

# Symposia Iranica V Programme

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>McPherson Recital Room</b>	<b>Gifford Room</b>	<b>S &amp; G Mitchell Reading Room</b>	<b>Rehearsal Room 2</b>	<b>Rehearsal Room 3</b>

## Friday 10 April 2026

Session 1 9.30-11.00	1.1 Transnational Intellectuals in Qajar Iran	1.2 Ancient and late Antique Persia			
<i>11.00-11.30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>				
Session 2 11.30-13.00	2.1 Pahlavi Iran on the World Stage	2.2 Iran, the Middle East & the Caucasus	2.3 Literature during the Early Islamic Centuries	2.4 Persian Language and Linguistics	2.5 Knowledge Curation in Iranian Studies
<i>13.00-14.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>				
Session 3 14.30-16.00	3.1 Intelligence, Diplomacy & Social Policy Under M.R. Shah	3.2 Caliphate Societies: Eastern Iran & Beyond before 1000 AD	3.3 Supernatural Beings in Popular Shi'i performance	3.4 Lateral thinking in Iranian Art & Education	
<i>16.00-16.30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>				
16.30-17.30	In Conversation with Professor Touraj Atabaki				
17.30-18.15	Drinks Reception				
18.15-20.00	Honeyman Lecture - Professor Abbas Milani				

## Saturday 11 April 2026

Session 4 9.30-11.00	4.1 Languages of Resistance in Modern Iran	4.2 Texts & Contexts in Medieval Persia	4.3 Iran & Contemporary Transnationalism	4.4 Ilkhanid Persia	
<i>11.00-11.30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>				
Session 5 11.30-13.00	5.1 Forming Modern Iran	5.2 Iran & the Caucasus	5.3 Motifs & Memory in Ilkhanid & Safavid Persia	5.4 Early Persian Islamic Architecture	
<i>13.00-14.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>				
Session 6 14.30-16.00	6.1 Discourses of Faith in Late Pahlavi Iran	6.2 Outwith Iran: Diaspora & Diplomacy in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	6.3 Feminist Struggle & Revolution in Modern Iran	6.4 Sassanian Zoroastrianism	
<i>16.00-16.30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>				
16.30-17.30	Early Career Scholars Q&A				
17.30-19.00	Panel TBC				
19.00-22.00	Drinks Reception & Formal Dinner				

**1**  
**McPherson Recital Room**

**2**  
**Gifford Room**

**3**  
**S & G Mitchell Reading  
Room**

---

**Sunday 12 April 2026**

---

9.30-10.00 Coffee & *Uncle Moustache*  
(*Amoo Sibilou*) screening

---

10.00-11.00 Discussion in Memory of  
Bahram Beyzaie

---

11.00-11.30 Musical Performance –  
Farhad Aref

---

11.30-12.30 *Lunch*

---

Session 7	7.1	7.2	7.3
12.30-14.00	Narratives & Motifs in Iranian Film & Literature	Britain & Persia	Safavid Persia & Her Neighbours

---

14.00-14.30 Prizes & Closing Remarks

# Papers

**Note:** The standard format for a panel session is back-to-back 20-minute presentations followed by joint Q&A. Speakers should confirm this arrangement with their panel chairs at the beginning of the session, as some panels have fewer speakers and may wish to do Q&A immediately after the presentation.

## Friday 10 April 2026

### Day 1 Session 1 | 9.30–11.00

#### Session 1.1 - Transnational Intellectuals in Qajar Iran (McPherson Recital Room)

- Kamila Akhmedjanova - Ahmad Dānish and his place among the 19th-century Persian-speaking intellectuals
- Yinghui Huang - Between Empathy and Empire: Mehdī Qulī Hidāyat's 1903 Travelogue and the Reframing of East Asia in Iranian Political Thought
- Hannah Hassani - Drafting Order: The Writing of Iran's 1922 Civil Service Law

#### Session 1.2 – Ancient and Late Antique Persia (Gifford Room)

- Rodrigo Nunes - A Zoroastrian apocalyptic literacy? The parallels between the Oracles of Hystaspes fragments in Lactantius (*De vita beata*), the Zand ī Wahman Yasn and the Jāmāsp-Nāmag
  - Clare Parry - To Be Seen or Not To Be Seen: The Iconography of Royal Women in Neo-Assyria **(online)**
  - Maryam Navi - The Garden of Barashnûm: The Influence of Magical Thoughts of Magi in Zoroastrian Religious-Therapeutic Rituals **(online)**
  - Zohreh Baseri - Survey: The typology of Parthian Dark Age coins (patterns, symbols, inscriptions, mint) based on the documentation of the coins of Gotarzes I and Phraates II **(online)**
-

## **Day 1 Session 2 | 11.30–13.00**

### **Session 2.1 - Pahlavi Iran on the World Stage (McPherson Recital Room)**

- Juliet Lazek - The Humanitarian Effort in Wartime Iran: A Case Study of the Polish Catholic Orphanage in Isfahan and the Polish Jewish Orphanage in Tehran, 1942-1945
- Kaveh Azarhoosh - From Berlin to Tehran: Nazi Collaboration and Bureaucratic Reintegration in Cold War Iran
- Bita Naghashian - Myth, History, and Identity in Pahlavi Numismatic Visual Culture **(online)**

### **Session 2.2 – Iran, the Middle East & the Caucasus (Gifford Room)**

- Nagapushpa Devendra - Power, Protest and Proxy: Iran in the Wake of the Israeli-Gaza Conflict **(online)**
- Liana Petrosyan - The Influence of Iranian Domestic Political Currents on the *Armenian* Direction of Iran's South Caucasus Policy in 2020-2024
- Nare Gevorgyan – The Influence of Iranian Domestic Political Currents on the *Azerbaijani* Direction of Iran's South Caucasus Policy in 2020-2024

### **Session 2.3 - Literature during the Early Islamic Centuries (S & G Mitchell Reading Room)**

- Giacomo Brotto- Anvari's divān as a historical source: The case of 'Emād al-din Aḥmad Piruzšāh
- Laura Tribuzio - Bridging the Unseen: The Mujmal al-ḥikma, Occult Sciences, and Political Imagination in the Persianate World

### **Session 2.4 - Persian Language & Linguistics (Rehearsal Room 2)**

- Dorian Pastor - The colloquial Persian verbs *kuš-*, *ināhāš-* and *unāhāš-* **(online)**
- Matei Catalan - A Functional Perspective on the Persian Direct Object and the Post-position Ra
- Milad Bigdeloo - Unraveling the Mechanism and Chronology of the -a to -e Change in Persian

### **Session 2.5 - Knowledge Curation in Iranian Studies (Rehearsal Room 3)**

- Shabnam Balouch - Reframing Persia: Cultural Narratives and Archival Gaps in the Collections of Kew Gardens
  - Benedikt Romer - The Oxford Handbook of Modern Iranian Religions – Editorial Reflections on a Work in Progress
-

## **Day 1 Session 3 | 14.30–16.00**

### **Session 3.1 - Intelligence, Diplomacy & Social Policy Under Mohammad Reza Shah (McPherson Recital Room)**

- Roxane Bertran de Balanda - Bridging the Gap Between Local and National Histories: Tabriz as a Case Study of the Iranian Protest Movement of June 1963
- Marziyeh Bazayr - Unbuilt Networks: Transnational Knowledge exchange in Iran's National Library Project
- Teh Guan Kiong - The Iranian Motorist: two detailed studies on the Iranian automotive consumer and their implications for Anglo-American commercial diplomacy in Iran, 1968-72

### **Session 3.2 - Caliphate Societies: Eastern Iran and Beyond before 1000 AD (Gifford Room)**

- Said Reza Huseini – An Eastern Iranian Model of Governance (**online**)
- Wang Shi "Tony" - Popular Zoroastrianism in Central Asia: 250 – 750 CE
- Farzad Zerehdaran - The Dissolution of the Architect into the Patron: Khurasan, Sistan and Transoxiana in the Early Islamic Centuries (**online**)

### **Session 3.3 - Supernatural beings in popular Shi'i performance (S & G Mitchell Reading Room)**

- Sara Khalili Jahromi - Lucifer on the Throne of God and Solomon's Ring on the Finger of Div
- Uzair Ibrahim - Presenting Karbala through Za'far the jinni
- E. Lucy Deacon - Bearing the Divine: Angels and Nativity Narratives of the Ta'ziyeh Tradition

### **Session 3.4 - Lateral thinking in Iranian Art & Education (Rehearsal Room 2)**

- Farhad Aref - Liberating the Tar: Innovation, Imitation, and the Deconstruction of Worship in Persian Music
  - Rebecca Ciattini - 'Be the Ferdowsi of Your Own Times': Reception of Classical Persian Canon in Early Soviet Tajik Magazines
  - Farzaneh Barzegar - Self-Alienation in the Iranian Formal Education System (**online**)
-

**Saturday 11 April 2026**

**Day 2 Session 4 | 9.30–11.00**

**Session 4.1 - Languages of Resistance in Modern Iran (McPherson Recital Room)**

- Haleh Agar - *Coo and the Iranian Gothic: Challenging Western Narratives Through the Gothic Mode (online)*
- Adela Chiru - *The Collapse of Linear Time in *Another Day for Shora* by Fariba Vafi*
- Chitra Shah - *Neologisms in Modernity: Epistemological State Intervention in Contemporary Iran*

**Session 4.2 - Texts & Contexts in Medieval Persia (Gifford Room)**

- Ali Shapouran - *Shahnameh*
- Matti Veldhuis - *Rays of Divine Light: Celestial Motion and the Necessary Being in Suhrawardī's *Partaw Nāmeḥ**

**Session 4.3 – Contemporary Transnationalism (S & G Mitchell Reading Room)**

- Veera Rustomji - *The enduring links between Iran and Karachi's Zoroastrian population*
- Abid Zaidi - *Inherited Sanctity, Imported Revolution: Negotiating Shi'i Memory in Lucknow After 1979*
- Ashkan Hashemipour - *Revolutionaries without Borders: A transnational history of the Iranian Guerilla Movement, 1963-79*
- Martin Dixon - *Fate of a Man: Two Bukharan Intellectuals under Communism (online)*

**Session 4.4 - Ilkhanid Persia (Rehearsal Room 2)**

- Rezvan Namjoo & Elahe Mahdavi - *Silent Voices, Enduring Faith: Inscriptions in Pir-e Bakran mausoleum (online)*
  - Ankur Desval Fehrani - *Angels, God(s) and the Epic Hero Beholding the Grandeur of the Creation: Alexander's Submarine Adventure in Aina-Ye Sikandar*
  - Ana Marija Grbanovic - *Monumental yet Less Known: Examination of Wall Paintings of the Gunbad Structure in Shaykh-i Ahmad-i Turbat-i Jam's complex (Turbat-i Jam, Khurasan, Iran)*
-

## Day 2 Session 5 | 11.30–13.00

### Session 5.1 - Forming Modern Iran (McPherson Recital Room)

- Hoda Nedaeifar - The Margins of the Modern: The Emergence and Eclipse of Tālār-e Ghandriz
- Salome Michel - The Rastākhiz Moment: Ideology, Utopia, and Authority in Late Pahlavi Iran (1975–1978)
- Sara Makari - Paint, Print and Persecution: How the Iranian and Caucasian 'Modern' formed, 1905–80

### Session 5.2 - Iran & the Caucasus (Gifford Room)

- Shakiba Abolkherian - Iranian Women: Towards an Understanding of the Unhomely
- Arpine Arushanyan - The Influence of Iran's Domestic Political Currents on Bilateral Relations with Armenia (2018–2025) **(online)**
- Garik Misakyan - Domestic Political Currents and the Shifting Dynamics of Iran–Azerbaijan Relations (2018–2025)

### Session 5.3 - Motifs & Memory in Ilkhanid & Safavid Persia (S & G Mitchell Reading Room)

- Yuxi Pan - Creatures at the Crossroads: Transcultural Hybridity in the Animal Illustrations of Manafi'-i Hayavan
- Sara Mirahmadi - Between Sword and Pen: Rhetoric, Power, and Patronage in Vaṣṣāf's *Munāẓara-yi Shamshīr va Qalam*
- Ikbāl Dursunoglu - Mani the Iranian: Dust Muhammad's Apologia for Painting Reconsidered

### Session 5.4 - Early Persian Islamic Architecture (Rehearsal Room 2)

- Thomas Laskowski - City Foundation Narratives in Persian Local Histories
  - Davood Khazaie - The Architectonics of Heroic Narrative: A New Historicist Comparative Reading of Bahram-e Gur and Henry V
  - Saeed Mehrpouya - In-Betweenness and the Continuity of Liminalities: Reframing Pilgrimage Architecture in Mashhad **(online)**
-

## Day 2 Session 6 | 14.30–16.00

### Session 6.1 - Discourses of Faith in Late Pahlavi Iran (McPherson Recital Room)

- Mozghan Malekan - Female Identity and Women's Self-Concept in Iranian Culture: A Comparative Study
- Elyas Pirasteh - From Moon to Microphone: Regulating Ramadan in Late Pahlavi Iran
- Misagh Javadpour - Clerical Conservatism and Revolutionary Delay: The Shi'a Ulama in Gilan during the Iranian Revolution

### Session 6.2 - Outwith Iran: Diaspora & Diplomacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Gifford Room)

- Ava Tabatabaei - Edward Said, Exile, and Dynamic Cultural Identity: Rethinking Pluralist Democratic Theory through the Iranian Diasporic Experience
- Armin Safavi Naini - 'Iranicans' in the beltway: the National Iranian American Council's (NIAC) advocacy and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)
- Khorsrow Tousi - To See or Not See Like a State: Rethinking the History of Iran and Global Internationalism

### Session 6.3 – Feminist Struggle & Revolution in Modern Iran (S & G Mitchell Reading Room)

- Jan Willem Gray - The Gender Politics of British and US relations with Iran During the Constitutional Revolution, 1905-11
- Hazel Choi - Between Fatigue and Defiance: Quiet Feminist Resistance in Post Mahsa Amini Iran
- Katayoun Shahandeh - Reclaiming the Feminine Self: Contemporary Women Artists and the Visual Politics of Identity

### Session 6.4 - Sassanian Zoroastrianism (Rehearsal Room 2)

- Hamta Mousavi - The integration of astrological principles, specifically chronocratoria and melothesia, into the architectural, cosmological, and ritual frameworks of Sasanian Zoroastrian fire temples
  - Guosheng Qu - The Astrological Aždahā (Dragon) and Mar (Snake): Gōčihr in Zoroastrianism and Manichaeism (**online**)
  - Bahram Roshan-Zamir - Ritual Conflict and Narrative Strategy: Christian Representation of Zoroastrian Funerary practice in the Syriac Acts of the Persian Martyrs (**online**)
-

**Sunday 12 April 2026**

**Day 3 Session 7 | 12.30–14.00**

**Session 7.1 - Narratives & Motifs in Iranian Film & Literature (McPherson Recital Room)**

- Rashidi Shaghayeh - Blindness as Veiled Gaze: Constructing the Sacred Body of the Nation in Post-Revolutionary Iranian Cinema
- Sadegh Abdi - Othering of Afghans: A Critical Study of Their Representation in Iranian Narrative Cinema **(online)**
- Maryam Bagheri - Configuration of Temporality in Négar Djavadi's *Disoriental* **(online)**

**Session 7.2 - Britain & Persia (Gifford Room)**

- Kurosh Meshkat - Sir Anthony Shirley's Mission (1598-99)
- Emmanuele Giusti - Chardin the Persian? A Survey of Sir John Chardin's (1643-1713) Access to Persian History and Geography
- Azadeh Heidari - Persian Poetic Echoes: Comparative Insights into Hafez and Saadi through British Travelogues **(online)**

**Session 7.3 - Safavid Persia & its Neighbours (S&G Mitchell Reading Room)**

- Denizcan Dede - Turcoman or Kurdish? A Source-Based Critique of Modern Claims on the Origin of the Kizilbash Tribes
  - Rik Janssen - Iranian/Persianate Traditions in Ottoman Archery
  - Dorothy Greene – The Bayezid Affair and its consequences upon Ottoman-Safavid relations **(online)**
-