UC SANTA BARBARA
Iranian Studies Initiative
4th Annual Conference of the Iranian Studies Initiative
SLAVERY AND SEXUAL LABOR IN THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
Cover photo: Courtesy of Farhad and Firouzeh Diba Collection of Qajar Photographs
FRIDAY
Location: Mosher Alumni House, UCSB
Room: Alumni Hall

8:45-9:00 • COFFEE & TEA

9:00-9:15 • INTRODUCTIONS

Eric Massie (Conference Organizer, UCSB)
Manoutchehr Eskandari-Qajar (Director, Middle East Studies Program, Santa Barbara City College)
Janet Afary (Director, Iranian Studies Initiative, UCSB)

9:15-9:30
Welcome by Dean John Majewski (Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, UCSB)

9:30-10:45 • PANEL I
INTIMATES AND FAMILIARS: MARRIAGE, SLAVES, AND FAMILY

CHAIR
Behnaz Mirzai (Department of History, Brock University, Canada)

Eric Massie (UCSB)
The Bonds that Bind: Slavery and Familial Relations in the Persian Gulf, 19th and 20th Centuries.

Manoutchehr Eskandari-Qajar (Santa Barbara City College)
Temporary and Permanent Marriages at the Court of Fath Ali Shah Qajar
Anthony A. Lee (UCLA)
Ziba Khanum of Yazd: An Enslaved African Woman in Nineteenth-Century Iran

Ladan Rahbari (University of Ghent, Belgium)
All the King’s Slaves: Vulnerability and Sexual Captivity during the Safavid Period

10:45-11:00 • COFFEE AND TEA BREAK

11:00-11:45 • PANEL 2
MANUMISSION AND MURDER: THE LEGAL BOUNDARIES OF SLAVERY

CHAIR
Ahmad Atif Ahmad (Department of Religious Studies, UCSB)

Özgül Özdemir (Stanford University)
Murder in the Palace: The Trial of a Sudanese Eunuch and the Position of Enslaved Africans in the Ottoman Palace

Ismail Warscheid (National Center for Scientific Research, France)
Saharan Qadis and their Protégés: Women, Orphans, Slaves in the Islamic Courts of Tuwat, Southern Algeria (1750-1850)
11:45-12:30 • PANEL 3
PROSTITUTION AND EROTIC PERFORMANCE IN THE LATE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

CHAIR
Juan Campo (Department of Religious Studies, UCSB)

Orlin Sabev (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)
Imperial Power and Non-Manageable Lust: Prostitution in Late Ottoman Society

Erik Blackthorne-O’Barr (Columbia University)
Between the Street and the Stage: Erotic and Sexual Performance in Late Ottoman Istanbul

12:30-2:00 • LUNCH

2:00-2:30 • KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CHAIR
Janet Afary (Director, Iranian Studies Initiative, UCSB)

SPEAKER
Joanna de Groot (Department of History, University of York)
’Servitude’?, ‘Slavery’?, ‘Sexual Labor’?: Reflections on the Uses and Usefulness of these Terms for the Study of Iran and the Middle East
2:30-3:30 • PANEL 4
FRAMING SLAVERY AND PROSTITUTION IN PHOTOGRAPHY, LITERATURE, AND FILM IN QAJAR IRAN AND ZANZIBAR

CHAIR
Anthony A. Lee (Department of History, UCLA)

Pedram Khosronejad (Oklahoma State University)
Photographs as Objects of Sexual Desire in Iran (1860s -1970s)

Staci Gem Scheiwiller (California State University, Stanislaus)
Photography and Prostitution in Qajar Iran (1785-1925)

Emily O’Dell (Yale University)
Memories of Slavery in Zanzibar Rendered in Literature, Testimonials, and Film

3:30-3:45 • COFFEE AND TEA BREAK

3:45-4:45 • PANEL 5
SEX TRAFFIC AND UNFREE LABOR IN THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST (1)

CHAIR
Eileen Boris (Department of Feminist Studies, UCSB)

Kathryn Hain (Independent Scholar)
The longue durée of Sex Slavery in the Muslim Mediterranean
Sawsan Karimi (University of Bahrain)
Slavery and Colonialism: An Anthropological Review

Sriyani Tidball (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
Slavery of Sri Lankan Housemaids in the Middle East

4:45-5:00 • COFFEE AND TEA BREAK

5:00-6:00 • PANEL 6
SEX TRAFFIC AND UNFREE LABOR IN THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST (2)

CHAIR
TBD

Kevin Dupont (The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University)
A Life of Glitz and Horror: An Examination of Female Trafficking into the GCC States and the Levant

Martin Jørgensen (Aalborg University, Denmark)
A Few Bad Apples? UN Peacekeepers, Prostitution and Sexual Abuse in the Gaza Strip, Cairo and Beirut

Muhammad Ala Uddin (University of Chittagong, Bangladesh)
Slavery, Sex, and Remittance: Exploring the Plight of the Bangladeshi Women Migrants in the Middle East

6:00-8:30 • DINNER AT THE FACULTY CLUB AND PERFORMANCE BY THE MIDDLE EAST ENSEMBLE
SATURDAY

Unveiling the Veiled: Royal Consorts, Slaves and Prostitutes in Qajar Photographs

Pedram Khosronejad, curator

Location: Mosher Alumni House, UCSB
Room: Alumni Hall

9:30-10:30 • COFFEE & TEA

CHAIR
Manoutchehr Eskandari-Qajar (Santa Barbara City College)

PRESENTERS
Pedram Khosronejad (Oklahoma State University)
Houman Sarshar (Founder/Director of Kimia Foundation)

10:30-12:00 • ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE EXHIBITION

CHAIR
Janet Afary (Director, Iranian Studies Initiative, UCSB)

SPEAKERS
Manoutchehr Eskandari-Qajar, Pedram Khosronejad, Houman Sarshar, Staci Gem Scheiwiller, Behnaz Mirzai, Anthony A. Lee, Joanna De Groot

12:30 PM • CLOSING REMARKS: JANET AFARY
Unveiling the Veiled

Royal Consorts, Slaves and Prostitutes in Qajar Photographs

Photo exhibition curated by: Dr. Pedram Khosronejad
Associate Director for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies, Oklahoma State University

A special Exhibit and Panel Discussion as part of the UCSB Conference on
Slavery and Sexual Labor in the Middle East and North Africa

Mosher Alumni House, McCune Library, UC Santa Barbara
Saturday October 20th 2018

Co-sponsored by: The Iranian Studies Initiative, UCSB, the Middle East Studies Program SBCC and the International Qajar Studies Association (IQSA)
IN MEMORIAM
AHMAD GRAMIAN (1956-2018)

We dedicate this conference to the memory of Mr. Gramian. Together with his wife, Dr. Haleh Emrani, they became one of the first patrons of our Iranian Studies Initiative. It was with their generous support that we were able to launch the annual conferences of the Iranian Studies Initiative in 2015. Mr. Gramian was one of the Founding Trustees of the Farhang Foundation and most recently served as the Chairman of the Foundation. In addition to UCSB, he helped several other branches of the University of California including the Iranian Music Degree Program at UCLA. He also was instrumental in the Iranian Studies Initiative at USC.

Mr. Gramian was a life-long patron of Iranian art, music and culture. He was a major supporter of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Children Institute Inc., and Upward Bound, an organization that is dedicated to increasing the graduation rates of students from impoverished background.

Mr. Gramian’s charitable work extended back to his homeland in Iran, where he was working on establishing the first ever school for girls in the small village of Ney in Kurdistan for over 200 girls who had never had the opportunity to attend school. The Ahmad Gramian School for Girls will be opening its doors in October of 2018.

Mr. Gramian was an upstanding member of the Iranian community in Southern California and a generous giving person. His concern for other’s well-being was exceptional and only matched by his humility and kindness. He was always curious and patient, with a philosophical approach to life.

We will miss his presence at our events, and we are deeply grateful for all that he has done for our Iranian-American community and for UCSB. In addition to his wife, Mr. Gramian is survived by their two sons Abtin and Behrad.
This Event is Organized with Support From:

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Gramian-Emrani Foundation
Department of Religious Studies, UCSB
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The International Qajar Studies Association (IQSA)
The Middle East Studies Program, SBCC