



**International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS) Sixth Biennial Convention, London, August 2006**

ASPS travel fellowship recipients:

Caesarean Childbirth as Reflected In Islamic Visual Arts: Illustrations in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh Manuscripts  
**Raisa I Amirbekyan**, Yerevan State University, Armenia

Iranian Youth and their Physical Fitness Standards  
**Amir Mohammad Amirtash**, Tarbiat-e Mo'alllem University, Tehran, Iran

Relations between Gregorian Armenians and Western Catholics in Safavid Julfa  
**Shokoh Arabi-Hashemi**, Islamic Azad Universtiy, Iran

The Herat Issue in the Context of Afghan-Iranian Relations  
**Vladimir Boyko**, Centre for Regional Studies, Barnaul State Pedagogical University, Russia

The Proliferation of the Iranian Tradition of Viziericide in the Ilkhanid Period  
**Gholamreza Dar-Katanian**, Islamic Azad University, Sha-bestar, Iran.

Children, Work and the Street: The Empowerment of Iran's Street Children  
**Eshrat Gholipour**, Omid-e Mehr, Iran

Suyurghal (Land Tenure) in the Safavid Period  
**Abolfazl Hassanabady**, Astan-e Qods-e Razavi Archives, Iran

New 'Old' Materials about Ali Qapu Fresco Paintings  
**Irina Koshoridze**, Georgia National Museum in Tbilisi, Georgia

Unperformed Project: Some Information of Napoleon's Emis-saries about Persia in the Context of the Indian Expedition, 1805-1809  
**Irene Natchkebia**, Academy of Sciences of Georgia, Georgia

Russian Capital in Iran in the Second Half of the Nineteenth – Beginning of the Twentieth Century  
**Irina K Pavlova**, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russia

Sufi Orders in Saljuq Anatolia and their Role in the Dissemination of Iranian Culture  
**Zahra Rabbani**, al-Zahra University, Iran

**Studies on Persianate Societies**

*Studies on Persianate Societies* Volume 3, 2005/1384 is in progress.

**ESSAYS**

Christians in Safavid Iran: Hospitality and Harassment  
**Rudi Matthee**

The Rise of Shah Esmā'il as a Mahdist Revolution  
**Saïd Amir Arjomand**

Civil Society *Within* the State? The Production of Knowledge and the State Under the Islamic Republic  
**Kian Tajbakhsh**

*Kurdish Autobiography, Memoir and Novel: 'Ereb Yemo and his Successors*  
**Christine Allison**

**RESEARCH AND CRITICAL NOTES**

Sasanian Textile Art: An Iconographic Approach  
**Matteo Compareti**

The Peacock in *Nahj al-balāgha* and Near Eastern Religious Traditions  
**Mushegh Asatryan**

The Oldest Prose Text in Modern Tabari: A Translation from *Tufān al-Bokā'*  
**Habib Borjian**

The Presence of Perso-Islamic Mysticism in Malay-Indonesian Literature  
**Ahmad Kazemi Moussavi**

Sultan Ezid in the Yazidi Religion: Genesis of the Character  
**Victoria Arakelova**

Familiar Strangers. Armenians in Modern Persian Literature  
**Anna Krasnowolska**

Urban Experience in Iranian Narrative Fiction  
**Javad Fa'al Alavi**  
Translated from the Persian by **Guilan Siassi**

**BOOK SURVEYS**

Russian publications on Persianate Studies (2001-2005)  
**Firuza Abdullayeva and Leila Dodykhudoeva**

Survey of Publications in South Asia on Persianate Studies  
**Ishtiyag Ahmad Zilli**

Books published in Human Sciences in Iran in 1383/2004-5  
**Reza Najafi**

\*\*\*

ASPS invites papers for *Studies on Persianate Societies* and would especially like to see direct submissions of articles by members. Please consult the style sheet, which appears on page iii of the journal.

The annual institutional subscription rate of \$75 makes the journal widely available at libraries and university centers. Please make sure your library subscribes. Subscription forms are available on the publisher's website (manoharbooks.com), and on the ASPS website as well.

ASPS mails *Studies on Persianate Societies* through its publisher directly to all ASPS members in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

Saïd Amir Arjomand, Editor-in-Chief  
[Said.Arjomand@sunysb.edu](mailto:Said.Arjomand@sunysb.edu)

## ASPS Biennial Conference

We are pleased to announce the Third Biennial Convention of ASPS, to take place January 4-7, 2007 in Lahore, Pakistan with the cooperation of Punjab University through the Department of Sociology.

Disciplines from all the humanities and social sciences related to Persianate Societies will be represented.

Our first biennial convention took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in September, 2002, with the cooperation of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Rudaki Institute of Language and Literature, and the National Commission of UNESCO, Tajikistan. This meeting brought together over 80 scholars from thirteen countries to present papers and to discuss a variety of themes on pre-Islamic and Islamic Persianate culture.

Our second biennial convention on Iranian Studies, "Society, History and Culture in the Persianate World," was held in Yerevan, Armenia in 2004, and brought together 90 scholars from eighteen countries. The conferences provide a rare and valued opportunity for scholars from West, Central and South Asia, Europe and North America to participate in an interdisciplinary dialogue.

Lahore is the cultural center of Pakistan and Jahangir's (d. 1627) capital. The city boasts some of the wonders of Islamic architecture, including Shahi Qa'leh (the Lahore Fort), Padshahi Masjed, and the buildings of the Andarun-e Shahr (the Interior or Old, or Walled City). One hundred forty miles from Lahore is the prehistoric site of Harappa. Four hundred miles from Lahore is Mohenjodaro. Like ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, Harappa and Mohenjodaro are considered to be cradles of civilization.

### Travel to Lahore, Pakistan

Pakistan's national carrier Pakistan Airlines flies to many international destinations. Other major carriers, such as American Airlines, United, Lufthansa, British Airways, Air Canada, KLM etc., fly from North America to Europe and/or between European cities, where they make connections with Lahore flights.

Many flights to Lahore originate in London, UK or Frankfurt, Germany and connect in Dubai or Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates or Doha, Qatar. Of course, many other connections are possible. Smaller, regional airlines fly into Lahore mainly from other cities in the region.

There are flights from Iran to Pakistan, either directly with Mahan Air, or through Karachi, Pakistan with Iran Air.

**We strongly suggest that you contact a travel agent in your area to assist you in your travel plans.** They will help you minimize cost and travel time, especially connection times, as well as routing you through the most appropriate city based on your city of origin.

Note: It does not seem possible to book a flight to Lahore, Pakistan through an individual airline website, most likely because formal "alliances" do not exist with the smaller regional carriers.

For reference, the following websites may be useful:

<http://www.travelcuts.com> (a student oriented website, but a useful search engine)

<http://www.travelocity.com>

<http://www.piac.com.pk/> (Pakistan International Airlines)

The airport code for Lahore, Pakistan is LHE.

*Again, we suggest that you contact a travel agent to assist you with your travel plans.*

### Air Lines

#### **Pakistan Airlines**

Flights obtainable from major cities to Karachi or Islamabad (some direct), which would then connect to Lahore (Pakistan Airlines flies to 42 international destinations).

#### **Emirates**

Flies from London OR Frankfurt to Lahore, connecting in Dubai, UAE; also flies direct from New York, USA to Dubai.

#### **Qatar Airways**

Flies from Frankfurt OR London (LGW) to Lahore, and connects in Doha, Qatar.

#### **Etihad Airways**

Flies from Abu Dhabi, UAE to Lahore; and also flies direct from New York, USA to Abu Dhabi.

#### **Mahan Air**

Flies from Tehran, Iran directly to Lahore.

#### **Kuwait Airways**

Flies from Kuwait City to Lahore.

#### **Gulf Air**

Flies from Bahrain OR Muscat, Oman to Lahore; also flies from London to Bahrain and Oman.

Some airlines that fly into Dubai and connect with Emirates to Lahore are: Iran Air, Emirates, Royal Drunai, Lufthansa, Air France, and British Airways.

Some airlines that fly into Doha and connect with Qatar Airways to Lahore are Iran Air: Lufthansa, bmi, and British Airways.

Other options (this is not a complete list):

Iran Air flies to Karachi, Pakistan and then connects to a Lahore flight. Singapore Air flies to Lahore direct from Singapore, but may be an expensive option; Indian Air flies to Lahore from New Delhi, India; Thai Air flies to Lahore from Bangkok, but may be an expensive option; KLM flies to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and to Kuwait City, Kuwait.

## MESA 2006

### COME CELEBRATE THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ASPS IN BOSTON!

There will be a Joint Membership Reception by Association for ASPS and ISIS, one of our founding members, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of ASPS on **Saturday, November 18, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Wellesley on the Third Floor of the Boston Marriott** (the MESA meeting hotel). An ISIS dinner reception honoring Dr. Akbar Ghahary, founder of the Persian Cultural Foundation, will follow from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. A donation toward dinner will be requested. All are cordially invited to attend.

\*\*\*

The **ASPS business meeting** will be held on Saturday 11/18 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in MIT, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Marriott Copley Place.

\*\*\*

The following MESA panels will be sponsored by ASPS:

Sunday, November 19, 2-4 pm

#### ***Reforming Iran's Theocratic State***

Organized by **Mehrzad Boroujerdi**

**Hossein Bashiriyeh**, Tehran U

State-Society Relations in Iran: Political Identity

**Mehrzad Boroujerdi**, Syracuse U

Circulation of Elites in Post-Revolutionary Iran

**Fatemeh Haghghatjoo**, MIT

Is Altering the Constitution a Prerequisite for Democracy in Iran?

**Majid Muhammadi**, Stony Brook U

Iranian U Students' Politics in the Post-Reform Era

\*\*\*

Monday, November 20, 8:30-10:30 am

#### ***Safavid Political and Popular Culture***

Organized by **Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson**

**Mehran Afshari**, Islamic Encyclopaedia Foundation, Tehran  
The Haydari Qalandars and Shi'ite Proselytizing during the Safavid Age

**Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson**, U of Minnesota Duluth  
'Ali al-Karaki's Epistle on Ritual Cursing and Early Safavid Conquest Ideology

**Nazak Birjandifar**, McGill U  
Royal Women and Politics in Safavid Iran

**Paul Losensky**, Indiana U

Mehrab and Door Knockers: Two Architectural Metaphors in the Poetry of Sa'eb of Tabriz

\*\*\*

Monday, November 20, 2:30-4:30 pm

#### ***Persianate Political Thought***

Organized by **Saïd A. Arjomand**

**Javad Tabataba'i**, Maxwell School of Citizenship, Syracuse U

Continuity of the Iranian Political Thought: The Case of Siasat-Nameh

**Saïd A. Arjomand**, Stony Brook U

Revolution in Persianate Political Thought

**Abbas Amanat**, Yale U

The Nuqtawis, "Universal Conciliation" and Islamic Response in Mughal India

## Announcements and Member News

The **All India Persian Teachers' Congress** held its 26<sup>th</sup> International Session from 25 March to 27 March, 2006. The sessions was co-sponsored by All India Persian Teachers' Association (AIPTA) of Delhi and Osmania University and convened in Hyderabad, India at Osmania University. **Professor Suleman Siddiqui**, Vice Chancellor of Osmania University and Chairman of the Reception Committee, whose academic specializations include Sufism in the Deccan, Islamic jurisprudence and modern trends in Islam, made the welcome address.

The following books were released at the conference:

*Farsi Drama: Tarikh wa Tanqeed*, by **Mr. Hossein Ravish**

*Mughal Shahzaadian: Ilmi wa Adabi Khidmat*, by **Mr. Shafie Shakeeb**

*Farsi Drama Nigari par maghrib ke Asrat*, by **Professor Jaleel Tajleel**

The following books were translated into Persian:

*Tooti-e Hind Sue-Chaman*, a travelogue of R. N. Tagore, tr. by **Mr. Hossein Ravish**

Wajood-e Wijdani, divine songs of Baul from Bengali into Persian, tr. by **Mr. Shafie Shakeeb**

The following books were published by CCRUM

*Unani Medicines in India* (Persian Language), by **Agha Hossein Ravish**

*Aaina-e Sarguzisht* (Russian translation), by **Mr. Mortaza Shafie Shakeeb**

The following received awards for serving the cause of Persian in India:

**Professor Sharifunnisa Anasari** (retired), Professor and Head, Department of Persian, Osmania University, Hyderabad

**Professor Pl. Yaqoob Oman** (Retired), Professor and Head, Department of Persian, Nizam College of Arts, Osmania University, Hyderabad

\* \* \*

**Habib Borjian** has published the following recent articles:

"A Mazandarani account of the Babi Incident at Shaikh Tabarsi," *Iranian Studies* 39/3, 2006, pp. 381-400.

"The Oldest Known Texts in New Tabari: The Collection of Aleksander ChodŸko," *Archiv Orientalni* 74/2, 2006, pp. 153-171.

"Mazandarani: language or dialect?" *Iranshenasi* 18/1, 2006, pp. 43-49.

"Textual sources for the study of Tabari language I. Old documents," *Dialectology/Guyesh-shenâsi*, no. 4, 2006.

He has also made the following new contributions to *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, published online at: [www.Iranica.com](http://www.Iranica.com):

"Âlempur, Mohiy-al-Din" (Tajik journalist); "Amir Pâzvâri" (legendary poet of Mazandarani language; with Maryam Borjian); "Âsemi, Mohammad" (Tajik scholar and humanist); "Bidokht" (center of Gonâbâdi Sufi order in Khorasan); "Kulâb" (province and town in Tajikistan); "Kurgan-Tepe" (town and former province in Tajikistan); "Tajikistan-Dictionaries and Encyclopedias".

and has presented the following conference paper:

"Central Iranian Plateau Dialects: Methods and Goals of Documentation" (with Maryam Borjian), Endangered and Minority Languages and Language Varieties. Georgetown University Roundtable on Languages and Linguistics, Washington, D. C., March 3-5, 2006.

\* \* \*

**Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson** presented the paper "The Folly of Working Backward from Published Text to Manuscript." Second World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies. Amman, Jordan, 11-16 June 2006.

\* \* \*

Brill's journal *Iran and the Caucasus (IC)* provides a special offer to ASPS members

The peer-reviewed journal *Iran and the Caucasus* publishes in-depth and multi-disciplinary research in the field of the history of the Iranian and Caucasian peoples. It offers a wide range of scholarly topics aimed at experts in their respective fields of research. Since 2002, the journal has been published by Brill, well-known and widely acclaimed for its publications in the area of Central Asian and Middle East and Islamic Studies. Two substantial issues are published annually.

*IC* is devoted to furthering our knowledge of the region in a wide variety of fields: history, economics, social sciences, archaeology, religion, literature, philology, and anthropology. The journal is edited under the guidance of an intercultural editorial board with scholars from the region itself, as well as from Europe and the United States. It is therefore unique in being a scholarly forum in the truest sense of the word on a region of growing importance, and a treasure-trove of information otherwise hard to get at. *IC* is supported by the Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies in Yerevan, Armenia.

For information on the journal please visit the journal web page at <http://www.brill.nl/ic>. The journal page provides easy access to relevant information such as aims and scope, editorial board members, author submission guidelines, indexing and abstracting databases and subscription prices. There is also a link to the online version of the journal. Here you can find more information on how to register for RSS-feeds and T-o-C-alerts. For a free online issue, please go to <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/brill/ic>.

**Free trial for members of ASPS**

*IC* would like to introduce you to our journal and have your valued opinion on its content. Therefore, we offer all ASPS members a free trial to the electronic version of the journal during the months of November and December 2006. This special offer is only valid for current ASPS members. If you are interested, please send an email to Ms. Liesbeth Kanis, [kanis@brill.nl](mailto:kanis@brill.nl). You will then receive a username and password, which will provide you access for the months of November and December 2006.

## The Central Asia Research Fund (CERF)

The establishment of the “Houshang Pourshariati Iranian Studies Book Award” was announced at the 39th Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) yearly meeting held in Washington D.C., November 19-22, 2005. The book award recognizes outstanding publishing in Iranian studies. The inaugural recipient of the award, recognized for lifetime achievements in Iranian Studies, was the late professor Shapur Shahbazi of Eastern Oregon University.

The annual “Houshang Pourshariati Iranian Studies Book Award,” carries a stipend of \$2,000; it is awarded to non-fiction scholarly monographs based on original research published in English. Eligible for consideration are those that “seek to advance knowledge and scholarship on Iran and Iranian culture and history, and its expression in literature, philosophy, art, and science from ancient times to the present.”

For further information about the award please see <http://mesa.wns.ccit.arizona.edu/excellence/pourshariati.htm>

Houshang Pourshariati (1934–2004) was a journalist, public intellectual and humanist who devoted his life to the advancement and welfare of Iran in the course of his distinguished career in the Iranian press and media.

## Travel Fellowship Program

ASPS is happy to announce continued support from the Open Society Institute (OSI) for our fellowship program. Our grant has been renewed for three years. We are currently accepting applications for travel fellowships.

**Qualifications:** Applicants from Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan who are engaged in teaching or research in the humanities or social sciences, and have a formal invitation or acceptance of a paper from an academic institution or sponsors of a conference in the United States, may submit (1) a letter explaining the research, the title of the paper, and details of the conference; (2) a letter of acceptance from the conference, and; (3) a *curriculum vitae* to:

Dr. Colin Mitchell  
Dept. of History  
6135 University Ave.  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA  
(902) 494-2788 [c.mitchell@dal.ca](mailto:c.mitchell@dal.ca)

**Please Note:** The Travel Fellowship Program will only reimburse against **original receipts** for expenses including travel, lodging, meals, and conference registration. The limit is \$3,000. Those who receive travel fellowships agree to write a report of their travel and to submit a copy of the paper delivered.

CERF provides grants of up to \$1500 to support the research and publications of individual Central Asian scholars in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Northwest China.

We are pleased to announce a call for applications for the 2006-07 CERF award. Our deadlines have changed to enable us to better publicize the grant program in different regions, thereby making grant opportunities available to as many worthy applicants as possible.

The deadlines for the receipt of proposals are **September 15** and **June 15** of each year.

Awards will be announced on **November 15** and **August 15** of each year.

### General Grant Provisions

**Eligibility:** CERF grants are available to individual applicants from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Northwest China who demonstrate how their research will make a substantive contribution to the knowledge of historical, political, economic, or cultural developments in the region of Central Eurasia. Applicants must hold a minimum degree equivalent to a BA. Grantees are not eligible to reapply for a CERF Grant for five years from the receipt of a previous CERF award.

**Financial Provisions:** Grants do not exceed US \$1500 and provide funding for the following:

- Publication costs for books or monographs (including translations from English)
- Technical equipment necessary for specific research projects, such as computers, printers, scanners, voice recorders, or digital cameras
- Travel expenses for archival research that will result in a scholarly publication

**Selection Process:** CERF grants are awarded twice a year. Proposals must be received on each deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>. An ASPS evaluation committee consisting of the grant director, Dr. Jo-Ann Gross, and two persons currently serving on the Board of Directors of ASPS will review applications. The CERF Committee will make an effort whenever possible to provide regional balance in the distribution of grants based on:

- Importance of the topic
- Academic merit of the proposed project
- Demonstrated career commitment to the field
- Feasibility of the project
- Potential impact of the research
- Adequate academic and professional experience of the candidate

**Application for a CERF award:** CERF candidates are required to submit an electronic application in MS Word format that includes the following:

1. Name and address, email address, fax number
2. Place and date of birth
3. Citizenship
4. Institutional name and address
5. Research field or discipline
6. Highest degree obtained
7. Title and description of research proposal (1-2 pages) that includes objectives and potential impact of research and/or publication
8. Budget (included detailed account of specific expenses)

**Award and Final Report:** The grant period is for one year. Of the award, \$200 will be held until the receipt of a one page final report (sent electronically) within two months of the completion of the award, and the receipt of two copies of any publication resulting from the award. The report must include the following:

- Name of project and objectives
- Extent to which the objectives were met
- Impact of project
- Receipts of all expenses

\* \* \*

### Conferences, Exhibitions, Calls for Papers, and Articles

First Interdisciplinary Conference on the Visual Anthropology of Iran

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** University of Oxford, September 2007. The two-day conference on the Visual Anthropology of Iran, organized by the Society for Iranian Anthropology (SIRA) will gather together specialists from across the world, scholars and students alike (anthropologists, folklorists, ethnographers, linguists, filmmakers, artists, and photographers) interested in all aspects of the visual culture of Iran: works in film, video, media and multimedia, and all its visual representations in art. This first conference will examine the origins and development of the visual anthropology of Iran through pre- and post-revolutionary periods. In addition, the conference will include a special competition, which will enable visual anthropologists and filmmakers to present their films about Iran. An international jury made up of academics and specialists, under the patronage of French screenwriter Jean-Claude Carrière, will award a special prize for the best film. For more information and details, please visit our website:

[www.anthropology-iran.org](http://www.anthropology-iran.org)

Contact: Dr. Michael Abecassis

E-mail: [michael.abecassis@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.abecassis@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk), or

[info@anthropology-iran.org](mailto:info@anthropology-iran.org)

\* \* \*

**CALL FOR ARTICLES:** The editorial board of *Iran and the Caucasus (IC)* invites you to submit articles for publication dealing with Irano-Caucasica, with particular focus on Iranian matters: History of the Iranian and Caucasian Peoples (Ancient, Medieval and Modern), Literature and Folklore (Texts and Studies), Textology, History of Religion, Archaeology, Economic and Political problems and challenges of the region, etc. For more information please contact the editor: Garnik S. Asatrian, [caucas@armline.am](mailto:caucas@armline.am)

Submission guidelines:

For details on how to submit an article or book review, please check the Brill website: [www.brill.nl/ic](http://www.brill.nl/ic)

\* \* \*

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** The Commission on the History of Science and Technology in Islamic Societies is pleased to announce a conference in Barcelona, Spain, 11-14 April 2007, around the general theme of "A Shared Legacy: Islamic Science East and West."

Planned sessions will focus on the exact sciences, the natural sciences, medicine, technology, and transmission of knowledge. In addition, a session entitled "75 years of History of Arabic Science in Barcelona: the Millás Legacy" is scheduled to commemorate the 75th year of the publication of J. M. Millás Vallicrosa's book "Assaig d'història de les idees físiques i matemàtiques a la Catalunya medieval" (Institut d'Estudis Catalans) and to honor this pioneer in the field of the History of Arabic Science in Barcelona and Spain.

The conference will be part of a program called "Barcelona Ciència 2007", sponsored by the City Council of Barcelona, which is devoting the year 2007 to the theme of "Science." Other support comes from the Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica, a filial of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, which in 2007 commemorates its 100th anniversary (1907-2007); the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science; the Spanish Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia; and the University of Barcelona.

We hope to be able to support scholars from developing countries with limited subventions to help cover travel costs. We will have more information on this possibility in early 2007.

#### Deadlines

Title: 30 November 2006

Abstract of 200 to 500 words: 15 January 2007

Notification of acceptance: 15 February 2007

For further information please contact Mercè Comes at [mcomes@ub.edu](mailto:mcomes@ub.edu)

\* \* \*

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** ASPS invites papers for *Studies on Persianate Societies*. Please consult the style sheet, which appears on page iii of the journal.

\* \* \*

%%%

*If undelivered, return to*

Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson, Ph.D.  
Editor, *ASPS Newsletter*  
University of Minnesota Duluth  
1121 University Drive  
Duluth, Minnesota 55812  
USA