



DĀNESH Newsletter

Fall 2014

2014 DĀNESH CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

IRANIAN AND OTHER MIDDLE EASTERN IMMIGRANTS: THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN SOCIETY

With cooperation of the University of Chicago Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the 2014 DĀNESH Conference is scheduled for **October 18**. The conference will be held at the University of Chicago International House, 1414 E. 59th Street, Chicago.

The conference program includes presentations by Mitra Fallahi, Lewis University; Mahboub Hashem, American University of Sharjah; Bitā Razavimaleki, Texas State University; Bahareh Sahebi, Illinois School of Professional Psychology; and Sholeh Shahrokhi, Butler University.

Dr. Fallahi's presentation is titled *A Comparison of the Immigration Trend of Iranians to the United States Before and After the Revolution of 1979 and Unique Contributions of Iranians to the American Society*. The presentation will focus on some specific educational, cultural, and socio-economical contributions of Iranian-Americans to the American society during the latter decades of the 20th century and the 21st century. *Lebanese Immigrants to the U.S. and Their Contributions to American Society* is the title of Dr. Hashem's paper. The paper is primarily a historical analysis of these immigrants and their contributions to their new country. Ms. Razavimaleki is to present a paper titled *In the Melting Pot: A New Study of Ethnic Identity and Acculturation Among Iranians in the United States*. This anthropological study will explore aspects of Iranian identity and examine how markers of identity change as Iranians move to the United States. Ms. Sahebi deals with a related subject in her paper, *A Parental Dilemma: The process of Acculturation and Assimilation within the Family System*. As such, the author is to address specific system-based relational challenges immigrant families often face in the process of acculturation and assimilation. Another important subject will be addressed by Dr. Shahrokhi in her presentation titled *Four Decades in the Making: Gender, Generations, and the Cultural Politics of Iranian Diaspora in the U.S.* This paper is a critical exploration into the Iranian diaspora culture focusing on several core questions.

Members of the Conference Planning Committee have been Reza Varjavand (Chair), Cyrus Behroozi, Franklin Lewis, and Irene Queiro-Tajalli.

Additional information, including the registration form, will soon be distributed. Meanwhile, for information about registration, please contact Dr. Queiro-Tajalli at itka100@iupui.edu.

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Please send your comments about the Newsletter to Cyrus S. Behroozi at CSBehroozi@aol.com.

2015 DĀNESH CONFERENCE

Please mark your calendar for the 2015 DĀNESH conference scheduled for October 24, 2015 in Bloomington. This conference will be with the cooperation of the Indiana University Central Eurasian Department. Further information will be forthcoming.

MESSAGE FROM DĀNESH PRESIDENT

I am just back from Montreal and the biennial convention of the International Society for Iranian Studies where I had the honor of chairing a panel in honor of the late Hossein Ziai, a towering figure in the Iranian studies community in North America and a leading interpreter of the Iranian philosophical tradition. It perhaps tells us something about the contribution of Iranians that the panel consisted of two Americans and two Iraqis, joined by a common interest in the Iranian contribution to philosophy and the influence of a deeply learned Iranian scholar and gentleman.

Which brings me to the subject of the 2014 DĀNESH Institute conference: *Iranian and Other Middle Eastern Immigrants: Their Contributions to American Society*. The conference will be held at the University of Chicago on October 18. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the UC Center for Middle Eastern Studies, co-sponsor of the conference, and particularly Prof. Franklin Lewis for their support.

In the four decades that I have been involved in Middle East studies, interest in immigrant communities from Middle Eastern countries - and, more important, the quality of scholarship about them has increased enormously. A field that thirty years ago consisted of scattered articles remarking with surprise about the presence of Arabs in Detroit or Iranians in Los Angeles has developed into a mature academic endeavor recognizing the significance of

transnational communities and producing influential scholarship. The DĀNESH Institute's unique contribution has been to combine scholarly description and practical issues. This reflects the support that DĀNESH has received since its founding from the Indiana University School of Social Work, support for which we are very grateful.

Finally, as someone whose interests include both Iran and neighboring Arabic countries, Turkey, and Pakistan, I am pleased to see the DĀNESH Institute increasingly stressing the commonalities between Iranian and other Middle Eastern immigrant communities.

The 2015 DĀNESH conference is scheduled to be held at Indiana University Bloomington with the co-sponsorship of the Department of Central Eurasian Studies. Details will be forthcoming.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

John Walbridge

DĀNESH NEW BOARD AND CONSULTANTS

It is with pleasure to announce the election of the 2014-2017 DĀNESH Board of Directors. Members of the new Board are as follows:

John Walbridge, President
Indiana University

Nahid Vaziri-Shahnavaz, Treasurer
Ivy Tech Community College

Irene Queiro-Tajalli, Past President
Indiana University

Yahya R. Kamalipour
Purdue University Calumet

Ali Akbar Mahdi
California State University, Northridge

Bassima Schbley,
Washburn University

Reza Varjavand
St. Xavier University

Bitia Zakeri
Indiana University

In addition, Cyrus Behroozi will continue to serve as the Executive Secretary. Furthermore, the following have kindly accepted our invitation to serve as DĀNESH consultants:

Ebrahim Fakouri
Indiana State University

Mitra Fallahi
Lewis University

Mary E. Hegland
Santa Clara University

Patricia J. Higgins
State University of New York, Plattsburg

Congratulations and best wishes to the DĀNESH new Board and Consultants.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

Mitra Fallahi has accepted the position of the Associate Dean in the College of Education at Lewis University, effective July 1, 2014.

Mary Elaine Hegland presented a paper, "Days of Revolution: Local Political Culture and the Shia Revolutionary Paradigm in the Iranian Revolution," at the European Association of Social Anthropologists in Tallinn, Estonia, July 31-August 3, 2014. In a series of five panels which she organized about Shia Muslim Moharram mourning rituals for the World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies in Ankara, Turkey, August 18 to 22, 2014, she presented a paper, "Women's Moharram Practices: Expanding Opportunities in an Iranian Village."

Bruno Nettl is now Professor Emeritus of Music and Anthropology, University of Illinois. Having been awarded the Haskins Prize by the

American Council of Learned Societies, he delivered the annual Haskins Lecture in Philadelphia on May 9. Titled generically "A Life of Learning," the lecture included a sketch of some of his research of the last fifty years, including some remarks about his work on improvisation in Persian classical music, and a few words about my teacher, Ostad Nour-Ali Boroumand. Furthermore, In March 2014, he gave a lecture on Persian classical music at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio.

Diane Tehrani has made the following presentations: "Using Poetry to Teach Life Skills," NW NCTE Regional Conference, Spring 2014; "Tune Up Your Speaking Class with Ideas from Learning to Play a Musical Instrument," ORTESOL, Fall 2013. This presentation was published in the *WAESOL World Quarterly*, Spring 2014.

In September of 2013, **Bassima Schbley** presented the results of her research during a Summer Sweet Sabbatical at a Brown Bag Luncheon held at the International House in September of 2013. This original research focused on developing an understanding of Muslim Lebanese women toward the practice of polygamy. Her Sabbatical Research during the summer of 2013 has also led her to conduct research with **Dr. Lori Walton** on "Qualitative Analysis of Female Attitudes Toward Polygamy and Perceived Health Related Quality of Life in Muslim Lebanese and Kuwaiti Women." During the Fall of 2013, Drs. Schbley and Walton continued their research related to specific socio-economic barriers to maternal health faced by Bangladeshi women. The result of this research was presented on February 4, 2014 at the Combined Sessions Meetings of the American Physical Therapy Association. Their work has led to a number of publications that will be reported in future issues of DĀNESH News.

John Walbridge has edited and published a monograph by his late wife **Linda Walbridge** entitled *The Threat of Mu'awiya: The Making of a Marja' Taqlid*, an anthropological study of the way in which a new grand ayatollah emerges as

the result of a contest for prestige carried out within networks of Shi'ah clerics. She has a good deal to say about the role of immigrant Shi'ah communities in this process and the attempts of the Iranian government to influence the process.

Bitā Zakeri has authored "A Double-Edged Sword: The Side Effects of the Model Minority Stereotype on Asian Immigrants in the United States." In N.D. Hartlep (Ed.), *Modern Societal Impacts of the Model Minority Stereotype*. IGI Global. (In Press); and "Complexities of Immigrant Identity: Issues of Literacy, Language, and Culture in the Formation of Identity," Working Papers in Literacy, Culture, and Language Education, 1 (2012). She also presented "Iran Through the Lens of Western Media: A Qualitative Study of the Complex and Conflicting Projections of Iran and Iranian History and its Effects on Iranians in the US," at the Tenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2014.

RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST

Ali M. Ansari. *Perceptions of Iran*. I. B. Tauris, 2013.

Brian H. Appleton. *Shamshone: Sun of Assyria, Five Generations of a Family from Iranian Azerbaijan*. Tate Publishing and Enterprises. 2014.

Siva Balghi and Lynn Gumpert (Editors). *Picturing Iran: Art, Society and Revolution*. I. B. Tauris, 2014.

Anahita Ghabaian and Minou Saberi. *Twelve Photographic Journeys: Iran in the 21st Century*. I. B. Tauris, 2014.

Cyrus Kamrani. *An Iranian at Home and Abroad: A Bid for Freedom*. Memoirs Publishing Co., 2013.

Porochista Khakpour. *Sons of Other Flammable Objects: A Novel*. Grone Press, 2008.

Sofia A. Koutlaki. *Among Iranians: A Guide to Iran's Culture and Customs*. Intercultural Press, 2010.

Matthew Kroenig. *A Time to Attack: The Looming Iranian Nuclear Threat*. Palgrave Macmillan Trade, 2014.

Hooman Majd. *The Ministry of Guidance Invites You to Not Stay: An American Family in Iran*. Anchor, 2014.

Ali Mozaffari. *Forming National Identity in Iran: The Idea of Homeland Derived from Ancient Persian and Islamic Imaginations of Place*, I. B. Tauris, 2014.

Dina Nayeri, *A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea*. Riverhead Trade, 2014.

Nacim Pak-Shiraz. *Shi'i Islam in Iranian Cinema: Religion and Spirituality in Films*. I. B. Tauris, 2011.

Kenneth Pollack. *Unthinkable: Iran, the Bomb, and American Strategy*. Simon and Schuster, 2013.

Monirou Ravanipur, Translated by Rebecca Joubin. *Afsaneh: A Novel from Iran*. Ibex, 2011.

Mehdi Semati. *Media, Culture and Society in Iran: Living with Globalization and Islamic State*. Routledge, 2007.

Polia Sofer. *The September of Shiraz*. Harper Perennial. 2008.

Annabelle Sreberny and Massoumeh Torfeh (Editors). *Cultural Revolution in Iran: Contemporary Popular Culture in the Islamic Republic*. I. B. Tauris, 2013.