



# THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

انجمن بین المللی ایران شناسی

www.iranianstudies.com

ISIS Newsletter | Volume 34, Number 1 | June 2013

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Members,

After a long hiatus, the newsletter of the ISIS has been revived. It shall be published twice a year and allow the membership to keep abreast of current developments in the field - be they new research centers of Iranian Studies set up across the country, abstracts of recently defended dissertations, grants schemes of relevance to the field, new publication series by academic presses, or upcoming conferences and meetings.

Best of all, current ISIS president Mehrzad Boroujerdi with the help of former presidents and members of the board has been able to collect the entirety of previously published newsletters, which are now posted and available for download at <http://iranianstudies.com/about/newsletters>.

The next newsletter shall appear in the fall. Until then, we hope you will enjoy the following pages. Thanks are due to all contributors, and in particular to Maha Younes, whose able hands have cloaked the newsletter in a completely new design.

We look forward to your contributions to the next issue, and if you have not done so, connect this with a gentle reminder to submit your abstract until the end of June 2013, for the upcoming ISIS conference to be held in Montréal in August 2014 (see p. 13).

**Mirjam Künkler**



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MEMBER NEWS

Mehrzad Boroujerdi published an edited volume titled *The Mirror for the Muslim Prince: Islam and Theory of Statecraft* (Syracuse University Press, 2013).

Matthijs van den Bos, author of *Mystic regimes: Sufism and the state in Iran, from the late Qajar era to the Islamic Republic* (Brill), is spending a research semester at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, working on a new project concerning Shi'ism in Iranian foreign policy.

Richard Eaton's book, *Essays on Islam and Indian History*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000 enjoyed its 8th reprint in 2012. He also published "Warfare on the Deccan Plateau, 1450-1600: a Military Revolution in Early Modern India?" (co-authored with Phillip B. Wagoner), in *Journal of World History*.

Simin Karimi and Michael Brame published "A Generalization Concerning the EZAFE Construction in Persian" in *Linguistic Analysis*, forthcoming.

Laetitia Nanquette has recently started a three-year postdoctoral research position at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. Her latest publication is *Orientalism Versus Occidentalism: Literary and Cultural Imaging Between France and Iran Since the Islamic Revolution* (I.B. Tauris, 2013).

Sussan Siavoshi was awarded the Una Cox Chapman Professorship in political science at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, in 2012.

Kamran Talattof's recent book, *Modernity, Sexuality, and Ideology in Iran: The Life and Legacy of a Popular Female Artist*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2011, received the *Choice's* Annual Outstanding Academic Titles Award in 2011 and, as a co-recipient, the Latifeh Yarshater Book Award (ISIS) in 2012.

Farzin Vejdani co-edited with Abbas Amanat, *Iran Facing Others: Iranian Identity Boundaries in a Historical Perspective* (New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012).

Iranian Studies, volume 46, number 3, May 2013 has been published:  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cist20/current>

This issue and the Iranian Studies Journal archives are available to ISIS members by logging into their account on the ISIS website [www.iranianstudies.com](http://www.iranianstudies.com)

NEW IRANIAN STUDIES PROGRAMS AND  
CENTERS

In 2010, PARSA Community Foundation awarded a grant of \$250,000 to help build the Iranian Studies program at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). The Iranian Studies program is now the anchor program for the ME/SA department, distinct from traditional Middle East studies programs, which are normally anchored by Arab studies. The PARSA grant, along with donations from the Iranian American community, helped to establish a **visiting lecture series**, which will commence in the winter of 2013. The first lecturer will be Dr. Wendy deSouza, a history professor who will teach two courses during her tenure at UC Davis. The University is hoping to turn this visiting lecture series into an endowed professorship.

Yeshiva University in New York now includes the instruction of **Middle Persian** in its Graduate program of Talmudic Studies. The addition of Middle Persian to the curriculum was initiated by Professor Yaakov Elman, whose research includes the relations between Zoroastrianism and Judaism in the Sasanian era. The new course is taught by Dr. Mahnaz Moazami, an editor and research scholar at the Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University. Dr. Moazami holds a Ph.D. in History of Religions from the Sorbonne, Paris.

\$10 million gift establishes Mossavar-Rahmani Center  
for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at Princeton University

A \$10 million gift from two Princeton alumni will establish the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at Princeton University. Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani, a member of the Class of 1980, and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani, a member of the Class of 1974, have created the center to provide a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to understanding Iran and the Persian Gulf, with special attention to the region's significance for the contemporary world. The couple, of New York City, grew up and completed their high school education in Iran before coming to, and eventually settling in, the United States. Each majored in economics at Princeton and earned a certificate in the Program in Near Eastern Studies. The center's scholars and students will explore a broad range of topics, including issues in which Iran and the Persian Gulf states play a pivotal role, such as regional and international security, oil and energy markets, and trade and global finance. Faculty members and visiting scholars will conduct research and teach courses that address the history, politics, economics and culture of the region, from ancient Persia to the modern states that border the Persian Gulf.

## PHD DISSERTATIONS (RECENTLY COMPLETED OR ABOUT TO COMPLETE)

— **Razi Ahmad** (NES, University of Arizona), completed a dissertation titled: "National Self and Narrative of Identity: The Construction of Nationalism in Modern Persian Literature and Film." Dr. Ahmad now is a Lecturer at the Center for Global and International Studies, University of Kansas, where he teaches Persian Languages (Farsi/Tajik) and lectures on topics of religion, culture and politics in South Asia, the Middle East and the Persianate world.

— **Fevziye Johnson** (MENAS, University of Arizona), defended her dissertation in Spring 2013, entitled "Afghan Women and the Problematics of Self Expression: Silencing Sounds and Sounds of Silence," a survey and analysis of the participation of the women of Afghanistan in art and literature during the last forty years.

— **Eric Lob** (Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University), will defend his dissertation entitled "The Iranian Construction Jihad (Jehad-e Sazandegi): From Inception to Institutionalization (1979-2011)" in summer 2013. Mr. Lob plans to convert his dissertation into a book manuscript as a postdoctoral fellow at Brandeis University's Crown Center for Middle East Studies in 2013/2014.

— **Azita Taleghani** (Linguistics, University of Arizona), completed a dissertation titled "The Interaction of Modality, Aspect and Negation in Persian." Dr. Taleghani is now a faculty member in Modern Persian Language and Literature in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. She is also the author of *Modality, Aspect and Negation in Persian* (John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2008), a book on Persian linguistics.

VISIT THE NEW FACEBOOK PAGE  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES AT:

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

## DATABASES AND RESEARCH RESOURCES

Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran (WWQI) digitally preserves and catalogues thousands of images from the Qajar period (1785-1925), and makes them available in a fully bilingual and richly annotated website at [www.qajarwomen.org](http://www.qajarwomen.org)


Started in 2009 in collaboration with Harvard College Library and with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, WWQI uses digital and online technology to overcome the archival limitations that studies of Iranian culture and society in the Qajar era typically face.

The archival material includes: poetry, essays, and treatises; travelogues; marriage contracts; artistic reproductions, including paintings and calligraphies; photographs; objects of every day life; deeds and transactions; and endowment documents; and a wide array of correspondence, both official and private.

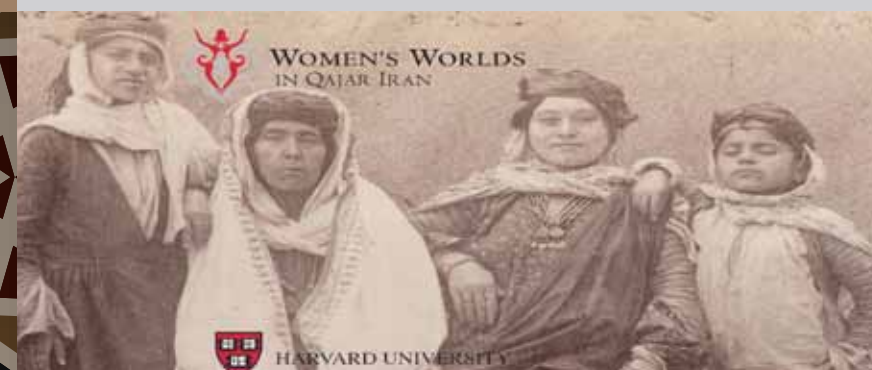
Approximately two-thirds of WWQI's digital images have been acquired from individuals and families located in Tehran, Qazvin, Yazd, Los Angeles, Geneva, Houston, Boston, San Francisco, London, and Toronto. The remaining images were contributed by major archival institutions, most notably Majlis Library, Malek Library, the National Library and Archives, Tabriz Central Library, Tehran University Central Library, the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, the Institute for Iranian Contemporary Historical Studies, the Mossadegh Foundation, the International Institute for Social History, and the Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History.

In the next phase, WWQI will also add new features that can facilitate researchers' and teachers' use of the archives. These include:

- A user platform that will make it possible for scholars to collaborate and weigh in on one another's research.
- Interactive genealogies and graphs that will increase researchers' ability to connect the disparate pieces of data embedded within the archive.
- Guided tours with audio, curated by experts in the field.

Visit on 

Contact: [wwqi@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:wwqi@fas.harvard.edu)





## Digital Persian Archive: An Image Database of Persian Historical Documents from Iran and Central Asia up to the 20th Century

The **Digital Persian Archive at Marburg University** aims at facilitating access to the growing number of available Persian historical deeds and documents, both published and unpublished. It shall allow work on archival material with the help of incorporated facsimiles without recourse to the original - often remote - place of publication or storage.

The Database includes "public" and "private" documents: royal decrees and orders, official correspondence, and shari'a court documents, such as contracts of sale and lease, vaqf deeds, marriage contracts, and court orders. It also serves as a bibliographic reference tool, being a continually updated repertoire of published historical documents.

A Research Project of the Iranian Studies Division at the Centre of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Philipps-Universität Marburg, supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Science Foundation)

<http://www.asnad.org/en/>

## Iran Data Portal at Princeton University

The Iran Data Portal at Princeton University is an English- and Persian-language online portal that features social science data on post-1979 Iran, including socioeconomic data, electoral data, information on political parties, and translations of selected laws and regulations. It aims to provide a service to journalists, academics, policymakers, and others interested in analyzing political and socioeconomic developments in contemporary Iran. The project is funded by a grant from the Social Science Research Council.

Due to its political significance, the Iran Data Portal provides particularly detailed documentation of the June 2009 presidential election in Iran. The portal also houses documentation of the Constitutional Debates in 1979, translations of various laws and regulations (from budget laws to the laws on the neighborhood councils), profiles of the political parties, and English synopses of recent social science studies published in Iran.

The Iran Data Portal also features data collected over the years by individual scholars of Iran. Here this valuable information can be exchanged and made available to a wider audience. Anyone interested in featuring their data on the Data Portal can contact Katie Manbachi for further information.

<http://www.princeton.edu/irandataportal/>

## RESEARCH NOTE: A TREASURE TROVE OF MANICHEAN PAINTINGS IN JAPAN

Everything begins with the so-called Rokudozu, a Manichean painting at The Museum of Japanese Art (Yamato Bunkakan), located in province of Nara. In this painted illustration, one can see a sacred man with an aura behind him sitting like a Buddha statue. At first glance it seems that this holy man is attached to traditional Chinese thought or the Buddhist religion, especially through the eyes of people who are unfamiliar with it, but due to broad research done by Yutaka Yoshida, professor of Iranian Studies and expert in Sogdian Language at University of Kyoto, it has been proved that this is essentially a Manichean illustration.

Announced in May 24, 2008 in widely-circulated Japanese newspapers, Yamato Bunkakan published a detailed article about the painting in its magazine (No. 119, Feb. 28, 2009). The Yomiuri newspaper also wrote about it in April 27, 2009. Later, Professor Akio Donohashi of the University of Kobe provided some additional information about other Manichean illustrations, which are private property but identical to the image at Yamato Bunkakan. Professor Yoshida and a Japanese curator Shoichi Furukawa scrutinized this set of four images. Furukawa discovered that the image published in Kokka (No. 588, May 1937) and introduced as a Taoist image was actually a Manichean illustration, and has stunning similarities to Rokudozu. We should add two other images to the five newly discovered images: Rokudozu and, second, the icon of Jesus Christ maintained in Seijunji Temple in province of Yamanashi. These seven images create the "treasure trove" of Manichean paintings in Japan.

On 11 September 2009, at the opening of the International Congress of Mani's Ritual Studies held in Dublin, Professor Yoshida introduced this new treasure trove to the world and impressed this audience. At the end of his speech, Professor Durkin Meister-Ernst, author of Middle Persian and also Parthian Dictionaries, asked him to submit this precious collection to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Cont'd on page 8





On 31 March 2012, Professor Yoshida and Shoichi Furukawa published their not yet completed research on this valuable treasure in the magazine of Yamato Bunkakan (No. 121) to provide more information. Seemingly these images were depicted in Southern China between Song Dynasty (960-1279) and Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) following the collapse of the Mongol-led Yuan Dynasty. But nobody knows about the entry of these images into Japan.

For convenience, Professor Yoshida and Shoichi Furukawa named these five images in their research:

- 1 • Cosmogony
- 2 • Realm of Light (A)
- 3 • Realm of Light (B)
- 4 • Hagiography (1)
- 5 • Hagiography (2)

Among these five images, the first one, Cosmogony, is of the greatest value. As the title of this unique image says, it depicts the Manichean cosmology. As the image implies, Heaven or Celestial Land lies above, at the next step there are one sun and also one moon, then ten skies emerge, after that the Legendary Mountain Meru lies from the sky down. The base of the mountain is the world of human beings and the world beneath is the darkness or Hell.

Several studies in the fields of linguistics, art history and religion can be brought to analyze this unique image. But if we go beyond these three areas, based on the research of Professor Yoshida and Shoichi Furukawa, I think this image can be examined from a different perspective: the realm of philosophy and Persian Islamic mysticism, especially the Iranian Illuminationist School of Sheikh Suhrawardi. Perhaps further study with a phenomenological interpretation of this image can help us to recall the opinions of Suhrawardi and his connection with ancient Iran, especially under the two principles of light skepticism and the Realm of the Imagine.

**Author:**

**Bahman Zakipour**, Ph.D Candidate in Philosophy, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, Toyo University and Visiting research fellow, International Research Center for Philosophy in Toyo University.



## PERSIAN LANGUAGE NEWS & PROGRAMS

### The University of Wisconsin-Madison Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Language Immersion Institute (APTLII)

The UW-Madison Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Language Immersion Institute (APTLII) is an eight-week intensive summer language immersion program for undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals. Courses are offered for academic credit at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels (depending on sufficient enrollment). Outside of the classroom, students commit to using their target language at all times - in their shared living space on campus, at meals, and at co-curricular activities that combine to create a language immersion experience.

For Information: <http://aptlii.global.wisc.edu/>

### Summer Intensive Course (August 19-23):

**Reading Siyaq. The Secret Script of Iranian Chanceries.**  
University of Marburg (Germany) Iranian Studies Department

For centuries, all accounting in state chanceries and divans, as well as in many trading houses of the Middle East has been conducted through a modified system of Arabic numerals, a kind of shorthand known as *siyaq*. This special writing system has early on given rise to the notion of a "secret script" and been treated as such in the writings of early European travelers and orientalists. While Ottoman *siyaq* has been studied extensively and thus been part of the curriculum for many years, the *siyaq* employed in Iran and India has received much less attention.

Even today, only a handful of specialists are able to deal with Persian *siyaq*. While we have *siyaq* manuals from Iran at our disposal from as early as the Mongol period, the practical need to read *siyaq* becomes more pressing for the modern periods since the *Safavids*. This is especially true for the large amount of documents, balance sheets, ledgers and state revenue calculations from the Qajar period. For anyone interested in first-hand archival sources treating questions of social and economic history, a basic knowledge of *siyaq* numerals and calculation methods is indispensable.

The Iranian Studies Department in the medieval historic university town of Marburg is now offering a unique opportunity to learn this script in a one-week intensive summer course for all interested persons: graduate students, researchers or academic staff. Taught by renowned specialists from Iran, this will be the first time ever for a Persian *siyaq*-course to be offered anywhere outside Iran. A registration fee of 50€ covers tuition, teaching material, coffee breaks and a farewell dinner. Scholarships for bed & breakfast accommodation are available.

**The deadline for application is 15th May 2013. Early submission is recommended as overall attendance is limited.**

More information on applying, scholarships and program schedule: <http://www.uni-marburg.de/cnms/iranistik/siyaq>

**CONTACT:** Prof. Dr. Christoph Werner Dept. of Iranian Studies/CNMS University of Marburg Deutschhausstr. 12 35032 Marburg Tel.: +49-6421-2824848

## OBITUARY

Over the course of the last three years, the field of Iranian studies has lost over a dozen of its practitioners:

**Iraj Afshar (1925-2011):** Professor Emeritus of Tehran University and recipient of the 2006 ISIS Lifetime Achievement Award. Over the course of seven decades, he managed to locate, compile, catalogue, critique, publish, and write the histories of thousands of manuscripts, documents, writings, artifacts, persons, libraries, and resources.

**Reza Alavi (1935-2012):** Educated at Oxford and Harvard universities, he was an expert on Indian classical languages and religions, and translated *The Dhammapada* from Pali to Persian. He served for several years as the editor of the *Harvard Review of Middle Eastern and Islamic Affairs*.

**Michael E. Bonine (1942-2011):** Dr. Bonine (Ph.D., Geography, University of Texas at Austin, 1975) was professor of Geography and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona–Tucson. As a human geographer, he was an expert on the urbanization of the Middle East and other arid lands. He was the author or (co-)editor of books including *The Morphogenesis of Iranian Cities* (1979), *Continuity and Change in Modern Iran* (1981), *Population, Poverty, and Politics in Middle East Cities* (1997), *Is There a Middle East?* (2011).

**Jacques Duchesne-Guillemin (1910-2012):** Dr. Duchesne-Guillemin (Ph.D., Philologie, University of Louvain, 1931), a specialist in Iranian linguistics, was a professor at université de Liège. Some of his publications include *La religion de l'Iran ancien* (1962), *Le Croissant fertile, la découverte de l'Asie antérieure* (1963), *Zoroastre* (1976), and *Hymns of Zarathustra* (1980). He served as the editor of *ACTA Iranica* beginning in 1973. He received an honorary degree from Tehran University in 1974.

**Mahmud Enayat (1932-2013):** He was an influential voice in Iranian intellectual life for three decades serving as the editor of such important journals as *Ferdowsi* (1958-1960), and *Negin* (1965-1980). A dentist by training, he never practiced medicine and, in addition to his journalism work, translated a number of books from English to Persian.

**Simin Daneshvar (1921-2012):** Dr. Daneshvar earned her Ph.D. in Persian Literature from Tehran University in 1949 and worked as a novelist, translator and professor. She was the author of such books as *Suwasun*, *Shahri chun Bihisht*, *Beh Ki Salam Konam?* and *Az Parandah'ha-yi muhagir Bipurs*.

**Mohammad-Hassan Ganji (1912-2012):** Dr. Ganji (Ph.D., Geography, Clark University, 1954) was considered the founder of modern geographic studies in Iran thanks to almost four decades of teaching at Tehran University. He was the author of numerous works including *The Climatic Atlas of Iran* (1967) and *History of Geography in Iran from Dar ol-Fonun to the Revolution* (1983). He was awarded the 2012 ISIS Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Gherardo Gnoli (1937-2012)** was the leading Italian Iranologist of the twentieth century. He served in such capacities as Professor of Iranian Studies (since 1968), President of the Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente (1979), and founder of the *Societas Iranologica Europaea* (1983). His books include *Zoroaster's Time and Homeland* (1980), *De Zoroastre à Mani: Quatre leçons au Collège de France* (1985), *The Idea of Iran: An essay on its origin* (1989), *Iran als religiöser Begriff im Mazdäismus* (1993), *Zoroaster in History* (2000), and *Il Manicheismo*, 2 vols. (2003-2006).

**Fred Halliday (1946-2010):** Dr. Halliday (Ph.D., London School of Economics, 1985) was Professor of International Relations at LSE and author of some twenty five books including *Iran: Dictatorship and Development* (1978).

**Ali-Mohamamd Haqshenas (1940-2010):** Dr. Haqshenas earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of London in 1973 and was considered one of the leading experts in his field.

**Daryush Homayun (1928-2011):** He was an influential voice in Iranian political life for more than five decades serving in such capacities as author, intellectual, journalist, and politician. Homayun was the founder of the daily newspaper *Ayandegan*, Minister of Information and Tourism (1977-78), and a high-ranking member of the Rastakhiz party.

**Amir-Hushang Keshavarz-Sadr (1933-2013):** He was an anthropologist (MA, Tehran University, 1969) intimately familiar with issues of agriculture and tribal life in Iran. He continued his family's tradition of political activism and co-edited *Mossadegh and the Future of Iran* (2005).

**Mehrdad Mashayekhi (1953-2011):** He had earned his doctorate in sociology from American University (1986) and authored numerous articles on social movements, youth, and cultural change in Iran. Dr. Mashayekhi was a political activist and also served as the co-editor of *Iran: Political Culture in the Islamic Republic* (1992).

**Ehsan Naraqi (1926-2012):** Professor of sociology at Tehran University (1957-79), director of the Institute for Social Studies and Research (1958-79), advisor to the Secretary-General of UNESCO (1983-1999). He was the author of such books as *Olum-e ejtema'i va seyr takvini-ye an* (1969), *Ghorbat-e Gharb* (1974), *Ancheh Khod dasht* (1976), and *From Palace to Prison: Inside the Iranian Revolution* (1994).

**Majid Tehranian (1937-2012):** He earned his Ph.D. in Political Economy from Harvard and went on to serve in such positions as Director of Social Planning at the Plan Organization of Iran, Founding Director of the Iran Communication and Development Institute (Tehran), Professor of International Communication at University of Hawaii, and Director of the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research (Honolulu). Dr. Tehranian authored or co-authored two dozen books and was also the first Executive Secretary of the Society for Iranian Studies.

**Hossein Ziai (1944-2011):** Dr. Ziai (Ph.D., Islamic Philosophy, Harvard, 1976) was the inaugural holder of the Jahangir and Eleanor Amuzegar Chair in Iranian Studies and the director of Iranian Studies at UCLA. He taught at UCLA from 1988 to 2011 and before that at such institutions as Brown University, Harvard University, Oberlin College, Sharif University, and Tehran University. He was an expert on Islamic philosophy, especially the Iranian Illuminationist School.



## ISIS TENTH BIENNIAL IRANIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

Montréal, Québec, Canada, Hilton Bonaventure Hotel  
Wednesday August 6, 2014- Sunday August 10, 2014

### Conference Information

The Tenth Biennial Iranian Studies conference will be held in Montréal, Québec, Canada from August 6-10, 2014 at the Hilton Bonaventure hotel. Onsite registration begins on the 6th and the program extends until the evening of the 9th.

With over 25,000 Persian-speaking inhabitants, Montréal is home to one of the most vibrant communities in the global Iranian diaspora. As a centre for higher learning, Montréal is second only to Boston in all of North America, with four internationally-known universities and more than two dozen colleges. Famous for its superb restaurants and endless nightlife, Montréal is one of the world's most lively and multicultural cities.

The Hilton Bonaventure hotel is an architectural gem reflecting Montréal's unique identity and forward-looking culture. With a courtyard design occupying two levels above the centre city, its plush, quiet, modern rooms look out onto a lush, one hectare Zen-inspired rooftop garden featuring several small waterfalls and a heated pool. The hotel is connected to Montréal's celebrated "underground city" and excellent metro system, minutes away by foot from the shops of St.-Catherine Street, the cultural life of the Place-des-Arts, and the old world charm of Vieux Montréal.

#### Conference Chair

Richard Foltz, Director, Centre for Iranian Studies, Concordia University

#### Program Chair

Marta Simidchieva, York University, Toronto

#### Chair McGill University Event

Rula Abisaab, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University

#### Host institutions

Centre for Iranian Studies, Concordia University; Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The organizers of the 10th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS) invite proposals for pre-arranged panels and individual presentations in all subfields of Iranian studies. The primary language of the conference is English, but papers in Persian will be considered as well. All proposals must be submitted electronically, through the ISIS website, on special forms which will become available on the website as the submission process begins.

Independent Paper proposals should include a bio of the presenter (a paragraph of no more than 200 words), and an abstract of the paper limited to a paragraph of no more than 400 words, outlining the central theme and main argument of the presentation.

Convenors of pre-organized panels should submit a personal bio and a panel proposal outlining the central theme of the panel, and indicating how the individual presentations relate to that theme. The format and word count are as those for independent paper proposals. Panel members must submit personally their own bios and abstracts, which follow the format of the independent paper proposal, but include also the title of the panel. Ordinarily panels comprise four presentations, but panels with three presenters will also be considered. In the latter case, the organizers may suggest to the panel convenor a fourth member, whose independent proposal is congruent with the topic of the panel.

### Deadlines

The submission process will start on April 30, 2013, and will continue till June 30, 2013, 11:59 pm Pacific Time-zone (Greenwich Mean Time minus 8 hours).

Detailed step-by-step guidelines on how proposals should be submitted will be posted on the ISIS website when the submissions web-page is opened. Applicants for the 10th ISIS Conference in Montreal must be current members of ISIS, and must preregister for the conference. ISIS membership can be obtained by accessing the "Membership" page of the ISIS website at <http://iranianstudies.com/membership>

### Adjudication

Pre-arranged panels and independent paper proposals undergo a peer-review process by a Program Committee of scholars, whose names and academic affiliations will be published on the ISIS website after the closing of the submissions process. All applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals in the fall of 2013, so that the approved candidates will have sufficient time to arrange funding through their institutions, or to apply for Canadian entry visas (where applicable).

Updates about the 2014 conference are posted on the ISIS website <http://www.iranianstudies.com/conferences/2014/information>

## ANNUAL AWARD

The Foundation for Iranian Studies invites applications for its annual award of **\$1000** for the best Ph.D. dissertation in a field of Iranian Studies. Students completing their dissertations between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 are eligible to apply for the 2013 award.

Dissertations must be nominated by the author's advisor and be accompanied by the Dissertation Committee's letter of acceptance. Both documents may be emailed provided they contain appropriate official insignia and signatures.

Applicants for the 2013 award should submit a digital copy of the dissertation, either mailed on disc to:

Secretary  
Foundation for Iranian Studies  
4343 Montgomery Avenue  
Suite 200  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
USA

Or emailed to  
[fis@fis-iran.org](mailto:fis@fis-iran.org) or  
[gafkhami@fis-iran.org](mailto:gafkhami@fis-iran.org)

**Deadline for Submissions is August 15, 2013.**

For further information about the award, selection criteria, and previous winners consult the Foundation's Website at [www.fis-iran.org](http://www.fis-iran.org), Programs, Dissertation Awards. Inquiries should be emailed to [fis@fis-iran.org](mailto:fis@fis-iran.org).

## EMERGENCY STUDENT FUND

**Institute for International Education (IIE) Opens Emergency Student Fund for Iranian Students Studying on U.S. Campuses.**

**Grants of \$2,000 will help Iranian students with urgent financial needs to continue their studies in the United States.**

NEW YORK, March 27, 2013—The Institute of International Education (IIE) has announced the launch of a new Emergency Student Fund (ESF) to assist students from Iran on U.S. campuses with urgent financial need due to the currency devaluation in their home country. At its annual Best Practices Conference for Internationalizing the Campus last week, IIE announced a partnership with the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA) to fund this activity, with each organization making an initial commitment of \$50,000 to create a fund totaling \$100,000 to meet immediate needs for the spring 2013 semester.

IIE is issuing a call for nominations from U.S. colleges and universities that currently have students from Iran enrolled on their campuses who have emergency needs for funds to continue their studies so that their academic careers are not interrupted as a result of the financial situation in their home country.

Iran-ESF will provide approximately 50 grants of \$2,000 each to Iranian students nominated by their U.S. host colleges and universities who may be unable to continue or complete their degree program in the United States. Administrators and faculty from accredited U.S. campuses can nominate up to two Iranian students at their institutions who need financial assistance to complete the spring 2013 semester. Priority will be given to those with the most urgent financial need and those closest to graduation.

International Student Advisers or other campus officials should submit applications to IIE by April 8, 2013. To nominate students, advisers must complete the Iran-ESF nomination form and e-mail it to [ESF@iie.org](mailto:ESF@iie.org). Applications directly from students will NOT be accepted.

U.S. host campuses nominating students for Iran-ESF awards are expected to provide some emergency assistance to the nominated students, through tuition waivers, full or partial scholarships, housing, stipends, loans, work study, or other forms of support.

IIE anticipates that the need will exceed funding currently available in its Emergency Student Fund, and is actively seeking donations from interested individuals and foundations.

Awards will be announced in mid-April. IIE may announce a second call for nominations later this year depending on the availability of funds and ongoing need.

IIE's Emergency Student Fund provides grants to post-secondary students matriculated at accredited educational institutions outside their home countries whose sources of support have been impacted by natural disaster or other crises. Since 2010, IIE's ESF has provided over \$1 million to more than 400 students from Syria, Japan, Haiti, Libya, and Thailand whose home sources of financial support were impacted by crisis or natural disaster.

IIE has issued a request to donors around the world to support the Emergency Student Fund for other world areas. The Institute seeks additional contributions for the Emergency Student Fund so that it can respond quickly to help international students when disasters and emergencies in their home countries threaten to jeopardize the completion of their studies.



## THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL HISTORY (IISH), AMSTERDAM

### COLLECTIONS ON GLOBAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS

Touraj Atabaki

At the beginning of the 1930s, the political situation in Central and Eastern Europe was worsening. Hitler's seizure of power and developments in the Soviet Union threatened people of all convictions within the labour movement, as well as their documentary collections. At the initiative of the Dutch professor of economic history Nicolaas Wilhelmus Posthumus, who was dedicated to saving the endangered papers of the international labour and trade union movement, the IISH was founded in Amsterdam in 1935. Before the outbreak of World War II, the Institute rescued numerous collections from all over Europe and had them transported to the Netherlands. The most important collections acquired in the period 1935-40 were the archival legacies of the Second Socialist International and of Marx and Engels, the Bakunin manuscripts, and the records of the Spanish syndicalist trade union. Libraries and archives of Russian Mensheviks and Social-Revolutionaries who had fled Russia were also brought to safety to Amsterdam. After the Second World War and throughout the 1950s, IISH continued to pursue its rescue activities in Europe and beyond and it remained an indispensable repository for the archives and libraries of persecuted people and organizations.

From the early 1980s, the IISH' endeavor to cover the documentation of the social and political movement in global scale extended to Southeast and South Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America: from Indonesia to Burma, from India to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan, from Iran to Turkey and Egypt, from Sudan to Brazil and Bolivia back to Russia and Eastern Europe. Such a wide range of coverage was accomplished by setting up six IISH desks with its representatives in the regions: Asia; Middle East-the Caucasus and Central Asia; Sub-Sahara Africa; Latin America; Russia and Eastern Europe, and the Netherland and Western Europe.

At present, the IISH holds over 3,000 archives, more than 1,000,000 printed volumes, and an equivalent number of audio-visual items, in total ca. 50 kilometer. The largest part of the collections is accessible without any restrictions.

In the Middle East, it was Turkey, Iran and Egypt that first entered the priority list of the IISH collection strategy. The IISH collections on the modern history of the Persianate world, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Caucasus, comprise archival, library, and audiovisual materials with a thematic emphasis on social, progressive, and emancipatory movements. Thanks to the generous archival donations by individuals, families and political activists in addition to the IISH enduring endeavors, the documentation of the modern history of Iran, from the Constitutional Revolution of 1905-1909 to the Green Movement of 2009, has become one of the most significant

collections of twentieth century Iran kept outside the country. Among the newly arrived archives are the collection of Bani-Sadr, the first president of the Islamic Republic, and the archive of pedagogue and politician Mirza Hassan Roshdieh.

In addition to documenting social and political movements, the "Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia Desk" (MECA) is engaged with a number of research projects on the social history of the region. Among these projects, the Social History of Labour in the Iranian Oil Industry should be mentioned. Furthermore, MECA supports research projects through different venues, including the Sadighi Research Fund.

In 2008, thanks to the initiative taken by the late Amir-Hushang Keshavarz-Sadr, the Sadighi Research Fund was established on the basis of an agreement between the IISH and the Centre for Iranian Documentation and Research (IRANDOC), whose archive is now housed at the IISH. The Sadighi Research Fund is an academic, non-profit organization founded with the aim of promoting and supporting research and scholarship on contemporary Iranian history, culture and civilization. It does so by offering grants for research fellowships and lecture series.

### Access and Consultation

The archival and documentary collections at the IISH are in principle freely available for research purposes. Nevertheless, contacting the information service preceding a visit is advisable and is required for consultation of various archives to which access is limited. Donors and owners of material may impose restrictions for periods of various lengths, during which collections or parts of collections may not be accessed, copied, or published contingent upon their express permission. Restricted access to archives may also be necessary to protect the privacy of individuals or because of the physical condition of the material in question. For further information about the rules for access and consultation (including procedures for making photocopies), users should contact the information service of the IISH at <http://socialhistory.org/en/services>.

**Touraj Atabaki** holds the Chair of Social History of the Middle East and Central Asia in the School of Middle Eastern Studies at Leiden University. He serves as the Head of the Middle East and Central Asia Desk of the International Institute of Social History (IISH).

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## THE PERSIAN SQUARE BY DAVAR ARDALAN

By Katie Manbachi

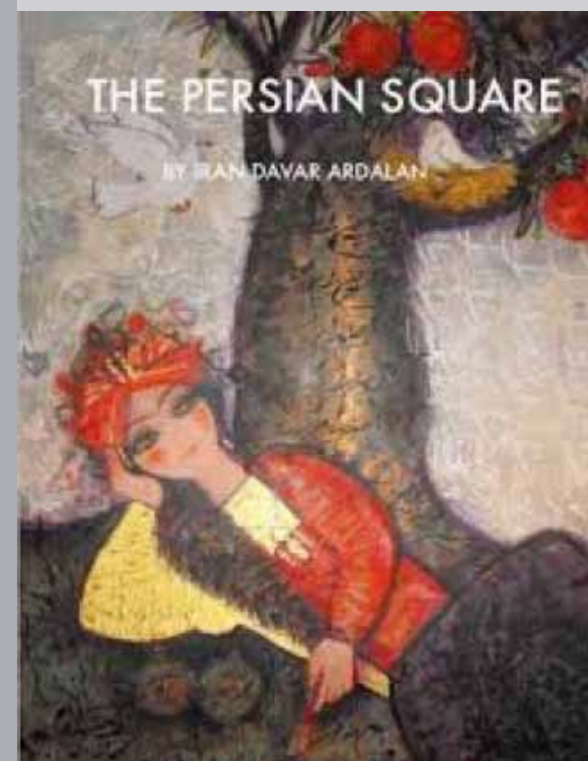
Davar Ardalan, Senior Producer for NPR's *Tell Me More* with host Michel Martin, published her second work, *The Persian Square*, in March 2013. The digital book combines text with over 30 media files, including music, audio and video, to illustrate the contributions that Iranian émigrés have made to American culture. Ardalan believes the digital format "allows for a deeper interactive understanding and appreciation of Iranian-American history." The work is divided into seven chapters, modeled after the seven trials endured by Rostam, an epic hero in the *Shahnameh*. The topics of the chapters include: history, freedom of expression, places, science and technology, entertainment and culture, and journalism. Each chapter profiles various Iranian-Americans who have influenced American history or culture in some form. This results in a wide range of portrayals—from Hajj Sayyah (1836-1925), believed to be the first Persian to become a naturalized citizen to Salar Kamangar, the CEO of YouTube and Senior Vice President of Video at Google. The depictions consist of a short one or two-paragraph biographical description of the individual and include his or her contributions to the respective field. An audio file of the Iranian-American pronouncing his or her name in both English and Persian is also incorporated into many of the profiles.

One of Ardalan's goals in the *Persian Square* is to demonstrate that "cultural ties between Iranians and Americans go back to the 1800s." In the book, she includes a song entitled "Gems from A Persian Garden", which was based on the works of Omar Khayyam and performed by the Victor Opera Company in Camden, NJ on February 19th, 1915. Ardalan also chronicles much of her own family history to illustrate how the lives of Americans and Iranians often overlapped. She reveals that the project is truly a personal journey of coming to terms with her identity rather than a detailed history. She relayed the following anecdote and requested it be included to demonstrate the context in which her inspiration to write the book emerged:

"My American grandmother Helen fell in love with Iran and Persian culture back in 1927 in New York City after my grandfather Abol Ghassem recited to her poems from the *Shahnameh*. Sitting in New York's Central Park or on a bench in Coney Island my 55-year-old grandfather Abol Ghassem mesmerized 22-year-old Helen with these stories. My grandfather said to Helen, 'you are a nurse and I am doctor, think of all that we can do together if we went back to Iran and set up hospitals to take care of the needy.' They did in fact go back in 1931 and began one of the first private hospitals in Iran. Later, in the 1950s, Helen, [by now] a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy, served as a Public Health Nurse in Iran as part of President Truman's Point Four Program. She had learned the Persian language from her years in Iran in the 1930s and was able to communicate with Iranian villagers. Helen had her own Jeep and drove along dusty roads to treat the tribal people and villagers with public health. Her strength, energy, enthusiasm, and hard work did not go unnoticed. We learned several years ago, that the Bakhtiari tribe had named a mountain after Helen. Somewhere in Chahar Mahal, Mt. Helen stands and it is a monument to selflessness. And there lies the beginnings of my family's love affair between Iran and America... it started with a poem."

Moved by the personal and cultural exchanges between her American grandmother and Iranian grandfather, Ardalan wishes to create a vivid portrait of the "unexpected places where American and Iranian tradition embraced one another."

The book's title is derived from an area in Los Angeles, the corner of Wilshire and Wilkins Boulevard, which was deemed the "Persian Square" in 2010 to honor the contributions local business owners made to the city. Despite the diversity of the Iranian-American community in the United States, most Iranians are erroneously portrayed as extravagantly wealthy, living in expensive homes in what is now deemed "Tehrangeles." When I asked Ardalan if she thought her work comprehensively portrayed all classes of Iranian-Americans and not only those who are part of the geographical "Persian Square", she responded, "The book is by design incomplete and I am eager to hear from others and include their stories in future updates to the book...There are thousands of Iranian-Americans whose family sagas should be featured on *The Persian Square*. The intention is to inspire others to share their own stories." If you would like to contribute your own story to the Persian Square, go to [www.thepersiansquare.org](http://www.thepersiansquare.org) or email : [story@thepersiansquare.org](mailto:story@thepersiansquare.org).



Cover art by:

**Nasser Ovissi,**  
from his series "Tuba: Tree of Happiness in Paradise"

Katie Manbachi ([manbachi@princeton.edu](mailto:manbachi@princeton.edu)) is about to graduate with an M.A. from the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. Her research interests include Islamic political thought in modern Iran, specifically conservative discourses, and female religious authority and institutions of religious education in Iran. Her M.A. thesis analyzed the late Ayatollah Montazeri's political thought in his 2009 work, *Hokumat-e Dini va Hoquq-e Ensan*.



## NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

ISIS is very pleased to welcome the following twelve new institutional members:

- 1 • The Foundation for Iranian Studies
- 2 • The Middle East Center at the University of Pennsylvania
- 3 • The University of Denver Center for Middle East Studies (CMES)
- 4 • The Center for South Asian & Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES) at the University of Illinois
- 5 • The Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture at the University of California at Irvine
- 6 • The Middle Eastern Studies Program at Syracuse University
- 7 • The Middle East Studies Center at Portland State University
- 8 • The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Arkansas
- 9 • The Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin
- 10 • The Institute for Iranian Studies at the University of St Andrews
- 11 • The Iranian Studies Program at the Department of International & Area Studies of the University of Oklahoma
- 12 • University of Toronto, Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations

## THE ASPS CONVENTION

The Sixth Biennial Convention of the *Association for the Study of Persianate Societies* (ASPS)

September 2-6, 2013, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) will hold its Sixth Biennial Convention in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, September 2-6, 2013. The Oriental Institute of Sarajevo (<http://www.ois.unsa.ba/>) and the Bosniac Institute (<http://www.bosnjackiinstitut.ba/home/sadrzaj/191>), located a short distance from the old town, will host the meeting.

For more than six centuries, Sarajevo and Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the larger region of the Balkans, have boasted strong currents of Persianate culture that have remained unknown to most us. As a part of the ancient Mediterranean, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Balkans are also rich in monuments related to Mithraic cults that bear testimony to the region's much older ties with the larger Iranian ecumene.

Past conventions of the ASPS have been held in Dushanbe/Tajikistan (2002); Yerevan/Armenia (2004); Tbilisi/Georgia (2007); Lahore/Pakistan (2009), and finally, Hyderabad/India (2012). Their programs are viewable at <http://www.persianatesocieties.org>.

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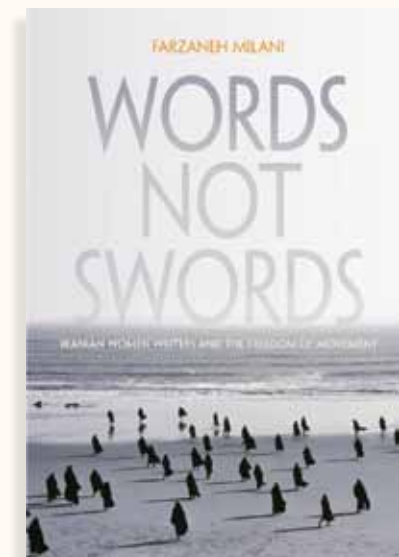
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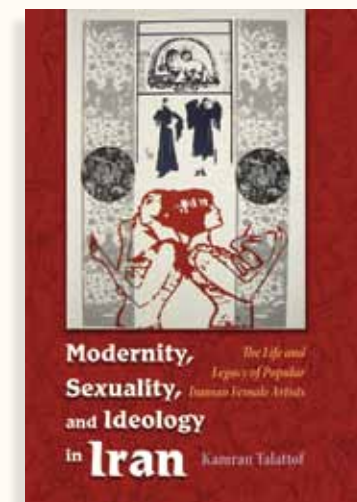
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