

**MOJTABA EBRAHIMIAN**  
**Preceptor in Persian**  
**Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations**  
**Harvard University**  
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### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Persian Literature, Iranian Cultural History, Iranian Cinema, Modern Iranian History,  
Persianate Intellectual History, Travel Writing Studies

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D.           Near Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, 2020  
M.A.           English Literature, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran, 2011  
B.A.           English Language and Literature, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran, 2008

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2021-present   Preceptor in Persian  
                  Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
                  Harvard University, Cambridge MA

2023-present   Adjunct Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History  
                  History and Society Divisions  
                  Babson College, Babson Park MA

2018-2020      Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Fellow  
                  School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies  
                  University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- *Reimagining Europe: Persian Travel Writing and New Perceptions of Europe in Early Nineteenth-Century Iran*. Draft manuscript completed.
- *Is There a Persian Novel?* Manuscript in preparation.
- *Guzārish-i Safar-i Mirzā Sālih Shīrāzī* [The Travelogue of Mirza Salih Shirazi] (1813). Translation and Commentary. Under review by I.B.Tauris.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2023 “The European Other, the Indo-Iranian Self and the Discourse of Wonder in the Earliest Persian Travelogues of Europe.” *Studies in Travel Writing*. 26, no.1 (2023): 34-52. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645145.2023.2197257>
- 2023 “Abd al-Rahim Talebof’s Promotion of Nationality and National Sociopolitical Reform in *Kitab-i Ahmad* (1890–1894).” *International Journal of Persian Literature*. Volume 8 (September 2023): 41–60. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5325/intejperslite.8.0041>
- 2022 “Female Voices and Historical Trends in the Longest Persian Novel: A Radical Criticism of Mahmūd Dawlat’ābādī’s *Kilidar* (1978-1984)” in *International Journal of Persian Literature* (under review)
- 2022 “Magical Realism and the Critique of Patriarchal and Political Repression in the Novels of Shahnush Parsipur” in *Comparative Literature and Culture* (under review)
- 2021 “Islamic Rule and Iranian Women in the Films of Hatef Alimardani.” *Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Multidisciplinary Studies: Mathal* 7, no.1 (2021): 1-21. DOI: [10.17077/2168-538X.1128](https://doi.org/10.17077/2168-538X.1128)
- 2020 “*Vaqaye ‘-e Ettefaqiyeh* (1851-1861) and the Education of the Iranian Nation in the Middle of the Nineteenth Century.” *Iran: Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies* 59, no. 1 (January 2020): 130-146. DOI: [10.1080/05786967.2020.1713022](https://doi.org/10.1080/05786967.2020.1713022)

### Refereed Book Chapter

- 2023 “One Thousand Years of Persian Travel Writing and *Siyāhatnāmeḥ-ye Ebrāhim Beyg* (1895) as *Safarnāmeḥ*” in *Routledge Handbook of Persian Literature*. Edited by Kamran Talattof (New York: Routledge, 2023): 45-67.

## Translation

- 2019 *How to Read World Literature* by David Damrosch. Translated into Persian with a critical introduction. Tehran: SAMT, 2019.

## Non-Refereed Publications

- 2022 “*Safarnāmah Nivisān-i Qājāri: Tārikh Nigāran-i ‘Asr-i Jadid’* (Qajar Travel Writers: Historians of the Modern Period) in *Tajrobe Magazine* 156, no. 6 (March 2022): 138-139.
- 2021 Review of *The Love of Strangers: What Six Muslim Students Learned in Jane Austen’s London*, by Nile Green. *Iranian Studies* 54, no. 5-6 (December 2021): 996-1000.  
DOI: [10.1080/00210862.2020.1717294](https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2020.1717294)
- 2019 “*Nigāh-i Qarbmihwar Kumaki bih Dark-i ma az Adabiyāt-i Jahān Nimikunad’* (A West-Oriented Outlook does not Help us Adequately in Understanding World Literature) in *Iran’s Book News Agency* (November 2019).  
<https://www.ibna.ir/vdci3rarrtlavv2.cbct.html>
- 2016 Review of *After the American Century: The Ends of U. S. Culture in the Middle East*, by Brian T. Edwards. *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 33, no. 3 (Summer 2016): 126-30.
- 2015 Review of *A Critical Introduction to Khomeini*, ed. Arshin Adib-Moghaddam. *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 32, no. 3 (Summer 2015): 123-27.
- 2014 Review of *The Coup: 1953, the CIA, and the Roots of Modern U.S.-Iranian Relations*, by Ervand Abrahamian. *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 31, no. 2 (Spring 2014): 101-4.
- 2013 Review of *The Oxford Handbook of Iranian History*, ed. Touraj Daryaee. *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 30, no. 3 (Summer 2013): 107-11.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Papers

- 2023 “Progress as a Historical Phenomenon: What Has Happened in Europe over the Last Centuries according to the Early 19th Century Iranian Travelers to Europe.” 57th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Montréal, Québec, Canada, November 2-5.

- 2023 “The European Other and the Indo-Iranian Self in the Earliest Persian Travelogues of Europe.” 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Iranian Studies, Leiden University, Leiden, August 21-25.
- 2019 “The Significance of Liberal Ideas in Iran’s Early Modern Reforms: The Case of Abd al-Rahim Talebof’s Treatise on Education.” 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Graduate Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 12-14.
- 2018 “Religious Anxiety of the Iranian King in His Encounter with Christian Europe: A Reading of Nasir Al-Din Shah’s 19<sup>th</sup> Century European Travelogues” 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Ways of Knowing Graduate Conference on Science and Religion at Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, October 26-27.
- 2018 “Formation of a New Historical Consciousness and the Rise of a Novelistic Narrative Discourse in Nineteenth Century Iran.” 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, University of California, Irvine, August 14-17.
- 2018 “Nineteenth-Century Persian Travelogues and the Rise of Modern Geography in Iran.” The Annual Southwest Graduate Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 18-20.
- 2016 “Transforming Times in Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh and Sa’di: A Chronotopic Analysis.” 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston, November 17-19.
- 2014 “Convergence of History and Literature: Fin de Siècle Iran in Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh’s *Once Upon a Time* (1921).” 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Graduate Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, April 20-22.

### **Abstract Reviewer**

- 2019 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Graduate Conference in Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Organized by the Student Association of the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson. March 12-14.
- 2014 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Graduate Conference in Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Organized by the Student Association of the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson. March 8-10.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2023 “Modern Persian Fiction,” NELC Sophomore Tutorial  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2022 “The European Other and the Persianate Self in the Earliest Persian Travelogues of Europe,” Persian and Persianate Studies Seminar  
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2022 “Travel Writing and the Muslim World,” Undergraduate Course  
Department of World Languages and Literatures, Boston University MA
- 2021 “Approaches to Middle Eastern Studies,” Graduate Seminar  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2018 “Nineteenth-Century Persian Travelogues and the Rise of a New Historical Consciousness in Qajar Iran”  
Middle Eastern and North African Studies Colloquium Series  
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
- 2017 “Language and Society in the Middle East,” Graduate Seminar  
School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies  
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
- 2014 “The Arab Spring,” Undergraduate Course  
School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies  
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Harvard University

- “Elementary Persian,” Instructor, 2021-present  
Evaluations: 4.8/5 (Fall 2022)  
Evaluations: 4.7/5 (Spring 2023)
- “Intermediate Persian,” Instructor, 2021-present  
Evaluations: 4.8/5 (Spring 2023)

“Advanced Persian,” Instructor, 2021-present  
Evaluations: 4.8/5 (Fall 2022)  
Evaluations: 5/5 (Spring 2023)

### **Mentoring**

2023-2024: Served as advisor for a BA Junior Tutorial on contemporary Iranian history.

2021-22: Served as main advisor for one AM thesis in the Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies. The student won the Best 2021-2022 AM Thesis Award from the CMES.

2020-2023: Served as the unofficial Persian reader with the dissertation readings of a Harvard Art History PhD student.

### **Babson College**

“Modern Middle East,” Instructor, Fall 2023  
Evaluations: 4.87/5

“Modern Middle East,” Instructor, Spring 2023  
Evaluations: 4.94/5

### **University of Arizona**

“What is Politics?” Teaching Assistant, Fall 2019

“Religion of Islam,” Instructor, Fall 2018, Summer 2016  
2018 Evaluations: 4.87/5  
2016 Evaluations: 4.67/5

“Religion of Islam,” Teaching Assistant, Spring 2018

“Middle Eastern Humanities,” Instructor, Spring 2017  
Evaluations: 4.48/5

“Middle Eastern Humanities,” Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017

“Introduction to Political Islam,” Instructor, Summer 2017, Fall 2016  
2017 Evaluations: 5/5  
2016 Evaluations: 5/5

“Middle East in the Twentieth Century,” Instructor, Spring 2016  
Evaluations: 4.75/5

“Intermediate Persian,” Instructor, 2016-17

“Elementary Persian,” Instructor, 2013-16  
2013 Evaluations: 4.9/5 (Fall 2013)  
2014 Evaluations: 4.8/5 (Spring 2014)  
2015 Evaluations: 4.9/5 (Spring 2015)

“Advanced Persian,” Instructor, 2012-13

## **University of Wisconsin-Madison**

“Intermediate Persian,” Faculty Associate, Summer 2019

“Advanced Persian,” Faculty Associate, Summer 2018

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 2022 Certificate of Teaching Excellence  
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University
- 2018-2019 Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies  
Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute (Amount Awarded: \$15,000)
- 2018 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award  
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona
- 2017-2018 Roshan Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies  
University of Arizona (Amount awarded: \$5,000)
- 2017 Dissertation Completion Fellowship  
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona  
(Amount awarded: \$5,000)
- 2016-2017 Roshan Graduate Fellowship  
University of Arizona (Amount awarded: \$5,000)
- 2014-2015 Roshan Graduate Fellowship  
University of Arizona (Amount awarded: \$2,500)
- 2012-2013 Roshan Graduate Fellowship  
University of Arizona (Amount awarded: \$4,150)

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

#### **Article Reviewer**

- 2021-2022 *Iranian Studies*
- 2015-2019 *Zaytoon: Academic Journal of Middle East and North Africa Graduate Student Organization*, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
- 2018 *Asian Affairs: An American Review*

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

- 2023 Integration of Generative AI in Teaching Workshop  
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning  
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2023 Integration of Language, Culture and Content Workshop  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies  
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2022 Colleague Conversations: Using Humanities Skills to Solve Problems Across Disciplines  
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2021 Academic Professional Development Materials Workshop  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
Office of Postdoctoral Affairs  
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2020 120-hour Online TEFL/TESOL Certificate  
Center for English as a Second Language  
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
- 2019 Task-Based Language Teaching and Learning  
Language Pedagogy Workshop  
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2018 The Art of Academic Letter Writing  
Student Professional Development Series  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies  
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
- 2018 Maximizing Modes and Methods in Listening and Reading Comprehension  
Language Pedagogy Workshop  
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2018 ACTFL OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) Intensive Workshop  
Intensive 40 hours course for Persian language instructors  
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ



2012                    STARTALK Intensive Teaching Training Program (Persian Pedagogy)  
Intensive two-week course for Persian language instructors  
New York University, New York

### ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

2022-2023           Seminar Chair  
Persian and Persianate Studies  
Mahindra Humanities Center  
Harvard University

2021-2023           Organizer/ Grant Writer, *Poetry Night*  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
Harvard University

2018-2019           President, *Zaytoon* Journal Editor  
Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Graduate Student Organization  
School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Arizona

### LANGUAGES

Persian                Native Speaker  
Arabic                 Advanced Reading Knowledge  
French                 Advanced Reading Knowledge

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Middle Eastern Studies Association
- Association for Iranian Studies
- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
- American Comparative Literature Association

### REFERENCES

Dr. Kamran Talattof  
Professor of Persian Language and Literature  
The University of Arizona  
(520) 621-2330  
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Dr. Sunil Sharma  
Professor of Persianate and Comparative Literature  
Director of the Global Medieval Studies Program  
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(617) 358-6253  
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Dr. Anne Betteridge  
Director of Center for Middle Eastern Studies  
Professor of Iranian Women & Culture  
The University of Arizona  
(520) 621-5456  
[anneb@arizona.edu](mailto:anneb@arizona.edu)

Dr. Yaseen Noorani  
Associate Professor of Arabic/ Persian Language and Literature  
The University of Arizona  
(520) 626-9696  
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