



NACIM PAK-SHIRAZ

Personal Chair in Cinema and Iran | University of Edinburgh

EXPERIENCE

Head of Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (IMES), University of Edinburgh, 2017-present

Head of Persian Studies, IMES, University of Edinburgh, 2010-present

Programme Director for the following MSc programmes at the University of Edinburgh:

- MSc in Middle Eastern Studies with Arabic, 2017-2019, Mar – Aug 2020
- MSc in Middle Eastern Studies with Advanced Arabic, 2017-2019, Mar – Aug 2020
- MSc in Advanced Arabic, 2017-2019, Mar – Aug 2020
- MSc in Persian Civilisation, 2015-2016
- MSc in International Relations with Arabic (co-director), 2017-2019
- MSc in International Relations with Advanced Arabic (co-director), 2017-2019

Lecturer, Department of Graduate Studies, The Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS), London, 2007-2010

EDUCATION

PhD in Film and Media. 2009. School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

MA (Merit) in Anthropology of Media. 2002. SOAS, University of London
Graduate Programme in Islamic Studies and Humanities.
2001. IIS, London

BA (Distinction), English Literature and Translation. 1995. Azad University, Tehran

PUBLICATIONS

Truth, Lies and Justice: The Fragmented Picture in Asghar Farhadi's Films. In *Muslims in the Movies: A Global Anthology* (ed. K. Petersen). Boston, MA: Harvard University Press. Expected publication date 2021

2019. The Divine Word on the Screen: Religious Epics in Iranian Cinema. In *Approaches to the Qur'an in Contemporary Iran* (ed. A. Cancian). Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 375-408.

2019. Iranian Cinema Today: An Ode to the Past and New Directions in the Future? In *Islamic Art: Past, Present, Future* (ed. J. Bloom & S. Blair). New Haven and London: Yale University Press, pp. 261-278.

2018. Constructing Masculinities through the Javanmards in Pre-Revolutionary Iranian Cinema. In *Javanmardi: The Ethics and Practice of Persianate Perfection* (ed. L. Ridgeon). London: Gingko Library, pp. 297-318.

2017. *Visualizing Iran: From Antiquity to the Present* (Special Issue of *Iranian Studies*), vol. 50 (6). 206pp.

2017. Comedy in Iranian Cinema. In *Directory of World Cinema: Iran 2* (ed. P. Jahed). Bristol: Intellect Books, pp. 262-270.

2017. Shooting the Isolation and Marginality of Masculinities in Iranian Cinema. *Iranian Studies*, 50 (6), 945-967.

2017. Introduction - *Visualizing Iran: From Antiquity to the Present*, *Iranian Studies*, 50 (6), 761-764.

2016. The Qur'anic Epic in Iranian Cinema. *Journal of Religion and Film*, 20 (1), 1-25.

2016. Islam, Bible in Film -Biblical Prophets and Stories. *Encyclopaedia of the Bible and its Reception Online*, 13.

2015. Shi'ism in Iranian Cinema. In *The Shi'i World: Pathways in Tradition and Modernity* (ed. F. Daftary, S. Jiwa, & A. Sajoo). London: I.B. Tauris, pp. 300-325.

2015. Cinema as a Cultural Reservoir for the Shi'i Performing Art of *Ta'ziya*. In *People of the Prophet's House: Artistic and Ritual Expressions of Shi'i Islam* (ed. F. Suleman). London: Azimuth Editions, pp. 212-220.

2013. Exploring the City in the Cinema of Bahram Beyzaie. *Iranian Studies*, 46 (5), 811-828.

2013. Imagining the Diaspora in the New Millennium Comedies of Iranian Cinema. *Iranian Studies*, 46 (2), 165-184.

2011. *Shi'i Islam in Iranian Cinema: Religion and Spirituality in Film*. London: I.B. Tauris. 256pp. Reprinted 2018.

2008. Filmic Discourses on the Role of the Clergy in Iran. In *Iranian Intellectuals, 1997-2007* (ed. L. Ridgeon). London: Routledge, pp. 71-90. First published as:

2007. Filmic Discourses on the Role of the Clergy in Iran. *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 34 (3), 331-349.

2004. Cinema in the Islamic World. In *Historical Atlas of Islam* (ed. M. Ruthven & A. Nanji). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 188-189.

In progress

2021. Representing Muhammad: The Prophet on Screen.

2022. Women Depicting Freedom of Movement in Public and Private Spaces in Iran

Films

Forthcoming. *Women Depicting Freedom of Movement in Iranian Cinema*. Film essay.

2002. *The Dream of Flight*. Ethnographic film (45min)

Translations of original publication:

A number of my original outputs have been independently translated, expanding their reach internationally:

2019. Chinese. Imagining the Diaspora in the New Millennium Comedies of Iranian Cinema. *Film Art*, Article 21. Trans. Kǎn Kǎn Zhāng as '21 shì jì yī lǎng xǐ jù diàn yǐng zhòng dì lí sǎn xiǎng xiàng. *Diàn Yǐng Yī Shù*, 387 (4), 122-129.

2018. Persian. The Qur'anic Epic in Iranian Cinema (Farsi). *Journal of Religion & Film*, 20 (1), Article 27. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol20/iss1/27>

2018. Arabic. Shi'ism in Iranian Cinema. In *The Shi'i World: Pathways in Tradition and Modernity* (ed. F. Daftary, S. Jiwa, & A. Sajoo). London: I.B. Tauris (2015), pp. 300-325. Trans. Sayf al-Din Al-Qasir as al-Shi'iya fi'l sinima al-Iraniyya. In *al-'alam al-Shi'i: Tara'iq fi al-taqlid wa al-hadatha*. Beirut: Dar al-Saqi, pp. 389-421.

2018. Persian. Thinking Films: Kiarostami, A Poetic Philosopher. In *Shi'i Islam in Iranian Cinema: Religion and Spirituality in Film*. London: I.B. Tauris (2011), pp. 167-192. Trans. Farzam Amin Salehi as Filmhay-e andisheh varz: Kiarostami, Filsuph-e Sha'er Maslak. In *Sinama-ye Digar: Chand Maqaleh va Goft-o-go Darbare-ye Sinama-ye Abbas Kiarostami* (ed. S 'Emad Hosseini). Tehran: Khaney-e Honarmandan-e Iran – Kanoon Farhangi, pp. 131-164.

INTERNATIONAL INVITED KEYNOTES, TALKS AND LECTURES

2020 (Oct). 'Cinema, Sacred History and the State'. Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin.

2019 (Nov). 'Imagining the Prophet on Film'. International Colloquium on Interdisciplinary Studies, Muslim Societies and Social Transformation, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Indonesia.

2018 (May). 'Women Behind and on the Camera in Iranian Cinema'. Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), to launch ground-breaking exhibition *In the Fields of Empty Days: The Intersection of Past and Present in Iranian Art*

2017 (Nov). 'Iranian Cinema Today – An Ode to the Past and New Directions to the Future', 7th Biennial Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art, Islamic Art: Past, Present and Future? University of Virginia.

2017 (May). 'Continuities and Discontinuities in Iranian Cinema', Anadolu University, Turkey.

2017 (Apr). 'Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Religion and Film'. University of Cinema and Theatre, Tehran.

2017 (Apr). 'Moving Beyond Euro-centric Films in Academia'. Fajr International Film Festival (FIFF), Tehran.

2017 (Feb). 'The Qur'anic Epic in Iranian Cinema. Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS) University, Yogyakarta.

2015 (Sep). 'Warrior Masculinities in Iranian Cinema'. 8th European Conference of Iranian Studies. State Hermitage Museum and Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg.

2015 (Jul). 'Constructing Masculinities in Iranian Cinema'. University of Freiburg.

2015 (May). 'The Qur'anic Film in Iranian Cinema'. International Conference on Religion and Film, University of Nebraska and Turkish Department of Cultural and Social Affairs, Istanbul, Turkey.

2014 (Aug). Plenary. 'Careers in Iranian Studies: Mentoring Lunch for Graduate Students'. Tenth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS), Montreal, Canada.

2014 (Mar). 'Constructing Masculinities through the *Javanmards* in Iranian Cinema'. *Ahilik* and *Javanmardi* Conference. British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) and Ipek University, Ankara, Turkey.

2012 (Sep). Keynote address. 'Imagining the Diaspora in Iranian Cinema: The "Farangi" in Comedies'. 20th Reza Ali Khazeni Memorial Lecture in Iranian Studies. University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

2012 (Sep). 'Truth, Lies and Justice: The Fragmented Picture in Asghar Farhadi's Films'. Reza Ali Khazeni Memorial Foundation, and the College of Humanities, Tanner Humanities Center and Middle East Center, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

2007 (Aug). 'The Role and Power of the Shi'i Clergy in Iran'. IIS Summer Programme on Islam, McGill University and The Institute of Ismaili Studies Montreal, Canada.

2007 (Aug). Invited talk on *The Day I Became a Woman*. IIS Summer Programme on Islam, McGill University and The Institute of Ismaili Studies, Montreal, Canada.

NATIONAL INVITED KEYNOTES, TALKS AND LECTURES

2020 (Apr). Iran Society, London (Postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19).

2019 (Feb). Roundtable, Iran's Revolution 40 Years On: Politics and Culture in the Islamic Republic, University of Edinburgh.

2015 (Feb). 'Trends in the Constructions of Masculinities in Pre-Revolutionary Iranian Cinema'. University of Manchester.

2013 (Sep). 'The Divine Word on the Screen: Religious Epics in Iranian Cinema'. Contemporary Approaches to the Qur'an in Iran Conference. The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London.

2011 (Nov). 'Religion and Cinema in Iran'. Seminar on Religion and Cinema. The School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow.

2011 (Jul). Talk on *No-one Knows about the Persian Cats*. International Summer Programme on Expressions of Diversity: A Contemporary Introduction to Muslim Cultures. Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University, London.

2011 (May). 'Exploring the Overlooked Diversity of Bahram Beyzaie's Filmmaking Styles'. Music in Middle Eastern Cinema. City University London & Institute of Musical Research, London.

2010 (Jun). '*Ta'ziyeh* and the Films of Bahram Beyzaie'. Mythologizing the Transition: A Symposium on Bahram Beyzaie's Cinema and Theatre. University College London.

2009 (Jul). Invited talk on *The Circle*. IIS Summer Programme on Islam. University of Cambridge and The Institute of Ismaili Studies, Cambridge.

2009 (Mar). 'Cinema as a Reservoir for Cultural Memory'. *People of the Prophet's House: Art, Architecture and Shi'ism in the Islamic World*. British Museum and The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London.

2008 (Jul). Talk on *The Day I Became a Woman*. IIS Summer Programme on Islam. University of Cambridge and The Institute of Ismaili Studies, Cambridge.

2005 (Aug). Talk on *Ten*. IIS Summer Programme on Islam. University of Cambridge and The Institute of Ismaili Studies, Cambridge.

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2016 (Aug). 'Shooting the Isolation and Marginality of Masculinities in Iran', Association for Iranian Studies. University of Vienna.

2016 (Jul). 'Isolation and Marginality in Iranian Cinema', Constructing Masculinities in the Middle East Symposium. University of Edinburgh.

2015 (Oct). 'Representing Muhammad on Screen', Montgomery Watt Symposium: Representations of Muhammad. University of Edinburgh.

2014 (Aug). 'Constructions of Masculinity in Iranian Cinema'. Tenth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference. Montreal.

2013 (Jan). 'Depicting the Diaspora in Iranian Comedies'. Persian Civilisation Seminar Series. Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Edinburgh.

2012 (Aug). 'Comedy in Iranian Cinema'. Ninth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference. Istanbul.

2009 (Jun). 'Cinema as a Reservoir for Cultural Memory'. Thirty Years On: The Social and Cultural Impacts of the Iranian Revolution. School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

2006 (Aug). 'My Priest the Hero: The Clergy in Iranian Cinema'. Sixth Biennial Conference of Iranian Studies. SOAS, University of London.

2005 (May). 'Religion and Spirituality in Kiarostami's Films'. Abbas Kiarostami: Image, Voice and Vision. Victoria & Albert Museum and Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF), London.

2004 (May). 'Religious Themes in Iranian Cinema'. Fifth Biennial Conference of Iranian Studies. Bethesda, MD.

2004 (Jul). 'Iranian Cinema and the Islamic State'. The 17th Annual Screen Conference. University of Glasgow.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND IMPACT

My case study 'Establishing Scotland as a centre for understanding Iran through its cinema' is to be submitted as part of the Unit of Assessment 26: Modern Languages and Linguistics for the Research Excellence Framework. This has included curating 5 film festivals, I have thus far curated over 60 films and events on Iranian film, largely as part of the Edinburgh Iranian Festival (EIF) Film Season, lectures, pop-up events, film introductions and post-screening discussions.

Chairing a panel at the Scottish Parliament's Festival of Politics for a post-screening discussion of *Mariam*, Oct 2019.

Chairing and presenting for a panel discussion on the MOOC course: The Sharia and Islamic Law: An Introduction, April 2019.

Women in Iranian Cinema: In Conversation with Fatemeh Motamed-Arya. In conjunction with Edinburgh International Film Festival, June 2018.

Hippodrome Silent Film Festival, Bo'ness, Mar 2018.

Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association, Mar 2018. A public talk on 'Women and Iranian Cinema' to commemorate International Women's Day.

Panellist, 'The Poetry and Influence of Rumi', *Sunday Morning with....* BBC Radio Scotland, Jul 2016.

Post-screening discussion of *Ae Fond Kiss* organised by Alwaleed Centre, Mar 2013. Aimed at the general public, the discussion highlighted representations and stereotypes of Muslims in Scotland.

Reel-Iraq, 'The Invasion of Iraq', Mar 2013. Aimed at the general public, the panel discussed artistic and political responses to the war in Iraq.

National Film Week, Filmhouse, Nov 2012. Presentation for 40 secondary school students on Iran and Iranian Cinema.

Post-screening discussion of Tom Holland's *Islam, the Untold Story*, Nov 2012. Aimed at the general public, the discussion reviewed claims made in the documentary, comparing them against those in the academic record across a variety of disciplines.

In-conversation and book launch of *Living in Historic Cairo: Past and Present in an Islamic City* ed. Farhad Daftary, Elizabeth Fernea and Azim Nanji, Sep 2010. Large outreach event including the ambassador of Egypt and a number of other British dignitaries.

TEACHING

I am continually rethinking the content and improving the delivery of our course offerings. As demonstrated in the sections below, my initiatives in teaching have revolved primarily around bringing together the pluralistic expertise of disciplines and mediums across a range of languages and regions. In responding to the demand for a more global outlook in universities and the need to decolonise university curricula, these initiatives have fostered inclusion, creativity and greater engagement with diversity.

PG and UG Courses

- Cinema and Society in the Middle East
- Islam through the Arts
- History and Culture of Iran
- Islamic and Middle Eastern Cultures
- The Coming of Age Narrative
- Ruling Iran
- Of Wine, Love and Loss: Reading Iran through its Classical Literature
- Modern Persian Literature and Modern Iran
- Islamic History
- Islamic Literature
- Revelation and Hermeneutics
- Research Methods and Problems in IMES
- Critical Readings in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
- Diasporas of the Middle East
- Advanced Issues in the Study of the Middle East
- Introduction to Islam

PhD Supervision

13 PhD students; **10** as **Principal supervisor**; **3** as second supervisor, **6** completed.

- Fields of PhD supervision:
 - Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
 - Film Studies
 - Trans-Disciplinary Documentary Film
 - Comparative Literature
 - Landscape Architecture

CITIZENSHIP

- Mentoring female colleagues, 2013 - Present
- Member of Mentoring Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic staff and students, 2020 - present
- Represented the University of Edinburgh in Indonesia, 2017 – present
- Postgraduate Officer, LBAS coordinator, Jan 2014-Jan 2017
- Personal Tutor, 2011-present
- Convenor, 11-week Persian Civilisation Seminar Series at IMES, Spring 2013, delivered by renowned scholars.
- Convenor, 11-week IMES Research Seminar (Autumn 2018 and Autumn 2019)
- Exam Chair, 2011-2013
- Chair of Special Circumstances, 2011-2013
- Dissertation Officer, 2011-2012
- Innovative Learning Week Officer, 2011-2012
- Board of Studies Officer, 2010-2012
- Undergraduate Studies Officer, 2010-2012

1. Membership of committees

a. University

- Member of the Senate at the University of Edinburgh, 2018-2020
- WAMS Business Embedding Project, 2019 -
- Numerous LLC and ECA Senior Selection Committees, incl. for Director of the Alwaleed Centre, the Iraq Chair, and Islamic Art History
- GenderEd Steering Group 2018 – present
- LLC Athena Swan/EUC Pilot Self-Assessment Team/GEM, 2012-2014
- University Chaplaincy Committee, 2013-present

b. External

- Appointed member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Peer Review College (Jan 2020 – Dec 2023)
- Governor, Institute of Ismaili Studies, Dec 2020-
- National Committee member, Aga Khan Foundation (UK), 2017-present
- Academic Council, Iran Heritage Foundation, 2011-present

2. Appointments as external examiner

a. PhD External Examiner

- The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, 2019
- Kings College London, 2016
- University of Bradford, 2015
- The University of Queensland, Australia, 2015

b. External Examiner for Exam Boards (UG & PG)

- External Examiner, Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge
- External Examiner, Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford
- External Examiner, Middle Eastern Studies, University of Manchester
- External Examiner, Middle Eastern Studies, SOAS, University of London
- External Examiner, Islamic Studies and Humanities, IIS, London

3. Editorships

- Editorial Board. *Iranian Studies*. Taylor and Francis. 2015-present
- Advisory Board. *Studies on Performing Arts & Literature of the Islamicate World*. Brill. 2015-present
- Peer reviewer for Edinburgh University Press; Ilex Foundation in association with Harvard University Press; Peter Lang
- Peer reviewer for Journals:
 - *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*
 - *Alif: Journal of Comparative Politics*
 - *Asian Cinema*
 - *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*
 - *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*
 - *Middle East Critique*
 - *Religion and Film*
 - *Film-Philosophy*
 - *Iran: Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies*
 - *Iranian Studies*
 - *Journal of Gender Studies*
 - *Journal of Shi'i Islamic Studies*

- *Women's Studies*
- *Screen*

4. **Society Membership**

- a. British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS)
- b. Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)
- c. Association of Iranian Studies (AIS)

5. **Jury Member**

Invited jury member for an international film festival in Prague: Iran:CI (15-20 January 2020) Further details available here: <http://iranci.cz/en/9th-edition-2020/>.