

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Persian Studies Program

News for Alumni and Friends

2017-2018



Message from Dr. Carl Ernst, Director of Persian Studies

“It has been an exciting year for Persian studies at UNC. I was personally quite touched by the presentations at the October conference responding to my scholarly contributions, a number of which focused on Persian studies. A high point of the weekend was the wonderful concert of Persian music by the Rohab Ensemble featuring Sepideh Raissadat. I was also glad that the UNC Persian studies program was able to cosponsor the March concert by the legendary Iranian vocalist Sima Bina at NCSU, an event that was not only an exceptional musical experience, but also a benefit for victims of the earthquake that took place in Iran last year. We also were fortunate to have inaugural lectures supported by two endowments at the UNC Library, the Ferdowsi Tusi Endowment for Persian Study and the Horner Jarrahi Persian Studies Speaker Series Endowment.

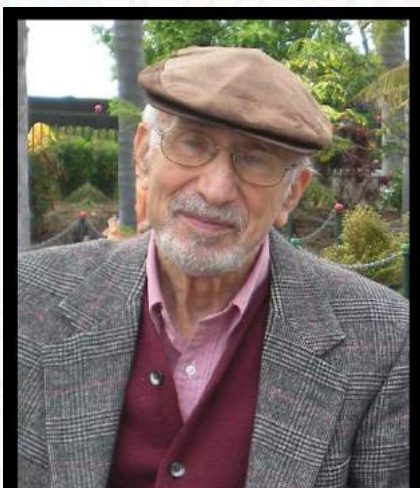


Professor Carl Ernst

Both events were extremely successful. The first of these lectures was a thought-provoking presentation by Northwestern University PhD candidate Mazyar Faridi, on a surrealistic film treatment of the Shah-nameh from the 1970s. The second was an inspiring interpretation of the poetry of Sa'di by Dr. Fatemeh Keshavarz, the prominent scholar of Persian literature who holds the Roshan Chair in Persian Studies and directs the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at University of Maryland, College Park. And it was a lot of fun for me to join UNC History professor Emma Flatt and Religious Studies doctoral student Patrick D'Silva at the fifth Perso-Indica conference in Bonn, Germany, in February. It is a privilege to be associated with a program with such excellence among our students and faculty members, particularly our Persian studies faculty, Claudia Yaghoobi and Shahla Adel. So thanks to everyone, and stay tuned for more events next year.”

-Carl W. Ernst, William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, director of UNC Persian Studies, co-director of the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations

In Memoriam: Remembering the Life of Dr. Ali Paydarfar



*Dr. Ali A. Paydarfar
1928-2017*

A memorial service for Dr. Ali Paydarfar was held on September 30, 2017. Dr. Paydarfar was an Iranian sociologist who was for many years associated with social science research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and who is also well known for his pioneering demographic research in Iran. The service was an opportunity for family and friends to share memories of a much admired personality and to reflect on his contributions to the university and the community. The family is also establishing a lectureship at the university in honor of the Paydarfars.

Dr. Carl Ernst, Kenan Distinguished Professor of Islamic Studies at the Department of Religious Studies, said of the memorial, "This was a wonderful occasion to remember the many contributions of Ali Paydarfar to Persian studies and to UNC. We are all grateful to the Paydarfar family, and we look forward to having the Ali and Lila Paydarfar Lectureship as their legacy to the future."

Events Sponsored by Persian Studies, 2017-2018

“Translating Islam” Conference Features Presentations in Persian Studies

UNC Chapel Hill held a conference in honor of Carl Ernst’s contributions to Islamic Studies on Oct. 6-7, 2017. Ernst is William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, co-director of the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, and Director of UNC Persian Studies. He has devoted his academic life to translating Islam, linguistically and culturally. The two-day conference, organized around themes in Islamic studies that Ernst’s work has addressed, evoked and expanded on the major contributions of this fertile, creative translator of texts, ideas, and traditions within the orb of Islam. Current and former colleagues of Ernst’s gathered to speak on Islamic studies in panels and roundtable discussions.

Several of the presentations at the conference focused on Persian Studies. On Friday of the conference, Fabrizio Speziale, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3, gave a presentation on “The Islamization of Ayurvedic Materials in Persian Culture” as part of the panel, Indo-Muslim Ventures. Brannon Wheeler, U.S. Naval Academy, participated in the panel on translation issues with a presentation on “Translation, Travel, Transfiguration: The Visionary Recitals of Ibn Sina and the Practice of Scholarship in the Study of Religion.” The following day, Rick Colby, University of Oregon, presented “Ascension Visions of Sufi Masters: Approaching the Translation of the Dream Experiences of Ibn Abi Jamra Andalusi (d. ca. 1300) in Light of the Mystical Diary of Ruzbihan Baqli Shirazi (d. 1209)” during the panel on Sufi studies. These presentations celebrated Ernst’s contributions to the field of Persian Studies.

An Evening of Persian Music: Rohab Ensemble with vocalist Sepideh Raissadat

The theater in the UNC Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History was filled with the enchanting melodies of Persian Classical Music as the Rohab Ensemble featuring vocalist Sepideh Raissadat put on an unforgettable show. Held on October 6, 2017, the concert was part of the broader event, “Translating Islam: A Conference in Honor of Carl Ernst”. The Rohab Ensemble includes three acclaimed maestros from the celebrated Dastan Ensemble – Hossein Behroozinia (barbat – lute), Saeed Farajpoori (kamancheh – spike fiddle), and Behnam Samani (tombak – goblet drum), together with Hamid Behrouzinia (tar – lute). The Rohab Ensemble was accompanied by the entrancing, lilting voice of Sepideh Raissadat. Together, they offered a repertoire of classical Iranian music featuring romantic and joyous pieces with lyrics that included poems from the vast treasury of classical Persian poetry.

Attendees of all ages, including UNC students and community members, raved about the talent displayed by the ensemble and Sepideh Raissadat. CDs by both the ensemble and Ms. Raissadat sold quickly after the show’s end. The performance was truly a community event, sponsored by the Iranian Cultural Society of NC (ICSNC), The Arts@TheCore initiative at Carolina Performing Arts, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Persian Studies at UNC Chapel Hill, Graduate Student Association of Iranians at Duke University (GSAID), and the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations.



*Sepideh Raissadat plays the setar.
Photo: Negin Naseri*

Lecture and Book Signing with Dr. Trita Parsi: “Why Diplomacy Succeeded with Iran”

On October 17, 2017 UNC Persian Studies welcomed Dr. Trita Parsi for a talk on the Iran Nuclear Deal in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium, FedEx Global Education Center. Parsi is the founder and president of the National Iranian American Council and an expert on US-Iranian relations, Iranian foreign politics, and the geopolitics of the Middle East. The Iran Nuclear deal prevented both a war with Iran and an Iranian nuclear weapons option.

In his presentation, Dr. Parsi discussed the value of diplomacy in this high-stakes negotiation, as well as the current administration’s threat to kill the deal and the potential ramifications. Parsi, who advised the Obama administration on the nuclear deal talks, provided deep insights into the deal itself as well as the negotiation process. The talk was followed by a book signing featuring his most recent book: *Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran, and the Triumph of Diplomacy*.

This event was sponsored by UNC Persian Studies, the Duke Islamic Studies Center, the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, and the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies.



Dr. Trita Parsi at UNC-Chapel Hill

Public Talk with Amir Soltani: “Religious Freedom and Hypocrisy in Iran: An Activist’s Guide to Changing the World”

Amir Soltani, Iranian-American writer, journalist and human rights activist, gave a captivating talk on October 24, 2017. Students, faculty and community members alike gathered for Soltani’s talk that was interactive and addressed many questions through the lens of the struggle for religious freedom in Iran. Soltani proposed the questions, “What is religious persecution? What forms does a modern inquisition take? Who enforces it and how? What is the role of language? What does it mean to be changed as a heretic, to spread corruption on earth, or to wage war against God? How do you resist?” His engaging style of speaking led to audience participation and a robust discussion, with Soltani facilitating the event charismatically. Following the talk, Soltani signed student copies of his graphic novel, *Zahra’s Paradise*. This novel was read and analyzed by Dr. Claudia Yaghoobi’s “ASIA 258: Iranian Prison Literature” course.



*Dr. Amir Soltani with Students in ASIA 258:
Iranian Prison Literature and their copies of
“Zahra’s Paradise”*

Dr. Farzaneh Milani Lecture: “Bridges, Not Walls: The Life and Legacy of Forugh Farrokhzad”

On February 12, 2018, Dr. Farzaneh Milani, Chair of the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Virginia, gave a lecture on the life and poetry of Forugh Farrokhzad. Dr. Milani’s lecture dove into the intimate details of Farrokhzad’s life and work, and how her poetry shook Iranian society and remains controversial today. Dr. Milani shared with the audience the impact Farrokhzad’s work, including a short documentary film, had on her, as well as how Farrokhzad’s work influences feminist movements in Iran and around the world. “Bridges, Not Walls: The Life and Legacy of Forugh Farrokhzad” drew from Milani’s recently published literary biography of Farrokhzad (in Persian), a story relevant to our times—a personal narrative and a history of twentieth-century Iran.

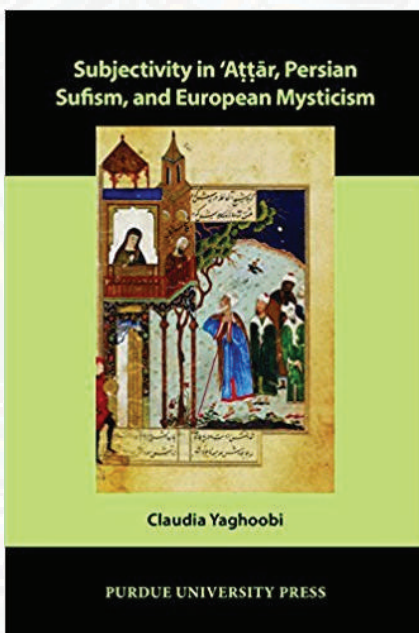


Dr. Farzaneh Milani



Forough Farrokhzad

Book Talk by Dr. Claudia Yaghoobi: “Intertwined Histories and Perspectives: Contrapuntal Reading of ‘Attār”



Subjectivity in 'Attar book cover

Dr. Claudia Yaghoobi, Roshan Institute Assistant Professor in Persian Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, gave a talk on her new book, *Subjectivity in 'Attār, Persian Sufism and European Mysticism* (Purdue University Press, 2017) on January 29, 2018. In her talk, Dr. Yaghoobi mapped out the ways 'Attār’s poetry interacts with itself within the Persian cultural and historical framework as well as with medieval European culture and modern Western theoretical perspectives in regard to the concepts of transgression and the breaking of taboos and the construction of subjectivity.

Dr. Yaghoobi presented pieces of her work that were captivating and elicited numerous questions from the audience, yet kept the crowd wanting more by not divulging all the details of her findings. Dr. Yaghoobi called into question the presumed differences between Medieval Islam and the West and makes possible a rich dialogue between civilizations that have historically been pitted against one another.

Lecture: “Modernity, Subjectivity and Sexual Violence: Stories From Iran” by Dr. Shahla Talebi

On April 26, 2018, Dr. Shahla Talebi delivered a thought-provoking lecture centered on the ethnographic reading of various forms of sexual violence in the stories of three former women Iranian political prisoners. Dr. Talebi is a social cultural anthropologist and currently serves as an associate professor of religious studies and faculty of anthropology of religion in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies at Arizona State University. Both her experience and expertise came through during the lecture that unpacked questions such as, “What is the relationship between our sense of the self and sexual violence that for many individuals it appears so radically different from other forms of violence? What is behind the visceral experience of this kind of violence that the theoretical renditions on power or torture do not seem to adequately capture? What kind of connection is there between our subjectivity and sexuality and modernity?”



Dr. Shahla Talebi speaks at the FedEx Global Education Center, UNC-Chapel Hill

Dr. Talebi engaged the audience with her detailed examinations of the women’s stories she told as well as challenged the audience to think critically about conceptualizations of sexual violence.

Inaugural event in the Horner Jarrahi Persian Studies Speaker Series

On Wednesday, April 11, 2018, The University Libraries and UNC Persian Studies presented the inaugural event in the Horner Jarrahi Persian Studies Speaker Series. The Horner Jarrahi Persian Studies Speaker Series Endowment, has been established by UNC alumni and donors Vance L. Horner II '92 and Shaida Jarrahi Horner '93, MAC'94 to fund a series of free public programs at the Library related to Persian studies, history, and culture.



Fatemeh Keshavarz with Claudia Yaghoobi, UNC Roshan Institute Assistant Professor in Persian Studies

The series began with a riveting event on Sa‘dī by Fatemeh Keshavarz. Dr. Keshavarz holds the Roshan Institute Chair in Persian Studies and directs the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of Maryland, College Park. Keshavarz, a published poet and author of six monographs, including *Reading Mystical Lyric: The Case of Jalal Al-Din Rumi* and *Recite in the Name of the Red Rose: Poetic Sacred Making in Twentieth-Century Iran*, examined the poetry of Sa‘dī (1210-1291), one of the funniest and most influential figures in classical Persian poetry. Sa‘dī’s accessible language, practical ethics, and lively humor continue to influence Persian literature today.

Persian Lecture Series: Treatise of Three Principles of Mulla Sadra

UNC Persian Studies welcomed Dr. Mohsen Kadivar, Iranian philosopher and research professor of Islamic Studies at Duke University for a Persian lecture series. In his two-part series, which took place on January 26 and February 9, 2018, Dr. Mohsen Kadivar lectured on the philosopher Mulla Sadra. Şadr ad-Dīn Muḥammad Shīrāzī, also called Mulla Sadrā (c. 1571/2 – 1640), was an Iranian Shia Islamic philosopher, theologian and ‘Ālim who led the Iranian cultural renaissance in the 17th century. Mulla Sadra is one of the most important and influential philosophers in the Muslim world in the last four hundred years. In the first part of his lecture series, Dr. Kadivar detailed the biography of Mulla Sadra and his major works including Treatise of Three Principles. In the second part of the series, Dr. Kadivar read, analyzed and discussed the poems of Mulla Sadra.

Inaugural Ferdowsi Tusi Award talk: "Férydoun Rahnéma's Inappropriate Specters: Critique of Self-Identity and the Emergence of Iranian New Wave Cinema."

On Monday, March 26, Maziyar Faridi presented his award-winning paper, "Férydoun Rahnéma's Inappropriate Specters: Critique of Self-Identity and the Emergence of Iranian New Wave Cinema." Faridi is the winner of the inaugural Ferdowsi Tusi Award, presented by the University Libraries and the Persian Studies program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This is an annual prize that will be awarded for the best essay by a student in the field of Persian studies, made possible by a family of anonymous donors.

Faridi's scholarly paper examined national identity and history in the cinema of Férydoun Rahnéma (1930-1975), who played a foundational role in the emergence of Iranian New Wave cinema and New Wave Persian poetry [Mowj-e No] in the 1960s and 1970s. Maziyar Faridi is a doctoral candidate in comparative literary studies at Northwestern University. Tea and sweets were served at the event, and attendees had the opportunity to view recent acquisitions from the University Libraries's Persian collections.



(from left to right) vice provost for University Libraries Elaine Westbrooks, Maziyar Faridi, and professors Carl Ernst and Claudia Yaghoobi

Persian Cultural Society Event Spotlight: 1001 Nights

The UNC Persian Cultural Society, the Arab Student Organization, Hillel, the Association of Iranian at Duke and the Iranian Association of NC State joined together to put on the annual event "1001 Nights", which this year took place on November 9, 2017. Each year, this event gives UNC students the opportunity to immerse themselves within Middle Eastern culture, music, poetry, and food. The event featured an array of student dance and musical performances as well as cultural booths with cultural tokens, light food, and refreshments. The Persian Cultural Society's booth had Persian cultural items and a Persian calligrapher to demonstrate Persian calligraphy to attendees. As is the case each year, the event was lively and drew a large crowd of UNC students and community members alike.

UNC Faculty Participate in Fifth Perso-Indica Conference in Germany

Three faculty members from UNC-Chapel Hill gave presentations at the 5th Perso-Indica Conference, "Science and Philosophy: Translation, Transmission and Interaction between Persianate and Hindu Traditions" held on February 1-2, 2018 at Friedrich-Wilhelm University, Bonn, Germany. The Perso-Indica project is an international collaboration that aims at producing an analytical survey of Persian translations of Indian texts (mainly from Sanskrit), and Persian writings about Indian culture, produced from the 13th to the 19th century. This conference looked at forms of interaction and translation between Persian and Hindu cultures in the scientific and philosophical fields.

Dr. Carl Ernst (Kenan Distinguished Professor of Islamic studies at the Department of Religious Studies) presented "Medical and Scientific Aspects of Muḥammad Ġawṭ's interpretation of Yoga", Dr. Emma Flatt (Assistant Professor, Department of History) presented "A Compendium of Effective and Practical Tools: The Nujūm al-Ulūm," and Patrick d'Silva (Ph.D. candidate in Religious Studies) presented "The Philosophical Implications of Classifying 'ilm-i dam as Science."

Dr. Carl Ernst on *Sufi Martyrs of Love* at the Jaipur Literature Festival

Dr. Carl Ernst was invited to speak at the Jaipur Literature Festival, which took place on January 25-29, 2018 at the Diggi Palace, Jaipur, India. Described as the 'greatest literary show on Earth' and the 'Kumbh of literature', the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival brings together a diverse mix of the world's greatest writers, thinkers, humanitarians, politicians, business leaders and other key figures on one stage to champion freedom of expression, and engage in thoughtful debate and dialogue.



Carl Ernst at the 2018 ZEE Jaipur Literary Festival with (from left to right) moderator Riya Sarkar, art historian B. N. Goswamy, Sufi shrine representative Syed Salman Chishty and author Sadia Dehlvi.

Dr. Ernst presented on his book (co-authored with Bruce Lawrence, Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Humanities Professor Emeritus of Religion at Duke University), *Sufi Martyrs of Love: Chishti Sufism in South Asia and Beyond* (Palgrave Macmillan US, 2002). *Sufi Martyrs of Love* offers a critical perspective on Western attitudes towards Islam and Sufism, clarifying its contemporary importance, both in the West and in traditional Sufi homelands. Much of the book is based on sources written in Persian, and the book provides access to the voices of Sufi authorities, through the translation of texts being offered in English for the first time.

Dr. Ernst was interviewed by Salman Chishty, a representative of the famous Sufi shrine of Ajmer. In addition, Dr. Ernst spoke on a panel on the subject of Arabic and Persian calligraphy. The event was an opportunity to engage with other scholars in the field and connect UNC Chapel Hill to the larger global community. Links to the video presentations are available at:

<https://global.unc.edu/news/global-heel-carl-ernst-connects-croline-to-the-middle-east>

Student Spotlight: Meet Rose Jackson, Persian Studies Minor

“I began to take Farsi language courses with Dr. Shahla Adel in my sophomore year at UNC. Professor Adel not only helped develop my reading, writing, and speaking skills in the language, but her instruction has also allowed me to connect to the Persian culture through both in-class and extracurricular opportunities. Through Professor Adel’s class, I have supplemented my education with activities like visiting a Persian restaurant and attending lectures given by leading Iranian scholars.

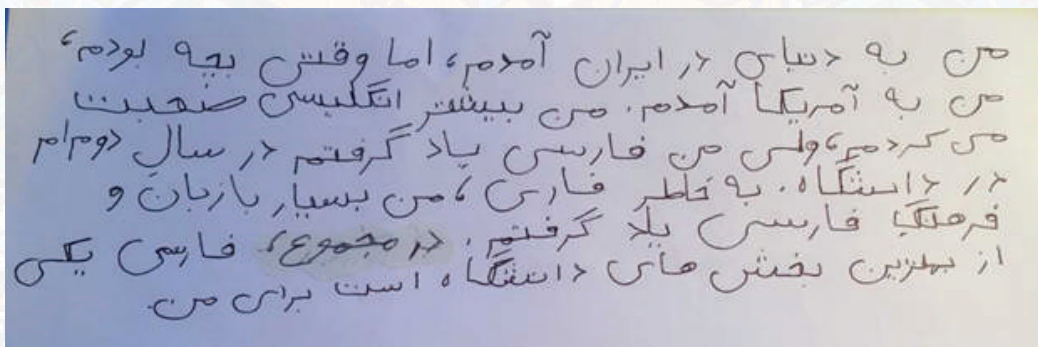
Moreover, there are around 110 million Farsi speakers today. I look forward to utilizing Farsi after graduation to connect with these individuals in both the business and social spheres.



Rose Jackson, UNC '19

This semester, I have also had the privilege to take Iranian Cinema and Iranian Prison Literature with Dr. Claudia Yaghoobi. Professor Yaghoobi’s courses have allowed me to engage with modern Iranian society and consider serious academic questions regarding the culture. As a student in the Persian Studies Program, the courses I have taken have all counted towards my minor and have allowed me to steadily progress in my academic career. My professors have been a reliable and valuable resource in aiding me with any questions or concerns I have had regarding the minor and course planning. Furthermore, I have joined my peers in Persian Cultural Society and have been able to connect with a wider community of individuals passionate about Iran and Persian studies, thus allowing me to build indispensable connections with like-minded individuals. I recommend the Persian Studies Program to any student interested in expanding their knowledge of the Persian language and culture and gaining an invaluable lifelong skill.”

A sample of Rose’s Persian writing:



UNC PERSIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES PERSIAN NEW YEAR 1397

NOWRUZ

Sunday, March 25
5:30-9:30pm
Great Hall
UNC Student Union

Student Tickets \$15
Adult Tickets \$30

Performances, live music & dancing
Catered Dinner and Dessert
Formal attire

UNC PCS
PERSIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

For Tickets:
<https://tinyurl.com/PCSnowruz18>

Persian Cultural Society Event Spotlight: 2018 Nowruz Celebration

On March 25, 2018, the UNC Persian Cultural Society celebrated Nowruz. This formal celebration of the Persian New Year, held in the Great Hall of the Franklin Porter Graham Student Union brought together students and community members alike to enjoy an Iranian dinner, diverse set of performances, a DJ and dancing. This annual event celebrates the beginning of the spring season. Tickets for the event sold out quickly and continued the tradition of celebrating Nowruz in grand fashion on UNC’s campus.

Student Work Spotlight: Public Student Film Showings Inspired by Iranian Cinema

Dr. Claudia Yaghoobi's "ASIA 124: Iranian Post-1979 Cinema" course created their own original films related to themes of the course and then held public screenings of their films on November 30 and December 5, 2017. With guidance from Dr. Yaghoobi and the course Graduate Research Consultant, Che Sokol, the students undertook a creative project and engaged the campus and public community with their 8-minute short films.



UNC Student Skyler Tapely

A student in the course, senior Skyler Tapely, offered some insight on his experience in the course and during the project:

"Filmmaking in Dr. Yaghoobi's Post-1979 Iranian Cinema class was a great opportunity to learn more about a unique cinema. Applying film styles and techniques from Iranian cinema to a filmmaking project allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the filmmakers' intentions. This project is part of the reason that Dr. Yaghoobi's class is my favorite class I have taken in my four years here at UNC. I personally benefited from this class and project because I am a senior communication major with a concentration in media production and I have an internship in Hollywood after I graduate. The experience I gained from Dr. Yaghoobi's class has been influential on my view of film as a medium, and I look forward to now bringing more Iranian cinema style to Hollywood."

Dr. Yaghoobi's Students Participate in Annual Undergraduate Research Celebration

Undergraduate students in the course, "Gender and Sexuality in Middle Eastern Literature" taught by Claudia Yaghoobi, presented posters in the 19th Annual Undergraduate Research Celebration on April 12, 2018. Students Stephanie Cales, Michael Myers, Gregory Sanders, and Jessica Glass won an award in the category of diversity and equity for their project, "Modernity Versus Tradition in Fatima Mernissi's *Dreams of Trespass*." Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Kevin Guskiewicz, was present at the event and also celebrated the students' work.

Their winning project examined societal structures of gender, cultural concepts of balancing truth and convenience in everyday life, harems, and the imposition of colonialism on Morocco in the 1940s and 50s, focusing most closely on gender structures that carry the most significant impact in *Dreams of Trespass*.



Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences with winning students and their advisor, Claudia Yaghoobi.

Faculty Lectures and Presentations

Shahla Adel, Teaching Assistant Professor in Persian

- "Language Learning Strategies of Heritage learners of Persian and Arabic." The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, November 17-19, 2017.

Carl Ernst, William R. Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies

- "Medical and Scientific Aspects of Muḥammad Ġawṭ's interpretation of Yoga," the 5th annual Perso-Indica conference, Bonn, Germany, February 2018.

- Respondent to panel on "Sufism and Yoga in Early Modern India," American Academy of Religion, Boston MA, November 19, 2017.

- "Persian Poetry and Ishraqi Illuminationism among the Esoteric Zoroastrians of Mughal India," Conference on "Faces of the Infinite: Neoplatonism and Poetics at the Confluence of Africa, Asia and Europe," British Academy/SOAS-University of London, London, November 9-11, 2017.

- Symposium on "Scientific Chairs and Centers of Islamic studies abroad: A Gate of Cross-Cultural Communication and Academic Collaboration," King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, October 25-28, 2017.

- "In Search of Sufi Manuscripts" (keynote address), The Islamic Manuscript Association Conference: "Sufism and Islamic manuscript culture," Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, UK, September 13-15, 2017.

- "Yogis in Full Color: An Illustrated Persian Field Guide to Indian Religions," UC Berkeley, California, September 2, 2017.

Claudia Yaghoobi, Roshan Institute Assistant Professor in Persian Studies

- "Zulaikha's Reverted Gaze." Vision and Desire: Between the Body and the Unseen. Pacific Ancient Modern Language Association. Honolulu, HI. November 12, 2017.

- "Graphic Novel as a Tool for Portrayal of the Hierarchy of Iranian Masculinities." University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA. November 10, 2017.

- "The Abject Outsider vis-à-vis the Hegemonic Masculinity." American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, Netherlands. July 8, 2017.

Faculty Awards and Grants

Claudia Yaghoobi, Roshan Institute Assistant Professor in Persian Studies

UNC IAH Schwab Academic Excellence Award, spring 2018

Faculty Research and Publications

Shahla Adel, Teaching Assistant Professor in Persian

- "Design, Evaluation, and Selection of Textbooks for Persian as a Foreign Language." In F. Farrokh (Ed.), *Bright Diversities of Day*. Los Angeles: Mazda Publishers, 2017.

Carl Ernst, William R. Kenan, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies

- *It's Not Just Academic! Essays on Islamic Studies and Sufism*. Yoda Press/Sage Publications, 2017.

Omid Safi, Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Director of Islamic Studies Center at Duke University

Radical Love: Teachings from the Islamic Mystical Tradition. Yale University Press, 2018.

Eren Tasar, Assistant Professor of History at UNC-Chapel Hill

Soviet and Muslim: The Institutionalization of Islam in Central Asia. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Claudia Yaghoobi, Roshan Institute Assistant Professor in Persian Studies

"The Abject Outsider vis-à-vis Hegemonic Masculinity in Yousef and Farhad Struggling for family acceptance in Iran: the story of two gay men." *Journal of Iran-namag, Iranian Men and Masculinities Special Issue* 3. 1 (spring 2018).

Graduate Student Publications

Matthew Bradford Lynch, PhD Candidate of Islamic Studies at the Department of Religious Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill

"Between Sincerity and Cynicism in the Study of Sufism," *English Language Notes*, Issue 56.1: Comparative and Critical Mysticisms, Duke University Press, April 2018.

Graduate Student Presentations

Patrick D'Silva, PhD Candidate of Islamic Studies at the Department of Religious Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill

"The Philosophical Implications of Classifying 'ilm-i dam as 'Science'," the 5th annual Perso-Indica conference, Bonn, Germany, February 2018.

Graduate Student Advancements

Patrick D'Silva, PhD Candidate of Islamic Studies at the Department of Religious Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill is scheduled to defend his doctoral dissertation, "The Science of the Breath in Persianate India," on April 2, 2018, and intends to graduate in May 2018.

Undergraduate Student Publications

Rain Tiller, "A Forbidden Act: Illicit Sex and the Colonial Heterosexual Matrix," *Sprinkle: An undergraduate journal of gender and queer studies* (publication forthcoming).

Contact UNC Persian Studies

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Your gift is greatly appreciated!