

Olga Merck Davidson / curriculum vitae

Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Boston University

education:

Ph.D. 1983 Princeton University (Near Eastern Studies)

dissertation title: "The Crown-Bestower and the Iranian Book of Kings" (awarded the T. Cuyler Young prize by the Near Eastern Studies Department, Princeton University)

special student 1975-76 Harvard University

A.B. 1975 Boston University (major in Classics)

academic appointments since 1992:

2009-. Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Boston University; researching part-time, while serving as Chair of the Board, Ilex Foundation.

2008-2009. Visiting Scholar, Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Boston University; researching part-time, while serving as Chair of the Board, Ilex Foundation.

2007-2008. Visiting Associate Professor, Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, Boston University; teaching part-time, while serving as Chair of the Board, Ilex Foundation. Course taught in spring 2008: "Film and Identity in the Islamic World"

2005-2007. Visiting Associate Professor in the Program of Middle Eastern Studies at Wellesley College; teaching part-time, while serving as Chair of the Board, Ilex Foundation. Course taught in spring 2006 and spring 2007: Arabic second semester. Course taught in spring 2006 for the Classics Department: "Mirror of Princes, Stories of Heroes."

2000-2005. Associate Professor of Women's Studies at Brandeis University; teaching part-time, while serving as Chair of the Board, Ilex Foundation. Regular course taught at Brandeis: "The Woman's Voice in the Muslim World."

1994-2000. Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University

1992-1997. Chair of the Concentration in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at Brandeis University.

non-teaching duties:

Chair of the Board, Ilex Foundation, 1999-.

Member of the Advisory Council for the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran & Persian Gulf Studies. 2018–2021.

Member of the Editorial Board, Anthem World Epic and Romance (series editor, J. A. Cavallo, Columbia University). 2018-.

Member of the Board of the Islamic Text Initiative 2016-

Member of the Board, Free Press, 2004-

Member of the Visiting Committee, Art of Asia, Oceania and Africa, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2011-

Member of the Board of Advisors of the series *Bibliotheca Iranica: Intellectual Traditions Series*, Mazda Publishers, 1999-.

Member of Advisory Council of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, 1999-2008.

Elected member of the Board of Trustees, Encyclopedia Iranica, 1998.

Elected member of the Council of the Iranian Association of Boston, 1997.

Member of Governing Board, Woodcock Foundation, 1996-.

Chair of the concentration in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Brandeis University, 1992-97.

Faculty Dean of Currier House, Harvard College, 1986-1991.

publications:books:

Poet and Hero in the Persian Book of Kings (Cornell University Press: Ithaca, 1994; 2nd ed. Mazda Press: Los Angeles, CA, 2006; 3rd ed. Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA, 2013)

Comparative Literature and Classical Persian Poetry, *Bibliotheca Iranica: Intellectual Traditions Series* (Mazda Press: Los Angeles, CA, 2000; 2nd ed. Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA, 2013).

See the report of de Fouchécour, Charles-Henri de. 2000. *Abstracta Iranica* 23:128.

Ferdowsi's Shâhnâma: Millennial Perspectives (edited by Olga M. Davidson and Marianna Shreve Simpson, Harvard University Press, 2013)

Shâ'er-o Pahlavân dar Shâhnâma (Tehran, 2000); Persian translation of *Poet and Hero in the Persian Book of Kings* (Cornell University Press 1994).

Adabiyât-e tatbiqi-yo shâ'er-e kelâsiki-ye fârsi (Tehran, 2002); *Persian translation of Comparative Literature and Classical Persian Poetry*, *Bibliotheca Iranica: Intellectual Traditions Series* (Mazda Press: Los Angeles, CA, 2000).

The Arts of Iran in Istanbul and Anatolia: Seven Essays (edited by Olga M. Davidson and Marianna Shreve Simpson, Harvard University Press, 2019).

articles:

"Dolon and Rhesus in the *Iliad*," *Quaderni Urbinati di Cultura Classica* 30 (1979) 61-66.

"Indo-European Dimensions of Herakles in *Iliad* 19.95-133," *Arethusa* 13 (1980) 197-202.

"The Crown-Bestower and the Iranian Book of Kings," *Acta Iranica 10: Papers in Honour of Professor Mary Boyce* (1985) 61-148.

"Aspects of Dioscurism in the Iranian Epic Tradition," *Edebiyât* N.S.1 (1987) 103-115.

"Formulaic Analysis of Samples taken from the *Shâhnâma* of Ferdowsi," *Oral Tradition* 3 (1988) 88-105.

- “The *Haft Khwân* Tradition as an Intertextual Phenomenon in Ferdowsi’s *Shâhnâma*.” *In Honor of Richard N. Frye: Aspects of Iranian Culture* (ed. C. A. Bromberg, Bernard Goldman, P.O. Skjærvø, A. S. Shahbazi), *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 4 (1990) 209-215.
- “Women’s Lament as Protest in the Persian Book of Kings,” *Women in the Medieval Islamic World* (Gavin R. G. Hambly, ed.), volume 6 in the series *The New Middle Ages* (Bonnie Wheeler, series ed.; St. Martin’s Press, New York, 1998) 131-146.
- “The Text of Ferdowsi’s *Shâhnâma* and the Burden of the Past.” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 118 (1998) 63-68.
- “Epic as a Frame for Speech-Acts: Ritual Boasting in the *Shâhnâma* of Ferdowsi,” a chapter in a book edited by Hildegard L.C. Tristram, *Neue Methoden der Epenforschung*, vol. 59 of *ScriptOralia* (1998) 271-285.
- “La ‘publication’ des textes arabes sous forme de lectures publiques dans les mosquées.” *Des Alexandries I: Du livre au texte* (eds. L. Giard and Ch. Jacob; Paris 2001) 401-410.
- “Azâdâri-ye zanân be envâne ecterâd dar Shâhnâme-ye Ferdowsi,” *Bukhara* (2001) Vol. 3, lead article.
- “Some Iranian poetic tropes as reflected in the ‘Life of Ferdowsi’ traditions.” *Philologica et Linguistica: Festschrift für Helmut Humbach* (ed. M. G. Schmidt and W. Bisang; Trier 2001) supplement pp. 1-12.
- “To Rebuild Afghanistan, Look Next Door,” op-ed for *The New York Times*, co-authored with M. J. Mahallati, 28 February 2002, printed also as “Bush should look next door to Iran,” *International Herald Tribune*, 2-3 March 2002.
- “Haft Khwân,” *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, vol XI (Ehsan Yarshater, ed.), Bibliotheca Persica Press, New York, 2002.

- “Une ‘publication’ non canonique dans le monde perse classique: Un poème de Rûdakî,” *Des Alexandries II: Les métamorphoses du lecteur* (ed. Ch. Jacob; Paris 2003) 401-410.
- “Religion and politics revisited: Social Islam versus individual Islam, impacts of imbalances,” co-authored with M. J. Mahallati, *Bitter Lemons* Edition 8 vol. 1, 28 August (2003).
<http://www.bitterlemons-international.org/previous.php?opt=1&id=8>
- “75 years of the Muslim Brotherhood: Iran, Egypt, and the Ikhwan,” co-authored with M. J. Mahallati, *Bitter Lemons* Edition 9 vol. 2, 04 March (2004).
<http://www.bitterlemons-international.org/previous.php?opt=1&id=30>
- “Genre and Occasion in the *Ruba’iyyât* of ‘Umar Khayyâm,” *Writers and Rulers: Perspectives on Their Relationship from Abbasid to Safavid Times* (eds. B. Gruendler and L. Marlow; Wiesbaden 2004) 133-147.
- “Myth and Sacred Narrative: Iran,” *Religions of the Ancient World: A Guide* (ed. S. I. Johnson; Harvard University Press 2004) 589-590.
- “Moderates Everywhere Have A Duty,” co-authored with M. J. Mahallati, *The International Herald Tribune*, 4 December 2002.
<http://friendvill1202.homestead.com/43Moderates041202.html>
- “Persian/Iranian Epic,” *A Companion to Ancient Epic*, (J. M. Foley, ed.; Blackwell Publishers 2005) 264-276.
- “Against the thugs, Iranian self-criticism,” co-authored with M. J. Mahallati, *The Daily Star* Wednesday 20 July 2005.
http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=16903&categ_id=5
- “Popular Literature,” and “Folk Literature: Persian,” *Medieval Islamic Civilization: an Encyclopedia* (J. W. Meri and J. L. Bacharach, eds.; Routledge 2005).

- Review of Samore, G., ed. *Iran's strategic weapons program: a net assessment* (Taylor and Francis 2005), *International Affairs* (Chatham House) vol. 82 no. 2 (2006) 400-401.
<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bpl/inta/2006/00000082/00000002/art00012>
- Review of K. Yamamoto, *The Oral Background of Persian Epics* (Leiden 2003), *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* 103 (2008) 305-316.
- “The dream as a narrative device in the *Shâhnâma*,” *Dreaming Across Boundaries: The Interpretation of Dreams in Islamic Land* (Louise Marlow, ed.; Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA 2008) 131-141.
- “The Burden of Mortality: Alexander and the Dead in Persian Epic and Beyond,” *Epic and History* (David Konstan and Kurt Raaflaub, eds., Wiley-Blackwell, Malden / Oxford 2010) 212-222.
- “The Testing of the *Shâhnâma* in the “Life of Ferdowsi” Narratives,” *The Rhetoric of Biography: Narrating Lives in Persianate Societies* (Louise Marlow, ed.; Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA 2008) 11-20.
- “Bawdy Anecdotes in Religious Settings: Examples from Mediaeval Persian Literature,” *Ruse and Wit: The Humorous in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Narrative* (ed. Dominic Parviz Brookshaw; Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA, 2012) 70-83
- “Interweavings of book and performance in the making of the Shahnama of Ferdowsi: Extrapolations from the narrative of the Preface to the Bâysonghor manuscript,” *Ferdowsi's Shâhnâma: Millenial Perspectives* (ed. Olga M. Davidson and Marianna Shreve Simpson; Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA 2013) 1-11.
- “Women and Social Protest: Historical.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Women* (ed. Natana J. DeLong-Bas; Oxford University Press 2013) vol. II pp. 448-454.

- “A pictorial aetiology of Ferdowsi as a transcendent poet.” *Ferdowsi, the Mongols and the History of Iran: Art, Literature and Culture from Early Islam to Qajar Persia*, (ed. Robert Hillenbrand, A.C.S. Peacock, Firuza Abdullaeva, London-New York: I.B. Tauris, 2013) pp. 245-8, plates 9-10.
- “Why the Bāysonghori Recension is a Recension.” *No Tapping Around Philology*, (ed. Alireza Korangy and Daniel J. Sheffield: Harrasowitz 2014) pp. 127-130.
- “Shāhnāma: um Épico Persa sobre Reis e Herois” *Antiguidade e do Medievo*, (ed. Dominique Santos:Blumnau 2014) pp. 179-195.
- “Aetiologies of the Kalīla wa Dimna as a Mirror for Princes.” *Global Medieval: Mirrors for Princes Reconsidered* (ed. Regula Forster and Nequín Yavari; Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA 2015) pp. 42-57.
- “Parallel Heroic Themes in the Medieval Irish *Cattle Raid of Cooley* and the Medieval Persian *Book of Kings*,” (ed. H.E. Chehabi and Grace Neville; Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA 2015) pp. 36-46.
- “The Written Text as a Metaphor for the Integrity of Oral Composition in Classical Persian Traditions and Beyond.” *Singers and Tales in the 21st Century: The Legacies of Milman Parry and Albert Lord* (ed. D. F. Elmer and P. McMurray). Classics@ Issue 14. http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hinc.essay:DavidsonO.The_Written_Text_as_a_Metaphor.2016
- “Monroe’s Methodology in Analyzing Andalusī Meters and Its Relevance to a Comparative Analysis of a Classical Persian Meter, the *mutaqārib*.” *The Study of al-Andalus: The Scholarship and Legacy of James Monroe* (ed. Michelle M. Hamilton and David A. Wacks; Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA 2018) pp. 87-96.

- “Traces of Poetic Traditions about Cyrus the Great and his Dynasty in the Šahname of Ferdowsi and the Cyrus Cylinder.” *Cyrus the Great: Life and Lore* (ed. M. Rahim Shayegan, Ilex Foundation Series 21, Washington, DC 2018) pp. 232–241.
- “Models of gift-exchange and practices of hostage-giving and hostage-taking in classical Persian Poetry.” *Pushing the Boundaries of Historiā* (ed. Mary C. English and Lee M. Fratantuono; Routledge: London and New York 2019) pp. 104–114.
- “On the Sources of the Shahnameh.” *A Celebration in Honor of Dick Davis: The Layered Heart, Essays on Persian Poetry* (ed. A. A. Seyed-Ghorab; Mage Publishers, Washington, DC 2019), pp. 353–362.
- “Introductory Essay.” *The Arts of Iran in Istanbul and Anatolia: Seven Essays* (ed. Olga M. Davidson and Marianna Shreve Simpson, Ilex Foundation Series 20, Washington, DC 2019), pp. 1–13.
- “Applying a diachronic perspective in reconstructing precedents for the illustrations of the Great Mongol Shahnameh.” *Iran After the Mongols* (ed. S. Babaie) 115–127. London 2019.
- “Ecumenism and Globalism in the Reception of Ferdowsi and his *Book of Kings*: Evidence from the Bāysonghori Preface.” *Classical Inquiries* 2020.03.02. <https://classical-inquiries.chs.harvard.edu/ecumenism-and-globalism-in-the-reception-of-ferdowsi-and-his-book-of-kings-evidence-from-the-baysonghori-preface/>. Preprint version of Davidson 2021.
- “Ecumenism and Globalism in the Reception of Ferdowsi and his *Book of Kings*: Evidence from the Bāysonghori Preface.” *Persian Literature and World Literature* (ed. M. Abedinifard, O. Azadibougar, A Vafa) 123–136. New York, London, and Dublin.

public lectures, panel presentations, etc.:

1. "Rostam: the Persian Achilles" at College of the Holy Cross, May 1982.
2. "Ferdowsi's *Shâhnâma*: the poet on his poetry" at Harvard University, November 1982.
3. "Ferdowsi's Version of the literary genesis of the Book of Kings" at the 17th Annual Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference, Chicago, November 1983
4. "Rostam and Sistân: An outsider or an insider in the Iranian Book of Kings. Tradition?" at the 18th Annual Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference, San Francisco, December 1984.
5. "Aspects of Dioscurism in the Iranian Epic Tradition" at Recent Works in Islamic Literature Conference, Philadelphia, March 1985.
6. "Formulaic Analysis of Samples taken from the *Shâhnâma* of Ferdowsi," 19th Annual Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, November 1985.
7. "Context and Evocation in the *Mu^callaqa* of Imr'alqays," 196th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, New Haven, March 1986.
8. "Feasting and Fighting in an Indo-European Tradition," Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, Baltimore, October 1986.
9. "Rostam, Esfandiyâr, and the Tradition of Haft Khwân," 20th Annual Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference, Boston, November 1986
10. "Traces of Parallelisms in Sogdian and Persian Narrative Traditions," 197th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Los Angeles, March 1987.
11. "The Concept of Premature and Immature Fatherhood in the Story of Rostam and Sohrâb," 21st Annual Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, November 1987.
12. "Feasting and Fighting: Ultimate Occasions for Hero and Poet," at Yale University, January 1988.

13. "King and Hero in the Haft Khwân Traditions of Ferdowsi's *Shâhnâma*," at Ohio State University, March 1988.
14. "Father-Son Dioscurism as a Model of Authority in the *Shâhnâma*," International "Eirene" Conference, Budapest, September 1989
15. Chaired panel on literary methods as brought to bear on Arabic literature, at 23rd Annual Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference, Toronto, November 1989.
16. "Comparative Analysis of the Sohrâb and Rostam Narrative Tradition," at Columbia University, February 1991; same paper given at University of Pittsburgh, April 1991.
17. "Applications of Georges Dumézil's Comparative Studies: The Persian Evidence," at Haverford College, October 1991
18. "Persian Court Poetry" at Harvard University, Center of Literary and Cultural Studies, October 1992.
19. "The Text Fixation of the *Shâhnâma* of Ferdowsi," at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Faculty Seminar in History, October 1992.
20. "Tensions between Genre and Historical Occasion in a Poem by Rudaki," Society of Iranian Studies, Washington D.C., May 1993.
21. "Tensions between Genre and Historical Occasion in Classical Persian Court Poetry," 27th Annual Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference, Research Triangle Park, N.C., November 1993.
22. "The Idea of "Book" and the Early History of the *Qur'ân*" Brandeis Faculty Colloquium, November 17, 1994
23. "Occasion and Genre in Persian Poetics," University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern Studies, January 1995.

24. "Memory as Evocation in Persian Poetry," Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 10 March 1995.
25. "Omar Khayyâm and Court Poetry," Center of Middle Eastern Studies, Iranian Studies Seminar, May 1995.
26. "Women's Laments as Protest in the Iranian Traditions," Center of Middle Eastern Studies, Iranian Studies Seminar, October 1995
27. "Conventions of Self-Praise in Iranian Epic: Esfandiyâr and Rostam," jointly sponsored by two Departments of Near Eastern Studies, University of North Carolina and Duke University, April 1996.
28. "Das Heldenepos als Rahmen für Sprechakte: Die rituellen Ruhmreden im Schahnameh des Ferdowsi," paper delivered at the conference: Sechstes Freiburger SFB-Kolloquium des Projektes A 5, "Neue Methoden der Epenforschung," University of Freiburg, 28 June 1996.
29. "The Alexander Narrative in Ferdowsi," jointly sponsored by the Departments of Near Eastern Studies and Classics, UCLA, 13 March 1997.
30. "Omar Khayyâm: the Man and the Myth," Middle Eastern Literary Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, 4 April 1997.
31. "Conventions of Ritual Boasting in the Iranian Epic Tradition," Iranian Studies Seminar, Columbia University, 7 May 1997.
32. "Azâdâri-ye zanân be envâne e^cterâd dar Shâhnâme-ye Ferdowsi," [= "Women's Lament in the *Shâhnâma* of Ferdowsi"], public lecture at the Nashr-e Tarikh-e Iran, University of Tehran, 28 February 1998.
33. "Sarâyandeh dar Shâhnâme-ye Ferdowsi" = ["The Singer in the *Shâhnâma*"] International Congress on Ferdowsi, held at Columbia University, 26-27 June 1998.

34. "The Poet Heritage of *farr* in the *Shâhnâma*," The *Shâhnâma* and the Continuity of the Iranian Tradition," held Harvard University, 25-26 March 1999.
35. "Omar Khayyam: Genre and Occasion": for a panel at the Colloquium "Literature and Rulership in Medieval Islam," organized by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) and the Center of Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) at Yale University, as announced in the Bulletin of the Middle East Medievalists, on the theme of Literature and Rulership in Medieval Islam, held on 23 April 1999. Organizers of the panel: Louise Marlow of Wellesley and Beatrice Gründler of Yale.
36. "La 'publication' des textes arabes sous forme de lectures publiques dans les mosquées," at the new Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, in conjunction with the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique. The occasion was a "table ronde" session of an International Congress, held 23-25 June 1999, celebrating the opening of the new Library's research rooms.
37. "Une 'publication' non-canonique dans le monde Perse classique: un poème de Rudaki" at the International Colloquium celebrating the opening of the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt, 28-30 November 1999.
38. "Shi'ite Resonances and the Continuity of Ferdowsi's *Shâhnâma*," International Conference on Ferdowsi at the Center for the Great Encyclopedia of Islam, Teheran, August 2000.
39. "The Prose Preface of the *Shahnameh*: Narrative Strategies for Framing Historical Contexts," Iranian Historiography Lecture Series, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, March 2001.
40. "Imagined biographies and autobiographies : Ferdowsi and Bahâr in exile" at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Sorbonne Nouvelle (Universite de Paris

- III), Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, 20-21 April 2001.
41. "The *Shâhnâma* and the Caliph," Papers in honor of Jerome C. Clinton, Princeton University, 26 April 2002.
 42. "The Lives of Homer and the Lives of Ferdowsi Compared," The Fifth Biennial Conference on Orality and Literacy in Ancient Greece, "Oral Performance and Its Context," University of Melbourne, 1-5 July 2002.
 43. "From Mirrors for Princes to Humor for the Pulpit," Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, November 2002.
 44. "The Dream as a Narrative Device in the *Shâhnâma*," Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting November 2003.
 45. "Life in the Beginnings," International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS) Fifth Biennial Meeting, 28-30 May 2004.
 46. "Models of Gift-Exchange and Practices of Hostage-Giving and Hostage-Taking in Ghaznavid Texts," Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, November 2004.
 47. *The Burden of the Buried: Alexander and the Dead in Persian Literature*, Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, November 2005.
 48. "Moral Choices in the Shahnameh" at The Sixth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, 3-5 August 2006.
 49. "Hoary Authorities and Wanton Wiles: Women in Medieval Exempla," at the convention of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting 21 November 2006.
 50. "Alexander the Great and the Poetics of Necromancy in Persian Epic and History," A Crossdisciplinary Conference at Brown University, 1-3 December 2006.

51. "Interlace and Inquisition in Nezami's *Khosrow and Shirin*. Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, 17-19 November 2007.
52. "A Multiform Reception of the Shâhnâma as reflected in the Baysonghori Preface," The Reception of the Shâhnâma, a conference held at Pembroke College, Cambridge University, 13-15 December 2007.
53. "Women's Lamentations and the ethics of war in ancient Greece and medieval Persia." Boston University, Spring 2008.
54. "Women's Lamentations and the ethics of war in ancient Greece and medieval Persia," UCLA, May, 2010
55. "'Life of Ferdowsi' myths as evidence for the reception of Ferdowsi," Harvard University (conference on myth organized by Michael Witzel), October 8, 2010.
56. "Queens, Warriors, and Lovers" Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, October 17, 2010.
57. "Animals as Courtiers and Comforters in Persian Manuscripts," at the convention of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, November 2010.
58. "The written text as a metaphor for the integrity of oral composition in Iranian traditions and beyond," Harvard University, December 4, 2010
59. "Models of gift-exchange and practices of hostage-giving and hostage-taking in classical Persian prose and poetry," Shahnama Millenium Conference, Cambridge University, December 10-13, 2010.
60. "Interweavings of book and performance in the making of the Shahnama of Ferdowsi: Extrapolations from the narrative of the Preface to the Bâysonghor manuscript." Cama Institute, Mumbai, January 2011.
61. "Parallel Heroic Themes in the Old Irish Cattle Raid of Cooley and the Classical Persian Book of Kings." Erin and Iran: Conference, University of Cork, October, 2011.

62. "Aetiologies of *Kalīla wa Dimna* as a Mirror of Princes," Freie Universität, Berlin, November 2012
63. "Indications of Oral Traditions in a Medieval Persian Manuscript," 2012 International Summit on Epic Studies: Toward Diversity, Creativity, and Sustainability. November 17-18, 2012 | Beijing, China.
64. "On the relationship of the *Shāhnāma-ye Chengīzī* to the History of the Mongols," at the Convention of the Association of the Society of Persianate Societies (ASPS) Biannual Meeting 2013.
65. "Traces of poetic traditions about Cyrus the Great and his Dynasty in the *Shāhnāma* of Ferdowsi and in the Cyrus Cylinder," Cyrus Cylinder Conference, UCLA, October 2013.
66. "The text and images of the Bisotoun Inscription and their relevance to the verbal imagery of the *Shāhnāma* of Ferdowsi," Text, Image, Form: Intersections of Literary Representations and Material Culture, Wellesley College, February 24, 2014.
67. "Why do the Prose Prefaces of the *Shāhnāma* Matter," Inauguration of Shahnama Centre for Persian Studies, Pembroke College, Cambridge University, May 24, 2014.
68. "Applying diachronic perspectives in reconstructing precedents for the illustrations in the Great Mongol *Shāhnāma*," *The Idea of Iran: post-Mongol polities and the reinvention of Iranian identities*. School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, November 22nd, 2014.
69. "The Poetics of Rhetoric and Interweaving in Nezāmi's *Khosrow va Shirin*," The Eighth European Conference of Iranian Studies, The State Hermitage Museum and Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, St. Petersburg, September 15th-19th.
70. "Rethinking the Poetry of the Shahnameh by Studying Four Biographies of Ferdowsi" Twelfth Biennial for the Association Iranian Studies Conference (AIS), Irvine CA August

14-17, 2018.

71. Appeared on BBC Persian, August 13, 2019.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4_OSDCABuE