

Statement of Research Interests

For the past sixteen years, I have studied the culture, literature, history, and politics of Iran. I researched modern Iran for my BA and first MA, and the medieval Persianate world for my second MA and PhD. While I continue to gain breadth in my understanding of the Iranian cosmopolis, my doctoral research focused on classical Persian mysticism and its multifaceted manifestations in classical literature of the Iranian world.

My forte is classical Persian literature with focus on mystical and esoteric literature from the 10th to 16th century. As the research projects in which I participated during my graduate studies often involved examining manuscripts, lithographs, and facsimiles of various medieval and early modern works in Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Arabic, I am also interested in codicology and cataloging.

In the near future, I hope to pursue several research projects. The first project will be to publish my doctoral thesis as a monograph under the tentative title *The Devil's Advocates: The Exoneration of Iblīs in Persian Mysticism*. A project also related to the topic of Iblīs will be to collect and catalogue all the depictions of Satan in medieval illuminated manuscripts from around the Muslim world, with the aim of publishing them in a critical monograph which will be the first of its kind in the fields of Iranian and Islamic studies. Thus far, I have collected and catalogued over forty-eight digital copies of these illuminated folios.

The next project will be to write a monograph in English about the life and teachings of the thirteenth-century antinomian Persian Sufi Shams al-Dīn Tabrīzī (d. ca. 1248), who was the spiritual master of the renowned Persian mystic Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī (d. 1273). Such monograph has never been published in the English language.

In addition, I am generally passionate about all aspects of Persian literature, especially poetry. The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies' research project on Iranian women poets provides an excellent opportunity for me to collaborate with the researchers involved to examine this often understudied but immensely important area of Persian poetry. To that end, I am also interested undertaking extensive research in the Tavakoli Archive to examine various aspects of the publication and public reception of classical Persian literature in periodicals belonging to the

late Qajar and Pahlavi eras and what influence they might have had in the development of modern Persian poetry (*she 'r-e now*).