

March 13, 2014

Bruno Nachtergaele, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate

Subject: Establishment of New Minor in Iran and Persian Studies

Dear Professor Nachtergaele,

The faculty of the Middle East/South Asia Studies program has proposed establishing a minor in Iran and Persian Studies. In accordance with the provisions of PPM 200-20, the proposal has been reviewed by Dean Ron Mangun, Division of Social Sciences, who has expressed support for the proposed action.

After careful review the College of Letters and Science Executive Committee has recommended approval of the proposal to establish the minor in Iran and Persian Studies. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I am hereby forwarding the proposal to you for review and action by the Davis Division.

Sincerely,



Phillip Shaver, Chair
Executive Committee
College of Letters and Science

cc: B. Floyd, Director
Undergraduate Education and Advising
College of Letters & Science



Office of the Dean of Social Sciences
College of Letters and Science

One Shields Avenue
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616

Professor Phillip Shaver
Chair, L&S Faculty Executive Committee

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Shaver,

The Undergraduate Council requested a letter of support from the deans of HARCS and SS for the new minor in India & South Asia Studies. Since the Executive Committee recently approved two other minors proposed by the Middle East/South Asia Studies Program (ME/SA), namely the Arab Studies Minor and the Iran & Persian Studies Minor, this letter is to endorse all these three minors on behalf of the Division of Social Sciences.

ME/SA has become one of the most active interdisciplinary programs on campus since its foundation ten years ago. The Program Committee of ME/SA has developed these minors during the last couple of year in consultation with me with a view to offer a package of courses to those of our students who might be interested in a particular part of the Middle East and/or South Asia. They have also worked very hard to raise private funds to secure the long term delivery of these minors at no additional cost to the university. What I particularly like about these minors is their insistence on the comparative dimension of ME/SA by requiring the students to take two comparative courses while still focusing on particular regions within the larger Middle East and South Asia.

In short, I extend my enthusiastic support to the new minors in Arab Studies, India & South Asia Studies, and Iran & Persian Studies on behalf of the Division of Social Sciences.

Sincerely,

George R. Mangun, Ph.D.

Dean of Social Sciences
Professor of Psychology and Neurology
College of Letters and Science
University of California, Davis
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March 6, 2014

Professor Philip Shaver
Chair, L&S Faculty Executive Committee

Dear Chair Shaver:

The Senate has requested a letter of support from the Dean of HArCS for several minors (Arab Studies, Iran/Persia Studies, India/South Asia) proposed in connection with the Middle East and South Asia Studies Program, housed in the Division of Social Sciences.

First, let me note that ME/SA is precisely the kind of independent, interdepartmental program as the proposed Human Rights Program. It conforms with L&S Bylaws, in having a director appointed by the dean (in this case, of Social Sciences), and a governing program committee approved annually by the L&S Faculty Executive Committee.

As Dean of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, I support these faculty initiatives to create minors. They function in part as a map to help students plan a coherent course of study. It is my understanding that these minors draw on existing faculty and instructional resources. HArCS will consider possible future increases in faculty or lecturer resources, should student demand warrant.

Sincerely yours,



Jessie Ann Owens
Dean, Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

UC DAVIS

MIDDLE EAST/SOUTH ASIA STUDIES

Proposal for Iran & Persian Studies Minor

November, 2013

PROPOSAL FOR
IRAN & PERSIAN STUDIES MINOR
within the
Middle East/South Asia Studies Program

College of Letters and Sciences
University of California at Davis

2013

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Proposal for a Minor in Iran & Persian Studies:

The University of California at Davis is among the very few institutions in the country that combine the study of Middle East and South Asia regions into one comparative and connective unit. Within this conceptualization, the role of Iran and other Persian societies is of utmost importance. The areas of present-day Iran as well as modern Afghanistan serve as the physical link between South Asia and the Middle East. In other words, human and commodity exchange between these two areas could only be accomplished through the Iranian plateau, Hindu Kush Mountains, or the Persian Gulf. Culturally too, Iranian & Persian culture has served as the linchpin connecting the various cultures of these regions. The religion of Islam, which originated in Arabia, entered the Indian Subcontinent through Eastern Iran and Afghanistan in the eleventh century. During the Mongol invasion, scholars and statesmen journeyed from Iran/Afghanistan to India or Anatolia and brought with them a common states-craft tradition. In the early modern era, artists and poets travelled widely between the Ottoman Empire, Iran, and South Asia and created a common literary style in the Persian language. In modern times as well, the political affairs of both Iran and Afghanistan have continued to show time and again the intimate interrelations of the broader region, often drawing in the governments of the Arab world as well as the Indian subcontinent (especially Pakistan). In short, the comparative and connected studies of the Middle East and South Asia will remain disconnected without Iran & Persian Studies.

Several key contemporary issues make Iran & Persian Studies a timely focus of scholarly interest, including military intervention in Afghanistan and diplomatic relations with Iran. Since the Iranian Revolution of 1979, U.S.-Iran relations have been at a critical impasse, with devastating misrepresentations and stereotypes of Iranians and Muslims. After 9/11 and the deployment of U.S. troops in the region, these stereotypes and misrepresentations have increasingly been applied to Afghanistan as well. Concerns about terrorism, war, nuclearization, unemployment, and human rights, have often stifled popular support for furthering peaceful negotiations with Iran. Meanwhile, continuing cultural, political and military conflicts in Afghanistan remain an issue of international concern.

Among major research universities in the United States, the Iran & Persian Studies program at Davis is among the few that focus on such modern issues and their histories (post 1500). Especially within the University of California system, Davis is currently unique in this matter. The Universities of California at Los Angeles and Irvine both have a heavy emphasis on the ancient period. This is the case at Harvard University as well. In contrast, New York University, the University of Michigan, Columbia University, and the University of Texas at Austin emphasize the modern period. With the introduction of the Iran & Persian Studies Minor, UC Davis will ensure its status as a west coast leader in the study of modern Iran.

The Minor at UC Davis will offer students courses on history and culture (including literatures, cinema, religion, and gender relations) in the Iran & Persian world during the early modern and modern periods. In the spirit of our ME/SA program, we do not teach these courses within the isolated framework of nations states (such as modern Iran or Afghanistan) but always as part of broader political and economic trends in the wider region. The Minor offers students a historical perspective on pre-modern Persia and modern Iran, focusing on events and patterns, continuities

and changes, interrelations and uniqueness, and the diversity of experiences that characterize the region. The pro-seminars will allow students to focus on one particular theme for a full quarter of in-depth analysis. The core faculty members include Professors Ali Anooshahr (History), Suad Joseph (Anthropology, Women and Gender Studies), Jocelyn Sharlet (Comparative Literature), Sudipta Sen (History), Baki Tezcan (History/Religious Studies), and the PARSA CF Visiting Lecturer in Iranian Studies (Dr. Wendy DeSouza in 2012-13 and 2013-14).

We have the staff, faculty, courses, and interested students to move forward with the Iran & Persian minor at no additional cost to the university. The four core courses that have been created for the minor (MSA 131/CTS 146A Modern Iranian Film, MSA 151A Modern Iranian Society and Culture, MSA 181A Topics in Regional ME/SA Studies: Iranian/Persianate Studies, and MSA 182A Undergraduate Proseminar in ME/SA Studies) are funded in perpetuity through the endowment created thanks to the fund raising efforts of Professor Suad Joseph and Mrs. Shirin Rahimian from Sacramento, a grant from the PARSA Community Foundation, and other donations. In addition to courses taught by Academic Senate Faculty, since 2011-2012 a visiting professor has been teaching two Iran & Persian Studies courses a year through endowment funding. In 2012-2013 we raised \$550,000 for Iran & Persian Studies to augment the endowment funds we already had. The PARSA CF Visiting Professor Endowment now holds \$875,000. From 2014-15 onwards, this endowment will be able to support the teaching of four courses on Iran & Persian Studies each academic year.

There is a great deal of interest in this region on campus. UC Davis attracts a large number of Iranian students from the San Francisco Bay Area (home to 24 percent of the California Iranian/Afghan population) and the Sacramento region (which houses a large Iranian and Afghan population). For example, the UC Davis Iranian Student Cultural and Aesthetic Organization presents Iranian film festivals, lecture series, and the annual Nowruz (New Year's) Celebration. Beyond "heritage" students, Iran & Persian Studies is increasingly crucial and of interest to a broad span of students because of the involvement of the United States in the region. Given the misinformation and misunderstandings concerning this area of the world and its centrality to world affairs, culturally, economically, politically, and socially, it is critical that the university offer students the grounded knowledge emerging from serious scholarly research. The Minor also provides the opportunity to prepare students for graduate work in traditional disciplines and professional careers (e.g., international business, the Foreign Service).

The Iranian community in Northern California has played a key role in these efforts to raise awareness about Iran & Persian culture and build bridges of trust and mutual respect. Since 2009, the Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies has been funded by the community. The Series hosts three prominent guest lecturers in the field each year. Moreover, donor funds have contributed to the endowed PARSA CF Visiting Lecturership in Iranian Studies, which will provide for the instruction of relevant courses in perpetuity.

The global political climate, the unique role of UC Davis, and the strength of the involvement of the Iranian-American community offer a timely moment in the development of international relations. Iran & Persian Studies will contribute to enhancing knowledge and transforming relations at this critical juncture. We have laid the foundation of ME/SA to ensure the success and longevity of the Program. We believe we can change history through education, dialogue,

and scholarly exchange. Everyone is energized and supportive. Now is the time to build Iran & Persian Studies within ME/SA at UC Davis.

Requirements and List of Courses for Iran & Persian Minor:

Requirements

For students to complete an Iran & Persian Studies Minor, they are required to take at least 20 units of relevant courses outlined below.

- a. MSA 100 (offered on a yearly basis, 4 units).
- b. MSA 180 (offered on a yearly basis, 4 units).
- c. One core course on Iranian history, 4 units (Choose from HIS 190D or HIS 193D).
- d. One core MSA course in Iran & Persian Studies, 4 units (Choose from MSA 181A or MSA 182A).
- e. A minimum of one elective course from the courses listed in the following pages (MSA, Core and Petition courses, 4 units).

Since new courses are introduced to the curriculum every year, the Middle East/South Asia Studies Program Committee will publish on the ME/SA webpage an annual list of courses that might be added to the list of the ten core courses of the minor. Should a student identify an Iran & Persian Studies related course that is neither in the core course list below, nor the additional list on the webpage, s/he should get advance approval from the Program Committee for that course to be counted for the minor.

Total Units for Minor: Minimum 20.

Minor Courses

Core Courses in Middle East/South Asia:

MSA 100	Introduction to Middle East/South Asia Studies (4)
MSA 131A/CTS 146A	Modern Iranian Film (4)
MSA 151A	Modern Iranian Society and Culture (4)
MSA 180	Topics in Middle East/South Asia Studies (4)
MSA 181A	Topics in Regional ME/SA Studies: Iranian/Persianate Studies (4)
MSA 182A	Undergraduate Proseminar in ME/SA Studies: Iranian/Persianate Studies (4)

Core Course in Cinema & Technocultural Studies:

CTS 146A/MSA 131A	Modern Iranian Film (4)
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Core Course in Comparative Literature:

COM 155	Classical Literature of the Islamic World 600-1800 (4)
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Core Courses in History:

HIS 190D	Middle Eastern History IV: Safavid Iran, 1300-1720 (4)
HIS 193D	History of Modern Iran 1850 to Present (4)

Possible Courses by Petition if the Content is 50% or more about the Iran & Persian World in Middle East/South Asia Studies and Comparative Literature:

MSA 194H	Special Study for Honor Students (1-5)
COM 053C	Literatures of the Islamic World (3)
COM 166	Literatures of the Modern Middle East (4)

Catalogue Minor Description & Requirements

	UNITS
Iran & Persian Studies	20 – 24
Middle East/South Asia 100	4
Middle East/South Asia 180	4
Choose one from History 190 D or History 193 D	4
Choose one from MSA 181 A or MSA 182 A	4
Additional Electives from Core Course list (below)	4 - 8

Core Course List:

MSA 100. Introduction to Middle East/South Asia Studies

MSA 131A./CTS 146A. Modern Iranian Film

MSA 151A. Modern Iranian Society and Culture

MSA 180. Topics in Middle East/South Asia Studies

MSA 181A. Topics in Regional ME/SA Studies: Iranian/Persianate Studies

MSA 182A. Undergraduate Proseminar in ME/SA Studies: Iranian/Persianate Studies

COM 155. Classical Literature of the Islamic World 600-1800

CTS 146A./MSA 131A. Modern Iranian Film

HIS 190D. Middle Eastern History IV: Safavid Iran, 1300-1720

HIS 193D. History of Modern Iran 1850 to Present

Note 1:

With prior consultation with an advisor, students can petition in advance the Program Committee to accept other elective courses toward the minor program if the content is at least 50% or more on the Iranian & Persian world. Under no circumstances may more than one lower division course be offered in satisfaction of requirements for the minor.

Note 2:

With prior consultation with an advisor, students can petition the Program Committee to accept more than four units of MSA 181 A or MSA 182 A towards the minor program.

Detailed Catalogue Description of Upper Division Core Courses

Middle East/ South Asia Courses:

MSA 100. Middle East and South Asia: Comparative Perspectives (4)

Lecture—3 hours; extensive writing. Ethnographic and historical points of intersection and divergence in various aspects of the Middle East and South Asia in precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial societies. Anthropological, historical, and theoretical debates surrounding the region. GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt. AH or SS, WC, WE, MSA Faculty.

MSA 131 A./CTS 146 A. Modern Iranian Film (4)

Iranian cinema of the 20th century in the context of profound cultural and social changes in Iran especially since the Iranian Revolution. Productions by representative directors such as Kiarostami, Makhmalbaf, Bahram Beizaie are included. Knowledge of Persian not required. GE Credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt, WE, WC, OL, VL, MSA Faculty.

MSA 151 A. Modern Iranian Society and Culture (4)

In-depth investigation of modern Iranian society and culture. Exploration of structures of Iranian society: family, gender, religion, minorities, economy, politics, and state. Iran's role in the globalizing world, and the role of Iranian diasporas. Examination of approaches to the study of modern Iranian society and culture. GE Credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt, WE, WC, OL, VL, MSA Faculty.

MSA 180. Topics in Middle East and South Asia Studies (4)

Lecture—3 hours; extensive writing. Comparative perspective on the Middle East and South Asia. Topics may include modernity, religious traditions, colonialism, subalternity and social movements, gender and sexuality, history and memory, science and development, ritual and performance, public culture, diasporas. May be repeated one time for credit. GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt. AH or SS, WC, WE.—I, II, III. (I, II, III.), MSA Faculty.

MSA 181 A. Topics in Regional ME/SA Studies: Iranian/Persianate Studies (4)

Iranian/Persianate literature, history, culture, politics, religion and economy. GE credit: ArtHum or SocSci, AH or SS, WC, WE, MSA Faculty.

MSA 182 A. Undergraduate Proseminar in ME/SA Studies: Iranian/Persianate Studies (4)

Advanced topics in Iranian/Persianate literature, history, culture, politics, religion and economy.—II. (II.), MSA Faculty.

Core courses offered at UC Davis that can be used for Iran & Persian Studies Minor (C)

Comparative Literature

COM 155. Classical Literature of the Islamic World 600-1800 (4) / P

Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. Prerequisite: Subject A or consent of instructor. Major classical texts of the Islamic world with attention to intermingling of diverse cultural influences

and historical context. Includes epic, romance, lyric, mystical narrative, fairy tales, essays. Texts from Arabic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish, and Urdu literature. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt | AH, WC, WE.—(II.) Sharlet

Cinema and Technology Studies

CTS 143 A./MSA 131 A. Modern Iranian Film (4) / P

Iranian cinema of the 20th century in the context of profound cultural and social changes in Iran especially since the Iranian Revolution. Productions by representative directors such as Kiarostami, Makhmalbaf, Bahram Beizaie are included. Knowledge of Persian not required. GE Credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt, WE, WC, OL, VL, MSA Faculty.

History

HIS 190 D. Middle Eastern History IV: Safavid Iran, 1300-1720 (4) / C

Lecture—3 hours; term paper. Middle Eastern history focusing on Safavid Empire (present day Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, up to Georgia), beginning with the origins of the dynasty as a powerful religious family, to the establishment of the Empire, focusing on Social, Religious, Economic, and Political History. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt, AH or SS, WC, WE, Anooshahr.

HIS 193 D. History of Modern Iran 1850-Present (4) / C

Lecture—3 hours; term paper. Prerequisite: course 6 recommended. Modern Iran from the mid-19th century to the present. Themes include the legacy of imperialism, cultural renaissance, the World Wars, nationalism, modernization, Islamic revival, gender, revolutionary movements, politics of oil and war. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: SocSci, Div, Wrt | AH or SS, VL, WC, WE, Anooshahr.

Appendix 1

Possible Elective Courses by Petition

Petition courses offered at UC Davis that can be used for Iran & Persian Studies Minor by petition to Middle East / South Asia Program Committee if the content is at least 50% or more of the Iranian & Persian world. (P)

Comparative Literature (COM)

COM 053 C. Literatures of the Islamic World (3) / P

Lecture—2 hours; discussion—1 hour. Introduction to classical Islamic culture through translations of literature primarily from Arabic and Persian, as well as other languages. Topics include the concept of the self, society and power, spirituality, the natural world, the cosmos, and the supernatural. GE credit: AH, WC, WE.—I. Sharlet

COM 166. Literatures of the Modern Middle East (4) / P

Lecture/discussion—3 hours; term paper. Major translated works in modern Middle Eastern and North African Literature, including Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. Social and historical formation, with topics such as conflict and coexistence, journeys, and displaced people, gender and family. GE credit: ArtHum, Wrt, AH, WC, WE—I. (I.) Radwan, Sharlet

MSA 194 H. Special Study for Honors Students (1-5) / P

Prerequisite: open only to majors of senior standing who qualify for honors program; consent of instructor. Independent study of a problem in Middle East/South Asian studies involving the writing of an honors thesis.—I, II, III. (I, II, III.), MSA Faculty

Appendix 2

Faculty

Core Iran & Persian Studies Minor Faculty includes Ali Anooshahr (History), Wendy DeSouza (ME/SA – PARSA CF Visiting Lecturer in Iranian Studies), Suad Joseph (Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies), Sudipta Sen (History), Jocelyn Sharlet (Comparative Literature), and Baki Tezcan (History and Religious Studies). ME/SA Program Committee sought the input of these faculty members via e-mail and incorporated it into this proposal. The Program Committee selected Professor Anooshahr as the faculty leader for the steering of the minor.

Ali Anooshahr

Ali Anooshahr received his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles (2005). After two post-doctoral fellowships and a year teaching at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, he came to Davis in 2008 to teach comparative pre-modern Islamic history with a special focus on Indo-Persian culture. In his book and articles he has focused particularly on the transmissions of texts and individuals along networks that connected India, Iran, and the Ottoman Empire.

ME/SA Affiliated Faculty

Jamal Abedi	Professor, School of Education
Afra Afsharipour	Professor, School of Law
Ali Anooshahr	Associate Professor, History
Karima Bennoune	Professor, School of Law
David Biale	Emanuel Ringelblum Distinguished Professor, History
Anumpam Chander	Professor, School of Law
Catharine Chin	Associate Professor, Religious Studies
Elizabeth Constable	Associate Professor, Women and Gender Studies
Richard Coss	Professor, Psychology
Diana Davis	Associate Professor, History
Corrie Decker	Assistant Professor, History
Wendy DeSouza	Lecturer, History and PARSA CF Visiting Lecturer
Mark Elmore	Assistant Professor, Religious Studies
Omnia El Shakry	Associate Professor, History
Cristiana Giordano	Assistant Professor, Anthropology
Shayma Hassouna	Lecturer, Classics
Naomi Janowitz	Professor, Religious Studies
Kevin Johnson	Dean, School of Law
Suad Joseph	Distinguished Professor, Anthropology, Women and Gender Studies
Sunaina Maira	Professor, Asian American Studies
Zeev Maoz	Distinguished Professor, Political Science

Flagg Miller	Associate Professor, Religious Studies
Susan G. Miller	Professor, History
Vaidehi Ramanathan	Professor, Linguistics
Noha Radwan	Associate Professor, Comparative Literature
Lynn Roller	Professor, Art History
Parama Roy	Professor, English
Brenda Schildgen	Distinguished Professor, Comparative History
Sudipta Sen	Professor, History
Jocelyn Sharlet	Associate Professor, Comparative Literature
Smriti Srinivas	Professor, Anthropology
Teresa Steele	Associate Professor, Anthropology
Madhavi Sunder	Professor, School of Law
Baki Tezcan	Associate Professor, History/Religious Studies
Archana Venkatesan	Associate Professor, Comparative Literature/Religious Studies
Heghnar Watenpaugh	Associate Professor, Art History
Keith Watenpaugh	Associate Professor, Religious Studies

Appendix 3

Donor Development

Thanks to generous outside funding, the introduction of the Iran & Persian Minor is possible at no additional cost to the university.

- **PARSA Foundation CF Endowed Visiting Lecturer**

The PARSA Community Foundation is the first Persian community foundation in the United States and the leading Persian philanthropic institution practicing strategic philanthropy and promoting social entrepreneurship around the globe. In 2010, the UC Davis Middle East/South Asia Studies Program won a PARSA Community Foundation Endowment which, with community and UC Davis matching funds, has supported the development of a Proposal for a Minor in Iran & Persian Studies within ME/SA. To this end, the PARSA CF Endowment established the first Visiting Lecturer in Iranian Studies at UC Davis, beginning in 2011-2012. With the most recent contribution of \$ 100,000 by Ms. Bita Daryabari and a generous match from Chancellor Katehi, the endowment now has \$875,000 and will by 2014-15 fund a visiting professor to teach four courses on Iran. Prof. Suad Joseph is the PI on the grant and the lead on the project.

- **Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies (2009-2014)**

In the Spring of 2009, three Iranian-American families (Bijan and Forozan Bijan, Masud and Tehereh Monfared, Javad and Shirin Rahimian) contributed funds for a three-year lecture series: The Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, organized by ME/SA. Funding has continued through the sponsorship of Javaad and Shirin Rahimian through 2013-14. Donor development for this series continues.

- **Iranian Studies Circle (2013)**

The Iranian Studies Circle focuses on student learning and brings students and faculty together to discuss and engage topics related to Iranian students relevant in today's world. The Circle is a joint initiative by students and faculty to cultivate interest in studying contemporary and classical Persian culture, history, religion, and language through a series of presentations by various guest lecturers followed by a student led discussion. Meetings are open to all and refreshments are provided. The Iranian Studies Circle is made possible through the support of Javad and Shirin Rahimian from Sacramento.

Appendix 4

Events on Iran and Persia at University of California, Davis

Timeline of Program Developments and Academic Presentations:

- 2003 Rahimian Family approaches UC Davis about the possibility of an Endowed Chair of Iranian Studies.
- 2004 Chancellor Larry N. Vanderhoef leads the first American University delegation to Iran since the Iranian Revolution in 1979. Delegation includes Vice Provost William Lacy, Dean Enrique Lavernia, Dean Neal Van Alfen.
- 2005 Shirin Ebadi, Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner hosted by UC Davis Office of the Chancellor, Middle East/South Asia Studies Program, Office of Vice Provost for International Programs and University Outreach, and the Deans of almost all the colleges. UC Davis offers Mondavi Center for free for the event. Community contributes toward catering and cost for event. 1,800 seats filled. May.
- 2006 ME/SA Event: “Modern Iran: Film, Photography, Poetry and Nation” Symposium, with speakers: Afshin Marashi (California State University, Sacramento), Mino Moallem (University of California, Berkeley), David Yaghoubian (California State University, San Bernardino), Ali Behdad (University of California, Los Angeles). May.
- 2006 Mehringaz Kar, Scholar at Risk, hosted by UOIP.
- 2007 Azar Naficy, internationally recognized Iranian writer, hosted at Mondavi Center, co-organized by ME/SA. December.
- 2008 Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef visits Iran, second time
- 2008 Dr. Ali Anooshahr hired in the History Department, first UC Davis scholar whose research focuses on Iran
- 2008 Community & ME/SA committee organized to develop Iranian Studies within ME/SA
- 2008 Dick Davis (Ohio State University) a noted poet, is considered the greatest translator of Persian poetry. November.
- 2009 “Iranian Film Symposium: Launching Iranian Studies” Organized by ME/SA. Four classic Iranian films screened (“Where is the Friend’s House,” “Hamoun,”

- “Gabbeh,” “The Circle - Dayereh”), and panels presented. Over 250 attend. Feb.
- 2009 Hamid Dabashi (Columbia University), noted Iranian film critic, presentation on two generations of Iranian cinema. Hosted by ME/SA. March.
- 2009 Hamid Haficy (Northwestern University) noted Iranian film critic, screens film and presents talk as part of ME/SA symposium: “Culture, Politics and Performativity: Cinemas of the Middle East and South Asia.” May.
- 2009 Iran in Focus: A Forum on Current Affairs, November 2009, Guest Speakers: Bahman Fozouni, Professor & Chair, Department of Government, Director, Iranian & Middle Eastern Studies Center, California State University, Sacramento. Elham Gheytauchi, Adjunct Faculty of Sociology, Santa Monica College, Los Angeles. Nayareh Tohidi, Professor and Chair, Department of Gender & Women’s Studies, California State University, Northridge.
- 2009 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, funded for three years by contributions of three Iranian-American Sacramento families.
- 2009 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, First Public Lecture, Fall 2009, Afsaneh Najmabadi, Professor of History and of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Harvard University. Title of Talk: “Sex-in-charge: Configurations of Sexuality and Gender in Contemporary Iran.”
- 2010 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Second Public Lecture, Winter 2010, Houchang Chehabi, Professor of International Relations and History, Boston University. Title of Talk: “Naming Iranians: The Introduction of Family Names in Iran.”
- 2010 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies Third Public Lecture, Spring 2010, Ahmed Karimi-Hakkak, Professor and Founding Director of the Center for Persian Studies, University of Maryland. Title of Talk: “Interplay of Image and Idea in Persian Poetry: In Search of New Ways of Conceptualizing the Persian Literary Tradition.”
- 2010 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Second Year, First Public Lecture, Fall 2010, Touraj Daryaei, Howard Baskerville, Professor in the History of Iran and the Persianate World, University of California, Irvine. Title of Talk: “Pahlavi Text, Artifacts and Persian Culture in Late Antique Iran.”
- 2011 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Second Year, Second Public Lecture, Winter 2011, Mansour Farhang, Professor, International Relations, Bennington College. Title of Talk: “The Struggle for Democracy in Iran: Cultural Impediments of Pluralism.

- 2011 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Second Year, Third Public Lecture, Spring 2011, Kathryn Babayan, Associate Professor, History Department, University of Michigan. Title of Talk: “Friendship and the Culture of Epistolarity in Early Modern Isfahan.
- 2011 “PARSA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT” for PARSA CF Endowed Visiting Lecturer in Iran & Persian Studies. Total grant, with matching funds: \$600,000.
- 2011 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Third Year, First Public Lecture, Fall 2011, Ali Anooshahr, Associate Professor, UC Davis. Title of Talk: “Persianate Culture and India in the 16th Century.”
- 2012 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Third Year, Second Public Lecture, Winter 2012, Farzaneh Milani, Professor, Persian Literature & Women’s Studies, University of Virginia. Title of Talk: “Flight and Captivity in the Writing of Iranian Women Writers.”
- 2012 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Third Year, Third Public Lecture, Spring 2012, Ali Gheissari, Adjunct Professor: Modern World History and the Middle East, University of San Diego. Title of Talk: “Constitutional Rights Reconsidered: State and the Question of Democracy in Iran.”
- 2012 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Third Year, Fourth Public Lecture, Spring 2012, Abdulkarim Soroush, Iranian Reformer and Scholar. Visiting Professor, Stanford University. Title of Talk: “Islamic Reform: Iranian Style”.
- 2013 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Fourth Year, First Public Lecture, Winter 2013, Dominic Parviz Brookshaw, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Persian Literature, Stanford University. Title of Talk: “The Allusive Poet: Women's Poetry and the Challenges of Shifting Attribution in Qajar Iran.”
- 2013 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Fourth Year, Second Public Lecture, Winter 2013, Wendy DeSouza, PARSA CF Visiting Lecturer in Iranian Studies, University of California, Davis. Title of Talk: “Women in Conflict: Female Masculinities in Modern Iranian History.”
- 2013 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Fourth Year, Third Public Lecture, Spring 2013, Asef Bayat, Professor of Sociology and Middle East Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Title of Talk: “Revolution without Movement, Movement without Revolution—Again.”
- 2013 *Iran: Cry of an Indignant People* A Documentary Movie about Iran’s Presidential Election. Directed by Jamshid Golmakani.

- 2013 Iranian Studies Circle, First Year, First Public Lecture, Spring 2013, Professor Ali Anooshahr, Associate Professor of History, University of California, Davis. Title of Talk: "Is Shi'ism Iranian Religion?"
- 2013 Iranian Studies Circle, First Year, Second Public Lecture, Spring 2013, Persis Karim, Professor of English & Comparative Literature at San Jose State University. Title of Talk: "Charting the Landscape of Iranian American Writing: A Reading and Discussion with Editor, Writer, Persis Karim."
- 2013 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Fifth Year, First Public Lecture, Fall 2013, Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Professor of History and Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. Title of Talk: "The Cyrus Cylinder and a Trans-confessional Narrative of Iranian Civilization."
- 2014 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Fifth Year, Second Public Lecture, Winter 2014, Karima Benoune, Professor of Law at UC Davis. Title of Talk: "Sidi Bouzid Blues and the Green Wave: Journeys through the Arab Spring and Fall"
- 2014 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Fifth Year, Third Public Lecture, Spring 2014, Sunil Sharma, Chair, Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, Associate Professor of Persianate and Comparative Literature, Convener of Persian and Hindi-Urdu at Boston University. Title of Talk: "Imaging India in Safavid Isfahan."
- 2014 Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, Fifth Year, Fourth Public Lecture, Spring 2014, Janet Afary, Professor, Mellichamp Chair in Global Religion and Modernity at UC Santa Barbara. Title of Talk: Forthcoming.

Appendix 5

Institutional Developments & Faculty Initiatives

▪ **PARSA Foundation CF Endowed Visiting Lecturer**

The PARSA Community Foundation is the first Persian community foundation in the United States and the leading Persian philanthropic institution practicing strategic philanthropy and promoting social entrepreneurship around the globe. In 2010, the UC Davis Middle East/South Asia Studies Program won a PARSA Community Foundation Endowment which, with community and UC Davis matching funds, has supported the development of a proposal for a Minor in Iran & Persian Studies within ME/SA. To this end, the PARSA CF Endowment established the first Visiting Lecturer in Iranian Studies at UC Davis, beginning in 2011-2012. By 2013, the endowment had \$875,000 and will by 2014-15 fund a visiting professor to teach four courses on Iran. Prof. Suad Joseph is the PI on the grant and the lead on the project.

▪ **Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies (2009-2014)**

In the Spring of 2009, three Iranian-American families (Bijan and Forozan Bijan, Masud and Tehereh Monfared, Javad and Shirin Rahimian) contributed funds for a three-year lecture series: The Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies, organized by ME/SA. Funding has continued through the sponsorship of Javad and Shirin Rahimian through 2013-14. Donor development for this series continues.

▪ **Iranian Studies Circle (2013)**

The Iranian Studies Circle focuses on student learning and brings students and faculty together to discuss and engage topics related to Iranian students relevant in today's world. The Circle is a joint initiative by students and faculty to cultivate interest in studying contemporary and classical Persian culture, history, religion, and language through a series of presentations by various guest lecturers followed by a student led discussion. Meetings are open to all and refreshments are provided. The Iranian Studies Circle is made possible through the support of Javad and Shirin Rahimian from Sacramento.

▪ **Delegations to Iran (2004 & 2008)**

In 2004, UC Davis Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef led the first delegation of American scholars and area business people to visit Iran since 1979. The Chancellor's visit initiated a number of UC Davis scholarly engagements with leading Iranian academic institutions, including a return visit by the Chancellor in 2008 as part of a delegation of American university presidents. Where governments have failed, the university has been an essential link not only in educating future generations about Iranian culture and society but also in maintaining exchange activities that serve to promote understanding.

▪ **Middle Eastern & South Asian Campus Climate Coordinator at the Cross Cultural Center:**

The Cross Cultural Center established in 2001-2002 a new intern position entitled Middle East Interim. This new position was meant to cater to the Middle Eastern community of students on campus that had had no previous representation in the cross-cultural center. The center

originally consisted of Native American, African and African American, Chicano and Latino, and Asian and Pacific Islander interns. Together the interns offer a source of communication and a support network for one another's communities. The center also offers funding for student events and activities. The position was terminated in the Fall 2003. At the request of the Arabic Student Union, the Muslim Student Association, and the Students for Justice in Palestine, the Chancellor Provost & Dean has funded a new intern at the Cross Cultural Center beginning in Fall 2012 under the title Middle Eastern & South Asian Campus Climate Coordinator.

▪ **Association for Middle Eastern Anthropology**

The Association for Middle East Anthropology was founded in 2012. It was inspired by the first ever Anthropology mini-conference within the Middle East Studies Association co-organized by Prof. Suad Joseph. It organizes panels and events for anthropologists within the annual MESA meeting. Joseph is a founding Board member.

▪ **Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (EWIC)**

Prof. Suad Joseph is General Editor of the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (Brill Publishing). The EWIC, housed at UC Davis, the first of its kind on women of the Muslim world. EWIC has published six print volumes and eight online supplements between 2003-2013. It has over 1,000 authors, 1,500 articles, 4,000,000 words and covers 440 topics on all societies in which Muslims have a significant population from the rise of Islam to the present, all over the world. It has offices on campus and has provided research assistant positions and intern position and publishing opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students. It is funded by Brill, Ford Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation and UC Davis (over \$1 million in grant funds raised). (<http://sjoseph.ucdavis.edu/ewic>)

▪ **Association for Middle East Women Studies (AMEWS)**

The Association for Middle East Women Studies was founded in 1985 by Suad Joseph. It was housed at UC Davis while Prof. Joseph was the founding President. It is the largest professional organization for scholars studying Middle East women and meets in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association. AMEWS produces the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies, the leading journal in the field, published by Indiana University Press.

Appendix 6

CCC Intern and ME/SA SAO

- **Middle Eastern & South Asian Campus Climate Coordinator at the Cross Cultural Center:**

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At the request of the Arabic Student Union, the Muslim Student Association, and the Students for Justice in Palestine, the Chancellor Provost & Dean has funded a new intern at the Cross Cultural Center beginning in Fall 2012 under the title Middle Eastern & South Asian Campus Climate Coordinator.

- **Middle Eastern and South Asian Student Affairs Officer**

The position supports students within the ME/SA program and students of Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian descent across the campus with a holistic approach to advising that takes into account their special needs, and social, cultural, and political stresses. The SAO attends student events and meetings and provides program advising. She/he helps create programming and events for students around academic success, leadership development and special events; while working with students and campus partners, such as the Center for Student Involvement, the Cross Cultural Center, the Women's Resources and Research Center, and the LGBTIA Resource Center. The SAO is sitting at various tables advocating for ME/SA students and their needs.

She/he teaches and facilitates seminars on academic success and retention that are relevant for ME/SA communities, and works on various future projects, such as: a ME/SA component within the Student Recruitment and Retention Center, a ME/SA Academic Themed Program floor in Student Housing, a halal option in some of the campus dining commons, a UCD ME/SA alumni network, a ME/SA mentorship program of graduate & professional students and undergraduates, and a ME/SA Community Advising Network Counselor for mental health care.

Appendix 7

Student and Community Work

▪ **Highlights of Student Activities and Events 2012-2013:**

- Afghan Student Association (ASA)
 - Afghan Awareness Week (Spring Quarters 2001-2013)
 - Poetry Nights (Shab-e Sher), together with ISCAO (Winter 2013)
 - 5th Annual 'Etehad' Banquet (Spring 2013)
 - "Kites for a Kause" Charity Event (Spring 2013)
- Iranian Students Cultural and Aesthetic Organization (ISCAO)
 - Fall Formal (Fall 2012)
 - Film Screening – Director Saadat Abad (Fall 2012)
 - Poetry Nights (Shab-e Sher), together with ASA (Winter 2013)
 - Ski Trip (Spring 2013)
 - Norouz Banquet (Spring 2013)
 - Spring Formal
 - Hokm Card Game Night (Spring 2013)
 - Poetry Nights (Shab-e Sher) (Spring 2013)
 - Shab-e-Yalda Ceremony (annually in the Fall)
- Iranian Student Association at UC Davis (Sedad)
 - Yalda night ceremony (Winter 2012)
 - 4Shanbe-Soori, celebration of earth's rebirth and end of winter (ancient Persian culture) (Winter 2012)
 - 13-Bedar Cultural event (Spring 2013)
 - An Intro to Iranian Cinema -- Bi-weekly movie nights (since Winter 2012)
 - Co-sponsoring and promoting Iran & Persian Studies Circle's events (Spring 2013)
- ME/SA Culture Week and Community Summit: quad-kick off, open-faith dialogue, poetry night, discussion of contemporary issues, workshops, team-building exercises, self-reflection, project diaries, Shab-E-Sher, (Spring 2013)
- HAFLA/MELA student accomplishment celebration (Spring 2013)
- *Iran: Cry of an Indignant People; The Glass House* Film Screenings (Spring 2013)

- **Student Organizations and Coalitions:**

The Afghan Sponsorship Foundation (ASF)

“The Afghan Sponsorship Foundation (ASF) is a nonprofit organization committed to reaching out to the poverty stricken communities of Afghanistan. ASF strives to aid these communities via specific sponsorship programs. As the UC Davis chapter of this foundation, our goal is to help aid ASF through fundraising, networking and raising awareness. We find it vital that we educate the students of UC Davis about the issues that the poor Afghan civilians face and the difference ASF can make, and is making, in Afghanistan.” (<http://csi.ucdavis.edu/find-a-student-org/>; 16 October 2013)

The Afghan Student Association (ASA)

“The Afghan Student Association (ASA) intends to promote awareness, tolerance, and peace in issues relating to Afghanistan in UC Davis and the surrounding communities. ASA recognizes that the gateway to achieving the ultimate goal of peace resides in knowledge and understanding. It is for this reason that the ASA's mission includes promoting an understanding of Afghan religion, culture, and politics.”

(<http://csi.ucdavis.edu/find-a-student-org/>; 16 October 2013)

International Students Club

“International Students Club aims to: * Strengthen relations among International students in UC Davis, * Assist incoming International students with their transition to the American culture, * Welcome any individual who's interested in cross-culture communication, * Organize academic, holistic and social events for International students on campus, * To work side-by-side with the SISS * Share our cultures and study abroad experience with others and, * Provide social and emotional support for International students and cultivate long lasting friendships. *Advocate for all international students at UC Davis” (<http://csi.ucdavis.edu/find-a-student-org/>; 16 October 2013)

Iranian Student Association at UC Davis (Sedad)

“Sedad was first founded in 1970’s and included a large number of active Iranian students who chose to study at University of California in Davis. Sedad involved in numerous cultural activities and community services and worked hard to make sure all its members proudly enjoy their moments of being Iranian while they are thousands of miles away from home. After almost two decades, Iranians have again become one of the largest international communities in Davis. This community includes many UCD Alumni and Davis residents, numerous graduate students & post doctorates and a large number of undergraduate students. The larger the community the more the need of having coordinating clubs and associations in order to bring the people together and make sure in addressing all their demands. In 2012 a number of graduate students decided to start up a new organization in order to help two current Iranian Associations in providing valuable and desirable community services. While doing the feasibility studies they found out about the historic organization their parents used to have in the older days and decided to honor and build upon their historic resources. We are now proud say that Sedad has been reactivated after all these years and will honorably continue to serve the Iranian community in Davis”

(<http://csi.ucdavis.edu/find-a-student-org/>; 16 October 2013)

Iranian Student Cultural and Aesthetic Organization (ISCAO)

“The Iranian Student Cultural & Aesthetic Organization (ISCAO) is a student club at the University of California-Davis that steadily works toward creating a united Persian community, on and off the UC Davis campus. We, as a group of Iranian students, founded the organization because assimilation in a foreign land was leading to a loss of heritage. The primary goal of ISCAO is to educate everyone, including ourselves, about the Persian culture, its practices, and its illustrious history. With the cooperation of various student organizations and surrounding Persian communities, we hope to achieve our goal through the following activities:

- *Iranian dance classes and groups, incl. Yalda Band
- *Producing cultural celebrations in honor of Persian holidays
- *Inviting guest lecturers to the UC Davis campus
- *Showing Iranian motion pictures & documentaries
- *Instituting Farsi classes

(<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Iranian-Student-Cultural-Aesthetic-Organization-ISCAO/153366951403264?id=153366951403264&sk=info>; 16 October 2013

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Yalda-music-band/268191543247972>; 30 October 2013)

Jadoo Band

An Iranian band of UC Davis undergraduate and graduate students who have been performing at various ME/SA events.

(<https://www.facebook.com/WeareJADOO>; 30 October 2013)

Muslim Law Student Association (MLSA)

“The Muslim Law Students Association is a student-run organization aimed to provide an accessible resource to UC Davis students and faculty on Islam and Muslims in order to educate and promote tolerance and understanding on campus and the greater community. The MLSA seeks to establish a strong student network that provides academic support, and to develop a network of UC Davis alumni to facilitate and furnish summer and post graduate opportunities for our members.” (<http://csi.ucdavis.edu/find-a-student-org/> 14. October 2013)

Muslim Student Association

“The Muslim Student Association at the University of California Davis is a student group united for the sake of God. The mission of the MSA is to create an avenue for Muslim students to meet, exchange ideas, debunk misconceptions, and work to understand and disseminate the true message of Islam as in accordance with the Quran and the life of the Prophet Muhammad. The club is open to members of all religions.” (<http://csi.ucdavis.edu/find-a-student-org/>; 14 October 2013)

Appendix 8

Language Program

- **Language Program**

There has been a strong interest in the community of Davis and amongst students in Farsi/Persian instruction. We have a long-term interest in developing Farsi classes on campus, but currently Farsi classes are not part of the minor proposal.

Meanwhile, various institutions in the area are offering classes that UC Davis students can take outside the university:

Los Rios Community College District, Sacramento

(<http://wserver.scc.losrios.edu/~humarts/languages/#farsi>; 30 October 2013)

Farsi Language Learning Center, Non-Profit Organization, Sacramento

(<http://farsilanguagelearningcenter.org/about/>; 30 October 2013)

San Francisco State University, San Francisco

(http://www.sfsu.edu/~bulletin/courses/prsn_details.htm; 30 October 2013)

University of California, Berkeley, Near Eastern Studies Center

(<http://nes.berkeley.edu/currentcourses.html#6>; 30 October 2013)

Appendix 9

Nationwide Programs in Iran & Persian Studies

Columbia University

Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies offers a Major and a Concentration for undergraduates, and Master's and PhD programs in MESAAS for graduate students.

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/>

Emory University

The Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies offers a Minor in Persian Language and Literature.

http://college.emory.edu/home/academic/program/department/middle_eastern_south_asian.html

Ohio State University

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures offers a Minor in Persian.

<http://nelc.osu.edu>

Harvard University

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies has undergraduate, Master's in Regional Studies-Middle East, and PhD programs. Their Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization allows students to study ancient Iranian traditions, etc.

<http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu/about>

New York University

NYU offers an undergraduate major and minor, MA and PhD program in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

<http://meis.as.nyu.edu/page/home>

San Francisco State University

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures offers a Minor in Persian Studies.

<http://persian.sfsu.edu>

Stanford University

The Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies offers an Undergraduate Certificate in Iranian Studies.

<http://iranian-studies.stanford.edu>

University of Arizona

The School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies offers a BA in Middle Eastern & North African Studies with a Languages and Cultures – Persian Track, and a MA and PhD in Middle Eastern and North African Studies with a Persian Literature or other Concentration.

<http://menas.arizona.edu>

University of California, Berkeley

The Near Eastern Studies Department offers a BA in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, Persian Emphasis; and a MA and Phd in Persian Languages and Literatures and in Old Iranian Studies.

<http://nes.berkeley.edu>

University of California, Irvine

The Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture offers various courses through other departments, but no degree program.

<http://www.humanities.uci.edu/persianstudies/about/index.php>

University of California, Los Angeles

The Iranian Studies Program in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures offers a BA, MA, and PhD in Iranian Studies.

<http://www.nelc.ucla.edu>

University of Maryland

The School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures offers a BA in Persian Studies. The university also houses the Roshan Center for Persian Studies.

<http://sllc.umd.edu/persian>

University of Michigan

The university offers major, minor concentrations, and MA and PhD programs through its interdisciplinary Near Eastern Studies Program and its Middle Eastern and North African Studies Program.

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/neareast/>

<http://www.ii.umich.edu/cmenas/>

University of Texas

The university offers BA, MA, and PhD programs through its interdisciplinary Middle Eastern Studies program.

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/mes/>

University of Utah

The Department of Languages and Literature offers a BA in Middle East Studies: Persian Track
The Middle East Center offers an MA in Middle East Studies: Persian.

<http://www.mec.utah.edu>

Washington University of St. Louis

The Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures offers a BA in Persian Studies.

<http://jinelc.wustl.edu/undergraduate>