara Mashayekh (UC Santa Barbara), leave us. A big thank you to all of them for their service to the association and their valuable work on Council. We also have the pleasure of welcoming two new members, Negar Habibi (UGeneva) and Anousha Sedighi (Portland State), alongside Bahar Abdi (UC San Diego), our new student representative. We also welcome our new Deputy Editor of *Iranian Studies*, Farshad Sonboldel (UC San Diego).

One of my goals as President of AIS is to create greater collaboration and cohesion between our organizational participants based North America, and those in Europe, Iran, and beyond. It is my hope that a broad range of colleagues from across the world, both Council members and others, will be involved in the planning of the 2026 Iranian Studies Biennial that will be held at Utrecht University in the Netherlands and hosted by our dear colleague, Asghar Seyed-Gohrab. Our biennials constitute the lifeblood of our association;

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they are where we share our latest research, catch up with old friends, and build new connections. Our vibrant Mexico City conference was a perfect example of this. As a result of frank and open discussions at our 2024 AGM, the Council has resolved to organize a series of online academic discussions on contemporary crises in Iran and the broader Middle East. This month we will have the first of these, which will focus on various aspects of the BDS movement. In the spring, we will be convening the second, on scholasticide and academic purges in Afghanistan, Gaza, Iran, and Iraq. I hope that these panels (and those that follow them) will provide an opportunity for us as an association to come together to discuss, debate, and learn from one another's research and first-hand experiences. As the Council convenes these panels, we are also looking to revive AIS's Committee on Academic Freedom and we will be consulting on how best to support this committee in its vital work.



As we near the end of the term/quarter/semester, I hope that we will all find some much-needed time to relax and recharge.

With all good wishes for Yalda, and for 2025.

Dominic Parviz Brookshaw
Professor of Persian Literature and Iranian Culture
Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
University of Oxford

REPORT FROM THE EDITOR OF IRANIAN STUDIES



I am delighted to report that the next issue of *Iranian Studies* 57.3 will be published after a brief hiatus caused by technical disruptions that affected Cambridge University Press last summer.

Nasrin Rahimieh
Editor-in-Chief

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I would like to also report changes in our editorial board. Dr. Aria Fani, Deputy Editor of *Iranian Studies*, has completed his term last summer. I am grateful to Dr Fani for his invaluable guidance and support. Dr. Farshad Sonboldel, a scholar of Persian literature who is currently serving as the World History and Cultures Librarian at the University of California, San Diego, was selected for and accepted the position of Deputy Editor in July 2024. He brings to the position his invaluable experience as the Editor of the *Journal of the Middle East Librarians' Association*.

Two other members of the editorial team, Dr. Austin O'Malley and Dr. Nahid Siamdoust, who served the journal as book review editors, have also completed their terms. In addition to serving as the book review editor for modern Persian literature, Dr. Amy Motlagh (University of California, Davis) will now assume responsibility for book reviews in cultural studies. I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Jane Mikkelsen (Yale University) has accepted to become book review editor for classical literature.

At the Biennial Conference of the Association for Iranian Studies in Mexico City last August, we had occasion to hold an editorial board meeting to discuss ways of enhancing our outreach, revising the submission guidelines, and offering support for contributors seeking guidance on preparing their submissions. I am indebted to the members of the editorial team for their professionalism and commitment to maintaining and to enhancing our journal's standing in the field.

CONFERENCE NEWS

14th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, August 12 -15, 2024, University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico

From the outgoing AIS president, Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet:

Dear AIS colleagues:

As my presidency ends, I would like to reflect briefly on the past two years, especially the magical conference we convened in Mexico City. For many, this conference provided an opportunity to visit Latin America for the first time. When I first proposed Mexico as a possible venue for our biennial gathering, I will admit that I received some quizzical looks. Some skeptics immediately wondered what ties, if any, existed between Mexico and Iran. Not infrequently, I was asked: "Is there even any Iranian Studies there?"

Sometimes cultural affinities present themselves in unexpected and ineffable ways. There is a social consciousness that connects our two communities that might not have been immediately obvious. Mexico is known for embracing social justice causes, having offered refuge in dark moments to renowned revolutionaries, such as Leon Trotsky (1879-1940). In 1968, when Mexico City hosted the quadrennial Olympic games, the world was reeling from racial injustice. African-American athletes attending the Mexico City Olympics, such as Tommie Smith (b. 1944) and John Carlos (b. 1944), famously raised their fists to denounce the systemic racism that they had faced in the United States of America. Locally, Mexican laborers and students, including those enrolled at UNAM, protested widely, calling for civil liberties

and economic parity. At the AIS conference, we honored aspects of this related history by convening panels that considered race and racism, economic disparities, and gender inequalities in Iran and their wider historical contexts.

Plans to convene the inaugural AIS biennial conference in Latin America took shape in the fall of 2022, when my colleague at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Oscar Aguirre-Mandujano, introduced me to the incredible team of scholars at UNAM. Once again, I thank our dear partners, Dr. Moisés Garduño-García and Dr. Shekoufeh Mohammadi, for their exceptional efforts and commitment to this gathering. We are also grateful to Dr. Lilián Álvarez, Institute Director, and Dr. Alejandra Gómez, Director of the Museum, who worked tirelessly, with equally dedicated and hard-working volunteers, to make this gathering a success.

The conference opened in downtown Mexico City in its historic district at the enchanting Museo Nacional de las Culturas. After initial remarks, a keynote conversation, "Forgotten Pasts: Recovering Lost Voices Through Scholarship," ensued among four prominent scholars in the field: Touraj Daryaei, Ali Ferdowsi, Eliz Sanasarian, and Fariba Adelhah. Each academic explained their commitment to retrieving forgotten peoples and communities by combining personal experiences with scholarship.



CONFERENCE NEWS CONT'D

At UNAM, the conference explored other fascinating topics, from classical Persian literature to Iran's pre-Islamic, medieval, and early modern histories (Figure 4). Participants from a range of European and American institutions organized panels and roundtables and participated in these academic conversations. Several panels focused on art, architecture, photography, music, and cultural studies, while others shed light on gender concerns in Iran, particularly in the aftermath of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" (WLF) uprisings. Notable panels also included discussions of the Iranian diaspora in the Global North and beyond. The conference featured a well-attended session on current events that addressed the politics of Iran and Palestine. Attendees shared concerns and perspectives and directed specific academic questions to the panelists. Finally, AIS members benefited from roundtables and special sessions on new publications in the field, from relations between Iran and Africa to the politics of the Persian Gulf.



The book exhibit, chaired by AIS Council member Dr. Niki Akhavan, was well-attended and included representatives from well-known publishing houses, such as Syracuse University Press, Brill, and IS Distribution. Other publishers had shipped several timely books to the conference venue, which were put on display.

Evening festivities included dinner (with advanced booking) at two popular hubs in the historic section of Coyoacán. A charming locale known for its colonial architecture, cobblestone streets, and *avant-garde* vibe, Coyoacán is also the neighborhood famous for the Frida Kahlo Museum *La Casa Azul* (The Blue House).

The program of the Fourteenth AIS Biennial Conference in Mexico City displayed a commitment to academic freedom and enabled us to discuss several controversial topics within the framework of Iranian Studies, as defined in our bylaws. We uphold these values, recognizing at the same time "the diversity in the field, including political diversity," as expressed in the association's code of conduct.

The AIS Mexico City conference concluded with a large, well-attended Annual General Meeting (AGM) that spilled into two rooms and lasted longer than the allotted time. The officers of the association presented their reports to the membership, and

the association had the opportunity to welcome formally its new president, Dr. Dominic Brookshaw, who, in addition to being a renowned literary scholar, has held many important positions within AIS. At the AGM, organizational participants engaged in informative conversations about the role and purpose of AIS as it confronts current events.

It was wonderful to welcome colleagues who had made the long trek to Mexico City from India, Japan, Iran, and beyond to attend the conference. Despite fears of being rained out, the weather cooperated, and the conference took place without any major inconvenience or climatic disruptions. Our membership numbers increased, and many lapsed organizational participants returned to become involved in our biennial program.



Planning a destination conference of this magnitude in a major metropolis is never easy and only becomes possible with large and dedicated teams of support, both here and abroad. The AIS Council was very invested in the success of the Mexico City Biennial Conference from the outset, and we owe them our gratitude. I would also like to thank all the AIS institutional members, as well as our major donors: the Ilex Foundation, the Soudavar Memorial Foundation, and the Persian Heritage Foundation for all their much-needed contributions.

My tenure as AIS president coincided with unprecedented global crises, beginning with the political turmoil in Iran and continuing with the devastating conflicts in the Middle East. Throughout these upheavals, I remain heartened that our academic community has engaged in difficult conversations without diminishing its respect for differences of opinion. Whatever the future holds, I know that we are stronger together than apart. In the words of Mexican poet Octavio Paz (1914-98), "Wisdom lies neither in fixity nor in change but in the dialectic between the two." And as Hafez counsels:

“نصیحت گوش کن جانا که از جان دوست تر دارند / جوانان سعادتمند، پند پیر دانا را”

I remain forever grateful that you entrusted me with the task of overseeing the association and its biennial conference over two turbulent yet very dynamic years.

Cordially,

Firoozaeh

EXCITING GROWTH IN THE FIELD OF IRANIAN DIASPORA STUDIES

Persis Karim (San Francisco State University) and Amy Malek (Oklahoma State University)

If there was ever any doubt, the AIS 2024 Conference in Mexico City made clear that the field of Iranian Diaspora Studies is significantly growing, both in scope and scale. During the conference at the beautiful Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), we had the pleasure of welcoming many junior scholars and scholars of Iranian Diaspora Studies to AIS for the first time as participants in the four pre-organized panels, author-meets-critic book roundtable, documentary-film screening, and a dozen individual papers across other panels in our subfield. Among these sessions, over 50% of the participants were new members attending their first AIS conference. We were also pleased to see established AIS members thinking about, researching, and presenting reflections on the diaspora, some for the first time. Of particular note, scholars presented in several new areas of research, including especially the experiences and roles of the diaspora during the “Woman, Life, Freedom” (WLF) movement. We were pleased to see a strong attendance at these panels and extensive engagement in Q/A by AIS members working in diverse fields, topics, and periods.

The three days of panels highlighted research in and across disciplines, such as anthropology, history, sociology, psychology, literary studies, media studies, and cultural studies. Among these sessions, two related panels on two separate days reflected the growing diversity of the field. In “Migration and Diaspora Studies I,” chaired by Elena Díaz de la Cruz, panelists addressed questions of identity through refreshingly multidisciplinary lenses – from YA literature (“Narrating ‘Fractional Persians’: Second-Generation Iranian American Narratives and the Making of the Iranian Identity” by Afshin Irani) to health (“The Dynamic Development of National Identity: A Biopsychosocial Pilot Study on American and Iranian Citizens” by Ramezan Dowlat). The companion panel, “Migration and Diaspora Studies II,” chaired by Nader Talebi, similarly drew on diverse theoretical and methodological applications in considering recent activism in multiple and overlapping locations, from affect theory (“So Close, So Far: Affective Aspects of Activism among the Iranian Diaspora in Berlin” by Nader Talebi) to religious spaces in Brazil (“Between here and there: producing Iranicities in the center and in the margin of Iranian diasporas” by Julia Chaise), to postcolonial theory as reflected in literature (“Unsettling the Diaspora: Imagining Return in Settler Colonial Contexts” by Parisa Delshad who participated via zoom); and social scientific survey approaches to understanding the impact of diaspora politics on Iranian scholars in U.S. higher education (“The Dual Strain of Polarized Diaspora Politics and Budgetary Contractions in Higher Education on Iran Specialists in the American Academia” by Camron Amin and Julio Borquez).



Nader Talebi, University of Berlin, presents on the “Diaspora Studies II” panel, on the impact of the *Woman. Life. Freedom.* movement on the Iranian diaspora in Berlin, Germany.

The WLF movement was at the forefront of many at the conference, and numerous papers and roundtables included comments about its transnational dimensions.. Notably, during “Accountability and the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement: A Roundtable Discussion,” presentations from Nahid Siamdoust (“The Political Work of Diasporic YouTube Programs”), Daniel Ahadi (“Iranian Media in Diaspora and the Exercise of Soft Power”), and Kristin Soraya Batmanghelichi (“The Rule of Experts? A Case-Study of Iranian Human Rights Stakeholders in Oslo, Norway”) emphasized the role of digital media and its effects – both positive and negative and on and offline – of diasporic digital engagements and the transnational dimensions of activism.

Other excellent sessions at the conference included an “Author Meets Critic” book roundtable for Sahar Sadeghi’s *Conditional Belonging: The Racialization of Iranians in the Wake of Anti-Muslim Politics* (New York University Press, 2023), featuring powerful reflections by Nasrin Rahimieh, Sahar Razavi, and Persis Karim. In “National Pasts, Nostalgic Futures: Anxieties of Belonging and Participation in the Iranian Diaspora,” chaired by Amy Malek, panelists reflected on the intersections of nationalism and nostalgia, whether as “Cyromania” (“Imperial Nostalgia and Contests of Inclusion in the Iranian Diaspora” by Amy Malek); the marketability of cultural nostalgia as “diasporacore” by online fashion merchants (“Diaspora Chic: The Racial Politics of Diasporic Iranian Aesthetics in the Marketplace” by Parmida Mostafavi); the nostalgia for Forugh Farrokhzad (1934-67) in Iranian American poetry, (“Forugh in America: (Trans)National Translations of Farrokhzad in Iranian-American Poetry” by Marie Ostby); and the operationalization of nostalgia for ancient empire in Iranian Christian nationalism (“The Persian Empire, the Old Testament, and the Elamites: The Construction of an Iranian Christian Nationalism” by Ana Maria Raietparvar) (Figure 2). Across these presentations, it was evident that the study of the diaspora has spread well beyond the early focus on communities in North America. In “De-Centralizing the Global Iranian Diaspora,” chaired by Manijeh Moradian, research presentations were especially geographically diverse: from Sheida Besozzi’s research on Spain (“Identity and Belonging in Diaspora Resistance: Iranians in Spain”) to

EXCITING GROWTH IN THE FIELD OF IRANIAN DIASPORA STUDIES CONT'D

Navid Fozi's research on Turkey ("Neoliberal Self, Memory Reconstruction, and Gendered Citizenry: Testimonial Narratives of Iranian Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Transit Asylum Seekers") to Amir Sayyadabdi's innovative food studies project in New Zealand ("Food, Identity, and Diasporic Iranian-ness"); to Erfan Saidi Moqadam's study of Iranian religious practices and identities in rural Kentucky ("Departure from Orthodoxy: Negotiating Islam among Iranian Americans in Rural Kentucky").



Panelists for the Panel titled "National Pasts, Nostalgic Futures: Anxieties of Belonging and Participation in the Iranian Diaspora" (Left to Right: Dr. Ana Maria Raeitparvar, Dr. Marie Ostby, Dr. Parmida Mostafavi, and Dr. Amy Malek).

Missionary Network and Dynamics of Conversion of Iranians to Christianity," represents new directions in the study of ethnicity and religious minorities within the diaspora. The 2024 Hamid Naficy Book Prize, given for the best book published within the previous two years that takes the field of Iranian Diaspora Studies as its primary field or method of study on any subject, was awarded to Manijeh Moradian at Barnard College for *This Flame Within: Iranian Revolutionaries in the United States* (Duke University Press, 2022). We also awarded an Honorable Mention to Janet Afary and Kamran Afary for *Molla Nasreddin: The Making of a Trickster, 1906-1911* (Edinburgh University Press, 2022). The prizes for these awards were made by the Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies and will continue to be awarded at subsequent conferences with the support of the Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies program at Oklahoma State University. We were also thrilled that our own Persis Karim was honored with the AIS Senior Mentorship Award for her pioneering work in mentoring students and colleagues in the field of Iranian Diaspora Studies.



Dr. Manijeh Moradian (left), recipient of the Hamid Naficy Book Award, with Dr. Ana Maria Raeitparvar (Right), recipient of the Neda Nobari Dissertation Award.

On the final day of the conference, Persis Karim screened her documentary film on Iranian-Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area, *The Dawn is Too Far: Stories of Iranian-American Life* (2024). All these activities and panels confirm that the study of the global Iranian diaspora is a rich landscape of multidisciplinary research and scholarly investigation that is only growing as the diaspora itself grows, whether in size, geography, generation, and complexity.

At the 2024 AIS Conference, we also were pleased to see several awards presented to scholars in our field. Since 2022, the San Francisco State University (SFSU) Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies has been the sponsor of two awards established within AIS: the Hamid Naficy Book Award and the Neda Nobari Dissertation Prize. The number and quality of submissions for these awards are a testament to the exciting new directions of this field. We were thrilled to announce the latest winners at the opening ceremony in Mexico City. The 2024 Neda Nobari Dissertation Award was presented to Ana Maria Raeitparvar, whose dissertation at the Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil entitled, "Iranian Brothers in Christ: Transnational



Dr. Persis Karim receives the AIS Senior Mentorship Award during the awards ceremony on the opening day of the conference.

EXCITING GROWTH IN THE FIELD OF IRANIAN DIASPORA STUDIES CONT'D

The excitement over the developments in Iranian Diaspora Studies at the conference was palpable but also tempered by the unfortunate news that the SFSU Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies will permanently close in June 2025. Because the center has served as both a model for and an incubator of new research in Iranian Diaspora Studies, and colleagues only learned of its impending closure for the first time in the weeks leading up to the conference, we collectively decided that the AIS conference would be a fruitful space to discuss the consequences of this news. A group of over 25 AIS members met on day two to brainstorm ways we could sustain this field. Also at the meeting, graduate students expressed that the center and the field of Iranian Diaspora Studies have been especially meaningful to them due to the isolation in their disciplinary departments and disparate global locations. The growing inability for many scholars to travel to Iran to conduct research and the felt need to reflect these shifts and diverse experiences within the Iranian diaspora in a global context were also expressed as motivations to pursue greater institutionalization of Iranian Diaspora Studies.

Iranian Diaspora Studies has a strong foundation, and the 2024 AIS Conference affirmed that the Iranian diaspora, characterized by various geographic, spatial, cultural, and historical phenomena, is a key portal to and source of support for the larger field of Iranian Studies. We will continue to work collectively to build new opportunities to gather, to network, to mentor, and to support this important research, and we look forward to collaborating further with fellow AIS members in Utrecht in 2026!



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LIBRARY NEWS

Minovi Library: A Treasure Trove of Persian Literary Heritage and Global Scholarship¹

Pouye Khoshkhoo

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Mojtaba Minovi (1903-1977), an esteemed Iranian teacher, editor, translator, and literary scholar, left behind a remarkable legacy for scholars and researchers, reflecting his dedication to preserving Persian literary heritage. Established over 40 years ago in Tehran, the Minovi Library serves as a lasting testament to his lifelong commitment to safeguarding Persian and Iranian history and literature. The library housed 25,000 volumes in 1975. In 1976, Habib Yaghma'i estimated the library's value at approximately twenty million tomans, exceeding ten billion tomans today when adjusted for inflation. The library's current catalog lists around 20,000 volumes of printed and lithographed books. The discrepancy between this figure and Minovi's original estimate arises from smaller books being bound together into single volumes. In the 2000s, during a cataloging process, each multi-book volume was assigned a single catalog number, which reduced the apparent total count.

The Shahnameh Foundation, and later the Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, managed Minovi's library after his death. Over time and because of multiple donations, the number of books expanded. In addition to the sizeable number of facsimiles, microfilms, and lithographed books, Mohammad Taqi Daneshpajouh (1911-96) donated over 6,000 volumes from his own collection, which were separately numbered and cataloged. According to a catalog compiled by Daneshpajouh and Iraj Afshar (1925-2011), the Minovi Library now houses 144 manuscripts, 100 microfilms, and 398 facsimiles. Adding printed and lithographed books, right now the library exceeds over 30,000 volumes. Additionally, the library holds Minovi's letters, notes, photographs, and documents that contain important information about Minovi's life and correspondence.²

Since 2018, Mohammad Dehghani, a distinguished Iranian professor, author, and scholar, has led the Minovi Library project. He has carefully studied the library's collections and extracted over 10,000 of Minovi's marginal notes in various books, which he used to publish more than twenty articles that provide valuable insights

¹This article is based on the research of Mohammad Dehghani whose work has provided an invaluable foundation for exploring the legacy of Mojtaba Minovi and the Minovi Library. Additionally, my gratitude extends to Dr. Ali Gheissari for his editorial support and thoughtful guidance throughout this project.

For more information about the Minovi Library and its ongoing efforts to preserve and share its treasures, please visit the

کتابخانه و مرکز اسناد مجتبی مینوی

²Dehghani, "Atā va Laqā-ye Minovi," p.77.

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into Minovi's critiques, interpretations, and intellectual life. As a side project, Dehghani and his team have been exploring Minovi's correspondence with prominent Iranian scholars, politicians, and friends. These letters contain insightful comments that enrich the study of Persian literature and cultural narratives, such as bookstore histories and publishing processes. Dehghani's notes and articles highlight the significance of the Minovi Library and present it not only as a traditional archive but also as a living entity that contributes to Persian literary heritage.

The Minovi's Library was designed thoughtfully by Minovi himself with the purpose of making it a center of knowledge and a venue for scholarly discussions and gatherings. Iraj Afshar noted that when Minovi moved his library from London to Iran and organized it at his brother's home, it became a hub for scholars and researchers. Afshar described the library as more "effective and welcoming" than regular libraries, as Minovi, from the beginning, sought to make it a pleasant and accessible space for academic engagement. The building was designed according to Minovi's preferences, featuring a spacious two-story hall with books thematically organized. Afshar remarked that "Minovi took pride in the library's development," ensuring that visitors' needs were prioritized, whether through comfortable worktables or a well-lit study hall. Afshar also shared an interesting story about Minovi's insistence that the library hall and basement be carpeted not with regular rugs but with *zilū*, the traditional rugs used in old mosques. Minovi asked Afshar to order a couple of these rugs and specified that his own name be woven into their borders. As per request, Afshar ordered the rugs from Meybod and Ardakān in Yazd. Additionally, a marble plaque inscribed with the Quranic verse *Fiha Kutubun Qayyimah* (98:3) in Thuluth script was designed by Minovi himself and hung on the entrance, adding to the library's aesthetic appeal.³ Preserving this building, with its thoughtful design and unique features that reflect Minovi's vision and passion for creating a sanctuary for scholars, is important. From the rugs that bear Minovi's name to the Quranic inscription welcoming visitors and the verandas that once were a meeting place of scholars, every element of the library tells a story embodying the spirit of collaboration and scholarship that continues to inspire future generations.

The Minovi Library holds some of the rarest printed works. Many of these books were collected during Minovi's trips around the world to countries with rich Islamic and Iranian archives. During his residency in England, Minovi acquired a significant portion of his library, particularly rare books on Oriental Studies and travelogues. While in Turkey, he reviewed more than 15,000 manuscripts and brought back around

1,500 microfilms, which he donated to the Central Library and Archives of the University of Tehran. He also collected numerous Ottoman-era and Egyptian prints, mostly focused on Islam and Iran.⁴

On trips to Germany, France, India, and Egypt, Minovi explored public and private collections, identifying and acquiring valuable Persian and Arabic manuscripts. His acquisitions often included rare first editions, out-of-print scholarly works, and handwritten annotations. Among these treasures is *Mirror of Holiness: A Life of Christ* written by Spanish priest Jerónimo Xavier (1549–1617) for the court of Akbar the Great (1542–1605). Published in the Netherlands in 1639, it marks the first Persian text printed with lead type in Europe. Only a few copies have survived, one of which—though deteriorating—is preserved in the Minovi Library.⁵

Another rare work, which Minovi obtained from Friedrich Von Langkammerer, a German-born bookbinder and close friend, is *Perse de Sophie, Tahmasqoli de Histoire* (The biography of Tahmasp-Qoli, the Persian Sufi), likely printed in Amsterdam in 1740. The library also holds Jean-Antoine Du Cerceau's *Histoire des Révolutions de Perse* (History of the revolutions of Persia), published in 1742. This book is based on the memoirs of Judasz Tadeusz Krusinski (1675–1751), a Polish priest who spent 18 years in Isfahan and witnessed Ashraf Afghan's attack on the city.⁶

Minovi's extensive annotations offer a window into his life, thoughts, and scholarly perspectives. While celebrated for his mastery of classical Persian literature, Minovi's annotations reflect a broad range of interests, including history, religion, mythology, creative writing, and translation. His notes demonstrate that he was highly engaged with world literature and up-to-date with contemporary literary developments. Not only did he read the works of Iranian authors, such as Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh Esfahani (1892-1997)⁷ and Bozorg Alavi (1904-97),⁸ and left extensive comments on the use of language, especially word choice and verb tenses, but he also scrutinized *Freedom or Death* (1953) by Nikos Kazantzakis (1883-1957), translated by Muhammad Ghazi in 1969, with a historical lens while editing the translation whenever he saw it required.⁹ His collection demonstrates his interest in reading any pieces that are related to philosophy, ancient world, and Persian thought and culture. Examples include *Lord-Bondsman Dialectic* by G.W.F. Hegel (1770-1831), translated into Persian by Hamid Enayat (1932-82) in 1973, in which Minovi's annotations reveal his extensive knowledge of Greek philosophy and his sharp critical perspective on the

⁴Ibid.

⁵Dehghani, 'Ata va Laqā-ye Minovi, 78.

⁶Ibid, 79.

⁷Dehghani, 'Ata va Laqā-ye Minovi, Preface.

⁸Dehghani, Virāstār-e Khāmūsh, See the entry 'Alavi, Bozorg.

⁹Ibid, See the entry for Kazantzakis, Nikos.

³Afshar, "Mojtaba Minovi: Ustādi Az Eq̄lim-e 'Nemidānam," 2016.

LIBRARY NEWS CONT'D

orientalism that Enayat demonstrated in the preface.¹⁰ Other examples are *Vīs and Rāmīn* (eleventh century) by Fakhr al-Dīn As'ad Gorgānī, edited by Magali Todua (1927-2016) and Alexander Gvakharia,¹¹ and *Tristan and Isolde* (twelfth century), translated by Parviz Natel Khanlari (1914-90),¹² showcasing Minovi's enthusiasm for international scholarly collaboration.

Mojtaba Minovi was one of the most prominent Iranians to engage extensively with Western scholars in the field, both established figures and emerging talents. He was well acquainted with the majority of his contemporaries, familiar with their works, and maintained active correspondence with many of them, such as Sir Harold Nicholson (1886-68), Jan Rypka (1886-1968), Vladimir Minorsky (1877-1966), Walter Bruno Henning (1908-67), and Sir Hamilton Gibb (1895-1971). However, his friendships, collaborations, and exchanges never deterred him from critically assessing their writings with rigor and candor. For instance, Minovi's annotations and critiques on the historical inaccuracies in Bernard Lewis' work and the Arabic translation of *The Origins of Isma'ilism* (1940) highlight his rigorous analytical approach and deep expertise in Islamic history. Bernard Lewis, then an emerging scholar during Minovi's travels in Europe, sent him a copy of another book, *The Assassins: A Radical Sect in Islam* (1967), in 1969. This copy (No. 12134) remains in Minovi's library, bearing a handwritten note by Minovi that states Lewis sent the book to Tehran while Minovi was in the United States.¹³ As another example, Minovi's notes on Soheil Afnan's work, *Avicenna: His Life and Works* (1958), question Afnan's comments on the Persian language borrowing most of its vocabulary from Arabic, Ferdowsi's intentions on getting access to the Ghazna court, and whether Ferdowsi (940-1019 or 1025) deliberately avoided using Arabic words. Minovi refuted all these claims and called them "exaggeration." Where Soheil Afnan (1904-90) mentioned that *baḥr-e Motaqāreb* was originally Persian, Minovi finally wrote "not true."¹⁴ In his annotations on the Persian translation of *Sīrat al-Shaykh al-Kabīr Abī 'Abdullāh Ibn al-Khafīf al-Shīrāzī*, edited by Annemarie Schimmel (1922-2003) and published by Ankara University in 1955, Minovi expresses severe criticism of Schimmel's editorial work, highlighting numerous errors and inconsistencies. Minovi points out that Schimmel's work is riddled with mistakes, claiming that every single page contains errors, starting from her own name on the first page, which she has misspelled as "Annemaire." He notices that Schimmel blended unrelated narratives and mentioned that "she has ruined the text."¹⁵

¹⁰Ibid. See the entry for Enayat, Hamid.

¹¹Ibid. See the entry for Todua, Magali and Alexander Gvakharia.

¹²Ibid. See the entry for Khanlari, Parviz.

¹³Ibid. See the entry for Bernard, Lewis.

¹⁴Ibid. See the entry for Afnan, Soheil.

¹⁵Ibid. See the entry for Schimmel, Annemarie.

In general, access to these precious archives and notes, which enrich the study of Persian language, history, editing processes, and the art of translation, would greatly benefit scholars worldwide. Digitization is an essential first step in preserving and sharing the Minovi Library's exceptional books and manuscripts. Transforming this resource into a globally accessible digital archive requires the support of well-established institutions and collaboration among scholars in the field. Unfortunately, due to a lack of financial support and collaborators, this priceless collection cannot be safeguarded or made widely available as quickly as it deserves. Supporting this initiative honors Minovi's enduring legacy and ensures that, as he envisioned, his work will continue to inspire and educate future generations.

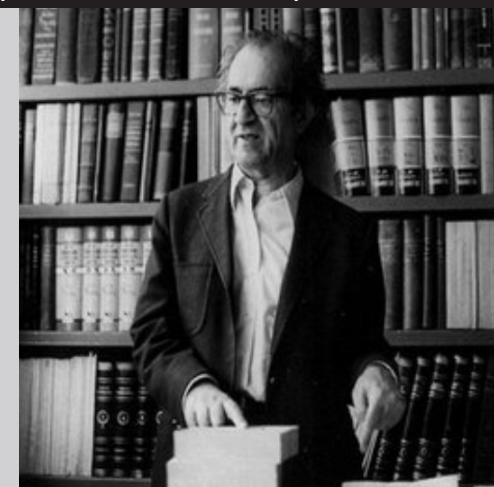
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Mojtaba Minovi (1903-77)



Daneshpahouh Collection, gifted to the Minovi Library

Mojtaba Minovi (1903-77)



Mohammad Dehghani, Managing Director, Minovi Library

PROGRAM NEWS

The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies University of Toronto

Apart from the immensely rewarding meetings with AIS colleagues, both old and new, in Mexico City this past summer, the highlight of the 2024 programming offered through the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies, University of Toronto, was the July visit by Ms. Moniro Ravanipour, who delivered the 2024 Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Lecture and also led a writers' workshop the following day. Earlier in the year, our hugely successful Nowruz event featured inspirational talks by distinguished professionals of Iranian-Canadian descent. That event commenced with opening remarks by Canada's Deputy Prime Minister, the Honorable Chrystia Freeland.

Alongside a number of exciting in-person and hybrid events—book launches, lectures, and symposia—planned for early 2025 and beyond, the Institute is pleased to announce that it will resume, after yet another successful fall semester, its monthly virtual series programming for “Rethinking History: Returning to Archives and Documents” (presently jointly with the University of Oxford's Dr. Arezou Azad and co-convened by Prof. Tavakoli), the Zoroastrian Studies Seminar Series (convened by Profs. Miguel Ángel Andrés-Toledo and Enrico G. Raffaelli), Literature in Persian Language Pedagogy (presented jointly with the University of Chicago, co-convened by Prof. Azita Taleghani), and the Iranian Studies Book Launch series. A fifth monthly virtual lecture series, Persian Lithographic Printing, was successfully inaugurated in fall 2024 with a talk by Prof. Nile Green (UCLA) and will likewise continue into the new year.

Finally, it bears mentioning that the Institute staff remain focused as ever on their work for the Cinema Iranica and Women Poets Iranica digital research compendia, both of which are being launched in partnership with the Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation.

<https://iranianstudies.utoronto.ca/events/>
<https://cinema.iranicaonline.org/>
<https://poets.iranicaonline.org/>



PROGRAM NEWS CONT'D

The Yarshater Center for the Study of Persian Literary Traditions at the University of California, Los Angeles

The Persian Heritage Foundation (PHF) is delighted to announce the official opening in October 2024 of the Yarshater Center for the Study of Persian Literary Traditions at UCLA. The endowment provided by PHF for this Center will enable it, among other projects, to serve as the home for the continuation and completion of The History of Persian Literature Series initiated by Ehsan Yarshater and PHF.

The Ehsan and Latifeh Yarshater Distinguished Lecture Series on Iranian Studies at the University of Paris

PHF also supports The Ehsan and Latifeh Yarshater Distinguished Lectures on Iranian Studies in Paris and is delighted to announce that Mario Casari's 2018 Lectures, *Šeš taraf-e donyā "Les six côtés du monde" Anthropologie de la narration dans la littérature persane classique*, are now published (Peeters Publishers, 2023). In November 2022 M. Rahim Shayegan delivered the 10th Ehsan and Latifeh Yarshater Distinguished Lectures on Iranian Studies in Paris at INALCO/Collège de France. Fall 2024 Lectures were given by David Durand-Guédy, Associate Researcher at the University of Hamburg, who delivered five talks under the title "Espace et pouvoir à l'époque des premières dynasties turques et mongoles." The Lectures were held at the Jacqueline Lichtenstein Auditorium at the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art (INHA) in Paris between November 18 – December 9. The Scientific Board of the Ehsan and Latifeh Yarshater Distinguished Lectures at the University of Paris is currently composed of Denise Aigle, Samra Azarnouche, Frantz Grenet, Rika Gyselen, Bernard Hourcade, Christelle Jullien, Justine Landau, and Maria Szuppe. Justine Landau and Samra Azarnouche serve on the Lecture Series Executive Committee.

The Yarshater Lectures in Persian Art at SOAS

PHF has also provided support for The Yarshater Lectures in Persian Art at SOAS, which will resume in January 2025 with four lectures by Marianna Shreve Simpson on "Manuscript Matters and the Persian Arts of the Book in Early Modern Times."

PHF – AIS Saidi-Sirjani Book Award for Iranian Studies, given at the AIS Biennial Conference in Mexico City, August 2024

Currently in its 29th year, the Saidi-Sirjani Book Award is given to original studies or syntheses in the field of Iranian Studies, critical editions of significant texts in Iranian Studies, or translations from an Iranian language, based on extensive research and

accompanied by scholarly annotations. On behalf of the Persian Heritage Foundation, the Saidi-Sirjani Book Award Committee is pleased to present this year's award to Cameron Cross (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) for his book *Love at a Crux: The New Persian Romance in a Global Middle Ages* (University of Toronto Press, 2023) as the Main Award recipient, and to Denise Aigle (École Pratique des Hautes Études, EPHE, Paris) for the publication of *Saints hommes de Chiraz et du Fārs. Pouvoir, société et lieux de sacralité (Xe-XVe s.)* (Brill, 2023) as Honorable Mention, and to Mansour Bonakdarian (New York University) for his book *Éirinn & Iran Go Brách: Iran in Irish-nationalist Historical, Literary, Cultural, and Political Imaginations from the Late 18th Century to 1921* (Anthem Press, 2023) as Honorable Mention.

In *Love at a Crux*, Camron Cross presents the emergence of versified love stories in Persian as a crucial event in the history of romance. Using the tale of Vis and Rāmin as its focal point, the book explores how Persian court poets in the 11th century reconfigured "myths" and "fables" from the distant past in ways that transformed the love story from a form of entertainment to a method of ethical, political, and affective self-inquiry. In her book, *Saints hommes de Chiraz et du Fārs*, Denise Aigle examines both the spiritual and political role played by the Sufi shaykhs in Fars during the 10th through 15th centuries. This book's research is based on extensive hagiographic sources, historical chronicles, literary sources, and archival documents, showing how the pre-Islamic history of Fars was integrated into spiritual Islam through the mysticism of the Sufi shaykhs. In his book, *Éirinn & Iran go Brách*, Mansour Bonakdarian offers an innovative approach by looking at Irish nationalism through the historical lens of Iran. This book investigates patterns of Irish nationalist self-configuration and uses of memory, counter-memory, and historical amnesia by juxtaposing Iran and Ireland from the late 18th through early 20th centuries.

The Saidi-Sirjani Book Award Committee for 2024 consisted of Touraj Atabaki, Ali Banuazizi, Rudi Matthee, Farzaneh Milani, and Ali Gheissari (Committee Chair).

PHF – AIS Latifeh Yarshater Book Award for Women Studies in Persian Speaking Societies, given at the AIS Biennial Conference in Mexico City, August 2024

The Latifeh Yarshater Award is instituted by the Persian Heritage Foundation at the Association for Iranian Studies to honor the memory of Latifeh Yarshater and her lifelong dedication to the improvement of Iranian women's human rights. The purpose of the award is to encourage scholarship in Iranian Studies focused on the condition of women in Persian-speaking societies and to promote women's rights in these societies. On behalf of the Persian Heritage Foundation the Latifeh Yarshater Book Award Committee is pleased to present this year's award to Azadeh Kian (University of Paris Cité) for her book, *Rethinking Gender, Ethnicity and Religion in Iran: An Intersectional Approach to National Identity* (I.B. Tauris / Bloomsbury, 2023). Focusing on women in the Baluchistan and Golestan provinces of Iran, Azadeh Kian analyses

PROGRAM NEWS CONT'D

and explores issues of cultural racialization, ethno-centrism, Shi'a centrism, and patriarchal ideologies in Iranian society propagated by the state and sustained by its policies. Based on quantitative and qualitative surveys taken throughout Iran, Kian reveals how social hierarchy and power relations based on gender, class, ethnicity and religion operate.

In *Rethinking Gender, Ethnicity and Religion in Iran* Kian argues that women have been at the heart of the process of national and ethnic re-construction as women, as potential mothers, are expected to reproduce national and ethnic boundaries. Kian argues that by examining the family institution as a site of power, analyzing family dynamics, as well as women's everyday lives, the politics of ordinary Iranians and the relationship between state and society can be better understood. Kian argues that the time is ripe to achieve a non-hegemonic definition of Iranian national identity, through acknowledgement of gender, class, ethnic, and religious diversity and plurality of experiences of oppression and injustice.

The Latifeh Yarshater Book Award Committee for 2024 consisted of Mojdeh Yarshater, Mirjam Künkler, and Rudi Matthee (Committee Chair).

PHF Supported Research and Publication Projects, 2024

PHF is also very pleased to have been able to support a wide range of research and publication projects in 2024, including:

- Noah Arjomand (UC Riverside), research and Illustration of the novel *The Strange Familiar*.
- Cameron Azimi (Principal Investigator, Iranian Genealogy, USA), Eugen Schochenmaier (Mondonomo, Germany), Fatemeh Akbari (ICOS, Austria), Iranian Surname Project.
- Jon "Jake" Benson, Persian Manuscripts Research Project at the John Rylands Research Institute and Library, the University of Manchester.
- Habib Borjian (Rutgers University), Research on the Documentation of the Larestani Language Group.
- Samira Fathi (Michigan State University), Archival Research Support for book project *Urban Memory and Architectural Patronage in Post-Safavid Isfahan*.
- Mahdi Ganjavi (University of Toronto), Impact of the Franklin Book Programs Translation Initiatives.
- Alborz Ghandehari (University of Utah), research project "100 Years of Freedom Songs: Iranian Resistance Music Across the Generations."
- Mohammad Reza Ghanoonparvar (University of Texas, Austin), publication support for the English translation of *Neyrangestan* by Sadeq Hedayat.

- Sheida Gharachedaghi (Independent Composer), Publication support for "In Memory of Forugh Farrokhzad" music notation for piano.
- Pamela Karimi (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth), publication support for *Women, Art, Freedom: Artists and Street Politics in Iran* (Leuven University Press, 2024).
- Tanaz Modabber (Independent Architect/Artist, Berlin), Recount Numbers Through Time, Persian history for children's visual learning.
- Parvaneh Pourshariati (CUNY), Support for Lecture Series at City University of New York.
- Golbarg Rekabtalaei (Seton Hall University), Research project "Ruins, Relics, and Resorts: Politics of Cultural Heritage Tourism in Twentieth Century Iran."
- Dagmar Riedel (Independent Scholar), Research Project "Early British Collectors and the Manuscript Trade in India and Iran before the 1820s: The Persian Collections of the Ouseley Brothers at the Bodleian Library, Oxford."

PHF would also like to invite applications for its next review cycle for research support, publication subvention, and institutional grants in 2025.

<https://persianheritagefoundation.org/>



Persian Heritage
Foundation

Saints hommes de
Chiraz et du Fârs

Pouvoir, société et lieux de sacralité (X^e-XV^e s.)

Denise Aigle



BRILL

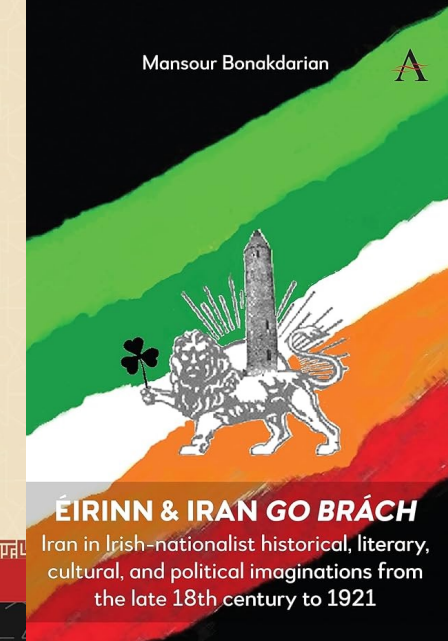
من آن ویسم که روم آفتابست
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LOVE AT A CRUX

THE NEW PERSIAN ROMANCE
IN A GLOBAL MIDDLE AGES

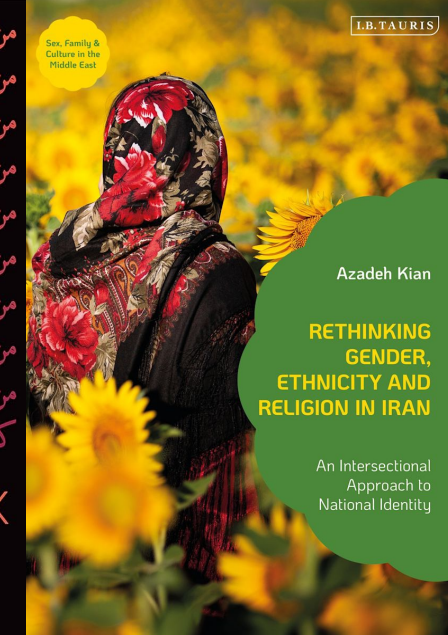
Cameron Cross

Mansour Bonakdarian



ÉIRINN & IRAN GO BRÁCH

Iran in Irish-nationalist historical, literary, cultural, and political imaginations from the late 18th century to 1921



Azadeh Kian

RETHINKING
GENDER,
ETHNICITY AND
RELIGION IN IRAN

An Intersectional
Approach to
National Identity

PROGRAM NEWS CONT'D

The Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, UMD

The Roshan Institute for Persian Studies at UMD is pleased to announce the release of Professor Fatemeh Keshavarz and Professor Ahmet Karamustafa's edited volume, *Mystical Landscapes in Medieval Persian Literature*, forthcoming in January 2025 with Edinburgh University Press. The work collects multidisciplinary research from comparative literature, history, and religious studies on the subject of mysticism in Persian literature. It also includes a contribution by UMD Professor Matthew Miller, "The Ocean of the Persians: Fakhr al-Dinn 'Erâqi, Poet and Mystic."



MEMBER NEWS

Janet Afary (With Kamran Afary) published *Molla Nasreddin: The Making of a Modern Trickster* (Edinburgh UP, 2022).

Winner of the British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize in Middle Eastern Studies (2023)

Winner of the Eugenia M. Palmegian Prize from the American Historical Association (2024)

Honorable Mention, Hamid Naficy Book Award from the Association for Iranian Studies (2024)

Available on Amazon: [Purchase Here](#)

Houri Berberian presented "The Role of Armenians and Georgians in Caucasian-Iranian Connections" at The Idea of Iran on the Cusp of Modernity conference in

London and "Of Feminist Interventions in Irano-Armenian Diaspora-in-Motion: Informality of Oral Histories," at the "Armenian Diaspora(s) in Motion" colloquium in Paris, both in Spring 2024.

In 2023, Berberian presented "Armenian Women's Transimperial Connections and Revolutionary Activism in Iran" virtually at "Revolutions Beyond 'The West': Historical Connections and Comparative Perspectives" conference in Istanbul and spoke at a roundtable at the "Infidelities: New Directions in Armenian Studies" conference in Philadelphia. Her chapter "From a Reliable Ally to a Cunning Rival: A Look at the Changing Relations between Seyyed Hassan Taghizadeh and the Armenians during the Iranian Constitutional Revolution" appeared in Persian translation in:

از متحدی قابل اعتماد تا رقیبی حیله گر: نگاهی به روابط متغیر سیدحسن تقی‌زاده و آرامنه در طول انقلاب مشروطه ایران فرهاد سلیمان‌نژاد (دبیر مجموعه)، پدران بنیان‌گذار ایران جدید، کتاب اول: مشروطه‌خواه لیبرال، سیدحسن تقی‌زاده. تهران: نشر آگر، ۱۴۰۲

[From a Reliable Ally to a Cunning Rival: A Look at the Changing Relations between Seyyed Hassan Taghizadeh and the Armenians during the Iranian Constitutional Revolution—Trans. Farhad Soleiman-nejad. In Farhad Soleiman-nejad, ed., *Founding Fathers of Modern Iran*, vol. I: Liberal Constitutionalist, Seyed Hasan Taghizade. Tehran: Agar Publisher, 1402/2023].

In addition, Berberian co-authored a piece with Talinn Grigor, "Ties That Bind: The Armenian Diaspora of Modern Iran," recently published in the 125th-anniversary issue of *Hairenik* (The Armenian Weekly), 92-94. Their coauthored book, *The Armenian Woman, Minoritarian Agency, and the Making of Iranian Modernity, 1860–1979* (Stanford University Press), will appear in March 2025: [Link Here](#)

Juan Cole published *Gaza Yet Stands* (Ann Arbor: Informed Comment/ Kindle Direct, 2024): [Purchase Here](#)

Ali Gheissari has published "Fruits of the Gardens: Ethics, Metaphysics, and Textual Pleasures in late Qajar Iran." *The Journal of Persianate Studies*, no. 163 (2024): pp. 1-35.

Helen Giunashvili co-edited a special issue of the journal *Hunara* "Ancient Iran and the South Caucasus": https://www.hunara.org/issue_25527_29117.html

Farbod Honarpisheh gave a talk on "From the Body of Ruin to the Ruin of Body: Reading Materiality in Documentaries of the Iranian New Wave of the 60s and 70s," McGill University, November 27, 2024.

Willem Floor published several books and articles, including:

1. *History of the Ganja Khanate*. By Elgun Babayev. Translated from Russian and annotated by Willem Floor. Washington DC: MAGE, 2024. 242 p.; 14 illustrations: [Purchase Here](#)

MEMBER NEWS CONT'D

2. *Feudal Relations in Iran, Azerbaijan & Armenia, 1500-1900*. By I.P. Petrushevsky. Translated from Russian by Willem Floor. Washington DC: MAGE, 2024, 444 p.: [Purchase Here](#)
3. *Qeshm: The History of a Persian Gulf Island* by Willem Floor and D.T. Potts. Washington DC: MAGE, 2024. 335 p.; 26 illustrations: [Purchase Here](#)
4. *The Safavid State*. Costa Mesa: Mazda, 2024. xvii + 480 p.: [Purchase Here](#)
5. "The early beginnings of Modern Abadan," in *Az Keran ta Keraneh. Arjnameh-ye Doktor Mohammad Baqer Vothuqi*, ed. Rasool Jafarian, Goodarz Rashtiyani, Shahram Yousefifar (Tehran: Negarestan-e Andisheh, 1303/2024), pp. 1-16.
6. "Workforce, Working Conditions and Labour Relations in Urban Iran: 1950s-1960s," in *Labour History and the Economy in Iran*, ed. Mary Yoshinari and Serhan Afacan eds. (London: Bloomsbury, 2024), ch. 10: [Purchase Here](#)

D. Gershon Lewental published "Symbol of (Iranian) empire: The Sāsānian imperial standard (*Derafsh-e kāviyān*) from Arab-Islamic conquest narratives to modern nationalist myths." *History & Memory* 36.2 (Fall–Winter 2024): 5–38 (DOI 10.2979/ham.00008).

Vera B. Moreen was a Fellow at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, the Hebrew University (Jerusalem), attending the workshop "Judaeo-Iranian Intellectual Landscapes and Beyond: Cultural History of Jewish Communities Across the Centuries," June-July 2024.

Staci Gem Scheiwiler published "Contextualizing Islam, Slavery, and Orientalism in 19th-Century Iranian Photography," in *The Routledge Handbook of Islam and Race*, ed. Zain Abdullah (Routledge 2025). Now available: [Link Here](#)

Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi co-edited a volume with Franklin Lewis, and Asghar Seyed-Gohrab, *The Art of Teaching Persian Literature: From Theory to Practice* (Brill, 2024): [Link Here](#)

This unique book is the first publication on the art of teaching Persian literature in English, consisting of 18 chapters by prominent early-career, mid-career and established scholars, who generously share their experiences and methodologies in teaching both classical and modern Persian literature across various academic traditions in the world. The volume is divided into three parts: the background to teaching Persian literature, teaching Persian literature: pedagogy, translation and canon, and thematic and topical approaches to the Persian literature class. It includes such topics as the history of teaching Persian literature, the traditional teaching of Persian literature, the political and ideological intentions revealed in the formation of the Persian literature curriculum, the necessity to include marginalized modern Persian literature, such as women's or diaspora literature, and more applied approaches to curriculum development and teaching.

Contributors

Manizheh Abdollahi, Samad Alavi, Natalia Chalisova, Cameron Cross, Dick Davis, M. R. Ghanoonparvar, Persis Karim, Sooyong Kim, Daniela Meneghini, Jane Mikkelsen, Amir Moosavi, Evgeniya Nikitenko, Austin O'Malley, Farideh Pourgiv, Nasrin Rahimieh, Ali-Asghar Seyed-Gohrab, Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi, Farshad Sonboldel, Claudia Yaghoobi, and Mohammad Jafar Yahaghi.



2024 BOOK AWARDS

Saidi-Sirjani Book Award

Awardee: Cameron Cross, *Love at a Crux: The New Persian Romance in a Global Middle Ages* (University of Toronto Press, 2023)

Honorable Mention: Mansour Bonakdarian, *Éirinn & Iran go Brách: Iran in Irish-Nationalist, Historical, Literary, Cultural, and Political Imaginations from the 18th Century to 1921* (Anthem Press, 2023)

Honorable Mention: Denise Aigle, *Saints hommes de Chiraz et du Fārs Pouvoir, société et lieux de sacralité (Xe-XVe s.)* (Brill, 2023)

AIS Book Prize

Awardee: Yuhan Sohrab-Dinshaw Vevaina, *The Sūdgar Nask of Dēnkard Book 9: Text, Translation and Critical Apparatus* (Harrassowitz Verlag, 2023)

Latifeh Yarshater Award

Awardee: Azadeh Kian, *Rethinking Gender, Ethnicity and Religion* (I. B. Tauris, 2023)

Life-Time Achievement in Iranian Studies

Dr. Ulrich Marzolph, adjunct professor of Islamic Studies at the Georg-August-University in Göttingen, Germany, is the 2024 recipient of the Association for Iranian Studies' Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor shows his colleagues' great esteem for his pioneering scientific achievements as a scholar of Middle Eastern culture and for putting the study of Iranian folklore on a solid academic foundation.



Mehrdad Mashayekhi Dissertation Award

Awardee: Belle Devlin Cheves, "Untidy Households: Kinship, Service, and Affect in Nineteenth-Century Qajar Iran"

Honorable Mention: Alexander Reza Shams, "Constructing Islamic Modernity: Power, Religion, and Masculinity in Post-Revolutionary Iran"

Parviz Shahriari Book Award for the History of Mathematics, Science, and Technology in Iran and the Persianate world

Awardee: Travis Zadeh, *Wonders and Rarities: The Marvelous Book That Traveled the World and Mapped the Cosmos* (Harvard University Press, 2023)

Honorable Mention: Kaveh Niazi, *A Princely Pandect on Astronomy Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī's Mu'īniya Epistle and its Appendix* (Springer, 2022)

Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies Book Award

Awardee: Pamela Karimi, *Alternative Iran: Contemporary Art and Critical Spatial Practice* (Stanford University Press, 2022)

Hamid Naficy Book Award

Awardee: Manijeh Moradian, *This Flame Within: Iranian Revolutionaries in the United States* (Duke University Press, 2022)

Honorable Mention: Janet Afary and Kamran Afary, *Molla Nasreddin: The Making of a Trickster, 1906-1911* (Edinburgh University Press, 2022)

Neda Nobari Dissertation Award

Awardee: Ana Maria G. Raietparvar, "Iranian Brothers in Christ: Transnational Missionary Network and Dynamics of Conversion of Iranians to Christianity"

AIS Conference to Journal Paper Award

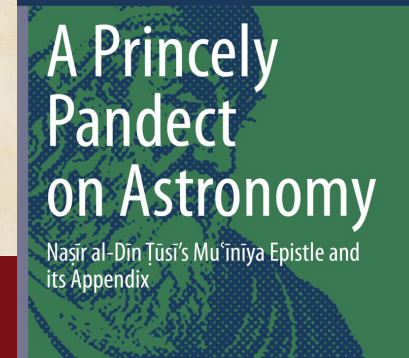
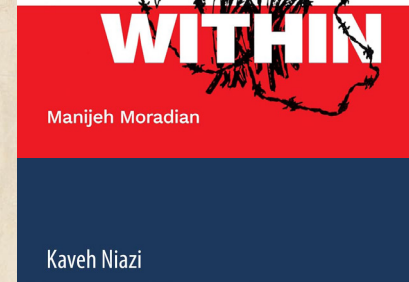
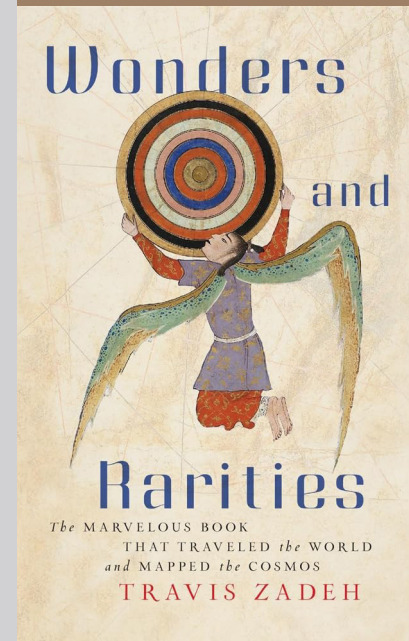
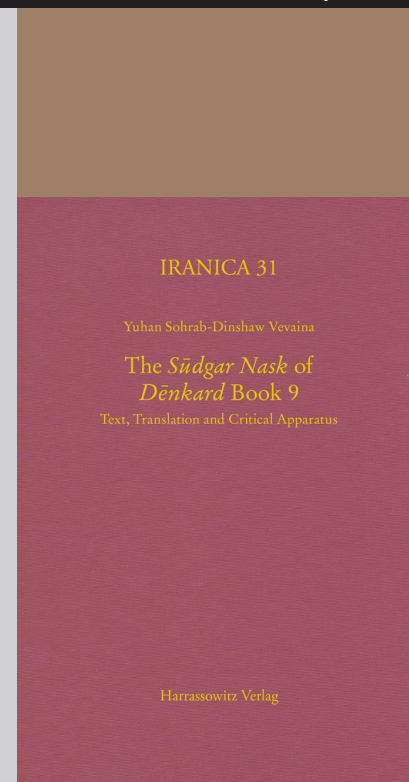
Awardee: Fateme Montazeri, University of California, Berkeley

Mohammad Amini Memorial Award

Awardee: Sarah Eskandari, Doctoral Candidate, History, University of Pennsylvania

Mentorship Award

Awardee: Persis Karim, Neda Nobari Chair in Iranian Diaspora Studies



AIS 2024 ELECTION RESULTS

AIS Council

Negar Habibi

As an art historian, I am deeply honored to hold the first lectureship in Persian Studies at the University of Geneva, funded by the Mohammad Mossadegh Foundation (as of August 2024). In this role, I aim to promote Geneva's rich yet underexplored collections of Persian art, nurture the next generation of MA students, and elevate the city's status as a key European center for Persian Studies. I look forward to the collaborative opportunities this position will foster and consider the AIS biennials as an ideal platform for exchanging ideas, reconnecting with colleagues, and launching new projects.

I earned my PhD from the Université d'Aix-Marseille (in France) in December 2014. My research focuses on early modern and modern Persian painting, as well as on collecting Persian art in 20th-century France. I am the author of *'Ali Qoli Jebādār et l'occidentalisme safavide: une étude sur les peintures dites farangi sāzi, leurs milieux et commanditaires sous Shāh Soleimān* (Brill, 2018) and have published several articles on painting production, female patronage, and seventeenth-century Isfahani society. More recently, in August 2021, I published *Shāhnāmeḥ de Ferdowsi: Le Livre des Rois persans* (Pocket and Revue des Deux Mondes), which examines the enduring significance of Ferdowsi's *Shahnama* in Persian art and its resonance with Jules Mohl's French translation.

In 2023, I had the privilege of guest-editing a special issue of *Manazir Journal* titled "The Idea of the Just Ruler in Persianate Art and Material Culture" (5/2023). This issue explored the role of art and architecture in shaping the image of just rulers in Persianate societies, spanning Central Asia to Eastern Anatolia between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries. Notably, the issue featured among the eight articles contributions from four scholars based in Iran.



During the 2023–2024 academic year, I served as a visiting professor at the École du Louvre in Paris, where I taught courses on Iranian, Mughal, and Ottoman art from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. Additionally, I am a Soudavar Memorial Foundation alumnus, having previously held a lectureship on the art and architecture of the Three Gunpowder Empires at the University of Geneva from 2019 to 2021. Since October 2021, with the support of various institutions, including the Soudavar Memorial Foundation, I have been researching the Jean Pozzi Persian Islamic Collection in Geneva and in French museums. This research will form the basis of my second monograph and is anticipated to lead to my *Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches* (HdR) in France.

I am committed to amplifying the voices and contributions of scholars in Iran, especially emerging and early-career researchers. I believe the *Iranian Studies Journal* offers an excellent platform to showcase their work, and I will work to encourage greater participation from these scholars in AIS biennials. These meetings have been invaluable in shaping my academic path, beginning with my first participation in Vienna in 2016. A panel I chaired at the first AIS online conference in 2023 introduced me to several exceptional young scholars from Iran, with whom I am now organizing an international hybrid event set for February 2025. Finally, as a Franco-Iranian scholar teaching in Geneva, I will do my best to connect Francophone scholars and students with the AIS community worldwide.

Anousha Sedighi

I am honored to serve on the AIS Council. I am a professor of Persian at Portland State University, where I founded the Persian program in 2005 and have been the program head ever since. I am the author of *Persian in Use: An Elementary Textbook of Language and Culture*, published by Leiden University Press, as part of their Iranian Studies Series. Due to popular demand, the book has been reprinted five times (2005-2022) and has been translated into German by the Iranian Studies team at Bamberg University. I have also edited and co-edited several volumes, such as *Iranian and Minority Languages at Home and in Diaspora* (De Gruyter Mouton, 2023) and *The Oxford Handbook of Persian Linguistics* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

I have been a member of the AIS since 2004, when I first attended the biennial meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, as a Ph.D. student. Since then, AIS has been instrumental in shaping my career and professional activities. I found lifelong mentors within the organization, and I have continued to collaborate with colleagues I met through AIS. I have been involved in AIS through various capacities: I served on the Conference Program Committee during 2016-2022, and I was the Inaugural Associate Editor of Linguistics for the *Iranian Studies Journal* (Cambridge University Press) during 2019-2023. I also served as the



AIS 2024 ELECTION RESULTS CONT'D

President of the American Association of Teachers of Persian, which works closely with AIS to promote the instruction of the Persian language, literature, and culture in North America. I am delighted to have an opportunity to serve the organization as a Council member. I would mainly like to focus on continuing the footsteps of the previous leadership, some of whom are now retired, in creating mentorship opportunities for graduate students, not only in their respective academic fields, but also in terms of fostering their abilities to build their portfolio for finding a meaningful career.

AIS Student Representative

Bahar Abdi

I am a graduate student in Cultural Studies with a specialization in Critical Gender Studies at UC San Diego. My research interests include social movements, new media, socially engaged art, the performance of gender, and women's everyday life in post-revolutionary Iran. I hold an MLitt in Middle Eastern Literary and Cultural Studies from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and a BA in Persian Literature from the University of Tehran. Throughout my academic journey, I have actively engaged in various student initiatives. At the University of Tehran, I was a member of the Cultural Society in the Literature Department, where I helped organize various workshops and cultural events. These initiatives fostered a community for students interested in contemporary literature, particularly works that were often absent from traditional curricula. At UC San Diego, I serve on the editorial board of *Alchemy*, a student-run journal of translation based in the Literature Department. These experiences have made me believe in the incredible potential of student-led initiatives.

Having studied both inside and outside Iran, I am acutely aware of the unique challenges faced by different student groups, particularly regarding accessibility. As a Student



Representative for AIS, I am committed to addressing these challenges. I will advocate for more funding opportunities for conference attendance and will explore ways to facilitate virtual participation for those affected by visa restrictions and/or travel bans. Furthermore, I am dedicated to amplifying student voices and fostering a more inclusive and dynamic community within our field—where student perspectives are heard and actively contribute to shaping the future of our association. I also aim to bridge the gap between students and scholars in Iran and the diaspora, building networks across global

OBITUARY

Professor Emeritus Peter J. Chelkowski

The world has lost a giant. Dr. Peter Chelkowski, author, scholar and humanist, passed away peacefully in Turin, Italy, on October 21, 2024. He was 91.

In lecture halls, on theater stages, and TV screens, Professor Chelkowski spent a lifetime enchanting audiences with the beauty and depth of the Muslim world, his purpose - to promote cross-cultural understanding and rectify Western misconceptions of Islam, as both a religion and a multi-faceted culture.

Born and raised in World-War-II Poland and a devout Catholic, Peter J. Chelkowski studied Oriental Philology at the Jagiellonian University and acting in the theater school of Krakow. He escaped to London to continue his education, as a student of Bernard Lewis (1916-2018), at the School of Oriental Studies (SOAS). Subsequently, he moved to Iran, where in 1968 he received his Ph.D. in Persian literature from the University of Tehran—the first Pole to ever receive a doctorate in Iranian Studies. He also worked for the charitable organization CARE Mission, for whom he traveled over seventy thousand miles to numerous rural villages, building schools and bathhouses. It was on these journeys that he became fascinated by *ta'zieh*, the ritual passion play of Shi'i Muslims, which was to play a major role in defining his career, merging his passion for performing arts and Muslim culture.

In 1968, Professor Chelkowski was hired as a cultural historian at New York University, where he would remain and teach for the next 50 years. He was one of the founders of the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies where he served as both Chairman and Director for numerous years and collaborated with many of his illustrious colleagues, such as Richard Ettinghausen (1906-1979), Annemarie Schimmel (1922-2003), Hamid Dabashi (b. 1951), and Ehsan Yarshater (1920-2018).

It was in the lecture halls that Professor Chelkowski's passion and vigor were most pronounced. He would enrapture audiences, bringing humanity and clarity to subjects

OBITUARY CONT'D

that Americans had never heard before. In recognition, he won the Golden Dozen Award at NYU for best professor, not once but twice.

Professor Chelkowski wrote and edited 12 books, hundreds of articles—from *Encyclopedia Iranica* to *The Drama Review*. The subject matter of his work was always quite varied. In 1975, he wrote about Sufism in *Mirror of the Invisible World: Tales from the Khamseh of Nizami*, published by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The book won the First Place Award by the American Association of University Presses. In 1999 with Hamid Dabashi, he co-wrote *Staging a Revolution: The Art of Persuasion in the Islamic Republic of Iran*. Carlo McCormick (*Bookforum*) wrote: “I urge people to get a hold of this book. . . it provides its readers with a higher level of understanding than any hundred hours logged on CNN.com.”

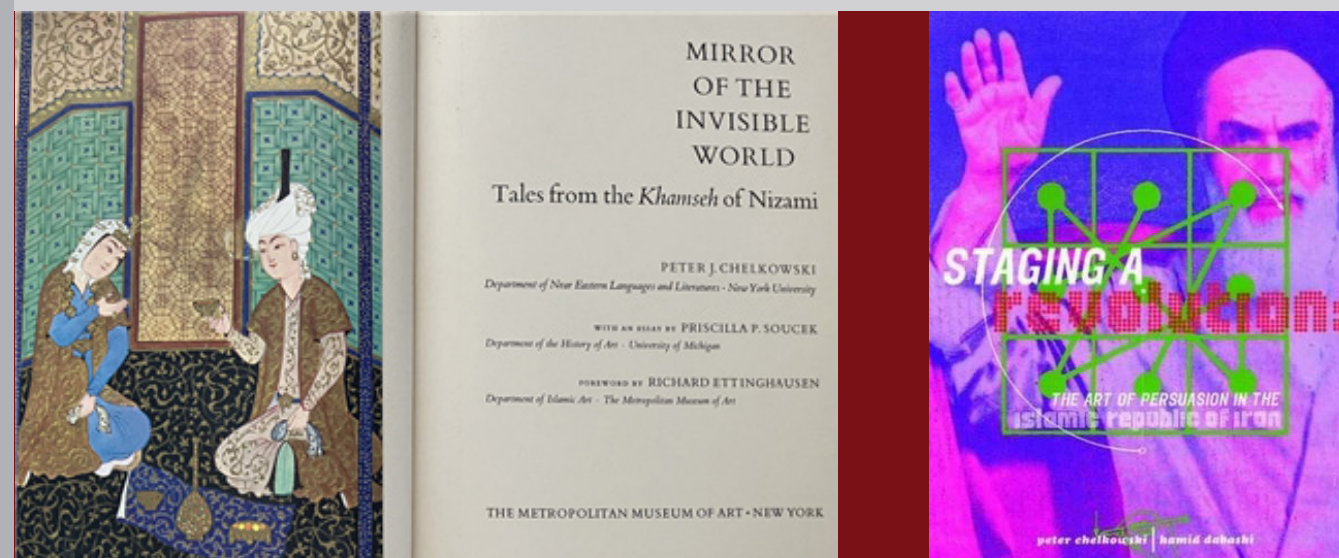
Professor Chelkowski’s lectures were not limited to the classroom; he also hosted 46 episodes of *Sunrise Semester* on CBS. He was so popular that he graced the cover of *The TV Guide*. It read: “Peter Chelkowski Ph.D., I love you.” He was also the go-to expert for the BBC, NBC, CBS, Voice of America, NPR, and other news networks for all things Middle Eastern. In the 1990’s, he co-produced *Hosay* Trinidad, a documentary about tāzīeh in the Caribbean for the Smithsonian. From the shores of the Caspian to the island of Trinidad, Professor Chelkowski brought tāzīeh to the attention of the International theater world, to the likes of Jerzy Grotowski (1933-99), Eugenio Barba (b. 1936), Peter Brook (1925-2022), Richard Schechner (b. 1934), and many others. This culminated in 2002 when Chelkowski, in collaboration with Mohammad B. Ghaffari (b. 1944), brought tāzīeh to the Lincoln Center to sold-out audiences.

In the end, Professor Chelkowski’s appreciation of Persian and Islamic culture was always pure and apolitical. He felt comfortable crossing divides where many others felt reluctant. He was a guest of the shah at the 2,500-year celebration of the Persian empire in 1971. In 2002, he accepted an invitation from the Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to preside at Ta’zieh* as the guest of honor in Kermanshah, Iran. In 2010, in conjunction with UNESCO and ISESCO, he was awarded the Farabi International Award for “Iranian and Islamic Studies” in Tehran.

Professor Chelkowski was also the recipient of multiple awards and fellowships from the Smithsonian Institute; the Hoover Institute on War, Revolution, and Peace Fellowship; and the Social Science Research Council. In 1997 he was awarded the Alfred Jurzykowski Prize, and in 2011, he was presented Poland’s Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit by the President of Poland. In 2023, the Jagiellonian University honored him the Plus ratio quam vis commemorative medal for outstanding service in scholarship.

In 1975, Professor Chelkowski described Nizami’s *Khamseh* as “sensuous, dramatic, gracious and refined.” If you ever had the fortune of attending one of his lectures or dinner parties you would probably use these same words to define him—Professor Emeritus Peter Chelkowski was a scholar, orator, educator, and most importantly a humanist. Born in 1933 in Lubliniec, Poland, Peter J. Chelkowski is survived by his wife Goga Chelkowski, his daughter Monica Tarony, his son Peter Chelkowski, and his grandchildren Paolo Tarony, Sofia Tarony, Clyde Chelkowski, and Earl Chelkowski.

* Ta’zieh is capitalized in this case, because “it was one of the most important state-sponsored tāzīeh events since the revolution.”—Babak Rahimi, e-mail to the newsletter editor, 11 December 2024.



Mohsen Zakeri

On July 20th, 2024, Mohsen Zakeri passed away after a severe and sudden illness at the age of 70. He died in the University Hospital in Essen, Germany. His passing away is a great loss for the Middle Eastern Studies and for Persianate Studies in particular. He was a Fellow of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg of the the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (since 2018), and Assistant Editor of the *Journal of Persianate Studies* (since 2021).

Mohsen Zakeri graduated from the College of Mass Communications in Tehran in 1977. He received a B.A. in psychology/Anthropology (1981) and an M.A. in Near Eastern Studies (1984) from the University of Washington in Seattle and proceeded to enroll in the Ph.D. Program in Middle Eastern History at the University of Utah, where



OBITUARY CONT'D

he began work on his dissertation from 1984 to 1987. On his way back from a short visit to Iran, he was then refused a USA-entry visa because of the sanctions against Iranian nationals at that time but finally defended his thesis online in Frankfurt in 1993. Meanwhile, he remained in Germany and published his dissertation in 1995 under the title: *Sāsānid Soldiers in Early Muslim Society: The Origin of 'Ayyārān and Futuwwa*. He taught in German Universities of Halle-Wittenberg and Jena until 2009, while continuing to publish articles (notably Zakeri 1998b and Zakeri 1999) and starting a major new project titled “Alī Ibn ‘Ubayda ar-Rayḥānī and his contribution to the transfer of Iranian and Greek wisdom literature to the early Islamic world.” This research resulted in the publication of *Persian Wisdom in Arabic Garb* (2006) in two volumes in 2007 and won immediate recognition with the Prize for the Best Iranian Book of the Year in 2009.

Persian Wisdom in Arabic Garb is especially important for its contribution to Persianate, or more precisely proto-Persianate studies. Zakeri recovers, edits, and dissects the work of the relatively unknown Abu ‘Obayda al-Rayhani (d. 834) from the early ninth century, unveiling a pluralistic conception of wisdom in Rayhani’s enumeration of hikam al-Hind, hikam al-‘Arab, hikam al-Rum and finally hikam al-Islāmiyyin. We are offered in fascinating detail a picture of Rayhāni and his associates, and we can see Basra as the hotbed of the emergent Persianate culture of the so-called stutterers (*‘ajam*) as they perfected the Arabic language to express themselves.

In 2010, Zakeri moved to the University of Göttingen to work on a new research project titled “The Wise King in the Persian Mirror of Princes literature,” while teaching courses as a substitute professor for Islamic studies in 2014-15. In 2018, he moved to Bochum to take up a research position at the Center for Religious Studies of Ruhr University to work on the project: “How Sasanian Science and Literature passed on to the Muslims,” which resulted in the publication of a number of articles, including the chapter, “Translations from Greek into Middle Persian as Repatriated Knowledge.” He served as Interim Professor of History of West Asian Religions, Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr University, in 2019, and further organized an international conference at Ruhr-Universität Bochum with Professor Kianoosh Rezania on “Late Antiquity as an Epoch of Translation,”

June 20-21, 2024. Selected papers from that conference will in due course be published as a special issue of the JPS dedicated to the memory of Mohsen Zakeri.

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CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

Zahedi Family Scholarship

Zahedi Family Fellowship

The Zahedi Family Fellowship is a twelve-week residential fellowship focusing on the new Zahedi Archive (which includes both diplomatic correspondence and collected photos) at Stanford University's Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies. During the fellowship period, the Zahedi Fellow is expected to pursue their independent research in residency and to hold a lecture, seminar or workshop on their research, organized by Iranian Studies. The Zahedi fellow will have access to Stanford University Libraries and the Hoover Institution Library and Archives as well as a community of scholars at Stanford.

Eligibility

The fellowship is open to scholars and artists working on the modern history of Iran, particularly the period of 1941 to 1979. Preference will be given to scholars who have worked on aspects of modern Iranian foreign policy, history, and culture. Fluency in Persian is required.

The fellowship funds international travel, health insurance, and visa support, and provides a \$15,000 stipend for living expenses. In addition to library access, the fellow will have use of a shared workspace at the Hoover Archives where the Zahedi Collection is housed. Scholars may apply for the spring 2025 fellowship or the fall 2025 fellowship simultaneously.

Application Deadline: January 3, 2025

A complete application consists of the following materials:

1. Zahedi Fellowship application form (available at iranianstudies.stanford.edu)
2. A letter of application/research proposal
3. A Curriculum Vitae
4. A writing sample (book chapter or article length, in English or Persian)
5. A short proposal for a public lecture/workshop to be held at Stanford (can be related to research proposal)
6. Two (2) letters of recommendation

All materials listed above (with the exception of the letters of recommendation) should be submitted as attachments to the online application form.

Letters of recommendation should be sent as signed PDF documents to: iranianstudies@stanford.edu

QUESTIONS? Visit iranian-studies.stanford.edu/research/zahedi-family-fellowship

Apply now
for Spring
2025 or
Fall 2025!

Dr Nasrollah Moghtader-Mojdehi PhD Scholarship

The Iranian History Initiative and the Department of International History welcome applications for the Dr Nasrollah Moghtader-Mojdehi PhD Scholarship. This studentship is tenable for four years, commencing in September 2025, and covers full fees and an annual stipend of £21,660 for a PhD student in the Department of International History, whose research is focused on any aspect of the modern history of Iran.

This scholarship was established with the generous support of Mr John Moghtader-Mojdehi and the [LSE PhD Academy](#). It honours the memory of Dr Nasrollah Moghtader-Mojdehi, a distinguished Iranian physician, educator, and public servant. From 1966 to 1974, Dr Mojdehi served as Professor of Internal Medicine, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Vice-Chancellor at the University of Tehran. He was then appointed Chancellor of the University of Mashhad in 1974, before being elected to the Iranian Senate in 1976. In 1978, he served as Iran's Minister of Health.

Applications for the Moghtader-Mojdehi Scholarship are open to any prospective PhD student proposing to work on any aspect of the modern history of Iran. Applications are particularly welcome from prospective students who propose to work on any aspect of the history of Pahlavi Iran (1921-1979); who plan to use Persian-language primary sources in their research; and who have completed their undergraduate degree at a university in Iran.

Further information on how to apply for the MPhil/PhD in International History is available here: [Apply Here](#)

Please indicate in your Statement of Academic Purpose that you wish to be considered for the Moghtader-Mojdehi scholarship. The deadline for submission of PhD applications to be considered for the Moghtader-Mojdehi Scholarship is **15 January 2025**.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Dr Roham Alvandi (r.alvandi@lse.ac.uk) in the first instance with a CV and PhD research proposal (no longer than 1,500 words), before submitting their application to LSE.

All applications for the Mojdehi PhD Scholarship will be assessed by a selection committee and the scholarship will be awarded by the Department of International History's Research Committee.

CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS CONT'D

ASPS/JPS Early Career Prize

The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies announces a new round of the biennial Early Career Prize in order to encourage and reward scholarship about the broader Persianate world by ASPS members who are still in the early stages of their careers. Interested applicants are invited to submit original and unpublished work to the *Journal of Persianate Studies* by **31 January 2025**.

Based on creativity of topic and source materials, originality of analysis, and overall scholastic contributions, an ASPS prize committee will select a winner, who will be announced at the upcoming ASPS conference. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$250 and the paper will be published in the *Journal of Persianate Studies* after any revision that may be required by the editorial office. Runners-up may also be considered for publication.

The *Journal of Persianate Studies* is a peer-reviewed publication of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies. The journal publishes articles on the culture and civilization of the geographical area where Persian has historically been the dominant language or a major cultural force, encompassing Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, as well as the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, and parts of the former Ottoman Empire.

Eligibility: non-tenured scholars who, at time of submission, are members of ASPS and have already received their doctorate within the last seven years.

Application procedure: Paper submissions must fall within the purview of JPS and must be original and previously unpublished; they must also follow all regular JPS style and citation guidelines, found online at: [Link Here](#). Prize applicants should submit their papers online through the Editorial Manager, selecting "Early Career Prize" as the article type: [Apply Here](#). By submitting a paper, applicants acknowledge intent to participate in the ASPS Early Career Prize and waive the right to withdraw their paper from publication, if selected.

For questions, please contact the Associate Editor, D Gershon Lewental (lewentald@nyu.edu).

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Fascism and anti-Fascism in 20th Century Iran

We are soliciting articles for a special issue on *Fascism and anti-Fascism in 20th Century Iran*. We plan to hold a conference and publish a select number of the articles. Please send a one-page abstract, in English or Persian, with a brief bibliography. Make sure to include the primary sources you are consulting. The proposals should cover any time between the 1930s and the 1970s and should be sent to the guest editors of the volume: Janet Afary (jafary@ucsb.edu) and Arash Azizi (aa5856@nyu.edu). Deadline for receipt of the proposal is **April 15, 2025**.

Details of the Project

Throughout the 20th century, Iran was a site of circulation and germination of ideas from around the world. While much attention has been paid to the influence and spread of ideas such as liberalism, social democracy, communism, and feminism in modern Iran, there has been less sustained and robust discussion of the impact of fascism and ideas of the political right. As the fascist movements flourished in interwar Europe, their ideas spread inside Iran primarily through shortwave radio transmissions from Berlin, as well as individuals who lived in Europe at the time. These ideas were reflected in Iranian publications and found supporters among both the intellectuals and the common people. Some Iranians were interested in scientific racist ideas and the myth of a superior Aryan race, and European notions of antisemitism, in their development of modern Iranian nationalism. Others showed more interest in fascism's authoritarianism and militarism or were enamored with its dictator worship and state development plans. Meanwhile, many Iranians, including those involved in the country's socialist and communist movements, developed anti-fascism as a core element of their political identity. Both fascists and antifascists organized political vehicles which were, at one point or another, home to many significant intellectual and political figures of the country.

In what ways did fascist and anti-fascists ideas circulate in Iran and how were they reflected in the country's political scene? Where is their place in Iran's intellectual and political history? What was the impact and legacy of explicitly pro-Nazi organizations such as the Kabud Party and Sumka? How did fascist ideas influence other political actors such as Islamists and Pan-Iranists? How did both fascist and anti-fascist rhetoric and politics help shape modern Iran? These are some of the questions which this volume hopes to explore.