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Department of Religious Studies  
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## **EDUCATION**

- 2007            Ph.D. with honors, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
- 2000            M.F.A., Department of English, University of Pittsburgh
- 1985            B.A., *magna cum laude*, Department of English, Barnard College, Columbia University, Phi Beta Kappa

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2013–Present    Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, UNCG (affiliated with Women’s and Gender Studies since January 2014)
- 2012–2013      Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, UNCG
- 2011–2012      Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington
- 2008–2010      Visiting Scholar, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, UW
- 2007–2011      Research Associate, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

*Islamic Tolerance: Amīr Khusraw and Pluralism*. London: Routledge, 2010; reviewed in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*; issued in paperback in 2014.

### **Edited Issue of Journal**

“Fathers and Daughters in Islam: Spiritual Inheritance and Succession Politics.” Co-editor (with Julia Clancy-Smith), foreword, and article. Special issue, *Journal of Persianate Studies* 4, no. 1 (2011).

## Articles

“Splitting Hairs and Trimming Tresses: Translating Amīr Khusraw’s Persian Locks into An American ‘Do.’” In *Middle Eastern Literatures* 19, no. 3 (2016), pp. 316–324.

“In Reality a Man: Sultan Iltutmish, His Daughter, Raziya, and Gender Ambiguity in Thirteenth Century Northern India.” In “Fathers and Daughters in Islam: Spiritual Inheritance and Succession Politics,” ed. Alyssa Gabbay and Julia Clancy-Smith. Special issue, *Journal of Persianate Studies* 4, no. 1 (2011), pp. 45–63.

“Love Gone Wrong, Then Right Again: Male/Female Dynamics in the Bahrām Gūr-Slave Girl Story.” In “Love and Desire in Pre-Modern Persian Poetry and Prose,” ed. Dominic Brookshaw. Special Issue, *Iranian Studies* 42, no. 5 (2009), pp. 677–692.

## Book Chapters

“Fatima’s Khutba: An Early Case of Female Religious Authority in Islam.” In *Female Religious Authority in Shi’i Islam*, ed. Mirjam Kuenkler and Devin Stewart. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press/New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Establishment of Centers of Indo-Persian Court Poetry.” In *A History of Persian Literature*, ed. Ehsan Yarshater et al., vol. 9. New York: I.B. Tauris, forthcoming.

“Rebels, Virtuous Adorers and Successors: The Agentic Daughters of the Shahnama.” In *The Reception of Firdausi’s Shahnama*, ed. Charles Melville and Gabrielle van den Berg. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.

“In Praise of One of the Deeply Learned Ulama’: A Mysterious Poem by Qājār Court Poet Mīrzā Habīb Allāh Shīrāzī Qā’ānī.” In *The Necklace of the Pleiades*, ed. Franklin Lewis and Sunil Sharma, 131–48. Amsterdam and West Lafayette, IN: Rozenberg Publishers and Purdue University Press, 2007.

## Encyclopedia Entries

“Qā’ānī, Habib-Allah,” *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, online edition, 2016, available at <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/qaani-poet>. (Also to appear in print edition).

“Bazaar,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*.

“Sainthood,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*.

## Book Reviews

Review of *Female Personalities in the Qur’an and Sunna*, by Rawand Osman. *Religious Studies Review*, forthcoming.

Review of *Words, Not Swords*, by Farzaneh Milani. *Iranian Studies* 46, no. 3 (2013), pp. 499–502.

Review of *Esther's Children: A Portrait of Iranian Jews*, ed. Houman Sarshār. *Iranshenasi* 14 (Winter 2003).

Review of *To See and See Again*, by Tara Bahrapour. *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Feb. 21, 1999.

### **Translations and Other Publications**

“What India Can Teach Iran about Freedom and Tolerance.” Op-ed page, *The Seattle Times*, Aug. 22, 2010. Also published in *iranian.com*, Aug. 23, 2010.

“Portrait of an Innocent,” by Hushang Gulshiri. Co-translated with Heshmat Moayyad. In *Black Parrot, Green Crow*, ed. Heshmat Moayyad, 131–48. Washington, D.C.: Mage Publishers, 2003.

“Loukijān: An Iranian Memoir.” *Bellingham Review* 22 (1999): 87–111.

“Finding Persia in Today’s Iran.” Forum page, *The Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, Jan. 25, 1998.

### **Book Manuscripts in Progress**

*The Fatima Effect: Descent from Daughters in Medieval Islam*. Under review by University of North Carolina Press.

*The New Moon of Perfection and Other Prefaces*. Under advance contract with Murty Classical Library of India, Harvard University Press.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2016      | UNCG International Programs Center International Travel Fund for travel to Vienna, August (\$700)   |
| 2016-2017 | UNCG Candace Bernard and Robert Glickman Dean’s Professorship in the College of Arts & Sciences (\$10,000)  |
| 2015      | UNCG International Programs Center Kohler Special Projects Grant to support activities of Islamic Studies Research Network (\$2000)   |
| 2014      | UNCG Proposal Preparation Program Grant to conduct preliminary research in London for Amir Khusraw editions project, <i>The New Moons of Perfection and Other Prefaces</i> (\$3000) |
| 2007      | Foundation for Iranian Studies, Best Ph.D. Dissertation on a Topic of Iranian Studies   |

- 2006 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (study in India)
- 2003 American Institute of Iranian Studies Fellowship (study in Iran)
- 2003 Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Title VI Fellowship (Advanced Persian)
- 2000–2004 Foreign Language and Area Studies Title VI Fellowship (Persian and Arabic)
- 2000–2004 University Unendowed Funds Tuition Fellowship, University of Chicago

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of North Carolina Greensboro**

Religions of Iran (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2017)

Islam’s Mystical Tradition (Spring 2014, Spring 2016)

Approaches to the Qur’an (Spring 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2016)

Introduction to Islam (Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2017)

Women, Autobiography, and Islam (Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014)

### **University of Washington**

Introduction to the Qur’an (Spring 2012)

Introduction to Islam (Winter 2012)

Advanced Persian Independent Study (Fall 2011, Winter 2012, Spring 2012)

## **INVITED TALKS**

- 2017 “When Kings Don’t Act Kingly: Firdawsi’s *Shahnama* (Book of Kings), Intertextuality and the Shaping of Iranian Identity.” American University of Kuwait, March 6.
- 2013 “Heiress to the Prophet: Fatima and Bilateral Descent in Islam.” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington, January 23. (Also presented at the Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, January 31, and at Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar (SERMEISS), Emory University, March 9.)

- 2010 “Ārzū as a ‘Docile Agent’: The Paradox of the Obedient Daughter in Pre-Islamic Iran.” Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 14–16.
- 2009 “A Ruler Transformed: Bahrām Gūr and Indian Ideals of Kingship.” The Reception of the Shahnama II. Leiden, The Netherlands, January 8–10.
- 2006 “*The Dībāchah-’i Dīvān-i Ghurraṭ al-Kamāl-i Amīr Khusraw*” (The Preface to the Book of Poems of the New Moon of Perfection, by Amīr Khusraw). The International Seminar on Amir Khusrau: A Delineator of Strong Cultural Bonds of India with Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Iran, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India, March.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Panels Organized

- 2010 “Reconstructing the Forgotten Female: Women in the Realm of the Shāhnāma.” Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, Los Angeles, May 28–30.
- 2009 “Famous Fathers and Daughters in Islam.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston, November 21–24.
- 2005 “Frontiers and Frontier Societies in the Islamic World.” Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 13–14.

### Papers Presented

- 2016 “The Case of the Missing Holograph and Amir Khusraw’s *Vasat al-Hayat*: An Eclectic Approach as a Means of Establishing Authorial Intent.” Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, Vienna, Austria, Aug. 2–5.
- 2015 “‘And It is Not the Word of a Poet’: Poetical Ambivalence in the Prefaces of Amir Khusraw (d. 1325).” The Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, November 20–24.
- 2014 “Fatima’s Khutba: An Early Case of Female Religious Authority in Islam.” Of ‘Alimas, Muhaddithahs, and Mujtahidas: The Past and Present of Female Religious Authority in Shi‘i Islam. Princeton University, March 6–8. Also presented at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 22–25.
- 2012 “Prophecy, Poetry and the Legitimization of the Babi Faith in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Iran.” Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, Istanbul, Turkey, Aug. 1–5.
- 2011 “‘In Reality a Man’: Sultan Iltutmish, His Daughter Radiyya, and Female Sovereignty in Medieval Muslim India.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Boston, January 6–9.

- 2010 “From Ill-Starred to Auspicious: Depictions of Daughters in Firdawsi’s *Shāhnāma*.” Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, Los Angeles, May 28–30.
- 2009 “‘In Reality a Man’: Sultan Iltutmish, His Daughter Radiyya, and Female Sovereignty in Medieval Muslim India.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston, November 21–24.
- 2008 “Turk and Hindu in Amīr Khusraw’s *Nuh Sipihr*: Cultural Change on the Perso-Islamic Periphery.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 16–19.
- 2008 “Deconstructing Hierarchies: The Male/Female Dynamic in Amīr Khusraw’s Story of Bahrām Gūr and the Slave Girl.” Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, Toronto, July 31–August 3.
- 2005 “The Influence of the Frontier on Cultural Production in Medieval India,” Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 13–14.
- 2002 “Portrait of an Innocent: Hūshang Gulshīrī’s Labyrinthine Ways.” The American Literary Translators Association Conference, Chicago, October.

### Other Presentations

- 2012 “Inspired by the Sacred Breath of Jesus: Persian Poets’ Claims to Prophecy.” Lecture Series in Persian and Iranian Studies, University of Washington, April 13.
- 2007 *Nuh Māh dar Dihlī-’i Naw* (Nine Months in New Delhi). Persian Circle, University of Chicago, April.
- 2005 “*Dastān-i yak ‘Arūsī*” (The Story of a Marriage). Persian Circle, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, May. Also presented at the fifteenth annual meeting of the Friends of Persian Culture Association, Chicago, September.
- 2005 “The Idea of ‘Home’ in *Zīr-i Pūst-i Shahr* (Under the Skin of the City).” Iranian Film Series, Doc Films at the University of Chicago, March.
- 2004 “A ‘Turk of Hindustān’: Amīr Khusraw and the Development of Indo-Persian Culture.” Middle East History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, November.
- 2004 “The Case of a Mysterious Ode: Qā’ānī, Qājār-era Poetry, and the Bāb.” Annual Meeting of the Friends of Persian Culture Association, September.

### MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2009 “Rulers Should Consult Academics,” *Gulf News* article mentioning “Famous Fathers and Daughters in Islam” panel at Middle East Studies Association; see <http://gulfnews.com/opinions/columnists/rulers-should-consult-academics-1.532316>

## ACADEMIC SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 2017 Guest lecturer, “Arabic Composition” and “Readings in Arabic Heritage,” two American University of Kuwait classes, March.
- 2015–Present Member, executive board of the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar (SERMEISS)
- 2015 Search committee member, Religious Studies, Non-western position, UNCG.
- 2015 Guest lecturer, “From Constantinople to Istanbul: A City and Its Monuments,” a UNCG class, February.
- 2014–2017 Council member, International Society for Iranian Studies.
- 2014–2016 Faculty Adviser, Religious Studies Club, UNCG.
- 2014–2015 Member, Committee to draft a humanities research statement, UNCG.
- 2014 Presenter, “The Here and Now,” a concert based on Rumi’s poetry comprising part of a year-long UNCG program, “Globe and Cosmos: Celebrating 450 Years of Shakespeare and Galileo,” October.
- 2013–Present Lead Scholar and Co-founder, Islamic Studies Research Network of UNCG, a research network dedicated to promoting awareness and understanding of Islamic history and culture in North Carolina and in a wider, global context.
- 2013–Present Departmental Library Liaison, UNCG.
- 2013 Lead Scholar, “Muslim Journeys,” the Teachers Institute 2013 Summer Seminar, presented by the North Carolina Humanities Council, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, June 16–22.
- 2013 Participant, Global Engagement Institute, UNCG, June 3–4.
- 2012 Supervisor, Senior Essay, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington.
- 2011 Participant, Classical Persian Reading Group, University of Washington.
- 2010 Guest lecturer, University of Washington Middle East Center Teachers Course on Islamic Iran, July.
- 2008 Chair, “Program Committee Picks” panel, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November.

- 2007 Author, “Preservation and Digitization of the Amīr Khusraw Corpus,” a project to identify the most important editions among works by Amīr Khusraw in preparation for preserving and digitizing them. Funded by the South Asia Microform Project.
- 2003 Participant, American Institute of Iranian Studies Roundtable on Academic Exchange Between the U.S. and Iran, New York City, December.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- 2012 Presenter, Religious Founders Day, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, February.
- 2011 Presenter, Four Faiths: An Experiential Exploration, Interfaith Community Church, Seattle, Washington, October.
- 2009 Presenter, World Peace Series of the Baha’is of Wailuku, Waikapu, Hawaii, April.
- 2007 Participant and Reader, University of Chicago Interfaith Service of Prayer and Reflection on Global Warming, Chicago, April.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion

Middle East Studies Association

International Society for Iranian Studies

Association for the Study of Persianate Societies

Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar

Asia Scholar Network, Carolina Asia Center at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### **LANGUAGES**

Persian, French, Arabic