

Kamran Scot Aghaie

Associate Professor of Iranian and Islamic History
Department of Middle Eastern Studies & Dept. of History
204 E. 21st Street (F9400), Austin, TX 78712-0527
Phone: (512) 475-6400
Email: kamranaghaie@austin.utexas.edu

Educational Background

- 1999 **PhD** in History (University of California, Los Angeles).
1995 **MA** in History (University of California, Los Angeles).
6/92-6/93 **CASA** Fellow-Center for Arabic Study Abroad (American University in Cairo).
1991 **BA** in History; **BA** in Asian Studies (University of Tennessee, Knoxville).

Academic Employment History

- 9/2005-Pres. Associate Professor; Middle Eastern Studies and History, Univ. of Texas, Austin.
9/99-9/2005 Assistant Professor; Middle Eastern Studies, Univ. of Texas, Austin.
9/98-5/99 Instructor; Middle Eastern Studies, Univ. of Texas, Austin.

Administrative Employment History

- 1/14-8/17 Chair, Department of Middle Eastern Studies.
7/16-1/17 Acting Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
8/09-08/15 Director, Persian Language Institute at UT Austin (Online & Summer Programs)
8/05-1/14 Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
8/05-1/14 Assistant Chair, Department of Middle Eastern Studies.
8/03-8/05 Associate Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
8/01-8/05 Undergraduate Advisor, Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
8/01-8/05 Honors Undergraduate Advisor, Center for Middle Eastern studies.

Research Languages

Persian and English - Native fluency
Arabic – Advanced (Modern Standard; Classical/Qur’anic; Egyptian Colloquial)
Turkish – Elementary familiarity

Memberships with Academic and Professional Associations

American Historical Association (*Life Member*)
Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (*Life Member*)
International Society for Iranian Studies (*Life Member*)
British Institute of Persian Studies (*Life Member*)
Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (*Life Member*)
American Association of Teachers of Persian (*Life Member*)
American Academy of Religion

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AND OTHER VOLUMES (Refereed)

Rethinking Iranian Nationalism and Modernity: A Critical Re-evaluation. Ed. Kamran Scot Aghaie and Afshin Marashi (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2014).

The Women of Karbala: The Gender Dynamics of Ritual Performances and Symbolic Discourses of Modern Shi'ite Islam. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2005)

Mourning and Memory. Edited Rebecca Saunders and Kamran Scot Aghaie. Special issue of the Journal *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East (SCSAAME)*, 25.1 (2005), published by Duke University Press.

The Martyrs of Karbala: Shi'ite Symbols and Rituals in Modern Iran. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, October 2004)

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS (Refereed)

“Islamic Iranian Nationalism and its Implications for the Study of Political Islam and Religious Nationalism” *Rethinking Iranian Nationalism and Modernity: A Critical Re-evaluation*. Ed. Kamran Scot Aghaie and Afshin Marashi (Austin: University of Texas Press, May 2014)

“Introduction” in *Rethinking Iranian Nationalism and Modernity: A Critical Re-evaluation*. Ed. Kamran Scot Aghaie and Afshin Marashi (Austin: University of Texas Press, May 2014)

“The Afghan Interlude and the Zand and Afshar Dynasties, 1722-1794” Ed. Touraj Daryaee. *The Oxford Handbook on Iranian History*, (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2012)

“Islamist Historiography in Post-Revolutionary Iran.” in *Historiography and Political Culture in Twentieth Century Iran*, Ed. Touraj Atabaki. (London and New York: I. B. Tauris, 2009)

“The Passion of Ashura in Shi'ite Islam” *Voices of Islam: Voices of the Spirit* Vol. II (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger 2007)

“Gender Dynamics of Ashura in Qajar Iran.” *The Women of Karbala: The Gender Dynamics of Ritual Performances and Symbolic Discourses of Modern Shi'ite Islam*. ed. Kamran Aghaie (Austin: University of Texas Press, Nov. 2005)

“The Emergence and Historical Development of Shi‘i Symbols and Rituals.” *The Women of Karbala: The Gender Dynamics of Ritual Performances and Symbolic Discourses of Modern Shi‘i Islam*. ed. Kamran Aghaie (Austin: University of Texas Press, Nov. 2005)

“Religious Rituals, Social Identities, and Political Relationships Under Qajar Rule: 1850’s-1930’s.” *Religion and Society in Qajar Iran*. ed. Robert Gleave. (London: RoutledgeCurzon/BIPS Persian Studies Series, January 2005) [pp. 373-392]

“Introduction: Mourning and Memory” [co-authored with Rebecca Saunders] in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* Vol. 25, No. 1, 2005. pp. 16-29.

“The Origins of the Sunni-Shi‘i Divide and the Emergence of the Ta‘ziyeh Tradition” in *The Drama Review*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, Vol. 49, Issue 4, Winter 2005. pp. 42-47. Republished as *Eternal Performance: Taziyeh and Other Shi‘ite Rituals*. Peter J. Chelkowski, ed. (London, Seagull Books, 2010).

“Gender-Mixed Public Rituals in Post-Revolutionary Iran” *Islamic Studies*. Volume 43, No. 1, Spring 2004.

“The Karbala Narrative in Shi‘i Political Discourse in Modern Iran in the 1960’s-1970’s.” in *The Oxford Journal of Islamic Studies*: Oxford University Press. Vol. 12, No. 2, May 2001. pp. 151-176.

“Islam and Nationalist Historiography: Competing Historical Narratives of Iran in the Pahlavi Period.” *Studies on Contemporary Islam*, (2000), [Published by the Center for Islamic Studies, Youngstown State University] Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 20-46.

“Reinventing Karbala: Revisionist interpretations of the 'Karbala Paradigm'.” *Jusur: The UCLA Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 10, 1994. pp. 1-30.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS

“Ashura” [Shi‘ism] in *Encyclopedia of Islam*. Third Edition. Rudi Matthee, ed. E.J. Brill (Leiden and Boston: 2013). pp. 36-39 (1600 words)

“Women and Shi‘i Islam: Contemporary Thought and Practice” *The [Oxford] Encyclopedia of Islam and Women* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013) (2500 words).

“Messianism in the Muslim Tradition” *Encyclopedia of Religion*, Second Edition. (New York: McMillan Reference USA, 2004). pp. 5979–5983 (4300 words).

“Ta‘ziya” *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*. Ed. Richard Martin. (New York: McMillan Reference USA, 2003). (691)

“Rawza Khani” *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*. Ed. Richard Martin. (New York: McMillan Reference USA, 2003). (574)

“Molla” *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*. McMillan Ed. Richard Martin. (New York: McMillan Reference USA, 2003). (473)

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTBOOKS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Crusades from Medieval European and Muslim Perspectives. Published jointly by the National Center for History in the Schools, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the Council on Islamic Education, 1998. (76 pages)

Muslim Women Across the Centuries. Published jointly by the National Center for History in the Schools, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the Council on Islamic Education, 1998. (51 pages)

Images of the Orient. (I served as a research consultant; the author was Susan Douglas). Published jointly by the National Center for History in the Schools, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the Council on Islamic Education, 1998. (86 pages)

Muslim Holidays. (Co-authored with Munir Shaikh) Published by the Council on Islamic Education, 1997. (36 pages)

The Modern Middle East. (Contributing Author), Published by the Teachers Curriculum Institute, 1997. (pp.1-18; WH-10, Activity 2.4)

BOOK REVIEWS IN ACADEMIC JOURNALS

David Thurfjell. *Living Shi'ism: Instances of Ritualisation Among Islamic Men in Contemporary Iran (Iran Studies)* (Lieden: E. J. Brill, 2006) in *Iranian Studies*, the Journal of the International Society for Iranian Studies. (Vol 41, No. 3; June 2008) pp. 412-415.

Shireen Mahdavi *For God, Mammon, and Country: A Nineteenth Century Persian Merchant, Hajj Muhammad Hassan Amin al-Zarb (1834-1898)* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1999). In *Studies in Contemporary Islam*, (Vol. 10, Numbers 1-2, Spring and Fall 2008) pp. 147-150.

Negin Nabavi, ed. *Intellectual Trends in Twentieth-Century Iran: A Critical Survey*. (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2003) in *Digest of Middle East Studies [DOMES]* (Vol. 13, No. 1, 2004).

Frank J. Korom. *Hosay Trinidad: Muharram Performances in an Indo-Caribbean Diaspora* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003), in *The Oxford Journal of Islamic Studies*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2004) 15: (pp. 405-408).

Graham E. Fuller, and Rend Rahim Francke. *The Arab Shi'a: The Forgotten Muslims*. (St. Martin's Press, New York, 1999), in *The International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. Cambridge University Press, Volume 33, 2001.

M. Bar-Asher. *Scripture and Exegesis in Early Imami Shi'ism*. (Brill Press, Leiden, Netherlands, 1999), in *Islamic Studies*. Vol. 39, No. 2, Summer 2000.

Mohammad Hashim Kamali. *Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence*. (Islamic Texts Society: Cambridge, England, 1991, new edition printed in 1997), in *Islamic Studies*. Vol. 39, No. 1, Spring 2000.

Rasul Ja'farian. *Tarikh-i tashayyu' dar Iran*. (Markaz-i Chap va Nashr-i Sazman-i Tablighat-i Islami: Tehran, 1992), in *Al-'Usur al-Wusta*. Vol. 9, no. 2, October 1997. (Bulletin of The Middle East Medievalists, DePaul University)

Ellis Jay Goldberg, ed. *The Social History of Labor in the Middle East*, (Westview Press: Boulder and Oxford, 1996), in *Jusur, The UCLA Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 12, 1996.

Beshara Doumani. *Rediscovering Palestine: Merchants and Peasants in Jabal Nablus, 1700-1900*. (The University of California Press: Los Angeles, 1995), in *Jusur, The UCLA Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 11, 1995.

ACADEMIC PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 11/16 “Why did the Qajars Become Such Enthusiastic Patrons of Ta’ziyeh? A Simple Question with a Complex Answer.” Given at the the Shi’ah Institute in London.
- 5/12 “Why did the Qajars Become Such Enthusiastic Patrons of Ta’ziyeh? A Simple Question with a Complex Answer.” Given at the conferences *The House of the Prophet: Architecture, Ritual, and the Transmission of Knowledge in the Shrines of Ahl al-Bayt* held at the New York University-Abu Dabi.
- 2/12 “Islam and Religious Nationalisms in the Middle East” Paper give at the University of Pennsylvania.
- 10/11 “Islam and Religious Nationalisms in Iran and the Muslim Middle East” A public Lecture given at Syracuse University, as part of their Modern Middle East Series.
- 4/10 “Putting the Nation Back at the Center of Nationalism: The Case of Religious Nationalism in Iran” Presented at the Conference *Rethinking Iranian Nationalism* at UT Austin.
- 3/09 “Martyrs and Mourners of Moharram: The Gendered Dimensions of Shi’i Rituals” given at the University of Utah.
- 10/08 “Causes and Results of the Islamic Revolution in Iran” at Southwestern University.
- 4/08 “Academic Freedom in Middle Eastern Studies Since Sept. 11” given at the University of Texas at Austin.
- 4/06 “Public Religious Rituals and Institutions as Reflections of the Diversity of Elite and Sub-Elite Identities” Given at the Conferences *Trajectories of Imperial Change 1700-1850* at Yale University.
- 4/05 Moderator in a conference titled *Iranian Identity: Questions and Challenges*, sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at UT Austin.
- 9/04 “Islamist Historiography in Post-Revolutionary Iran.” Given at a conference titled *Historiography and Political Culture in Twentieth Century Iran*, held at Oxford University.
- 2/04 “Transcendence, Passion, and Devotion in Muharram Rituals of Shi‘ite Islam” given at Boston College.
- 2/04 “Transcendence, Passion, and Devotion in Muharram Rituals of Shi‘ite Islam” given at Brandeis University.

- 7/02 “From Karbala to New York: Ta‘ziyeh on the Move” given at a conference titled *Ta‘ziyeh: Performing Iran’s Living Epic Tradition*. Sponsored by The Asia Society; held in New York City.
- 5/02 Organized and chaired a panel titled “The Women of Karbala” for the *Fourth Biennial Conference of the Society for Iranian Studies*.
- 1/02 “Modern Iran-Women in Shi‘a Muslim Rituals” as part of a forum on *Gender and Diversity in Islam*; sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program at The University of Texas at Austin.
- 11/01 “Muslim and European Perspectives on the Crusades” Given at the Annual Conference of *The Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (MESA)*.
- 11/01 “Islamic Devotion, Worship, and Ritual Practices in the United States” Given at a conference titled *Faith, Devotion and Worship; World Religions in Texas*, sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.
- 2/01 Chaired a panel “Politics and Current Events in the Middle East,” for the *Annual Meeting the Texas Association of Middle East Scholars (TAMES)*.
- 9/00 "Muharram Rituals, Social Identities, and Political Relationships Under Qajar Rule: 1850’s-1930’s.” Given at a conference sponsored by the University of Bristol and the British Institute of Persian Studies, in Bristol England, titled *Religion and Society in Qajar Iran*.
- 3/00 "Zaynab: The Lioness of Karbala" Given at a conference at the University of Texas at Austin titled *Judaism and Islam: Cross-Currents*.
- 10/99 Respondent to paper given by Christoph Muller in a colloquium on *Modernist Islam* titled “Religion and State: Defining the Issue.”
- 9/99 “Approaches to the Study of Islam in the West” Given at the 4th Annual *Islamic Forum Conference* in Dallas, TX.
- 4/99 “The Karbala Narrative as a form of Shi‘i Symbolic Discourse in modern Iran” Given at the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Departmental Brown Bag Series.
- 2/99 "The Karbala Narrative & Shi‘i Religious Symbolism in Modern Iran" sponsored by the History Department of Stanford University.
- 11/99 “Symbolic Representations of Husayn, Fatimah and Zaynab in Modern Iranian Discourse on Politics and Gender.” Part of a panel titled “Modern Shi‘i Theological Trends and Debates” Given at the Annual Conference of *The Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (MESA)*.

- 2/99 “Expressions of a Sacred Reality: the uses of Costumes, Space and Ritual Objects in Muharram Processions” Given at the *Colloquium on Material Culture in the Middle East* held at the University of Texas at Austin.
- 12/98 “Gender Roles Expressed Through Public Performances of Muharram Rituals in Post-Revolutionary Iran” Given at the Annual Conference of *The Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (MESA)*.
- 11/98 Chaired a Panel on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Law in a Multi-Disciplinary Conference at the University of Texas at Austin titled *The Women of the Book*.
- 11/97 “The Competing Historical Narratives of the Iranian Nation” Given at the Annual Conference of *The Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (MESA)*.
- 10/97 “The 1997 Elections and the Climate of Opinion in Iran” Given at The Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA and the *Program for Iranian History and Society*.
- 3/97 “Passion Plays and the Changing Interpretations of Martyrdom in Shi‘i Islam.” Given at the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Western Region*.
- 11/96 “The Khomeinist Synthesis of the Karbala Paradigm.” Given at the Annual Conference of *The Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America (MESA)*.
- 4/96 “Qajar-Ottoman Diplomacy in the Late 19th Century.” Given at the *11th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference*, at the University of Chicago.
- 2/96 “Shaykh Ubayd Allah and The Kurdish National Movement in the 1870’s-1890’s.” Given at the *Research Roundtable* UCLA’s Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies.
- 4/94 “Reinventing Karbala: Revisionist interpretations of the 'Karbala Paradigm'.” Presented at the UCLA *Jusur conference*, sponsored by the Von Grunebaum center for Near Eastern Studies.

TEACHING

Graduate Seminars

- 1) Modern Iranian History & Historiography: From the Qajar Period to the Present
- 2) The Islamic Revolution of Iran
- 3) Iranian Historical Texts and Historiography
- 4) Nationalism and Politics in Iran
- 5) Shi'ite Religious and Political Ideologies
- 6) Iranian Historians and Modern Media
- 7) Islamic Studies: Theory, Methodology & Historiography
- 8) Iranian History and Politics
- 9) Shi'ite Islam: Hist. Dev., Beliefs & Practices
- 10) Muslim Travelers and Traders
- 11) Iranian History and Historians

Undergraduate Courses

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1) Introduction to the Middle East | (Large lecture course) |
| 2) Modern Iran | (Large lecture course) |
| 3) Introduction to Islam | (Large lecture course) |
| 4) Prophet of Islam | (Large lecture course) |
| 5) Sufism: Islamic Mysticism & Spirituality | (Small research seminar) |
| 6) The Qur'an | (Small research seminar) |