

GHAZZAL DABIRI

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Primary Periods of Interest: Late Antique and Medieval. Genres of Interest: Epics, Historiography, Sufi Hagiography. Themes of Interest: Power and Authority, Kingly and Sainly Ethics, Communal Identity Building, Supernatural as Social Discourse.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

- 2007 Ph.D., Iranian Studies
 Dissertation Title: “The Origins and Evolution of Persian Epics”
 Dissertation Advisor: Hossein Ziai
- 2001 M.A., Iranian Studies

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

- 1997 B.S., Microbiology and Immunology

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS & EDITED VOLUMES

Forthcoming:

2021. *Narrating Power and Authority in Late Antique and Medieval Hagiography across East and West*. Fabulae 1. Turnhout: Brepols.

2021. *Thecla and Medieval Sainthood: The Acts of Paul and Thecla in Eastern and Western Hagiography*. Edited by Ghazzal Dabiri and Flavia Ruani. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tales of Kinship, Kingship, and Justice and the Making of the Muslim World, 6th-12th c. Manuscript

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Forthcoming:

“Modelling Prophets: Alexander the Great as a proto-Sufi Saint/King in Tha‘labi’s *Lives of the Prophets*. In *Fictionality in Late Antiquity*. Edited by Koen De Temmerman,

Julie Van Pelt, and Klazina Staat.

2021. "A Medieval Sufi Thecla? Female Civic and Spiritual Leadership in 'Attār's 'Tale of the Virtuous Woman' and the *Life and Passion of Eugenia*." In *Thecla and Medieval Sainthood: The Acts of Paul and Thecla in Eastern and Western Hagiography*. Edited by Ghazzal Dabiri and Flavia Ruani. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2021. "Images of Zoroastrians in Medieval Sufi Hagiography." In *Narrating Power and Authority in Late Antique and Medieval Hagiography across East and West*. Fabulae 1. Edited by Ghazzal Dabiri. Turnhout: Brepols.
2021. "Introduction." In *Narrating Power and Authority in Late Antique and Medieval Hagiography across East and West*. Fabulae 1. Edited by Ghazzal Dabiri. Turnhout: Brepols.
2021. "Introduction." In *Thecla and Medieval Sainthood: The Acts of Paul and Thecla in Eastern and Western Hagiography*. Edited by Ghazzal Dabiri and Flavia Ruani. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2019. "'When a Lion is Chided by an Ant' Everyday Saints and the Making of Sufi Kings in 'Attār's *Elāhināma*." In *Journal of Persianate Societies* 12, no. 1 Special Issue Advice Literature and Persian Political Ethics, guest editor Louise Marlow: 85-125.
2018. "'Attār's *Elāhināma* as Sufi Practical Ethics: Between Genre, Reception, and Muslim and Christian Audiences." In *Journal of Persianate Studies* 11, no. 1: 29-55.
2013. "Historiography and the Sho'ubiya Movement." In *Journal of Persianate Studies* 6, no. 1-2: 216-234.
2010. "The *Shahnama*: Between the Samanids and Ghaznavids." In *Iranian Studies, the Shahnama Special Issue*, edited by Charles Melville, Volume 43, no. 1 (February): 13-28.
2009. "Visions of Heaven and Hell from Late Antiquity in the Near East." In *Quaderni di Studi Indo-Mediterranei* 2 (Winter): 177-190.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

(Forthcoming) "Persian Language." In *Routledge Medieval Encyclopedia Online*.

(Forthcoming) "Persian Epic." In *Routledge Medieval Encyclopedia Online*,

(Forthcoming) "Persian Elegy." In *Routledge Medieval Encyclopedia Online*.

"Xwadāy-nāmag." In *Clavis Historicorum Tardae Antiquitatis*, Turnhout: Brepols, 2020.

REVIEW ARTICLES

2015. Review of *The Nativist Prophets of Early Islamic Iran: Rural Revolt and Local Zoroastrianism* by Patricia Crone in *Journal of Persianate Studies* 8, no.1: 115-121.

2010. Review of *Mute Dreams, Blind Owls, and Dispersed Knowledges: Persian Poesis in the Transnational Circuitry* by M.J. Fischer in *Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies* 3, no. 4 (Autumn): 485-487.

POSITIONS HELD

2014-2018	Ghent University <i>ERC Fellow</i>
2008-2014	Columbia University <i>Lecturer in Persian, Persian Program Coordinator</i>
2006-2008	California State University, Fullerton <i>Lecturer in Persian, Director of Persian Summer Institute</i>
2004-2007	University of California, Los Angeles <i>Teaching Fellow</i>

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

2018	University of Ghent Mobility Fund (CWO)
2017	Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
2011-2012	Fulbright AY Research Grant, Cairo, Egypt
2007	Iranian Studies Foundation: Honorable Mention for Best Dissertation

INVITED TALKS

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- September 22, 2018. "Is Iranian Studies one of Winkelmann's Victims?" Panel Discussant, presented at *Winkelmann's Victims: The Classics: Norms, Exclusions, and Prejudices*, **Ghent University**, Ghent, Belgium.
- April 17, 2018. "Iranian Studies as an Endangered Field?" Presented at *Workshop: Subjects under Threat in Europe: Ancient Languages and Cultures at Ghent University*, **Ghent University**, Ghent, Belgium.
- April 20, 2017. "Sufi and Eastern Christian Hagiographies: Some Remarks on Possible Cross-Fertilizations." Presented at *Literary Studies Workshop*, **Ghent University**, Ghent, Belgium
- November 1, 2013. "Iranian, Ajami, or Persian: Iranian Identity from Late Antiquity to Today." Presented at *Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Lecture Series*, **Salem State University**, Salem Massachusetts.
- April 6, 2011. "The Shu'ubiyah Movement and Ideals of Just Kingship and Prophethood." Presented at **Mt. Holyoke**, South Hadley, Massachusetts.
- March 23, 2011. "The Heroic Feats of The Little Black Fish and Rostam the Warrior of Persia: A Comparative Approach for Teaching Persian Literature."

Presented at **Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

March 11, 2010. "Prophets, Heroes, and Kings: The Reformulation of Iranian History in the ninth and tenth century Histories." MESAAS Colloquium Series, Presented at **Columbia University**, New York, New York.

November 14, 2008. "The de-Arabization of Persian? A Politico-Cultural Debate," Middle East Connections Lecture Series. Presented at **Carleton College**, Northfield, Minnesota.

CONFERENCES

March 15-18, 2018. "[Reading 'Attār's *Ilāhīnameh* as Sufi Practical Ethics and Exemplary Hagiography](#)." Presented at **Association for the Study of Persianate Societies** 8th Biennial Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia.

February 16-17, 2018. Organizer. *Narrating Power and Authority in Late Antique and Medieval Hagiographies from East to West*, **Academia Belgica**, Rome, Italy.

February 16-17, 2018. "Who's the Authority Here?: Images of Zoroastrians in Medieval Sufi Hagiographies." Presented at *Narrating Power and Authority in Late Antique and Medieval Hagiographies from East to West*, **Academia Belgica**, Rome, Italy.

November 23, 2017. "The Limits of Reception? Depicting Female Piety in Christian and Muslim Religious Texts: The Case of Thecla and 'The Tale of the Virtuous Woman' by 'Attar." Presented at *Workshop on Late Antique and Medieval Narratology*, **University of Oslo**, Oslo, Norway.

June 15-17, 2017. "Making Prophets out of Kings in Tha'labī's *Lives of the Prophets*." Presented at *Fictionality in Late Antique Hagiography*, **Academia Belgica**, Rome, Italy.

August 2-5, 2016. "Universalism and Conversion in 'Attār's *Ilāhīnāmeḥ*." Presented at **International Society for Iranian Studies** biennial conference, Vienna, Austria.

May 12-13. "Embedded Narratives and Sacred Space in 12th-13thc. Sufi Hagiographies." Presented at *Greek and Byzantine Storytelling Workshop*, **Université Sorbonne Paris**, Paris, France.

September 16-18, 2015. "The Development of Perso-Islamic Historiography in Late Antiquity." Presented at *Intercultural Exchange in Late Antique Historiography*, **Ghent University**, Ghent, Belgium.

September 8-11, 2015. "Legitimacy and Historiography at the Samanid Courts." Presented at **Association for the Study of Persianate Societies** 7th Biennial Conference, Istanbul, Turkey.

September 22-23, 2014. "Samanid Patronage and the Development of Persian Epic Poetry." Presented at *Iran Resurgent? Politics, Literature and Trade in the Samanid Era*, **University of Oxford**, Oxford, England.

March 5-7, 2013. "Genealogy and Quranic Symbols: Constructing Kings as Moral Types in 9-10th century Iranian Historiography." Presented at *Conference on Eastern Iran and Transoxiana 750-1150*, **St. Andrews University**, Edinburgh, Scotland.

- November 19, 2012. Thematic Discussant for panel on “Knowledge Production Thematic Conversation: Writing, Publishing and Translating Iran at the Crossroads: Politics, History and Academics.” Presented at **Middle East Studies Association** annual conference, Denver, Colorado.
- Nov. 18-22, 2010. “In Transition: Cross Roads, Frontiers, and Historical Memory in Late Antique Iranian Studies.” Panel organizer at **Middle East Studies Association** annual conference, San Diego, California.
- May 27-30, 2010. “Competitive Impetus and the Representation of Prophets and Kings in Iranian Historiography from the ninth to eleventh century.” Presented at the **International Society for Iranian Studies** biennial conference, Los Angeles, California.
- November 22, 2009. “Ninth century Historians and the Shu‘ubiyah Movement.” Presented at the **Middle East Studies Association** annual conference, Boston, Massachusetts.
- March 27, 2009. “Confrontations Between Iran and the West: The Case of Sadeq-e Hedayat’s *The Mannequin Behind the Curtain*.” Presented at the **American Comparative Literature Association** annual conference, **Harvard University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- August 2, 2008. “The Iranian Epic Heroes from the Avesta to the Mantiq al-Tayr.” Presented at the Seventh Biennial Conference of the **International Society for Iranian Studies** biennial conference, Toronto, Canada.
- October 13th, 2007. “*Vis va Ramin* Reconsidered: A Product of the Translation and Adaptation Movements of the 9th and 10th centuries.” Presented at the **American Oriental Society Western Branch** Annual Meeting 2007, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, California.
- March 17th, 2007. “Tabari and the Development of Persian Epic.” Presented at the **American Oriental Society** 217th Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.
- August 3-5, 2006. “The Development of Persian Epic.” Presented at the **International Society for Iranian Studies** biennial conference, University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, England.
- May 13, 2006. “al-Jahiz and Translation Theory.” Presented at the 21st **Middle East Theory and History Conference, University of Chicago**, Chicago, Illinois.
- April 8, 2003. “Literary Criticism and Iconoclasm: The Case of an 18th century Persian Manuscript.” Presented at the **Jusur Graduate Student Conference: Limits to the Frontier**, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

GHEENT UNIVERSITY

- 2015-2018 PhD Student Advisory Committee (2nd Promoter)
 Matthew O’Farell, Proposed Project Title: Hagiography and

2017-2018 Historiography in Late Antiquity: The Case of Constantine and Ardašīr
Steering Committee, Pirenne Medieval Institute, Ghent University
2017-2018 Scientific Committee Member, Initiative on Iranian Studies, Ghent
University and KU Leuven

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Faculty Advisor:

2012-2013 Middle East House
2009-2010 Columbia Iranian Students Association
2008-2009 Iranian Students Network, SIPA

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

2007-2008 Department Curriculum Committee
2007-2008 Faculty Advisor: Persian Student Association
2007-2008 Department Outreach Committee Member

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PERSIANATE SOCIETIES

2019-2021 Board Member
2016-2018 Secretary
2017 Chair of the Rescheduled 8th Biennial Conference Organizing
Committee, Tbilisi, Georgia
2016 Chair of the 8th Biennial Conference Organizing Committee, Shiraz,
Iran
2013-2015 Board Member
2015 Conference Organizing Committee Member, Istanbul, Turkey
2013 Conference Organizing Committee Member, Sarajevo, Bosnia
2009-2016 Newsletter Editor

RELATED EXPERIENCE

2020 **NFLC–University of Maryland**
Subject Matter Expert

- Creating and reviewing content for language assessment

2012-2013 **Avant Systems**

- Creating and reviewing content for language assessment testing

2001-2007 **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

Digital Library Assistant III

- Managing and editing the cataloguing of one of the largest Middle Eastern manuscript collections in the United States for web publication
- Intensive research into the secular and religious literary and manuscript making traditions of the 14th-19th centuries C.E. Iran

<http://digidev.library.ucla.edu/minasian/about.html>

<http://www.international.ucla.edu/article.asp?parentid=26375>

LANGUAGES

Primary Research Languages: Persian, Middle Persian, and Arabic

Secondary Research Language: French

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies

The Association for Iranian Studies

Middle East Medievalists