

MOJTABA EBRAHIMIAN
Adjunct Lecturer
History and Society Division
Babson College
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Persian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
- Travel Studies
- Literary and Cultural Theory
- Iranian Cinema

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Near Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, 2020
M.A. Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, 2018
M.A. English Literature, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran, 2011
B.A. English Language and Literature, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran, 2008

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023-present Adjunct Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History
History and Society Divisions
Babson College, Babson Park MA

2021-2024 Preceptor in Persian
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University, Cambridge MA

2018-2020 Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Fellow
School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Reimagining Europe: Persian Travel Writing and New Perceptions of Europe in Early Nineteenth-Century Iran* (completed manuscript under review with Edinburgh University Press)

- *Of God and Man in Modern Persian Fiction: The Early Novel in Iran* (in preparation)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2026 "History in Fiction: Muḥammad 'Alī Jamālzādah and the Literary Anatomy of a Nation in Flux." *International Journal of Persian Literature* (under review)
- 2025 "Female Voices and Historical Trends in the Longest Persian Novel: A Radical Criticism of Mahmūd Dawlat'ābādī's *Kilidar* (1978-1984)." *International Journal of Persian Literature*, Volume 10 (June 2025)
- 2023 "The European Other, the Indo-Iranian Self and the Discourse of Wonder in the Earliest Persian Travelogues of Europe." *Studies in Travel Writing*. 26, no.1 (2023): 34-52. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645145.2023.2197257>
- 2023 "Abd al-Rahim Talebof's Promotion of Nationality and National Sociopolitical Reform in *Kitab-i Aḥmad* (1890–1894)." *International Journal of Persian Literature*. Volume 8 (September 2023): 41–60. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5325/intejperslite.8.0041>
- 2021 "Islamic Rule and Iranian Women in the Films of Hatef Alimardani." *Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Multidisciplinary Studies: Mathal* 7, no.1 (2021): 1-21. DOI: [10.17077/2168-538X.1128](https://doi.org/10.17077/2168-538X.1128)
- 2020 "*Vaqaye'-e Ettafaqiyyeh* (1851-1861) and the Education of the Iranian Nation in the Middle of the Nineteenth Century." *Iran: Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies* 59, no. 1 (January 2020): 130-146. DOI: [10.1080/05786967.2020.1713022](https://doi.org/10.1080/05786967.2020.1713022)

Refereed Book Chapter

- 2026 "Transcending Boundaries: Ākhūndzādah's Conception of Critique Across Literature, Society, and Religion" in *A Legacy of Vision: Literature, Language, and Culture in Honor of Dr. Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali*. Edited by Kamran Talattof and Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi (New York: Routledge 2026).
- 2025 "A Magical History of Their Own: Women and Iranian History in Shahrnush Parsipur's Fiction" in *Narration and Narratology in Modern Persian Literature*. Edited by Alireza Korangy and Sara Khorshidi (New York: Springer Nature, 2025).
- 2023 "One Thousand Years of Persian Travel Writing and *Siyāhatnāmeḥ-ye Ebrāhim Beyg (1895)* as *Safarnāmeḥ*" in *Routledge Handbook of Persian Literature*. Edited by Kamran Talattof (New York: Routledge, 2023): 45-67.

Non-Refereed Publications

- 2025 Review of *Making and Remaking Empire in Early Qajar Iran*, by Assef Ashraf. *American Historical Review* (December 2025)
- 2022 "*Safarnāmah Nivisān-i Qājāri: Tārikh Nigāran-i 'Asr-i Jadid*" (Qajar Travel Writers: Historians of the Modern Period) in *Tajrobe Magazine* 156, no. 6 (March 2022): 138-139.

- 2021 Review of *The Love of Strangers: What Six Muslim Students Learned in Jane Austen's London*, by Nile Green. *Iranian Studies* 54, no. 5-6 (December 2021): 996-1000.
DOI: [10.1080/00210862.2020.1717294](https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2020.1717294)
- 2014 Review of *The Coup: 1953, the CIA, and the Roots of Modern U.S.-Iranian Relations*, by Ervand Abrahamian. *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 31, no. 2 (Spring 2014): 101-4.
- 2013 Review of *The Oxford Handbook of Iranian History*, ed. Touraj Daryaee. *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 30, no. 3 (Summer 2013): 107-11.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Babson College

"Modern Middle East," Instructor, Spring 2025

Evaluations: 4.84/5

"Modern Middle East," Instructor, Fall 2024

Evaluations: 4.96/5

"Modern Middle East," Instructor, Spring 2024

Evaluations: 4.85/5

"Modern Middle East," Instructor, Fall 2023

Evaluations: 4.87/5

"Modern Middle East," Instructor, Spring 2023

Evaluations: 4.94/5

Mentoring

2025-2026: Serving as advisor for a BA Honors Thesis on education and women empowerment in Asia.

University of Arizona

"What is Politics?" Teaching Assistant for Noam Chomsky, Fall 2019

"Religion of Islam," Instructor, Fall 2018, Summer 2016

Evaluations: 4.87/5 (Fall 2018)

Evaluations: 4.67/5 (Summer 2016)

"Religion of Islam," Teaching Assistant, Spring 2018

"Middle Eastern Humanities," Instructor, Spring 2017

Evaluations: 4.48/5

"Middle Eastern Humanities," Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017

"Introduction to Political Islam," Instructor, Summer 2017, Fall 2016

Evaluations: 5/5 (Summer 2017)

Evaluations: 5/5 (Fall 2016)

"Middle East in the Twentieth Century," Instructor, Spring 2016

Evaluations: 4.75/5

Harvard University

"Elementary Persian," Instructor, 2021-2024

Evaluations: 4.7/5 (Spring 2023)

Evaluations: 4.8/5 (Fall 2022)

Evaluations: 5/5 (Spring 2024)
 “Intermediate Persian,” Instructor, 2021-2024
 Evaluations: 4.8/5 (Spring 2023)
 Evaluations: 4.7/5 (Spring 2024)
 “Advanced Persian,” Instructor, 2021-2024
 Evaluations: 5/5 (Fall 2023)
 Evaluations: 5/5 (Spring 2023)
 Evaluations: 4.8/5 (Fall 2022)

Mentoring

2023-2024: Served as advisor for a BA Junior Tutorial on contemporary Iranian history.

2021-22: Served as main advisor for one AM thesis in the Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies. The student won the Best 2021-2022 AM Thesis Award from the CMES.

University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Intermediate Persian,” Faculty Associate, Summer 2019
 “Advanced Persian,” Faculty Associate, Summer 2018

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2022	Certificate of Teaching Excellence Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University
2018-2019	Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute (Amount Awarded: \$15,000)
2018	Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona
2017-2018	Roshan Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies University of Arizona (Amount awarded: \$5,000)
2017	Dissertation Completion Fellowship College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona (Amount awarded: \$5,000)
2016-2017	Roshan Graduate Fellowship University of Arizona (Amount awarded: \$5,000)
2014-2015	Roshan Graduate Fellowship University of Arizona (Amount awarded: \$2,500)
2012-2013	Roshan Graduate Fellowship University of Arizona (Amount awarded: \$4,150)

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers

- 2023 “Progress as a Historical Phenomenon: What Has Happened in Europe over the Last Centuries according to the Early 19th Century Iranian Travelers to Europe.” 57th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Montréal, Québec, Canada, November 2-5.
- 2023 “The European Other and the Indo-Iranian Self in the Earliest Persian Travelogues of Europe.” 10th European Conference of Iranian Studies, Leiden University, Leiden, August 21-25.
- 2019 “The Significance of Liberal Ideas in Iran’s Early Modern Reforms: The Case of Abd al-Rahim Talebof’s Treatise on Education.” 19th Annual Southwest Graduate Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 12-14.
- 2018 “Religious Anxiety of the Iranian King in His Encounter with Christian Europe: A Reading of Nasir Al-Din Shah’s 19th Century European Travelogues” 7th Annual Ways of Knowing Graduate Conference on Science and Religion at Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, October 26-27.
- 2018 “Formation of a New Historical Consciousness and the Rise of a Novelistic Narrative Discourse in Nineteenth Century Iran.” 12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, University of California, Irvine, August 14-17.
- 2018 “Nineteenth-Century Persian Travelogues and the Rise of Modern Geography in Iran.” The Annual Southwest Graduate Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 18-20.
- 2016 “Transforming Times in Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh and Sa’di: A Chronotopic Analysis.” 50th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston, November 17-19.
- 2014 “Convergence of History and Literature: Fin de Siècle Iran in Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh’s *Once Upon a Time* (1921).” 14th Annual Southwest Graduate Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, April 20-22.

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 “A Brief History of the Middle East, Islam, and Iran”
Diversity Discussions, US Department of Veterans Affairs
Online Presentation
- 2023 “Modern Persian Fiction,” NELC Sophomore Tutorial
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2022 “The European Other and the Persianate Self in the Earliest Persian Travelogues of Europe,”
Persian and Persianate Studies Seminar
Harvard University, Cambridge MA

- 2022 “Travel Writing and the Muslim World,” Undergraduate Course
Department of World Languages and Literatures
Boston University, Boston MA
- 2021 “Approaches to Middle Eastern Studies,” Graduate Seminar
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2018 “Nineteenth-Century Persian Travelogues and the Rise of a New Historical Consciousness in Qajar Iran”
Middle Eastern and North African Studies Colloquium Series
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer

- 2021-2022 *Iranian Studies*
- 2015-2019 *Zaytoon: Academic Journal of Middle East and North Africa Graduate Student Organization*,
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
- 2018 *Asian Affairs: An American Review*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

- 2023 Integration of Generative AI in Teaching Workshop
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2022 Colleague Conversations: Using Humanities Skills to Solve Problems Across Disciplines
Harvard University, Cambridge MA

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

- 2025-present Associate Editor
Iranian and Persian Studies Series at Springer
- 2022-2023 Seminar Chair
Persian and Persianate Studies
Mahindra Humanities Center
Harvard University
- 2021-2023 Organizer/ Grant Writer, *Poetry Night*
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University

LANGUAGES

Persian	Native Speaker
Arabic	Advanced Reading Knowledge
French	Advanced Reading Knowledge

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Middle Eastern Studies Association
- Association for Iranian Studies
- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
- American Comparative Literature Association