

Aria Fani

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

Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Professorship, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures
Director of Persian and Iranian Studies
University of Washington, Seattle; 2019 - Present

Deputy Editor
Iranian Studies (Cambridge University Press); 2021 - Present

Co-Principal Investigator
Translation Studies Hub (Simpson Center for the Humanities); 2022-2024

Education

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

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

Manuscripts

Reading across Borders: Afghans, Iranians, and Literary Nationalism (University of Texas Press, 2024)

A Whisper for Eternity (In progress)
A book-length selection of Bizhan Jalali's poetry in English, co-translated with Adeeba Talukder

Publications

Blind-reviewed

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| March
2024 | “Parsing the Nation: Bahār and the Rise of Adabiyāt,” <i>Cambridge History of Middle Eastern Modernism</i> . |
| 2023 | “Shadow Texts of National History: Poetic Participation in Iran and Afghanistan,” <i>Philological Encounters</i> 8(2): 150-175. |
| 2022 | “Disciplining Persian Literature in Twentieth-century Afghanistan,” <i>Iranian Studies</i> 55(3): 675-695. |
| 2021 | “The Allure of Untranslatability: Shafi‘i-Kadkani and (Not) Translating Persian Poetry.” <i>Iranian Studies</i> 54(1–2): 95–125. |

Peer-reviewed

- March 2024 “Pathways to Persotopias,” *PMLA*. Co-written with Kevin Schwartz and Samuel Hodgkin.
- 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.
- 2020 “Iran’s Literary Becoming: Zokā’ ol-Molk Forughī and the Literary History That Wasn’t.” *Iran Namag: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies*, 5(3): 114–144.
- 2017 “Basmala: Translating an Iconic Phrase.” *TRANS: Revista de Traductología* (21): 213–219. Co-authored with John Hayes.
- 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.

Special issue

- 2022 “Persianate Pasts; National Presents: Persian Literary and Cultural Production in the Twentieth Century.” *Iranian Studies* 55.3. Co-edited with Kevin L. Schwartz.

Chapters in edited volumes

- 2022 “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, Routledge, 286-298.
- 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, Oxford University Press, 392-414.

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.

Teaching

Content Courses

- Seminar: Orientalisms and World Literature (Winter 2023); Cross-listed with Comparative Literature
- Afghanistan Beyond the Headlines (Winter 2023); Cross-listed with Comparative History of Ideas
- The Politics and Poetics of Translation (Fall 2021); Cross-listed with Comparative Literature
- Roads to Mecca: Pilgrimage Writings from the Islamic World (Winter 2022); Course, cross-listed with Comparative Literature
- 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

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)
- The Epic Tradition in Iran (Spring 2022)
- Sufi Thought and Expression (Spring 2024)

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 (link [here](#))

October 2020 - Present

Awards

- Society of Scholars, Simpson Center for the Humanities, 2023-2024
- 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
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Advising

~ Ph.D.

Anna Learn, adviser (PhD in NMES)

Solmaz Shakerifard, committee member (PhD in NMES)

Ilsa Abdul Razzaq, committee member (PhD in History)

~ MA

Caro Reed-Ferrara, adviser (MA in MELC, June 2023)

Nathan Mark, committee member (MA in MES, June 2023)

Conferences & Talks (abridged)

Organized Symposia & Lecture Series

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| 2022 | “Afghanistan through Afghan Voices: Society, Literature & Arts,” Six lectures from January to June in collaboration with UCLA and Stanford University (link here) |
| 2022 | “Is There a Persianate Modernity?” University of Washington, Seattle; hosted by the Simpson Center for the Humanities, January 28 (link here) |

Talks

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| 2022 | “The Formation of <i>Adabiyat</i> as a Modern Discourse,” Princeton University, December 14. |
| 2022 | “Teaching Translation Literacy: Why Translation Matters to the Humanities,” University of Puget Sound, November 5. |
| 2022 | “Afghan-Iranian Literary Connections and Romantic Nationalism,” U.T. Austin, November 2. |
| 2022 | “Teaching Translation Literacy,” Comparative Literature Research Seminars, King's College London; King's College, London, March 9. |
| 2021 | “What Does Translation Mean in the Age of Colonial Modernity?” The Program in Iranian Studies at the MacMillan Center, Yale University, October 6. |

- 2021 “Translation in the Aftermath of Colonial Modernity,” the Translation Studies Graduate Seminar: Translation Across the Disciplines, University of Washington, May 14.

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

- 2023 “Literary Nationalism and Early Twentieth-century Persian Periodicals,” *Conference Paper, Empires of Language in Islamicate Eurasia*, Simon Fraser University. June 9-10.
- 2022 “The Formation of *Adabiyāt*,” Philology in Persian, U.C. Berkeley, April 16.
- 2021 “Institutionalizing Persian Literature: The Case of Afghanistan,” ACLA.
- 2019 “*Eqterah* and the Proliferation of *Adabiyāt* as a New Discourse of Literature in Iran and Afghanistan (1916-1949).” MESA, New Orleans, LA.

Public-facing lectures

- 2021 “A Brief History of Iranian Studies in the US,” San Diego Persian Cultural Center
- 2020 “Mohammad Hosayn Foroughi and Disciplining Literature in Iran,” Bellevue, WA
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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 out to build a system capable of understanding metaphors used in text. I primarily analyzed metaphors extracted from Persian.
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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)
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Languages

Persian: Superior fluency
Spanish: Conversational and reading knowledge
Pashto: Basic reading, intermediate low speaking
Arabic: Basic reading skills

Professional Memberships

- American Comparative Literature Association
 - Association for Iranian Studies
 - Middle East Studies Association
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Service to Community

Peyk 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