



Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies
University of Toronto
Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
4 Bancroft Ave 2nd floor,
Toronto, ON M5S 1C1
Canada

Department of Iranian
Studies

Dr. Christine Kämpfer

Phone +49 (0)951 - 8632192
Fax +49 (0)951 - 8632184
christine.kaempfer@uni-bamberg.de
www.uni-bamberg.de/iranistik/

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Dear Chair of Search Committee,

I am applying for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies. My Ph.D. is in Iranian Studies at the University of Bamberg (2022). I am currently Assistant Professor at the same university and my work broadly focuses on premodern Persian literature, with an additional expertise in Qajar Persia.

My dissertation focused on how the 14th century poet Khvājū Kirmānī (ca. 1280-1350) refashions the epic tradition with his romantic epic *Humāy-u Humāyūn*. The dissertation was supervised by Prof. Dr. Christoph U. Werner (University of Bamberg) and Prof. Dr. Christine van Ruymbeke (University of Cambridge). A research trip to Tehran in 2015 was funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). At large, my dissertation contributes to the field of Persian literary studies in several ways. It is not only the first concise study on *Humāy-u Humāyūn*, shedding light on a lesser-known epic poem and its author, it also challenges the paradigm of decline after the Mongol invasion. Parts of my research were published in the two collected volumes *Schaffen und Nachahmen* (2021) and *From Epics to Novels* (2023), the publication of my dissertation is planned for 2025. I presented my work at various international conferences, such as the Symposia Iranica, the German Oriental Studies Conference (DOT), the European Conference of Iranian Studies (ECIS) and international workshops in Beirut, Tehran, Hamburg, Tokyo, Osaka, and Utrecht.

From 2017 to 2021, I worked as a research associate in the interdisciplinary digital humanities project *The Travels of Botanist Carl Haussknecht (1838-1903) to the Ottoman Empire and Persia (1865 and 1866-1869)* and acquainted myself with 19th century travel literature on Qajar Persia. This project was an interdisciplinary collaboration between the universities of Jena (Department of Botany), Halle (Center for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies), and Bamberg (Department of Iranian Studies). Our team published Haussknecht's travel diaries as a digital edition, being confronted with questions of accessibility, technology, and the advantages and disadvantages

VISITING ADDRESS
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Schillerplatz 17
Room 02.09
96047 Bamberg
Germany

POSTAL ADDRESS
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Institute of Oriental Studies
Chair of Iranian Studies
96045 Bamberg
Germany

of an interactive reading experience. The project's findings were presented at various international conferences, and I also co-authored an article for the collected volume *On the Way to the '(Un)Known'? The Ottoman Empire in Travelogues (c. 1450-1900)* (2022). The two-volume reading edition *Die Reisetagebücher des Botanikers Carl Haussknecht* was published this year in July with the University of Bamberg Press.

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At Bamberg University, my teaching responsibilities at undergraduate and graduate levels cover a broad range of topics on history, religion, gender, and literature from premodern times to the Islamic Republic. As a researcher on premodern literature, my main concern is to convey an insight into the larger cultural dynamics of the Persianate sphere, particularly the literary dynamics of the premodern period and the importance of reading primary sources.

My next project is still in its preliminary stages; however, I plan to move beyond the Iranian heartland and focus on Indo-Persian poetry, particularly *sāqī-nāma* poetry. My main concern is to explore the dynamics of an imported literary genre and tackle the question of whether this dynamic foreshadows a Persianate literary modernity.

Your institute brings together researchers from various fields of Iranian studies, a range that is not found in Germany. I am thankful for the opportunities I have here at Bamberg University, but I need to look beyond my own nose to become a better researcher and teacher. Focusing on premodern literature, both my dissertation and my future project correspond to your institute's research spectrum. Presenting my work in such an interdisciplinary environment would add to its depth and confront me with new perspectives. In addition, I would like to profit from your expertise and bring my next project forward, which would fill a desideratum in Persianate literary research.

I look forward to hearing from you, soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine Kämpfer".

Christine Kämpfer