THE SEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PERSIANATE
SOCIETIES (ASPS)

September 8-11, 2015
Istanbul, Turkey
Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University,
Fındıklı Campus
THE SEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PERSIANATE SOCIETIES (ASPS)

ASPS/Istanbul 2015

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VENUE

MIMAR SINAN FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY,
FINDIKLI CAMPUS
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OUTSIDER/INSIDER VIEWS OF THE PERSIANATE WORLD

Panel Chair: Victoria Rowe Holbrook (Istanbul Bilgi University)

José Cutillas (University of Alicante): Khwaja Seffar, Armenian Ambassador and Factor of Shah Abbas I in Madrid in the 17th century

 Başak Kilerci (University of Oxford): Naser al-Din Shah’s Visit to Istanbul in 1873 within the Context of Ottoman-Qajar Relations

COFFEE BREAK
10:30-10:45

SESSION 2
10:45-12:15

MEMORY AND IMAGERY IN PERSIANATE HISTORIOGRAPHY AND LITERATURE

Panel Chair: Emrah Safa Gürkan (29 Mayis University)

Maryam Kamali (Harvard University): Undeveloped Persian Historiography in the Saljuq Era

Javad Abbasi (Ferdowsi University of Mashhad): Turkestan from the Iranian Persepctive from the Thirteenth to Fifteenth Century (Reflections in Persian Poetry from Sa’di to Jami)

Sh. Yusufbekov (Institute of Humanities of the Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan): The Image of Saint Ali in the Poetical Genre of the Oral Folk Literature of Badakhshan, Tajikistan

Mehmet Ertan (Boğaziçi University): The Role of Massacres in Collective Identity: The Alevi Collective Memory on the Basis of Victimhood
Javad Abbasi
TURKISTAN IN IRANIAN PERSPECTIVE: REFLECTIONS IN PERSIAN POETRY FROM SA‘DI TO JAMI

Central Asia or “Turkestan” in many medieval Persian sources, witnessed many significant developments during the 13th-15th centuries under the Qarakhataid, Mongol and Timurid empires. These developments affected attitudes and perspectives from China to India and Iran about the region. Iranians reacted to these developments based on their strong historical and cultural connections with Central Asia, and their reaction was reflected in Persian literature and historiography. In this context, Persian poetry is a significant source for understanding how Iranian’s views about the region changed in time. In the late 13th century Sa‘di, who according to some narratives had traveled to the region, describes Turkistan as an outlying land by saying:

نرسم نرسی به کوهه ای اعرابی این ره که تمی روی به ترکستان است

And in the late 15th century Abd al-Rahman Jami calls the region as his best desirable destination:

چنین از ملک خراسان چه کسی عزم حجاز

This presentation considers reflections of historical developments in Central Asia in Iranian perspective focusing on the Persian poetry during the 13-15 centuries.

Pejman Abdolmohammadi
THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE FIRST GENERATION OF PERSIAN SECULAR INTELLECTUALS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

From the mid-nineteenth century some Persian intellectuals started to develop their critical perception of political Islam, giving rise to a new current of thought based on Persian nationalism, secularism and constitutionalism. Political thinkers such as; Mirza Fath-‘Ali Akhundzade (1812-1878), Mirza Aqa Khan Kirmani (1853-1896), and Mirza Malkam Khan (1831-1908) put forward constitutionalist, nationalist and secular ideas for the first time in Iranian late modern history. They were able to combine the Western enlightenment with the Persian pre-Islamic history and identity, creating, for the first time in the Iranian modern history, a new current of thought based on secularism and nationalism. The Iranian Constitutional Revolution of 1906 was partly the result of the ideas of these thinkers, who had been able to spread a new civil concept of state, which separated religion from politics by introducing the rule of law, civil rights and limiting the absolutism of the monarch.

This paper will analyze the political thought of the first generation of Persian secular intellectuals, highlighting some fundamental elements of their ideas and reflections regarding the role of women and the importance of individual liberties and civil rights. Their views concerning women’s rights in the society, criticizing the Islamic perceptions of women, and the main points of their critique concerning the feminine world, such as polygamy, hijāb and the right of instruction are discussed.

Sheikh Abdullah
MUNSHI MOOLCHAND DEHLAVI: AN EXPONENT OF ROSTAM AND SOHRAB IN URDU LITERATURE

The Shahnameh of Ferdowsi is an important literary text of Iran. Among its fifty-nine stories, the story of Sohrab and Rustam is distinguished from the rest of the stories of Shahnameh in terms of