CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Conference Opening Event: Reception for “Part and Parcel” Art Exhibit
San Francisco Art Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325
(War Memorial Veterans Building)
San Francisco, CA 94102

Artists: Sahar Khoury, Tannaz Farsi, Minoosh Zomorodinia, and Gelare Khoshgozaran
This exhibit runs January 25 – March 30, 2019
Presented by the San Francisco Arts Commission and Curated by Taraneh Hemami

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019

Seven Hills Conference Center, SF State
State Dr, off Lake Merced Ave
San Francisco, CA 94132

8:00 - 9:00 AM – Registration

8:00 - 9:00 AM – Coffee/Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 AM – Welcome
Dr. Persis Karim, Director, Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies, SF State University
Dean Andrew Harris, College of Liberal & Creative Arts, SF State University

9:15 - 9:35 AM – Keynote Presentation – “Forty Years and More at the Limits of Whiteness”
Dr. Neda Maghbouleh, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, Mississauga
9:40 - 10:45 AM – “Research on Iranian Diaspora Communities”

“From Tehran to Seoul to Los Angeles: The Iranian Diaspora and Transnational Circuits of Change,” Dr. Michael Jin, University of Illinois, Chicago

“Seeking Home: The Iranian Queer Community of Toronto and Public Space,” Paniz Moayeri, University of Waterloo, Canada

“Agency and Im/Mobility Among Iranian Americans in Michigan,”
Dr. Camron Amin, University of Michigan, Dearborn

“Iranian Translocality and the Diaspora Imperative” Dr. Janet Bauer, Trinity College, Connecticut

MODERATOR: Dr. Narges Bajoghli, Johns Hopkins University

10:45 – 11:00 – Break

11:00-11:20 – Keynote Presentation (Title TBA)
Dr. Amy Malek, International Studies, College of Charleston, South Carolina

11:25 AM - 12:30 PM – “Research on Iranian Diaspora Communities II”

“Chanting the Shores, Mooring in the City: Iranian Cultural Expressions in Dubai,” Dr. Amin Moghadam, Princeton University

“A Historical and Statistical Analysis of Iranian Immigration and the Iranian Ethnic Community in Canada,” Dr. Amir Mirfakhraie, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, British Columbia

“Historicizing European Immigration: Conflict and Cohesion within Hamburg-Based Iranian Merchant Families” Dr. Sonja Moghaddari, Max Planck Institute, Germany

“Researching the Iranian Diaspora: The Role of Spain in Iranian Exile after the 1979 Revolution,” Laura Sestafe Silvestre, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid

“From Utopia to Atopia: Introduction to Soviet Memoirs of Iranian Emigres” Dr. Khashayar Beigi, UC Berkeley/Independent Scholar

MODERATOR: Dr. Camron Amin, University of Michigan, Dearborn
Raha Jorjani, Director, Immigration Representation Project, Alameda County
Niaz Kasravi, Avalan Institute
Mana Kharrazi, Iranian Alliances Across Borders

MODERATOR/PARTICIPANT: Elica Vafaie, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

1:30 - 2:30 PM – “Feminism, Gender and Transformation of Iranian Women “

“Modernist Trends Among Iranians and Iranian Americans: Women’s Transnational Stories of Transformation,” Mary Elaine Hegland, Santa Clara University

“Transcending Boundaries in Iranian Transnational Marriages,” Ashraf Zahedi, Independent Researcher

“Iranian Diasporic Feminism and Politics of Imaginary Space,” Yalda Hamidi, PhD Candidate, Stonybrook University

“Queer Iranian-American Women in the Diaspora: Transnational Narratives of Agency and Resistance,” Dr. Shadee Abdi, Arizona State University

MODERATOR: Dr. Nima Naghibi, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

2:30 – 2:45 – Break

2:45 - 3:45 PM – “Literature and Performance”

“Unmooring Iranian Diaspora Literature: The Post-National Poetry of Mimi Khalvati and Roger Sedarat,” Holly Fathi, Oxford University

“More than Meets the Eye: Multiple and Diversity Points of View in Iranian Diasporic Literature,” Leila Zonouzi, UC Santa Barbara

“On the Afterlife of Loss in Sahar Delijani’s Children of the Jacarada Tree and Solmaz Sharif’s Look ,” Dr. Allia Ida Griffin, Santa Clara University, California


MODERATOR: Dr. Amy Motlagh, University of California, Davis

3:45 - 4:00 PM – Break
4:00 - 5:05 PM – “Race and Racialization in the Iranian Diaspora”

“Eating the Iranian Other: Liberal Multiculturalism and American Exceptionalism in *Mixed Nutz,*”
Ida Yalzadeh, Brown University

“Liberalism and Racialization in the Age of Rising Far-Right Movements: Reflections on the Iranian Diaspora in the U.S. and Germany,” Dr. Sahar Sadeghi, Muhlenberg College & Dr. Yousef Baker, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Race and Anti-Blackness Among Iranian Americans,” Dr. Sahar Razavi, Sacramento State University

“Educational Self-Determination in the Iranian Diaspora: Tracing Intergenerational Forms of Anti-Racist Dialogue,” Dr. Shirin Vossoughi, Northwestern University

“Another Vision: The Iranian Diaspora, Social Justice, and the Making of Cosmopolitan Imagined Communities,” Ana Ghoreishian, University of Arizona

MODERATOR: Dr. Niaz Kasravi, Avalan Institute

5:15 - 6:30 PM – Wine and Cheese Reception
Short Performance of “Together Tea,” (one-woman play) with Leyla Modirzadeh
Based on the novel by Marjan Kamali, Adapted by Dr. Matthew Spangler, San Jose State University

Evening – Dinner on Your Own

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

Seven Hills Conference Center, SF State
State Dr, off Lake Merced Ave
San Francisco, CA 94132

8:30 - 9:00 AM – Coffee/Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 AM – “Songs of the Second Generation: Iranian American Literature and Film in the 21st Century”

“The Relational Past: Bilingualism in Recent Iranian American Poetry,” Dr. Kamran Javadizadeh, Villanova University


“Machines Performing Human Convictions: Film and Bodily Collective Innervation in Film and Other Media,” Dr. Negar Mottahedeh, Duke University
“Remembering the Flight: History, Memory and Imagination,” Dr. Jasmin Darznik, California College of the Arts

MODERATOR: Dr. Nasrin Rahimieh, University of California, Irvine

10:05 - 11:05 AM – “Media, Digital Diasporas and Film”

“Unraveling Accented Cinema: The Significance of Iranian Diaspora Cinema,” Tania Ahmadi, Columbia University

“Cyberbodies, Iranian Immigrants and New Age Healing,” Torang Asadi, Duke University

“Diasporic Reading Cultures: A Digital Humanities Case Study of Iranian Americans,” Rasoul Aliakbari, University of Alberta

“Iranians and Iranian Americans in U.S. Popular Entertainment Media,” Dr. Pantea Javidan, Stanford University

MODERATOR: Dr. Niki Akhavan, Catholic University, Washington DC

11:05 – 11:15 – Break

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM – “Music in the Diaspora Context”

“Composing Persian Music in Diaspora: Music, Identity, Authenticity, and Universals,” Mehdi Rezania, University of Alberta

“Joy Against the Odds: Diasporic Music Videos in 1980s Iran,” Dr. Nahid Siamdoust, Yale University


“Fluidity of Diasporic Existence and Identity Negotiation,” Shabnam Goli, University of Florida

MODERATOR: Dr. Babak Elahi, University of Rochester

12:15 - 1:05 PM – Lunch Screening of Film Trailer, We Are Here: Iranian Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area
Soumyaa Behrens, Director, Documentary Film Institute, SFSU & Dr. Persis Karim
1:10 - 2:10 PM – “Art in the Diaspora/Diaspora Artists”
Ala Ebtekar, Artist; Stanford University
Tannaz Farsi, Artist; University of Oregon
Taraneh Hemami, Artist; California College of the Arts
Gelare Khoshgozaran, Artist, contemptorary.org

MODERATOR: Dr. Shiva Balaghi, The American University in Cairo

Dr. Arash Davari, Whitman College
Nina Farnia, UC Davis
Dr. Manijeh Nasrabadi, Barnard College
Dr. Golnar Nikpour, Dartmouth College
Dr. Roozbeh Shirazi, University of Minnesota

MODERATOR: Dr. Milad Odobaei, McGill University, Montreal

Mohammad Gorjestani, Independent Filmmaker
Marjaneh Moghimi, Founder/Director, Butimar Productions
Dr. Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, University of Iowa

MODERATOR: Dr. Elizabeth Ramirez-Soto, School of Cinema, SF State

Dr. Beeta Baghoolizadeh, History and Africana Studies, Bucknell University

4:30 - 4:45 PM – Break

4:45 - 5:20 PM – “New Directions in Iranian Diaspora Studies”
Dr. Narges Bajoghli, Johns Hopkins University
Dr. Babak Elahi, University of Rochester
Dr. Nima Naghibi, Ryerson University
Dr. Amy Motlagh, University of California, Davis
Dr. Nasrin Rahimieh, University of California, Irvine

MODERATOR: Dr. Persis Karim, San Francisco State University

6:00 - 9:00 PM – Conference Closing Event: Reception for "Once at Present" Art Exhibit
Performance with Mohsen Namjoo
Minnesota Street Project Art Gallery
1275 Minnesota St
San Francisco, CA 94107
This exhibit runs March 29 – April 20, 2019
Curated by Taraneh Hemami and Kevin B. Chen