

Mostafa Abedinifard

(Tenure-Track) **Assistant Professor of Modern Persian Literature and Culture**
Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia

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Current Position

2018–2021	(tenure-track) Assistant Professor of Modern Persian Literature and Culture, Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia
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[2018-present Organizer & Moderator: [Alireza Ahmadian Lectures in Iranian & Persianate Studies](#). More than 50 lectures organized and moderated so far.]

Education

2015	PhD, Comparative Literature. University of Alberta, Canada
2005	MA, English Literature. Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran
2002	BA, English Language and Literature. Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran

Previous Academic Employment

2018–2022	Assistant Professor Without Review of Persian Literary Culture and Civilization, Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia
2017–2018	SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Near and Middle East Civilizations, University of Toronto (Won for two years: 2017–2019)
2014–2017	Instructor, English Department, MacEwan University
2011&2014	Instructor, Comparative Literature, University of Alberta
2009–2010	Instructor, English Department, MacEwan University

Recent Research Funding Awarded

2022–2023	The UBC Work Learn International Undergraduate Research Awards. One award (\$4,200) at UBC for hiring an Undergraduate Student to assist with the organization of the Alireza Ahmadian Lectures in Iranian and Persianate Studies.
2021–2022	Two IWULA awards (\$16,000 in total) at UBC for advancing translation (from

Turkish, Urdu, and Arabic) into English in the project “*MEHumor: A Digital Docent*”

- 2020–2021 One IWULA award (\$4,200) at UBC for advancing the website launch work for the research project *Middle East Humour: A Digital Docent*.
- 2019–2020 The UBC Arts Undergraduate Research Awards (AURA). One award of \$3,000, supporting one domestic undergraduate assistant. Monograph project: *Self-Deprecating Modernity*.
- 2019–2020 The UBC Work Learn International Undergraduate Research Awards. Two awards, each \$4,200, supporting 2 international undergraduate assistants. Monograph project: *Fictional Masculinities*.

Publications

Books

- 2021 *Persian Literature as World Literature*. Ed. Mostafa Abedinifard, Omid Azadibougar, and Amirhossein Vafa. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.
- In progress* *Fictional Masculinities: Men, Boys & Manhood in Modern Iranian Literature and Cinema*. Proposal approved by Syracuse UP.
- In progress* *Self-Deprecating Modernity: Humour, Affect & Nationalism in Iran*. Proposal approved by Syracuse UP.

Special Issues, Edited

- Under review* “Revisiting Discourses of Love, Sex, and Desire in Modern Iran and Diaspora,” for the *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies (JMEWS)*, edited by Mostafa Abedinifard and Maryam Zehtabi Sabeti Moqaddam.
- In progress* “The Legacy of Iraj Pezeshkzad’s Humour and Satire,” for *Iran Namag: A Bilingual Quarterly of Iranian Studies*. Eds. Mostafa Abedinifard and Pounch Shabani-Jadidi.
- 2018 “Iranian Masculinities,” edited by Mostafa Abedinifard and Sahar Allamezade-Jones. *Iran Namag: A Bilingual Quarterly of Iranian Studies* 3.1.

Refereed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- 2022 “Rereading Obeyd Zakani’s Sexual Satire: Gendering Classical Persian Humor.” *Routledge Handbook on Persian Literature*, ed. Kamran Talattof. Routledge, 2022. 32 ms pages. In press.
- 2022 “Ridicule in the Qur’an: The Missing Link in Islamic Humour Studies.” *Muslims and Humour: Essays on Comedy, Joking, and Mirth in Contemporary Islamic Contexts*, eds. Bernard Schweizer and Lina Molokotos-Liederman. Bristol University Press, 2021: 19–43.
- 2021 “Iran’s ‘Self-Deprecating Modernity’: Toward Decolonizing Collective Self-Critique.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 53.3 (Aug. 2021): 406–423.
- 2019 “Persian ‘Rashti Jokes’: Modern Iran’s Palimpsests of *Gheyrat*-Based Masculinity.” *The British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 46.4 (Aug. 2019): 564–582.

- 2019 "Asghar Farhadi's Nuanced Feminism: Gender and Marriage in Farhadi's Films from *Dancing in the Dust* to *A Separation*." *Asian Cinema* 30.1 (Apr. 2019): 109-127.
- 2017 "Reply to Davies." *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research* 30.2: 247-253.
- 2016 "Structural Functions of the Targeted Joke: Iranian Modernity and the Qazvini Man as Predatory Homosexual." *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research* 29.3: 337-357.
- 2016 "Ridicule, Gender Hegemony, and the Disciplinary Function of Mainstream Gender Humour." *Social Semiotics* 26.3: 234-249.
- 2016 "Of Masculinities, Men, and Mockery in the 'Get a Mac' Campaign: Gendered Ridicule as a Rhetorical Tool." *de genere: Journal of Literary, Postcolonial, and Gender Studies* 1.2: 11-25.
- 2015 "Ma 'ayib al-Rijāl va Zārūrāt-i Mardānigī-Pazhūhī dar Muṭṭalī'āt-i Zanān-i Iran [*The Vices of Men and the Necessity of Studying Men and Masculinities in Iranian Women's Studies*]." *Iran Nameh: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies* 30.3: 230-282. In Persian.
- 2015 "Graphic Memories: Dialogues with Self and Other in Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* and *Persepolis 2*." *Familiar and Foreign: Identity in Iranian Film and Literature*. Ed. Manijeh Mannani and Veronica Thompson. Edmonton: Athabasca UP, 2015: 83-109.
- 2013 "Sīyāsāt-i Jinsīyatī-i 'Ārif Nāmih [The Gender Politics of Iraj Mirza's [*Mathnawi* of] "'Ārif Nāmih"]." *Iran Nameh: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies* 28.3: 200-215. In Persian.
- 2013 "Mardānigī-yi Hizhimunīk va Dāgh-i Jismīyathā-yi Nākām: Jinsīyat va Nāhanjārmandī-yi Jismī dar 'Ābjī Khānum' va 'Dāvūd Gūzhpust' [Hegemonic Masculinity and the Stigma of Failed Embodiments: Gender and Bodily Non-Normativity in Sadeq Hedayat's [Short Stories] 'Ābjī Khānum' and 'Dāvūd the Hunchback']." *Iran Nameh: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies* 28.1: 20-39. In Persian.
- 2010 "Nihilism dar Ruba'ihā-yi Khayyāmī [Nihilism in Khayyamic Rubais]." *Naqd-i Adabi [Literary Criticism]* 3.10: 143-174. Persian.

Editor-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- 2018 "Preface to the Special Issue: Iranian Masculinities." *Iran Namag: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies* 3.1: iv-xxiv. Co-authored with Sahar Allamezade-Jones.
- 2013 "Hizhimunī-yi Jinsīyatī va Nākhushāyandīhā-yi Ān: Mardānigī-i Abtar va Nafy-i Sunnat dar *Sangī bar Gūrī* [Gender Hegemony and Its Discontents: 'Dock-Tailed' Masculinity and the Disavowal of Tradition in Al-e Ahmad's Illness Memoir *A Stone on a Grave*]." *Jalal Al-e Ahmad and Ebrahim Golestan: Essays in Semiotics and Literary Criticism*. Ed. Leila Sadeghi Esfahani. Tehran: Sokhan Publications, 1392/2013: 335-390. In Persian.
- 2008 "Ta'ammulātī bar Āshnā'ī-Zudā'ī dar Mūsīqī-i Muhsin-i Nāmjū [Reflections on Defamiliarization in

Mohsen Namjoo's Music]." *Mahoor Music Quarterly* 10.39 (2008): 191–209. In Persian.

Select Book Reviews

- 2022 Rev. of *Iranian Masculinities: Gender and Sexuality in Late Qajar and Early Pahlavi Iran*, by Sivan Balslev. *The American Historical Review*. Forthcoming.
- 2021 Rev. of *The Politics of Rightful Killing: Civil Society, Gender, and Sexuality in Weblogistan*, by Sima Shakhsari. *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 17.3 (2021): 449–453.
- 2021 Rev. of *101 Middle Eastern Tales and Their Impact on Western Oral Tradition*, by Ulrich Mrazolph. *Storytelling, Self, Society* 17.1 (2021): 167–169.
- 2020 Rev. of *The Persian Whitman: Beyond a Literary Reception*, by Behnam M. Fomeshi. *FLAR: Forum for Inter-American Research* 13.3 (Dec. 2020): 88–91.
- 2015 Rev. of *Gender and Humor: Interdisciplinary and International Perspectives*, edited by Delia Chiaro and Raffaella Baccolini. *The European Journal of Humor Research* 3.4: 92–95.
- 2014 Rev. of *Autobiographical Comics: Life Writing in Pictures*, by Elisabeth El Refaie. *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics* 5.4: 477–479.
- 2014 Rev. of *The Education of Men & The Vices of Women: Two Qajar Tracts*, trans. by Hasan Javadi and Willem Floor. *Iranian Studies* 47.2: 355–360.
- 2013 Rev. of *Studying Men and Masculinities*, by David Buchbinder. *The Journal of Men's Studies* 21.3: 323–25.
- 2013 Rev. of *The Rhetoric of Racist Humor: US, UK, and Global Race Joking*, by Simon Weaver. *Cultural Sociology* 7.3: 389–391.

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2019 "Transgendered Subjectivities in Contemporary Iran." *Global Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History*. Ed. Howard Chiang (editor-in-chief) et al. New York: Macmillan Reference, 1634-1640.

Select (Book and Article) Translations from/into Persian /English/Kurdish

- 2022 "Keraneshini [Tenancy]: A Long Satirical Poem"| To be published bilingually and with illustrations by Bisotun Publications: Kermanshah, Iran. Kurdish to English. Forthcoming.
- 2021 (into English from Persian) "Beyond the Ellipsis: Poems by Emran Salahi." *Parsagon: The Persian Literature Review*. <http://www.parsagon.com/beyond-the-ellipses-poems-by-emran-salahi/>
- 2018 "Foucault and Iran" by Daniel Defert. *Iran Namag: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies* 3.2: 81–97. English to Persian.

- 2017 “Divorce Seen through [Iranian] Women’s Cinematic Lens” by Nasrin Rahimieh. *Iran Namag: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies* 2.3: 71–95. English to Persian.
- 2015 “Humor” by Ulrich Marzolph. In the Persian version of *Brill’s Encyclopaedia of the Qur’ān*. Tehran: Hekmat, vol. 3, 564–65. English to Persian.
- 2007 *An Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism* by Charles E. Bressler. 1st ed. Series Editor: Hossein Payandeh. Tehran: Nilufar Publications. English to Persian.
- 2001 *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett. Tehran: Kelidar. English to Persian.

Article Manuscripts in Preparation

- 2022 (being revised for resubmission) An Overview of Modern Kurdish Humor and Satire—with a Translation of the Long Satirical *Tarji- ‘band* “Tenancy” (*Kirānishūm*) by Shami Kermashani (d. 1984)

Select Invited Talks (scholarly)

- 2020 “2020 Mirhady Lecture: The Politics of Parody with Hadi Khorsandi and Dr. Mostafa Abedinifard.” Department of History, Simon Fraser University, March 1st.
- 2019 “Satiric Modernity: Iranians’ Self-Conscious Affects and the Birth of Modern Persian Comedy, ca. 1871–1908.” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington, April 9th.

Select Invited Talks (public)

- 2020 Opening speech in a gathering of faculty and staff, organized by the Equity & Inclusion Office at UBC in memory of the victims of the Flight 752. 20 January 2020.
- 2019 Opening speech in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Film Festival opening, Emily Carr University, Vancouver, BC. 19 October 2019.

Representative Conference Activity/Participation

Program Committee Member

- 2020 Association for Iranian Studies (AIS) 2020 Biennial Conference, forthcoming at the University of Salamanca, Spain, Aug. 25–28.

Panels/Symposia Organized/Co-organized

- 2021 (Roundtable co-organizer, with Dr. Elizabeth Perego) “The State of Middle Eastern and North African Humor Studies: Pasts, Presents and Horizons” (Middle East Studies Association Conference, Montreal, Nov. 2021)
- 2019 (Local Organizer) Canadian Comparative Literature Association Conference; Congress 2019 (Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences); University of British Columbia, June 2–5, 2019.
- 2018 “Humor and the Making of Middle Eastern and North African Modernities.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Co-organizer: Dr. Nasrin Rahimieh. University of

California, Los Angeles. Mar 29–Apr 1.

- 2018 “Critical Perspectives on Iranian Men and Masculinities.” Co-organizers: Dr. Sahar Allamezade. Association for Iranian Studies (AIS). University of California, Irvine. Aug 14–17.
- 2017 “Persianate Humor.” Co-organizer: Dr. Mahmud Farjami. 29th International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) Conference. Montreal, QC, 10–14 July.

Refereed Oral Presentations

- 2021 “Decolonizing Modern Persian Humor,” to be presented at the Roundtable “The State of Middle Eastern and North African Humor Studies: Pasts, Presents and Horizons” (organized by Elizabeth Perego & Mostafa Abedinifard at the Middle East Studies Association Conference, Dec. 2021). Panel accepted yet deferred to next year.
- 2021 “‘Teased’ Out: Ridicule, *Gheyrat*, and Gender Exclusion in Modern Iranian Film and Fiction,” AMSA’s 2021 (Virtual) Interdisciplinary Conference on Men and Masculinities, Hosted by University of Washington Tacoma, June 17–20.
- 2020 “The Pains and Perils of Hegemonic Masculinity: Rereading Men and Manhood in Modern Iranian Literature.” Association for Iranian Studies (AIS) Conference. University of Salamanca, Spain, Aug. 25–28.
- 2019 “Masculinist *Gheyrat*: The Missing Link in Iranian Transgender Studies.” Panel: “Intersex and Trans* Identities and Rights in Islamic Societies.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference. New Orleans, LA. Nov. 14–17.
- 2018 “Satiric Modernity: Iranians’ Self-Conscious Affects and the Birth of Modern Persian Comedy ca. 1871–1908.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference. San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 15–18.
- 2018 “Rashti Jokes and Their Relation to Modern Iranian Men and Masculinities.” Association for Iranian Studies’ (AIS) Conference. UC, Irvine. Aug. 14–17, 2018.
- 2018 “Shaming the Nation into Modernization: Europe-Obsessed Satire in the Wake of Iranian Constitutional Revolution.” American Comparative Literature Association’s (ACLA) Conference. UCLA. Mar. 29–Apr. 1, 2018.
- 2017 “Persian Rashti Jokes: Modern Iran’s Palimpsests of Gheyrat-Based Masculinity.” International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) Conference. Montreal, QC. Jul. 10–14.
- 2016 “Hegemonic Masculinity and the Policing of Heterosexuality: Gender and Transgender in Two Iranian Films—*Be Like Others* and *Facing Mirrors*.” Middle East Studies Association’s (MESA) Conference. Boston, MA., Nov. 17–20.
- 2016 “Unmasked and Re-Masked Masculinities: Men’s Disability Memoirs as a Site of Sexual Politics.” American Men’s Studies Association (AMSA) Conference. Ann Arbor, MI. Mar. 31–Apr. 3.

- 2016 “Ridicule in the Qur’an: The Missing Link in Islamic Humor Studies.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Conference. Harvard University, Mar. 17–20.

Discussant

- 2021 “Laughter in Times of Distress: Humor and its Politics in Middle Eastern Literature and Popular Culture,” (organized by Linda Istanbuli at the Middle East Studies Association Conference, Nov./Dec. 2021)

Campus/Departmental Talks

- 2017 “Gendered Insights of Disabled Masculinities: A Comparison of Al Davison’s *The Spiral Cage* and Jalal Al-e Ahmad’s *A Stone on a Grave*.” Iranian Studies Seminar Series. Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto. Sept. 29.

Middle East Humour: A Digital Docent (*MEHumor*)

2019–present Principal Investigator and Editor-in-Chief

Supervision of Honours Theses

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- 2019-2020 Dorsa Khormali | Thesis Project: Reading Kiarostami Anew: Novel Interpretive Paths Opened through the Director’s Haikus
- 2019-2020 Dru Darius Dharsi | Thesis Project: Placing Zoroastrian Monotheism in Context: A Comparative Analysis

External Reader

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- 2021 Elimira Habibullah | School of Communication, Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology, SFU | MA Thesis: Seeking Iranian National Identity: An Examination of the Photography Exhibition, “Looking at Persepolis: The Camera in Iran, 1850-1930”

Teaching Experience

Recently Taught/Ongoing University Courses

- ASIA 546A (038) – Classical Persian Literature in English Translation (UBC, Fall 2021; 1 graduate student)
- ASIA 499 2019 W Credits: 3 Honours Thesis (UBC, 2019 | 2 Honours students)
- ASIA 392: Classical Persian Literature in English Translation (UBC, Fall 2021; enrollment: 79 students)
ASIA 392: Classical Persian Literature in English Translation (UBC, Fall 2020; enrollment: 74 students)
- ASIA 392: Classical Persian Literature in English Translation (UBC, Fall 2019; enrollment: 52 students)

- ASIA 392: Classical Persian Literature in English Translation (UBC, Fall 2018; enrollment: 29 students)
- Post-Revolutionary Iranian Cinema (UBC, Fall 2021; enrollment: 74 students) [This course is participating in a COIL-based project, as initiated by the UNC-Chapel Professor Dr. Claudia Yaghoobi, in conjunction with her “ASIA/WGST 127-001: Iranian Women Writers.”]
- Post-Revolutionary Iranian Cinema (UBC, Fall 2020; enrollment: 85 students)
- Post-Revolutionary Iranian Cinema (UBC, Fall 2019; enrollment: 62 students)
- Post-Revolutionary Iranian Cinema (UBC, Fall 2018; enrollment: 34 students)
- Modern Persian Literature in English Translation (UBC, Winter 2022; enrollment: 55 students)
- Modern Persian Literature in English Translation (UBC, Winter 2021; enrollment: 49 students)
- Modern Persian Literature in English Translation (UBC, Winter 2020; enrollment: 45 students)
- History of Iran from the Sasanians to the Safavids (UBC, Winter 2022; ongoing enrollment: 42 students)
- History of Iran from the Sasanians to the Safavids (UBC, Winter 2020; enrollment: 51 students)
- Gender and Sexuality in Modern Iranian Narratives (UBC, Winter 2021; enrollment: 35 students)
- Gender and Sexuality in Modern Iranian Narratives (UBC, Winter 2019; enrollment: 45 students)
- Modern Iran through Literature and the Arts (UBC, Winter 2019; enrollment: 45 students)
- Introduction to Literature (English Department, MacEwan University; Winter 2010; Winter 2014; Winter 2015; Winter 2016; Winter 2017)
- Academic Writing: Argument & Analysis (Numerous sections; English Department; MacEwan University, 2014-2017)
- Folk and Fairy Tales: A Critical Perspective (Department of Comparative Literature, University of Alberta; Spring 2014; Spring 2011)

Select Guest Lectures

- 2021 “Modern Iranian Women’s Writing: An Introduction” | Zoom lecture, in “ASIA/WGST 127-001: Iranian Women Writers,” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 31 Aug. 2021. Professor: Dr. Claudia Yaghoobi.
- 2017 “Asghar Farhadi’s Subtle Feminism: Reading *A Separation* Anew” | Skyped lecture, in “ASIA 124 Iranian Post-1979 Cinema,” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 16 Nov. 2017. Professor: Dr. Claudia Yaghoobi.

Service to the Profession

Editorial Board

Journal of Men’s Studies | Jan. 2021–present
Iran Namag | Jan. 2022 – present
folklor/edebiyat | Jan. 2022 – present

Board of Consulting Editors

HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research | Dec. 2019–present

Section Editor

Persian Literary Studies Journal (Shiraz University) | 2016– 2018

Advisory Board Member

(Bloomsbury Academic Book Series) *Sex, Marriage and Family in Iran and the Middle East* (Ed. Janet Afary and Claudia Yaghoobi) | 2018–present

Member at Large

International Society for Persian Humor (ISPH) | 2016–present.

Book Manuscript Reviewer

Routledge (Iranian Studies Series; Middle East Film and Media Series); 3 book manuscripts
Wisconsin University Press: 1 manuscript

Journal Manuscript Reviewer (1 to 6 manuscripts reviewed for each)

Iranian Studies
Persian Literary Studies Journal
Iran Namag: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies
Journal of Gender Studies
Literary Criticism Quarterly (Tehran)
The Journal of Men's Studies
Ethnicities
Digital Studies / Le champ numérique
HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research
European Journal of Humour Research
Journal of Pragmatics
Journal of Homosexuality
Inquire—Journal of Comparative Literature
International Journal of Canadian Studies
International Journal of Media & Cultural Politics
European Comic Art
Quarterly Review of Film and Video
Journal of Popular Romance Studies
Men and Masculinities

Select Academic Services and Community Involvement

Sept. 2021–Present	NMT Wellbeing Ambassador at UBC
2020–present	Co-organizer: Pacific Northwest Adab Society (PAS)
2020	Search Committee Member: Instructor in Persian Language and Culture
2018-present	Organizer & Moderator: Alireza Ahmadian Lectures in Iranian & Persianate Studies; Lectures renamed in 2019/2020 from “UBC Lectures in Iranian Studies”

2018-present	Page Admin Alireza Ahmadian Lectures in Iranian & Persianate Studies, Facebook Page
2017–2018	Lecture Series Co-Organizer with Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi Iranian Studies Lecture Series, Department of NMC; University of Toronto
2016–2017	Faculty Mentor, MacEwan University Fall 2016–Summer 2017
2015	Writing Tutor, Writing and Learning Services, MacEwan University, Fall 2015

Active Professional Memberships and Affiliations

Association for Iranian Studies
Middle East Studies Association
American Comparative Literature Association
Modern Language Association
American Men's Studies Association
American Literary Translators Association
International Society for Humor Studies
International Society for Persian Humor

Languages

Persian (native speaker); Southern/Kalhorī Kurdish (native speaker); English (near-native fluency); Arabic (Full research capability); French (limited working proficiency)

Musical Instruments

Santour (Persian dulcimer): *radif*-based, classical style

Last updated Aug. 2022