

Wali AHMADI  
Associate Professor of Persian Literature

## CURRICULUM VITA

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

### PUBLICATIONS

#### 1. Books

1. *Modern Literature of Afghanistan: Anomalous Visions of History and Form* (London and New York: Routledge, 2008).
2. *The Barren Sky of Hope: Contemporary Persian Poetry in English Translation*. (In Progress)

#### 2. Edited Volume

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

#### 3. 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).

#### 4. Articles

“Khalil Allah Khalili,” *Encyclopedia Iranica* (forthcoming entry).

“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, forthcoming).

“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.

"After September 11: The Faculty Reflects," *California Monthly* (November 2001), p. 11.

"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.

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

### 5. Book Reviews

Girdhari Tikku, *A Conversation with Modern Persian Poets* (Costa Mesa: Mazda, 2004).  
Forthcoming in *Iranian Studies*.

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 ishkal 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.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“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.

“Rudaki and the Ethics of Praise,” presentation delivered at the celebration of the life of the Persian poet Abu Abd Allah Rudaki of Samarqand, the United Nations Headquarters, New York, 18 June 2008.

“Ambiguity and Irony in the Poetry of Sana`i of Ghazna,” Sana`i Cultural Foundation, Hayward, California, 8 June 2008.

“Rumi’s Ideal Self,” presentation delivered at Maulana Jalal ald-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.

“The Use(s) of Parody: Jamalzadeh and Persian Fiction in Afghanistan,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, Boston, November 2006.

“Mastering the Ego Monster: *Izhdaha-i Khudi* as an Allegory of History,” 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.

“Islam and the Formation of Afghan Identity,” Conference on Windows Into Islam, East-West Center (University of Hawa`ii and City College of San Francisco), November 4 and 5, 2005.

“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.

Chair and Discussant, Panel on “Iran and the Iranian Cultural World as an ‘Other’ in Academic and Popular Representations,” International Society of Iranian Studies Biennial Conference, Bethesda, MD, 30 May 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.

“Contemporary Persian Fiction in Afghanistan,” NES Graduate Student-Faculty Colloquium, February 27, 2002.

“Global Conversations,” Conference on Islam in America: Rights and Citizenship in a Post-9/11 World, Berkeley, September 18, 2002.

“Intricacies of the History of Afghanistan,” Infosessions on World Crises, Berkeley Public Library, November 13, 2001.

“The Current Crisis: Focus on South Asia,” Symposium, UC Santa Cruz, November 8, 2001.

“Strategies towards Development of the Humanities Curricula,” Strategic Planning of Higher Education for Afghanistan, Indiana University, Bloomington, October 6-7, 2002.

“Persian Literary Institutions and Bahar’s *Stylistics*,” Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique-Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, April 20-22, 2001.

“Narrating the Monumental Past: Considerations on Persian Literary Historiography,” Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, April 10, 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 tatbiqi” [“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.

### **CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

*Symbolism and Imagery in Classical Persian Literature.*

This project deals with the complexities involved in studying mystical (sufi) and profane imagery and symbolisms in select writings of such classical poets as Sana‘i, Rumi, Hafiz, and Bidel as well as writers such as Ibn Sina, Suhrawardi, and ‘Ayn al-Quddat.

*Texting Afghanistan: Colonial Mappings of Discursive Frontiers.*

This project deals with the construction of “Afghan-hood,” especially Afghan masculinity, in the nineteenth century British imagination. It concentrates not only on the works of British writers and poets of the period but also on various travelogues by British officers (and, especially significantly, by their wives), political analyses by colonial administrators, and historical-anthropological accounts by a number of Orientalists of the period.