While 2019 marks the forty-year anniversary of the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the dramatic changes it brought to Iranian society, the Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies seeks to recognize this anniversary by understanding the ways that Iranians as exiles, immigrants, and as second- and third-generation hyphenated citizens of their respective nations have met with both the challenges and opportunities of diaspora experience. This conference seeks to narrate and understand the challenges of “belonging” in new political and personal contexts, and in acknowledging the contributions that Iranian diaspora subjects have made to the societies where they live. This conference speaks to the need to recognize the cultural, political, and national terrain(s) that have defined the approximately 5 million Iranians who have left Iran in the years immediately following the revolution as well as in subsequent migrations throughout the past four decades.

The conference will highlight the growing research and scholarship by those trained in Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, and in disciplines such as Iranian Studies, Ethnic Studies, American Studies, Diaspora Studies, etc. We also welcome proposals from second-generation, hyphenated Iranians, and non-Iranians whose research is defined by two important factors: 1) the challenges of doing research on Iran that have made the diaspora a more accessible and obviously immediate concern; 2) the idea that the Iranian diaspora is a “transnational” and contingent reality based on more fluid notions of “home” and “away.” We seek to bring together scholars, writers, artists, filmmakers, and to focus on the ways that the humanities and social sciences have been part of this emergent field of Iranian Diaspora Studies.

In addition to invited speakers Dr. Hamid Naficy, Dr. Nasrin Rahimieh, Dr. Amy Malek, and others, we seek conference proposals that highlight scholarly research of Iranian diasporas across the globe. We invite proposals for individual presentations that highlight the humanities, social sciences, and the arts in disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, film studies, literature, visual arts, music, etc. The conference will also include an art exhibit curated by internationally-recognized artist, Taraneh Hemami, and films that will be screened over the two-day conference.

Paper proposals must include a 300-word abstract and be submitted to Dr. Persis Karim, via email (persiskarim@sfsu.edu) by no later than April 30, 2018. Please write “diaspora conference abstract 2019” in the subject header of your email.