Exploring Iran: Emerging Scholarship in Iranian Studies

A One Day Conference at the University of California, Irvine

Saturday, February 14th, 2009
Humanities Instructional Building 135

9:30am
Introductory Remarks
Nasrin Rahimieh (UC Irvine)

9:45-11:00
Literature, Self and the Nation

Chair: Jasmin Rostam-Kolayi (CSUF History)
Discussant: Fariba Taghavi (Long Beach State Political Science)

Amy Tahani-Bidmeshki (UCLA Comparative Literature)
Birth of a New Nation: The Emergence of the “New Man” in Six Post-WWII African American and Iranian Novels

Shervin Emami (UCLA Near Eastern Languages and Cultures)
The Idea of Secularism in Persian Literature: From Hedayat to Al-e Ahamad
Sharareh Frouzesh Bennett (UCI Comparative Literature)
Imagining Resistance: Guilt in the Literature of the Iranian Revolution

Leila Pazargadi (UCLA Comparative Literature)
The Womb of the Universe: Figuring Woman as the Nation in Goli Taraghi’s Khaneye dar Āsemān

11:00-12:30
The Cleric, the Intellectual, and Modern Life

Chair: Arash Khazeni (Claremont McKenna College History)
Discussant: Afshin Matin-Asgari (CSULA History & Religious Studies)

Philip Grant (UCI Anthropology)
Intellectuals as Translators: the Travails of the New Age

Ali M. Meghdadi (UCI Comparative Literature)
Persistent Threshold: Iran’s Traumatized Stasis

Janet A. Alexanian (UCI Anthropology)
Contested visions: Iranian cultural production in transnational fields

Mateo Farzaneh (UCSB History)
Akhund Khorasani and the Turning Point in Shi’ite Jurisprudence

2:00-3:00
Economy, Archaeology in Late Antique Iran

Chair: Touraj Daryaee (UCI History)
Discussant: Ali Mousavi (Los Angeles County Museum of Art)

Reza Yeganeh (UCI History)
Environmental Decline in Mesopotamia and Khuzistan & the Muslim Conquest

Alan Farahani (UCB Archaeology)
Rethinking Agricultural Intensification in Early Sasanian Iran

Khodadad Rezakhani (UCLA History)
Economy and Archaeology of Southwestern Iran, AD 500-700
3:00-3:45

Psychoanalysis, Genealogy and of Gender

Chair: Martin Schwartz (UCB Near Eastern Studies)
Discussant: Yuhan Vevaina (Harvard Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations)

Warren Soward (UCI History Department)
Psychoanalytic Insights into Scatological Creation Myths in the Iranian Tradition

Haleh Emrani (UCLA History Department)
Challenges facing the historians of Women in Late Sasanian Empire

4:15-5:30pm

Translating Middle Persian Texts: How can we Learn from other Traditions?
(Round-table Discussion)

Mathew W. Stolper
Chicago (Oriental Institute)

Nasrin Rahimieh
UCI (Comparative Literature)

Touraj Daryaee
UCI (History)

Yuhan Vevaina
Harvard (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization)

Martin Schwartz
UCB (Near Eastern Studies)

Hossein Ziai
UCLA (Near Easter Language & Cultures)

5:30

Closing Remarks
Touraj Daryaee (UCI)