

**Wali Ahmadi**  
**Associate Professor of Persian Literature**

## CURRICULUM VITA

### EDUCATION

**Ph.D.**, Comparative Literature, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), 1997.

*Concentrations:* Persian literature (classical and modern); Persian literary history, rhetoric and poetics; late classical Persian philosophical and historical texts; Iranian cultural and intellectual history; Arabic and Islamic studies; literary theory and criticism.

**C.Phil.**, Comparative Literature, UCLA, 1994.

*Concentrations:* Persian literature, literary history, and criticism; classical Persian philosophical and historical texts; cultural and intellectual history; Arabic and Islamic studies; literary theory and criticism.

**M.A.**, Persian and Iranian Studies, UCLA, 1991.

*Concentrations:* Persian language and literature (classical and modern); Iranian history and culture; Persian literature in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and the Indian Subcontinent; introductory Pahlavi; Islamic and Middle Eastern history; literary theory and criticism.

**B.A.**, Political Science, California State University, East Bay, 1987.

*Concentrations:* Social and political theory; Islamic and Middle Eastern studies; comparative politics

**H.S. Diploma**, Lycée Esteqlal, Kabul, Afghanistan, 1982.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Associate Professor**, Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, 08/2007 – Present.

Taught undergraduate and graduate levels courses and seminars. Teaching includes classical and modern Persian literature, Persian literary history and historiography, Afghanistan studies, modern Iranian intellectual history, and literary/cultural criticism.

**Assistant Professor**, Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, 08/2000 – 07/2007.

Taught undergraduate and graduate levels courses in classical and modern Persian literature, Persian literary history and historiography, Afghanistan studies, modern Iranian intellectual history, and literary/cultural criticism.

**Lecturer**, Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 08/1997 – 05/2000.

Taught Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Persian language, Persian literature, and a regular seminar on Middle Eastern cultures and societies.

**Teaching Fellow**, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, 09/1994 - 06/1996.  
Taught Intermediate Persian, Advanced Persian, and Modern Persian Literature.

**Teaching Associate**, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, 01/1992 - 06/1994.  
Taught Intermediate Persian, Persian Popular Ethics, and Persian Philosophical Texts.

**Teaching Assistant**, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, 09/1990 - 12/1992  
Taught Introductory Persian; Intermediate Persian; Advanced Persian.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **1. Books**

1. *Modern Literature of Afghanistan: Anomalous Visions of History and Form* (London and New York: Routledge, 2008).

2. *Converging Zones: Persian Literary Tradition and the Writing of History* (Costa Mesa: Mazda, 2011).

3. *The Historicity of Imagination: A Revisionary Literary and Cultural History of Afghanistan*. (Monography in progress).

### **2. Edited Journals**

1. *Iran Nameh: Journal of the Foundation for Iranian Studies* (Washington, DC), vol. XXII, nos. 1-2 (2005).

2. Founder and Editor, *Critique & Vision (Naqd va Arman): An Afghan Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences*, 1995-2003.

### **3. Articles**

“Power, Tutelage, and Truth: Faiz Muhammad (“Katib”) and Modern Historiography in Afghanistan” in *Bright Diversities of Day*, ed. Faridoun Farrokh (Costa Mesa: Mazda, 2017), 13-37.

“Neglected Archives: Representations of Afghanistan,” *Ilef* (Ankara University), 3, no. 2 (2016), 9-22.

“The Idealization of Love: The Timeless Tale of *Layla and Majnun*,” *Playbill* (Cal Performances Publication, UC Berkeley), 2016/17, 32-36.

“Mastering the Ego-Monster: *Azhdaha-ye Khudi* as an Allegory of History” in *Afghanistan in Ink*, eds. Nile Green and Noushin Arbabzadah (London: Hurst / New York: Columbia University Press, 2013), 163-184.

“Endangered Nation: The Literature of Soviet-Occupied Afghanistan” in *Global Cold War Literatures: Western, Eastern, and Postcolonial Perspectives*, ed. A. N. Hammond (New York and London: Routledge, 2012), 58-71.

“Iqbal and the Predicaments of Identity Formation,” in *Converging Zones: Persian Literary Tradition and the Writing of History*, ed. Wali Ahmadi (Costa Mesa: Mazda, 2012), 246-259.

“Naser Khosraw: Setayeshgar-e Andisha va Sorayeshgar-e Arman” (Naser Khosraw: Praising Ideas and Composing Ideologies), *Kabulnath*, vol. 8, no. 178 (2012). *Accessible Online* (<http://www.kabulnath.de>).

“Rewayat-e Zabih-e Hasti va Piayla-ye Chini” (Narrating Broken Lives and the China Cup), *Kabulnath*, vol. 7, no. 158 (2012). *Accessible Online* (<http://www.kabulnath.de>).

“Khalili, Khalil-Allah,” *Encyclopedia Iranica*, ed., Ehsan Yarshater, vol. XV, fas. 4 (2010), 309-314.

“Khalil, Mohammad Ebrahim,” *Encyclopedia Iranica*, ed., Ehsan Yarshater, vol. XV, fas. 4 (2010), 384-85.

“Talkh va Gowara-i Ghorbat” (“The Perils and Promises of Exile”), *Kabulnath*, vol. 6, no. 118 (1389/2010). *Accessible Online* (<http://www.kabulnath.de>)

“Kabul” (literary magazine), *Encyclopedia Iranica*, ed., Ehsan Yarshater, vol. XV, fas. 3 (2009), 276.

“Kabul Literary Society,” *Encyclopedia Iranica*, ed., Ehsan Yarshater, vol. XV, fas. 3 (2009), 318.

“Ahamiyat-e Baz-khwanesh-e Metun-e Kohan” (The Significance of Re-reading Classical [Persian] Texts), *Payam-e Ruz*, vol. 3, no. 32 (2009): 11-12.

“Razdan-i Ashna’yi-ha,” a preface to Bashir Sakhawarz, *Bar-rasi-i Zindagi va Asar-i Farsi Ghalib*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Amsterdam, 2008).

“Originality and the Task of Translation,” a critical introduction (in Persian) to Wasef Bakhtari, trans., *The Sea of World Poetry is Not Polluted*, an anthology of translations of international poetry into Persian (Kabul: Parniyan Publishers, 2005), 2-8.

“Exclusionary Poetics: Approaches to the Afghan ‘Other’ in Contemporary Iranian Literary Discourse,” *Iranian Studies: Journal of the International Society for Iranian Studies*, vol. 37, no. 3 (2004), 407-429.

“The Institution of Persian Literature and the Genealogy of Bahar’s Stylistics,” *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 31, no. 2 (2004), 141-152.

"Intertextual Influences and Intracultural Contacts: History and Memory in the Poetry of Akhavan-sales and Wasef Bakhtari," in: *Essays on Nima Yushij: Animating Modernism in Persian Poetry*, ed. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak and Kamran Talattof (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2004), 221-236.

"Tahavvul-i Adabi va Ta'rikh-i Adabi" [Literary Evolution and Literary History], *Khatt-i Siwum* (Spring & Summer 2004), 240-43. Published in Tehran.

"Edward Said: Exile, Representation, and Secular Criticism" (in Persian), *Parniyan: A Quarterly Review of Literature and Culture*, vol. 1, no. 2 (Fall 1984), 5-17. Published in Kabul.

"The *Divan* of Khwaja Shams al-Din Muhammad Hafiz of Shiraz," in: *World Literature and Its Times*, vol. 6: Middle Eastern Literatures and Their Times, ed. Joyce Moss (Detroit, MI: Thomson Gale: 2004), 121-130.

"Ruman-i Ta'rikihi" [historical novel], *Iran Nameh*, XX1, nos. 1-2 (2003), 185-202.

"Dar har jang, haqiqat nakhustin qurbani ast" [In every war, truth is the first casualty], *Zarnegar* (Toronto), 155 (August 2003), 19-20.

"Annemarie Schimmel dar-guzasht" [Annemarie Schimmel: an obituary], *Zarnegar* (Toronto), 144 (February 2003), 22.

"Ze bam-i surkh-i shaqa`iq" [on contemporary Persian poetry], in: *Nasr-i Dari Afghanistan* [Dari/Persian prose in Afghanistan], ed. Ali Razawi Ghaznawi (Peshawar: Jayhani Publications, 1380/2001), 468-78.

"Baz-khwanish-i mafhum-i tragedy dar Aristotle va Nietzsche, [Aristotle, Nietzsche, and the Concept of Tragedy], *Critique & Vision* 12 & 13 (Autumn 2000 and Spring 2001), 82-97.

"Persian Fiction in Afghanistan," *Encyclopedia Iranica*, ed., Ehsan Yarshater, vol. IV, fas. 6 (1999), 603-606.

"Sharq-ingari va Asia-nigari: dar piramun-i istibad-i sharqi" [Orientalism and the Scholarship on Asia: A Critique of (Karl Wittfogel's) *Oriental Despotism*"], *Critique & Vision* IV-V (Autumn 1996-Spring 1997), 101-124.

"Huvvyiat-i khudi va farhang-i digari: nigarishi bar *Dar Kishvar-i Digar*," *Critique & Vision* II (Autumn 1995), 49-69.

#### 4. Book Reviews

Michael Griffin, *Reaping the Whirlwind* (London: Pluto, 2001) & Larry P. Goodson: *Afghanistan's Endless War* (Seattle: U Washington P, 2001), *Caucasus and Central Asia Studies Newsletter*, University of California, Berkeley, 4 (Summer 2003), 21-22.

“Nimunah-ha-i shi`r-i imruz-i Afghanistan,” *Iran Nameh*, vol. XI, no. 2 (Spring 1993), 350-355.

“The Poetics of Alfarabi and Avicenna,” *Iranshenasi*, vol. IV, no. 4 (Winter 1993), 73-76.

“Chand ishkhal dar chand i`tiraz” [Problems in Historiography], in: M.S. Farhang, *Afghanistan dar Panj Qarn-i Akhir*, vol. II, Alexandria, Virginia: Nashr-i Sana`yi, 1991, 44-54.

## 5. Translations

### From Persian into English:

Several works of contemporary Persian poets forthcoming in: *Contemporary Voices of the Eastern World: An Anthology of Poems*, eds. Tina Chang, Nathalie Handal, and Ravi Shankar (New York: W.W. Norton, 2007).

“From the Pit of Hell,” *Poetry in Performance* 1 (1986). Translation of Wasef Bakhtari’s poem “Az zharfa-i barzakh.”

“The Composition,” *Critique & Vision* II (Autumn 1995), 28-31. Translation of Rahnavard Zariab’s short story “Maqqalah.”

“Large Picture, Small Mirror,” *Critique & Vision* II (Autumn 1995), 25-28. Translation of Partaw Naderi’s “Tasvir-i buzurg, ayyinah-i kuchak.”

“Stars and the Dawn,” “Clouds,” “The Birds of Sorrow,” “The Wisdom of Satan,” and “Thirst,” *Critique & Vision* III (Spring 1996), 5-9. Translations of several poems by Noozar Elias.

“Poems,” *Critique & Vision* IV & V (Autumn 1996-Spring 1997), 9-11. Translations of two poems by Raziq Roieen.

### From English into Persian:

“Guzidah-i az guftgu-yi ba Edward Said,” *Critique & Vision* I (Spring 1995), 50-62. A translation of a conversation with Edward Said originally published in the journal *Boundary* 2 (Spring 1993).

“Az rahraw ha-i sekut,” *Critique & Vision* VI (Autumn 1997), 89-101. Translation of Ngugi wa Thiong’o, “From the Corridors of Silence: The Exile Writes Back,” in *Moving the Center* (London, 1993).

“Ghurbatvarah-ha,” *Critique & Vision* VI (Autumn 1997), 36-40. Translations of four poems by Adunis, Darwish, Lara, and Ritsos on the theme of exile.

### From Persian into Arabic:

“Muntakhibat min al-Shi`r al-Afghani,” *Alwah* 7 (March 1999), 29-37. Selections from contemporary Persian poetry translated into Arabic.

### From Arabic into Persian:

“Bar-kash,” *Critique & Vision* 1 (Spring 1995), 77-82. Translation of Yusuf Idris’s short story “Hammal al-kursi.”

From French into Persian:

“Marg-i Nivisandah,” *Critique & Vision* 2 (Autumn 1995), 70-81. Translation of Roland Barthes’s “La Mort de l’auteur,” in *La Bruissement de la langue* (Paris, 1984).

“Zayish-i Tajaddud,” *Critique & Vision* 10-11 (Autumn 1999-Spring 2000), 95-116. Translation of Christian Delacampagne’s “Naissance de la modernité,” Chapter One of *Histoire de la philosophie au Xxe siecle* (Paris, 1995).

### SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Panelist/Discussant, “Frame by Frame” (a documentary about four Afghan photojournalists), Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, 16 March 2016.

“The Poetics of Persian Literary Historiography” delivered in memory of Amin Bnani, Stanford University, Program in Iranian Studies, 25 February 2014.

“Fictions of Friction: Narratives of War and ‘Post-War’ in Contemporary Afghan Literature” delivered at a conference series (entitled “Fallout: In the Aftermath of War,”), University of California, Santa Barbara, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, 7 March 2013.

“Reflections on the Cultural History of the Persianate World” delivered at a symposium organized by the Afghan Student Association, University of California, Davis, 14 November 2012.

“Subjects of Literary-Historical Marginality in Persian” talk delivered at the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies conference, Stanford University, 28 August 2012.

“The Poetics of Memory in Classical Persian Literature,” keynote conference presentation, Association Culturelle de Strasbourg (France), 30 June 2012.

“Dancing with Death: Desire and Forgetfulness in Afghan Writings in Iran” paper delivered at a symposium entitled “Finders/Seekers: Travel Encounters in and Out of Persianate Land,” University of California, Los Angeles, 21 May 2011.

“Mastering the Ego-Monster: *Azhdaha-ye Khudi* as an Allegory of History” paper delivered at a symposium entitled Afghanistan in Ink, University of California, Los Angeles, 10-11 January 2010.

“Resistance, Dissent, and Despair in the Age of Interminable Trauma: Reflections on Contemporary Poetry of Afghanistan,” paper delivered at the conference Recovering Afghanistan’s Past: Cultural Heritage in Context, University of California, Berkeley, 14-15 November 2008.

- “Rumi’s Ideal Self,” a presentation delivered at Maulana Jalal al-Din Balkhi Rumi Commemoration Ceremony, the United Nations Headquarters, New York, 26 June 2007.
- “Afghanistan: Cultural Transformation in War, Displacement, and Reconstruction,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, Montreal (Canada), November 2007.
- “Rethinking Categories of Representation in Modern Iran,” Panel Chair and Discussant, Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, Montreal (Canada), November 2007.
- “Mastering the Ego Monster: A Study of *Azhdaha-i Khudi*,” Sixth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, August 3-5, 2006.
- “Comparing the Poetry of the Iranian and Afghan Constitutional Eras,” Oxford-Penn Conference on Commemorating the Constitution, 1906-2006, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, March 24-25, 2006.
- “Comparing Comparative Literature(s),” Seminar on National Literature in the Era of Globalization, Faculty of Letters and Humanities, University of Education, Kabul, June 9-10, 2004.
- “Dialect Varieties of Persian in the Classroom,” Technology, Curriculum Design, and Material Development: A Workshop for Teachers of Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Persian, and Turkish, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, May 14-16, 2003.
- “Reflections on ‘failed’ states and ‘fragmented’ societies,” Robinson Annual Human Rights Lecture, Reed College, Portland, Oregon, April 2, 2002.
- “Strategies towards Development of the Humanities Curricula,” Strategic Planning of Higher Education for Afghanistan, Indiana University, Bloomington, October 6-7, 2002.
- “Narrating the Monumental Past: Considerations on Persian Literary Historiography,” Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, April 10, 2001.
- “Persian Literary Institutions and Bahar’s *Stylistics*,” Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique-Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, April 20-22, 2001.
- “Patriarchy, Private Property, and Public Space in Mahmud Dawlatabadi’s *Ja-i Khali-i Saluch*,” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., November 1999.
- “Modernity and the Institution of the Novel in Persian,” Iranian Students Association Annual Lecture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, November 1999.
- “History, Memory, and the National Imaginary in the Work of Muhammad Iqbal,” International Society for Iranian Studies Biennial Conference, Washington, D.C., May 1998.

“The Influence of Nima Yushij on Afghan Persian Poetry,” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, California, November 1997.

“Mahmud Tarzi va naqd-i adabi tatbiqu” [“Mahmud Tarzi and Comparative Literary Criticism”], Afghanistan Cultural Foundation Seminar, Toronto, Canada, November 1995.

“Women in/and War in Persian Fiction: Representation and Reinvention,” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, November 1994.

“Aspects of Contemporary Persian Literature in Afghanistan,” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, October 1992.

### **HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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|-------------|---|
| 2017        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2016        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2015        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2014        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2013        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2012        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2012        | Berkeley Research Enabling Grant  |
| 2011        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2011        | Berkeley Research Enabling Grant  |
| 2011        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2010        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2009        | The Iranian Academy of the Arts and Science Award for the Best Book of the Year in the Category of “Literary Scholarship” |
| 2009        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2009        | Berkeley Research Enabling Grant  |
| 2008        | Mellon Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2008        | Berkeley Research Enabling Grant  |
| 2007        | Berkeley Faculty Research Fellowship  |
| 2007        | Berkeley Research Enabling Grant  |
| 2005-06     | Hellman Family Faculty Fund Award   |
| 2005        | Berkeley Junior Faculty Research Fellowship   |
| 2004        | Humanities Research Fellowship  |
| 2004        | Berkeley Junior Faculty Research Fellowship   |
| 2003        | Berkeley Research Enabling Grant  |
| 2003        | Research Assistantship in the Humanities (2003-04)  |
| 2002        | Berkeley Junior Faculty Research Fellowship (2002-03)   |
| 2002        | Berkeley Research Enabling Grant (2002-03)  |
| 2001        | Berkeley Junior Faculty Research Fellowship   |
| 2001        | Berkeley Research Enabling Grant  |
| 1998-99     | Humanities Center Fellowship, Oregon State University (declined)  |
| 1995-96     | Chancellor's Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA.  |
| Summer 1996 | Social Science Research Council Award, Istanbul, Turkey.  |



Summer 1992 Fellowship, University of Virginia-Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan.  
Summer 1991 Comparative Literature Summer Grant, Department of French, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.  
Summer 1990 Middle East Consortium Fellowship, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.  
1989-90 Title VI Fellowship, UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies.  
Summer 1989 Middle East Consortium Fellowship, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
1988-89 Title VI Fellowship, UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies.

### **LANGUAGES**

Native speaker of Persian/Dari; fluent in English, French, and Pashtu; advanced level knowledge of Arabic; working knowledge of German.