

## Kevin L. Schwartz

Research Fellow  
Oriental Institute, The Czech Academy of Sciences  
Pod Vodárenskou věží 4  
182 08 Praha  
Czech Republic  
Telephone: +420 776 267 212 (c)  
Email: [schwartz@orient.cas.cz](mailto:schwartz@orient.cas.cz), [k.lewis.schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:k.lewis.schwartz@gmail.com)  
[www.kevinschwartz.org](http://www.kevinschwartz.org)

### Education

- Ph.D.** University of California, Berkeley. Department of Near Eastern Studies 2014  
Dissertation: *Bâzgasht-i adabî (Literary Return) and Persianate Literary Culture in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Iran, India, and Afghanistan* (Winner of Rahim Irvani Dissertation Award, International Society for Iranian Studies)
- A.M.** Harvard University. Center for Middle Eastern Studies. 2003
- B.A.** Columbia University. Political Science Department. 2000

### Languages

Persian (fluent), Arabic (advanced), Russian (reading knowledge), Urdu (elementary).

### Professional Appointments

- Research Fellow** 2017-  
Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences
- United States Library of Congress** 2016-2017  
Kluge Fellow
- United States Naval Academy** 2015-2016  
Class of 1955 Chair in Middle Eastern Studies, Political Science Department
- Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, University of Maryland** 2014-2015  
Visiting Scholar
- Social Science Research Council Inter-Asia Program** 2013-2014  
Postdoctoral Fellow for Transregional Research

### Publications

#### Books

*Remapping Persian Literary History, 1700-1900*, Edinburgh University Press, 2020.

#### Articles and Book Chapters

- "Framing Crisis in Iran: Covid-19 and the Quest for Ideological Coherence," under review  
*Contemporary Politics*, with Olmo Golz.
- "A Lost Literacy: Reading *Tadhkiras* of Persian Poets in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," *Routledge Handbook of Persian Literature*, forthcoming.
- "A Transregional Persianate Library: The Production and Circulation of *Tadhkiras* of Persian Poets in the 18th and 19th Centuries," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 52.1 (2020), pp. 109-135.
- "The Curious Case of Carnatic: The Last Nawâb of Arcot (d. 1855) and Persian Literary Culture," *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 53, 4 (2016), pp. 533-560.

"The Local Lives of a Transregional Poet: 'Abd al-Qâdir Bîdil and the Writing of Persianate Literary History," *Journal of Persianate Studies*, 9 (2016), pp. 83-106.

## Reviews

"Review of *Writing Self, Writing Empire*," *International Journal of Persian Literature*, forthcoming.

"Something Else: 'After Tomorrow the Days Disappear: Ghazals and other Poems' by Hasan Sijzi, trans. Rebecca Gould," *Glasgow Review of Books*, September 8, 2016.

"Persian Letters: The Allure and Enduring Legacy of Persian *Nasta'liq* Calligraphy," *REORIENT*, November 24, 2014. (Reprinted in *Persian Tribune*, vol. 1, no. 12, Jan. 2015)

"A Thousand Years of the Persian Book: Celebrating a Millennium of Persian Textual Production," *REORIENT*, September 2, 2014.

## Encyclopedia Entries

"White Revolution." In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*. Edited by Peter N. Stearns. New and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, with Samad J. Alavi.

"Kahan Commission." In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*. Edited by Peter N. Stearns. New and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

## Reports

"Fueling the Dragon's Flame: How China's Energy Demands Affect its Relationship with the Middle East," prepared for the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, 14 Sept. 2006, with John Douglass and Matthew Nelson.

## Commentary and Online Media

"Persian New Year is Poetic Moment for Biden to Influence Iranians," *The Hill*, March 18, 2021

"The Fallacy of the Great-Power Rivalry in the Middle East," *Responsible Statecraft*, March 10, 2021, with Mandy Terc.

"Biden Should Rethink America's Fraught Relationship with the Saudis," *The Hill*, November 26, 2020.

"Going to War with the Coronavirus and Maintaining the State of Resistance in Iran," *Middle East Research Information Project (MERIP)*, Sept. 1, 2020, with Olmo Golz.

"The Mural Merry-Go-Round: The Vali Asr Billboard and Propaganda in Iran," *Jadaliyya*, May 14, 2020, with Olmo Golz.

"Saudia Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt are Exporting Autocracy Across the Middle East," *Responsible Statecraft*, April 14, 2020.

"American Hypocrisy on Display Again in the Middle East," *The Hill*, January 8, 2020.

"The U.S.-Iran Off Ramp Goes Through Yemen," *LobeLog*, September 30, 2019.

"India's Bludgeoning of Kashmir is New Low for Global Anti-Muslim Violence," *The New Arab*, September 5, 2019.

"Fourth of July a Good Time to Consider the Freedoms Opposes by US Allies in the Middle East," *The Hill*, July 4, 2019.

"War with Iran: The Pretext of Proxies," *LobeLog*, May 22, 2019.

"Revisiting Revolutionary Slogans in Iran Forty Years Later," *MES Insights*, Vol. 10, no. 2, April 2019.

"There is No 'Other' But Iran: Misdiagnosing the Causes of Regional Instability," *The New Arab*, February 19, 2019.

"Iran and the Destabilisation of the Middle East," *The New Arab*, September 24, 2018.

"After the Iran Protests," *MES Insights*, Vol. 9, no. 2, April 2018.

“John Bolton and Washington’s Iran Policy Industry,” *Al Jazeera English*, March 25, 2018.  
 “The Resurfacing of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,” *The New Arab*, March 22, 2018.  
 “Why Declaring Qatar a Sponsor of Terrorism is Dangerous,” *Muftah*, August 22, 2017.  
 “Critics Ostracize a Rational ‘Qatar First’ Policy,” *The Hill*, June 27, 2017.  
 “Yemen: The Graveyard of U.S. Policy Myths,” *War on the Rocks*, April 19, 2017.  
 “The Muslim as a ‘Manchurian Candidate,’” *Al Jazeera English*, January 17, 2017.  
 “Understanding the Rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia,” *Muftah*, December 8, 2016.  
 “Beyond 28 Pages: Saudi Arabia and the West,” *Counterpunch*, July 22, 2016.  
 “Syrian Civil War: US Should not Arm the Rebels,” *Al Jazeera English*, April 4, 2016.  
 “What Constitutes Terrorism in Syria?” *Al Jazeera America*, December 2, 2015.  
 “Iran’s Diplomatic Leap of Faith,” *Muftah*, October 27, 2015.  
 “The United States Should Rethink Its Relationship with Iran,” *Muftah*, July 20, 2015, with Arjun Sethi.  
 “Crafting a Cultural Idiom of Engagement: The US President’s Persian Poetry (Part I and II),” *Words without Borders*, April 23 and 24, 2015, with Aria Fani.  
 “The Danger of Blaming Iran: Hyping a Proxy War in Yemen,” *Counterpunch*, April 6, 2015.  
 “No Way Out: Netanyahu, Iran and the US Congress,” *Counterpunch*, March 9, 2015.  
 “Yemen: Much Ado About Proxies,” *Asia Times Online*, February 12, 2015.  
 “Iran: An Enemy Revisited,” *The Baltimore Sun*, opinion section, July 13, 2014.  
 “The Complicated Legacy of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,” *Jadaliyya*, June 13, 2013.

#### Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

Czech Academy of Sciences Strategy 21 Grant (Prague, CZ)	2020
Bahari Visiting Fellowship on the Persian Book (Oxford Bodleian Libraries)	2020 (deferred)
Kluge Fellowship, Library of Congress	2016-2017
SSRC Postdoctoral Fellowship for Transregional Research (College Park, MD)	2013
UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Research Grant (United Kingdom)	2013
UC Berkeley Dean’s Dissertation Research Fellowship (India)	2011-2012
UC Berkeley Dean’s Normative Time Dissertation Fellowship	2010-2011
Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (Persian) (Tehran, Iran)	2008
Critical Language Scholarship (Persian) (Dushanbe, Tajikistan)	2007
Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (Persian) (Berkeley, CA)	2006-2007
Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (Arabic) (Cairo, Egypt)	2002

#### Selected Past Research Project Affiliations

Just Vision (on Israeli/Palestinian grassroots peacemakers), RAND Corporation (on decision-making processes in the Iranian government), The Packard Humanities Institute Classical Islamic Library Project, Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard University Law School.

#### Conferences Organized

Co-Organizer of *Interrogating Change: Central Asia between Timelessness and Mutability*. October 17, 2014. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.  
 Organizer of *The Wide World of Persian: Connections and Contestations*. May 2-3, 2014. Library of Congress, Washington DC and Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, College Park Maryland.

#### Selected Presentations

## 2020

Literary Nationalism and the Idea of *Bâzgasht* in Modern Iran, Cambridge University.

## 2019

Citizen Martyrs: The Afghan Fatemiyoun Brigade in Iran. *Religion and State Ideology in the Middle East and Asia* workshop, Prague, Czech Republic.

## 2018

A Macro-Analytical Approach to the Persian Tazkirah Ecosystem. *Eighth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies*, Tbilisi Georgia.

## 2017

A Transregional Persianate Library: Tazkirah Production and Circulation in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Presented at *Middle East Studies Association* conference, Washington, DC.

Mapping a Persian Literary Sphere. Lecture at Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

The Return of the Masters: Connections, Contestations, and the Redrawing of Persian Literary History. Lecture at University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

## 2016

The Return of the Masters: Connections, Contestations, and the Redrawing of Persian Literary History. Lecture at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

Mapping the Persian Tazkirah, 1700-1900. Presented at *The World of Tazkirah Conference*, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA.

## 2015

Demarcating Persianate Worlds: The Persian Tazkirah, 1700-1900. Lecture at *UCLA International Asia Institute*, Los Angeles, CA

Migrations and Movements of Persian Poets, Secretaries, and Litterateurs in the Nineteenth Century. Presented at *The Global 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Contiguities, Connections, and Detachments Conference*, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA.

## 2014

‘Abd al-Qâdir Bîdil and the Writing of Persianate Literary History in Central Asia and Beyond. Presented at *Interrogating Change: Central Asia between Timelessness and Mutability* conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Rivalry and Debate on the Margins of *Bâzgasht* in 19<sup>th</sup> Century India. Presented at the *International Iranians Studies Conference*, Montreal, Canada.

Local Poets, Regional Rivals: Tazkirah Writing on the Periphery of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Persianate World. Presented at *Literary Cultures of Muslim South Asia Workshop Series*, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.