



## Elections

### *Board of Directors*

Pursuant to an amendment to the ASPS bylaws, the Board of Directors shall consist of a number of voting members: The President, Immediate Past-President, Secretary-Treasurer, five at-large members and one student member. The Board of Directors shall also include ex-officio members, consisting of the ASPS Newsletter Editor and directors of regular ASPS programs, including the Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF) and the Travel Fellowship Program, and any other such programs as shall be added to ASPS's agenda in the future.

Dr. Jo-Ann Gross has been elected to continue to serve on the ASPS Board of Directors for 2007-2009. Jo-Ann is Professor of History and Chair of the History Department at The College of New Jersey. The focus of her research is the social history of early modern Iran and Central Asia, with an emphasis on the religious, sociopolitical, and economic aspects of Sufism, popular religious figures, and shrines. She currently serves on the Editorial Board of *Studies on Persianate Societies* and *The Central Eurasian Reader*, on the Board of Directors of The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, and as an institutional representative on the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Afghan Studies. She has served as Secretary-Treasurer of ASPS (1999-2002), as a member of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (1996-2000), and as Executive Secretary for the Society for Iranian Studies (1987-90). Her publications include numerous articles and three books, *Musul'manskaya Tsentral'naya Aziya: Religioznost' i Obshchestvo-Izbrannye Stat'i (Islamic Central Asia: Religiosity and Society - Collected Works)*, Russian translation and critical introduction by Lola Dodkhoeva (Dushanbe, 2004), a collection of the author's published works on the history of Sufism in Central Asia, two of which were updated for the book; *The Letters of Khwaja 'Ubayd Allah Ahrar and His Associates* (co-authored with Asom Urunbaev (Brill Publishers, 2002), a collaborative project supported by a 2-year Collaborative Research Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities; and the editor of *Muslims in Central Asia: Expressions of Identity and Change* (Duke University Press, 1992). She is currently working on a book project entitled *Mapping the Sacred Landscape: The Islamic Shrines of Tajikistan*.

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Mirjam Künkler, a Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, Columbia University is the first student to be elected to the ASPS board of directors.

Mirjam's research interests include comparative state-religion relations, comparative politics of democratization, religious institutions in political transformation processes, politics of resistance and repression, social science methodologies.

She is completing her dissertation titled "When Islamic Intellectuals Advocate Democratic Change: Repression and Toleration in Post-Khomeini Iran and New Order Indonesia", which deals with patterns of repression against Islamic and secular

dissidents in Iran (1989-2004) and Indonesia (1974-1998), and their implications for political transformation processes in both societies. She has published and presented conference papers on the women's press in Iran, post-Khomeini factional politics, the demise of the reform movement, and the 2005 presidential elections.

Mirjam spent the fall semester of 2003 at the Faculty of Social Science of the University of Tehran, Iran, and the summer, fall and part of the spring semester of 2005/2006 at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Freedom Institute, and the Indonesian Institute for Public Policy, all in Jakarta. She was the organizer of the Conference "Democracy-Promotion, Rights and Religion" – examining what civic roles religious institutions can play in political transformation processes -- held in Villigst, Germany, August 21-25, 2006, and the co-organizer (with Syafiq Hasyim) of the Workshop 'Women's Rights Advocacy, Islam and the Public Sphere', sponsored by the International Center for Islam and Pluralism (ICIP), Jakarta, held in Cipasung, Indonesia, February 12-16, 2007.

Mirjam is a graduate fellow at the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP) and the Deputy Director of the newly established Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration and Religion at Columbia University. She is also the organizer of the 2006/2007 Religion and Democracy Seminar Series.

ASPS welcomes Mirjam to the Association and to the Board of Directors.

## Travel Fellowship Program

Our Travel Fellowship Program is supported by a generous grant from the Open Society Institute through 2008. 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 reimburse only 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.

Because ASPS has strived for regular and timely delivery of its journal, together with a greater reach to the academic community through library subscriptions, two goals that have not been achieved through past and present publishers, we have decided to place our journal in the hands of a new publisher. A contract has been signed with Brill for the publication of a new journal, which will commence in 2008.

The new publication, *Journal of Persianate Studies*, is to be a regular interdisciplinary academic journal for the benefit of ASPS members. It will be published twice a year in two issues of 128 pages each.

A new editorial board is currently being formed, and will hold its first meeting during the third ASPS biennial convention to be held in Tiflis from June 8-11, 2007.

ASPS welcomes papers from members and other scholars for the *Journal of Persianate Studies*

Please send your submissions to:  
Saïd Amir Arjomand, Editor-in-Chief  
[Saïd.Arjomand@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Saïd.Arjomand@stonybrook.edu)

**Third ASPS Biennial Convention  
Tiflis, Georgia 8-11 June 2007**

The Third ASPS Biennial Convention, planned for January 2007 in Lahore, was cancelled due to a lack of funding, and because of the ineligibility of some potential participants to obtain a visa.

After months of investigating an alternative location, we finally agreed on Tbilisi (Tiflis), the capital of the Republic of Georgia, as the host city of our Third Biennial Convention. The Convention will be held at the Institute of Oriental Studies, the Georgian Academy of Sciences, and at the Tiflis State University.

The dates of the Convention are from Friday to Monday, 8-11 June 2007, considering that these dates are the best for convenient flights to Tiflis.

The Convention program remains essentially unchanged, with several Georgian colleagues added as session chairs and presenters. If your paper was accepted for the Lahore convention, you are very welcome to present it in Tiflis.

ASPS will provide lodging for those who present papers and will arrange for hotel accommodations for those who choose to stay in a single room in a more upscale hotel than the hotel designated for the conference. As for travel expenses, we expect to provide funding to cover the travel expenses of the participants from the region. We will inform you further on this point as soon as ASPS receives its expected funding. Participants from Western Europe and the United States are expected to cover their own airfare through their institutions.

Tiflis is the capital city of the Republic of Georgia. Independent since 1991, Georgia was a part of the Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union for almost two centuries. During most of the two hundred years before the Russian takeover of 1800, the eastern half of Georgia was under the control, or at least in the orbit, of Persia. Far from being a peripheral part of the Safavid state, Georgia exerted extraordinary influence on Persia's military and bureaucratic order. It did so by way of the thousands of Georgian slaves who were settled in Persia in the course of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Nominally converted to Islam, these Safavid subjects subsequently came to occupy the top ranks of the military and administrative establishment. By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, most high-ranking courtiers and the majority of Persia's provincial governors were of Georgian background, and the Georgians were the only effective military force to fight the Afghan invaders in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. There remain several Georgian-speaking villages in Fereydan, east of Isfahan. (At least one scholar from this Perso-Georgian community will be present in the Tiflis convention.) The city of Tiflis also prospered under the Safavids and Qajars as a major town with a sizeable Muslim community and considerable Persian cultural and architectural influence, some of which architectural examples still standing today.

ASPS conventions have added an important dimension to the ASPS mission of providing a forum for scholarly exchange in all Persianate countries and among all scholars who are engaged in scholarship concerning Persianate societies. In Tiflis we again look forward to bringing scholars together for an interdisciplinary academic meeting.

ASPS's 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 very successful and well-publicized four-day scholarly 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 conventions have provided a rare and valued opportunity for scholars from West, Central, and South Asia, Europe and North America to join in an academic dialogue.

*Travel to Georgia*

Citizens of the EU, US, Canada, Japan and most post-Soviet states (except Russia) do NOT need a visa to enter Georgia.

Iranian citizens can obtain visas upon their arrival at the Tiflis airport, yet it would be perhaps less costly for them to obtain a visa from the Consulate of Georgia in Tehran for approximately \$30.

Citizens of countries where there is no Georgian consulate can obtain visas at the Tiflis airport (for approximately \$50, but it depends on the length of their stay in Georgia).

An official invitation will be provided for those applicants who need it for obtaining a visa and/or funding. An official letter will be sent to you by email upon your request. Please contact Dr. George Sanikidze at [gsany@yahoo.com](mailto:gsany@yahoo.com)

United Airlines, Continental Airlines, American Airlines, Virgin Atlantic, British Airways, KLM, and Austrian Airlines offer flights from New York to Tiflis with at least one stop (often in London, but also in Munich and Vienna). On occasion, the second leg of the flight is with Airzena Georgian Airlines.

Based on [www.travelocity.com](http://www.travelocity.com), prices currently range from \$1,400 to \$2,000 depending on which week day one chooses to travel. Midweek flights (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays) are the least expensive, but reasonably priced flights are available on other days, as well.

Habib Borjian  
Chair of Organizing Committee  
ASPS Third Biennial Convention  
Tiflis, 8-11 June 2007

### Member News and Announcements

In 2006, **Janet Afary** received recognition for her contributions to the field in several areas:

2006: Latifeh Yarshater Award for Best Book in Iranian Women's Studies for Janet Afary and Kevin B. Anderson, *Foucault and the Iranian Revolution* (2005) from the Persian Heritage Foundation; presented at the biennial meeting of the International Society for Iranian Studies, London

2006: Dehkhoda Award for Distinguished Scholarship on the Constitutional Revolution I (Germany)

2006: University Faculty Scholar Purdue University. Five Years, 2006-2011.

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**Dr. Behrooz Mahmoodi Bakhtiari**, Associate Editor of *Studies on Persianate Societies*, has been appointed as Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Persian in the Department of Theatre of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran. Since 2006 he has also served as head of the library for the Faculty of Fine Arts. His publications in 2006 and 2007 include the following:

For *Dāyerat ol-ma'āref-e Bozorg-e Eslāmī* (The Great Islamic Encyclopedia [GIE]), Edited by Kāzēm Musavī Bojnurdī. Tehran: The GIE Center Press:

“Tājīkī”. (The Tajiki dialect of New Persian), Vol. 14, pp. 264-268.

“Tātī”, Vol. 14, pp. 201-205 (2007).

“Toxārī” (Tocharian), Vol. 14, pp. 651-654.

“Tāyī” (Thai), Vol. 14, pp. 404-406.

“Tālešī”, Vol. 14, pp. 353-356.

For *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, ed. Ehsan Yarshater. New York: Columbia University, Center for Iranian Studies:

“Īraj Mīrzā”, Vol. 12, pp. 202-204 (2005).

For the *Encyclopedia of Linguistics*, ed. Philipp Strazny. New York and Oxford: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2 vols., 2005

“Comrie, Bernard”, Vol. 1, pp. 231-232.

“Indo-Iranian Languages”, vol. 1, pp. 515-517.

“Syntactic Typology”, Vol. 2, pp. 1066-1068.

For the *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, ed. Keith Brown, Oxford: Elsevier Publishers, 14 vols., 2006:

“Iraq: Linguistic status”, Vol. 6, p. 24.

“Yarshater, Ehsan”, Vol. 13, p. 726.

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**Habib Borjian** has published the following articles since our last newsletter: “Formation of the Modern Tajik Persian Language” (in Persian), *Iranshenasi* 18/2, 2006, pp. 263-285.

“Tabari language materials from I. N. Berezin’s Recherches sur les dialectes persans,” *Iran and the Caucasus* 10/2, 2006.

(with Maryam Borjian) “The Story of Rostam and the White Demon in Mazandarani,” *Nāme-ye Irān-e Bāstān*, no. 10, 2006.

“The oldest known prose text in Modern Tabari: a translation from Tufān al-Bokā,” *Studies on Persianate Societies* 3, 2007.

“Historical Geography of Tabaristan in the Early Islamic Centuries” (in Persian), in *Sotuda-nāma*, ed. Iraj Afshar, 2006, pp. 148-157.

“Isfahan,” in *Cities of the Middle East and North Africa: A Historical Encyclopedia*, ed. M. Dumper and B. Stanley, Santa Barbara, Cal., 2007, pp. 147-149.

Dr. Borjian has also made the following new contributions to *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, vol. 14, fascicle 1, under the entry “Isfahan”: “Geography of the Median Dialects of Isfahan,” “History –the Pahlavi Period and the Post-Revolution Era,” “Traditional Crafts,” “Education” (coauthored by Maryam Borjian); “Cultural Affairs,” “Economy of Isfahan Province,” “Industries of Isfahan City.”

**Rudi Matthee’s** book, *The Pursuit of Pleasure: Drugs and Stimulants in Iran, 1500-1900* (Princeton University Press, 2005), received the 2005-2006 Saidi-Sirjani Prize, awarded by the International Society for Iranian Studies, as well as the 2006 Albert Hourani Prize, awarded by the Middle East Studies Association of North America.

Dr. Matthee also published "Between Arabs, Turks, and Iranians: The Town of Basra, 1600-1700," *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 69 (2006): 53-78.

As of September 2007, Dr. Matthee will be the Unidel Distinguished Professor of Middle East History at the University of Delaware.

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**Ali Raffie Jirdehi** has published the following article, "A propos de lexique Tâlechi," *Tahqiqât e tâlesh*, Tehran, 2006, and has attended the international colloquium, "Les valeurs de l'humanisme dans la pensée iranienne" Université Marc Bloch de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France, 2006.

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**Abolala Soudavar** has published the following articles in 2006:

"The Han-Lin Academy and the Persian Royal Library, in the History and Historiography of Post-Mongol Central Asia and the Middle East;" *Studies in Honor of John E. Woods*, eds. J. Pfeiffer and S. Quinn. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2006, pp. 467-84.

"The Mongol Legacy of Persian Farmans," in *Beyond the Legacy of Genghis Khan*, ed. L. Komaroff, Leiden: Brill, 2006, pp.407-21.

"The Significance of Av. *cithra*, OPers. *ciça*, MPers *cihr*, and NPers. *cehr*, for the Iranian Cosmogony of Light" in *Iranica Antiqua*, 2006, pp. 151-85.

### The Central Asia Research Fund (CERF)

CERF continued its program under the vigorous direction of Dr. Jo-Ann Gross, providing 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. All available funds were allocated in 2006. We have a grant application pending and hope to announce another round of competition in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Dr Gross has directed CERF since 2005. Thus far CERF has funded 10 grants. Committee members have included Jo-Ann Gross, Alice Hunsberger, Rudi Matthee, and Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson.

ASPS is very pleased to announce the following **2006 CERF recipients**:

Hadarsho Pirimshoev: \$1500, for computer equipment to support his project on the History of the Tajik people and Document Catalogue

Saidanvar Shokhumorov: \$1500, for computer equipment to support his project, "Akhkami Huzur"

Zarifa Nazarova: \$750, for the publication of "The Vocabulary of Spiritual and Material Culture of the Ishkashim Language"

Saifiddin Jabborovich Mirzoev: \$750, for publication of "Local Traditions of the Yaghnobi People"

Congratulations to all!

## Conferences and Exhibitions

### Conferences

**The 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Iranian Studies**, Vienna, September 18-22, 2007 at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften) in Vienna.

Registration will take place on September 18 and the program will start on September 19.

Registration forms can be downloaded on the conference website: [www.oeaw.ac.at/iran/ecis6](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/iran/ecis6)

The conference fees can be found on the registration form. The fees and transfer money should be sent to the following account:

BA-CA 00262650519, BLZ 11000  
IBAN: AT541100000262650519  
BIC Code: BKAUATWW  
Reference: PRI0332, participant's name – ECIS6

Or, attendees may pay cash at the registration desk.

The preliminary program will be published early in April, 2007.

Prof. Bert G. Fragner  
Institute of Iranian Studies  
Austrian Academy of Sciences

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**The Central Eurasian Studies Society Eighth Annual Conference, 2007**, will be held at the University of Washington and will be hosted by the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies. Panels begin Friday morning, October 19, and continue through mid-day on Sunday, October 21.

The geographic domain of Central Eurasia extends from the Black Sea and Iranian Plateau to Mongolia and Siberia, including the Caucasus, Crimea, Middle Volga, Afghanistan, Tibet, and Central and Inner Asia. Practitioners and scholars in all humanities and social science disciplines with an interest in Central Eurasia are encouraged to participate.

The program will feature approximately 60 panels in sessions running from Friday morning to mid-day on Sunday (up to eight panels at one time). There will also be a supplementary program including cultural events, a welcome reception on Thursday, a conference dinner and a keynote speaker.

Full details are available on the CESS website:  
[http://cess.fas.harvard.edu/CESS\\_Conference.html](http://cess.fas.harvard.edu/CESS_Conference.html)

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**Conference: A Shared Legacy: Islamic Science East and West.** 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. 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.

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

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**Qazvin in the Safavid Era.** An international conference on Qazvin in the Safavid era, sponsored by Imam Khomeini International University, will be held from April 23, 2007 to April 25, 2007 in Qazvin Iran.

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### ***Exhibitions***

**Glass, Gilding, and Grand Design: Art of Sasanian Iran (224–642) February 14–May 20, 2007 at the Asia Society of New York**

The exhibit presents the luxurious masterpieces of the Sasanian court. It includes works gathered from the Musée du Louvre, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C., among other collections.

The City of Paris, Musée Cernuschi, and Paris Musées organized the exhibition in association with Asia Society, New York. Françoise Demange, Conservateur en chef au Département des antiquités orientales, Musée du Louvre, curated the exhibit.

The exhibition was made possible by the collaboration of the Musée du Louvre and the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and with support from The Leon Levy Foundation; The Lee and Juliet Folger Fund; Lisina and Frank Hoch; and Sheila and Hassan Nemazee. Akbar Ghahary, Ph.D.; Amita and Purnendu Chatterjee; Jamshid and Mahshid Ehsani; The Persepolis Foundation; and The Soudavar Memorial Foundation provided additional support.

## **Persian Summer Courses**

### **University of Wisconsin Madison Arabic & Persian Immersion Program**

Global Studies  
301 Ingraham Hall  
1155 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706

Telephone: (608) 265-2631  
Fax: (608) 265-2633  
Email: [apip@global.wisc.edu](mailto:apip@global.wisc.edu)

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### **Georgetown University Summer Arabic & Persian Language Institute June 4 - August 10, 2007**

Institute Director: Kassem Wahba (202) 687-1124  
Assistant Director: Rebecca Skreslet (202) 687-7149

Application deadlines:  
Non-Georgetown students - May 3  
Georgetown students - May 3

Classes are small and students receive considerable individual attention inside and outside the classroom. Our faculty members are experienced, dedicated, and diverse; they aim to incorporate advanced and effective techniques, resources and technology for teaching Arabic and Persian. The program offers the student not only exceptional academic surroundings, such as a state of the art language laboratory, but cultural opportunities throughout Washington, D.C.

Persian: In cooperation with the Division of Eastern Mediterranean Languages, a non-intensive ten-week course in first level Persian at the undergraduate level will be offered in the First and Second Sessions. This course is not open to native speakers of Persian or its varieties.

Second Session (July 10 - August 11): Non-Intensive First Level Persian II

