

2019-2021  
Biennial  
Report



**UCI** Jordan Center for  
Persian Studies



مرکز مطالعات ایران شناسی دکتر سمویل جردن



Vakil Mosque, Kerman, 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 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years. These are the fifth and sixth years that I have had the privilege to embark on important activities to study and understand the Iranian world. We had more than 30 events these past two years, 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 both in person and virtually. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to switch to virtual events starting March 2020 and the volume of our events had decreased. However, we continued to thrive, and we hope to continue our events once again in person in the near future. 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.



Professor Touraj Daryaee

## Staff

### [Touraj Daryaee](#)

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

### [Amanda Jeanne Swain](#)

Executive Director, Humanities Center

### [Saeid Jalalipour](#)

Program Manager,  
Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture

### UNDERGRADUATE STAFF

[Trisha Saberian](#), Special Events Assistant

[Michael Inbar](#), Website Developer

### 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

[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](#), Professor of Gender and Sexual Studies

[Soorosh Sorooshian](#), Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

[Roxanne Varzi](#), Professor of Anthropology

[Sholeh Wolpe](#), Lecturer in Comparative Literature

### Visiting Scholars and Artists

[Arya Moknat](#), Scholar-in-residence

[Mahmoud Omidsalar](#), Scholar-in-residence

[Noureddin Zarrinkelk](#), Artist-in-residence

[Jane Lewisohn](#), Scholar-in-residence

Graphic Designer: [Kourosh Beigpour](#)

Volunteer: [Ebrahim Safi](#), Photographer

# Campus-wide Collaborations

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**FRANCO-IRANIAN DAY AT UCI**

MONDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2020

3:00-4:30PM

HUMANITIES GATEWAY 1010

AN EVENT SPONSORED BY THE FRENCH EMBASSY, THE UCI PERSIAN CENTER, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN LANGUAGES & STUDIES

Join us for a talk by Franco-Iranian author Javad Djavahery sponsored by the French Embassy *Authors on Tour 2020*. Javad Djavahery currently resides in Paris after being forced to flee Iran and claim refuge in France. For many years he lived as a political refugee, waiting to return to his home country. Shifting between literature and film, he has produced many films and co-written numerous screenplays. A bilingual author, he has two short story collections in Persian. His first novel, written in French, was *Soupir de l'Ange*. His second novel, *Ma part d'elle*, was published in 2017 and translated into English as *"My Part of Her"*. Javad Djavahery will discuss his experience as a refugee in France, his path as a bilingual writer, and his latest novel, *Ma part d'elle*.

In French (with English translation)  
Talk will be followed by a Q & A

Coffee, refreshments,  
and snacks will be served!

CULTURAL SERVICES FRENCH EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES

UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies

UCI European Languages & Studies School of Humanities

Translated from the French by ENNA KHAMANEH

Javad Djavahery

**My Part of Her**

A NOVEL

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-sponsor the Franco-Iranian Day at UC Irvine with the author, Javad Djavahery, with UCI Department of European Languages and Studies and The French Embassy in the United States Authors on Tour 2020.

November 10, 2019

"Splinters of a Careless Alphabet"

A staged reading of a new play by Prof. Roxanne Varzi (UCI)

Co-Sponsored by UCI Illuminations

February 4, 2020

Asia Tea Week - Persian Teatime

A presentation by Dr. Touraj Daryaei (UCI)

Co-Sponsored by UCI Center for Asian Studies and UCI Humanities Center

March 2, 2020

Franco-Iranian Day at UC Irvine

A talk by author, Javad Djavahery

Co-Sponsored by UCI Department of European Languages and Studies and The French Embassy in the United States Authors on Tour 2020

February 12, 2021

Virtual Salon: Armenian Communities in the Middle East Today - Salon 2: SYRIA & IRAN

A panel discussion

Co-Sponsored by UCI Center for Armenian Studies

February 18, 2021

"A Little Globe's Extent: Microcosm and Macrocosm in Early Modern Persian and English Lyric Poetry"

A talk by Jane Mikkelsen, Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Virginia

Co-Sponsored by UCI Early Cultures and UCI New Swan Shakespeare

March 8-12, 2021

Asian Tea Week - Persian Teatime

A presentation by Dr. Touraj Daryaei (UCI)

Co-Sponsored by UCI Center for Asian Studies, UCI Illuminations and UCI Humanities Center

## Community Outreach



### Docunight Monthly Movie Screening of Iranian Documentaries at UC Irvine

Every first week of the month, Docunight screened 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 were presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture with generous support from Saman Foundation. Screenings follow a Q&A with Dr. Deanna Kashani (CSULB/ CUSSB) leading the discussions. Docunight events were free and open to the public. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the movie screenings stopped in March 2020.

### Dr. Nouredin Zarrinkelk's Art Workshops at UC Irvine

Fine arts workshops are offered to UCI students and members of the community by Dr. Nouredin Zarrinkelk, artist-in-residence of Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture. Nouredin 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. For more information, please contact: (negar.zarrinkelk@gmail.com).



### 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 Foundation'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. For more information, please contact the instructor: (maryamnaghshineh@yahoo.com).



## Graduate Student Spotlight



### Talin Abadiandogidargh

Talin Abadian (MA, Ph.D. student) holds a master's degree in Theatre Studies from the University of California, Northridge and has an MA from Tehran University of Arts in Drama. Her research centers around the performativity of public assembly and political protest, alternative forms of climate activism and performances of climate change, diasporic identity, and contemporary theatre practices in Iran. She is a member of the American Society for Theatre Research, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas and MENA (the Middle East and North Africa) focus group at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

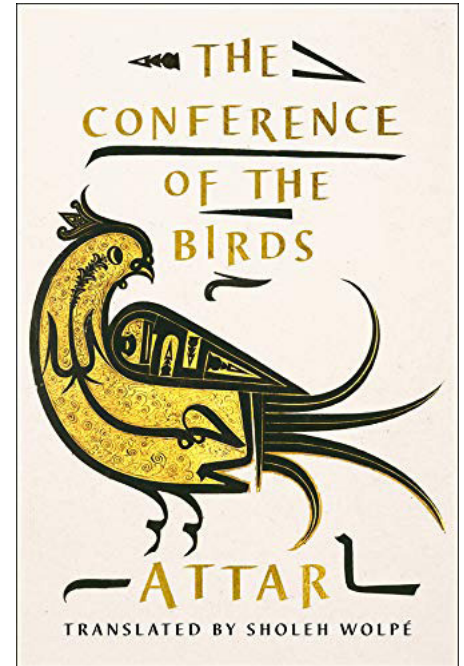
Talin is also a playwright and an avid translator, she has published on theatre in Iranian newspapers and journals. She has also published translations of plays, a playwriting textbook, and a collection of essays in Iran. She is currently co-host at the Irvine Playwright's Workshop (IPW), an open workshop for creative writing in Irvine.

Her publications in Iran include translations of "To be a Playwright" (ISBN: 978-600-5218-72-5) and "A Small Delegation" (ISBN: 978-964-243-065-9) (both by Janet Neipris) and two contributions to Documentary Theater. A Collection of Essays. She has worked as the Management Fellow and Writer's Workshop Assistant at the Centre Theatre Group and the 2016 recipient of CSUN Arts Council Scholarship and has been appointed distinguished student during her studies in Tehran.

During her years in Iran, Talin has worked in the administration of the University of Applied Sciences and Technologies and has been a member of the board of Higher Educational Interdisciplinary Programs where she contributed to the design and implementation of new study courses.

Talin is currently a Member of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. She is also a freelance translator and works on translating subtitles for documentaries in Farsi. Her future projects in translation include translation of contemporary Farsi and Armenian plays into English.

## FacultySpotlight



### Sholeh Wolpe

We are happy to announce that Sholeh Wolpe has joined UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture as the Writer-in-Residence, and lecturer in the Department of Comparative Literature at UC Irvine, teaching Translation Studies.

Sholeh Wolpe is an Iranian-born poet, playwright, and literary translator. Her performances, solo or in collaboration with musicians and artists, have been hailed by audiences as mesmerizing. Named a “2020-2021 Cultural Trailblazer” and is the recipient of a 2014 PEN Heim, 2013 Midwest Book Award and 2010 Lois Roth Persian Translation prize. Her plays have been finalists and semifinalists at Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Eugene O’Neill National Playwrights Conference, Centenary Stage Women Playwrights, Ojai Playwrights Festival, and Ashland New Plays Festival. Her play LET ME IN is among Theaterfolks’ top ten plays requested by schools.

Sholeh’s literary work includes five collections of poetry, several plays, three books of translations, and three anthologies. Her most recent publications include *The Conference of the Birds* (W.W. Norton & Co), *Cómo escribir una canción de amor* (Olifante Ediciones de Poesía, Spain),

and *Keeping Time with Blue Hyacinths* (University of Arkansas Press.) Her new collection of poems, *Abacus of Loss*, is forthcoming from the University of Arkansas Press in March 2022.

Sholeh has performed her literary work with world-renowned musicians at Quincy Jones Presents series on The Broad Stage, Skirball Cultural Center Series, Los Angeles Aloud, The Broad Museum, LA County Museum of Art Ahmanson stage, Singapore Literature Festival, UNSW School of Arts and Media theater, and other venues. Her new oratorio with composer Fahad Siadat and choreographer Andre Megerdichian, *The Conference of the Birds*, will premiere in Los Angeles in 2022. We then hope to have this performance at UC Irvine.

Sholeh travels internationally as a performing poet, writer, and public speaker. She has also taught at UCLA— where she was the inaugural Writer-in-Residence in 2018— as well as University of Maine’s Stonecoast MFA program in the United States. She has lived in Iran, Trinidad, and the UK, and presently lives in Los Angeles with her husband, sociologist Edward Telles.

Sholeh Wolpe’s presence on campus will significantly add to the field of Contemporary Iranian Studies, as well as in the field of Comparative Literature, Translation Studies and theater at UC Irvine.

## Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Symposium on Persian Language and Literature

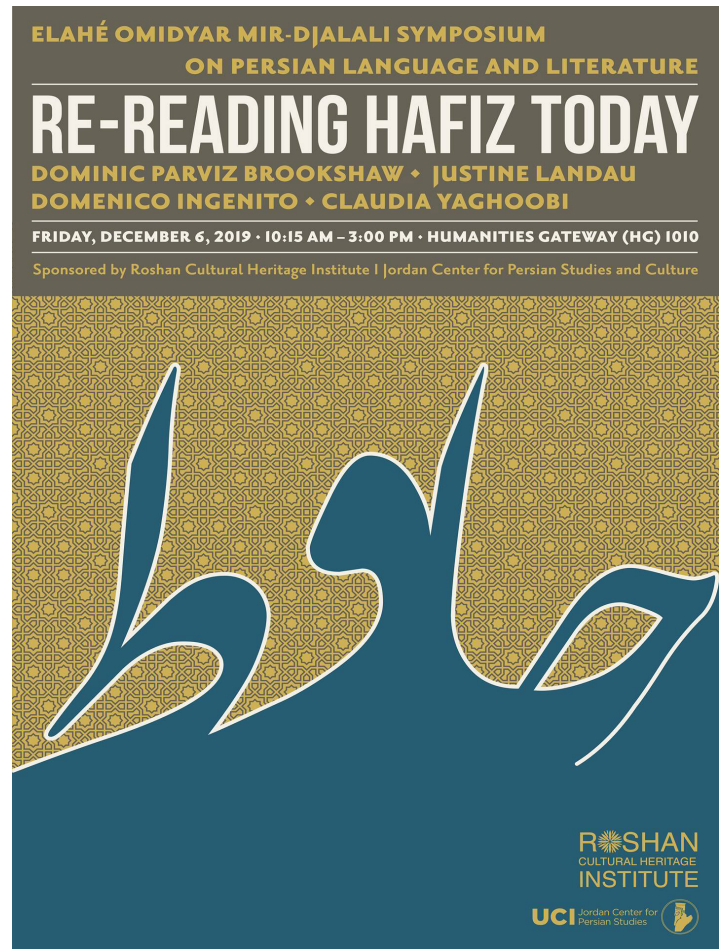


With the support of Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, held the third

Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Symposium on Persian Language and Literature at UC Irvine's School of Humanities on Friday, December 6, 2019.

The conference was titled "Re-Reading Hafiz Today", which brought professors of Persian from Europe and around 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. Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali and Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute for their continuous support of the Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.



Dominic P. Brookshaw



Justine Landau



Domenico Ingenito



Claudia Yaghoobi

### Schedule of the Conference:

Director's Welcome, Dr. Touraj Daryaee, Maseeh Chair and Director of Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture

Keynote Speaker: Dominic Parviz Brookshaw (University of Oxford), "Hafiz and the Poetic Landscape of Fourteenth-Century Shiraz"

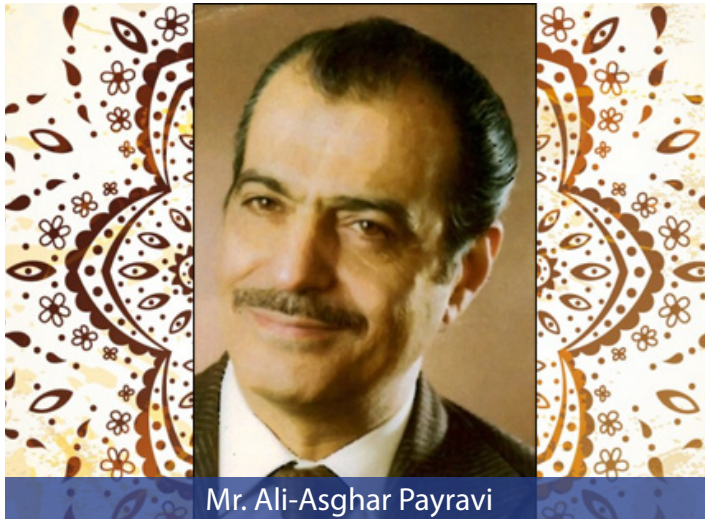
Justine Landau (Harvard University), "Talmih: The Lyric Power of Invocation"

Domenico Ingenito (University of California, Los Angeles), "The Divan of Hafez as a Diachronic Map: The Geopolitical Dimension of the Persian Ghazal between the 13th and the 14th Centuries"

Claudia Yaghoobi (Roshan Institute Assistant Professor in Persian Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hills), "Zulaikha's Displaced Desire in Jami's Yusuf and Zulaikha"



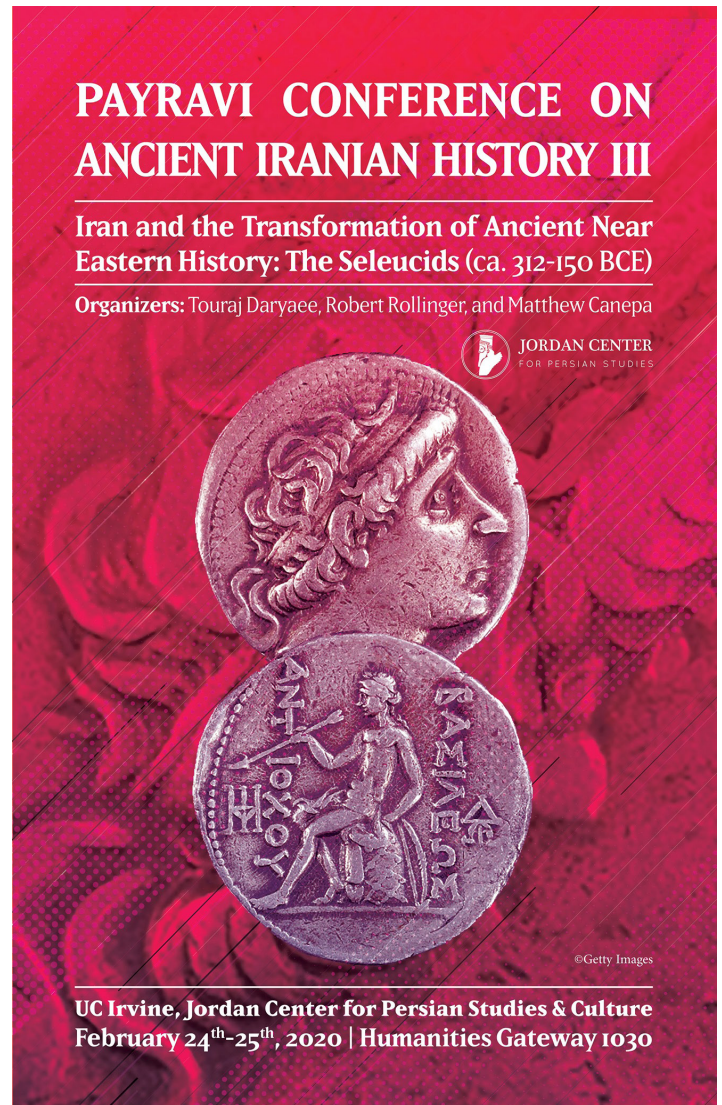
## Payravi Conference on Ancient Iranian History III



Mr. Ali-Asghar Payravi

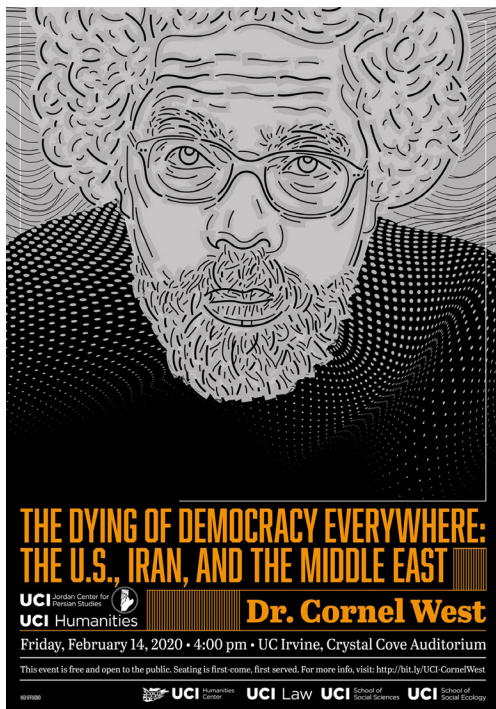
UC Irvine's Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture is proud to hold the third annual Payravi Conference on Ancient Iranian History in memory of the late Mr. Ali-Asghar Payravi. Mr. Payravi was an enthusiast and lover of ancient Iranian history who collected and read many books on ancient Iran. We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

This year's two-day conference was held at UC Irvine's School of Humanities on February 24-25, 2020 and it focused on the Seleucids and Iran and the Transformation of Ancient Near Eastern History. This conference was organized by Dr. Touraj Daryaee (UC Irvine), Dr. Matthew Canepa and Dr. Robert Rollinger (University of Innsbruck/Getty Institute).



Mr. Bijan Farhad & Mrs. Parichehr Payravi along with the conference speakers

## A Talk by Dr. Cornel West at UC Irvine



Cornel West (Center), Touraj Daryae (Right), Tyrus Miller (Left)

UC Irvine's Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture held a talk titled "The Dying of Democracy Everywhere: The U.S., Iran, and the Middle East" by Dr. Cornel West on February 14, 2020 in UC Irvine's Crystal Cove Auditorium. A Q&A followed the talk with Dr. Cornel West in conversation with the Director of UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, Dr. Touraj Daryae and the Dean of UCI School of Humanities, Dr. Tyrus Miller. This event was presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture in collaboration with UCI School of Humanities, UCI Humanities Center, UCI School of Law, UCI School of Social Sciences and UCI School of Social Ecology.



# Farhang Foundation 2019 Celebration of Iranian Cinema

**FARHANG FOUNDATION**  
Celebration of  
**IRANIAN CINEMA**  
at **UCI**  
Co-Presented by  
**UCLA** Film & Television Archive

**SAT 9/7 - 4PM**  
*Hendi & Hormoz*

**SAT 9/7 - 7PM**  
*Sheeple*

**SUN 9/8 - 4PM**  
*Before Summer Ends*

**SUN 9/8 - 7PM**  
*Tehran, City of Love*

Crystal Cove Auditorium

**JORDAN CENTER**  
FOR PERSIAN STUDIES

## 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, Saturday-Sunday, September 7-8, 2019.

The 4th annual Iranian film festival featured four films shown over two days at UC Irvine's Crystal Cove Auditorium and was attended by UCI community and members of the public.

*Hendi & Hormoz*, directed by Abbas Amini

*Sheeple*, directed by Hooman Seyedi

*Before Summer Ends*, directed by Maryam Goormaghtigh

*Tehran: City of Love*, directed by Ali Jaberansari



# Farhang Foundation 2019 Mehregan UCI Conference



Sayeh Eghtesadniya (Right), Naghmeh Samini (Left)

## Mehregan Conference and Celebration at UC Irvine, School of humanities

Organized by Farhang Foundation and UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, Sunday, October 6, 2019.

UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture and Farhang Foundation proudly presented the 5th Annual Mehregan (Persian Festival of Autumn) Conference. This year's conference was titled "Myth in Contemporary Persian Dramatic Literature & Poetry" and featured talks by Dr. Naghmeh Samini titled "Hidden and Evident Myths in Iran's Dramatic Literature" and Ms. Sayeh Eghtesadniya titled "Myths and Mythology in Contemporary Persian Poetry". This event also featured a special musical performance by Shayandokht Abedinimanesh, Dara Afraz, and Maryam Fouladi. A reception followed afterwards.



Shayandokht Abedinimanesh (Center), Maryam Fouladi (Right), and Dara Afraz (Left)

# Farhang Foundation Focus Iran 3 Art Exhibition



## Focus Iran 3 Art Exhibition at UC Irvine Viewpoint Gallery

An event organized by Farhang Foundation in Collaboration with Craft & Folk Art Museum and UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, October 5 - November 6, 2019.

Farhang Foundation in collaboration with the Craft & Folk Art Museum and UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, presented FOCUS IRAN 3: 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.

The opening reception was on Saturday, October 6, 2019. The exhibition attracted members from the community and UCI. It was well attended up until its closing day, November 6, 2019. This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of presenting sponsors, the Gramian-Emrani Family Foundation, Nushin & Farhad Mohit, Ali Razi, and Advocartsy.

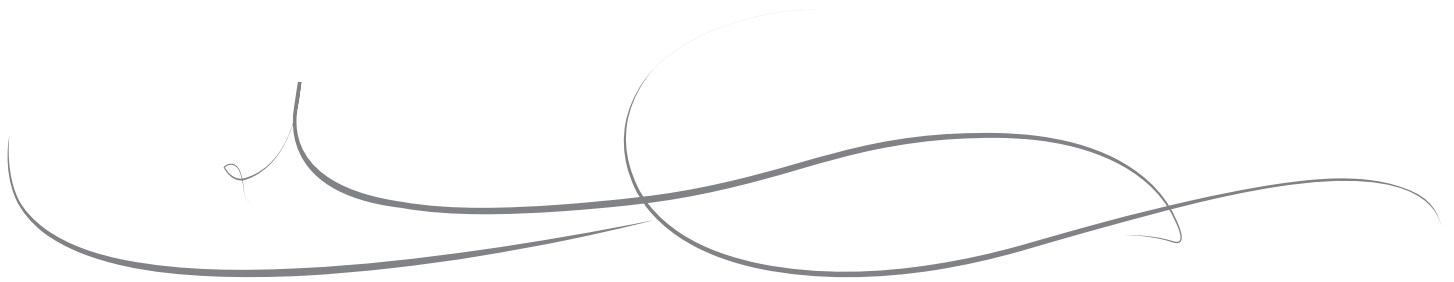


## Screening of Iranian Documentary Movies “Docunight”



Every first week of the month, Docunight screened a documentary about or around Iran, and or made by Iranian filmmakers. Docunight screenings took place across several cities in North America. Docunight screenings in Irvine were presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture with generous support from Saman Foundation.

Screenings followed a Q&A with Dr. Deanna Kashani (CSU Long Beach/CSU San Bernardino) leading the discussions. Docunight events were free and open to the public. All films had English subtitles. Due to Covid-19 Pandemic, the movie screenings were halted in March 2020. We hope to continue these screenings again sometime soon.



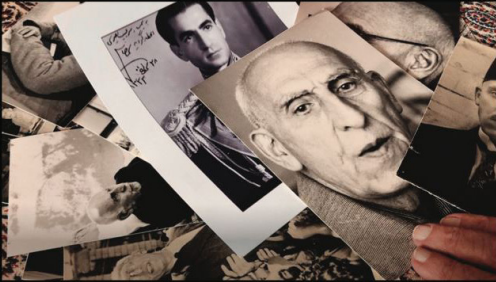
SAMAN FOUNDATION

## Online Screening of "COUP 53" by Taghi Amirani

The online screening of the documentary movie titled "COUP 53" directed by Taghi Amirani plus a Q&A with Ralph Fiennes, Walter Murch and the Director on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

While making a documentary about the CIA/MI6 coup in Iran in 1953, Iranian director Taghi Amirani and editor Walter Murch (Apocalypse Now, The Conversation, The English Patient) discover never seen before archive material hidden for decades. The 16mm footage and documents not only allow the filmmakers to tell the story of the overthrow of the Iranian government in unprecedented detail, but it also leads to explosive revelations about dark secrets buried for 67 years. Working with Ralph Fiennes (The Grand Budapest Hotel, Schindler's List, The English Patient) to help bring the lost material to life, what began as a historical documentary about four days in August 1953 turned into a live investigation, taking the filmmakers into uncharted cinematic waters. The roots of Iran's volatile relationship with America and Britain has never been so forensically and dramatically exposed.

This event was presented by Coup 53 in collaboration with UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.



"HAS THE AIR OF SOMETHING THAT GREW FROM AN IMPUDENT HOME MOVIE INTO A MAGNUM OPUS"  
TODD MCCARTHY - THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL  
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2019

BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL  
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2019

MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL  
2019

Telluride Film Festival  
2019

VIFF  
Official Selection  
2019

Gothenburg Film Festival  
2019

PALM SPRINGS  
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2020

# COUP 53

OLD SECRETS CAST LONG SHADOWS

"A MASTERPIECE OF POLITICAL INTERVENTION"  
"BEYOND EXTRAORDINARY"  
ARIEL DORFMAN

"A CHILLING EXPOSE"  
MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL

"SPINE-TINGLING REVELATIONS"  
VARIETY

"REMARKABLE"  
"PASSIONATE AND FEARLESS"  
HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"THIS IS MATERIAL WORTHY OF JOHN LE CARRÉ"  
"LIFTING THE LID OFF LIES AND HYPOCRISY"  
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

AMIRANI MEDIA PRESENTS COUP 53 MUSIC: ROBERT MILLER ANIMATION: MARTYN PICK ARCHIVE PRODUCER: PAUL GARDNER  
CINEMATOGRAPHY: CHRIS MORPHET CLAUDIA RASCHKE TAGHI AMIRANI EDITOR: WALTER MURCH A.C.E.  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EVELYN FRANKS ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS: FATEME AHMADI ALI AMIRANI IMMY HUMES POST PRODUCTIONS SUPERVISOR: GISELA EVERT  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: GERRY OHRSTROM NEDA NOBARI JON WILCOX CO-PRODUCERS: AMIR AMIRANI AHMAD KIAROSTAMI  
PRODUCER: PAUL ZAENTZ WRITER: TAGHI AMIRANI WALTER MURCH PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY TAGHI AMIRANI

"HAS THE AIR OF SOMETHING THAT GREW FROM AN IMPUDENT HOME MOVIE INTO A MAGNUM OPUS"  
Todd McCarthy - The Hollywood Reporter

BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL  
GRIERSON AWARD 2019  
NOMINEE

BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL  
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2019

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL  
2019

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
Telluride Film Festival  
2019

VIFF  
Official Selection  
2019

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
Gothenburg Film Festival  
2019

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2020  
PALM SPRINGS  
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

# COUP 53

OLD SECRETS CAST LONG SHADOWS

## Online Screening of "NASRIN" by Jeff Kaufman



The online screening of the documentary movie titled "NASRIN" directed by Jeff Kaufman and Live Q&A with the film-making team on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

NASRIN is an immersive portrait of attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh, one of the world's most prominent human rights activists and political prisoners. Nasrin has long fought for the rights of women, children, LGBT prisoners, religious and ethnic minorities, journalists, and artists, and those facing the death penalty. She was arrested in June 2018 for representing women who were protesting Iran's mandatory hijab law, and she was sentenced to 38 years in prison, plus 148 lashes (12 years of which she must serve). From prison, she has continued to challenge the authorities. An Amnesty International petition calling for her release received over a million signatures from 200 countries. She has received several international human rights awards, the latest being The Right Livelihood Award, known as the "Alternative Nobel Prize," which has been honoring courageous changemakers for the past forty years. Written and directed by Jeff Kaufman, produced by Marcia Ross, and secretly filmed in Iran by women and men who risked arrest to make it, the film also tells the story of Iran's remarkably resilient women's rights movement.

This event was presented by the NASRIN film-making team in collaboration with UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture.





## In Memoriam: Ostad Mohammad Reza Shajarian

**In Memoriam Ostād Mohammad Reza Shajarian**  
Sunday, October 18, 2020 | 5-7pm EST | 2-5pm PST | UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies  
<https://umd.zoom.us/j/98651931390> | Zoom Meeting ID: 98651931390 | ROSHAN INSTITUTE FOR PERSIAN STUDIES  
Guest of Honor: **Hossein Omoumi** یادبود استاد محمد رضا شجریان  
Hossein Keshavarz | Ahmad Borhani  
Behrad Tavakoli | Kourosh Taghavi | Jessica Kenney | Eyvind Kang | Naser Sheikhzadegan | Hesar Abedini  
Sponsored by Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, UMD and Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies, UCI



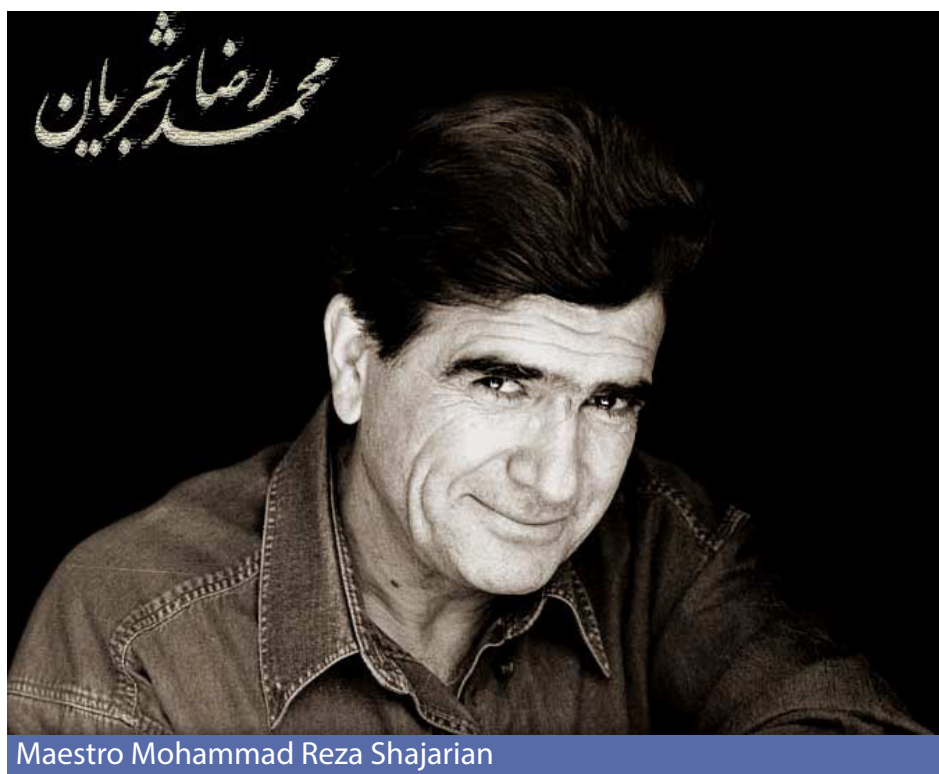
A virtual ceremony was held in memory of Maestro Mohammad Reza Shajarian on Sunday, October 18, 2020 via Zoom.

Mohammad-Reza Shajarian was an Iranian singer and master of Persian traditional music. He was also known for his skills in Persian calligraphy and humanitarian activities. Shajarian started his singing career in 1959 at Radio Khorasan, rising to prominence in the 1960s with his distinct style of singing.

Guest of honor was Dr. Hossein Omoumi (UC Irvine) along with other guests such as Hossein Keshavarz, Ahmad Borhani, Behrad Tavakoli, Kourosh Taghavi, Jessica Kenney, Eyvind Kang, Naser Sheikhzadegan, and Hesar Abedini.

This event was free and open to the public. No registration was required.

This event was sponsored by Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, University of Maryland, and UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.



Maestro Mohammad Reza Shajarian

## La Belle et La Bete - A Musical Performance by Sussan Deyhim



### Sussan Deyhim's Musical Performance Thursday, January 16, 2020 Irvine Barclay Theatre

Renowned for creating a hauntingly beautiful vocal language, Sussan Deyhim is a composer and multi-faceted vocalist from Iran, who has collaborated with legendary artists, including Peter Gabriel, Branford Marsalis and U2. While she is known internationally for her cutting-edge, experimental vocal works, this special night will feature songs from La Belle et La Bête, her most recent recording project. Accompanied by a stellar jazz trio, including Mitchel Forman Trio, John Leftwich, Steve Hass, and special guest Mehdi Bagheri, she sings a program of classic love tunes, popular songs from 1950s and 1960s Iran, as well as her own original compositions. This event was presented by Irvine Barclay Theatre in collaboration with UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

La Belle et La Bete

Sussan Deyhim: Vocals

Mitch Forman : Piano (Mahavishnu Orchestra)

John Leftwich: Upright and Electric Bass (Chet Baker)

Steve Hass: Drums and Percussion

Mehdi Bagheri: Kamanche and Setar



# UCI Jordan Center's 2019 Yalda Night Celebration

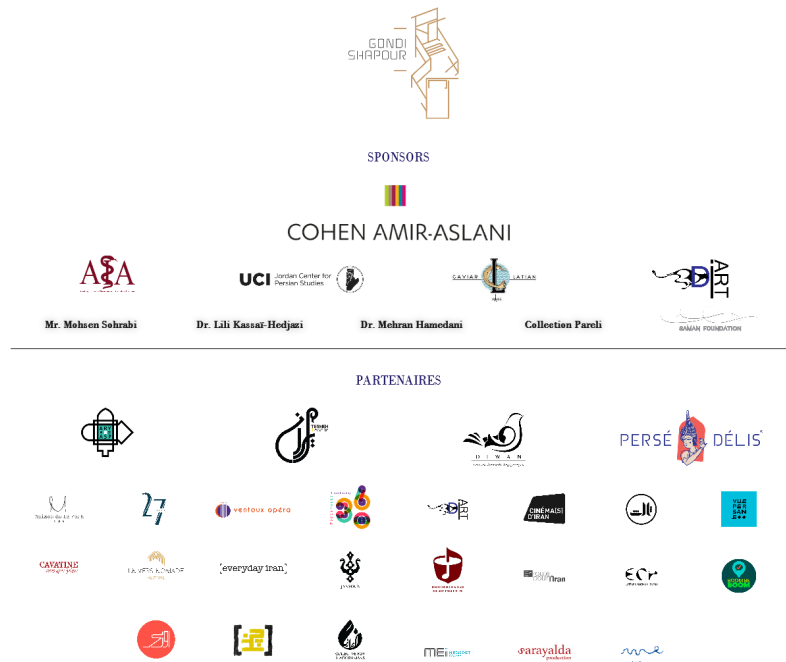
On Thursday, December 19, 2019, UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture in collaboration with Konj Art Lounge and Maison De La Fork held a Yalda night Celebration (Winter Solstice) for a night of Live Music, Hafez reading, Calligraphy and Special Yalda inspired cuisine.

Musical Performance by Armita Salimi and Runak Le  
Hafez reading by Dr. Arya Moknat  
Calligraphy by Dr. Nouredin Zarrinkelk  
Yalda Cuisine by Maison De La Fork

Dinner and a reception followed.



# Virtual 2021 Nowrooz Spring Festival



Nowrooz – which means ‘new daylight’ in Persian – is the New Year festival of many countries across Central Asia and the Middle East. In 2021, we celebrate the year 1400 of the Persian calendar. In order to celebrate this new century and contrast with the sanitary crisis which has been hindering our social life for a year, we wish to inaugurate a new festival. Nowrooz is a festival of joy, revival, creation, love, and togetherness. The joyful awakening of nature after the Winter months is widely celebrated by paying respect to family, friends, and neighbors, visiting one another, and spending time outdoors. We wish to make this Nowrooz edition the starting point of a new dialogue between cultures. For more information, visit: ([www.nowrooz.online](http://www.nowrooz.online)). This virtual festival (March 21, 2021-April 2, 2021) was co-sponsored by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies.



# Virtual 2021 Nowrooz Spring Festival

Loris Tjeknavorian

MUSIC  
MUSIQUE  
موسیقی



Composer and Conductor  
Compositeur et Chef d'orchestre  
آهنگساز و رهبر ارکستر

Keyhan Kalhor

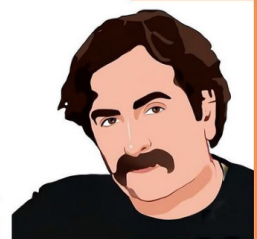
MUSIC  
MUSIQUE  
موسیقی



Composer and kamanche player  
Compositeur et joueur de kamanche  
آهنگساز و نوازنده کامانچه

Shahram Nazeri

MUSIC  
MUSIQUE  
موسیقی



Singer  
Chanteur  
خواننده

Christophe Rezai

MUSIC  
MUSIQUE  
موسیقی



Composer  
Compositeur  
آهنگساز

Leili Anvar

MEETING  
RENCONTRE  
دید و بازدید



Translator and expert in mystical literature  
Traductrice et spécialiste de littérature mystique  
ادیب، مترجم و متخصص ادبیات عرفانی

Ali Azimi

CONCERT  
کنسرت



Singer  
Chanteur  
خواننده

Paris Rezaie  
(Maison De La Fork)

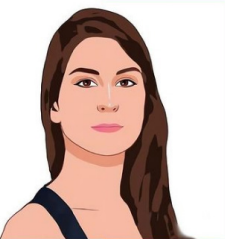
GASTRONOMY  
GASTRONOMIE  
فرهنگ غذایی



Pastry chef  
Chef pâtissier  
سرآشپز شیرینی پزی

Anousha Nazari

MUSIC  
MUSIQUE  
موسیقی



Lyrical singer  
Chanteuse lyrique  
خواننده

Niloufar Shiri

CONCERT  
کنسرت



Kamancheh player  
Joueuse de Kamanche  
نوازنده کامانچه

Touraj Daryae

LECTURE  
CONFÉRENCE  
کنفرانس



Historian  
Historien  
تاریخ‌نگار

Jeyran Ghiaee

MUSIC  
MUSIQUE  
موسیقی



Pianist  
Pianiste  
پیانست

Jessika Kenney

CONCERT  
کنسرت



Singer, Composer  
Chanteuse, Compositrice  
خواننده، آهنگساز

## Massiah Foundation Gift for UCI Chair in Zoroastrian Studies



Dr. Fariborz Maseeh



The University of California, Irvine has received a \$1.5 million challenge commitment from the Massiah Foundation to establish the Ferdowsi Presidential Chair in Zoroastrian Studies – the first of its kind in the United States. Additionally, the University of California will support the chair with up to \$500,000.

The Massiah Foundation was founded by Fariborz Maseeh, Ph.D., an Iranian American businessman and pioneer in the field of microelectromechanical systems who lives in Newport Beach. Maseeh has a history of making philanthropic investments in education, the arts and health-related causes through the organization. In 2005, the Massiah Foundation funded the creation of UCI's Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture, the first independent, interdisciplinary center focused on Iran within the UC system. The new Ferdowsi Presidential Chair in Zoroastrian Studies will be affiliated with the Jordan Center. "We are incredibly grateful to Dr. Maseeh for establishing this new chair to expand research into Zoroastrian studies," said UCI history professor Touraj Daryaee, the Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies and Culture and director of the Jordan Center. "The chair will enhance the already rich global historical and cultural study that takes place in the center, further raising its distinction not just at UCI but throughout the world."

The new chair is named in honor of Ferdowsi, the 10th-century Persian poet who is often credited with saving the Persian language by writing *Shahnameh* (Book of Kings), the national epic of Greater Iran. Maseeh hopes the chair will challenge and inspire the diasporic Parsi community – the ethnoreligious group of followers of Zoroastrianism who immigrated to the Indian subcontinent during and after the Muslim conquest of Persia – to help him revive an ancient Persian philosophy. "By broadening UCI's Persian studies program to include Zoroastrianism, we encourage young people to enrich their multicultural awareness – an essential component of working and living in a modern, multiethnic society," Maseeh said.

The Jordan Center is both UCI's dedicated hub for Persian studies and a global destination for Persian scholars. Since its inception, the center has hosted international conferences on the Iranian world and created clusters uniting researchers from a multitude of disciplines across campus. UCI students can minor in Persian studies and take courses about ancient and modern Iran; graduate students can pursue a specialization in ancient Iran and the premodern Persianate world. The Ferdowsi Chair will be UCI's fifth endowed chair in Persian studies – more than any other university in the United States.

The holder of the chair – which will be supported by the Department of Classics and the Program in Religious Studies – will be a recognized expert in Zoroastrianism, one of the world's oldest continuously practiced religions.

## Roshan Endowment for Doctoral Fellowships in Iranian Studies



Dr. Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali

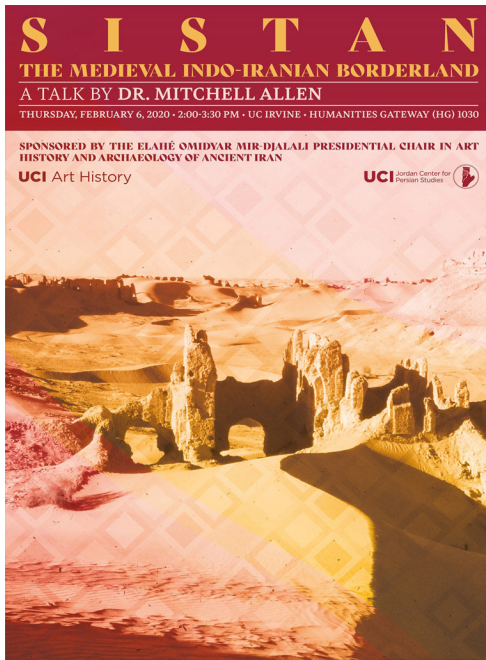


The University of California, Irvine has received a \$1,565,000 grant from Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, with \$1.5 million establishing an endowment for doctoral students pursuing Iranian studies at UCI. The remaining \$65,000 of the grant will immediately fund graduate student fellowships. Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute has supported several Iranian-focused initiatives at UCI, and this new grant – which comes from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Fund, a donor-advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation – marks its second campus endowment. The \$2 million Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Presidential Chair in Art History & Archaeology of Ancient Iran, currently held by Matthew Canepa, a professor in UCI's Department of Art History, was created in 2017.

"We are deeply grateful to Dr. Mir-Djalali and Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute for their support of UCI's graduate students," said Tyrus Miller, dean of the School of Humanities. "Because of them, UCI is poised to recruit the best and brightest graduate students from around the world who seek scholarly opportunities in Iranian studies. With the support of Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, UCI has become the leading destination for the study of both ancient and modern Iran." Administered by the holder of the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Presidential Chair and the dean of humanities, the new endowment will annually award one or two fellowships as part of a competitive five-year funding package guaranteed to Ph.D. students upon admission. It establishes two doctoral fellowships – the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Graduate Fellowship in Ancient Iranian Studies and the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Graduate Fellowship in the Study of the Persian/Iranian World – for students pursuing a Ph.D. concentration in Iranian studies. "The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Graduate Fellowships will be transformative both for UCI – which will attract top doctoral students as a result – and for the field of Iranian studies more generally," said Canepa, who directs the graduate specialization. "By graduating with a disciplinary Ph.D. as well as credentials in Iranian studies, doctoral students will be ideally equipped to compete for the widest possible range of positions at the widest possible range of institutions and programs."

Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali, Ph.D., is the founder, chair and president of Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, a private foundation that supports cultural and educational activities and helps nurture a new generation of educators to preserve the transmission and instruction of Persian language and culture. "UCI's vision for the study of Persian civilization, from antiquity to today, is inspiring, and we are honored to establish this new endowment that will support this vision. I, personally, am proud for the opportunity to advance the knowledge and appreciation of Persian culture through these new doctoral fellowships and am inspired for the positive impact they will have on generations of students and scholars at UCI and beyond for years," Mir-Djalali said.

## Selected Lectures and Talks



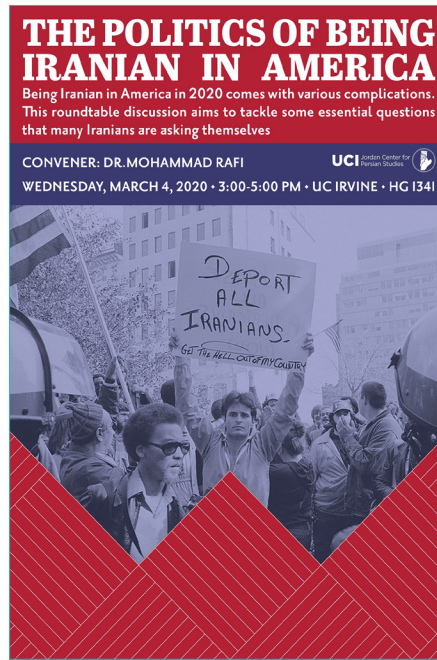
### "Sistan: The Medieval Indo-Iranian Borderland" A Talk by Dr. Mitchell Allen

Thursday, February 6, 2020, UC Irvine, School of Humanities

Dr. Mitchell Allen gave a talk about the history of the province of Sistan in Southeast Iran and its interactions with its neighbor India throughout the ages.

This event is presented by UCI Art History in collaboration with UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture and is sponsored by The Elahe Omidyar Mir-Djalali Presidential Chair in Art History and Archaeology of Ancient Iran.

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



### The Politics of Being Iranian in America - A Roundtable Discussion

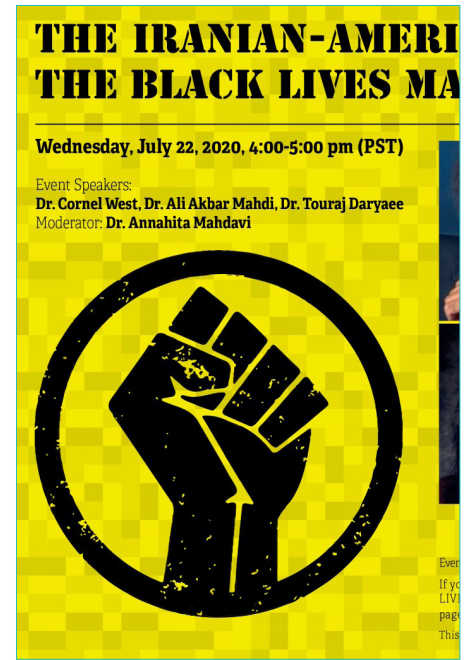
Wednesday, March 4, 2020, UC Irvine, School of Humanities

A Round-table discussion on being Iranian in America.

Participants: Kevan Harris (UCLA), Sarah Khanghahi (UCLA), Assal Rad (NIAC), Catherine Sameh (UCI), Arya Moknat (UCI), Mohammad Rafi (Convener)

This event was presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture.

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



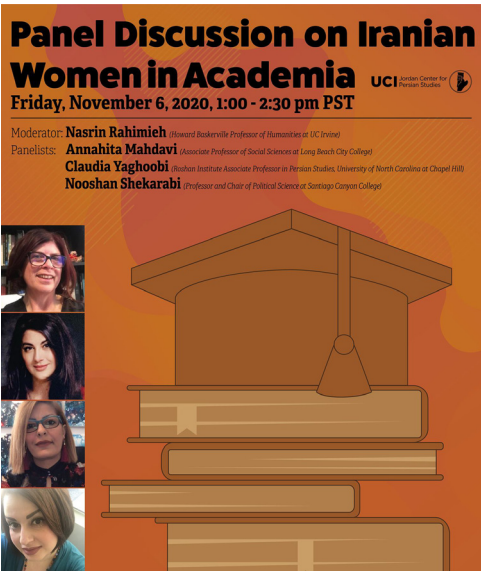
### The Iranian-American Diaspora and The Black Lives Matter Movement

Wednesday, July 22, 2020, Zoom

A virtual webinar titled "The Iranian-American Diaspora and The Black Lives Matter Movement" to review the historical, political, and cultural dynamics of the race and brutalities against the Black people in American society, the impact of these dynamics on the Iranian-American diaspora society and the role of diaspora as an ally. Speakers: Dr. Cornel West, Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy at Harvard University; Dr. Ali Akbar Mahdi, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Ohio Wesleyan University; Dr. Touraj Daryaei, Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies and Professor of History at University of California, Irvine. Moderated by Dr. Annahita Mahdavi, Associate Professor, Social Sciences Dept., Long Beach City College.



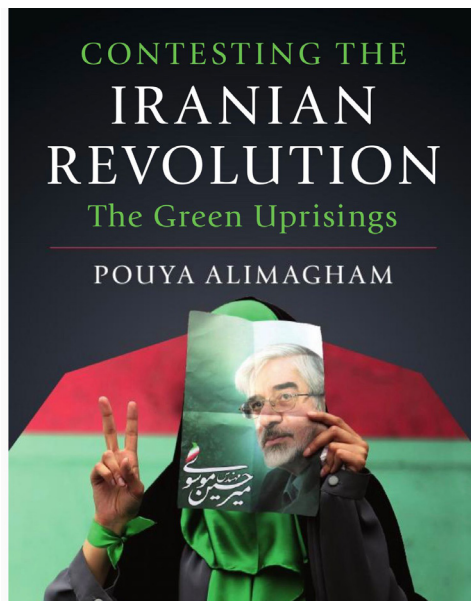
## Selected Lectures & Talks



### Panel Discussion on Iranian Women in Academia

Friday, November 6, 2020, Zoom

An informal virtual discussion moderated by Nasrin Rahimieh (Howard Baskerville Professor of Humanities at UC Irvine), with Annahita Mahdavi (Associate Professor of Social Sciences at Long Beach City College), Claudia Yaghoobi (Roshan Institute Associate Professor in Persian Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and Nooshan Shekarabi (Professor and Chair of Political Science at Santiago Canyon College), to speak about their experiences as Iranian women academics and offer insights into challenges and opportunities they have encountered in the course of their academic careers.



### “Contesting the Iranian Revolution: The Green Uprisings” A Book talk by Dr. Pouya Alimagham (MIT)

Friday, November 20, 2020, Zoom

Pouya Alimagham is a historian of the modern Middle East. He specializes on Iran, Iraq, and the Levant, focusing on such themes as revolutionary and guerrilla movements, imperialism, representation, and Orientalism, “Political Islam” and post-Islamism, and the intersections therein. Most observers of Iran viewed the Green Uprisings of 2009 as a ‘failed revolution’, with many Iranians and those in neighboring Arab countries agreeing. In *Contesting the Iranian Revolution*, however, Pouya Alimagham re-examines this evaluation, deconstructing the conventional win-lose binary interpretations in a way which underscores the subtle but important victories on the ground, and reveals how Iran’s modern history imbues those triumphs with consequential meaning.



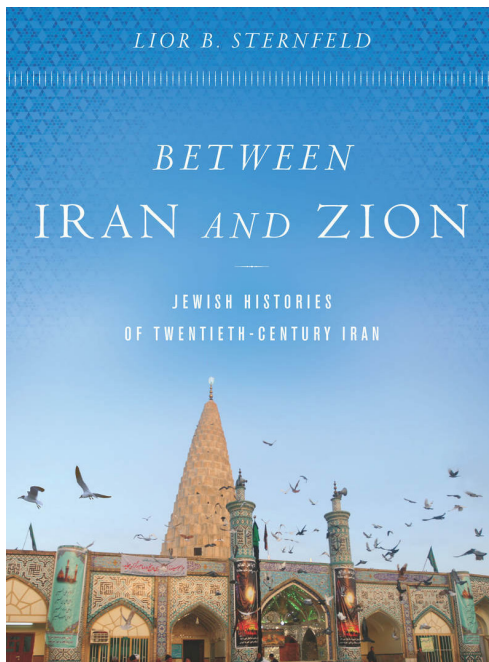
### “BELIEVERS: Love and Death in Tehran” A Book talk by Ambassador Marc Grossman and Ambassador John Limbert

Monday, November 23, 2020, Zoom

Ambassador John Limbert and Ambassador Marc Grossman have written an exceptionally intelligent novel embedded deep in the reality of Iran and the dangerous art of spying in a hostile land. Foreign Service Officer, Nilufar Hartman, arrives in 1979 Tehran at what initially appears to be the exactly wrong place at the wrong time as Muslim students storm the US embassy. For her it turns out to be exactly the right place. Nilufar’s story is suspenseful, romantic, and vitally important. This book never lets up.

This event was presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

## Selected Lectures

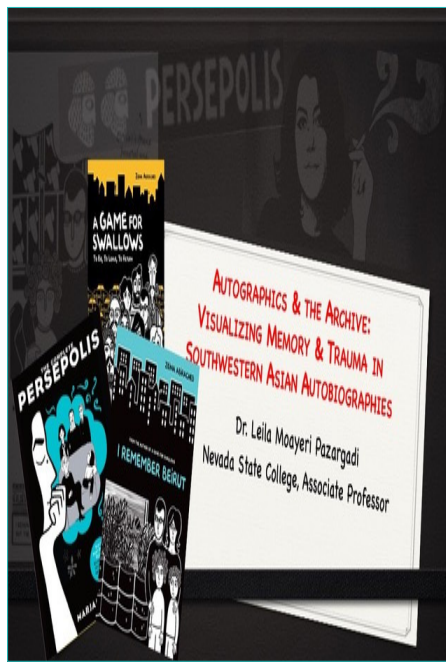


Meshkinpour Lecture Series in Iranian Studies  
 “Between Iran and Zion: Jewish Histories of 20th Century Iran” A Book Talk by Lior B. Sternfeld (Penn State University)

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, Zoom

Drawing on interviews, newspapers, family stories, autobiographies, and previously untapped archives, Lior B. Sternfeld analyzes how Iranian Jews contributed to Iranian nation-building projects, first under the Pahlavi monarchs and then in the post-revolutionary Islamic Republic.

This event was part of Meshkinpour Lecture Series in Iranian Studies and was presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture and was co-sponsored by UCI Center for Jewish Studies.

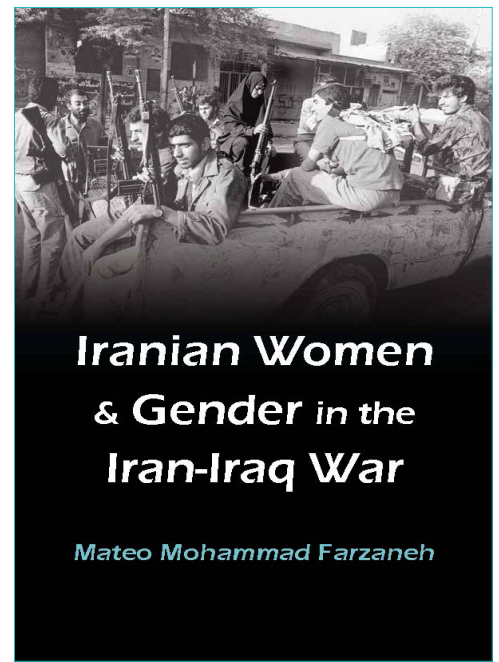


“Autographics & The Archive: Visualizing Memory & Trauma in Southwestern Asian Graphic Memoirs” by Prof. Leila Pazargadi (Nevada State University)

Monday, March 15, 2021, Zoom

Leila Moayeri Pazargadi is Associate Professor of English at Nevada State College, teaching composition, postcolonial literature, life writing, ethnic American literature, and Southwestern Asian literature courses.

Drawing on the aesthetics of the comics form as well as conventions of autobiographical theory and its relation to storytelling, this talk discusses the way in which Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis* and Zeina Abirached’s *I Remember Beirut* attempt to confront and preserve memory and trauma from creative vantage points in their respective autographics.



“Iranian Women and Gender in the Iran-Iraq War” A Book discussion by Prof. Mateo M. Farzaneh (Northeastern Illinois University) and Prof. Ali Akbar Mahdi (CSU Northridge/Ohio Wesleyan University)

Thursday, May 27, 2021, Zoom

This book discussion talked about role of Iranian women in the Iran-Iraq war. Eighteen months after Iran’s Islamic Revolution, hundreds of thousands of the country’s women participated in the Iran-Iraq War in a variety of capacities. Women were integral to the war effort, serving as journalists, paramedics, combatants, intelligence officers, medical instructors, and propagandists. Behind the frontlines, women were drivers, surgeons, fundraisers, and community organizers. The war provided women of all social classes the opportunity to assert their role in society, and in doing so, they refused to be marginalized.

## Musical Performances



### Mantis Trio Musical Concert (Saturday, October 5, 2019, UCI School of Humanities)

A musical concert by Mantis Trio, where they performed compositions and arrangements from their upcoming album. Niloufar Shiri - Kamancheh; Antonin Fajt - Piano; Ben Finley - Bass.

Investigating new sounds within folk songs and applying elements of contemporary classical music, free improvisation, and electronic music into them as a way of framing their narrative within the broader context of the migratory world. Guided by emotionality and freedom, new and old structures arise within a thread of a simultaneously personal and cultural narrative.

This event was co-sponsored by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

### The Marrow & Sibarg Ensemble Musical Performance (Sunday, November 3, 2019, Back Bay Bistro)

The Marrow: Gordon Grdina, Mark Feldman, Mark Helias, Hank Roberts, and Hamin Honari.

Sibarg Ensemble: JoVia Armstrong, Josh Charney, Hesam Abedini, Sa Sa, Kathryn Schulmeister.

This concert was co-sponsored by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture.

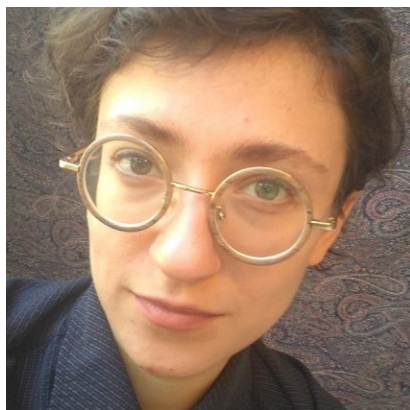
## Visiting Research Scholar



### Arya Moknat

Dr. Arya Moknat obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science and Philosophy from Claremont Graduate University and is working on a professional master's program in International Policy and Practice at The George Washington University. He has been the scholar in residence at the Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies at University of California, Irvine, since 2018. Dr. Moknat's research spans a wide range of topics including western political philosophy, comparative political philosophy, international relations theory as well as Iranian studies. He specializes on Friedrich Nietzsche and David Hume philosophy and wrote his dissertation title reads "Nietzsche, Hume, and the Irrational Roots of the Political," which is being translated into Farsi and will be published soon. He also teaches political science at Santiago Canyon College. Dr. Moknat recently co-authored a piece on Hannah Arendt's political thought and its significance for international politics. He gave a lecture at the Jordan Center was entitled, "Who is Nietzsche's Zarathustra?" He holds annual workshops on Western political thought and Nietzsche reading at the Jordan Center.

## Graduate Student Summer Fellowships (2019-2020)



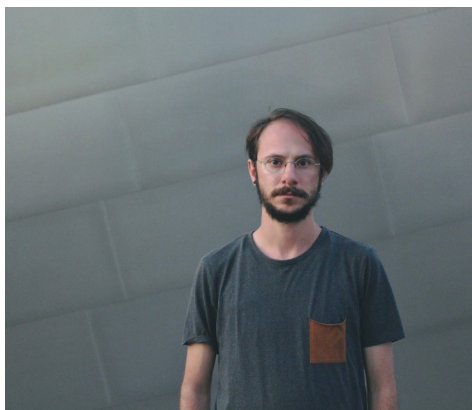
### Zarrinkelk Family Fellowship

[Nastasya Kosygina](#)

Ph.D. Student in Visual Studies

B.A., Art History & Archeology,  
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Research Interests: Archaeology and material culture of the Late Antique Eastern Mediterranean and Western Asia, Greek and Syriac epigraphy and paleography



### Zarrinkelk Family Fellowship

[Adib Ghorbani](#)

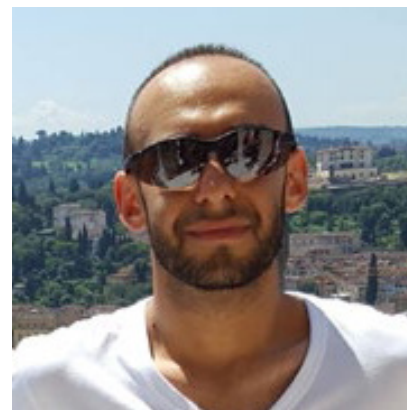
Ph.D. Student in Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology (ICIT), Music department

M.A., Music Composition, University of Tehran (2016)

B.A., Piano Performance, Tehran University of Art (2012)

Research Topic:

Interdisciplinary Performance & Music



### Movahedi Family Fellowship

[Arnold Alahverdian](#)

Ph.D. Candidate in History

M.A., History, UC Irvine (2015)

B.A., History, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Minor, CSU Northridge (2013)

Research Interests: Sasanian World, Armenia in Late Antiquity



### Dean's Gateway Fellowship

[Babak Mazloumi](#)

Ph.D. Student in Comparative Literature

M.A., Humanities & Social Thought, New York University (2015)

Emphasis: Critical Theory

Research Interests: Contemporary Persian literature, literary translation (theory and practice), literature and philosophy



### Farzaneh Family Fellowship

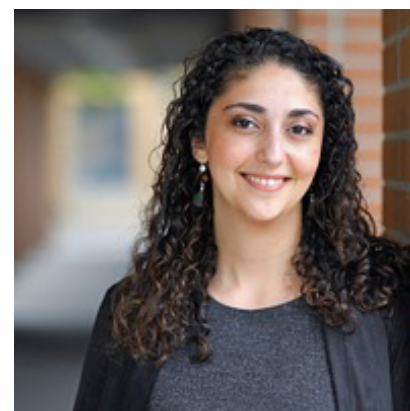
[Talin Abadiandogidargh](#)

Ph.D. Student in Drama

M.A., Theatre, CSU Northridge (2018)

B.A., Drama, Sooreh Art College

Research Interests: Diaspora, race and identity and cultural mobility in Middle Eastern and American contemporary theatre, Performance and Political Protest, Cultural mobility in displaced bodies and food culture



### Razi Family Fellowship

[Layah Ziiai-Bigdeli](#)

Ph.D. Student in Visual Studies

M.A., Art History Concentration in Cultural Heritage and Preservation, Rutgers University–New Brunswick

B.A., Art History & Archeology, Columbia University

Research Interests: Sasanian Art and Archaeology, Islamic Art and Archaeology, Persian Language and Literature, Numismatics, Museum studies, Cultural Heritage, Gender and Sexuality Studies

## Graduate Student Summer Fellowships (2020-2021)



### Zarrinkelk Family Fellowship

[Adib Ghorbani](#)

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

M.A., Music Composition, University of Tehran (2016)

B.A., Piano Performance, Tehran University of Art (2012)

Research Topic:

Interdisciplinary Performance & Music



### Zarrinkelk Family Fellowship

[Mallory Elizabeth Wells](#)

Ph.D. Student in Visual Studies

B.A., Art History, Occidental College

Research Interests: Transcultural exchange and visualities of authority in the late antique Mediterranean, the late antique Near East, and the early European Middle Ages



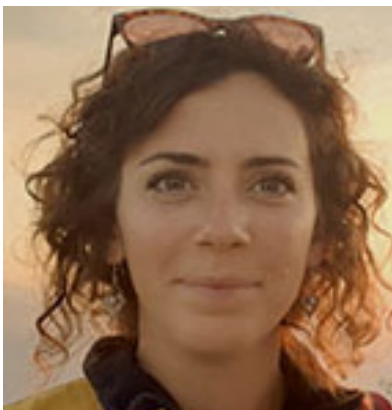
### Farzaneh Family Fellowship

[Hesam Abedini](#)

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

B.A., Music Composition, UC San Diego (2017)

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



### Dean's Gateway Fellowship

[Ileana De Guisepppe](#)

Ph.D. Student in Visual Studies

M.A., History, Preservation and Enhancement of the Artistic and Archaeological Heritage and Landscape, University of Bologna, Ravenna, Italy

B.A., Cultural Heritage, University of Bologna, Ravenna, Italy (2016)

Research Interests: Achaemenid Art and Archaeology, Hellenistic Art and Archaeology, Museum Studies, Communication of the Cultural Heritage



### Movahedi Fellowship

[Siavash Yansoori](#)

Ph.D. Student in Visual Studies

M.A., Film & Media Studies, Columbia University

M. F. A., Photography, University of Cincinnati

Research Interests: Iranian and Middle Eastern Cinema, Melodrama, History of Photography, Postcolonialism, Gender, and Queer Studies



### Razi Family Fellowship

[Layah Ziaii-Bigdeli](#)

Ph.D. Student in Visual Studies

M.A., Art History Concentration in Cultural Heritage and Preservation, Rutgers University–New Brunswick

B.A., Art History & Archeology, Columbia University

Research Interests: Sasanian Art and Archaeology, Islamic Art and Archaeology, Persian Language and Literature, Numismatics, Museum studies, Cultural Heritage, Gender and Sexuality Studies

# UCI Jordan Center's Publications - Books

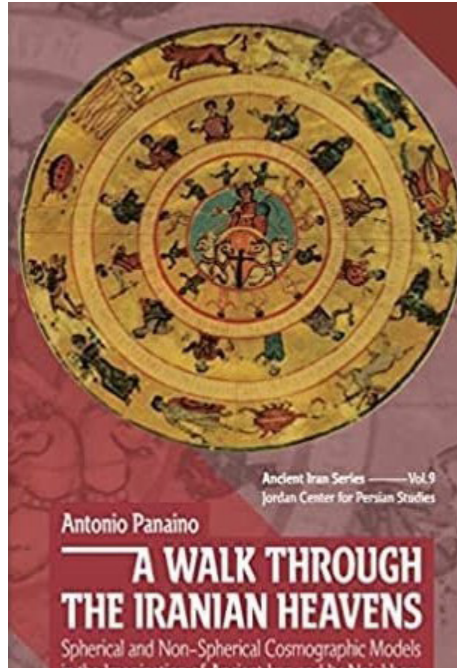


## American College of Tehran: A Memorial Album, 1932

Ali Gheissari

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2020)

This beautiful picture book traces the lives of Iranian Student at the learning institution which later was name Alborz High School.

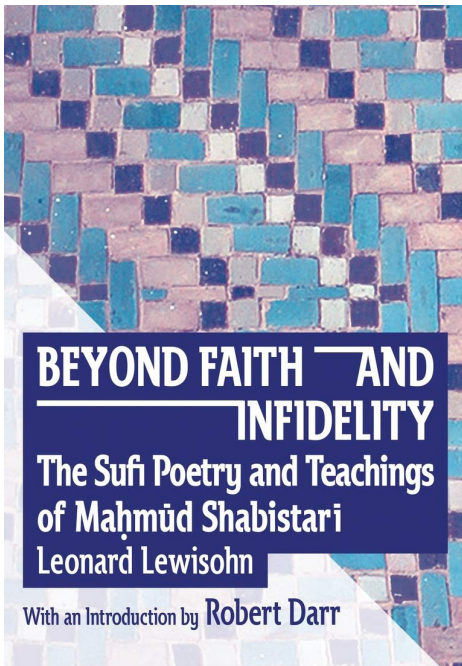


## A Walk Through the Iranian Heavens: For A History of an Unpredictable Dialogue between Non-spherical and Spherical Models

Antonio Panaino

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2020)

This book by Antonio Panaino discusses the development of the Iranian cosmographical world and its interaction with the Greek, Mesopotamian, and Indic civilizations.



## Beyond Faith and Infidelity: The Sufi Poetry and Teachings of Mahmud Shabistari

Leonard Lewisohn

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2020)

This book presents us with a comprehensive study of the historical context and the cultural and literary environment of Shabistari's era. This is as close as non-Persian speakers will get to the best of the original commentaries. This book by the late Professor Lewisohn is one of the finest works ever written on Islamic spirituality.



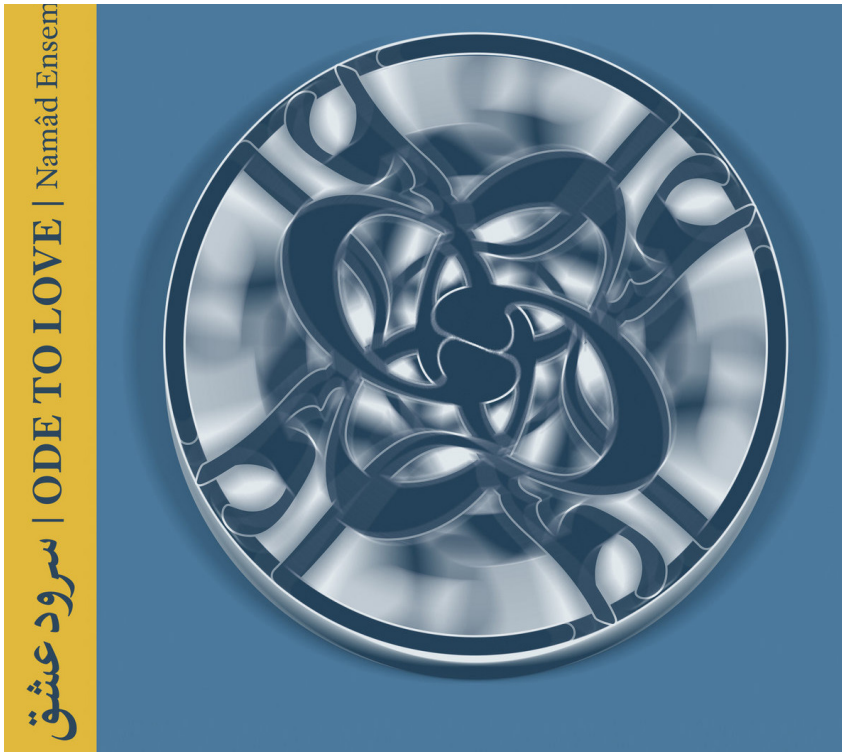
## A Social History of Zoroastrians of Yazd, 3 Volumes

Ali Tashakori

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2020)

This three-volume book series by Dr. Ali Tashakor is a landmark study of the modern history of Zoroastrians based on archival research. They cover the history of Zoroastrians in Yazd from the arrival of Islam in 641 C.E. to the formation of the Nasserri Anjoman of Yazd in 1892 C.E. continuing to the beginning of Pahlavi Dynasty in 1924 C.E. and finally to the Islamic Revolution of 1979 C.E.

## UCI Jordan Center's Publications - Musical CDs



### "Ode to Love"

by Namaad Ensemble

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2020)

The release of Namaad Ensemble's newest album "Ode to Love", Persian classical music based on contemporary poetry of Iran. Members included: Kourosh Taghavi (Composer & Setar), Hesam Abedini (Vocals), Mahtab Nadalian (Santur), Niloufar Shiri (Kamancheh), and Reza Filsoofi (Tombak).

This musical project was sponsored by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, Saman Foundation, and Mr. Farhad Shah-Hosseini.



### "Kooch-e Khaman"

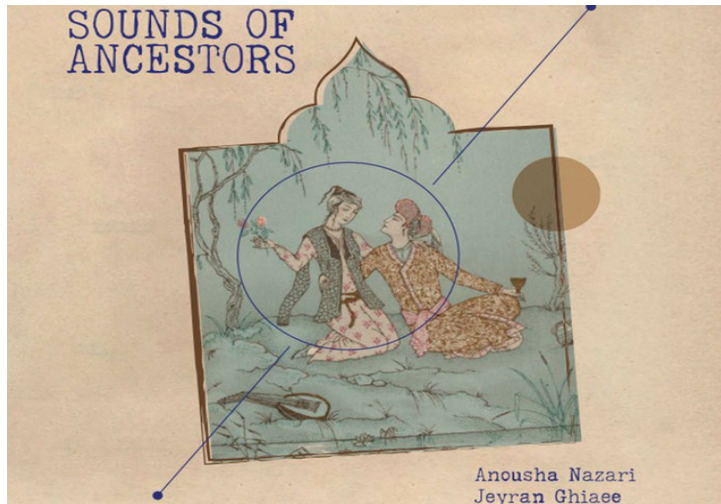
by Del Sol String Quartet

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2021)

The live concert recording of the Del Sol String Quartet performing compositions by young Iranian Composers such as Gity Razaz, Elnaz Sayadi, Nasim Khorassani, and Iman Habibi as well as UCI Ph.D. students, Hesam Abedini, Adib Ghorbani, and Niloufar Shiri. It is a sonic representation of young Iranian immigrants who have been exploring various cultures in their journey as musicians and composers living in various countries outside of Iran. Thanks to Saman Foundation for supporting this project as well as UCI Illuminations and all of our donors.



# UCI Jordan Center's Publications - Musical CDs



<b>PIECES</b>	<b>I. THE CANDLE OF DAWN</b>	<b>IV. CARAVANE</b>
	Composer: Mohammad-Saeed Sharifian Text: Hafez (1315-1390) (Persian)	Composer: André Aminollah Hossein Text: Saadi (1210-1292) (Persian)
	<b>II. YOU'RE THE ONE I DESIRE</b>	<b>V. HARP TUNE</b>
	Composer: Samin Baghtcheban Text: Persian Folk Song	Composer: Mohammad-Saeed Sharifian Text: Hafez (1315-1390) (Persian)
	<b>III. YOUR TWO BRAIDS</b>	<b>VI. OMAGGIO A FERDÖWCI</b>
	Composer: Samin Baghtcheban Text: Baba Tahir (947_1032) (Persian)	Composer: Morteza Hannaneh Text: Ferdowsi (940-1020) (Persian)
		<b>VII. OMAGGIO A SAADI</b>
	Composer: Morteza Hannaneh Text: Saadi (1210-1292) (Persian)	

## “Sounds of Ancestors” by Anousha Nazari & Jeyran Ghiaee

(UC Irvine Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture, 2021)

This CD is a collection of seven songs by famous Iranian composers, sung by Mrs. Nazari along with the piano of Mrs. Jeyran Ghiaee. We would like to thank the Saman Foundation for their partial support of the project.

### **ANOUSHA NAZARI**

#### **Dramatic Soprano**

Born in Sari, near the Caspian Sea, Anousha Nazari began singing at a young age with local orchestras before joining the Sonata Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir Ensemble. Parallel to her studies at the conservatory, she studied Architecture and graduated in 2012. Winner of the Fadjr International Music Festival Prize in the choir section in 2013 and 2014, she has participated in various national and international festivals and performed in the most prestigious halls in Iran (Roudaki Hall, Vahdat, Arasbaran etc). In 2014, she was selected for the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, then under the direction of Maestro Alexander Rahbari.

Living in France since 2016, she joined the lyric singing section at the Conservatoire Rayonnement Régional de Cergy. Eager to improve her works, she has taken part in Jeff Cohen's masterclasses as well as the lyric workshops of François Le Roux and Isabelle Philippe. She also gives numerous recitals in France and regularly participates in various artistic and musical events in the Paris region.

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### **JEYRAN GHAIIEE**

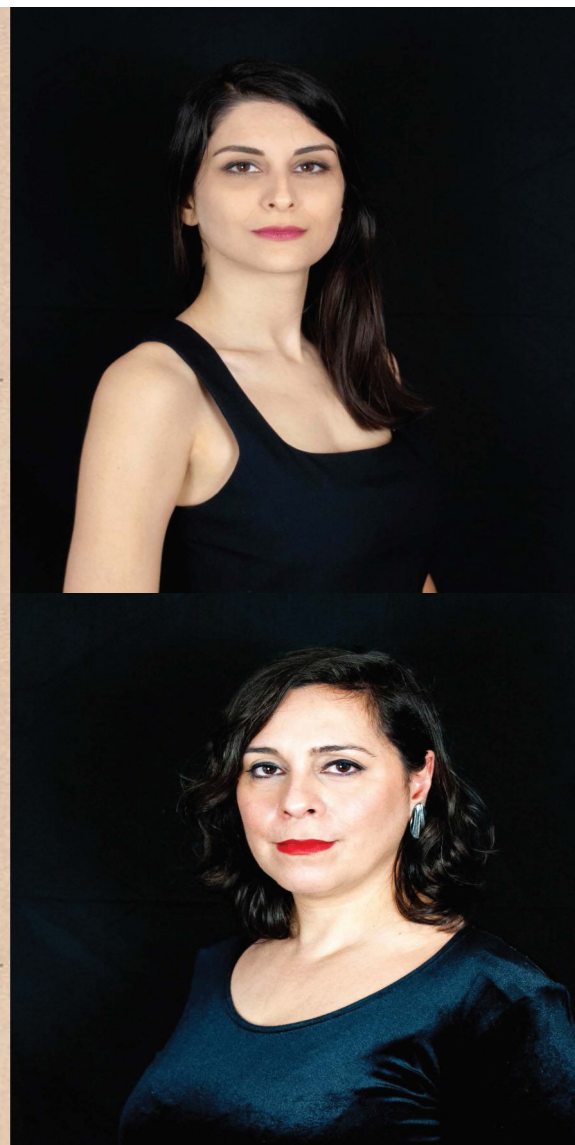
#### **Pianist**

Born in Tehran, Jeyran Ghiaee started to study the piano with Chista Gharib and then continue with Lili Sarkissian at Tehran music school. She also received private piano lessons from Rafael Minasskanian and Dilbar Hakimova. She then continued her studies at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris (with Prof. Jean Micault) where she obtained a diploma both in teaching and concert performance with Prof. Chantal De buchuy and Prof. Guigla Katsarava.

Since then she has worked as a vocal coach in many productions of operettas and operas. Accomplishing her work as a profoundly experienced vocal coach, Jeyran Ghiaee also perfected her skills in the accompaniment of "Lied and Melody". Masterclasses and studies with Prof. Françoise Tillard at the Conservatoire Hector Berlioz led her to a certificate of musical studies in Lied and Melody in 2014.

Amongst numerous other masterclasses she also studied with François Le Roux, Christian Ivaldi and Jeff Cohen at the Académie Francis Poulenc in Tours. In 2015 she gave a recital in Paris contemporary works by Alireza Farhang and other Iranian composers.

She has also been conducting the Paris Hospital's Choirs (choeurs des hopitaux) between 2018-2016. She was invited to present excerpts from the show (Judy, Barbara & I) on the french radio channel "France Musique". She has been a regular guest of the annual "Festival d'Avignon" performing in operettas of J. Offenbach. Among them, the production ("Monsieur Choufleur") has been awarded the best show by spectator's vote in 2016. She was teaching at music school of Limay under the direction of Remi Corbier. She also appeared as the accompanist of the choirs of Limay. Currently she is working as a vocal coach for the choirs of "Abbeesses".



# Tehran Project: Water, City, People



The Tehran project aims to look at Tehran from the point of view of the spaces that it occupies, both physical and metaphorical. This will allow the project to change focus, at times concentrating on micro studies of language and religion, and at others, zooming away to consider urban occupation and city planning. In between the two, matters of ethno-linguistic make up and their relations to the occupation patterns, as well as specialized topics such as health and the environment can be studied in the city, based on their framing on a macro level and their studies on a micro one. This project is supervised by Dr. Narciss Sohrabi (Paris).



Dr. Narciss Sohrabi

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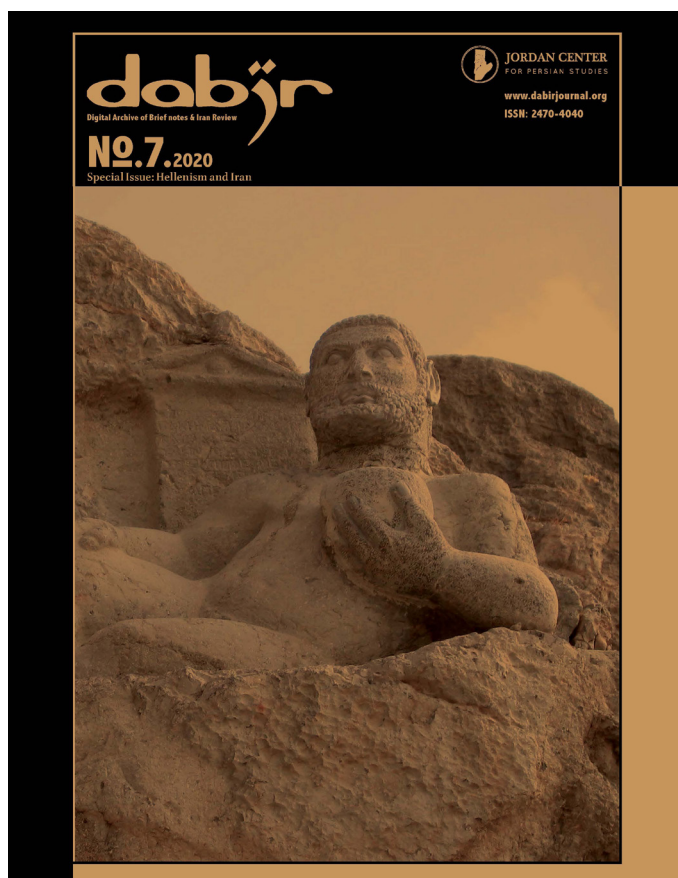
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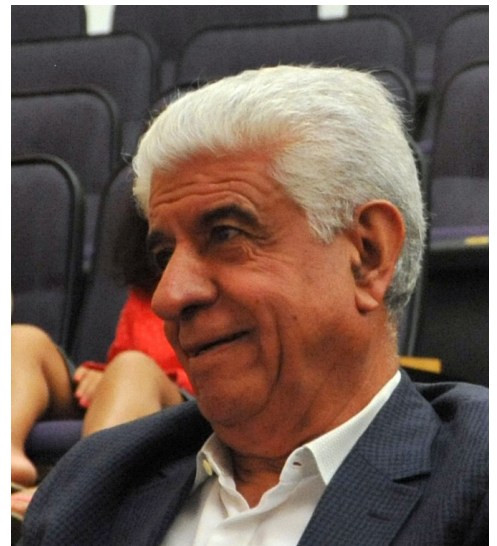
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