

## Aria Fani

4216 Memorial Way NE Box 353120 Seattle, WA 98195-3120

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### Academic Employment

Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization  
University of Washington, Seattle, 2019 - Present

Deputy Editor  
*Journal of Iranian Studies*

### Education

University of California, Berkeley  
Ph.D., Near Eastern Studies, 2019

San Diego State University  
B.A., Comparative Literature, 2009

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### Manuscripts in Progress

*Spaces between Nations: Afghans, Iranians, and the Making of Persian Literature*

*A Whisper for Eternity*

A book-length selection of Bizhan Jalali's poetry in English, co-translated with Adeeba Talukder

### Peer-reviewed

- March 2022  
forthcoming "Disciplining Persian Literature in Twentieth-century Afghanistan," *Iranian Studies*.
- 2021 "What Is Literature? The Rise of a Global Literary Discourse" (Mandarin Chinese title: 文学是什么?一种全球性文学话语的兴起). *Journal of Foreign Languages and Cultures* 5(1): 42–49.
- 2021 "The Allure of Untranslatability: Shafī'i-Kadkani and (Not) Translating Persian Poetry." *Iranian Studies* 54(1–2): 95–125.
- 2020 "Iran's Literary Becoming: Zokā' ol-Molk Foroughi and the Literary History That Wasn't." *Iran Namag: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies*, 5(3): 114–144.
- 2017 "A Silent Conversation with Literary History: Re-theorizing Modernism in the Poetry of Bizhan Jalali." *Iranian Studies*, 50(4): 523–552.
- 2017 "Basmala: Translating an Iconic Phrase." *TRANS: Revista de Traductología* (21): 213–219. Co-authored with John Hayes.

## Special Issue

March 2022 forthcoming “Persianate Pasts; National Presents: Persian Literary and Cultural Production in the Twentieth Century.” *Iranian Studies*. Co-edited with Kevin L. Schwartz.

## Chapters & articles

May 2022 forthcoming “What Does Translation Mean in the Age of Colonial Modernity?” In *The Routledge Handbook of Persian Literary Translation*, edited by Michelle Quay, Patricia Higgins, and Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi.

2020 “What Is Asylum? Translation, Trauma, and Institutional Visibility.” *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Activism*, edited by Rebecca Gould and Kayvan Tahmasebian, 397–407.

2016 “Poet as Citizen in a Contested Nation: Rewriting the Poetry of Soviet-occupied Afghanistan.” In *Artistic Citizenship: Artistry, Social Responsibility, and Ethical Praxis*, edited by David J. Elliott, Marissa Silverman, Wayne Bowman, 392–414. Oxford University Press.

2014 “A Narrative of Commitment in the Poetry of Afghan Resistance” (Persian title: روایت تعهد ادبی در شعر مقاومت افغانستان), *Iran Namah*, 29(1): 108–120.

## Textbook

2009 *Advanced Persian for Heritage Learners*. Persian Cultural Center of San Diego (Library of Congress: TX 7-321-587).

## Review

2019 *Culture of Encounters: Sanskrit at the Mughal Court*. *Iranian Studies*. 52(1–2): 231-237

2016 *Writing Self, Writing Empire*. *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, 33(3): 106–110.

2016 *Bud u nimud-i sukhan*. *Nigah-i naw*, 110: 248–251.

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## Teaching (UW)

### Persian Language and Literature

- Critical Readings in Modern Persian (Fall 2019)
- Survey of Classical Persian Literature (Winter 2020)
- Media Persian (Spring 2020, Fall 2021)
- Modern Persian Literature (Fall 2020, Winter 2022)
- The Persian Ghazal (Winter 2021)

## Content Courses

- The Politics and Poetics of Translation (Fall 2021)
  - Cross listed with Comparative Literature
- Roads to Mecca: Pilgrimage Writings from the Islamic World (Winter 2022)
- Middle of What? East of Where? The Middle East through Travelogues (Spring 2020)
  - Cross listed with Comparative Literature
- The Middle East Through Cinema (Summer 2020)
- Mystical Literature in English Translation (Winter 2021)
  - Cross listed with Comparative Literature

## Service to the Profession

Associate editor for modern literature

*The Journal of Iranian Studies*

March 2020 - July 2021

Book review editor for literature

*The Journal of Iranian Studies*

March 2019 - December 2020

Co-organizer

The Pacific Northwest Adab Society

October 2020 - Present

## Awards

The Simpson Center for the Humanities, Research Royalty Fund Scholar Award, Spring 2021

Townsend Center for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship, 2019-2020 (declined)

CMES Mellon Research Grant, University of California, Berkeley, 2018

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, University of California, Berkeley, 2016-2017

## Conferences (abridged)

### Organized Conference

- 2018      Hard Times: Critical Approaches to Crisis and Its Aftermath. Near Eastern Studies & Center for Middle East Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

### Invited Talks & Presentations

- 2021      “Translation in the Aftermath of Colonial Modernity,” the Translation Studies Graduate Seminar: Translation Across the Disciplines, University of Washington
- 2021      “The Institutionalization of Persian Literature in Afghanistan,” The Persian Circle at the University of Chicago
- 2021      “Poetry of Afghan Women,” Guest lecture for Marta Simidchieva’s course “Women in Islamic Literature,” York University, Canada

- 2021 “Disciplinizing Persian Literature,” Persianate Studies Workshop, University of Michigan
- 2020 “The Allure of Untranslatability,” Translation Studies Hub, University of Washington

### Organized Panels

- 2019 “The Dialogic Persianate: Historical Models of Literary Production and Cultural Exchange (1700-1950).” MESA, New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 “After the Persianate? The Contours of Twentieth-century Persian literature.” Association for Iranian Studies. Irvine, CA.

### Panel & Workshop Participation

- 2021 “Institutionalizing Persian Literature: The Case of Afghanistan,” ACLA.
- 2019 “*Eqterab* and the Proliferation of Adabiyāt as a New Discourse of Literature in Iran and Afghanistan (1916-1949).” MESA, New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 “The Rise of a New Discourse of Literature in Persian.” The Great Lakes Adiban Society, Second Annual Workshop, University of Chicago.

### Academic Activities & Projects

Analyst for the Metanet Project

International Computer Science Institute, Berkeley, CA, April 2014 - January 2015

Based on cognitive linguists, primarily the theories of George Lakoff, *Metanet* sets to build a system capable of understanding metaphors used in text. I primarily analyzed metaphors extracted from Persian.

### Professional certificates

TESOL International Training, San Diego, CA (120-hour training, 2010)

New York University/STARTALK for Teachers of Persian and Arabic, New York, NY (140-hour training, 2010 & 2012)

### Languages

Persian: Superior fluency

Spanish: Conversational and reading knowledge

Pashto: Basic reading, speaking, and writing skills

Arabic: Basic reading skills

### Professional Memberships

- American Comparative Literature Association
- Association for Iranian Studies
- Middle East Studies Association

- Modern Language Association

### **Service to Community**

*Peek* Magazine

Member of Editorial Board & Contributor to 100+ public-facing social & cultural commentary  
2005-2021

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, Berkeley, CA

Immigration Rights Advocate

January 2017 - Present