It is a pleasure to be writing once again to report on developments within the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies. This is my last report as Director, and I am immensely pleased by what we have been able to achieve in the three and a half years since our formal inauguration in October 2014. My successor will be named later in 2018, but I believe she or he will find an exciting, dynamic and above all productive environment in which to continue this mission!

To demonstrate how far we have come in this short period, I am organizing this report differently than in the past, to highlight our progress towards each of the goals set out in the mission of the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies (hereafter referred to as the ‘Mossavar-Rahmani Center’ or simply ‘the Center’). Since the Mossavar-Rahmani Center first opened its doors, our scholars and affiliated faculty have – to quote the original wording in our mission statement - employed a “comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to advancing the understanding of Iran and the Persian Gulf” through conducting research and teaching courses on a “broad range of topics from ancient Persia to the modern states that border the Persian Gulf.” Over the past two years in particular, we have made significant strides to provide students, faculty, the campus community, alumni and the wider public with a robust, interdisciplinary program of seminars and workshops on “the region’s role and significance in the contemporary world.” Through this aim, the Center has attracted visiting scholars (both short- and long- term) from a range of disciplines with expertise on contemporary issues of the region. This has not only strengthened our unique and interdisciplinary identity at Princeton University, but has forged important Center collaborations across departments and other institutions, both at home and abroad.
Our progress towards meeting each of the following strategic objectives embodies our commitment to the Center’s fundamental purpose, to support teaching and research on all aspects of Iran and Persian Gulf studies at Princeton University.

**Objective: Building world-class intellectual and academic capacity in the field of Iran and Persian Gulf studies**

Through its support of various interdisciplinary projects and initiatives (outlined below), the Mossavar-Rahmani Center contributes to the advancement of knowledge and research within the fields of Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, building world-class intellectual and academic capacity in these areas.

**Iran Social Survey (ISS)**

This project was conceived by **Professor Kevan Harris** (previously at Princeton, now UCLA) and initial findings from the survey were previewed in a day-long workshop hosted by the Mossavar-Rahmani Center at Princeton University in October 2017. The video of the public portion of this workshop can be viewed on the Center’s [website gallery](#) and [YouTube playlist](#).

In an effort to capture citizen behavior and attitudes towards presidential and parliamentary elections, political mobilization by candidate campaigns, and access to various news media, the Iran Social Survey (ISS) surveyed a nationally-representative sample of 5,000 Iranian residents after the 2016 Majles (parliamentary) and Assembly of Experts elections. ISS interviewers also asked respondents about civil society participation, household usage of state social services, self-identification across ethnic or language groups, and family demographics including parents and grandparents’ occupational histories.

The first brief produced from ISS data, **Voter Behavior and Political Mobilization in Iran: Findings from the Iran Social Survey**, highlights election-related findings relevant for understanding how citizens engage with the political process in Iran. The authors find low levels of identification with national-level political factions, considerable heterogeneity in citizen preferences for presidential and parliamentary candidates, and divergence in where citizens receive information about politics. The brief also illustrates large differences in how candidates contact voters before election day. Additionally, individual-level data is made available on nationally-representative voting patterns based on socioeconomic status, age, gender, and education.

The Iran Social Survey was made possible with the support of the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at Princeton University, the European Iran
Iranian Elections Abroad
Revised Citizenships: Political Behavior of the Iranian Diaspora

This is a “remote voting behavior” project under the direction of Dr. Amin Moghadam (Mossavar-Rahmani Center) and Dr. Luciano Zaccara (Mossavar-Rahmani Center visitor; Qatar University).

The presidential elections have become important events for Iranian citizens abroad. The act of voting demonstrates the desire to maintain links with the home country and implies rights that are acknowledged by the Iranian State; but it also draws a new line between those who wish to vote and can, and those who do not wish to vote or, for diverse reasons, are unable to participate in elections. At the same time, the gradual integration of the first or second generation of Iranians abroad has resulted in various degrees of political engagement in the receiving countries. The variation in transnational political participation, either at home or in host countries, can be explained by a range of factors, among which generational identities, the conditions under which emigration took place, and the forms of local integration that prevail in the different host contexts, all play an important role. These forms of dual political belonging may contribute to the shaping of a migratory diplomacy that would, directly or indirectly, influence bilateral relations between Iran and countries where Iranians have settled. In view of these factors, the study aims to address several key questions, including that of the ways in which the definition of Iranian citizenship interacts with the political behavior of the Iranian diaspora(s) through distance voting; the forms through which the involvement of members of the diaspora in the local politics of their receiving societies are articulated; and the ways through which this interaction sheds light on aspects of the policy of the Iranian state to its diaspora since 1979. This new project will create opportunities for joint publication, presentation and academic collaboration with peer institutions in the years to come.

Iran Graduate Student Workshop (IGSW)

After the inaugural April 29-30, 2016 workshop, which was organized by and convened at the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at Princeton University, the ongoing program will recur every two years on rotation at the campuses of the joint workshop founders (Mossavar-Rahmani Center, University of Pennsylvania’s Middle East Center and New York University’s Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Department and the Gallatin School [ISI-NYU]). By design, this venue provides distinguished young scholars of the field, from various disciplines, with an unrivalled opportunity to present and promote their research and receive feedback and mentorship from the returning cohort of ‘senior’ graduate student participants and the faculty members who comprise the IGSW committee - Cyrus
This spring, the Middle East Center of the University of Pennsylvania will host the second workshop, scheduled for May 4-5, 2018 with the support of the Mossavar-Rahmani Center. For this cycle there were 35 applications and four finalists selected for the new ‘junior’ cohort. Registration and the IGSW schedule are currently available online.

**Iran Energy Security Project**

This project, led by Dr. Sina Toosi (Research Specialist, WWS Program on Science and Global Security) has focused on the merits of the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) and its value for U.S.-Iran relations and the region, and connects with research on developing policy ideas for a new security structure and non-proliferation regime in the Persian Gulf that would include the Gulf states, Iran, and Iraq. A comprehensive research paper outlining the justifications and goals of such a cooperation system in the Persian Gulf will be published later this year. In association with this work, a paper on Iran’s relations with its Persian Gulf neighbors was published in *The Cairo Review of Global Affairs*, while a co-authored paper for George Washington University’s *Washington Quarterly* highlighted the main achievements, lessons, and challenges of the nuclear negotiations period and its implications for U.S.-Iran relations going forward. The project connects with a range of other initiatives in this field, including engagement in the policy debate regarding U.S.-Iran relations, the JCPOA, and Middle East security issues, through writing analysis and opinion pieces in major media outlets such as *Newsweek* and *The National Interest*.

**Badakhshan Manuscript Digitization Project**

This project, led by Professor Jo-Ann Gross of The College of New Jersey and Princeton University, has as its main objective the preservation of and accessibility to approximately 100 original privately-held genealogical histories of Ismaili pirs and khalifas from Tajikistan and Afghanistan dating from the 16th-20th centuries, in addition to letters and financial documents associated with them. The project is based on the digital archive of manuscripts and documents Dr. Gross created from field research she conducted between 2004-2016 in the towns and villages of Badakhshan. It is the first effort to study the history of the Ismaili community in Badakhshan through the local culture of documentation, specifically the documentation of genealogically based sanctity and sayyid pedigree among familial communities of shahs, pirs and khalifas in Badakhshan. The goal is to render a defined corpus of these Persian-language texts legible as historical sources by digitalizing them; identifying their features; defining the local
genres of genealogy, letter writing and document production as historical practices; and analyzing them as a source for local knowledge of the Ismaili tradition of Badakhshan. This project uses historical methods to bring a humanities perspective to the study of knowledge production in the context of genealogical history, while focusing on a region that has been understudied and inaccessible. It will also be one of the first efforts to systematically collect and interpret primary data from both Afghan and Tajik Badakhshan, with a view towards understanding the historical and social connections between these two regions.

Work in 2017 has focused on the preparation of a draft inventory of the Ismaili genealogies (nasab-nāmas) and related documents that have now been photographed in Badakhshan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan between 2004-2016. A Google document table has been created with links to all the digital images as well as the Persian transcriptions. From August 2017-December 2017 work shifted to the preparation of an application for a National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Award, titled “Ismailism in Badakhshan: A Genealogical and Documentary History.” This was successful and a 3-year NEH Collaborative Research Grant was awarded (one of only twelve awards nation-wide of 123 applications and only one of two that concern the Middle East). The project work is carried out on a collaborative basis with Daniel Beben of Nazarbaev University and Umed Mamadsherzodshoev of the Institute of Humanities in Khorog, Badakhshan in Tajikistan. The results will be presented through the creation of an open access digital repository at Princeton University Library and in a co-authored printed book. This will be the first corpus of Ismaili documents from Badakhshan available online in transcription and English translation, which will make this material available for scholarly and classroom use.

The project findings to date have been presented at a number of venues, including an invited lecture at UCLA April 24, 2017; a conference on “Islamic Cultures of Documentation: Archives, Paperwork, and State Power in Eurasia” at the University of Pittsburgh on May 23-24 2017; and a conference on “Shii Studies: The State of the Art,” at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton December 8-9th 2017. In addition, Professor Jo-Ann Gross, together with Dr. Daniel Beben and Umed Mamadsherzodshoev presented their work at a pre-organized panel at the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies in Tbilisi, Georgia on March 16, 2018.

**Schaaf Collection Project**

The Schaaf Sasanian coin collection was purchased with the help of the Center’s gift from Anihita Naficy Lovelace ’75 and the Friends of Princeton University Library. This valuable collection, along with Princeton’s primary Numismatic Collection of almost 300 valuable Sasanian coins, has been studied, described, curated, catalogued and illustrated by Dr. Razieh Taasob, Associate Professional Specialist for Central Asian Numismatics of the Department of
Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University. These collections demonstrate a comprehensive documentation of the Sasanian rulers and their political dominance in the period of late antiquity. Now available through the Princeton online coin database, this invaluable resource can be fully accessed and viewed by specialists, students, and researchers around the globe.

**Affiliated Courses (see Appendix A)**

The Center’s extensive array of affiliated courses are taught by faculty from various departments and serve as an important foundation of Princeton’s academic capacity in the field of Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, which the Center draws important attention to through its interdisciplinary role on campus. Through our network of academic connections across disciplines, we act as a major hub on and off campus for fostering curiosity and engagement with the issues and scholarship of Iran and the Persian Gulf region, advancing intellectual growth and helping to expand educational opportunities in these fields.

**Future projects**

As part of our ongoing strategy to increase awareness of Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies more widely, we are basing next year’s programming around a series of key themes spanning antiquity through the present day. For each, we will be inviting visiting scholars and specialists to participate in a particular engagement (public lecture, workshop, conference, or series) and activity (article, joint publication, briefing, etc.) The themes, projects, and invitees will be determined at the end-of-semester planning meetings with the Center’s core members and in consultation with our Executive Committee.
Objective: Drawing outside talent into the Mossavar-Rahmani Center, including recruiting visiting scholars from a variety of disciplines

Academic Year 2017-18

Djavad Salehi-Isfahani
Visiting Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

Djavad Salehi-Isfahani has been a senior Visiting Research Scholar at the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies from January to May, 2018. During his stay, he has been working on a monograph on Iran’s economic and social development. This is an empirical study of the transformation of Iran’s family and society after the Islamic Revolution. It is based on field and archival research done over the last twenty years studying and analyzing the Iranian economy. It shows that, contrary to common perceptions, Iran has modernized significantly in terms of women’s education and their role in the family, while showing also that the middle class has expanded to form a majority of the population. The book attributes these developments to the populist policies of the Islamic Republic and their unintended consequences.

During his Mossavar-Rahmani Center appointment, Professor Salehi-Isfahani has also presented two public lectures, the first entitled, “The Political Economy of Energy Subsidy Reform in Iran” on February 15, 2018 and the second (forthcoming) on “The Other Iran: Unintended Modernity in the Islamic Republic”, scheduled for May 3, 2018. In addition to meeting with students and colleagues throughout the semester, Djavad also served as a panelist in the “Up to the Minute-Iran: Changing Perspectives” event that was co-organized by the Center and Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs on February 22, 2018.
Luciano Zaccara  
Visiting Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

Luciano Zaccara has been a Visiting Research Scholar at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center from February to May, 2018. During his stay, he co-organized and spoke as a panelist in the “Up to the Minute-Iran: Changing Perspectives” event hosted by the Center and Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He organized a three-day workshop in the Center in April entitled, “Understanding the Politics of the Gulf Cooperation Council States (GCC)”, structured into three key sessions: 1: Who rules the GCC states (how and why)? 2: Do elections matter? Comparing GCC case studies; 3: Who paid the price of the Arab Spring in the GCC? On April 25, Dr. Zaccara also delivered a public presentation in the Mossavar-Rahmani Center Seminar Series on the theme “Understanding Iran's Electoral Processes and its Political Implications.”

Along with these presentations, Luciano has been working on editing the volume *The Foreign Policy of Iran under President Hassan Rouhani*, to appear with Palgrave later in 2018. He has conducted various interviews with scholars, researchers and officials on Iranian relations with the U.S., the Iranian diaspora in the U.S. and the JCPOA and is currently writing two articles: “Factional competition in an electoral authoritarian regime: An analysis of 2008, 2012 and 2016 Iranian Majlis elections” and “The role of the Central Municipal Council in the Institutional Process in Qatar.”

Dan Beckman  
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies (Year 1 of 3)

Dan Beckman joined the Mossavar-Rahmani Center from UCLA earlier this year in Fall 2017. Since then, he has been working on projects concerning Persian history as recorded in Greek and Latin sources. He has published one article (“The Many Deaths of Cyrus the Great.” Iranian Studies 51, no. 1 (2018): 1–21), and is currently preparing an article on the formation of the Arsacid (Parthian) state. In November,
Dr. Beckman delivered a public presentation in the Mossavar-Rahmani Center Seminar Series on the theme “Managing the Greek Frontier: Achaemenid Strategies in the West.” He recently presented his work at a number of conferences, including the Convention of the Association for the Study of Persiane Societies (Tbilisi), the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (Innsbruck), and the Iranian Studies Conference (Irvine, CA). In the upcoming academic year 2018-19, Dan will teach a Freshman Seminar on Alexander the Great.

Amin Moghadam
Associate Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies (Year 2 of 3)

In the first semester of 2017-2018, Dr. Moghadam conducted extended fieldwork in Iran from November to the end of December. He also organized the international conference “Human Mobilities and Creation” (Isfahan and Tehran 12-14 November 2017), as its scientific director with the support of the French Institute of Research in Iran (IFRI). He published several articles on the political economy of art and its spaces in the Middle East and co-edited a special issue of the peer-reviewed French journal Géographie et Cultures on the same topic. This spring semester, Amin is offering an undergraduate course entitled “Mobilities, Borders and Social Dynamics in the Middle East,” hosted by the departments of Sociology and Near Eastern Studies. He is also leading the NES graduate reading course “Space in Perspective. Theories and Practices.” Along with his teaching responsibilities, Amin co-organized the “Up to the Minute-Iran: Changing Perspectives” event with Dr. Luciano Zaccara and served as one of the panelists. He also helped to organize and moderate the talks by Dr. Laurence Louër (Sciences Po, Paris), on “Shias in the Gulf Monarchies,” and Dr. Talinn Grigor (University of California, Davis) on contemporary Iranian art. Outside of Princeton, Amin presented his research in several academic conferences, including the Middle Eastern American Center of City University of New York (CUNY) in March 2018, and a conference organized by Sciences Po Paris and the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris in October 2017. He will be presenting his last paper in June 2018 in a joint conference organized by the Department of Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and the British Museum in London.
Khodadad Rezakhani
Associate Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies (Year 2 of 3)

Dr. Rezakhani spent the first term of the 2017-2018 academic year teaching a graduate seminar on Late Antique problems and sources, focusing on the Sasanian Empire, hosted by the Department of History. In conjunction with that, he also taught a reading course on Middle Persian/Pahlavi to graduate and undergraduate students. Alongside his teaching, Khodadad continued to pursue his Princeton research project on Sasanian/Early Islamic economy of the Near East, as well as writing several articles on the roots of New Persian in Central Asia and the monetary policy of Khosrow II. Throughout the fall term, Khodadad also invited and helped organize two of the Center’s Seminar Series presentations delivered by Professor Arash Khazeni of Pomona College and Professor Reza Zia-Ebrahimi of Kings College, London, and assisted with the search and hire of the Center’s new Events Coordinator. He additionally attended three workshops and conferences and delivered presentations on workshops that he helped organize.

In the first half of the spring term 2018, Khodadad undertook a research trip to Europe and Iran. In Iran, he conducted research in the Malik Library on several early Persian historical manuscripts, as well as studying a coin collection in the Iran National Museum’s coin cabinet. During this trip, he also delivered talks in London and Dubai and attended a major Iranian Studies conference in Tbilisi, Georgia as well as a conference at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. Throughout the year, he has been involved in organizing a conference on Documents and Texts in Late Antiquity alongside members of Princeton faculty, as well as a conference on ancient Iranian food and food culture in collaboration with UC Irvine, to take place on 15 May 2018.
Jo-Ann Gross  
Visiting Fellow, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

As leader of the Badakhshan Manuscript Digitization Project, Professor Jo-Ann Gross has been an extremely active member of the Center’s research community. For the academic year 2017-2018 she has been on sabbatical leave from the College of New Jersey, working in the Center on a daily basis and participating actively in the Center’s programming and activities. In November 2017 she attended, along with project research associate Daniel Beben, a one-day training session organized by Dr. Joyce Bell, Cataloging and Metadata Services Director of Princeton University Library, in which she reviewed catalog record examples, cataloging principles and rules, authority control, data elements, guidelines, file management, and terminology. She has since created a new database for the collection, and is working, document by document, to complete the Badakhshan Metadata Spreadsheet. While this is an intensive process, good progress is being made and the goal is to complete the descriptive metadata by August 2018. Additional information about her Badakhshan Manuscript Digitization Project can be found in the preceding section. A longtime board member of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), Jo-Ann serves as a knowledgeable resource for students and colleagues in the Center and its affiliated programs.

Nura Hossainzadeh  
Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies  
Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies Member

Since joining the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Dr. Hossainzadeh has designed and taught three new undergraduate courses: 1) “Modern Iran” 2) “Liberalism, Democracy and Iranian Political Thought” and 3) “Feminist Political Theory: Iran and the West.” The latter two courses integrated Western political thought (liberal/democratic theory in the first case, feminist theory in the second) with 20th century Iranian political thought. On the graduate side, she designed and taught the new
graduate course, “Islam and Government in Iran and Saudi Arabia.” Alongside her teaching, Nura has also been working on a book manuscript based on her dissertation and will soon submit a book proposal to Oxford University Press. Throughout the year, she has served as Princeton University’s representative on the Iran Graduate Student Workshop (IGSW) steering committee. At the upcoming IGSW at University of Pennsylvania (May 4-5, 2018), she will participate in two panels: one called “A Dialogue on the State of Iranian Studies” and the other, in which scholars will discuss the graduate student paper entitled, “Remembering the Dismembered Body: Representations of Trauma in the Iran-Iraq War Cinema and Literature.” She presented a paper at the American Political Science Association in September, entitled “Michel Foucault and Ali Shari’ati on Shi’ite ‘Political Spirituality’” as well as an October talk, “The Constitutionalism of Ruhollah Khomeini’s Political Thought” through the Near Eastern Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series, cosponsored by the Mossavar-Rahmani Center. In addition to these engagements, Nura also participated in a Princeton conference entitled “The Rise of Authoritarian Constitutionalism: Historical, Legal, and Normative Perspectives” and served as a panelist in the “Up to the Minute-Iran: Changing Perspectives” panel organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs. She currently chairs one senior thesis (Talya Nevins), two junior papers (Brooke Smilen and Rasha Suleiman), and one Master's thesis (Kaidi Gao).

Daniel Sheffield
Assistant Professor in Near Eastern Studies
Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies Member

In 2017–18, Daniel Sheffield has taught the undergraduate courses “The Flame and the Crescent: Zoroastrianism in Islamic Context” and “The Idea of Iran” as well as the graduate courses “Geography, Travel, and the Frontiers of the Premodern Islamic World” and “Persian Historiography from the Mongols to the Qajars.” His published articles include “Zoroastrian Scriptures in India” in Encyclopedia of Indian Religions (2017); “Lord of the Planetary Court: Revisiting a “Nativist Prophet” of Early Modern Iran” in Studying the Near East at the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, 1935–2018 (2018); and “The Quest for the Historical Zarathustra: Parsis and Philologists on the Prophet in Nineteenth-Century Bombay” in Journal of the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute 72 (2018). He has also recently submitted for peer review and publication two articles entitled “Revisiting the Middle Persian Kalīla wa Dimna: An Unedited Pahlavi Source of Burzōy's Journey to India” and "Theurgical Manual or Ancient Scripture? On the Sources of the Celestial Regulations (Dasātīr-i
Āsmānī).” During the academic year, Dan also presented "Zoroastrian Literature as World Literature? On Translation and Untranslatability in the Zoroastrian Tradition" at the Persian Literature Unbound Conference, University of California, Irvine, November 10, 2017; "A Prehistory of the Zoroastrian Codex Tradition” at the Judaism in the 7th and 8th Centuries conference, Princeton University, November 12, 2017; "Toward a Social History of Late Pahlavi (Zoroastrian Middle Persian)” at the Middle East Studies Association, November 18–21, 2017; "Zoroastrianism and the Idea of Universal Religion between Safavid Iran and Mughal India” at the Columbia University South Asia Institute, February 12, 2018; “‘Yearning to See You’: Friendship and Alliances between Iranian and Indian Zoroastrians” at the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, March 4, 2018; “The Letter of Mahdī Furūh-i Sāsān and Late Pahlavi Literature” at the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, Tbilisi, March 18, 2018. Later this year he will present “Food in Middle Persian Literature” at the Food and Drink in Ancient Iran conference, University of California, Irvine, May 15, 2018 and "The Zoroastrian Astrologer and the People’s Representative: Mullā Kāʾūs ‘Jalāl’ at the Court of Karīm Khān Zand” at the Association for Iranian Studies conference, August 16, 2018. He is currently working on submitting his first book manuscript Cosmopolitan Zarathustras: Religion, Translation, and Prophethood in Iran and South Asia to academic publishers and is pursuing research for his second manuscript, tentatively entitled On Translation and Toleration: The Free-Thinkers of Early Modern Iran and South Asia.

Amineh Mahallati
Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies
Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies Member

Over the past academic year, Amineh Mahallati has taught Persian courses at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. In PER101-102, she introduced students to Iran and the Persian language through Iranian poetry, Persian fables, Iran’s provinces, and the traditions of Nowruz. At the intermediate level (PER105-107), Amineh used short stories, film, scripts, historical readings, poetry and cooking to help students progress in their Persian language competency. In her Advanced Persian program (PER 302, PER 305), Amineh introduced students to Persian contemporary and classic literature and incorporated weekly documentary and film screenings. The class discussed the films, along with associated political and cultural issues, acted out scenes, and attended a Persian film at Princeton’s Garden Theater. Alongside her courses, Amineh hosts a weekly luncheon on Fridays for students in her
Amineh often brings her classes to the Center’s talks and seminars and helps bring students’ awareness to Persian cultural experiences on and off campus.

Short-term Center Visitors

**Matthew Melvin-Koushki**, University of South Carolina (Visited September-October 2017)

Professor Melvin-Koushki specializes in the theory and practice of the occult sciences in Timurid-Safavid Iran and the broader Persianate world. He visited the Mossavar-Rahmani Center in conjunction with speaking engagements hosted by Near Eastern Studies and co-sponsored by the Center as well as a conference based in the History Department entitled, “God and the Stars: Medieval and Early Modern Religion, Society, and Astrology.” In his weeks at the Center, Matt was also involved in conducting research, meeting with students, and connecting with campus colleagues.

**Rouzbeh Parsi**, Lund University/ European Iran Research Group (Visited October 2017)

Dr. Rouzbeh Parsi specializes in Iran and the Middle East and is a former senior analyst at the EU Institute for Security Studies in Paris, covering Iran, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf. He visited the Mossavar-Rahmani Center in conjunction with his involvement in an all-day workshop hosted by the Center in October to present findings from the recently conducted Iran Social Survey. In addition to presenting in the workshop, Rouzbeh delivered a public lecture on this topic and connected with students, faculty, and members of the Princeton community.

**Kevan Harris**, UCLA (Visited October 2017)

Professor Kevan Harris is an historical sociologist whose current research focuses on welfare politics in low and middle-income countries and business-state relations in Iran as well as class and social mobility in Iran before and after 1979. He visited the Mossavar-Rahmani Center in conjunction with an all-day workshop hosted by the Center to present findings from the recently conducted Iran Social Survey (on which he was lead researcher), to deliver a public lecture on this topic to the campus community, and as part of a wider East Coast trip to discuss the survey outcomes and implications with sociologists, scholars of the Middle East, and policy makers in Washington, DC and the tri-state area.
**Arash Khazeni**, Pomona College (Visited November 2017)

Professor Arash Khazeni specializes in the imperial and environmental histories of the early modern and colonial Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia. He visited the Mossavar-Rahmani Center in conjunction with his public speaking engagement at the Center, co-sponsored by the Program in South Asian Studies, and to conduct research on his new book, discuss his work with Princeton colleagues, and (as an unexpected bonus) to accompany his daughter on a prospective student visit.

**Reza Zia-Ebrahimi**, King’s College London (Visited December 2017)

Professor Reza Zia-Ebrahimi’s research sits at the juncture of global intellectual history and ethnic studies, his recent work concerning the development of dislocative nationalism in Iran in the period of 1860-1979 with a particular focus on the hybridization of European ideas of nation and race by Iranian intellectuals. He visited the Mossavar-Rahmani Center in conjunction with his public speaking engagement at the Center on the “Emergence of Iranian Nationalism: Race and the Politics of Dislocation,” to conduct research on his new book, and to work with colleagues in the Center.

**Banafsheh Keynoush**, consultant and author (Visited February 2018)

A university assistant and adjunct professor for over thirteen years, Dr. Banafsheh Keynoush is also a geopolitical and communications consultant and offers consulting services in the field. Since 2009, she has advised major global companies and the U.S. private sector, and shared her expertise with the White House from 2010 to 2013. She visited the Center for several days in February as part of her role in moderating the “Up to the Minute-Iran: Changing Perspectives” panel co-organized by the Center and Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School. During her stay, she conducted meetings with various campus colleagues and used Firestone Library’s Near Eastern Studies collection to conduct research on her latest writing project.

**Laurence Loüer**, Sciences Po, Center for International Research, Paris (Visited March 2018)

Dr. Laurence Loüer works across the disciplines of economics, political science, and sociology to specialize in the scholarship of Shiism and politics as well as minorities and identity politics in the Middle East. She visited the Mossavar-Rahmani Center as part of her public speaking engagement at the Center on “Shias in the Gulf Monarchies and their Relations with Iran” and to meet with campus colleagues and members of the Princeton University Press. Regarding the latter, her book *Sunnites et Chrétiens. Histoire politique d’une discordie* (Paris, Seuil, 2017) will
soon be translated as *Sunni and Shia: political history of a dispute* and published in 2019 by Princeton University Press.

**Talinn Grigor**, University of California, Davis (Visited March 2018)

Professor Grigor’s research centers upon the cross-pollination of visual culture and global politics and historiography, with a particular focus on Iran and Parsi India. She visited the Mossavar-Rahmani Center as part of her public speaking engagement “Translations in Contemporary Iranian Art: Historicity, Marketability, Mobility” and to discuss the details of her upcoming appointment and residency at the Center when she returns as a Visiting Research Scholar in 2018-19. See below for further information on her scholarship.

**Academic Year 2018-19**

![Talinn Grigor](image)

**Talinn Grigor**  
Visiting Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

Talinn Grigor is Chair and Professor of Art History in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of California, Davis. Her research concentrates on the cross-pollination of art and (post)colonial politics in Iran and Parsi India. Her first book, *Building Iran: Modernism, Architecture, and National Heritage under the Pahlavi Monarchs* (Prestel, 2009) examines the link between official architecture and heritage discourses in 20th century Iran. *Contemporary Iranian Visual Culture and Arts: Street, Studio, and Exile* (Reaktion, 2014) explores Iranian visual culture through the premise of the art historical debate of populist vs. avant-garde art that extends into the identity politics of the exile.

Her present project deals with the turn-of-the-century European art-historiography and its links to the Persian Revival artistic movement in 19th and early 20th century Qajar Iran and the British Raj. Entitled, *The Persian Revival beyond postModern Ambivalence 1823-1939*, it traces the practice and implication of the different modes of art-historical applications and the nature of artistic scrutiny, examined through the premise of the 1901 *Orient or Rome* debate within the discipline of art history and racial related aesthetic theories without. The book manuscript for this book project will be ready for submission to the University of California Press in May 2018. Her next book project deals with theories of marginality and minority in the advent of modernist architecture during the late Qajar and early Pahlavi eras.
With the appointment of a new Director who will be at the same time a specialist of modern Iran and Persian Gulf Studies as well as a professor within the Department of Near Eastern Studies, the Center members, faculty associates, and visitors, look forward to an expanding and dynamic future program. It has been a great pleasure for me, as founding Director, to have been able to guide our efforts thus far, and I wish my successor the very best of luck for the future.

**Objective: Providing outreach through international conferences, film festivals, lecture series, concerts, and publications programs**

The Center offers a robust interdisciplinary Seminar Series along with special events like workshops, interdisciplinary panels, roundtable discussions, film screenings, artist-led tutorials, and book signings. Since my last report, we have organized and sponsored a wide range of programming, details below:

**Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies Events 2017-2018**

**Spring 2017**

February 10, 2017

**WANTED**

**Discussion with Tehran-based visual artist Ghazel** and presentation of her work on issues of migration, exile, (trans)cultural identities, discrimination, threats of expulsion and dual-nationality

Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and cosponsored by Princeton University Art Museum, the Department of French and Italian, Center for Migration and Development, and the PIIRS research community, "Migration: People and Cultures Across Borders"

March 1, 2017

**God is on the Other Shore: Iranians in Dubai and the Formation of a Transnational Social Field**

**Amin Moghadam**, Associate Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and cosponsored by the Center for Migration and Development


Spring 2017 (continued)

March 6, 2017

**Tehran 1979, Damascus 2011: Adonis, Foucault, and the Genealogy of Revolt**

*Robyn Creswell*, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, Yale University

Organized by the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies and cosponsored by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

March 28, 2017

**Neither Eastern nor Western; Iranian: The Roots and History of Iran's Enduring Quest for Self-Sufficiency**

*Rudi Matthee*, John and Dorothy Munroe Distinguished Professor of History, University of Delaware

Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

April 4, 2017

**The Politics of Counting: Pro-Regime Media Strategy in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

*Narges Bajoghli*, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University

Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and cosponsored by the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, the Program in Media & Modernity, the Department of Anthropology, and the Department of Sociology

April 6, 2017

**Iran's Challenge and Opportunity for Turkey and the Gulf Arab States**

*Banafsheh Keynoush*, Foreign Affairs Advisor and visiting scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

Organized by the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination and cosponsored by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

April 12, 2017

**Student Roundtable Discussion with Mossavar-Rahmani Center Visitors**

*Banafsheh Keynoush and Hamid Pouran*

Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

April 13, 2017

**An American Journalist in Iran, from 1979 to Today**

*Elaine Sciolino*, contributing writer for *The New York Times*, author of *Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran* and Visiting Lecturer in the Humanities Council; Ferris Professor of Journalism (Spring 2017), Princeton University

Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
Spring 2017 (continued)

April 17, 2017
Persian Calligraphy in an Ottoman Album: Imperial Rivalry or Artistic Continuity?
Emine Fetvaci, Associate Professor, Islamic Art, Boston University
Organized by the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies and cosponsored by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

April 18, 2017
The Dust We Breathe: Climate and Public Health in the MENA Region & Documentary Screening
Hamid Pouran, Environmental Scientist and visiting scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
Organized by the Princeton Environmental Institute and cosponsored by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

April 26, 2017
Visualizing a Coup d'Etat: the 1953 Coup in Iran as a Graphic Novel: A Conversation & Book Signing with the Creators of Operation Ajax
Daniel Burwen, Creative Director, Cognito Comics
Mike de Seve, Creative Director, Baboon Animation
Ervand Abrahamian, Distinguished Professor of Iranian and Middle Eastern History and Politics, City University of New York (CUNY)
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and cosponsored by Labyrinth Books

Fall 2017

September 12, 2017
Student Welcome Luncheon
Meet the Center's faculty associates, interact with fellow students, and learn about upcoming events, visitors, and affiliated courses.
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

September 25, 2017
Islamic Philosophy as Occult Practice: The Case of Safavid Iran
Matthew Melvin-Koushki, Assistant Professor of History, University of South Carolina
Organized by the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies and cosponsored by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
Fall 2017 (continued)

October 9, 2017
**The Constitutionalism of Ruhollah Khomeini’s Political Thought**  
*Nura Hossainzadeh*, Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies  
Organized by the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies and cosponsored by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

October 10, 2017
**Iran Barometer: Political Challenge and Social Change in the Islamic Republic**  
A presentation and discussion on contemporary events in Iran, including the findings from a new social survey recently conducted inside the Islamic Republic.  
*Rouzbeh Parsi*, Senior Lecturer in History at Lund University; Director of European Iran Research Group (EIRG)  
*Kevan Harris*, Assistant Professor of Sociology at UCLA; Lead Researcher for the Iran Social Survey  
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and cosponsored by Lund University, European Iran Research Group, Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies, and Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS)

November 8, 2017
**Managing the Greek Frontier: Achaemenid Strategies in the West**  
*Daniel Beckman*, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies  
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

November 9, 16, 30 and December 7, 2017
**Persian Calligraphy Workshop Series**  
*Fereydoon Vasighi*, calligrapher  
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

November 16, 2017
**The City and the Wilderness: Indo-Persian Travel Writing and the Edge of the Mughal World**  
*Arash Khazeni*, Associate Professor of History, Pomona College  
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and cosponsored by the Program in South Asian Studies

December 6, 2017
**The Emergence of Iranian Nationalism: Race and the Politics of Dislocation**  
*Reza Zia-Ebrahimi*, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in History, King’s College London  
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
Spring 2018

February 15, 2018
The Political Economy of Energy Subsidy Reform in Iran
Djavad Salehi-Isfahani, Visiting Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and Professor of Economics, Virginia Tech
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

February 22, 2018
UP TO THE MINUTE – Iran: Changing Perspectives
This panel offered the opportunity to discuss the recent unrest in Iran from a range of perspectives rooted in various socio-economic and political fields.
Panelists: Djavad Salehi-Isfahani (Princeton, Virginia Tech), Luciano Zaccara (Princeton, Qatar University), Nura Hossainzadeh (Princeton), Amin Moghadam (Princeton, URMIS – Paris Diderot)
Moderator: Banafsheh Keynoush, Foreign Policy Advisor and Author
Co-organized by the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs and the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and cosponsored by the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies

March 1, 2018
Shias in the Gulf Monarchies and their Relations with Iran
Laurence Loüer, Associate Professor, Sciences Po, Center for International Research, Paris
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

March 15 - 18, 2018
Rescheduled Eighth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)
Ilia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia)
Cosponsored by Ilia State University, G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies, Persian Heritage Foundation, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, American Institute of Iranian Studies, ASPS Central Eurasian Research Fund, and Brill Publishers
* This conference had originally been scheduled to take place in Iran before the U.S. travel ban caused Iran’s government to reciprocate with visa denials to U.S. participants, among other logistical complications.

March 20, 2018
Sal-Tahvil and Nowruz 1397 luncheon for students on campus (during Princeton’s Spring Break)
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

March 29, 2018
Translations in Contemporary Iranian Art: Historicity, Marketability, Mobility
Talinn Grigor, Professor and Chair of Art History Program, University of California, Davis
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
Spring 2018 (continued)

April 3 - 5, 2018
Understanding the Politics of the Gulf Cooperation Council States (GCC)
Luciano Zaccara, Visiting Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and Research Assistant Professor in Gulf Politics at the Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University
3-session workshop:
1. Who rules the GCC states (how and why)?
3. Who paid the price of the Arab Spring in the GCC?
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

April 3, 2018
Who rules the GCC states (how and why)?
Luciano Zaccara, Visiting Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and Research Assistant Professor in Gulf Politics at the Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University

April 12, 2018
Traditional Geometry Art Workshop – Learn to Construct Persian Geometric Patterns
Ghazel Khayat, artist
Organized by the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies and hosted/cosponsored by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

April 17, 2018
Iranian Identity in Four Narratives
Ahmad Ashraf, Columbia University
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

April 25, 2018
Understanding Iran’s Electoral Processes and its Political Implications
Luciano Zaccara, Visiting Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and Research Assistant Professor in Gulf Politics at the Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

April 26, 2018
The Art of Calligraphy
Faraz Khan, artist
Organized by the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies and cosponsored by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

May 3, 2018
The Other Iran: Unintended Modernity in the Islamic Republic
Djavad Salehi-Isfahani, Visiting Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and Professor of Economics, Virginia Tech
Organized by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and cosponsored by Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) and the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies
In addition to the Center’s major contributions to international conferences like the Eighth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) and domestic workshops like the Iran Graduate Student Workshop (IGSW) at the University of Pennsylvania, the Center has also helped to support Princeton-based conferences concerning the following topics related to Iran in its historical context:

- Government and the Economy in the Byzantine Empire and the Muslim Caliphate in the Early Middle Ages (November 7, 2017)
- Documents and Institutions across Eurasia in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages (May 7-8, 2018)
- Seminar on Pre-Islamic Arabia (May 28-June 1, 2018)

Mossavar-Rahmani Center Video

As part of its role in hosting and cosponsoring a comprehensive program of events, the Center also continues to make many of these programs available and accessible to a global audience through the Mossavar-Rahmani Center’s website video gallery and playlist on the Princeton University YouTube channel.

Mossavar-Rahmani Center Publication and Translation Support

Additionally, to provide outreach through supporting the publication and translation of new works in Iran and Persian Gulf scholarship, the Center maintains a dedicated funding source to help with this objective. The Center now accepts and reviews proposals from scholars who can apply for grants that help support the translation or publication of works domestically or abroad. This aim evolved out of the Center’s original idea of a Translation Series, which sought to facilitate the high quality translation of social science and humanities texts for academics and professionals in Iran. After the translation of Joseph Strayer’s *On the Medieval Origins of the Modern State* from English into Persian by Dr. Hossein Badamchi (University of Tehran) and its publication in Iran in early 2017 (Moaser Publishing), the original series concept was reevaluated and ultimately reimagined. This was due to the complexity and time commitment involved in its management and implementation (obtaining international copyrights, ensuring editorial oversight, and orchestrating grant payments to Iran-based translators). Today, the program exists as a more flexible funding source intended to meet scholars at their particular stage of publication, whether that might be to help publish one’s first monograph on an Iranian or Persian Gulf-related topic or support translation of one’s book into Persian or English to increase access and awareness. While some Princeton scholars currently know of this opportunity, there are plans to promote this program more widely by including a detailed description on the newly designed Mossavar-Rahmani Center website. This will include an open call for submissions.
with two deadlines throughout the year, application instructions, and an FAQ. We envision that a dedicated committee of application reviewers will be appointed by the Center’s new director, at which time the website redesign project can also proceed.

To date, two publication-related projects have received support through this new program:

1) The French to English translation of Dr. Amin Moghadam’s new book project on migration in the Persian Gulf

2) The English to Persian translation of the first written brief produced from the Iran Social Survey data (Voter Behavior and Political Mobilization in Iran: Findings from the Iran Social Survey)

**Professional Memberships**

Last but not least, as another method of outreach, the Center continues its membership with (1) the Association for Iranian Studies (AIS) formerly known as the International Society for Iranian Studies, (2) the American Institute of Iranian Studies (AIrS) in which Center member Daniel Sheffield has joined the Board of Trustees and (3), the Association for the Study of Persianate Studies (ASPS), in which Visiting Fellow Jo-Ann Gross, Daniel Sheffield and Center visitor Matthew Melvin-Koushki all serve on the Board of Directors.

*Objective: Building upon the foundation of the Pahlavi Fund established to promote understanding of Iranian society and culture*

Over the past academic year in particular, the Center has amplified its cultural efforts to promote understanding of Iranian society. Starting in Fall 2017, we hosted an ongoing series of Persian Calligraphy sessions to educate students, faculty, staff and members of the campus community on this artistic tradition. In Spring 2018, the Center began an exciting partnership with the newly formed Iranian Student Association, helping draw this student group’s attention to the wide array of Iranian cultural activities in the Princeton region. Through this collaboration, Center staff worked closely with student group leaders to foster student awareness of local opportunities to celebrate Iranian holidays and traditions through regional festivities for Charshanbe
soori, Seizde Badar, and Nowruz, all of which were well attended by members of the Iranian Student Association. During Princeton’s spring break, the Mossavar-Rahmani Center also organized and hosted a Sal-Tahvil celebration on March 20 for students and scholars on campus during Nowruz 1397 with a traditional haft seen and Persian cuisine, providing the opportunity for Iranian and Iranian-American students to connect and celebrate together, regardless of their level or fields of study. Additionally, the Center has also helped to host and co-sponsor Persian Geometry art workshops in the Center this April as well as promote with colleagues in the Near Eastern Studies department an all-day Persian calligraphy offering (“The Art of Calligraphy” with Faraz Khan). Looking ahead to next academic year, discussions have been initiated with the Lewis Center for the Arts on the possibility of bringing the cinematic shadow play, “Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic” to campus as well as a possible partnership with Princeton Art Museum to bring Persian Nowruz traditions and practices into public display within the galleries, to encourage curiosity and generate greater cultural appreciation and understanding.

**Objective:** Supporting Iranian-American students and students from Iran and the Persian Gulf at Princeton, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, regardless of their fields of study

As discussed above, the Center supports students from Iran and the Persian Gulf as well as Iranian-American students through social and cultural activities hosted in and in association with the Center, regardless of students’ level or field of study. From a facilities perspective, the Center makes its seminar and gathering spaces available to the Iranian Student Association to host activities and meetings, and provides study and work space for students from various backgrounds and disciplines to write and conduct research.

Looking ahead, the Center would like to further support these particular students’ candidacy to attend and thrive at Princeton by offering a gift of financial support to incoming Iranian-American students as well as those from Iran and the Persian Gulf to attend the University, regardless of academic field. One possible way to achieve this would be through providing a “top up” award to undergraduate or graduate students bearing the Mossavar-Rahmani Center name in their offer of admission upon acceptance. If this idea is supported by the Center’s Advisory Council and Executive Committee, it will be advanced for consideration by the
Provost. If approved, these initiatives can be managed in collaboration with Princeton’s Graduate School and Office of Undergraduate Admission.

**Objective: Drawing visiting faculty and scholars from Iran and the Persian Gulf to Princeton regardless of their fields of study**

While this is one of the most difficult of our foundational goals to quantify, we have been proactive in inviting faculty, scholars, and artists from Iran and the Persian Gulf over the past year to work, speak or provide workshops through our Center. Visiting Research Scholar, Dr. Luciano Zaccara, accepted our invitation to join the Center for a semester from his home institution of Qatar University, much in the same way that Tehran-based visual artist Ghazel and curator Touraj Khamenehzadeh accepted invitations to share their work and experiences with students and scholars in the Center and its affiliated courses. As we continue to establish and further develop our national and international presence, so we hope to attract a wide range of individuals interested in working and researching in the Center and at Princeton more broadly. In part this will be achieved through financial support for students from Iran and the Persian Gulf region who wish to pursue their research here (regardless of field of study), and in part through invitation and selection from unsolicited requests for support. Building and developing a strong cadre of visitors to the Center from the countries in the region faces many challenges, but as we develop our plans for the future this will be an important element in our overall strategic thinking.

**Objective: Providing grants for faculty and student travel, study, and research in Iran and the Persian Gulf**

Over the past two academic years (2016-17 and 2017-18), the Center has provided grants for students and faculty members to support their research, language training, and participation in academic conferences relating to the study of Iran and the Persian Gulf.

Amounting to just over $30,000 during this two-year period, student grants were awarded to the following recipients: Alex Long (Near Eastern Studies), Raissa Antonia Von Doetinchem de Rande (Religion), Daniel Tavana (Politics), Henry Shapiro (History), Thomas Benfey (Near Eastern Studies), Henrietta Toivanen (Woodrow Wilson School), Ramina Sotoudeh (Sociology), Rebecca Faulkner (Religion), Ahmed Almaazmi (Near Eastern Studies), Samuel Prentice (Near Eastern Studies) and Simon Conrad (Near Eastern Studies).
These grants have covered intensive Persian language study in Tajikistan (Tajik State University), Germany (Freie Universität and University of Göttingen’s Seminary for Iranian Studies) and the University of Maryland-College Park, along with specialized training through the Summer Mughal Persian Program at Lucknow American Institute for Indian Studies (AIIS).

Center-supported research trips have spanned the Middle East and Europe with students exploring a wide range of topics from 18th century Iranian political and economic history to the study of recent parliamentary elections and the impact of political parties on voting behavior in Iran and the Persian Gulf; from seeking to understand epistemological change through analyzing the cultural assimilation experiences of Iranian immigrants in France and the U.S. to studying the social and political impact of the Baloch people as a trans-regional group in the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Pakistan, and Iran (among other topics.)

On the faculty side, the Center has supported Amin Moghadam, our Associate Research Scholar, to conduct research at the National Library of Iran (NLAI) on the cultural policy of visual arts and urban projects in contemporary Iran as well as to conduct extensive fieldwork and interviews in Tehran, Isfahan, Ahvaz, Abadan, and Hormuz Island with various members of the public and private sphere involved with Iran’s urban planning, art and redevelopment initiatives. Amin has also traveled to Dubai for fieldwork, presented his research in Kuwait at the global conference titled “Mobilities and Materialities of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula” an important event for specialists of Persian Gulf Studies, and served as Scientific Director and organizer of the international conference “Human Mobilities and Creation” in Isfahan and Tehran 12-14 November 2017.

The Center has also supported the research of Khodadad Rezakhani, our Associate Research Scholar, to travel to Iran and conduct research on East Iranian coins at the Malek Museum of Tehran, access newly released archaeological excavation reports at the National Institute for Archaeological Research in Iran, and translate east Syriac church chronicles and manuscripts into Persian. Khodadad also traveled to Dubai this spring to conduct research and assist the Middle East Collection librarian at the National Library of Dubai to identify ancient manuscripts for its future site’s newly designed collections.

As an additional way to support and encourage research on Iran and the Persian Gulf region, the Center is also considering the possibility of introducing a Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Senior Thesis Prize ($1,000) to support excellent undergraduate scholarship on any aspect of the culture, history, politics, economy or society of the region, in any discipline. If approved by the Advisory Council and Executive Committees of the Center, Center staff will work with central administration to implement and promote the new undergraduate award. See a sample “Call for Nominations” on the following page.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE SHARMIN & BIJAN MOSSAVAR-RAHMANI
PERSIAN GULF & IRANIAN STUDIES SENIOR THESIS PRIZE

Submission deadline: [tbd] 2019

The Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies invites
departments and faculty to nominate senior theses for the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani
Senior Thesis Prize in Persian Gulf and Iranian Studies. An eligible thesis deals centrally with a
question related to any aspect of the culture, history, politics, economy or society of the region in
any discipline.

A nominated thesis should have received a grade in the “A range” from both readers. The
nomination should be accompanied by the readers’ evaluation(s) and/or a report indicating why
the thesis is considered prize-worthy.

To nominate a thesis, please email the thesis along with the readers’ reports to
xxx@princeton.edu by [our date] 5:00 PM on [date] 2019.

The prize carries an award of $1,000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE [website link for description]

Conclusion

We have come a long way since our first weeks in Green Hall, and still further since the Center
was first planned and its mission outlined. While there is much still to do and there are many
challenges ahead of us, I believe that we are now on a well-established and firm foundation for
future development both nationally and internationally. Crucial to our success thus far have been
our Center’s postdoctoral and associate researcher scholars and visiting faculty residents.
Equally important has been the constant and enthusiastic support of our campus community,
from undergraduates through graduates and faculty. But most important of all, none of this
progress would have been possible without the dedication, hard work, imagination and
enthusiasm of our Center Manager, Reagan Maraghy, and of our Research Specialist, Mona
Rahmani. Reagan has provided continuity, support to faculty, students, visitors and colleagues
outside Princeton, as well as the drive and commitment to expand the Center’s mission, meet our
targets and make the Center and our offices in Green Hall a welcoming, supportive, collaborative
and above all pleasantly productive environment. While Mona concluded her role in the summer
of 2017 to continue her education in International Relations, there is no doubt that she was
instrumental to the Center’s first Iran Graduate Student Workshop, Translation series, and
student travel initiatives, and we wish her the very best in her future endeavors.
This fall, the Center began its search for the newly created role of Event Coordinator to assist Reagan with the numerous programs that we organize and promote. In January 2018, we were extremely pleased to welcome Becky (Baktanoush) Parnian, former program manager at the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Becky earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Tehran and her Masters of Public Health from Rutgers University and holds a teaching certificate in Farsi and English. She has been a positive addition and enthusiastic contributor to the Center’s operations and has ably learned the processes and assumed the coordinating duties of a busy spring events schedule. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful new colleague to join our expanding team and look forward to working with Becky on the Center’s events for years to come!

In short, we have an outstanding operations team in place for future years, a team that will provide the essential continuity during the period of transfer of the Directorship into new hands and that will permit the Center to continue its work with renewed enthusiasm.

Just as meaningful to our Center’s efforts and progress are the members of the Executive Committee, who continue to offer a solid support for the Center’s operations both on campus and off, helping to advise and develop strategies for the future. Core voting members include new members Prof. Maryam Farboodi (Economics) and Prof. Max Weiss (History and NES), as well as continuing members Prof. Beatrice Kitzinger (Art & Archaeology), Prof. Miguel Centeno (Sociology), Prof. Daniel Sheffield (NES), Prof. Christian Wildberg (Classics) as well as - in an external advisory capacity - Prof. Cyrus Schayegh (formerly NES), who has now taken up a post at the Graduate Institute in Geneva (since fall 2017). They are joined by an interdisciplinary group of “sits with” members, who continue to include Prof. Muhammad Zaman (Chair, NES), Dimitri Gondicas (Hellenic Studies & Classics), Dr. David Magier (Firestone Library) and the Center’s associate research scholars Dr. Amin Moghadam and Dr. Khodadad Rezakhani as well as the new additions of Dr. Dan Beckman (Postdoctoral research associate, Mossavar-Rahmani Center) and Dr. Nura Hessainzadeh (NES). The Executive Committee remains a knowledgeable and reliable sounding board for Center ideas and initiatives. (see Appendix B)

Almost last, but certainly not least, the Center is grateful for the founding gifts of Alexander Farman-Farmaian ’87 and Dr. Anahita Naficy Lovelace ’75, whose generosity continues to help fund contemporary Center-supported projects like the Iran Social Survey and, in the latter case, the Center’s ancient history-related initiatives (such as the ongoing work on the Schaaf collection, for example).

Finally, the Center would not exist were it not for the generous gift and continuing support, encouragement and enthusiasm of its creators and benefactors, Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani ’80 and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani ’74. The Center’s endowment continues to accrue income and make the various initiatives outlined in this report possible, along with the support of a new
Center Director/tenured professor in modern Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and expanded recruitment of visiting faculty and specialists from a range of disciplines.

Appendices:

Appendix A - Affiliated Courses
Appendix B - Executive Committee
Appendix C - Affiliated Faculty
Appendix A

Spring 2017 Affiliated Courses

HIS 267 / NES 267, The Modern Middle East
Prof. Max Weiss
An introduction to the history of the Middle East from the late eighteenth century through the turn of the twenty-first, with an emphasis on the Arab East, Iran, Israel, and Turkey.

REL 235 / NES 235, In the Shadow of Swords: War, Martyrdom and the Afterlife in Islam
Prof. Shaun Marmon
How were just war, holy war, and martyrdom imagined and enacted over the centuries in Islamic societies? How do concepts of the afterlife inform attitudes towards war and martyrdom? We begin in the Late Antique world with a survey of noble death, martyrdom, holy war, and just war, in the Roman, Jewish and Christian traditions. We explore these topics in the Islamic tradition through case studies: the Arab conquests, the Crusades, Spain and the Reconquista, the Iran-Iraq war and contemporary jihadist movements. We use primary sources in translation (including fiction and poetry) and, for modern period, films and internet.

NES 374 / GSS 343, Global Feminisms: Feminist Movements in the Middle East & Beyond
Prof. Satyel Larson
This course explores how feminist thought & activism circulates globally by examining a variety of feminist movements in the Middle East & North Africa. Beginning with modern feminist thought and activism in mid-19th century Syria & Egypt, we'll trace feminist movements in various contemporary contexts, from Morocco, Iran, Turkey, Tunisia, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon & Egypt in the 20th century, to women's participation in the Arab Spring and transnational Islamic movements in the 21st century. We'll map the local and geopolitical discourses that have shaped regional feminisms, and ask how local feminisms are transnational or global.

NES 351, In Tamerlane's Wake: Timurids, Safavids, and Mughals in Early Modern Asia
Prof. Daniel Sheffield
In 1370, a Central Asian Turk named Timur the Lame conquered territories from Anatolia & Russia to India & China. For the next five centuries, the style of Muslim kingship that emerged in Central Asia, Iran, and India was deeply rooted in his memory. In this course we explore the worlds of early modern Asia and trace the lingering influences of Timurid courtly culture in the Safavid (1501-1722) and Mughal (1526-1857) empires. The course will incorporate discussions of literature, the arts, and religious movements within their historical contexts. The reading of primary historical and literary sources in translation will be emphasized.

NES 550, Persian Historiography and Belles-Lettres from the Origins of New Persian to the Mongols
Prof. Daniel Sheffield
Introduces advanced Persian students to Classical Persian prose from the appearance of literary New Persian in the 10th century to the time of the poet Sa'di Shirazi, whose Gulistan was regarded as the culmination of good literary style and a classic in ensuing centuries. Gain familiarity with a variety of genres including history, geography, travelogues, ethical texts, and hagiography. Develop archival skills through an introduction to Islamic codicology. Acquire
both linguistic competency in working with Classical Persian sources as well as an introduction to the scholarly debates surrounding the works in question.

**LIN 350 / CLA 351, Deciphering Ancient Languages**  
Dr. Timothy Barnes  
This course is an introduction to linguistics decipherment. We will survey cases of successful - and unsuccessful - decipherment, beginning with Ancient Egyptian and covering such languages as Old Persian, Akkadian, Ugaritic, Mycenean Greek and Mayan. Throughout the focus will be on the methodologies employed, and on the conditions that need to be present for decipherment to be possible.

**CLA 548 / HLS 548 / PAW 548 / ART 532, Problems in Ancient History - Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Numismatics**  
Dr. Alan Stahl  
A seminar covering the basic methodology of numismatics, including die, hoard and archaeological analysis as well as a survey of pre-modern coinages. The Western coinage tradition is covered, from its origins in the Greco-Persian world through classical and Hellenistic Greek coinage, Roman imperial and provincial issues, Parthian and Sasanian issues, the coinage of Byzantium, the Islamic world, and medieval and renaissance Europe. Students research and report on problems involving coinages related to their own areas of specialization. Open to undergraduates by permission of the instructor.

**Persian Language**

**PER 102, Elementary Persian II**  
Amineh Mahallati  
To develop the skills of understanding, speaking, reading and writing modern Persian. The classes are conducted mostly in Persian with emphasis on oral drills and conversations.

**PER 107, Intermediate Persian II**  
Amineh Mahallati  
The emphasis is on reading modern and classical prose, and writing modern prose. Classes are conducted mostly in Persian. Advanced grammar drills and translation exercises.

**PER 303, Advanced Persian Reading II: Modern Persian Prose**  
Amineh Mahallati  
This course focuses on modern Persian prose. It is the continuation of 302, and is designed to improve the student's proficiency in the reading and comprehension of Persian texts. The emphasis is on reading, understanding, and translating modern prose. The class is conducted in Persian.
Appendix A

Fall 2017 Affiliated Courses

NES 201 / HIS 223, Introduction to the Middle East
Prof. Michael Cook
A sweep through Middle Eastern history, globally contextualized. Weeks 1-6 treat the rise of Islam, the Caliphate, the Ottoman Empire, 19th-century reforms, European imperialism, and globalization in the region. Weeks 7-12 focus on state-society relations, ideologies and cultures, and foreign actors in the 20th/21st centuries. You will come away with a basic grasp of the region's past and present and its mix of idiosyncrasies and global links.

NES 240 / REL 240, Muslims and the Qur'an
Prof. Muhammad Q. Zaman
A broad-ranging introduction to pre-modern, modern, and contemporary Islam in light of how Muslims have approached their foundational religious text, the Qur'an. Topics include: Muhammad and the emergence of Islam; theology, law and ethics; war and peace; mysticism; women and gender; and modern debates on Islamic reform. We shall examine the varied contexts in which Muslims have interpreted their sacred text, their agreements and disagreements on what it means and, more broadly, their often competing understandings of Islam and of what it is to be a Muslim.

COM 341 / ECS 341 / HUM 341, What is Vernacular Filmmaking? - Rhetoric for Cinema Studies
Dr. Erika Kiss
We will study arthouse films that address global audiences while rooted in particular, local, vernacular sources of artistic creation and persuasion. We will contrast the formulaic (echo-chamber) rhetoric of Hollywood with the heuristic rhetoric of Italian Neorealism, the Danish Dogma '95 and French, Turkish, Iranian New Wave films. Our focus will be on the concept of physiognomic figuration viewed as the cinematic articulation of enthymemes (rhetorical arguments). This seminar invites a widely interdisciplinary approach.

NES 300, Seminar in Research Methods
Prof. Eve Krakowski
Introduces NES majors to the sources, tools, and methods used in Near Eastern Studies, and to central questions and debates that have informed the region's study in varying disciplines (history, comparative literature, religious studies, political science, and anthropology). Also covers the nuts and bolts of academic research and writing: how to design a research project, find and make sense of relevant primary and secondary sources, develop an argument, and write a compelling scholarly paper. Includes guest lectures and visits to Firestone Library and its Islamic manuscripts collection.

NES 315, War and Politics in the Modern Middle East
Prof. Michael Reynolds
Drawing on case studies of Middle Eastern wars, this course examines the changing nature of warfare from the second half of the twentieth century through the present day. The course begins with Clausewitz's theory of war and examples of conventional state warfare in the Middle East. It then moves on to cases of insurgency and so-called fourth generation warfare and uses them to
Appendix A

test Clausewitz's ideas and less state-centric alternatives. The goal of the course is to compel students to think seriously and critically about war and the ways in which it is and is not changing in the twenty-first century.

**NES 347, Islamic Family Law**  
**Prof. Hossein Modarressi**  
This course examines the outlines of Islamic family law in gender issues, sexual ethics, family structure, family planning, marriage and divorce, parenthood, child guardianship and custody, etc. The course starts with a general survey of Islamic legal system: its history and developments, structure and spirit, and the attempts of the Muslim jurists to come to terms with the challenge of time.

**NES 367, The Flame and the Crescent: Zoroastrianism in Islamic Context**  
**Prof. Daniel Sheffield**  
Course examines the history of interaction between Zoroastrians and Muslims after the Arab conquest of Iran. We will address the overarching question of how Zoroastrians responded to an increasingly marginalized status within Muslim states and consider the evolving place of Zoroastrianism in the understanding of non-Zoroastrians in Iran and South Asia, as well as contemporary Kurdistan and Tajikistan. Topics covered include conversion; historical memory; the role of religious minority communities; inter-religious polemic and dialogue; law; and the relationship of religious minorities to larger communities under colonial and secular regimes.

**NES 377 / POL 485, Liberalism, Democracy, and Iranian Political Thought**  
**Dr. Nura Hossainzadeh**  
This is a course in comparative political theory. Beginning with a study of classical and contemporary Western liberal and democratic theory, this course explores how modern Iranian political theorists and ideologues interpret or critique liberalism and democracy or offer theories of government that stand at odds with liberal and democratic theory. These Iranian authors draw from both religious and non-religious (including Marxist) perspectives. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to put the diverse authors that they read into dialogue with one another.

**NES 385, Jihadism in the Modern Middle East**  
**Prof. Bernard Haykel**  
This course provides a detailed survey of the key jihadi groups and ideologies that have taken form in the Middle East since the 1970s. From the Iranian revolution to 9/11, and from Hezbollah to ISIS, it introduces jihadism, including pre-modern Islamic theology and law and the ways in which these have been appropriated and repurposed by jihadi ideologues for political ends. The course also shows how jihadis disseminate their ideas (e.g. journals, pamphlets, books, cassette tapes and CDs, poetry, chants, satellite television shows, online videos, and social media) and considers Sunni and Shi‘i jihadi movements.
**NES 397, Modern Iran**  
Dr. Nura Hossainzadeh  
This course surveys major themes in the history of modern Iranian politics and society beginning in the 19th century and ending in the present. Topics to be explored include national identity, imperialism and interaction with the West, Islamic government, monarchism, constitutionalism, revolution, gender, Shi'a religious culture, religious diversity, and post-revolutionary reformist and conservative thought and politics. Though focusing on the Iranian context, the course addresses questions asked by thinkers across the Muslim world in the modern period, questions that concern their relationship with the West, with Islam, and with modernity.

**HIS 359 / JDS 359, Modern Jewish History: 1750-Present**  
Prof. Yaacob Dweck  
This course surveys the breadth of Jewish experience from the era of the Enlightenment to the contemporary period. Tracing the development of Jewish cultures and communities in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States against the background of general history, the lectures focus on themes such as the transformation of Jewish identity, the creation of modern Jewish politics, the impact of anti-semitism, and the founding of the State of Israel.

**NES 500, Introduction to the Professional Study of the Near East**  
Prof. Max Weiss  
A colloquium primarily intended to introduce graduate students to major scholarly trends and debates in the various disciplines and methodologies of Middle East and Islamic Studies.

**NES 502 / MED 502, An Introduction to the Islamic Scholarly Tradition**  
Prof. Michael Cook  
The course offers a hands-on introduction to such basic genres of medieval scholarship as biography, history, tradition, and Koranic exegesis, taught through the intensive reading of texts, mostly in Arabic. The syllabus varies according to the interests of the students and the instructor.

**NES 510 / REL 509, Studies in the History of Islam - Legal Categories and Social Realities**  
Prof. Shaun Marmon  
This seminar explores the relationship (or dissonance) between legal and social categories in the context of late Medieval Muslim societies. Some of the topics that we will cover in this context will be gender, slavery, religious minorities, ethnicity and hybridity, communal violence and concepts of transgression. Readings will include scholarly literature and Medieval Arabic texts.

**NES 533, Geography, Travel, and the Frontiers of the Premodern Islamic World**  
Prof. Daniel Sheffield  
In this seminar, we examine the related genres of geography and travelogue to examine how Muslims envisioned their place in the world and their relation to its diverse inhabitants. The class comprises three units: geography and cosmology, focusing in particular on the construction of knowledge and the role of wonder in the Islamic world; institutions of travel, examining sacred topography, ethnography, and the affective dimensions of space; and finally, the notion of the frontier in Muslim thought as it relates to the state. Issues related to premodern Islamicate historiography and the reading of primary sources are emphasized.
NES 553, Studies in Islamic Religion and Thought  
Prof. Hossein Modarressi  
This course focuses on reading texts that are illustrative of various issues in Muslim religious thought. The texts are selected according to students' needs.

NES 563, Comparative Transformations in the Near East and Eurasia  
Prof. Michael Reynolds  
This seminar offers a comparative study of the political, intellectual, religious, and cultural transformations of societies of the Near East and Eurasia from the late seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries. The course investigates the common geopolitical, economic, and intellectual challenges that Western Europe posed to the societies of the Near East and Eurasia. It seeks to understand the responses of the latter on their own terms, and to relate them to each other. The course aims to stimulate students to move beyond regional particularities and think outside the models and assumptions provided by European historiography.

HIS 534, Problems and Sources in the Study of Late Antique Iran: Sasanian History  
Dr. Khodadad Rezakhani  
This graduate seminar is meant as both an overview of Sasanian history as well as an introduction to its historiography. It is organized based on the study of sources and addresses the issue of the diversity of languages, types of evidence, and variety of approaches. It additionally aims at connecting Sasanian history to the greater issues of late antique and world history and emphasizes similarities and mutual influences with other late antique civilizations and entities.

Persian Language

PER 101, Elementary Persian I  
Aminéh Mahallati  
The focus of this elementary course is on sounds, letters and basic grammar of Persian language. The students will be exposed to the Persian culture through selected prose, daily news and class discussions.

PER 105, Intermediate Persian I  
Aminéh Mahallati  
PER 105 is designed to introduce students to intermediate level Persian. It stresses oral fluency, written expression, and reading comprehension. It will help the students to read texts of intermediate level difficulty communicate and converse in Persian in everyday situations write intermediate narrative style paragraphs coherently with reasonable accuracy.

PER 302, Advanced Persian Reading I  
Aminéh Mahallati  
This course is designed to improve the student's proficiency in the reading and comprehension of Persian texts. The emphasis is on reading and understanding and translating modern and classical prose. In the Advanced Persian course students are also expected to write essays in Persian during the course of the semester. Advanced Persian Reading class will be conducted in Persian.
Appendix A

Spring 2018 Affiliated Courses

**JDS 202/REL 202, Great Books of the Jewish Tradition**  
*Prof. Yaacob Dweck & Prof. Moulie Vidas*  
This course is intended to introduce students to the classical Jewish tradition through a close reading of portions of some of its great books, including the Bible, the Midrash, the Talmud, Maimonides’s legal and philosophical work, the Zohar, and Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise. We will pay particular attention to the role of interpretation in forming Jewish tradition.

**NES 210, Feminist Political Theory: Iran and the West**  
*Dr. Nura Hossainzadeh*  
This course in comparative feminist thought begins with a short survey of feminist thought in the West, studying first-wave liberal feminism, second-wave feminism, and Marxist feminism, before moving to feminist thought and critiques of feminism in 20th and 21st century Iran. It explores how conservative and reformist thinkers in Iran argue for reform in shari’a law as it relates to women, define the scope of political rights for women, depict the status of women in Islam, address Western feminisms, and draw connections between how women fare in the private sphere and how they fare intellectually, spiritually, socially, and politically.

**NES 212, The Idea of Iran: History, Memory, and the Making of a Cultural Identity**  
*Prof. Daniel Sheffield*  
The course will introduce students to the history of the Iranian world through the lens of memory. Organized by theme, students will be introduced to a wide variety of ancient, medieval, and modern sources as they investigate the history of the various elements that are frequently invoked as essential to Iranian identity. The course will attempt to interrogate the notion of "Iranian civilization" through an investigation of a variety of themes ranging from geography and ethnicity to art and humanism to kingship and revolution. Students will work closely with archival and visual material in collections in and around Princeton.

**REL 235/NES 235, In the Shadow of Swords: War, Martyrdom and the Afterlife in Islam**  
*Prof. Shaun Marmon*  
How were just war, holy war, and martyrdom imagined and enacted over the centuries in Islamic societies? How do concepts of the afterlife inform attitudes towards war and martyrdom? We begin in the Late Antique world with a survey of noble death, martyrdom, holy war, and just war, in the Roman, Jewish and Christian traditions. We explore these topics in the Islamic tradition through case studies: the Arab conquests, the Crusades, Spain and the Reconquista, the Iran-Iraq war and contemporary jihadist movements. We use primary sources in translation (including fiction and poetry) and, for modern period, films and internet.

**NES 265/POL 465, Political and Economic Development of the Middle East**  
*Dr. Jessie Moritz*  
Course introduces the study of political economy, focusing on major issues related to political and economic development in the contemporary Middle East. Focuses on interactions between political actors, social forces, political economy structures, and development strategies. Case studies include trends in the region, especially: Rentier economics and the political economy of authoritarianism; the growth of Islamic finance; the processes and outcomes of economic reform;
the impacts of globalization and foreign penetration of the region; and the ways in which new industries and technologies are shaping the political economics of the region.

**HIS 267/NES 267, The Modern Middle East**  
Prof. Max Weiss  
An introduction to the history of the Middle East from the late eighteenth century through the turn of the twenty-first, with an emphasis on the Arab East, Iran, Israel, and Turkey.

**NES 326/POL 489, US Foreign Policy and the Middle East since 1979**  
Prof. Michael Reynolds  
This seminar examines the evolution of American diplomacy and military policy in the Middle East from the late Cold War through the "Unipolar movement" and 9/11 to the very recent past. Given the militarization of American policy, it pays particular attention to the use of force. It asks why military force has become the defining instrument of US foreign policy in this region, seeks to evaluate the efficacy of America's military interventions, and to identify the sources of American conduct. Prior coursework in international relations and Middle Eastern history is beneficial but there are no prerequisites.

**REL 328/GSS 328, Women and Gender in Islamic Societies**  
Prof. Shaun Marmon  
Inter-disciplinary seminar makes use of texts in translation including: Qur'an and hadith, legal treatises, documents, letters, popular literature, autobiography, novels and subtitled films. These texts are supplemented by scholarly literature from religious studies, anthropology, history, gender studies, and sociology. Topics include: women in the Qur'an and hadith, sexuality and the body, woman and law, gendered space, marriage and the family, nationalism and feminism, gender and post-colonial societies, women's voices, women and Islamic revivalism. No prior background in gender studies or Islamic studies required.

**NES 339/REL 339, Introduction to Islamic Theology**  
Prof. Hossein Modarressi  
This course is a general survey of the main principles of Islamic doctrine. It focuses on the Muslim theological discourse on the concepts of God and His attributes, man and nature, the world to come, revelation and prophethood, diversity of religions, and the possibility and actuality of miracles.

**SOC 358/NES 388, Mobilities, Borders and Social Dynamics in the Middle East**  
Dr. Amin Moghadam  
We will study the various forms of movements of populations in the Middle East in relation to social dynamics. The course will emphasize the urban and territorial impact of migrants' presence in several Middle Eastern cities by highlighting the forms of segregation and cosmopolitanism that result from differentiated legal and social statuses. The course will go beyond the single approach of legal integration by exploring cultural production and initiatives that are directly or indirectly related to the experience of migration and which bear witness to new forms of integration underlining migrants' agency.
NES 503, Themes in Islamic Culture: Middle Eastern History
Prof. Michael Cook
This semester the course will be a chapter and paper clinic. Each participant will be expected to submit at least one draft chapter or paper to the seminar, and will receive intensive comments and suggestions on both form and substance from the other participants and the instructor. Chapters and papers may relate to any period or aspect of Middle Eastern or Islamic history.

REL 513, Studies in Ancient Judaism - Science, Judaism, and Christianity in Late Antiquity
Prof. Moulie Vidas
This seminar centers on late ancient Jewish and Christian interactions with what we may call "science." We examine the place of natural observation and knowledge in some of the classical works of the period as well as more specialized texts dedicated to the description and interpretation of natural phenomena.

NES 528, Persian Historiography from the Mongols to the Qajars
Prof. Daniel Sheffield
This course is designed to introduce advanced students of Persian to later Classical Persian prose from the Mongol conquests of the thirteenth century down to the middle of the nineteenth century, when significant innovations were introduced into Persian literary style. Over the course of the semester, students gain familiarity with texts composed in Iran, India, and Central Asia in a variety of literary genres including history, biography, hagiography, and travelogues. Each week’s classes consist of excerpted readings from primary sources along with secondary sources related to the readings.

NES 537/POL 534, Islam and Government in Iran and Saudi Arabia
Dr. Nura Hossainzadeh
Seminar focuses on contemporary Iranian politics and political thought but also studies Islam and government in modern and contemporary Saudi Arabia. This dual focus allows students to compare and contrast two models of Islamic government rooted in distinct traditions of political and legal thought. On one hand, we study Khomeini’s theory of Islamic government and theories of state in Iran in the period after Khomeini. On the other, we study the theory of sovereignty that shapes the Islamic government in Saudi Arabia, a theory in which, unlike in the Iranian case, Islamic law is not applicable to all political matters.

NES 543, Readings on World War One and the Middle East
Prof. Michael Reynolds
The study of the Middle East in World War I has advanced rapidly over the course of the past decade. This course surveys the burgeoning literature on WWI in the Middle East and addresses such questions as how did Ottoman strategic performance impact the war; what was the experience of "total war" in the Middle East and how did it shape governance; what was the relationship between war and imperial collapse; and what are the motives for demographic engineering and mass killing? No prerequisites.
NES 549/HIS 509, Documents and Institutions in the Medieval Middle East
Prof. Eve Krakowski & Prof. Marina Rustow
Seminar is part of a multi-year collaborative project devoted to reading Arabic documents from the medieval Middle East in Hebrew and Arabic script. Students contribute to a corpus of diplomatic editions, translations and commentaries to be published in the project's collection of texts. We introduce the most common legal and administrative genres: letters, lists, deeds, contracts, decrees and petitions. Our goal is to make this material legible as historical sources by combining philology, diplomatics, attention to the material text, and institutional and social history. Prerequisite: good reading knowledge of classical Arabic.

NES 555, Themes in Islamic Law and Jurisprudence
Prof. Hossein Modarressi
Selected topics in Islamic law and jurisprudence. The topics vary from year to year, but the course normally includes reading of fatwas and selected Islamic legal texts in Arabic.

REL 583/NES 551, Late Medieval-Early Modern Islam
Prof. Muhammad Q. Zaman
This seminar focuses on Islamic thought and society during the 17th and the 18th centuries. Our key concerns are two: to understand what Islam, and Islamic thought, looked like in the late medieval and the early modern world; and to think about how we should try to approach the study of Islam in that world. A good deal of our focus is on South Asia, though we also read about other regions, including Iran and the Arab Middle East. The required readings are in English. For those interested, some weeks might have supplementary readings in Arabic as well.

Persian Language

PER 102, Elementary Persian II
Amineh Mahallati
To develop the skills of understanding, speaking, reading and writing modern Persian. The classes are conducted mostly in Persian with emphasis on oral drills and conversations.

PER 107, Intermediate Persian II
Amineh Mahallati
The emphasis is on reading modern and classical prose, and writing modern prose. Classes are conducted mostly in Persian. Advanced grammar drills and translation exercises.

PER 305, Advanced Persian: Iran through Film
Amineh Mahallati
This course will engage students thoughtfully with modern Iranian society and politics through documentaries. Each week, students will watch a documentary and prepare for a lively in-class discussion of the issues. Students will be heavily exposed to colloquial Persian.
Appendix B

2017-18 Executive Committee Members

John Haldon, Director, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies; Shelby Cullom Davis ’30 Professor of European History; Professor of History and Hellenic Studies

Miguel Centeno, Musgrave Professor of Sociology; Professor of Sociology and International Affairs

Maryam Farboodi, Assistant Professor of Economics

Beatrice Kitzinger, Assistant Professor of Art and Archaeology

Daniel Sheffield, Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies

Max Weiss, Associate Professor of History and Near Eastern Studies

Christian Wildberg, Director, Program in Hellenic Studies; Professor of Classics

Committee Advisors (“Sits with” Members)

Daniel Beckman, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

Dimitri Gondicas, Stanley J. Seeger Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies; Lecturer in Classics

Nura Hossainzadeh, Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies

David Magier, Associate University Librarian for Collection Development

Amin Moghadam, Associate Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

Khodadad Rezakhani, Associate Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

Muhammad Q. Zaman, Robert H. Niehaus ’77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion; Chair, Department of Near Eastern Studies

Other

Cyrus Schayegh, External Associate Advisor and Associate Professor, International History, The Graduate Institute Geneva

Reagan Maraghy, Manager, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies
Appendix C

2017-18 Associated Faculty

Michael Cook, Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies

Maryam Farboodi, Assistant Professor of Economics

Molly Greene, Professor of History and Hellenic Studies; Associate Chair, Department of History

Bernard Haykel, Director, Institute for Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia; Director, Program in Near Eastern Studies; Professor of Near Eastern Studies

Amaney Jamal, Director, Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice; Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics

Michael Laffan, Professor of History

Satyel Larson, Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies

Michael Reynolds, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Studies

Daniel Sheffield, Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies

Jack Tannous, Assistant Professor of History

Moulie Vidas, Associate Professor of Religion and the Program in Judaic Studies

Max Weiss, Associate Professor of History and Near Eastern Studies

Muhammad Q. Zaman, Robert H. Niehaus ’77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion; Chair, Department of Near Eastern Studies