

The Association for the Study of  
Persianate Societies



انجمن مطالعات جوامع فارسی‌زبان

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all ASPS members,

I hope this finds all my ASPS colleagues in good health and spirits despite the ongoing global pandemic and the extremely disquieting development in international politics in the past weeks. This is your Vice President, Kazuo Morimoto, writing in the capacity of the Acting President during the leave of absence of our President, Sussan Babaie — May she return the soonest!

A big challenge the ASPS has been coping with since the cancellation of the Delhi convention in March 2020 is the question as to when, where, and how to restart the cycle of our biennial congresses. The executive team's initial plan to hold a rescheduled convention in 2021 soon turned out impossible and we have been closely monitoring the global situation ever since. It is therefore my greatest pleasure that we could, at last, announce our plan to hold the next convention during the week of May 28–June 3, 2023, at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University in Yerevan. Our Secretary, Robert Haug, has assumed the Chairpersonship of the Convention Organizing Committee and begun the initial preparations for the convention in association with Garnik Asatrian, Director of the said Institute and the ASPS' Regional Office in Armenia. Please save the date and follow the updates.

In the meantime, our Virtual Event Series, now directed by Jo-Ann Gross, is continuing to offer events in various topics and formats. A rich line-up of events for the year 2022, including the sub-series “Post-War Persianate Historiography” and “Iranian Heritage and Today's World,” has already begun to be offered to the membership and beyond. You can read the descriptions of the past events on our website and watch the recordings of many of them on YouTube (the recordings' URLs are indicated on our website).

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We had a reshuffle of officers and board members at the beginning of the year. Sussan Babaie and Robert Haug succeeded to Sunil Sharma and Daniel Beben as President and Secretary, respectively and the Board of Directors welcomed Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi and Catherine Ambler while it gratefully saw off Ghazzal Dabiri and Golriz Farshi. Mana Kia continues to serve another term. On behalf of the ASPS, I would like to thank all the officers and board members who terminated their terms for their invaluable services to the ASPS. Those left behind are now striving to follow in your footsteps.

With best wishes,

Kazuo Morimoto

## ASPS ANNOUNCEMENT, YEREVAN, ARMENIA, 2023

### **The Tenth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies**

**ASPS/Yerevan 2023**

**May 28-June 3, 2023  
Yerevan, Armenia**

**Dear ASPS Members,**

After a five-year hiatus, it is my great honor as Secretary of this organization and Chairperson of the Convention Organizing Committee to announce ASPS' upcoming Tenth Biennial Convention. The convention will be held during the week of May 28-June 3, 2023 in Yerevan. Not only will this mark the ASPS' return to regular, in-person meetings, but this will also mark ASPS' return to Armenia after nearly twenty years—our second convention was also held in Yerevan in 2004. Our host in Yerevan will be the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University. I look forward to working

with the director of the Institute and of ASPSP's regional office in Armenia, Prof. Garnik Asatrian, as well as his team and everyone on the ASPSP board to make our first convention since our 2018 meeting in Tbilisi a huge success. Watch for the official call for papers (CFP) which will be coming at the end of May with abstract submissions due at the end of September 2022. In the meantime, I would like to remind everyone that you must be a member in good standing to submit a paper or panel proposal, so please make sure your membership has been renewed through 2022.

I hope to see everyone in Yerevan!  
امیدوارم همه را در ایروان ببینم

Rob Haug



VOLUME NO. 14.1-2

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**Mojtaba Doroodi and Farrokh Hajiani**, *Dakhma and Astōdān; Two Distinct Structures: A Comparative Analysis of Dakhma and Astōdān in Ancient Manuscripts and Relics Discovered in Fars Province*

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## CERF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF)

### 2022 CERF AWARDS

**Dr. M.S. Musoev**, Director, Department of Manuscript Heritage of the National Museum of Tajikistan, Dushanbe (\$1500) for the publication of a catalog of the collection of the manuscripts, lithograph books, and historical documents housed in the National Museum of Tajikistan.

**Ms. Bibisulton Navbahorova**, The Center of Written Heritage of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, Dushanbe (\$1500) for the publication of the book manuscript, *Divan of Mirzaiibad-i Shidzi*.

**Mr. Nabijon Rahimov**, Khujand State University, Khujand, Tajikistan (\$1500) for the publication of the book manuscript, *Archaeological Map of the Sughd Region of Tajikistan*.

### 2022 CERF Evaluation Committee

Jo-Ann Gross (CERF Director, The College of New Jersey)

Beatrice Manz (Tufts University)

Gabrielle van den Berg (Leiden University)

## Call for Applications

### Deadline January 15, 2023

CERF grants support original research leading to the publication of a book or monograph concerning Persianate culture by individual scholars from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Grants do not exceed US \$1500 and provide funding for the following: publication costs for a book or monograph, technical equipment necessary for specific research projects, such as computers, printers, scanners, voice recorders, or digital cameras; travel expenses for archival research that will directly result in an original book or monograph. The deadline for receipt of electronic submissions is January 15th of each year. Awards are announced on March 1st. The award period is for one year.

CERF does not support the publication of periodical articles. The publication of previously published works, including translations from English, will be considered only in exceptional circumstances when the applicant can demonstrate a critical need for such a work. Applications for projects based on original archival or field research and those leading to the publication of previously unpublished

manuscripts, lithographs, documentary sources or material culture are strongly encouraged.

### Eligibility

A minimum degree equivalent to a B.A. Grantees may only reapply for a CERF Grant after five years from the receipt of a previous CERF award.

### Selection

Awards are made once a year. An ASPS evaluation committee reviews applications. Every effort is made 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

CERF candidates must submit an electronic application in MS Word format by January 15th to the Director of the CERF program, Dr. Jo-Ann Gross, at [gross@tcnj.edu](mailto:gross@tcnj.edu) with the following required information:

#### A. Background Information

- Name and address, email address, fax number
- Place and date of birth
- Citizenship
- Institutional name and address
- Research field or discipline
- Highest degree obtained

#### B. Research Proposal

- Title of research project
- Description of project (1-2 typewritten pages). The description should include: Theme, Purpose, Methodology, Potential impact and importance of the publication, and Language of publication

#### C. Budget (including detailed account of specific expenses)

Please keep a copy of the application requirements for your records and check off each category prior to application submission. Incomplete applications will be invalidated.

### Award and Final Report

Grant recipients must submit a written report and two copies of any publication resulting from the award within two months of the award completion period. 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.

Final reports, including receipts of all expenses, must be remitted at the end of the project period in order for the CERF to meet its own internal accounting requirements that ensure the CERF's continued operation.

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICES

### News of the ASPS Armenia Office

#### Call for Papers

#### The Second International Conference “Anatolia–the Caucasus–Iran”

**Dedicated to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “Iran and the Caucasus”  
(Brill, Leiden-Boston)**

**Organized by:** Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian-Armenian University, Yerevan, in cooperation with Institute of Empirical Languages, Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main

**Conference Dates:** 21-23 June 2022

**Conference Venue:** Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian-Armenian University, 123 Hovsep Emin St., Yerevan 0051.

The region including Anatolia, the Caucasus, and Iran is distinguished by its ethnic, religious, and language diversity. Its specific contact zones have for centuries given birth to numerous syncretic cultural trends, heterodox religious drifts, and transformations of identities. Languages spoken

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by the inhabitants of this vast area belong to different families – Indo-European, Caucasian, Turkic; their continuous interactions have shaped various combinations of linguistic phenomena: substrate-superstrate-adstrate, Sprachbunds, etc.

The mentioned and related issues will be discussed in the respective sections on history, culture, language and literature, religion, social anthropology, and political developments.

### Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts not exceeding 400 words are to be submitted by March 31, 2022, to

[anatoliacaucasusiran2@gmail.com](mailto:anatoliacaucasusiran2@gmail.com). If your abstracts include non-Unicode symbols, please send them in both .doc and .pdf formats. The scheduled time for keynote speeches is 40 minutes. Each presentation will last 20 minutes, 10 minutes will be available for Q&A. The working language of the Conference is English.

### Important dates

March 31, 2022 — Deadline for abstracts.

April 15, 2022 — Notification of acceptance.

### Organising Committee

Garnik Asatrian (Yerevan), Jost Gippert (Frankfurt am Main/Hamburg), Victoria Arakelova (Yerevan), Vahe Boyajian (Yerevan), Annika Törne (Yerevan), Matthias Weinreich (Berlin), Gohar Hakobian (Yerevan), Amir Zeyghami (Yerevan)

### Conference Board

Uwe Bläsing (Leiden), Antonio Panaino (Ravenna), Mikhail Pelevin (St. Petersburg), Adriano Valerio Rossi (Rome/Naples), Pollet Samvelian (Paris), Martin Schwartz (Berkeley), James Russell (Harvard), Giusto Traina (Paris), Mahmoud Jaafari-Joneydi (Tehran), Peter Nicholas (Vienna), Behrooz Mahmoodi-Bakhtiari (Tehran)

### Participation fee

The participation fee is EUR 80, which includes refreshments, opening and closing banquets, and the cultural program of the conference.

You can find the Program and Abstract of the 1st Conference “Anatolia-the Caucasus-Iran” (10-12 May 2018; hosted by the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian-Armenian University,) here: [https://orient.rau.am/uploads/institute/pdf/files/Anatolia-the%20Caucasus-Iran%202018%20\(1\)4L6JLD8LWJpEkm216134189044V8EH89Ikt77Sjp1615047553.pdf](https://orient.rau.am/uploads/institute/pdf/files/Anatolia-the%20Caucasus-Iran%202018%20(1)4L6JLD8LWJpEkm216134189044V8EH89Ikt77Sjp1615047553.pdf)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Launch of the ASPS Virtual Event Series

ASPS launched its signature Virtual Event Series in November 2020, in view of the difficulties in planning an in-person conference in the near future due to the ongoing pandemic. The ASPS Virtual Event Series features a variety of online events such as lectures, conversations, book launches, and mini-conferences and is currently planned to continue throughout 2021. These events will allow ASPS members to remain intellectually engaged and have the opportunity to interact with colleagues through their participation. Three events have already been held, as listed below, and more are being organized. The Virtual Event Series team (Kazuo Morimoto, Jo-Ann Gross, and Gershon Lewental) welcomes proposals from the membership for events to be held as part of the series (contact Kazuo Morimoto at [morikazu@u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:morikazu@u-tokyo.ac.jp)).

#### Event VIII: “Post-War Persianate Historiography I”

**An Institute Not to Be: A Conversation with John E. Woods on the “Pahlavi Institute for Near Eastern Studies” at The University of Chicago 1966-1970.**

**February 9, 2022**

**Moderator:** Evrim Binbaş



In 1967, the Iranian Government agreed to support the foundation of a new institute for Near Eastern Studies at The University of Chicago. The initiative would bring a brand-new institute building, to be designed by a prominent architect in collaboration with an Iranian architect, and the creation of three new faculty positions, one of which would be fully funded by the Iranian Government. Towards the expenses of the project, the Iranian Government pledged 3 million dollars (approx. 25 million in today’s money) and fully transferred 2 million dollars before the decade was over.

The whole enterprise started with great fanfare, enshrined with Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi’s visit to the University of Chicago on June 14-15, 1968, and the allocated space was cleared of two buildings to make space for the new institute, which by then had been named “Shahanshah Aryamehr’s Center for Iran and Middle Eastern Studies.” But the project stalled, and it was eventually canceled in 1971. An embarrassed university administration had to return the already disbursed 2 million dollars, plus \$337,549.45 in interest, to the Government of Iran.

The whole project was the brainchild of William R. Polk, an ex-official in the Kennedy administration, who had been appointed to the post of Middle Eastern history in the History Department at the University of Chicago in 1965. An American aristocrat with connections to the Polk family of Tennessee, William Polk came up with the idea of attracting large amounts of

foreign money to invigorate the field of Middle Eastern studies at the university. He made the deals and established the connections, but eventually, he failed. He left the university as well as academia altogether soon after the Pahlavi Institute debacle.

The story of how the project began, how it proceeded, and why it failed, has never been told in any significant detail before. Especially the impact of the socialist student movements and protests against the Vietnam War in the late 60s on the decision to cancel the project has never been properly explored. Professor John E. Woods of the University of Chicago is one of few individuals who have firsthand knowledge of the events, and he also keeps an archival record of the meetings on the institute. Evrim Binbaş of the University of Bonn interviewed John Woods on how the idea of creating the Pahlavi institute of the University of Chicago was, how it was implemented, and why it failed. Professor Woods combines his unique personal experience with the available archival record in his discussion of the events in the late sixties and early seventies.

Watch the talk here:

<https://youtu.be/LRNG4sTrHCM>

**Event VII: “Perspectives on Studying Afghanistan”**

**October 28, 2021**

Public and political commentaries on the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban abound in popular media, including numerous editorials about the failure of US policy and a rehashing of the trope of Afghanistan as the “graveyard of empires.” Setting these approaches aside, four scholars will discuss their perspectives on the history and culture of Afghanistan through their research findings and experiences in Afghanistan, particularly in light of the current situation and the rapidly evolving and unknown futures of the people of Afghanistan.

**Speakers**

**Shivan Mahendrarajah**, Research Fellow at the

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Institute of Iranian Studies, School of History, University of St. Andrews

**Mejgan Massoumi**, Teaching Fellow, Civil Liberal and Global Education, Stanford University

**Jawan Shir Rasikh**, Visiting Research Associate with the Shafique N. Virani Research Team, University of Toronto

**Annika Schmeding**, Junior Fellow, Harvard School of Fellows

**Moderated by Jo-Ann Gross**, Professor Emerita of Middle Eastern and Central Asian History, The College of New Jersey

**Event VI: “Port Cities and the Persianate”**

**September 28, 2021**

**Event V: “Nationalism in the Iranian World”**

**April 20–June 10, 2021**

**Event IV:**

**“Exploring Contemporary Shi’ism in European and Mediterranean Contexts: A Glance at the Recent Evolutions of Shi’ism in the Region”**

**April 6, 2021**

**UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS**

**Between Chaos and Discipline: Iranian Comparative Literature**

A panel at the International Comparative Literature Association

**Organized by** Omid Azadibougar, Hunan Normal University and Laetitia Nanquette, University of New South Wales

**Date:** 24-29 July 2022

**Venue:** Tbilisi, Georgia

### Session 1: The Institution of Comparative Literature

**Laleh Atashi**, Shiraz University, “Children’s Literature and Comparative Literature: Hansel and Gretel in the House of Step-Parents”

**Mahsa Moosavi**, University of Western Ontario, “The Limitations of Studying Comparative Literature as an Independent Discipline in Iran”

### Session 2: Comparative Literature in the Periphery

**Amirhossein Vafa**, Shiraz University, “American Studies in Shiraz”

**Abolfazl Ahangari**, University of Hong Kong, “The Enigma of Method: On Comparatism in the Postcolonial History”

### Session 3: Translation and Transnation

**Christoph Werner**, University of Bamberg, “Cultural Translation in Reverse: The Case of German-Iranian Literature”

**Behnam Fomeshi**, Monash University, “Translation Studies and Comparative Literature in Collaboration”

### Session 4: Transnational Literary Studies

**Aria Fani**, University of Washington, “Literary Circulation and Poetic Genres”

**Goulia Ghardashkhani**, University of Bamberg, “Renegotiating the Contemporary Iranian/Persian Literary Landscape: Afghan-Iranian Prose Literature”

**Omid Azadibougar and Laetitia Nanquette**, Hunan Normal University and UNSW, “Conclusion: Disciplining the Chaos”

<https://icla2022-tbilisi.ge/post/227/en>

### PUBLICATIONS

**Jo-Ann Gross**, “Sayyid Muḥammad Iṣfahānī (Shāh Kāshān): The Construction of Biography and Genealogy in Badakhshan,” in *From the Khan’s Oven: Studies on the History of Central Asian Religions in Honor of Devin DeWeese*, ed. by Eren Tasar, Allen J. Frank and Jeff Eden (Brill, 2022), 148-180.

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\_\_\_\_\_, “The Shrinescapes and Narrative Traditions of Khoja Ishaq Khuttalani,” in *Saintly Spheres and Islamic Landscapes*, ed. Daphna Ephrat, Ethel Sara Wolper and Paulo Pinto (Brill, 2021), 149-182.

**Rudi Matthee**, “Epilogue,” in Elife Bicer and Philippe Bourmaud, eds., *Alcohol in the Maghreb and the Middle East since the Nineteenth Century: Disputes, Policies and Practices*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2022, pp. 209-24.

\_\_\_\_\_, “Introduction: Alcohol Production and Consumption in the Modern Middle East,” special issue on alcohol in Muslim societies, *Middle Eastern Studies* 58:2 (2022), pp. 245-55.

**Sunil Sharma**, “The Indian Woman in a Persianate World: Comparisons Across Mughal, Safavid and Ottoman Literary and Visual Cultures.” In R. Ahluwalia (Ed.), *Reflections on Mughal Art and Culture*. New Delhi, Niyogi K.R. Cama Institute of Oriental Studies, 2021, pp. 308-22.

**Reza Tabandeh**, *The Rise of the Ni’matullābī Order: Shi’ite Sufi Masters against Islamic Fundamentalism in 19th-Century Persia*, Leiden University Press, 2021. <https://scholarlypublications.universiteit leiden.nl/handle/1887/3205227>

## Editorial Notes

The **deadline** for the **next Newsletter** will be **August 20, 2022**.

**If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible.** Your continued support is now made easier with online membership renewal. Please visit: <http://www.persianatesocieties.org/index.php/membership> to access the online form and link to PayPal (which accepts multiple currencies). ASPS’ online form should reflect the address to where

you would like your issues of *JPS* to be sent and your preferred e-mail address for ASPS communications. Please note, the PayPal site requires your billing address. If you have paid, but have not received the latest volume of the *Journal of Persianate Studies*, please let us know.

Please send your news and all items of professional interest to **Mehdi Faraji** at:  
[newsletter@persianatesocieties.org](mailto:newsletter@persianatesocieties.org)