2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies

مرکز مطالعات ایران شناسی دکتر سموئل جردن

Sultan Beigom historic house, Tehran, Iran. Photo by Ebrahim Safi.

Message from the **Director**

It is my pleasure to serve as the Director of the Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture for the 2017-2018 academic year. This is the fourth year that I have had the privilege to embark on important activities to study and understand the Iranian world. We had 56 events this past year, which included lectures, seminars, conferences, movie showings, musical concerts, and art exhibits. Scholars from Iran, Europe, and the U.S. have come to the center to share their knowledge with the university, and the Iranian community in Orange County and Southern California. We also had the largest conference on Iran in the history of Southern California. The Association for Iranian Studies (AIS) Conference was held at UC Irvine School of Humanities with 356 speakers and many more participants from around the world. I am pleased that we at the center continue to publish book series, in both English and Persian, as well as CD productions. Furthermore, we have continued our work on SASANIKA: Late Antique Iran Project, with new articles and archaeological reports. TEHRAN Project: Water, City, People has added an article and DABIR: Digital Archives of Brief Notes & Iran Review has published its fifth volume. I hope to continue to make the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture thrive and make the history and culture of the Iranian world better understood.

Touraj Daryaee, Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies

Staff

Touraj Daryaee
Director, Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture
Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies & Culture

Amanda Jeanne Swain
Executive Director, Humanities Commons

Saeid Jalalipour
Program Manager,
Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture

UNDERGRADUATE STAFF

Shadi Namiranian, *Special Events Assistant*

Farinaz Pirshirazi, *Social Media Coordinator*

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Houri Berberian, *Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies, Department of History*

Matthew Philip Canepa, *Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali Presidential Chair in Art History and Archaeology of Ancient Iran*

Simcha Gross, *Assistant Professor of History*

Soheila Kian, *Lecturer in Persian Language*

Mark Levine, *Professor of History*

Hossein Omoumi, *Maseeh Chair in Persian Performing Arts; Department of Music*

Alka Patel, *Associate Professor of Art History*

Nasrin Rahimieh, *Howard Baskerville Professor of Humanities; Department of Comparative Literature*

Catherine Sameh, *Assistant Professor of Gender and Sexual Studies*

Soorosh Sorooshian, *Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering*

Roxanne Varzi, *Associate Professor of Anthropology*

VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS

Mahmoud Omidsalar, *Scholar-in-residence*

Noureddin Zarrinkelk, *Artist-in-residence*

Jane Lewisohn, *Scholar-in-residence*

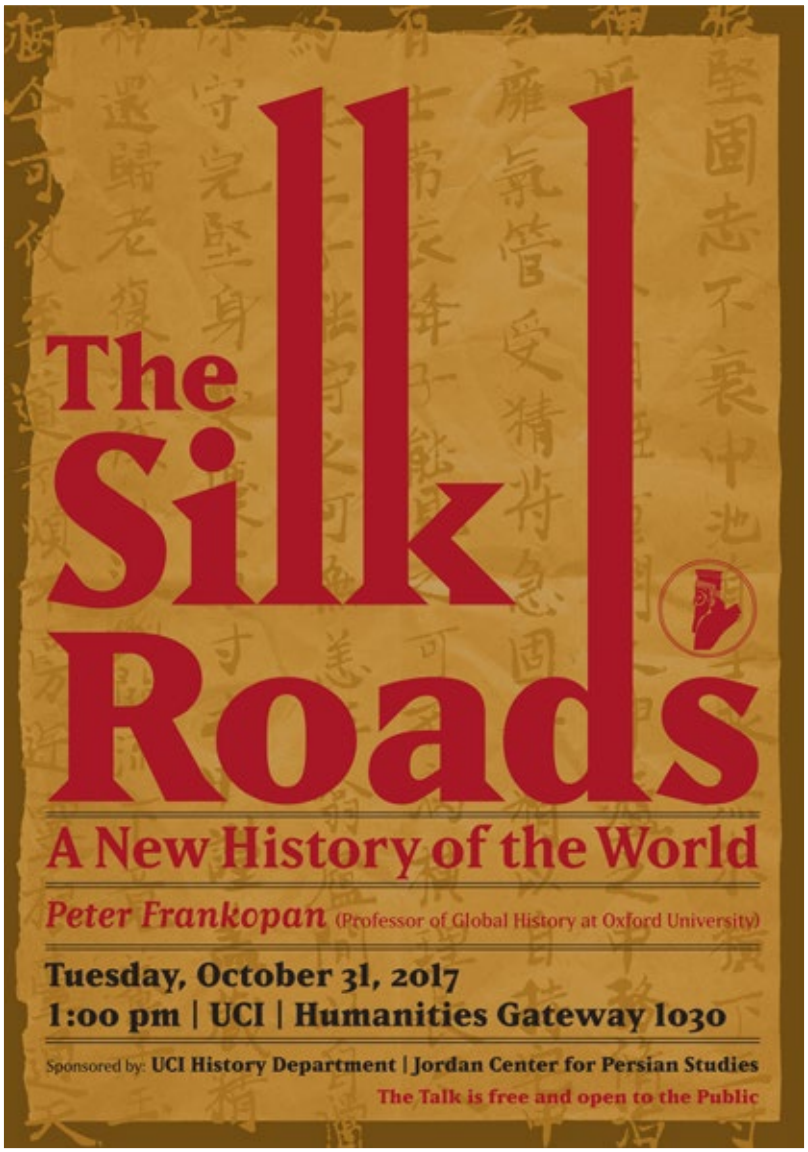
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Kourosh Beigpour, *Graphic Designer*

VOLUNTEERS

Ebrahim Safi, *Photographer*

Campuswide Collaborations



The Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture collaborates with departments and centers in the School of Humanities, and across the UC Irvine campus. We were pleased to co-present a talk on The Silk Road and its importance within the new world with UCI Department of History.

OCTOBER 31, 2017
The Silk Roads: A New History of the World
Dr. Peter Frankopan, *Professor of Global History at Oxford University*
CO-SPONSORED BY UCI DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

NOVEMBER 30, 2017
Is a World of History of Antiquity Possible?
Dr. Stanley Burstein, *Professor of History at Cal State Los Angeles*
CO-SPONSORED BY UCI DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

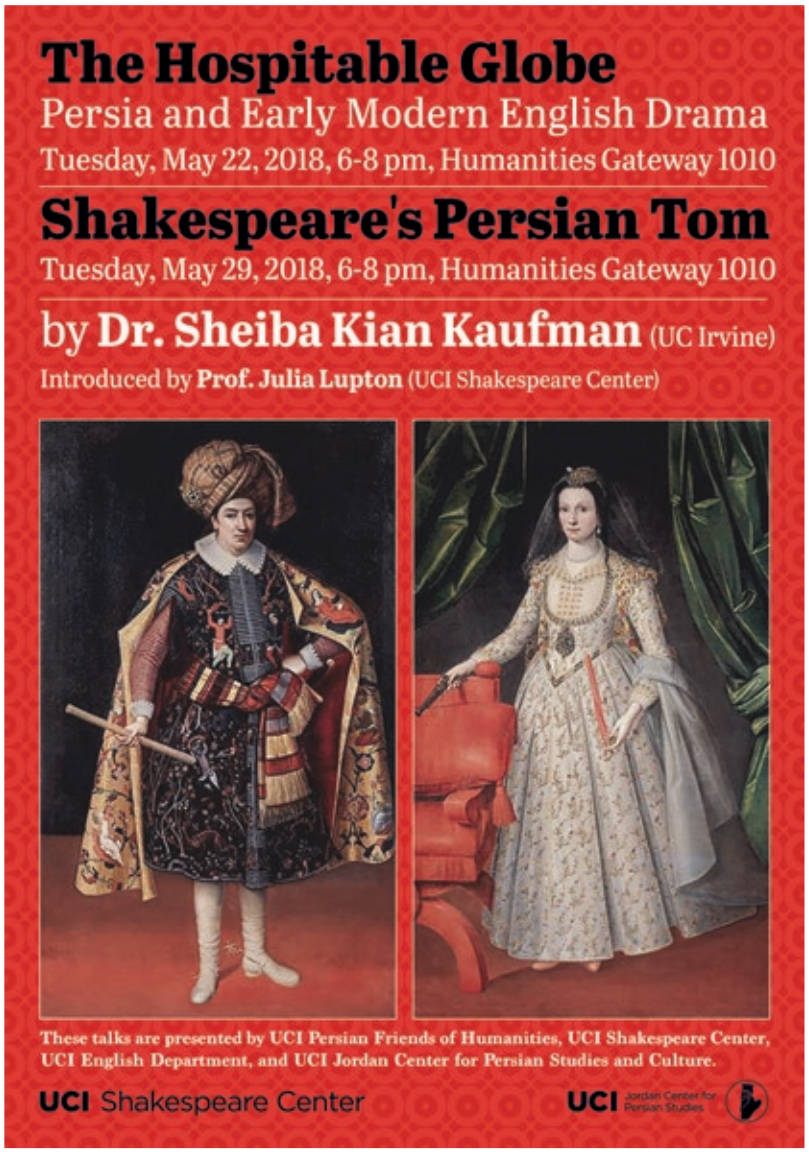
FEBRUARY 8, 2018
Babylonian Jews under Ancient Persian Rule, and the Production of the Babylonian Talmud
Dr. Simcha Gross, *Professor of History at UC Irvine*
CO-SPONSORED BY UCI CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES & PERSIAN FRIENDS OF HUMANITIES

FEBRUARY 15, 2018
The Babylonian Talmud in the Context of the Sasanian Empire: Acculturation and Negotiation
Dr. Simcha Gross, *Professor of History at UC Irvine*
CO-SPONSORED BY UCI CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES & PERSIAN FRIENDS OF HUMANITIES

FEBRUARY 22, 2017
Judeo-Persian Poetry on the Crossroads between Jewish and Perso-Islamic Traditions
Liora Tamir
CO-SPONSORED BY UCI CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES & PERSIAN FRIENDS OF HUMANITIES

FEBRUARY 23, 2017
Semnani Family Foundation Conference: Iran after Alexander: Hellenism in the East
Organized by Dr. Touraj Daryaee, *Professor and Maseeh Chair in Studies and Culture, UC Irvine*
CO-SPONSORED BY UCI DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

Campuswide Collaborations



Two talks on connections between Persia and Early Modern English Drama with UCI Shakespeare Center were co-presented.

MARCH13, 2018
UCI Iranian American Faculty/Staff Association Nowruz Celebration

Yearly Celebration of Persian New Year (Nowruz) at UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture' Lobby

CO-SPONSORED BY UCI IRANIAN AMERICAN FACULTY/ STAFF ASSOCIATION

MARCH 18, 2018
Society of Iranian Graduate Students at UCI Nowruz Celebration

Yearly Celebration of Persian New Year (Nowruz) at UCI Student Center

CO-SPONSORED BY UCI SOCIETY OF IRANIAN GRADUATE STUDENTS (SIGS)

MAY 22, 2018
The Hospitable Globe: Persia and Early Modern English Drama

Dr. Sheiba Kian Kaufman, *Lecturer of English at UC Irvine*

CO-SPONSORED BY UCI SHAKESPEARE CENTER

MAY 29, 2018
Shakespeare's Persian Tom

Dr. Sheiba Kian Kaufman, *Lecturer of English at UC Irvine*

CO-SPONSORED BY UCI SHAKESPEARE CENTER

SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
Iranian American Innovation Forum

Leading Iranian-American innovators, technologists, entrepreneurs, and professors discussed what technological, business and social innovation means at UCI Student Center

CO-SPONSORED BY UCI SOCIETY OF IRANIAN GRADUATE STUDENTS (SIGS), IRANIAN AMERICANS' CONTRIBUTIONS PROJECT (IACP) AND SHARIF UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION (SUTA)

Community Outreach

DOCUNIGHT MONTHLY MOVIE SCREENING OF IRANIAN DOCUMENTARIES AT UC IRVINE

Every first Wednesday of the month, Docunight screens a documentary about or around Iran, and or made by Iranian filmmakers. Docunight screenings take place across several cities in North America. Docunight screenings in Irvine are presented by UCI Society of Graduate Students (SIGS) and UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture. Docunight events are free and open to the public. All films have English subtitles.

DR. NOUREDDIN ZARRINKELK'S FINE ARTS WORKSHOPS AT UC IRVINE

Finearts workshops are offered to UCI students and members of the community by Dr. Noureddin Zarrinkelk, artist-in-residence of Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture. Noureddin Zarrinkelk is an Iranian animator, concept artist, editor, graphic designer, illustrator, layout artist, photographer, scriptwriter, and sculptor. Dr. Zarrinkelk is known as the father of animation of Iran. Workshops are held every Sunday in the School of Humanities, UC Irvine.

LITTLE PICASSO ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN BY MS. MARYAM NAGHSHINEH AT UC IRVINE

Painting classes for children (ages 5-11) are offered for members of the community by local artist and painter, Ms. Maryam Naghshineh. She is an abstract artist with a focus on Persian motifs and decorative art. Ms. Naghshineh was one of the participating artists for Farhang's Gala. She was nominated by their Art Committee as well as "Pasfarda Art and Culture" (Chicago) in 2014. Classes are held every Sunday in the School of Humanities, UC Irvine.

Community Outreach

FARSI SHAD: PERSIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AT UC IRVINE

PWeekly Persian language classes for children ages 6 and up are being offered by the Farsi Shad group. Students learn to read and write Persian at their own pace in a fun and interactive enviroment that also provides a sense of community. Classes are held every Sunday in the School of Humanities, UC Irvine.

BAHAR KIDS 1ST ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PERSIAN BOOK FESTIVAL AT UC IRVINE

On Sunday, December 17, 2017, Bahar Kids along with UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, held the 1st Annual Children's Persian Book Festival at UC Irvine's School of Humanities. It was a wonderful half-day program, where attendees had the opportunity to purchase Persian books, CD, and meet with artists and authors, see art exhibitions, participate in children activities and see children's Yalda performance. This festival was attended by members of UCI and the community.

CELEBRATION OF WINTER SOLSTICE "YALDA NIGHT" AT IRVINE UNIVERSITY PARK LIBRARY

On Thursday, December 21, 2017, Irvine University Park Library along with UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, held the Celebration of Winter Solstice or the Persian festival of winter "Yalda Night" at Irvine University Park Library. A presentation by Sarah Mashayekh on Yalda Night accompanied by a musical performance by Shayandokht Abedinimanesh, Shahin Yousefzamani and Aydin Akhevat was enjoyed. This event was attended by members of UCI and the community as well.

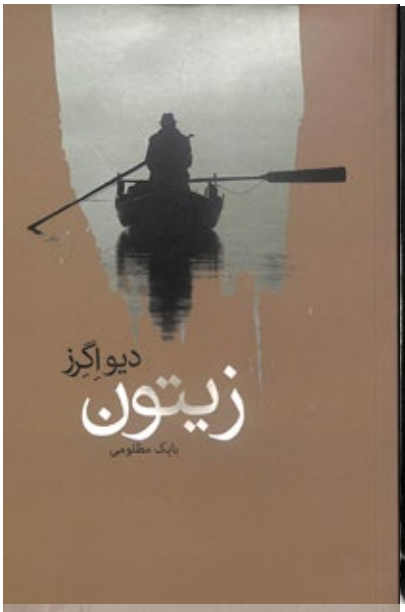
Graduate Student Spotlight

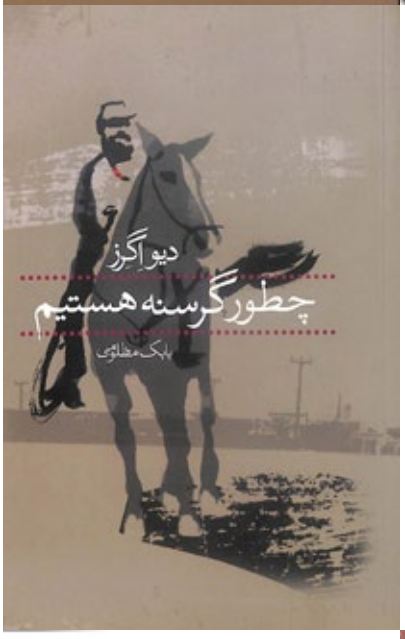
BABAK MAZLOUMI

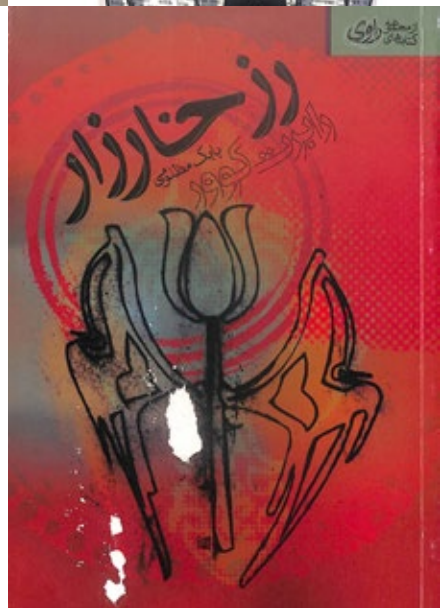
Babak Mazloumi is an Iranian literary translator and critic. He has translated books by Robert Coover, Dave Eggers, Steven Galloway, Ismail Kadare, Leonid Tsypkin, Nick Kolakowski, and Bogdan Suceava into Persian. He has also made many contributions, including translations of short stories and essays as well as his own critical essays, to prestigious Iranian literary magazines such as Arghanoon, Karnameh, Kelk, Payab, as well as Shargh newspaper.

He has also written critical essays on literary translation theory and at the moment, Mr. Mazloumi is working toward his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine, focusing on critical theory as well as translation studies.

His other research interests are literary geography and cartography. Prior to that, he received his Interdisciplinary Master's in Humanities and Social Thought from New York University where he focused on human rights, censorship, narratology, Middle Eastern Studies, and media.







Incoming and Outgoing Graduate Students

LAYAH ZIAII-BIGDELI

Ms. Ziaii-Bigdeli is starting as a Ph.D. student in the Visual Studies program at University of California, Irvine. Her background is in Iranian archaeology and art history. She earned a B.A. in Art History and archaeology with a concentration in ancient Near Eastern antiquities at Columbia University and an M.A. in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies with an emphasis on Islamic art at Rutgers University. Her master's thesis examines Nishapur figural buff ware with an intention to understand the quality of modern conservation and its effects on scholarship. Currently, she is focusing on late Sasanian and early Islamic visual culture. Her current research investigates gender and sexuality in the Sasanian period.

ASAL RAD

Ms. Rad graduated from UCI in 2008 with a M.A. in History, in which she studied World History and the Modern Middle East. After her studies, she pursued her interests in education and non-profit work and eventually decided to return to UCI and complete the Ph.D. program in History. Ms. Rad's research and dissertation examines national identity formation in Iran over the last century and pays close attention to popular culture and developments in post-revolutionary Iran. With a desire to positively impact her community through teaching and public engagement, Ms. Rad's research focused on contemporary Iran in order to further our understanding of a complex issue with implications for our current state of affairs. After her studies, Ms. Rad plans to continue working within the education community and the non-profit sectors.

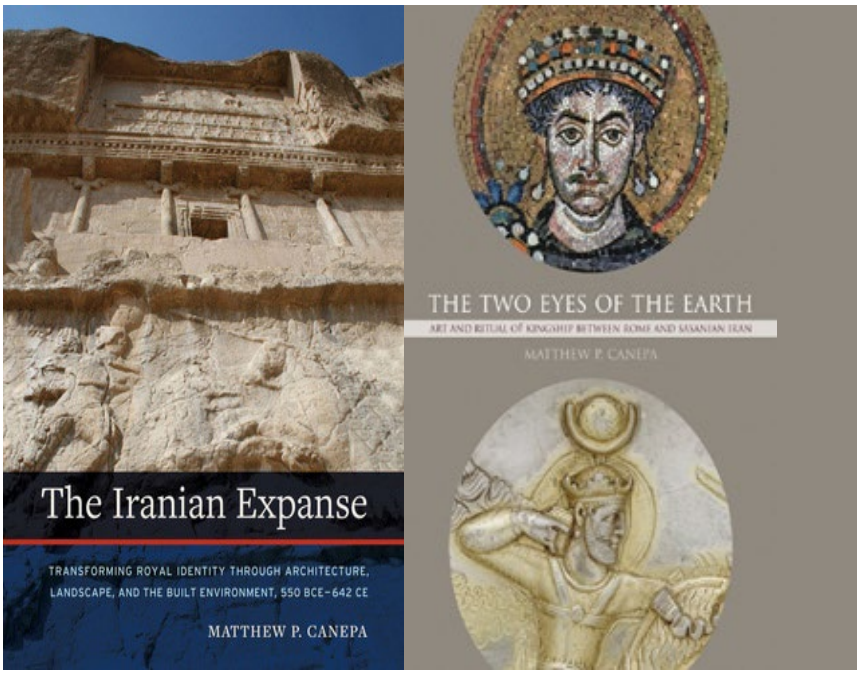
SOODABEH MALEKZADEH

Ms. Malekzadeh received her Ph.D. in History at the University of California, Irvine in summer of 2018. Her dissertation was titled "Bahram V: The Romantic Hunter-King or a Judeo-Arab Emperor". Ms. Malekzadeh's dissertation focused on Sasanian history and historiography in the 5th century CE. Prior to her education at UC Irvine, she graduated with a M.A. in Ancient Languages and Cultures from University of Shiraz, Iran and a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Shiraz, Iran.

DEANNA KASHANI

Mrs. Kashani received her Ph.D. in Visual Studies at the University of California, Irvine in the fall of 2018. Her doctoral dissertation is an investigation into the contemporary art exhibition practices by the community of Iran-based artists, curators, scholars, and gallerists. She has researched activities in institutional, underground, private and public art exhibition spaces through art historical and anthropological methodologies in her fieldwork based primarily in Tehran, Iran. Additionally, she has organized several cultural events, presentations, and art installations for the UC Irvine Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, and her recent scholarly work is featured in *Contemporary Iranian Photography: Five Perspectives*, edited by Abbas Daneshvari (Mazda Publishers, 2017).

Faculty Spotlight



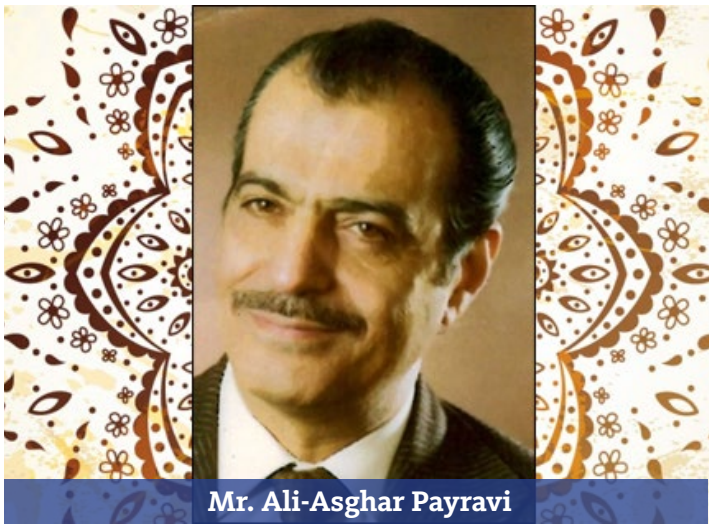
MATTHEW PHILIP CANEPA

Matthew P. Canepa (Ph.D., University of Chicago) is Professor of Art History and Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali Presidential Chair in Art History and Archaeology of Ancient Iran at University of California, Irvine. A historian of art, archaeology and religions his research focuses on the intersection of art, ritual and power in the eastern Mediterranean, Persia and the wider Iranian world. He is a faculty member in the Department of Art History, and the Ph.D. Program in Visual Studies and affiliated faculty member of the Department of Classics. Professor Canepa is an active contributor to UC Irvine's Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, North America's premier center for research and teaching in Iranian Studies.

Professor Canepa's most recent book is entitled *The Iranian Expanse: Transforming Royal Identity through Landscape, Architecture, and the Built Environment (550 BCE – 642 CE)* (University of California Press, 2018). It is a large-scale study of the transformation of Iranian cosmologies, landscapes, and architecture from the height of the Achaemenids to the coming of Islam. His publications include *The Two Eyes of the Earth: Art and Ritual of Kingship between Rome and Sasanian Iran* (University of California Press, 2009; paperback ed. 2017), the first book to analyze the artistic, ritual and ideological interactions between the late Roman and Sasanian empires in a comprehensive and theoretically rigorous manner. It was awarded the 2010 James Henry Breasted Prize from the American Historical Association for the best book in English on any field of history prior to the year 1000 CE. *Theorizing Cross-Cultural Interaction* (Smithsonian, 2010) studies the phenomena of cross-cultural interaction between the ancient to early Medieval Mediterranean, Western Asia, and China. He served as area advisor and editor for *The Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity* (2018), the first comprehensive reference covering every aspect of history, culture, religion, and life in Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Near East (including the Persian Empire and Central Asia).

Professor Canepa is an elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and has been the recipient of numerous research fellowships including from The Getty Research Institute (2019 and 2013), The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2015-2016), The American Council of Learned Societies (2009-2010), the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (2007), and The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (2002-2003). In fall 2009, he was invited to be the Michaelmas Term visiting Senior Research Fellow at Merton College, University of Oxford. In 2016 he lectured as Directeur d'études invité at L'École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris.

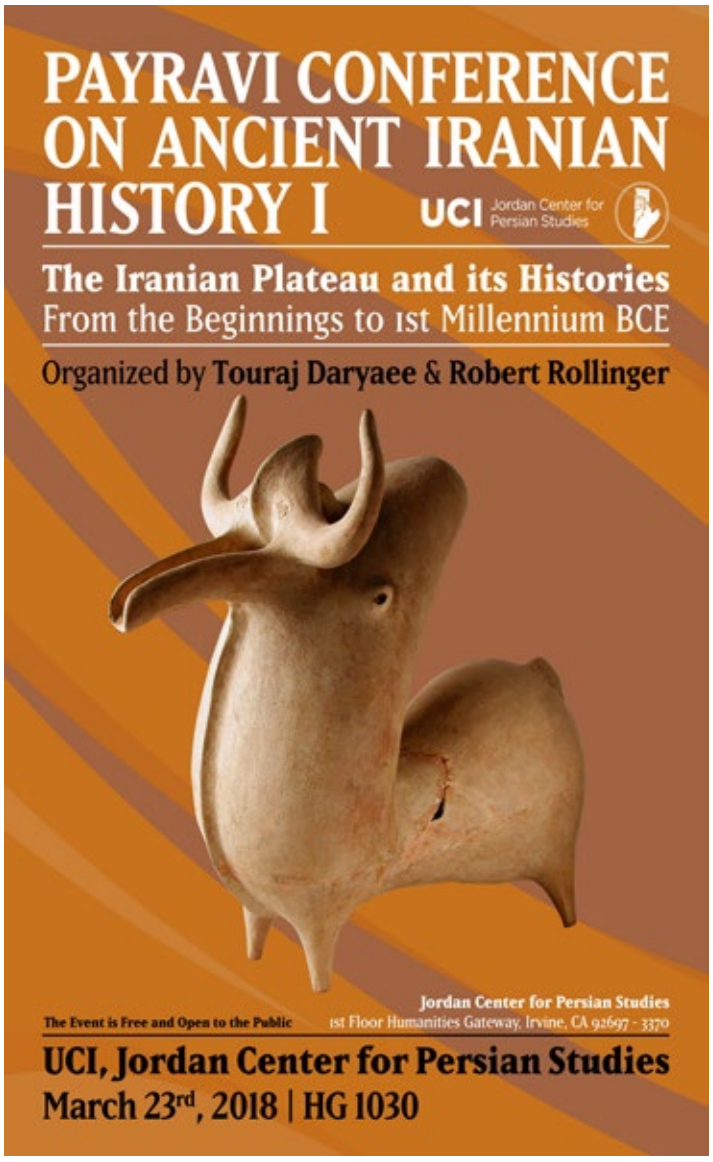
Payravi Conference on Ancient Iranian History I



Mr. Ali-Asghar Payravi

UC Irvine's Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture is proud to hold the first annual Payravi Conference on Ancient Iranian History in memory of the late Mr. Ali-Asghar Payravi. Mr. Payravi was an enthusiast and lover of ancient Iranian history who collected and read many books on ancient Iran. We are grateful to the Payravi family for their generous gift to support five conferences and publications.

This year's all-day conference was held at UC Irvine's School of Humanities on March 23, 2018 and it focused on the Iranian Plateau and its Histories: From the Beginnings to 1st Millennium BCE. This conference was organized by Dr. Touraj Daryaee (UC Irvine) and Dr. Robert Rollinger (University of Innsbruck).



Mr. Bijan Farhad & Mrs. Parichehr Payravi (bottom left) along with the conference speakers

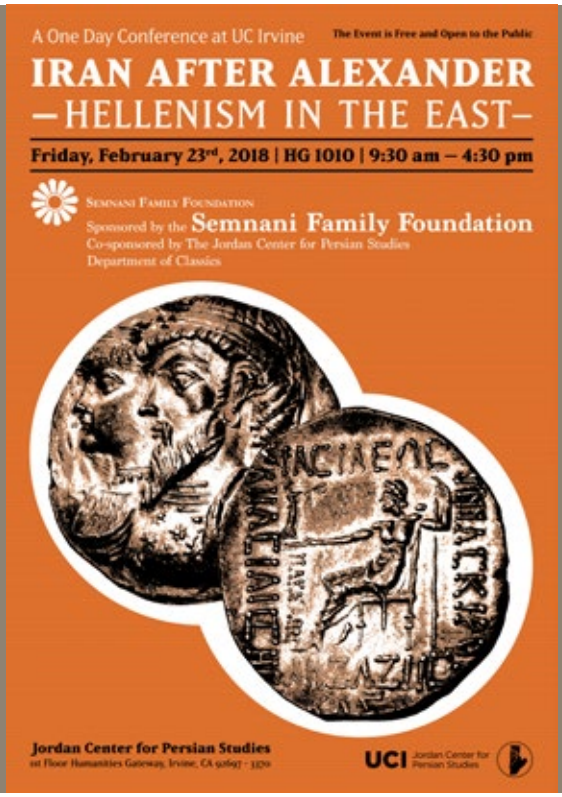
Semnani Family Foundation Lectures

We are proud to continue the third annual Semnani Family Lectures in Memory of Dr. Richard Frye. We are grateful to the Semnani Family Foundation for their generous contribution.

This year's conference was titled "Iran after Alexander: Hellenism in the East" and was held at the School of Humanities, UC Irvine on Friday, February 23, 2018. This one-day international conference was organized by Dr. Touraj Daryaee (UC Irvine). This conference focused on Hellenism in Iran after the attack of Alexander and the interactions between Persian and Hellenistic cultures. This event was presented by Semnani Family Foundation, UCI Department of Classics, and UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

We would like to thank Dr. Khosrow Semnani for his support of the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture at UC Irvine.

Dr. Khosrow Semnani



Mr. Khosrow Semnani (at the center) & conference speakers and attendees

International Women's Day Conference

UC Irvine's Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture in collaboration with Iranian American Women Foundation (IAWF) held "The International Women's Day Celebration" at UC Irvine's School of Humanities on Saturday, March 3, 2018.

IAWF is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to provide a platform for empowerment and networking among Iranian-American Women and to provide mentorship to younger generations of Iranians locally and globally. Professor Roxanne Varzi (Anthropology) and Professor Catherine Saemeh (Gender & Sexuality Studies) from UC Irvine also participated as panelists in this conference.

The theme of this year's program was Press for Progress. This half-day conference included stimulating conversations with inspiring panelists and live musical performance. Panels focused on themes such as Art in Progress, Rhythm of the Souls and Tales of Inspiration. An exhibition was also held which showed the various works of Iranian American women and issues related to Iranian American Women.

We would like to thank Iranian American Women Foundation (IAWF) and its director, Dr. Mariam Khosravani for their support of the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture at UC Irvine.

International Women's Day conference panelists

Celebrating Mr. Farhang Farrahi

Music by Ebi Ghasemi, Maestro Homayoun Khosravi & Ensemble

UC Irvine's Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture held a talk and celebration to honor Mr. Farhang Farrahi, renowned Iranian journalist, writer and radio and TV personality, at UC Irvine's School of Humanities on Saturday, February 17, 2018. Mrs. Homa Sarshar, Mr. Reza Goharzad, and Dr. Danesh Foroughi spoke about Mr. Farrahi's contributions to Iranian journalism, Persian Literature and Poetry both in Iran and in the United States in the past six decades. This was followed by Mr. Farrahi who spoke about his own work and memoires of such notable people as Ahmad Shamloo and others.

The talks were followed by a musical performance by Ebi Ghasemi, Maestro Homayoun Khosravi and ensemble.

Mr. Reza Goharzad's talk on Mr. Farhang Farrahi's life and career

Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali Symposium on Persian Language and Literature

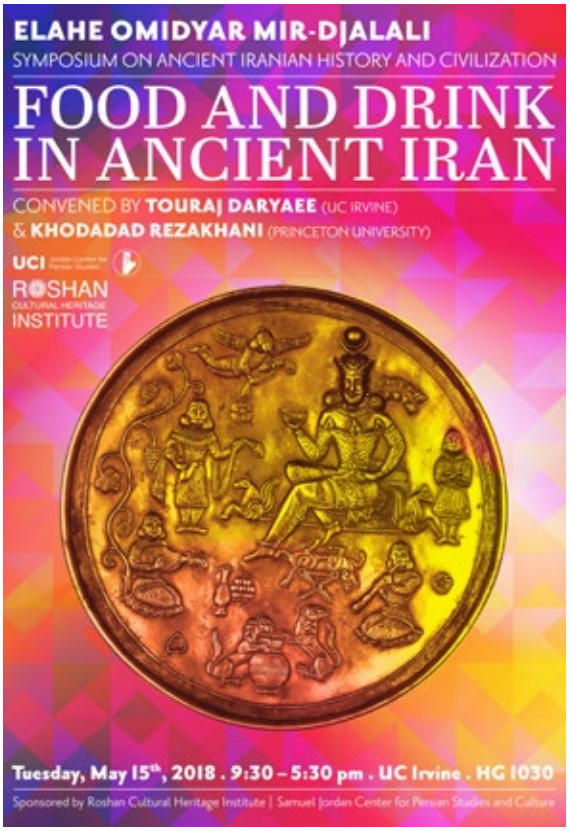
With the support of Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, held the first Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali Symposium on Persian Language and Literature at UC Irvine's School of Humanities on Friday, November 10, 2017.

The conference was titled "Persian Literature Unbound", which brought professors of Persian from Europe and the United States to discuss various aspects of Persian Literature. This conference was organized by Professor Nasrin Rahimieh, Howard Baskerville Professor of Humanities from Department of Comparative Literature at UC Irvine.

We are thankful to Dr. Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali and Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute for their continuous support of the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

Persian Literature Unbound conference speakers

Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali Symposium on Ancient Iranian History & Civilization



With the support of Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, held the first Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali Symposium on Ancient Iranian History and Civilization at UC Irvine's School of Humanities on Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

The conference was titled "Food and Drink in Ancient Iran", which brought historians of food and antiquity to discuss ancient Iranian food and drinks. Chef Bibi Kasrai of Harvard Cookin' Girl recreated ancient Persian Iranian food menus. Several Iranian wine-makers such as Darioush Khaledi (Darioush Winery), Bizhan Fazeli (Fazeli Cellars Winery), Kamal Azari (Azari Vineyards), and Mohsen & Gilda Tavousi (Parow Estate Winery) were present to discuss their experience as wine-makers.

We are thankful to Dr. Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali and Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute for their continuous support of the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

Mr. Charles Perry (Culinary Historians of SoCal)

Mr. Darioush Khaledi (Darioush Winery)

Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali Lecture

With the support of Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, held the first Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali Lecture by Professor Miguel Angel Andres Toledo at UC Irvine's School of Humanities on Sunday, August 5, 2018.

This lecture was titled "Not that Lost in Translation: Sasanian Exegesis of the Avesta". Professor Toledo spoke about the Avesta and its Pahlavi translations and the complexity of priestly interpretations and commentaries on the Mazdean tradition.

We are thankful to Dr. Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali and Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute for their continuous support of the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

Professor Miguel Angel Andres Toledo (University of Salamanca)

Farhang Foundation Celebration of Iranian Cinema

CELEBRATION OF IRANIAN CINEMA AT UC IRVINE, CRYSTAL COVE AUDITORIUM

Organized by Farhang Foundation and UCLA Film & Television Archives, in collaboration with UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, Friday-Sunday, August 25-27, 2017.

The 2nd annual Iranian film festival featured five films shown over three days at UC Irvine's Crystal Cove Auditorium and was attended by UCI community and members of the public.

Life and a Day, directed by Saeed Roostaee and starring Payman Maadi, Navid Mohammadzadeh, Parinaz Izadyar, Shirin Yazdanbakhsh. *Starless Dreams* directed by Mehrdad Oskouei and *Hey Humans* directed by Rakhshan Bani Etemad. *Breath*, directed by Narges Abyar and starring Sareh Nour Mousavi, Pantea Panahi Ha, Mehran Ahmadi, Jamshid Hashempour, Shabnam Moghadami. *Daughter* directed by Reza Mirkarimi and starring Farhad Aslani, Merila Zarei, Mahour Alvand, Mehran Kashani.

Farhang Foundation Focus Iran 2 Art Exhibition

FOCUS IRAN 2 ART EXHIBITION AT UC IRVINE, VIEWPOINT GALLERY

Organized by Farhang Foundation in collaboration with the Craft & Folk Art Museum and UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, September 16 - October 13, 2017.

Farhang Foundation in collaboration with the Craft & Folk Art Museum and UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, presented FOCUS IRAN 2: Contemporary Photography and Video. This was a biennial juried exhibition of contemporary photography and video that showcased works relating to Iranian culture or heritage in Orange County for the very first time.

The opening reception was on Saturday, September 16, 2017. The exhibition attracted members from the community and UCI. It was well attended up until its closing day, October 13, 2017.

Farhang Foundation 2017 Mehregan UCI Conference

MEHREGAN CONFERENCE AND CELEBRATION AT UC IRVINE, SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

Organized by Farhang Foundation and UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, Sunday, October 8, 2017.

UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture and Farhang Foundation proudly presented the 3rd Annual Mehregan Conference. This year's theme was Spirituality & the Female Voice. Featured talks "Spirituality in Persian Poetry" by Dr. Franklin Lewis (University of Chicago) and "Iranian Female Writers Today" by Dr. Nasrin Rahimieh (UC Irvine). The Event concluded with a special music performance by Sibarg Ensemble, followed by a reception. We would like to thank Mr. Houshang and Mr. Hirad Dadgostar for their continuous support.

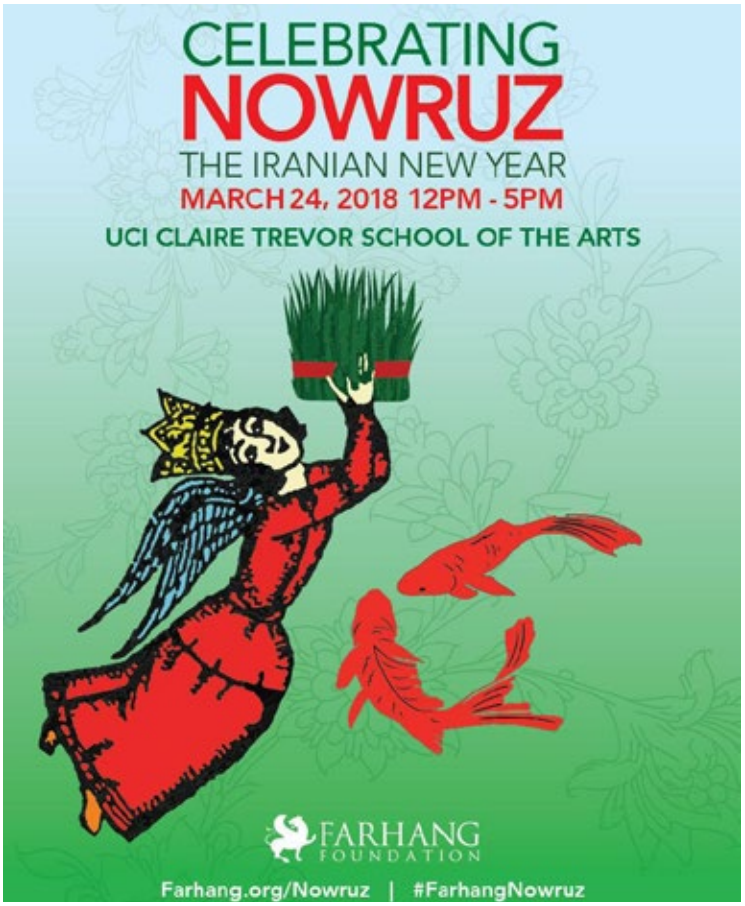
Sibarg Traditional Iranian Ensemble

Farhang Foundation Nowruz Celebration

CELEBRATING NOWRUZ (THE IRANIAN NEW YEAR) AT UC IRVINE, CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Organized by Farhang Foundation in collaboration with UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, Saturday, March 24, 2018.

The annual Nowruz celebration at the UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts was attended by over 3,000 visitors throughout the day, and featured performances by the Sibarg Ensemble, Negar Estakhr and Nargol Rashidian's Puppet Show, the Parisa Daneshvar Children's Ensemble, the Firuzé Dance Company, dir. Robyn Friend, Arin Babaian and children's activities by the Khayam Persian School Foundation. This event came to a grand conclusion with the closing performance by the living legend Sima Bina accompanied by her master musicians Hamid Behrouzinia, Hossein Behroozinia, Saeed Farajpoory, Mehrdad Af and Behnam Samani. This event also included a beautiful Haft Sin display by Le Jardin Privé and traditional Persian teahouse services by Mrs. Robert.



Farhang Foundation Lectures in Iranian Studies

THE HISTORY OF PERSIAN POETRY FROM THE BEGINNINGS TO TODAY BY PROFESSOR AHMAD KARIMI-HAKKAK (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND)

An event organized by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture in collaberation with Farhang Foundation, Saturday, May 5, 2018.

The annual Farhang Foundation Lecture Series in Iranian Studies included two talks by Dr. Karimi-Hakkak. His first talk was titled "The Worldly and the Unworldly in Persian Poetry: From Rudaki to Hafez" and his second talk was titled "The Modern and the Classical in Persian Poetry: From Hafez to Farrokhzad".

Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak was professor of Persian language and literature and Iranian culture and civilization at the University of Maryland. He has studied in Iran and the United States, receiving his Ph.D. in comparative literature from Rutgers University in 1979, and has taught English and comparative literature and translation studies, as well as classical and modern Persian literature at the University of Tehran, Rutgers University, Columbia University, and the University of Texas. Dr. Karimi-Hakkak is the author of 19 books and over 100 major scholarly articles. He has contributed articles on Iran and Persian literature to many reference works. His works have been translated into many languages and he has won numerous awards and honors.

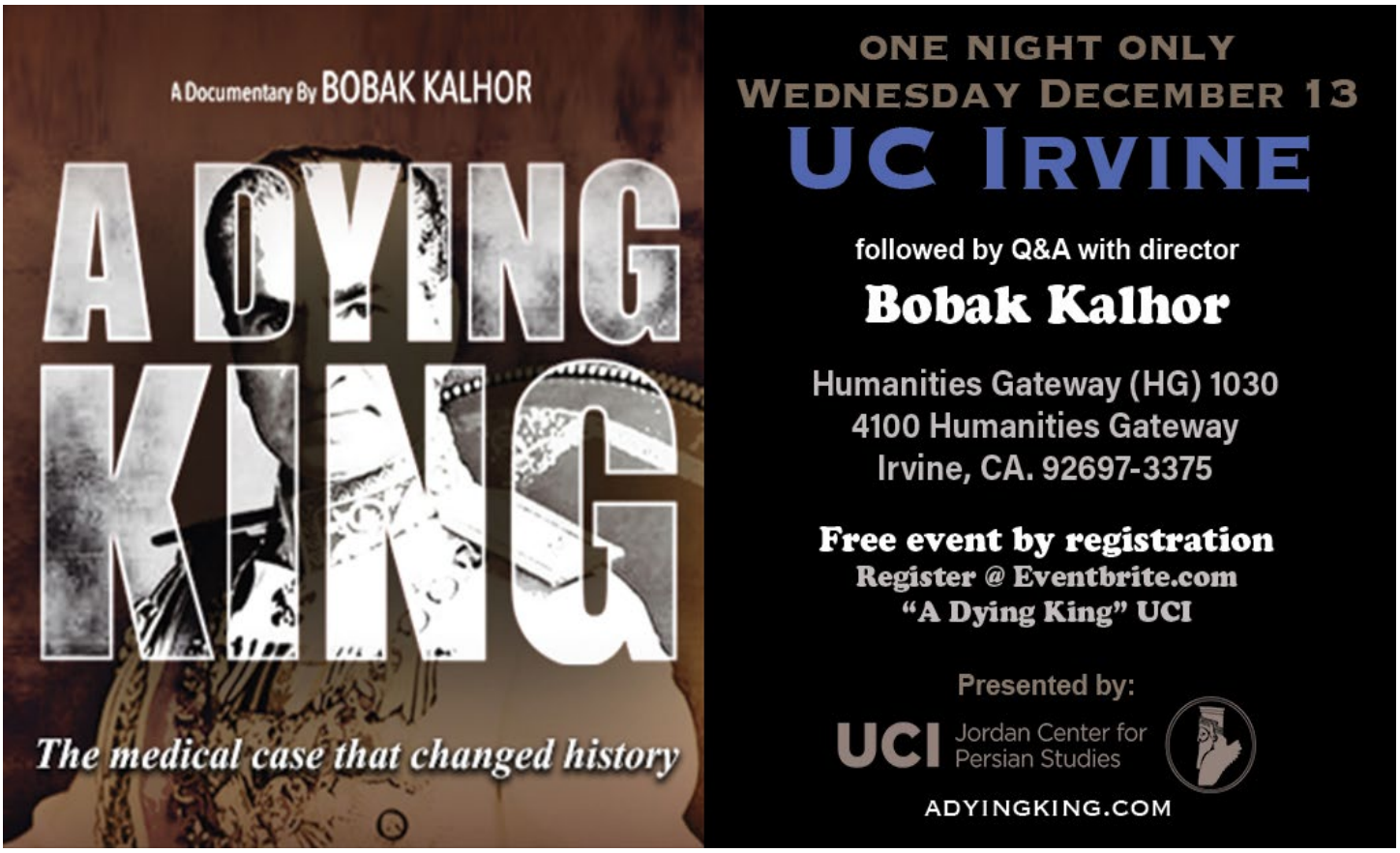
Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak

Screening of Babak Kalhor's Documentary Movie

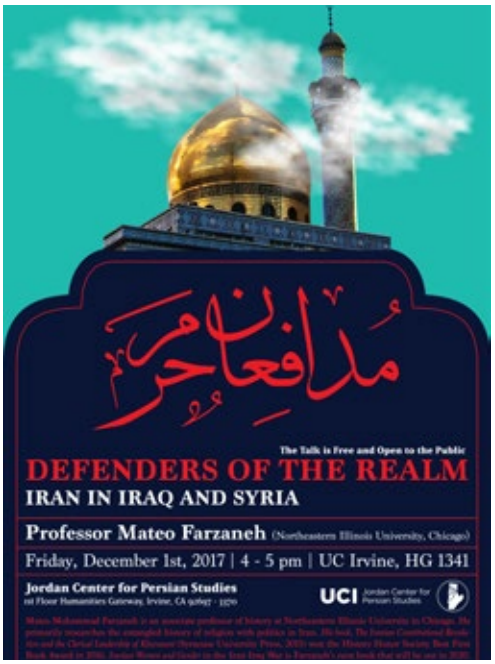
The Iranian documentary director, Babak Kalhor, attended a showing of his documentary film, *DA Dying King: The Shah of Iran* at the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

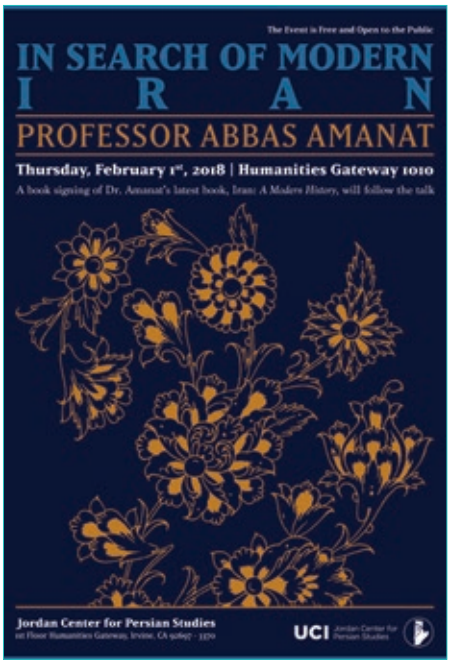
This documentary depicted the story of the death of Iran's last Shah. On January 16,1979, the then Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, left Iran commencing what became a 19-month odyssey to exile in Egypt, Morocco, Bahamas, Mexico, US, Panama, and back to Egypt again where he passed away. His death had profound consequences for the future of the middle east and the world, yet the untold medical story of the late Shah of Iran has to date remained a puzzling mystery. This documentary leads viewers to the main causes of the Iranian revolution, pursuant hostage crisis, and the state of relations between the U.S. and Iran.

The screening was followed by a discussion and Q&A with audience about his film.



Selected Lectures





"DEFENDERS OF THE REALM" BY DR. MATEO MOHAMMAD FARZANEH (NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - CHICAGO)

Friday, December 1, 2017, UC Irvine, School of Humanities

Dr. Mateo Mohammad Farzaneh, Associate Professor of History, and principal of The Mossadegh Initiative at Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, spoke about Iran's involvement in Iraq and Syria in the recent years.

He believes that the danger to these Shiite centers and the population provoked the Iranian government to step in as defenders of the holy sites.

This talk was well attended by UCI students, faculty, and members of the community.

"DOCUMENTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRANIAN AMERICANS: A PIONEERING APPROACH" BY MR. PIROOZ PARVARANDEH (IACP)

Friday, October 27, 2017, UC Irvine, School of Humanities

Mr. Pirooz Parvarandeh, chief operating officer at Maxim Integrated and president and founder of Iranian American's Contributions Project, spoke about the importance of having statistical data on Iranian-Americans in the United States and their contributions to the American Society.

This talk was well attended by UCI students, faculty, and members of the community.

"IN SEARCH OF MODERN IRAN" BY DR. ABBAS AMANAT (YALE UNIVERSITY)

Thursday, February 1, 2018, UC Irvine, School of Humanities

Dr. Abbas Amanat, William Graham Sumner Professor of History and director of program in Iranian Studies at Yale University, gave a book talk about his most recent book "In Search of Modern Iran".

He suggested that in order to understand the history of Modern Iran, one must understand Safavid history from the 16th century. The talk was followed by a book-signing ceremony by Professor Abbas Amanat.

This talk was well attended by UCI students, faculty, and members of the community.

Selected Lectures

"Similarity and Alterity in the Early Modern Persianate Imaginary" by Dr. Mana Kia (Columbia University)

Friday, May 18, 2018, School of Humanities, UC Irvine.

Dr. Mana Kia, assistant Professor of Indo-Persian Studies at Columbia University, spoke about notions of similarity and alterity in the Early Modern Persianate imaginary and literature and its importance.

This talk was well attended by UCI students, faculty, and members of the community.

Persian Friends of Humanities Lectures

"Babylonian Jews under Ancient Persian Rule, and the Production of the Babylonian Talmud" & "The Babylonian Talmud in the Context of the Sasanian Empire: Acculturation and Negotiation" by Dr. Simcha Gross (UC Irvine)

Thursday, February 8 & 15, 2018, UC Irvine, School of Humanities, Co-Sponsored by Persian Friends of Humanities and UCI Center for Jewish Studies

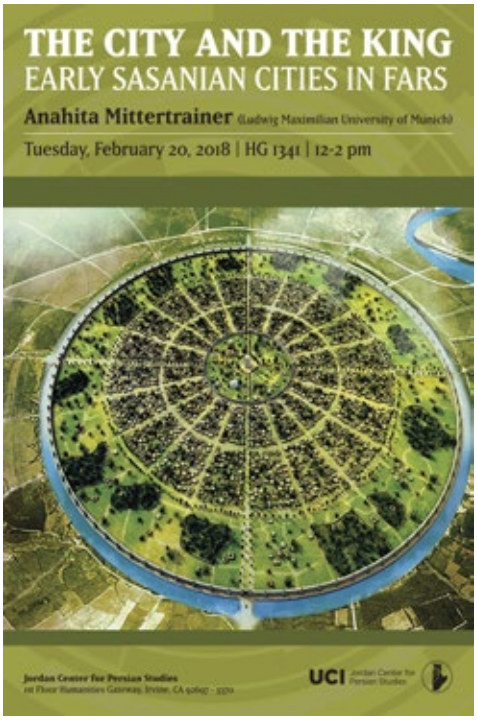
Dr. Simcha Gross, assistant Professor of History at UC Irvine, delivered two lectures on the relations between the Jewish and the Iranian world in Antiquity. The first talk delivered by Dr. Gross entitled revolved around the relations between Jews in Babylonia and the Ancient Iranians from the time of Cyrus the Great to Late Antiquity. In his second talk, Dr. Gross discussed how the Jews lived and communicated with the Sasanian Empire and court.

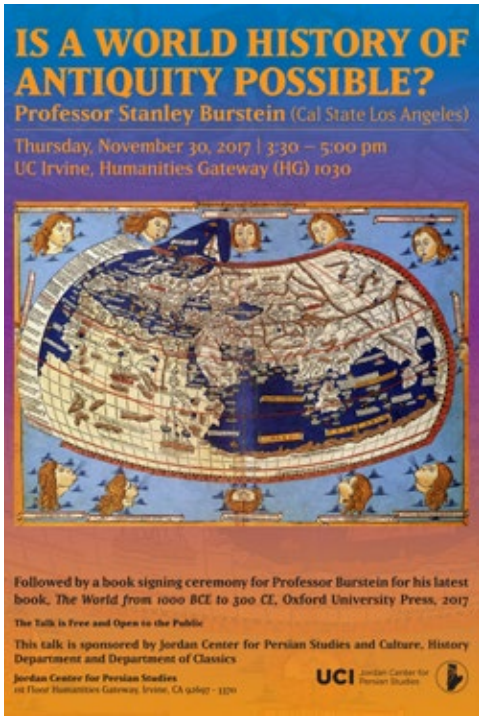
"Judeo-Persian Poetry on the Crossroads Between Jewish and Perso-Islamic Traditions" by Ms. Liora Tamir (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

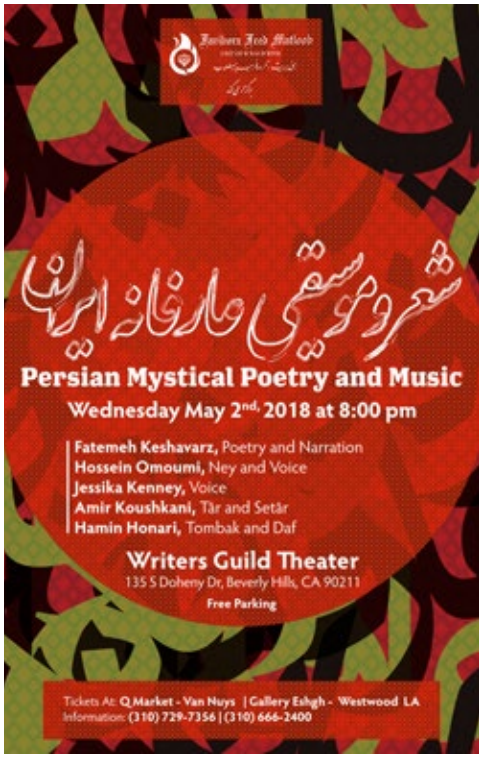
Thursday, February 22, 2018, UC Irvine, School of Humanities, Co-Sponsored by Persian Friends of Humanities and UCI Center for Jewish Studies

Ms. Liora Tamir, lecturer of modern Persian at the department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, talked about Judeo-Persian literature and poetry from late antiquity to the medieval period. She discussed the influence of Persian kings and heroes and the reception in Judeo-Persian literature.

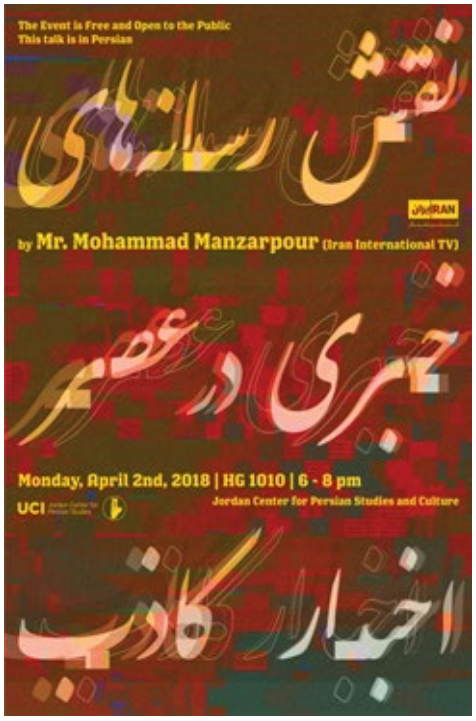
The Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture 2017-18

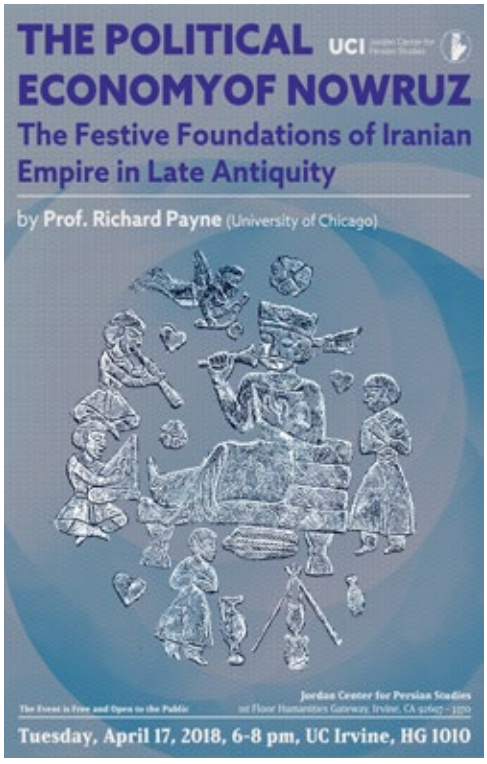


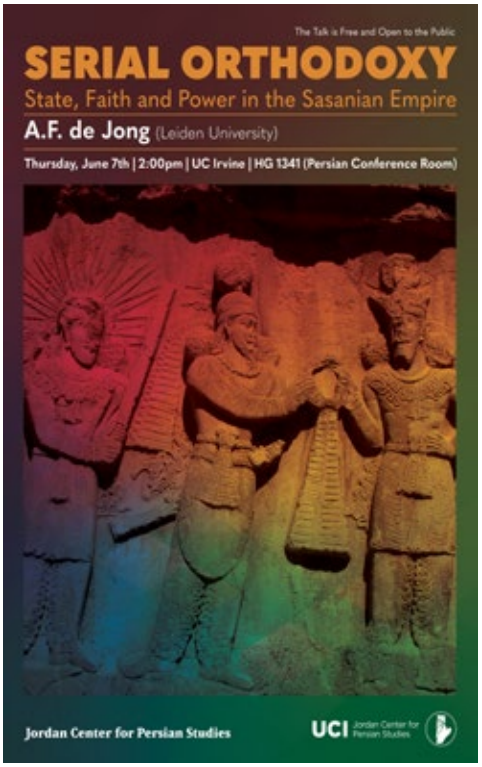




Events and Lectures







All Posters were designed by Kourosh Beigpour, ***K-B-Studio***.
www.behance.net/Kourosh-Beigpour

Musical Performances

KAMANCHE - SANTUR - TAR: IRANIAN MUSIC SOLO IMPROVISATION

"Kamanche – Santur – Tar: Iranian Music Solo Improvisation" by Niloufar Shiri, Mahtab Nadalian, Ebrahim Poustinchi and Arian Khoroushi, UCI School of Humanities, Saturday, June 2, 2018. Presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

SIBARG ENSEMBLE: IRANIAN & JAZZ IMPROVISATION

"Cipher" Iranian and Jazz Improvisation by Sibarg Ensemble, Newport Beach Back Bay Bistro, Saturday, February 10, 2018. Presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

KING RAAM SOLO CONCERT

King Ram Solo Musical Concert, Iranian-American Center of San Diego, Friday, May 25, 2018. Presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

ALI AZIMI LIVE ACOUSTIC SESSION

Live Acoustic Session by Ali Azimi, UCI School of Humanities, Saturday, April 14, 2018. Presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

Musical Performances

HONAR PERSIAN MUSICAL PERFORMANCE AND THEATRE

Honar Persian Musical Performance and Theatre by Behfar Bahadoran, Shahin Shakibi, Fereydoon Farahandooz, and Homayoun Khosravi, UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts, Saturday, October 22, 2017.

Co-Sponsored by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

PERSIAN ART NIGHT: CLASSICAL PERSIAN MUSIC AND LIVE PAINTING

Persian Art Night: Classical Persian Music and Live Painting by Maestro Mostafa Akhavass, Shahin Shahbazi and Pezhham Akhavass, UCI School of Humanities, November 25, 2017.

Co-Sponsored by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

IRANIAN MUSICAL CONCERT BY BAMDAD ENSEMBLE

Iranian Music Concert: Bamdad Ensemble, compositions of Sirvan Manhoobi, UCI School of Humanities, Sunday, April 22, 2018.

Co-Sponsored by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

Visiting Research Scholars

JANE LEWISOHN

Jane Lewisohn is the newest scholar in residence at The Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture at University of California, Irvine for the 2017-2018 academic year. She is a graduate of Pahlavi University, Shiraz, Iran. She has been involved in the research and promotion of various aspects of Persian culture and Studies for the last four decades. Since 2005, she has directed the Golha Project under the auspices of the British Library, London, and the Music Department of SOAS, University of London. The Golha Project (http://www.golha.co.uk) is an encyclopedic website for Persian music and literature based on the Golha Radio Programs broadcast in Iran from 1956 through 1979. She is currently director of the Golistan Project working in collaboration with the Samuel M. Jordan Center of Persian Studies & Culture at the University of California, Irvine to create a world resource for Persian Performing Arts of the twentieth century, music, film, theater, and printed matter. See: http://www.golistan.org/.

MAHMOUD OMIDSALAR

Dr. Omidsalar obtained his Ph.D. in Persian Literature and Folklore from the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley. He is the consulting editor for folklore for the Encyclopaedia Iranica and has written many of the entries on the subject. Together with late Iraj Afshar, he is the editor of the series Folia Medica Iranica and Persian Manuscripts in Facsimile. His books include *The Shahnameh of Ferdowsi*, co-edited with Dr. Djalal Khaleghi-Motlagh, vol. 6, *Bibliotheca Persica*, 2005 and *Poetics and Politics of Iran's National Epic, the Shahnameh*, Palgrave Macmillan; 2011. Dr. Omidsalar's collected articles on Persian Literature, folklore and codicology have been published by the Bonyade Moghofateh Iraj Afshar in Tehran, Iran. He is currently working on a new edition of the *Garshasb-nameh*, an important Persian epic and will deliver three lectures on the history of Persian language and literature.

Student Awards & Fellowships

ZARRINKELK FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Hesam Abedini
Ph.D. Student in Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology (ICIT), Music

BA, with honors, Music Composition, UC San Diego (2017)

Research Topic
Intercultural Creative Music making: Classical Iranian Music & Contemporary Improvisation & Composition

ZARRINKELK FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Adib Ghorbani
Ph.D. Student in Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology (ICIT), Music department

MA, Music Composition, University of Tehran (2016)
BA, Piano Performance, Tehran University of Art, Karaj (2012)

Research Topic
Interdisciplinary Performance & Music

THE CHERYLL AND RICHARD RUSZAT AWARD IN IRANIAN CINEMA AND ARTS

Niloufar Shiri
Ph.D. Student in Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology (ICIT), Music
BA, with honors, Music Composition, UC San Diego (2017)

Research Topic
Contemporary Composition for Improvisers & Kamancheh

DEAN'S GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP

Arnold Alahverdian
Ph.D. Candidate in History

MA, History, UC Irvine (2015)

BA, History, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies minor, Cal State Northridge (2013)

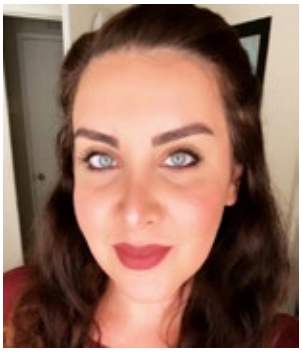
Dissertation Topic
Militant Martyrs and the Shah's Warriors: Persecution, Political Turmoil, and Armenian Rhetorics of Sanctified Revolt and Political Loyalty in the 5th Century Sasanian World

FARZANEH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Assal Rad
Ph.D., History, UC Irvine (2018)

MA, History, UC Irvine (2012)
BA, History, UC Irvine (2005)

Dissertation Topic
Identity and Popular Culture in Post-Revolutionary Iran



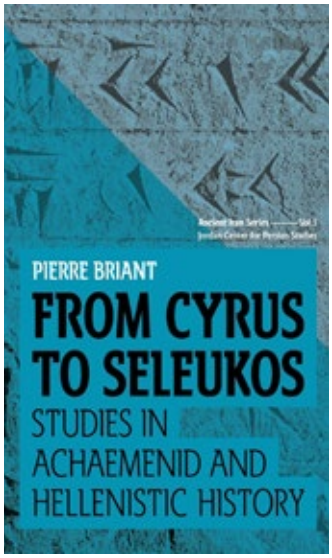
DEAN'S GATEWAY UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Niloofar Vatanchi
BA, Psychology and Social Behavior,

UC Irvine (2018)

Publications

Books



FROM CYRUS TO SELEUKOS: STUDIES IN ACHAEMENID AND HELLENISTIC HISTORY

Pierre Briant

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2018)

A collection of articles in English by Professor Pierre Briant of the Collège de France, about Achaemenid and Hellenistic history.

AN ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN PERSIAN POETRY (PERSIAN EDITION)

Elham Gordi & Kourosh Beigpour

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2017)

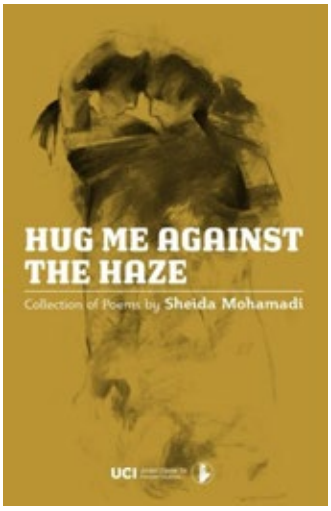
Modern Persian Poetry selected by Elham Gordi and Kourosh Beigpour. Works by contemporary Persian poets.

KANUN

Khatereh Khodaei

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2018)

This book contains interviews with some of the most important personages who were involved at the Kanun, which provided a haven for children and introduced them to world literature, cinema, theater, and music.

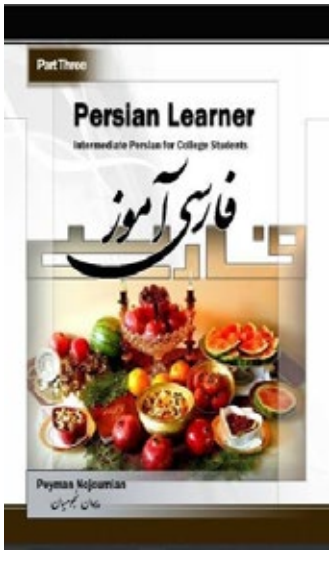


HUG ME AGAINST THE HAZE

Sheida Mohammadi

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2017)

This book is a collection of wonderful Persian poems by contemporary Iranian poet, Ms. Sheida Mohamadi, which were translated into English for a wider audience.

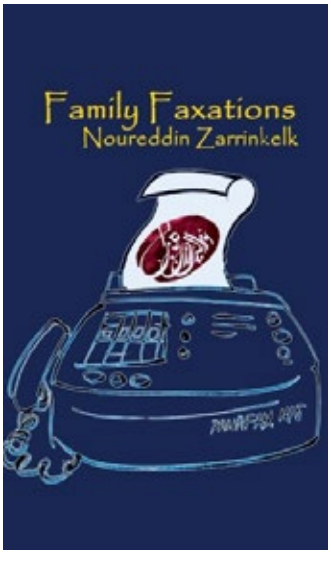


PERSIAN LEARNER, VOL. III & IV

Peyman Nojoumian,

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2017-2018)

Persian Learner series is a modern multimedia based instructional materials that consist of four parts for grade 9-12 and college students and designed to develop basic to intermediate Persian proficiency through authentic materials with integrated languages skills and thematic contents enriched with culture.



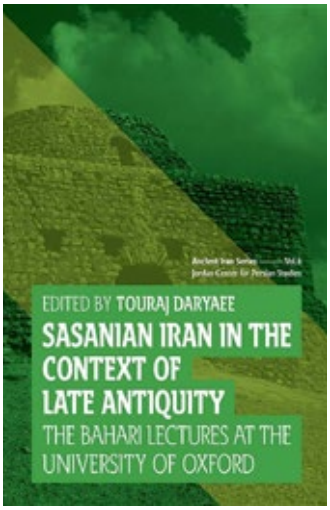
FAMILY FAXATIONS

Noureddin Zarrinkelk

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2018)

This book is a collection of caricatures and sketches made by Dr. Noureddin Zarrinkelk, the 'Father of Iranian Animation', during the 1990s and the 2000s, the heyday of the fax machine in Iran. This publication brings together for the first time his most important drawings about family, social and political life.

Publications



SASANIAN IRAN IN THE CONTEXT OF LATE ANTIQUITY: THE BAHARI LECTURE SERIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Touraj Daryaee

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2018)

This volume is a collection of papers on the various aspects of Sasanian world, which were delivered at the University of Oxford in 2014. Eminent scholars in such fields as numismatics, history, art history, Pahlavi and Zoroastrian Studies provide important observations on the Sasanian Empire and its influence and contact with the neighboring civilizations, as well as the internal developments throughout the four centuries in which the Sasanians held power on the Iranian Plateau and beyond.

CD

CIPHER

Sibarg Ensemble

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2018)

Though sonically representative of two different regions and cultures of the world, traditional Iranian music and jazz are both rooted in improvisational practices. The music of Iran is an improvisatory music occurring within a specific framework that includes traditional melodic and rhythmic structures combined with Iranian poetry. Jazz improvisation also incorporates established themes and rhythmic patterns; however, over the years, jazz has openly welcomed international musical cultures into its contemporary forms. In this album, the Sibarg Ensemble explores the concept of combining the sounds of Iranian music and American jazz through an intercultural improvised music making. By utilizing Iranian and Western instruments, including the kamâncheh, târ, robâb, vocals, piano, double bass, and drums the musicians draw on their own musical backgrounds, while creating a unique dialogue with one another. Ultimately, this album cultivates something that is neither Iranian nor American, but rather a fluid soundscape that transgresses regional and cultural identifications.

"This is wonderful music. The world needs more of this." - Robert Bush, San Diego Troubadour

LISTEN TO THE REED

Fatemeh Keshavarz & Hossein Omoumi

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2018)

This CD is the result of a collaboration between Maestro Hossein Omoumi, Maseeh Chair in Persian Performing Arts and Professor of Persian Music at UC Irvine, and Professor Fatemeh Keshavarz, the Roshan Chair of Persian Studies and the director of Roshan Institute for Persian Studies at University of Maryland. The CD entails stories from the Masnavi of Mawlana, known in the West as Rumi. In this album, Persian poetry, music, and spoken word come together to delight the senses, elevate the spirit, and teach.

Hossein Omoumi, Ney and Voice; Fatemeh Keshavarz, Recitation and Spoken Word; Jessika Kenney, Voice; Pezhham Akhavass, Tombak, Daf, and Frame Drums.

12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference at UC Irvine

The Twelfth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, organized by the International Society for Iranian Studies with the local host institution, Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture at the University of California, Irvine was an immense success. A total of 356 speakers presented in 86 Panels and 3 Special Sessions, and 4 documentaries were also screened with some of the filmmakers present. The total attendance was more than 500 participants representing 26 countries from 5 continents. Since there is a large Iranian population in California, we had hundreds of visitors who came to learn about Iran, which made it one of the largest attended Iranian Studies conferences to date.

Every two years, the Association for Iranian Studies (AIS) is responsible for planning and financing an academic conference for its members to present their research to colleagues. The Twelfth Biennial Conference took place at the University of California, Irvine in August 2018.

We would like to thank our sponsors, Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, Farhang Foundation, Farzaneh Family Foundation, ILEX Foundation, Roxel Group of Companies, and Parow Estate Vineyard & Winery for supporting the Twelfth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference in Irvine, CA.

Touraj Daryaee, President of AIS

12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference at UC Irvine

Tyrus Miller, Dean of UC Irvine's Humanities

The 2018 Biennial Conference was locally by Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture and held in the School of Humanities and the School of the Arts Buildings. The University turned out to be an excellent choice for several reasons: it is equipped with a professional and experienced event management team, which allows us to reserve almost all of our conference rooms at no charge. The University and the Jordan Center was also very responsive to short-notice adaptations, e.g. requests for additional breakout rooms, as well as technical support and a large number of student volunteers from the Jordan Center for Persian Studies.

The academic program was spread over three days, with two morning and two afternoon panels each day. The 89 panels were organized in 10 parallel sessions. On two days there was a Special Lunch Time Session focusing on a current issue and was held in the largest lecture hall. The well-attended Special Sessions featured prominent invited guests as well as prominent experts from US public interest groups. The themes of the Special Sessions were: "Remembering Darioush Saheygan and His Intellectual Legacy"; and "Maintaining Academic and Civic Space for Iranian Studies in Difficult Time," as well as a special session on "Professor Abbas Amanat and the Modern History of Iran Book".

12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference at UC Irvine

In order to open the Biennial Conference to the significant Iranian community in Southern California, the conference organizers offered special reduced passes to guests who registered during each of the conference days. This offer was very well received and we had well over 200 registered guests. The organizers also offered free conference passes to some guests and students, as well as the international media.

All conference rooms were located at the Humanities quad and easily accessible, with only a few minutes of each other (5 rooms at the Humanities Gateway, 3 rooms at the Krieger Hall and 2 rooms at the Humanities Instructional Building). The registration and information desk (staffed throughout the conference), the book exhibition area, and the coffee break area were centrally located on the first floor of the Humanities Gateway.

12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference at UC Irvine

12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference at UC Irvine

The Book Exhibition was open during the conference through the conference hours on all 3 days. 22 publishers were represented with full stands, not counting publishers who sent books for the combined bookstand. This made it the largest Book Exhibition in a Biennial Iranian Studies Conference so far.

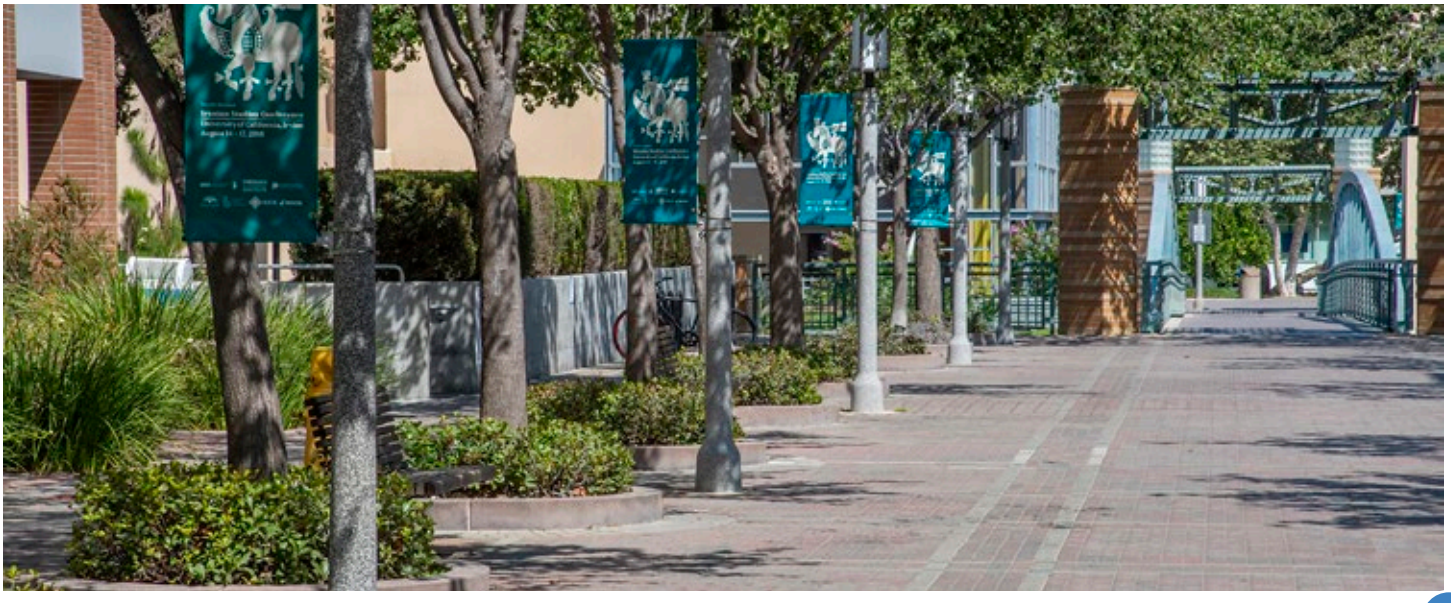
12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference at UC Irvine

On each evening of the three-day conference, there was a special event. The evening before the opening of the conference took place at the School of the arts, with over 400 people gathered. The 2018 Awards Ceremony was held in the largest lecture hall of the School of Humanities (HIB 100). The opening address was given by the President of Association for Iranian Studies, Dr. Touraj Daryaee. It was then followed by an address from the chair of the Irvine conference committee, Mateo Farzaneh, and the distribution of the AIS-administered awards: The Ehsan Yarshater Book Award, The Saidi Sirjani Book Award, The Latifeh Yarshater Award, and the Mehrdad Mashayekhi Dissertation Award. Then, President of AIS, Dr. Touraj Daryaee, awarded the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award to Professor Robert Hillenbrand from the University of Edinburgh.

12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference at UC Irvine

The afternoon sessions on the first day closed with a performance by Shahrokh Moshkin-Ghalam, Karen Gonzales & Gordafarid, who performed the *Love Stories of the Shahanameh*. On the second night of the conference, there was a play titled *Arefnameh* by Shahrokh Moshkin-Ghalam, Karen Gonzales & Behfar Bahadoran. The conference concluded with a Classical Persian Music performance by Namaad Ensemble (Kourosh Taghavi, Mahtab Nadalian, Niloufar Shiri, Reza Filsoofi & Hesam Abedini).

12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference at UC Irvine



Middle Persian (Pahlavi) Summer School

Middle Persian (Pahlavi) Summer School, August 6-10, 2018

Lectures by Professor Miguel Ángel Andrés-Toledo (University of Salamanca)

The Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture held its second annual Pahlavi (Middle Persian) Summer School, from August 6 to August 10, 2018, taught by Professor Miguel Angel Andres-Toledo. He received his Ph.D. in Classical Philology from University of Salamanca in 2009 and his thesis was titled "Videvdad 10-12: Critical Edition, Translation and Commentary of their Avestan and Pahlavi Texts." His research interests include, Old and Middle Iranian Languages and Literatures; Zoroastrianism; Avestan and Pahlavi Textual Criticism; Iranian Lexicography; Indo-Iranian and Indo-European Linguistics. The one-week intensive course was designed to provide an introduction to Pahlavi literature. In this course, students learned the script, ideograms, and grammar and they read Zoroastrian Pahlavi texts. Students came from UCLA, UCI, and the University of Minnesota.

Sasanika Project: Late Antique Iran Project

www.sasanika.org

The Jordan Center's Sasanika (Late Antique Iran Project) website is a comprehensive collection of resources, articles, and visual materials on the Sasanian Empire. In 2017-2018, the Persian Center has published the following articles and resources:

Zeev Rubin (Tel Aviv University):
"The Financial Affairs of the Sasanian Empire Under Khusrow II Parvez"

Sajad Amiri Bavandpour:
"A Review of Christian Arab sources for the Sasanian Period"

Sara Mashayekh, (UC Irvine):
"Khosrow in Jerusalem: Sasanians, Romans, and the Removal of the True Cross"

Samer Nazari (Isfahan University of Art) & Marzieh Sha'rbaf (Isfahan University of Art):
"Introduction to a Newfound Rocky Structure near the Village of Qal'a Zanjir in Kermanshah, Iran"

Dieter Weber (Free University of Berlin):
"Three Pahlavi Papyri Revisited"

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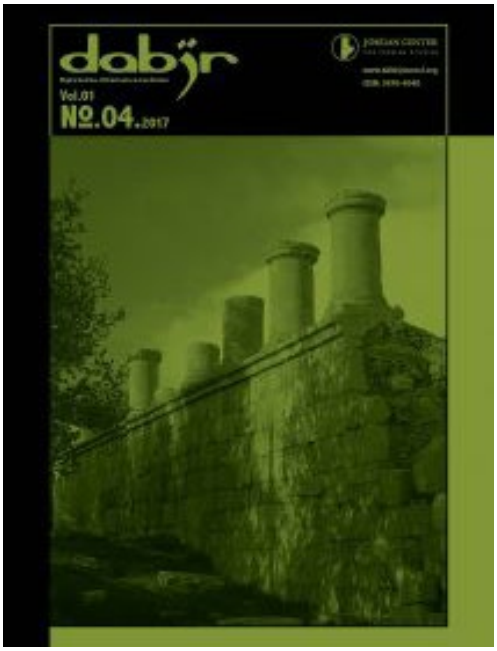

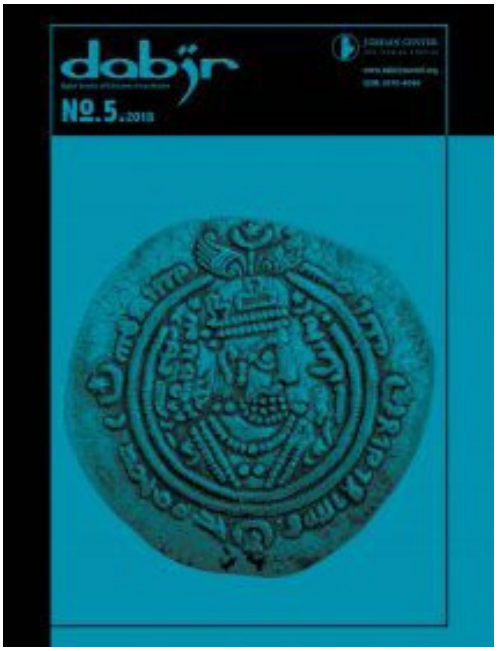

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Mendoza Forrest, Satnam K. 2011. Witches, Whores, and Sorcerers. The Concept of Evil in Early Iran. Foreword and other contributions by Prod Oktor Skjærvø. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2011. Reviewed by Shervin Farridnejad.

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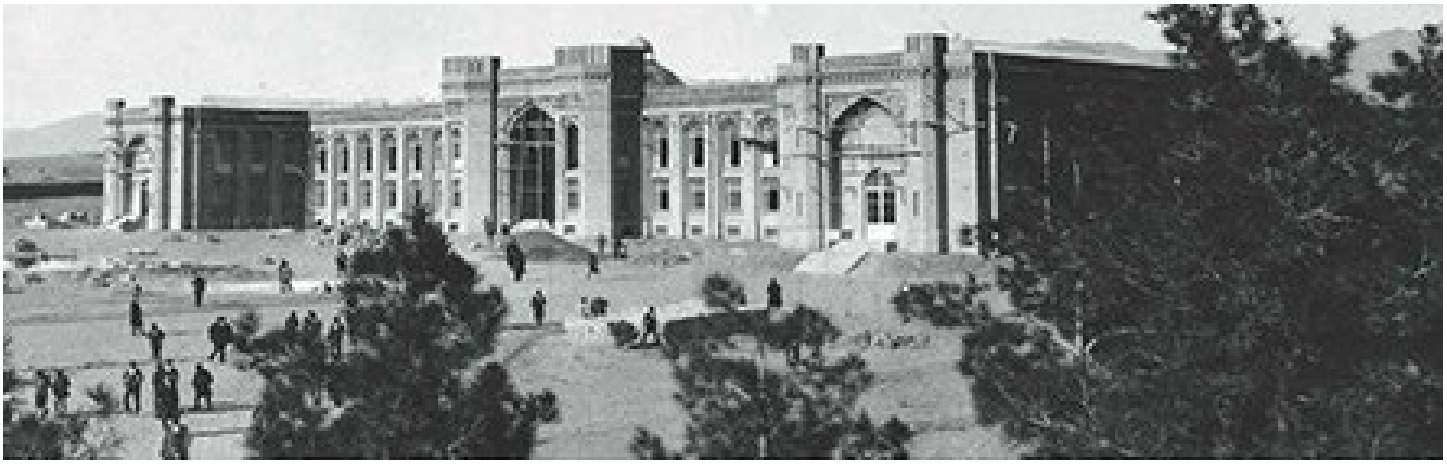
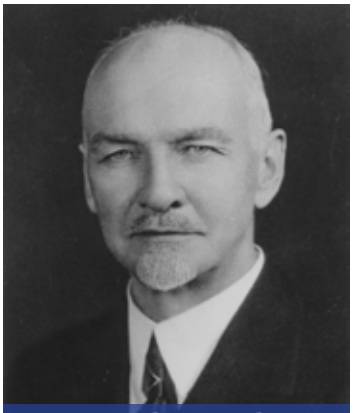
Flotz, Richard. Religions of Iran: From Prehistory to the Present. London: Oneworld Publications, 2013. Reviewed by Carlo G. Cerei.
Barbati, Chiara. The Christian Sogdian Gospel Lectionary E5 in Context. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 2016. Reviewed by Adam Benkato.
Aliyar Babolghani, Salman. Tahrir-e ilami-ye katibe-ye daryuš-e bozorg dar bisotun. Tehran: Našr-e Markaz, 2015. Reviewed by Yazdan Safaee.
The Chronicle of Erbil. Translated by Mahmoud Fazeli Birjandi. Tehran: The Center for Great Encyclopedia of Islam, 2011. Reviewed by Sajad Amiri Bavandpour.

Dr. Samuel M. Jordan: 2018 Heritage Award Recipient





Dr. Samuel M. Jordan

Dr. Fariborz Maseeh

Dr. Samuel M. Jordan was honored posthumously as the 2018 Heritage Award Recipient at Princeton Theological Seminary

Samuel Jordan was an American Presbyterian Missionary in Persia (Iran), who is sometimes referred to as the "father of modern education in Iran." After graduating from Lafayette College (PA) in 1895 and then from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1898, he and his wife, Mary, moved to Tehran and spent forty-three years as missionaries and educators in Iran. Under his direction, the small Tehran Boys School where he was appointed principal grew to become an academic institution covering grades one to twelve and the premier modern school in Iran. By 1925, it was the American College of Tehran (later renamed Alborz). Dr. Jordan served as president of the institution until 1940. A passionate advocate of physical education, Jordan was a pioneer in making soccer the Iranian national sport, and he was also instrumental in establishing the Boy Scout movement in Iran. In 1940, Jordan received the Iranian Decoration of the First Scientific Medal, the highest honor in education the government could bestow.

The Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture at UC Irvine is named after this important figure for Iranian education and progress. The center was originally established by the School of Humanities in collaboration with the Claire Trevor School of the Arts through a generous gift by Dr. Fariborz Maseeh. It became a campus center in January 2009. Dedicated to drawing on the strengths of the entire UC Irvine campus, the Center focuses on interdisciplinary research projects that bridge the arts, humanities, engineering, medicine, and the sciences.

A Gift from Kaiser Permanente Iranian Physicians

A Gift from the Orange County Kaiser Permanente Iranian Physicians Opens the Persian Library at UC Irvine

A group of Iranian physicians of Kaiser Permanente came together to fund the opening of the Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture's library at the University of California, Irvine.

This gift allowed the center to build bookshelves, hire graduate students to catalogue the books, and keep the library open for university students and the community.

Dr. Touraj Daryaee, the director of the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture said: "We are grateful to Dr. Babak Movahedi and the Iranian physicians for their generosity and contribution to Iranian Studies at UC Irvine".

Mrs. Homa Sarshar's Gift

We would like to thank Mrs. Homa Sarshar for her generosity and giving to the Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture. Her gift helped us finish building the Persian Center's library.

Mrs. Homa Sarshar is a published author, award-winning journalist, writer, and media personality. She is the author of four books and the editor of eleven other volumes, including five volumes of the Iranian Women's Studies Foundation Journal and four volumes of The History of Contemporary Iranian Jews. Her latest book Sha'ban Jafari was the number one best seller Persian book in Iran and abroad in the year 2003. From 1964 to 1978, she worked as a correspondent, reporter, and columnist for Zan-e Ruz weekly magazine and Kayhan daily newspaper in Iran. During this period, she also worked as a television producer, director, and talk-show host for National Iranian Radio & Television. In 1978, Sarshar moved to Los Angeles where she resumed her career as a freelance journalist, radio and television producer, and on-air host.

No stranger to the plight of many Iranian Americans, Sarshar knew first-hand the challenges of arriving as a new émigré to the United States. In 1981, she became the founding editor of Shofar monthly magazine, published by the newly formed Iranian American Jewish Federation to bring the Iranian Jewish community together. In 1982 as the co-producer, writer, and talk-show host of Omid Radio she co-founded a daily AM radio broadcast for the Los Angeles based Iranian immigrant community. The show played a pivotal role in informing and educating the new community about life in the US. An established women's rights activist, in 1989 Sarshar joined the board of Iranian Women Studies Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Boston, MA. Along with co-convening the foundation's annual conference series, she also edited five volumes of IWSF's journal during her five-year term on the board. In 1992, she published her two-volume memoire Dar koocheh paskoocheh ha-ye ghorbat (In the back alleys of exile), which provides a candid view into the experience of a first generation immigrant to the US. The title was the first publication of a Jewish Iranian memoir, one of the first Persian memoirs after the revolution published outside Iran, as well as one of the very few examples of memoir writing by an Iranian woman at the time of its publication. Since 1993 Sarshar has been a trusted advisor by the Human Rights Watch to recommend recipients for the prestigious Hellman/Hammett Grants and many of her nominees have received the above grant.

She has also been a member of the Middle Eastern Art Council for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) for different terms over the past 30 years. In this position, she has recently secured two important gifts for the museum's permanent collection, which are to be displayed in an exhibition in March 2013 organized to coincide with Nowruz, the Iranian New Year. Throughout her 45-year career with Iranian and Iranian-American print, radio, and television, Sarshar has done more than 1500 interviews and has produced and anchored as many radio and television programs. She has also written, directed, and produced a collection of twenty video documentaries on exiled Iranian writers, poets, and artists, some of which have been acquired by the Library of Congress for the library's permanent audiovisual archive. Homa Sarshar has received numerous awards for her work, including the Medal for Special Achievement in Women's Rights, given by The Iranian Women's Organization of Tehran, Iran; Journalism Award: Distinguished Iranian Women by the Encyclopaedia Iranica; and Commendation for Community Affairs Services by the County of Los Angeles. Homa Sarshar was born in Shiraz on 1946, and raised in Tehran. She earned a BA in French literature from Tehran University; a MA in journalism from the Annenberg School of Communications, USC; and a Ph.D. (HC) in Journalism from College of Letters and Science at the American World University – LA, CA. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

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