



JORDAN CENTER
FOR PERSIAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

2014 - 2015



Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center



A Message from the Director



As the Director of the UCI Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies, I am excited to share with you what we have done in the past year. The Jordan Center aims both to further research into the Iranian world and to increase the understanding of Iranian culture by the general public. To this end we have provided numerous scholarly lectures, plays, films, and programs for our students and faculty, as well as for the Iranian and Afghan community at large. We have also published books and articles to further scholarly research on Iran and the Persianate world. And in keeping with our community-based spirit, all the talks given in the past year have been recorded and are available for viewing at the center's website.

My mission is to make sure that the UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies remains one of the most recognized institutions of learning and culture outside of Iran. This can be done only with your support; by your attendance at our events and by your financial support to the center, you help make this goal a reality. Now more than ever we need to emphasize the depth and importance of the Iranian civilization, so that others can come to appreciate the value of its cultural legacy and the significance of the Iranian people in today's changing world.

Sincerely,
Touraj Daryaei

*Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies & Culture
Director of the Jordan Center for Persian Studies*

STAFF

Touraj Daryaei

Director and Maseeh Professor of History

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Performing Arts; Department of Music*

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Nasrin Rahmieh

*Howard Baskerville Professor
of Humanities; Department of
Comparative Literature*

Catherine Sameh

*Assistant Professor of Gender and
Sexuality Studies*

Soroosh Sorooshian

*Distinguished Professor, Civil and
Environmental Engineering and Earth
System Science; Director, Center for
Hydrometeorology and Remote Sensing*

Roxanne Varzi

*Associate Professor, Anthropology and
Film & Media Studies*

Soheila Kian

*Lecturer in Persian
Humanities Language Learning
Program*

Ali Mousavi

*Lecturer in History
History Department*

Campuswide Collaborations



February 13, 2015

Zanpush: The Jewish Dancing Boys of Iran

Houman Sarshar, Director of Publication, Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History; Editorial Advisor of Judeo-Persian Studies, Encyclopedia Iranica, gave a presentation on his most recent book, *The Jews of Iran*.

CO-SPONSORED BY JEWISH STUDIES

November 20, 2014

“Memories of Decline: The Islamic Conquests of Sasanian Iran and Modern Historiography”

Khodadad Rezaekhani, Post-Doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for History of Science and a Humboldt Fellow at the Iranistic Institute of the Free University of Berlin.

CO-SPONSORED BY HISTORY

April 23, 2015

Drawing Gujarat in the Eighteenth Century: Views from Land and Sea

Samira Sheikh, Associate Professor of History, Vanderbilt University

April 30, 2015

Is a Muslim Gandhi Possible?

Ramin Jahanbegloo, Associate Professor of Political Science and York-Noor Visiting Chair in Islamic Studies, York University

CO-SPONSORED BY THE CENTER FOR ASIAN STUDIES

April 2, 2015

From Behistun to Bamiyan: Meetings Between Ancient Empires

Jenny Rose, PhD, Zoroastrian Studies, Claremont Graduate School

May 1, 2015

Greek and Roman Artefacts found in Afghanistan and Pakistan and Syncretism in Buddhist Art during the Kushan Empire

Osmund Bopparachchi, Director of Research at the French National Center for Scientific Research (C.N.R.S), ‘Hellenism and Oriental Civilisations’ program

May 19, 2015

The Mother of the Children of the World

Dr. Naman Ahuja, Professor of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.

CO-SPONSORED BY ART HISTORY

Organized by Alka Patel, Associate Professor of Art History

Community Outreach



Nowruz Celebration at Jordan Center

In March, Dr. Touraj Daryae delivered a Nowruz Persian New Year lecture at Broadcom's headquarters in Irvine. Many employees came to learn about Iranian culture. In his talk, "Multiculturalism in Antiquity: The Case of Ancient Achaemenid Persian Empire," Dr. Daryae compared the notion of empire in antiquity and the present, bringing the ancient Iranian world and the United States into perspective.



The Jordan Center organized two community events with Minoo Sharifan, librarian at Irvine University Park Library



Kurosh Valanejad, Roxanne Varzi, Rashin Kheiriyeh, and Touraj Daryae

Rashin Kheiriyeh, an internationally recognized, award-winning illustrator, author, animator, and painter, spoke at the library on February 25, 2015. Her talk, "Illustration as a Window Into Cultures," emphasized the role of art in creating understanding and appreciation among different cultures. Kheiriyeh has received 50 national and international awards for her books and animations.

The acclaimed Iranian novelist Shahriar Mandanipour, author of *Censoring: An Iranian Love Story*, spoke about his career and writings. He also had a book signing event that was warmly received by the audience from the Persian community.

Farhang Foundation

Farhang Foundation Lectures in Iranian Studies at the Jordan Center

This year, the eminent philosopher, Dr. Ramin Jahanbegloo from York University delivered two lectures, one in Persian entitled "Non-Violence in Iranian History and Culture," and one in English entitled "Notes on the Idea of Culture without Violence." A reception was held in honor of Dr. Jahanbegloo where he answered many more questions about ethics, philosophy, non-violence and the Iranian and the Indian world.

IRAN:
From
Culture
to
Non-
Violence

Ramin
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Jahan
-nbegloo

YORK UNIVERSITY Jahar
-nbegloo

NOTE
Lecture
Conducted in
Persian Only

ایران: از فرهنگ تا خشونت پرهیزی

SAT/FEB 21 / 2-5 PM

LECTURE I 2-3 PM
خشونت پرهیزی در فرهنگ ایران
Non-Violence in Iranian
History & Culture
Coffee break

LECTURE II
ملاحظه ای درباره فرهنگ در جهان امروز
Notes on the Idea of
Culture without Violence

FARHANG
FOUNDATION
FARHANG FOUNDATION LECTURES IN IRANIAN STUDIES

JORDAN CENTER FOR PERSIAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE
1 HUMANITIES GATEWAY
IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92697



Faculty Spotlight

Alka Patel, PhD

Department of Art History & Visual Studies



My current book project on the Ghurids (c. 1150-1215) attempts to elucidate, both materially and historiographically, an unprecedented juncture between the Indic and Persianate worlds which has had ramifications into the modern day. The project has taken me to Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, and of course to northern India. The opportunity to go to Iran and Afghanistan came during a sabbatical in 2011. In Iran, I had the good fortune to be in touch with wonderful colleagues, thanks to Professor Touraj Daryaee.

While the Ghurid dynasty had only an ephemeral political presence in Khorasan, I was eager to visit Seljuk (10th-12th centuries) complexes that served as inspirations for later Ghurid architecture in both their home regions of central Afghanistan and eventually their conquered territories in north India. For example, the formal arcaded façades and epigraphic bands of Robat Sharaf, the 12th-century Seljuk royal caravansarai or way station west of Sarakhs (itself near the Turkmenistan border), have noteworthy formal parallels with the first monumental mosque in northern India, founded by the Ghurids upon their establishment at Delhi. Delhi's prominence as a political center dates to the period of Ghurid annexation in the 1190s. During a visit to a site at Zuzan, near the Afghanistan border, I was shown an exciting (re)discovery: a Seljuk mihrab recently excavated at the site. I am now preparing an art historical analysis of this site for publication.

Later in 2011, a visit to the Ghurids' homeland of Afghanistan was facilitated by the Indian Embassy in Kabul, the Indian Consul General at Herat, and the Governor of Herat Province. Herat is as magnificent as it was centuries ago, with vestiges of its glorious past still evident in (for example) the towering minarets of the Madrasa of Gawhar Shad, a formidable lady patron of the mid-15th-century Timurid court. My principal aim in Herat was documentation of the extant Ghurid parts of the city's congregational mosque, which was rebuilt after a fire c. 1200: it retains those earlier Seljuk characteristics of multiple arches with a prominent epigraphic program, here highlighted in brilliant blue glazed tiles. The mosque complex took on breathtaking proportions during the Timurid "golden age."

I hope this brief overview of Seljuk and Ghurid architectural patronage provides a tantalizing view into the unique political fusion that took place when a small, provincial Persianate dynasty attained a brief but reverberating trans-regional significance in the late 12th century, bringing together "India" and "Iran" in long-term cultural, linguistic, religious and artistic relationships.

Minor in Persian Studies

Sara Mashayekh, during her performance of the Shahnameh tale of Rostam and Sohrab



Reflecting the diversity of Persian culture as it developed in close contact with many different civilizations, Persian Studies is international and interdisciplinary by definition. Beginning in Fall 2015, UCI students can explore Persian life in past and present in an intellectual journey that can lead them to topics as diverse as the history of ancient Persia, the poetry of Rumi in the medieval period, and contemporary Iranian and Afghan music. With thousands of Iranians and Afghans living in our region, the Persian Studies minor introduces students to the culture and heritage of one of the largest communities in Orange County. Our faculty is affiliated with a number of different department in the School of Humanities, including History, Comparative Literature, Art History, and Gender & Sexuality as well as Anthropology. Committed to excellence in teaching and research, the Program in Persian Studies is also playing an important role in the wider community by organizing public events that bring distinguished scholars, artists, and intellectuals to Orange County. The minor was launched with a generous gift from the Farhang Foundation.

Touraj Daryae, Director, Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies & Culture

More information on the Minor is available at <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/persianstudiesminor/>

Jordan Center for Persian Studies Welcomes New Affiliated Faculty Member



Catherine Sameh is Assistant Professor of Gender & Sexuality Studies at University of California, Irvine. She received her Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies from Rutgers University. Her research interests include Iranian feminism, gender and Islam, women's human rights, social movements, and transnational feminisms. Her current book project investigates a campaign among feminists in Iran and the diaspora to reform Muslim family law, and explores the role of transnational networks in coalescing new political cultures. Before joining UC Irvine in Fall 2014, Professor Sameh served as Associate Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women, and managing editor of *The Scholar & Feminist Online*.

Graduate Studies and Continuing Education

The Jordan Center provides support for graduate students across campus working on Iran and the Persianate world through summer fellowships, quarterly research updates, and participation in Center events.



Mohammad Javad Rafi, a PhD candidate in European Languages and Studies published “Die deutsche Kulturarbeit und ihr Einfluss auf den iranischen Nationalismus” (German Cultural Work and Its Influence on Iranian Nationalism) in Presses Universitaires de Strasbourg, Collection FAUSTUS/Études Germaniques. (2015)

The article addresses Germany's role in the formation of Iranian nationalism prior the onset of the first World War until the Weimar republic. It traces an ideological influence on Iranian self-understanding vis-à-vis the Western world by examining the role of various German-sponsored campaigns in collaboration with Iranian intellectuals. Germany's influence on the development of Iranian nationalism was considerable and ongoing into the second half of the twentieth century, exemplified by the Nazis politically motivated construction of a shared Aryan identity with the Iranians.



Soodabeh Malekzadeh, a PhD student in History, published two articles this year.

“The Performance of Pain and Remembrance in Late Antique Iran,” *The Silk Road*, Vol. 12, 2014, pp. 57-64.

“Why Was Kartir Forgotten?” *Iran Nameh* 30:2 (Summer 2015), 280-287.

We are happy to announce the success of the first “crash course” on Achaemenid history and the Old Persian Language in Summer 2015. Members of the local Persian community attended five two-hour sessions. The first hour of the class focused on Achaemenid history, followed by one hour of instruction on the Old Persian language. Participants have been expressing their satisfaction in person, through thank you notes, and via emails inquiring about future courses. The course was taught by Soodabeh Malekzadeh, a doctoral student in the UCI Department of History.

PHOTO: Instructor Soodabeh Malekzadeh (center) with class members.

Deanna Kashani (*Visual Studies*) and Parisa Vaziri (*Comparative Literature*) received summer research fellowships from the American Institute of Iranian Studies.

Jordan Center 2014-15



Professor Touraj Daryaee, Assistant to President Obama Ferial Govashiri, and Professor Soroosh Sorooshian at the White House at the invitation of Michelle Obama for Nowruz 2015.

 Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture presents

Mehrzad Boroujerdi

CENTRALITY OF TEHRAN IN IRAN'S POST-REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Tehran has played a disproportionate role in Iran's political and cultural life both before and after the 1979 revolution. In this presentation, Boroujerdi provides a wide range of empirical data on this phenomena, and analyzes the salience of Tehran-centered political development in post-revolutionary Iran.

Friday, February 13th, 2015
1010 Humanities Gateway
6:00-7:30 PM Talk
Reception at Jordan Center to follow

MEHRZAD BOROJERDI is the O'Hanley Faculty Scholar and Chair of the Political Science Department at Syracuse University. He served as the President of the International Society for Iranian Studies from 2012 to 2014.



 FARHANG FOUNDATION
GENERATIONS COUNCIL
Presents

CYRUS MASSOUDI

Author of

LAND OF THE TURQUOISE MOUNTAINS

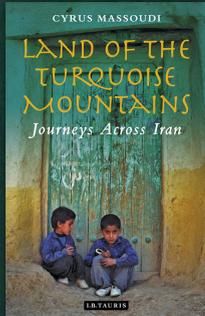
JOURNEYS ACROSS IRAN

TALK & RECEPTION

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2015 - 1:00 PM
The Brown Auditorium at LACMA
5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015 - 6:00 PM
Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies at UC Irvine
1 Humanities Gateway, Irvine, CA 92697

Events are FREE and open to public.
RSVP by April 10: rsvp@farhang.org or call 310-666-1546



Culture Wars in Iran: Repressive tolerance or a new modernity?

Dr. Abbas Milani
Hamid & Christina Moghadam Director of Iranian Studies
Stanford University



Monday, April 20th, 2015
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Reception to follow
1030 Humanities Gateway
UC Irvine School of Humanities

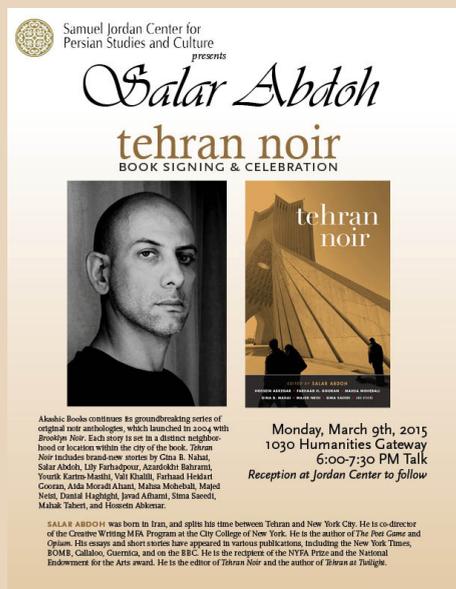
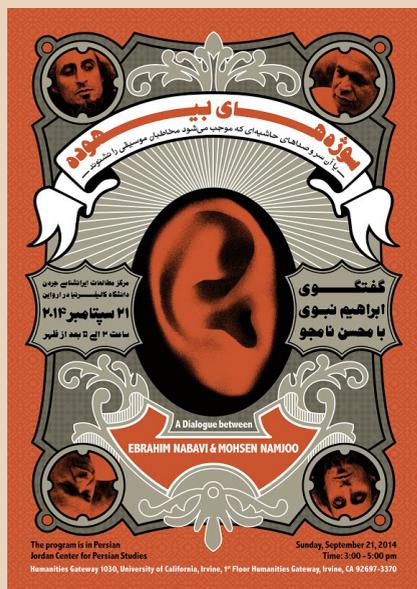


 Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture

Moments to Remember

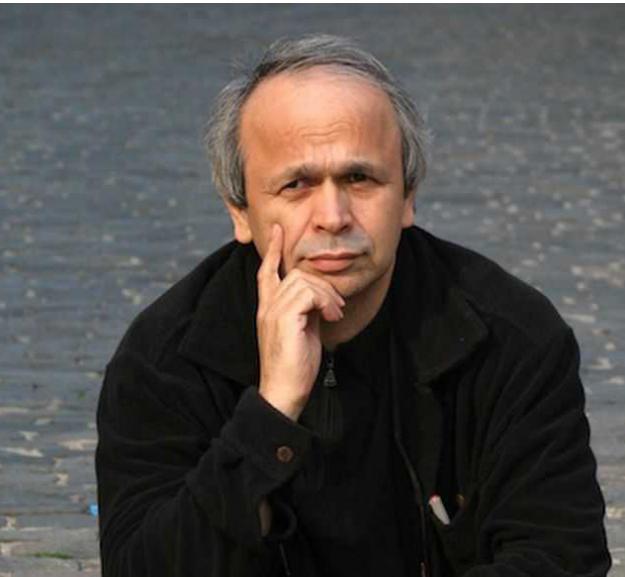


The signing ceremony for the inauguration of the Persian Minor with the founder of the center, Dr. Fariborz Maseeh; Farhang Foundation Trustees Assad Kazeminy and Ali Razi; Georges Van Den Abbeele, Dean, School of Humanities; plus faculty and guests.



Lectures

Visiting Scholars



Ebrahim Nabavi

MR. EBRAHIM NABAVI was the visiting scholar at the Jordan Center for Persian Studies for the 2014-2015 academic year. While in residence, he worked on a history of Iranian satire which will result in the publication of a book-length study. He also participated in two projects dealing with rock / alternative Persian music, as well as the Tehran Project.

Mr. Nabavi is a writer, columnist and a political satirist whose most recent book is *Kashkool-e Nabavi (Ahd-e Atigh) (Nabavi's Anthology: Old Testament)*, H&S Media, 2012. He has written 47 books in Persian, with subjects ranging from politics to rock music.

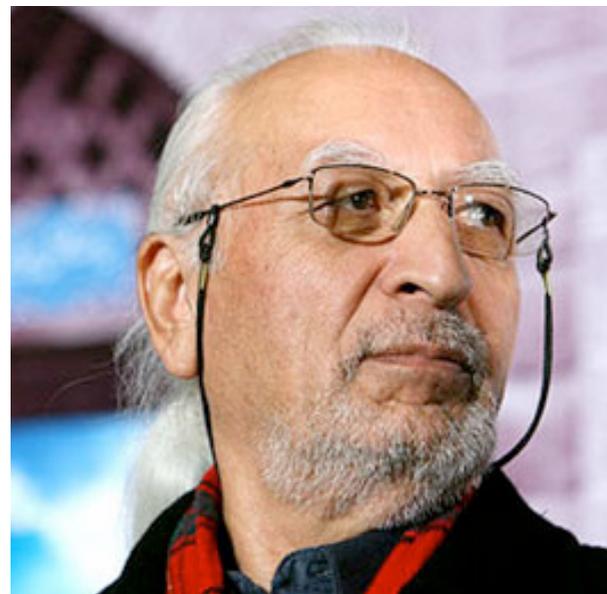
Mr. Nabavi is the recipient of the Viarreggio award (Italy), the Prince Claus award (Netherlands), and a Hellman-Hammett Grant. He is a three-time winner of the Press Annual Award for best satirist in Iran.

MR. NOUREDDIN ZARRINKELK, known internationally as “the father of Iranian animation,” has joined the Jordan Center as our artist-in-residence for two years through Spring 2016.

From a familial lineage of painters and calligraphers, Zarrinkelk forged an artistic path of his own. At age 16, Zarrinkelk began drawing caricatures for magazines. After earning a Ph.D. in pharmacology at Tehran University, he worked as an illustrator and then at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults where he noticed animation's potential to capture and transform its audiences.

Zarrinkelk has since written and directed 13 films. His style is playful yet pointed and often relies on simplicity to tell a story. A recurring theme is power. His film *Super Powers* depicted the power and interconnectedness of war with only + and – symbols. Made during the Iraq-Iran war, the film won the national Fajr award in 1987.

Zarrinkelk advanced Iranian animation by founding the country's first animation school in 1974 and Iran's branch of the international film animators group, Association Internationale du Film d'Animation or “ASIFA,” in 1987. In addition to being an animator (both of film and puppets), Zarrinkelk is also an illustrator, painter, and graphic designer. He has illustrated over 20 books and several of them have received international praise, including the book, “The Crows,” which won “Best Book” by UNESCO Asia and UNESCO Iran.



Nouredin Zarrinkelk

Jordan Center Student Awards

ZARRINKELK FELLOWSHIPS



Deanna Kashani

PhD Candidate in Visual Studies
B.A., *History of the Modern Middle East*, Brown University (2004)

Research Interests

Modern and contemporary Iranian art, the history of exhibition practices in Iran, feminist art history, and the history of the modern museum.



Soodabeh Malekzadeh

PhD Candidate in History
M.A., *Ancient Languages and Cultures*, Shiraz University (2011)
B.A., *English Literature* Shiraz University (2005)

Research Interests

The Middle East; Late Antique Iran; Art, Politics, Law

Dissertation Topic

Bahram V: The Romantic Hunter-King or a Judeo-Arab Emperor



Assal Rad

PhD Candidate in History
M.A., *History*, UCI (2008)
B.A., *Psychology, with Middle Eastern Studies minor*, UCI (2005)

Research Interests

Middle Eastern history, with emphasis on Modern Iran, World History.

Dissertation Topic

The Philosophy of Martyrdom in the Iran-Iraq War

RUSZAT AWARD



Parisa Vaziri

PhD Candidate in Comparative Literature
B.A., *Comparative Literature*, New York University (2007)

Research Interests

Iranian film and history, theories of racialization and history, African-American film and theory, legacies of third cinema.

DEAN'S GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP



Ali Olomi

PhD Student in History
M.A., *History*, UCI (2014)
B.A., *History*, UCLA (2011)

Research Interests

Middle East and North Africa; World History; Empire/Colonialism, History of Religion, Gender and Sexuality

Dissertation Topic

Genealogy of Modernism in Islamic Thought

DEAN'S GATEWAY AWARD

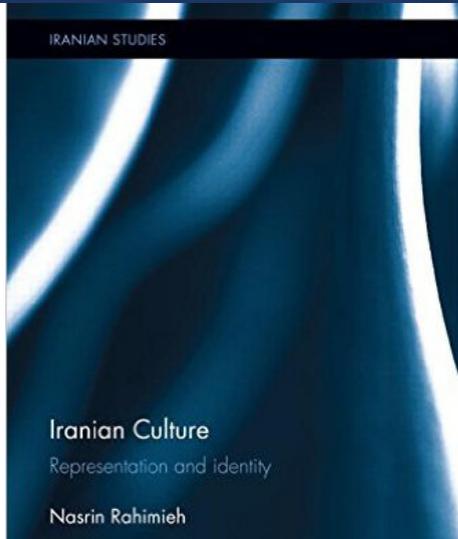


Omid Taheri

B.S., Biomedical Engineering, UCI (2015)

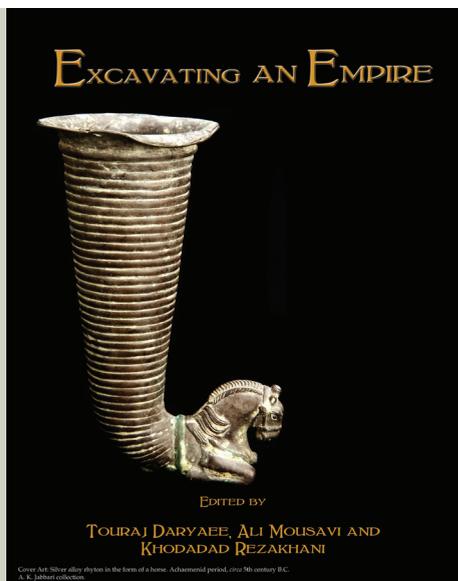
"Omid is an outstanding student and having him as a student has been a rewarding experience. He is responsible, meticulous and always prepared to answer questions. He constantly earns the highest grade in class and is the perfect candidate for this scholarship." —Soheila Khan, Lecturer in Persian

Faculty Publications



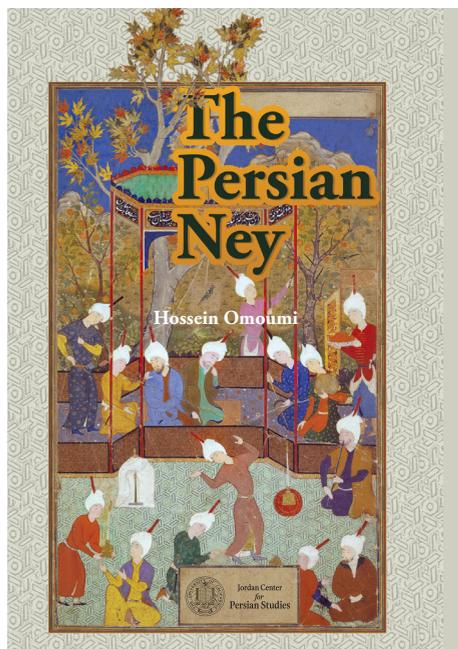
Nasrin Rahimieh, *Iranian Culture: Representation and Identity* (Routledge 2015).

Throughout modern Iranian history, culture has served as a means of imposing unity and cohesion onto society. The Pahlavi monarchs used it to project an image of Iran as an ancient civilisation, re-emerging as an equal to Western nations, while the revolutionaries deployed it to remake the country into an Islamic nation. Just as Iranian culture has been continually re-interpreted, the representations and avocations of Iranian identity vary amongst Iranians across the world. *Iranian Culture: Representation and Identity* demonstrates these fissures and the incompatibilities that refuse to be written out of national culture, analysing works of literature, popular music, graphic art and film, as well as oral narratives. Using works produced before and after the 1979 revolution, this study reveals neglected complexities in the field of Iranian cultural production.



Khodadad Rezaehani, Touraj Daryaee, Ali Mousavi, *Excavating an Empire: Achaemenid Persia in Longue Durée* (Mazda Books, 2015).

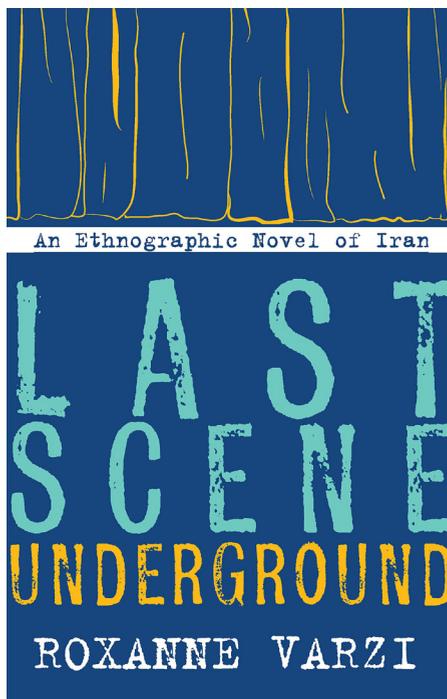
This book, a volume of essays on the empire of Achaemenid Persia, is a contribution to the study of the Achaemenid world, attempting to assess the two centuries of their rule outside the physical and temporal boundaries of their political control. In so doing, it casts light not only on the past, but also on contemporary Iran and its neighbors.



Hossein Omoumi, *The Persian Ney* (Jordan Center, 2015).

A primitive yet expressive instrument, the Ney has over the centuries retained its position in Iranian musical, cultural, poetical, and mystical life. This book explores the development and evolution of the Ney, as well as its position and importance in Iranian culture and society over the centuries. It concludes with a discussion regarding some relatively recent advances in the design and performance techniques of this instrument. This book is written by Hossein Omoumi, one of the great masters of the instrument, and professor of Persian music at UC Irvine.

Faculty Publications: Spotlight

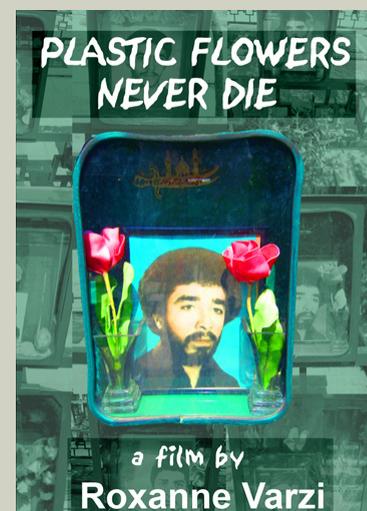


Roxanne Varzi, *Last Scene Underground* (Stanford University Press, 2015).

Leili could not have imagined that arriving late to Islamic morals class would change the course of her life. But her arrival catches the eye of a young man, and a chance meeting soon draws Leili into a new circle of friends and artists. Gathering in the cafes of Tehran, these young college students come together to create an underground play that will wake up their generation. They play with fire, literally and figuratively, igniting a drama both personal and political to perform their play—just once. From the wealthy suburbs and chic coffee shops of Tehran to subterranean spaces teeming with drugs and prostitution to spiritual lodges and saints' tombs in the mountains high above the city, *Last Scene Underground* presents an Iran rarely seen. Young Tehranis navigate their way through politics, art, and the meaning of home and in the process learn hard lessons about censorship, creativity, and love. Their dangerous discoveries ultimately lead to finding themselves.

Written in the hopeful wake of Iran's Green Movement and against the long shadow of the Iran-Iraq war, this unique novel deepens our understanding of an elusive country that is full of misunderstood contradictions and wonder.

Roxanne Varzi is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Film and Media Studies at UCI. She is the author of *Warring Souls: Media, Martyrdom, and Youth in Post-Revolution Iran* (2006). Her award-winning short stories have been published in a number of anthologies and magazines, including the New York Press. Her film, *Plastic Flowers Never Die*, has been shown in festivals around the world from Bosnia to Boston, and her sound installation, *Whole World Blind*, has been exhibited in galleries in San Francisco and Berlin and is featured on Public Books. Varzi was born in Tehran and left with her family shortly after the Revolution. In 2000, she was awarded the first Fulbright fellowship since the Islamic Revolution for research in Iran.



“Literary romance and ethnography are joined in perfect dialogue in *Last Scene Underground*. Roxanne Varzi has written a rare, powerful book that is both a whirlwind story of how it feels to be young and idealistic during the time of the Green Movement, and a pointed reckoning with the state of censorship in Iran today.”—Nahid Rachlin, author of *Persian Girls*

“This beautifully written book captures the predicament of every Iranian artist who is conflicted between one’s own creative imagination, personal and social responsibilities, and political reality.”—Shirin Neshat

Research Projects

Sasanika



The Sasanian Empire was one of the most remarkable empires of the first millennium CE. Emanating from southern Iran's Persis region in the third century CE, the Sasanian domain eventually encompassed not only modern day Iran and Iraq, but also the greater part of Central Asia and the Caucasus, including at times the regions corresponding to present-day Syria, Turkey, and Egypt. This geographically diverse empire brought together a striking array of ethnicities and religious practices. Arameans, Arabs, Armenians, Persians, Romans, and Goths, as well as a host of other peoples, all lived and labored under Sasanian rule. The Sasanians established a relatively tolerant imperial system, creating a vibrant communal life among their Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian citizens.

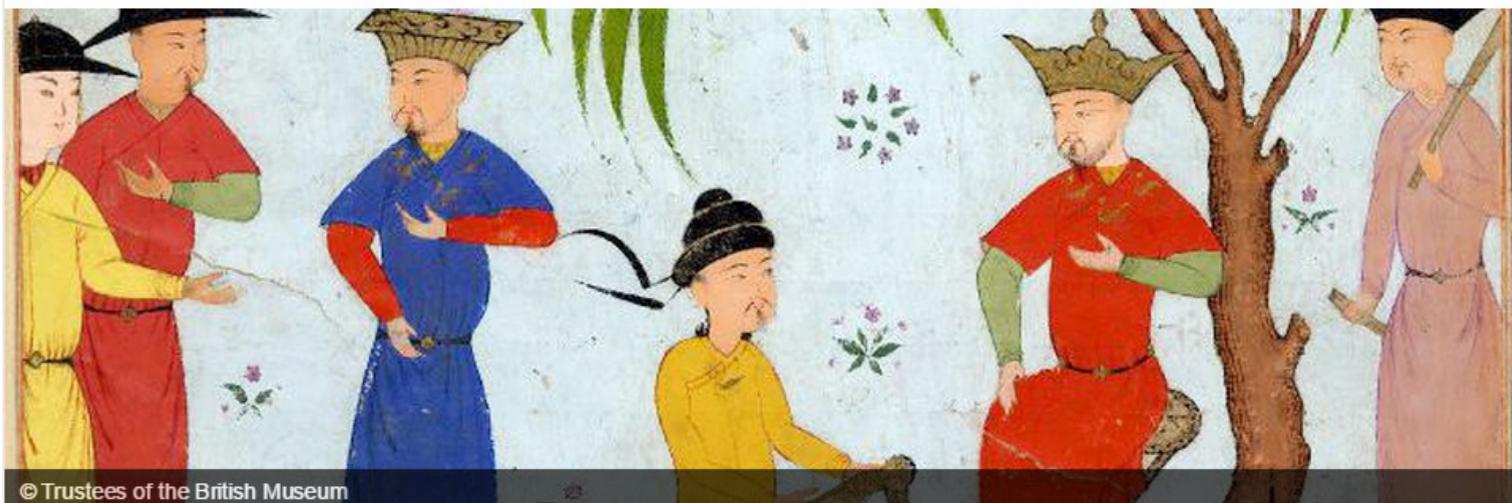
The Jordan Center's Sasanika website is a comprehensive collection of resources, articles, and visual materials on the Sasanian Empire. In 2014-2015, the Center published the following articles.

Stephen Rapp (Sam Houston State University): "New Perspectives on 'The Land of Heroes and Giants': The Georgian Sources for Sasanian History"

At the twilight of his illustrious reign, Vaxtang Gorgasali (r. 447-522) led his troops into battle one last time. His K'art'velians of eastern Georgia triumphed against the formidable Sasanian adversary, but in the course of fighting the aging hero-king was mortally wounded. Rapp analyzes the Iranian influences on *The Life of Vaxtang*, which has previously been understood solely as a Byzantine document. He demonstrates that the entire corpus of early Georgian literature is encoded with elements of the Irano-Caucasian nexus.

Michael Alram (Austrian Academy of Sciences/ Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna): "The Cultural Impact of Sasanian Persia along the Silk Road – Aspects of Continuity"

Alram focuses on the Sasanian Empire's impact on its surrounding world and explores the question of why its cultural achievements had such a long-lasting influence far beyond the borders of the Iranian lands, even after the decline of the dynasty. In particular, his research addresses the role of the Sasanians in international trade and their political aim of controlling the land and maritime trade networks that connected Iran with the Mediterranean world, Central Asia, China, India, and the Arabian Peninsula.



The Digital Archive of Brief notes & Iran Review (DABIR) is an new open access, peer-reviewed online journal published by the UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture. DABIR aims to quickly and efficiently publish brief notes and reviews relating to the pre-modern world in contact with Iran and Persianate cultures.

Volume I, 2015

Articles

A re-examination of two terms in the Elamite version of the Behistun inscription - Saber Amiri Pariyan

Alexander and the Arsacids in the manuscript MU29 - Touraj Daryaee

Take care of the xrafstars! A note on Nēr. 7.5 - Shervin Farridnejad

The kings of Parthia and Persia: Some considerations on the 'Iranic' identity in the Parthian Empire - Leonardo Gregoratti

Brief comments on the so-called Xorde Avesta (I) - Götz König

Some thoughts on the rock-reliefs of ancient Iran - Ali Mousavi

A note on the Alkhan coin type 39 and its legend - Khodadad Rezakhani

Relieving monthly sexual needs: On Pahlavi daštān-māh wizārdan - Shai Secunda

Preliminary observations on word order correspondence in the Zand - Arash Zeini

Reviews

Smith, Kyle. 2014. *The Martyrdom and History of Blessed Simeon bar Sabba'e*, reviewed by Sajad Amiri Bavandpoor

Mayor, Adrienne. 2014. *The Amazons. Lives and Legends of Warrior Women Across the Ancient World*, reviewe by Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones

CTESIAS' History of Persia: Tales of the Orient, reviewed by Yazdan Safaee

Special Issue

Of dirt, diet, and religious others: A theme in Zoroastrian thought - Bruce Lincoln

Supporters of the Center

We would like to thank the following friends and foundations for their support of the Jordan Center for Persian Studies at the University of California, Irvine.

Dr. and Mrs. Fariborz Maseeh

Massiah Foundation

Bijan Farhad and Paricher Payravi

Ali and Anousheh Razi

Mr. Reza M. Jahangiri

Mr. Ali Jahangiri

Farhang Foundation

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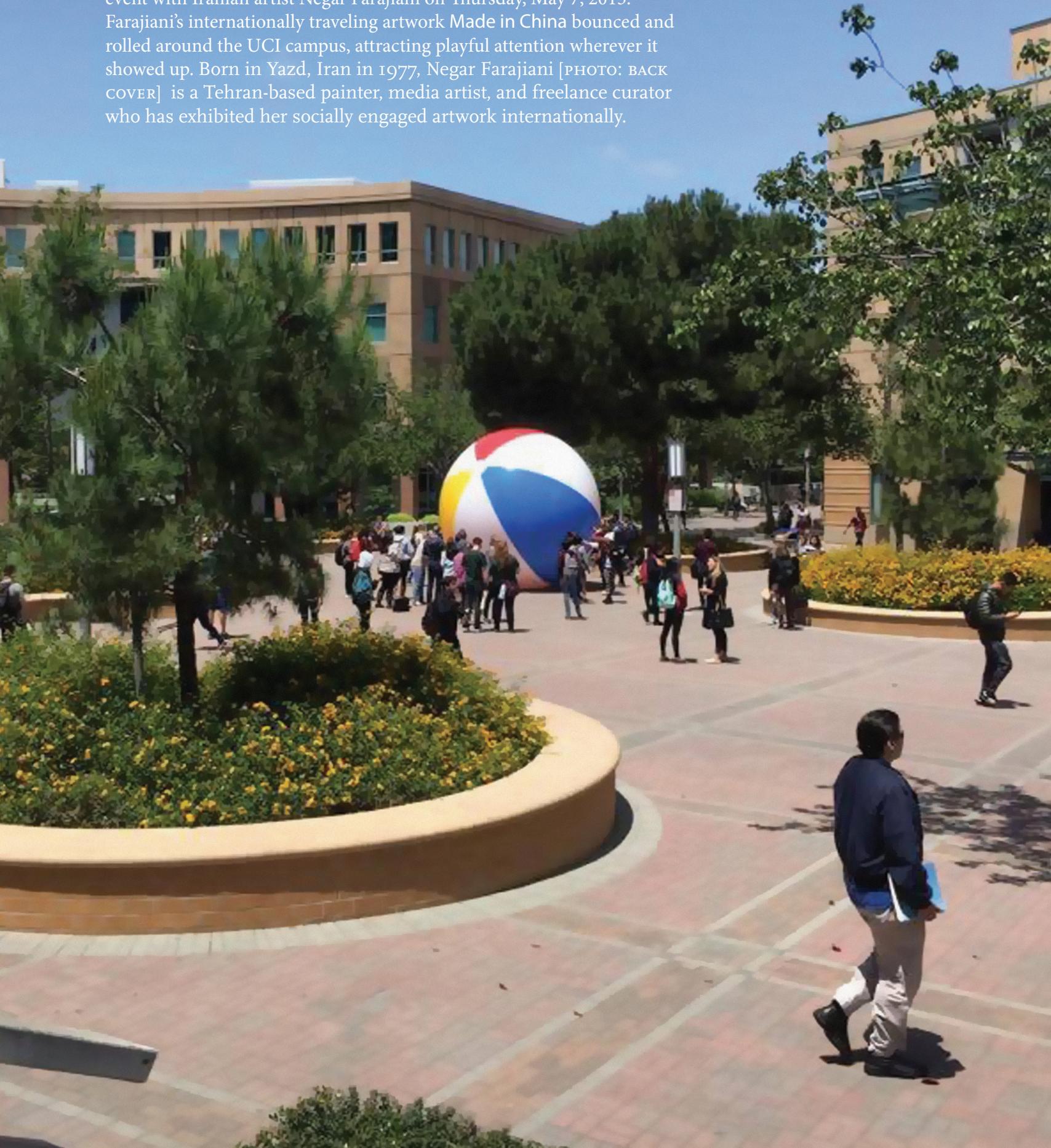
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Spotlight on Art

The Persian Center presented an all-day art installation and speaking event with Iranian artist Negar Farajiani on Thursday, May 7, 2015. Farajiani's internationally traveling artwork *Made in China* bounced and rolled around the UCI campus, attracting playful attention wherever it showed up. Born in Yazd, Iran in 1977, Negar Farajiani [PHOTO: BACK COVER] is a Tehran-based painter, media artist, and freelance curator who has exhibited her socially engaged artwork internationally.



Iranian Artist Negar Farajiani with her work,
Made in China. UC Irvine Campus, May 2015



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