

**Second International Conference of the Association for the Study of  
Persianate Societies: *Society, History, and Culture in the Persianate  
World*" (Yerevan, April 2-5, 2004)**

**Program Description and Financial Report:**

The conference opened with the unveiling of a statue of Omar Khayyam, created by an Iranian sculptor, in the main office of the Department of Iranian languages and Culture at Yerevan University. Brief opening speeches by Dr. R. Martirosian, Rector of Yerevan State University, Dr Garnik Asatrian, the conference organizer in Yerevan, and myself in my capacity as President of ASPS, and a keynote address by Dr Boghos Levon Zekiyan, University Ca' Foscari, Venice, completed the ceremonial part. OSI was singled out for special thanks several times during the various opening speeches, and as part of my closing address. As the conference program that I sent you shortly after the meeting indicates, the topics presented covered a range of subjects, from folklore and pre-Islamic history and culture, to Sufism in Central Asia and other aspects of the Islamic religion, from relations between Armenia and Iran to urban planning in modern Tehran. Dr Garnik and his staff, the local representatives, did an outstanding job of coördinating the conference, providing and organizing transportation, food, and various excursions.

The conference was covered by the Armenian media. A TV interview in English and Armenian took place on the first day of conference, and the event was written up in the Armenian *Izvestia* Newspaper as well. Fuller coverage of the convention, including a number of pictures, can be found at the Nouruz/Spring 2004 ASPS *Newsletter* at the ASPS <persiansocieties@uchicago.edu>.

The comments the organizers received from various participants during and after the conference confirm me in my opinion that the Yerevan meeting was a great success in allowing people to come from far and wide to meet and exchange views with colleagues from any different countries and backgrounds. Our Iranian colleagues, some of whom had not been in a position to interact with foreign scholars for quite a while, were especially appreciative of the opportunity. The same is true for scholars from Tajikistan and Georgia, who ordinarily do not have the financial means to travel and participate in scholarly gatherings. But colleagues from Western countries have expressed their enthusiasm about conference and the contacts they've made during their stay in Yerevan as well. It is, in sum, abundantly clear that the conference has lived up to its promise of bringing people together around the theme of Iran and the Persian-speaking world in the broadest sense of the word.

Appendix:

Countries represented at the Yerevan meeting:

Armenia	Israel
Canada	Italy
Denmark	The Netherlands
France	Poland
Georgia	Russia
Germany	Tajikistan
India	Turkey
Iran	United Kingdom
Israel	United States

Financial Report on Grant Number 20011679 (Open Society Institute).

Airfare for 2 Polish participants	816
Airfare for 3 Russian participants	800
Airfare and visa for Indian participant	1039
Airfare subsidy for Israeli participant:	240
Airfare subsidy for British participant	260
Airfare and ground transportation for 6 Tajik participants	4973
Airfare subsidy for 2 Turkish participants	460
Travel expenses for the Georgian delegation (8)	290

Travel subsidies for U.S. participants (S. A. Arjomand, A. Hunsberger, R. Matthee, J. Perry)	3630
Five nights lodging for 90 participants @ \$30 per night/person	13500
Food	5000
No institutional overhead	----
Total:	\$31,008

Respectfully submitted,

Rudi Matthee

President ASPS

Second Biennial Convention on Iranian Studies  
Association for  
the Study of Persianate  
Societies

25 APRIL, 2004, YEREVAN, ARMENIA

SOCIETY, HISTORY  
AND  
CULTURE  
IN THE PERSIANATE  
WORLD

P R O G R A M M E

YEREVAN 2004

**Friday, April 2**

**Day I**

**Registration:**  
9:00-16:00

**Welcoming Reception:**  
16:00- 17:00

*(Firdawsi Hall, Dept. of Iranian Studies,  
Yerevan State University)*

**OPENING ADDRESS**     **Garnik Asatrian** (Chair, Dept. of  
Iranian Studies, YSU): 16:00-16:15

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS** **Rudolph Matthee** (President, ASPS):  
16:15-16:30

**WELCOMING SPEECH**     **Radik Martirosian** (Rector, Yerevan  
State University):     16:30-16:40

**WELCOMING SPEECHES** by the Ambassadors and officials  
16:40-17:00

**KEYNOTE SPEECH**     **Boghos Levon Zekyan:** *The Iranian  
Oikumene and Armenia* (Univ. Ca'  
Foscari, Venice)     17:15-18:00

**WELCOMING PARTY 19:30-24:00**  
**(“NOR DZORABERD” RESTAURANT)**

## Saturday, April 3

### Day II: Morning

#### 1. URBAN REALITIES AND URBAN KNOWLEDGE IN CONTEMPORARY IRAN

(Erkanian Hall, YSU)

Chair: *Gholam-Abbas Tavassoli*; Co-Chair: *Renata Rusek*

##### **Kian Tajbakhsh**, *Cultural Research Bureau, Iran:*

Urban Journals and Publications in Iran after Khatami

##### **Azam Khatam**, *Tehran:*

Anti-Urban Thinking in Social Discourse in Iran

##### **Javad Alavi**, *Azad University, Tehran:*

The Figure of the "Urban" in Contemporary Literature

##### **Gholamreza Kazemian:**

An Analysis of Dominant Perspectives within  
Urban Management in Iran

#### 2. SAFAVID AND MUGHAL HISTORY

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

Chair: *Rudi Matthee*; Co-Chair: *R. Mukminova*

##### **Said Amir Arjomand**, *SUNY, Stony Brook:*

The Rise of Shah Isma'il as a Mahdist Revolution

##### **Colin P. Mitchell**, *Dalhousie Univ. Halifax, Ca:*

Chancery Dynamics under Shah Khodabandeh (1578-1589)

##### **A. Husain**, *Aligarh Muslim University, India:*

Iranian Immigrants during the Reign of Akbar

#### 3. LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN PRESENT-DAY AFGHANISTAN

(Erkanian Hall, YSU)

Chair: *K. K. Trivedi*; Co-Chair: *Barat Dehmandeh*

##### **Guisso Jahangiri**, *Paris:*

Women, Literature and War

##### **Latif Pedram**, *Paris:*

Linguistic and Literary Resistance in Afghanistan

##### **Abdollah Kheshtmand**, *Paris:*

Minorities and Language: The Case of the Hazara

#### 4. GEORGIA AND IRAN

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

Chair: *Boghos Levon Zekiyani*; Co-Chair: *Irene Nachkebia*

##### **Grigol Beradze**, *Inst. of Oriental Studies, Tbilisi:*

17th-Century Persian Chronograms related to Georgia

##### **Tamaz Abashidze**, *Inst. of Oriental Studies, Tbilisi:*

Georgian Bilingual Documents of the 16th-18th Centuries

##### **Khatuna Todua**, *Inst. of Oriental Studies, Tbilisi:*

Common Origins of Iranian and Georgian Hero Epics

### Day II: Afternoon

#### 5. ARMENIA AND IRAN

(Erkanian Hall, YSU)

Chair: *Grigol Beradze*; Co-Chair: *Arthur Hambarsumian*

##### **Hamlet Petrosyan**, *Acad. of Sciences of Armenia:*

Armenian and Persian Perceptions of the

Transience of Earthly Gardens

##### **Anna Krasnowolska**, *Jagiellonian Univ., Krakow:*

Familiar Strangers: Armenians in Modern Iranian Literature

**Gholam-Abbas Tavassoli, Univ. of Tehran:**

The Emigration of Iranian Armenians after 1979

**Ludwig Paul, Univ. Halle, Germany:**

F. C. Andreas and the History of Iranian Studies in Germany

**6. PRE-ISLAMIC IRANIAN CULTURE**

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

Chair: *Vladimir Livshits*; Co-Chair: *Mahmoodi Bakhtitari*

**Giusto Traina, University of Lecce, Italy:**

Rome, Iran and Armenia in 428 A.D.: A Global Perspective

**Matteo Compareti, University of Naples, Italy:**

A Possible Sasanian Textile Fragment in the Benaki Museum

**A. Zhamkochyan and N. Hagopyan, Inst. for Archeology,**

*Armenia* Sasanian Seals and Sealings from Armenia

**Jahanshah Derakhshani, Univ. of Tehran:**

Earliest Traces of the Iranian People

**7. PRE-ISLAMIC IRANIAN TRADITIONS**

(Erkanean Hall, YSU)

Chair: *Philip Kreyenbroek*; Co-Chair: *Mohammad Reza Parhizgar*

**Albert De Jong, Univ. Leiden, Netherlands:**

Zoroastrians in Baghdad: Evidence from Pahlavi and Arabic Texts

**S. Alam, Patna Univ., India:**

Zoroastrian Culture and Indian Brahmins

**Arthur Hambartsumian, St. Petersburg:**

On Zarer's Name and "the Fortress of Zarer"

**A. Esmailpour, Shahid Beheshti Univ., Iran:**

Gods and Goddesses in *Kitab al-Rad al-Zandi al-La'in*

*Ibn Muqaffa'*

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**8. KURDISH AND YEZIDI ORAL AND TEXTUAL TRADITIONS**

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

Chair: *Garnik Asatryan*; Co-Chair: *Habib Borjian*

**Sa'ïd Valadbeigi, Tehran:**

Iranian Music and Its Mythical Foundations

**Philip Kreyenbroek, Univ. of Göttingen:**

History in an Oral Environment: the Concept of History in Traditional Yezidi Texts

**Christine Allison, INALCO, Paris:**

Kurdish Autobiography: from Erebe Shemo to Ahmad Bamami

**Victoria Arakelova, Yerevan State Univ.:**

Sultan Ezid in the Yezidi Religion: Genesis of the Character

**VISIT TO ARMENIAN HELLENISTIC TEMPLE AND**

**CHRISTIAN MONASTERY GEGHARD - RECEPTION**

**Sunday, April 4**

**Day III: Morning**

**9. FOLKLORE I**

(Erkanean Hall, YSU)

Chair: *John Perry*; Co-Chair: *Vahe Boyajian*

**John Perry, Univ. of Chicago:**

Turandot and the Function of Riddles

**Sayfiddin Mirzoev, Dushanbe, Tajikistan:**

"Āl" in the Imagination of the Yaghnob People

**Mehran Afshari, Islamic Encyclopaedia, Iran:**

Javanmard-e Qassab: His Life and Background

**Mushegh Asatryan, Yerevan State Univ.:**

The Peacock in the *Nahj ul-Balagha* and in

Near Eastern Traditions

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## 10. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL TRADE

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

Chair: *Hatim Muhammad*; Co-Chair: *Colin Mitchell*

- G. A. Agzamova, Tashkent, Uzbekistan:**  
Trade Relations between the Bukharan Emirate and Iran  
in the Early 19th Century
- Audrey Burton, Univ. of Leeds:**  
Rhubarb: The Medieval Money-Spinner
- R. G. Mukminova, Tashkent, Uzbekistan:**  
The Development of Trade Relations between  
Uzbekistan and the Near East, 15th-17th Centuries
- Mehdi Parviz Amineh, Univ. of Leiden:**  
The Global Trade System and the Safavids in the  
16th Century

## 11. MEDIEVAL HISTORY (2 hours and 30 minutes)

(Erkanian Hall, YSU)

Chair: *Said Amir Arjomand*; Co-Chair: *Giusto Traina*

- Hatim Mahamad, Tel Aviv, Israel:**  
Persians in Fatimid Egypt
- Sara Nur Yildiz, Istanbul, Turkey:**  
Political Structures and the Exercise of  
Power in 13th-C. Seljuk Anatolia
- Barat Dehmardeh, Sistan Univ, Zahedan, Iran:**  
Why and How did the Rulers of Sistan Forge their Lineage?
- K. K. Trivedi, Jawaharlal Nehru Univ., Delhi:**  
Iqta: Mainstay of the Sultanate  
Administration and its Achilles' Heel
- Andrew Peacock, British Inst. of Arch., Ankara:**  
Persian Sources for the Medieval History of  
Eastern Anatolia and the Caucasus

## 12. SOCIETY AND FAMILY

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

Chair: *Jo-Ann Gross*; Co-Chair: *Albert de Jong*

- Nafisa Abd el-Sadek, Univ. of Edinburgh:**  
Persianate Children's Literature
- Sekandar Amanolahi, Shiraz University:**  
Ethnic Variation in Iran
- Hossein Godazgar, Univ. of Tabriz, Iran:**  
Comparative Study of Identity among Iranian, Armenian,  
Kurdish and Turkish Female Children

## Day III: Afternoon

## 13. NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH-CENTURY HISTORY

(Erkanian Hall, YSU)

Chair: *Guissou Jahangiri*; Co-Chair: *Tamaz Abashidze*

- Irène Nachkebia, Oriental Inst., Tbilisi:**  
Diplomatic Relations between France and Persia:  
A report by Mir Davud Zador (1816)
- Habib Borjian, Dept. of Ir. St., YSU:**  
'Abd al-Ra'uf Fitrat Bukhari and His Persian  
Literary Heritage
- Hossein Abadian, Univ. of Qazvin, Iran:**  
The Role of Armenians in the Constitutional Revolution
- Mirjam Künkler, Columbia Univ.:**  
From Aql via Velayat to Shura? Four Islamic discourses in  
the Quest for the Role of Religion in Modern Iran

## 14. SUEFI COMMUNITIES AND SHRINES

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

Chair: *Harry Norris*; Co-Chair: *Victoria Arakelova*



**Jo-Ann Gross, the College of New Jersey:**  
Shrines and Sufi Circles in 14th-15th Century Khuttalan,  
Chaghanian and Hisar

**Hamza Kamal, Dushanbe, Tajikistan:**  
Shrines and Pilgrimages in Tajikistan

**M. B. Kamaleddin, the Nar University:**  
Language of the People of the Heart

**I. A. Zilli, Alighar Univ., India:**  
Central Organization and Succession among  
Early Chishtis in India

**15. WORKSHOP: VIRTUAL MIDDLE EAST LIBRARY  
PROJECT OF HALLE UNIVERSITY (1 hour)**

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

**Kamran Arjomand, University of Halle**

**16. MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF REGIONAL  
COUNCILS (1 hour; closed session)**

(F.C. Andreas Auditorium, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

**17. COMPARATIVE ISSUES IN ART AND ARCHITECTURE**

(Erkanian Hall, YSU)

Chair: **Raisa Amirbekian**; Co-Chair: **Mariam Gvelesiani**

**Eliso Akhvediani, Georgia:**

Some Parallels between Iranian and Iberian Architecture

**Seda Devejian, Nat. Acad. Of Science, Armenia:**

Armenian-Iranian Cultural Links according to Excavated  
Materials of Lori Berd (IX-VI C. B.C.)

**Frina Babayan, Nat. Acad. Of Science, Armenia:**

Armenian Iranian Analogies in Medieval Applied Art

**VISIT TO A YEZIDI SPRING CAMP (Wârê Zêrê)**

**RECEPTION**

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**Monday, April 5**

**Day IV: Morning**

**18. FOLKLORE II**

(Erkanian Hall, YSU)

Chair: **Sekandar Amanolahi**; Co-Chair: **Yardan Voskanian**

**Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson, U. of Minn., Duluth:**

A Comparison of Different Versions of the Hoseyn-e Kord  
**Ravshan Rahmonov, Tajikistan:**

Prayer in the Social Life of the Tajik People

**Vahe Boyajian, Univ. of Yerevan, Armenia:**

Folk Beliefs in Baluchistan

**Askar Bahrami, Islamic Encyclopedia, Iran:**

Culture of Names among the Bakhtiyari

**19. REPRESENTATIONS IN ART AND LITERATURE**

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St, YSU)

Chair: **Kourosh Kamali**; Co-Chair: **Hamza Kamol**

**Mohammad Reza Parhizgar, Shiraz Univ.:**

The Silent Language of Time and Space:

A Cross-cultural Study

**Firuz A. Abdullaeva, St. Petersburg:**

The Evolution of the Representation of the Divine in the

Art of the Persian Book

**Alice C. Hunsberger, Hunter College, New York:**

Not the Same Old Love Story:

The Bliss of Jalal and Jamal

**Raisa Amerbekyan, Yerevan Univ.:**

Qajar Portraiture during the Reign of Nasir al-Din Qajar

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## 20. RELIGION AND RITUAL

(Erkanean Hall, YSU)

Chair: *Alice Hunsberger*, Co-Chair: *Firuza Abdullaeva*

**Renata Rusek**, *Jagiellonian Univ., Krakow*:

The Defense of Iblis in

Eyn al-Qozat Hamadani (1096/98-1031)

**Fereyduñ Vahman**, *Copenhagen, Denmark*:

Some Remarks on the Continuity of Cult in Iran

**Mariam Gvelesiani**, *Art Museum Georgia*:

Georgian, Iranian and Armenian Religious Interrelations

## 21. LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St., YSU)

Chair: *Anna Krasnowolska*, Co-Chair: *Nafisa Abdel-Sadek*

**M. Borjian-Mohammadi**, *Hunter College*:

Bilingualism in Mazandaran

**Vardan Voskanian**, *Yerevan State Univ.*:

A Newly Found Persian Dialect in Turkey

**Antje Wendtland**, *Univ of Göttingen, Germany*:

Gender-specific Differences in Pamir Languages

## Day IV: Afternoon

## 22. IRANO-ARMENICA

(Erkanean Hall, YSU)

Chair: *Jahanshah Derakshani*; Co-Chair: *Antje Wendtland*

**Vladimir A. Livshits**, *Inst. of Oriental St., St. Petersburg*:

Parthian Elements in Armenian

**Tork Dalalyan**, *Yerevan State Univ.*:

Armenian Loanwords in Ossetic

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**Moh. Malek Mohammadi**, *Yerevan State Univ.*:

Iranian Religious Terms in Eznik Koghbat's

"Yeghts Aghandots"

**B. Mahmoodi-Bakhtiari**, *Greater Islamic Enc.*:

"Wind" in the (West) Iranian Languages and Dialects

PRESENTATION: "IRAN AND THE CAUCASUS"

(F.C. Andreas Auditorium, Dept. Ir. St., YSU)

## 23. COMPARATIVE IRANIAN LINGUISTICS

(Firdowsi Hall, Dept. Ir. St., YSU)

Chair: *Fereyduñ Vahman*; Co-Chair: *Ludwig Paul*

**Bahreiddin Aliev**, *Rudaki Institute, Dushanbe*:

Sogdian Toponyms and their Meaning in the

Zaravshan Valley of Tajikistan

**H. Rezaï Baghbidi**, *Iranian Acad. Of Lang. and Lit.*:

Linguistic Peculiarities of the Oldest

Persian Texts in Non-Arabic Scripts

**Hasmik Kirakosyan**, *Yerevan, Armenia*:

The Common Characteristics of the

Textual Attestations of Azeri Language

## 24. REGIONS AND INTER-REGIONAL CONTACTS IN THE PER-

SIANATE WORLD (2 hours and 30 minutes)

(Erkanean Hall, YSU)

Chair: *I. A. Zilli*; Co-Chair: *S. Alam*

**S. H. Mahmud**, *Univ. of Baroda, India*:

Islamicization in Medieval Gujarat:

A Study of the Ismaili Communities

**M. Aki**, *Almaty, Kazakhstan*:

Persian-speaking Jewish Communities in the Caucasus,

Central Asia and China

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**M. Haidar, Aligarh Univ. India:**

Iran and Central Asia: Economic and  
Cultural Linkages and Interactions

**Kourosh Kamali, Fars-shenasi Foundation:**

Developing Relations Cultural among Persianate Societies

**Mattoo, Kashmir Univ., India:**

Kashmir the *Iran-i Saghir* of the Middle Ages

**CLOSING CEREMONY**

**RECEPTION**