

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg



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Lehrstuhl Iranistik:
Sprachen, Geschichte und
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Letter of Recommendation

August 12, 2024

Ihr Zeichen

Dear Search Committee,

Unser Zeichen

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of Dr. Christine Kämpfer. I first met Christine 15 years ago as an undergraduate student at the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies of Marburg University. I followed her academic path as a graduate student in Iranian Studies and supervised her doctoral thesis at the University of Bamberg, where she currently holds a position as Assistant Professor (Akademische Rätin a.Z.) without tenure-track.

Christine is among the very few researchers in Europe, whose work specializes on classical Persian literature. In her dissertation, she examined the role of the 14th century poet Khvaju Kermani's romance *Humay-u Humayun* in transmitting and innovating the Persian literary tradition. For long, Khvaju had the reputation of being a minor poet in the shadow of Nizami and his literary oeuvre has not received the attention it deserved. Christine's research opens up completely new perspectives in the field of classical Persian literature and sheds light on the features of post-Mongol epic poetry in Persianate literary history. Her research has laid the groundwork for a new view on post-Mongol literary production and the practice of *khamse* poetry, which will certainly leave a lasting imprint in the field.

The dissertation is currently under preparation for publication as a monograph. Christine presented her PhD research on various international conferences and workshops; she also published excerpts in collected volumes. For a research stay in Tehran in 2015, she successfully applied for a scholarship from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), the largest funding organization for the international exchange of students and scholars in Germany.

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During her time as a doctoral candidate, Christine worked as a research associate in the project *The Travels of Botanist Carl Haussknecht (1838-1903) to the Ottoman Empire and Persia (1865 and 1866-1869). The Annotated Digital Edition of his Diaries*, an interdisciplinary collaboration between the University of Jena, the University of Halle, the University of Marburg and the University of Bamberg. Within the project's framework, Christine developed an additional research competence in the field of Qajar Studies and the travel literature of the era of Naser al-Din Shah. She presented this project's research as well in international conferences and workshops and took part in publication activities to enhance its visibility.


Christine studied in Iran for a total of about one and a half years and is fluent in Persian. She has also pursued professional training in the field of Islamic manuscript studies, an indispensable skill when dealing with classical Persian texts.

In her research endeavors, Christine is particularly drawn to areas that have received scant attention from researchers thus far, such as *saqinameh* poetry. The *saqinameh* has received little attention in Persianate literary research, a comprehensive monograph is a high desideratum. Christine adopts a novel approach by viewing *saqinameh* poetry as an harbinger of Persianate modernity, a medium that evolves to become a more personal and subjective form of expression. Notably, her research examines the role of *tazkereh* works in this process, utilizing both intrinsic and contemporary sources to trace the development of the form. Christine's contributions to the study of Indo-Persian literature will not only deepen our understanding of this complex and rich field, but also challenge our preconceived notions of literary modernity within the Persianate sphere.

As assistant professor in the department of Iranian Studies, Christine's teaching responsibilities include courses on Persian literature, religion, the history of the Islamic Republic and advanced language instruction. Furthermore, she organizes the research colloquium for our graduate students. Besides her regular teaching duties, she served as a secondary supervisor for three master's theses and took on the role of primary supervisor for a bachelor's thesis during the past year.

She is strongly committed to teaching and participated voluntarily in the network of higher education university teaching training, obtaining the Basic Level of Certificate for Teaching in Higher Education of the Bavarian Universities in 2022 and the Advanced Level Certificate in 2024.

In sum, I give Christine my unqualified recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should require any additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ch. Werner'.

Prof. Dr. Christoph U. Werner
