

# Iran and the West: Converging Perspectives

International conference

1 – 3 July 2015 University of Warwick

20mn per paper in English

1h30 for three-paper panel (30mn discussion)

2h00 for four-paper panel (40mn discussion)

## Wednesday 1 July 2015

2.00 – 2.30 pm: registration

2.30 – 3.00pm: welcome by James Hodkinson (University of Warwick)

3.00 – 4.30pm:

### Panel 1: Revolutions (3 papers)

**Sahar Maranlou (University of Oxford):** 'Iran and the West: Legal Perspective'

**Matthew K. Shannon (Emory & Henry College):** 'From Ally to Adversary: Iran in the American Imaginary during the Revolutionary Decade'

**Annie Pfeifer (University of Yale and University of Bern):** 'Kant, Hegel, Nirumand: Iran in the German Political Imagination'

### Panel 2: Western representations of Iran (3 papers)

**Ali Sadidi Heris (University of Southampton):** Meeting of Anthropology and State Policy in Hollywood: An Early Ethnographic Film, the Case of Grass: A Nation's Battle for Life'.

**Lydia Wytenbroek (York University, Canada):** 'American Medical Missionaries' Shifting Representations of the Iranian Body, 1860-1960

**Robert Czulda (University of Lodz):** Western Media Picture of Iran- Between Myths and Reality

4.30 – 5.00pm: Tea break

5.00 - 5.30pm: **Andrew Knapp (University of Reading):** 'Isfahan 1976-78: a personal recollection'

## Thursday 2 July 2015

9.30 – 11.00am:

### **Panel 3: Ancient History (3 papers)**

**Leonardo Gregoratti (University of Durham):** 'Tacitus and the Great Kings'

**Bruno Genito (Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"):** The Graeco-Roman World versus the Old Persian Civilisation, between Archaeology and History'

**David Bagot (University of St Andrews):** Roman, Iranian and Armenian perceptions in Late Antiquity

11.00 – 12.30am:

### **Panel 4: Diplomacy (3 papers)**

**Elham Malekzadeh (Research Centre of Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran):** The narrative Documentary of History and Cultural Relations between Iran and Romania'

**Hamed Kazemzadeh + Anahita Shahrokhi (University of Warsaw):** 'Historical and cultural relations between Poland and Persia in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries'

**Jane Grogan (University College Dublin):** 'Acts of faith? Archaeology, Diplomacy and the Arts of Government'

### **Panel 5: Representations of Women (4 papers)**

**Maryam Aras (University of Cologne):** '*Huris, Amrads* and the Western Gaze – Gender Images and the Notion of Beauty from Qajar to Post-Revolutionary Iran'

**Birgit Röder (University of Warwick):** "'With truths of a certain kind, it is not enough to make them appear convincing: one must also make them felt" (Montesquieu, *Persian Letters*). The Many Faces of Soraya'

**Negar Habibi (Aix-Marseille University):** '*Zan-i farangi*, a symbol of Occident: The European women in *farangi sazi* paintings (1666 – 1694)

**Roxanne Bibizadeh (University of Warwick):** 'Casting New Shadows and Unveiling Voices: Rediscovering Iranian Women's Memoir Genre'

12.30 – 1.30pm: lunch

1.30 – 3.00pm:

### **Panel 6: Decline and demonization (3 papers)**

**Meir Litvak (Tel-Aviv University):** The Decline of the West in Contemporary Iranian Discourse

**Laleh Gomari-Luksch (University of St Andrews and University of Tübingen):** The Great Satan and the Axis of Evil: The Politics of demonization in Iran and the United States

**Ali Parchami (Royal Military Academy Sandhurst):** Conflicting Perceptions and Narratives: The Competition Between Iran and Its Western Antagonists

### **Panel 7: Iran and the UK (3 papers)**

**Nahid Ghani:** 'Demonizing Britain, Embracing Russia: Political Double Standards or Political Oblivion?'

**Savka Andic (University of Oxford):** 'Britain and Revolutionary Iran, 1906-1909 and 1976-1979: A Comparative Study'

**Nimrod Zagagi (Tel-Aviv University):** 'Pride and Prejudice: Oil workers and the British in Abadan 1910-1950'

**3.00 – 3.30pm:** tea break

**3.30 – 5.00pm:**

**Panel 8: Cooperation (2 papers)**

**George Sanikidze (Ilia State University, Tbilisi):** ‘Tbilisi as a bridge between Iran and Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century’

**Muhammad Athar Masood (University of the Punjab, Lahore):** ‘Possibilities of a Renewed Engagement between Iran and the West’

**Panel 9: Cultural influences and soft power (3 papers)**

**Helen Giunashvili (G. Tsereteli Institute of oriental Studies, Ilia State University, Tbilisi):** ‘Medieval Iran and Georgia: Historical-Cultural Context and Tendencies of Georgian Renaissance’

**Mahnaz Yousefzadeh (New York University):** ‘The allegorical, political, rhetorical significance of the figure of Persia for the Medici’s from Republican to Granducal Tuscany’

**Liya Chechik (Jewish Museum, Moscow):** ‘Relations between Venice and Iran in the late XVI century through the history of a single painting: *Doge Marino Grimani receiving the Persian ambassadors* by Gabriele Caliari’

**5.00 – 5.30pm:** tea break

**5.30 – 6.30pm:** **Ali Ansari (University of St Andrews):** ‘Iran and the West’

## Friday 3 July 2015

9.30 – 11.30am:

### **Panel 10: Literary dialogues (4 papers)**

**Nina Zandjani (University of Oslo):** 'German translations of Sa'di's *Golestân* (The Rosegarden)'

**Amir Ahmadi Arian (University of Queensland):** '*Persian Letters Against the Grain*'

**Morteza Hashemi (Coventry University):** 'On Abbas Mirza's Dialogue with Jaubert: Iranians answer to the question of the rise of the West'

**Margaux Whiskin (University of Warwick):** 'Xerxes and Leonidas: Conversations between Iran and the West in dialogues of the dead'

### **Panel 11: Globalisation and cultural change (4 papers)**

**Giulia Valsecchi (University of Bergamo):** 'Homeland dramatizations and native gaze demolitions in Nahid's Rachlin's *Foreigner* and Porochista Khakpour's *Sons and other flammable objects*'

**Sivan Balslev (Tel-Aviv University):** 'Westernisation, Masculinity and Social Distinction in Iran, circa 1900-1920'

**Samaneh Zandian (University of Warwick):** 'Miss, everyone thinks it's very nice there, but is it really?' – Young learners in Iran and their perceptions of transition and intercultural interaction

**Ali Beh-Pajooch (Hamburg University):** 'The Experience of Modernity in Iranian Popular Novels of Reza Shah's Era (1921 – 1941)'

11.30 – 12.00am: closing remarks

12.00 – 12.30am: tea break