

FARSHID EMAMI
Curriculum Vitae
Department of Art History
Rice University
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EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, 2017
Ph.D. in History of Art and Architecture

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, 2011
M.S. in Architectural Studies

University of Tehran, Tehran, 2007
M.A. in Urban Design

Beheshti University, Tehran, 2004
B.A. in Architecture

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Isfahan: Architecture and Urban Experience in Early Modern Iran (University Park: Penn State University Press, forthcoming April 2024).

Journal Articles and Essays

“Sensing Time and Sound: The Clocks of the Maydan-i Naqsh-i Jahan,” in *Regime Change: Proceedings of the 2021 Biennial Symposium of the Historians of Islamic Art Association*, ed. Christiane Gruber and Bihter Esener (London: Ginko, forthcoming 2023).

“Religious Architecture of Safavid Iran,” in *The Religious Architecture of Islam*, Vol. 1, *Asia and Australia*, eds. Hasan-Uddin Khan and Kathryn Blair Moore (Turnhout: Brepols, 2021), 256–73.

“Inviolable Thresholds, Blessed Palaces, and Holy Friday Mosques: The Sacred Topography of Safavid Isfahan,” in *The Friday Mosque in the City: Liminality, Ritual, and Politics*, eds. A. Hilâl Uğurlu and Suzan Yalman (Bristol: Intellect, 2020), 159–95.

“All the City’s Courtesans: A Now-lost Safavid Pavilion and its Figural Tile Panels,” *Metropolitan Museum Journal* 54 (2019): 62–86.

“Royal Assemblies and Imperial Libraries: Polygonal Pavilions and their Functions in Mughal and Safavid Architecture,” *South Asian Studies* 35, no. 1 (2019): 63–81.

“Passages and Malls in Translation: Commercial Architecture in Pahlavi Iran,” in *Architectural Dynamics in Pre-Revolutionary Iran: Dialogic Encounter between Tradition and Modernity*, ed. Mohammad Gharipour (Bristol: Intellect, 2019), 81–109.

(with Jaleh Jalili) “Notions of Class and Culture in Housing Projects in Tehran, 1945-1960,” in *Social Housing in the Middle East: Architecture, Urban Development, and Transnational Modernity*, eds. Kivanc Kilinc and Mohammad Gharipour (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2019), 267–90.

“Discursive Images and Urban Itineraries: Literary Form and City Experience in Early Modern Iran,” *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 18, no. 3 (2018): 154–186.

“Coffeehouses, Urban Spaces, and the Formation of a Public Sphere in Safavid Isfahan,” *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Culture of the Islamic World* 33 (2016): 177–220.

“Urbanism of Grandiosity: Planning a New Urban Centre for Tehran (1973–1976),” *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 3, no. 1 (2014): 69–102.

Essays and Entries in Exhibition Catalogues

“Ottoman and Safavid Coffee Cultures,” in *Dining with the Sultan: The Fine Art of Feasting*, ed. Linda Komaroff (Los Angeles: The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2023), 114–16.

“The Lithographic Image and its Audiences,” in *Technologies of the Image: Art in 19th-Century Iran*, ed. David J. Roxburgh and Mary McWilliams (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Art Museums, 2017), 55–79.

Catalogue entries on Qajar lacquer in Massumeh Farhad, Mary McWilliams, and Simon Rettig, eds., *A Collector’s Passion: Ezzat-Malek Soudavar and Persian Lacquer* (Washington, D.C.: Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian, 2017), 57, 75, 79, 83.

Reviews of Scholarly Books

Review of Ali Mozaffari and Nigel Westbrook, *Development, Architecture and the Formation of Heritage in late-twentieth century Iran: A Vital Past* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2020), *Iranian Studies* 56, no. 2 (2023): 423–25.

Review of Axel Langer, ed., *The Fascination of Persia: The Persian-European Dialogue in Seventeenth-Century Art and Contemporary Art of Tebran* (Zurich: Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess AG, 2013), *The Review of Middle East Studies* 53, no. 1 (2019): 1–4.

Review of Moya Carey, *Persian Art: Collecting the Arts of Iran for the V&A* (London: V&A Publishing, 2017), *caa.reviews* (June 21, 2019).

Work in progress

Expanding Contexts, selected essays from the HIAA 8th biennial conference in Houston, forthcoming as a peer-reviewed, edited volume with Brill (with Aimée Froom).

“Architecture, Sciences, and Visual Arts in Early Modern Iran,” essay for the peer-reviewed festschrift volume of Prof. Gülru Necipoglu.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Faculty Research Fellowship, Humanities Research Center, Rice University, Spring 2024.
Finalist for Sophia Meyer Farb Prize for Teaching, Phi Beta Kappa Chapter, Rice University, 2023.
Andrew M. Mellon Fellowship, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2017–18.
Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative Grant, 2016.
Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship for Dissertation Research, Harvard University, 2014–15.
Presidential Scholar Fellowship, Harvard University, 2011–13.
Aga Khan Fellowship, Harvard University, 2011–13.
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, Fall 2013.
Aga Khan Fellowship, MIT, 2009–11.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“The Architects who Made Safavid Isfahan,” *Shifting the Paradigm: New Studies in Islamic Art and Architecture in Honor of Prof. Gülru Necipoglu*, Boston College and Harvard University, Boston, September 8–9, 2022.

“Space, Time, and Vision in Late Safavid Paintings,” paper presented at the conference *Seeing Isfahan: Perspective on the Safavid Image*, Trinity College, Dublin, May 27, 2022.

“Senses and Pleasures of Urban Experience: A Journey Through Seventeenth-Century Isfahan,” *Coming to Isfahan* Lecture Series, in conjunction with the exhibition “Meeting in Isfahan: Vision and Exchange in Safavid Iran” (4 February – 28 August 2022), Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, March 23 (invited online lecture).

“The Piazza and the Maydan: Convergences and Exchange between Early Modern Venice and Isfahan,” part of the session “Buildings on the Move: Architecture and Travel Across the Pre-Modern World” at the 110th Annual Conference of College Art Association (CAA), Chicago, February 17, 2022.

“Planning a Tetropolis, Inhabiting a Cosmopolis: Urban Form, Civic Communities, and Communal Rituals in Safavid Isfahan,” Urban Design Group, Silk Cities, December 7, 2021 (online panel).

“Rhythms of Urban Experience: The Sensory Landscape of the Chaharbagh Promenade in Safavid Isfahan.” The “Islamic Art in Solitude” lecture series, Metropolitan Museum of Art. November 18, 2021.

“The New Isfahan: Architecture and Urban Experience in Early Modern Iran,” O’Brien Lecture Series, Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program, Rice University, October 26, 2021.

“Sensing Time and Sound: Clocks and Rhythms of Life in Safavid Isfahan,” Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA) Biennial Symposium, April 17, 2021.

“Persia on the Hudson: Ali Muhammad Isfahani and Ceramic Production in Nineteenth-century Iran,” webinar, subject specialist series, Olana NY State Historic Site, July 22, 2020 (invited talk).

“Disguised as Paradise: Representations of Courtesans and their Beholders in Safavid Isfahan, 1590–1722,” delivered in the session “Empires of Pleasure across Eighteenth-Century Cultures” at the 107th Annual Conference of College Art Association (CAA), New York, February 16, 2019.

“Safavid *Shabrashub*: Literary Form and City Experience in Seventeenth-century Isfahan,” *Comparative Persianate Aesthetics Symposium* (invited talk), Boston University, September 29, 2017.

“Lacquer, Lithography, and Photography: Image-Making in 19th–Century Iran,” delivered as part of a group presentation at Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA, September 13, 2017.

“Hypostyle Palaces of Safavid Isfahan (1629–66): Genealogy and Meaning,” 105th Annual Conference of College Art Association (CAA), New York, February 18, 2017.

“The City and its dual Friday Mosques: Sacred and Urban Spaces in Safavid Isfahan,” 50th Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Boston, November 20, 2016.

“The *Kitab-khana*: Royal Libraries of Safavid Isfahan,” Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA) Majlis, Boston, November 17, 2016.

“Sensing the City: Public Spaces and Urban Experience in Safavid Isfahan,” Akpia Lecture Series, Harvard University, November 3, 2016.

“The Chaharbagh of Isfahan: Architecture, Urban Experience, and Material Culture in Safavid Iran,” 38th Annual New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Student Symposium, Boston, February 13, 2016.

“The Sher Mandal and Guldasta Pavilion: Shared Architectural Practices of the Mughals and the Safavids,” 68th Annual Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians, Chicago, 15–19 April 2015.

“Coffeehouses, Urban Spaces, and Performing Publics in Safavid Isfahan,” Leiden University, Center for the Study of Islam and Society, April 8, 2015.

“Urbanisme ‘grandiose’: planification d’un nouveau centre urbain pour Téhéran (1973–1976),” Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Paris-Belleville, 14 April 2015.

“Shopping Mall in Translation: From US Suburbs to Pahlavi Iran (1960–79),” 48th Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association, Washington D.C., November 24, 2014.

“All the City’s Senses: A Seventeenth-Century Tour Guide of Isfahan,” Workshop on the History of Central and Inner Asia, Harvard University, October 14, 2014.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA) 8th Biennial Symposium, March 2–4, 2023.
Rice University and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (with Aimée Froom, MFAH).

MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, 2017–18
Art History Fellow in the Department of Islamic Art. Researched Safavid tile panels and single-page paintings.

Harvard Art Museums, Harvard University, 2015–16
Interned in the Division of Asian and Mediterranean Art. Collaborated in the Qajar art exhibition project, curated by David Roxburgh and Mary McWilliams (on view in Fall 2017).

COURSES OFFERED

Rice University

HART 118: A Global Architecture History I (Fall 2022, co-taught with Farès el-Dahdah)
HART 221: Introduction to Islamic Art and Architecture (Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2023).
HART 319/519: Architecture, Trade, and Power in Early Modern Islamic Empires (Spring 2021).
HART 324/524: Persianate Arts of the Book (Spring 2020, Spring 2022).
HART 325: Coffeehouses and Teahouses: A Global History (Fall 2021).
HART 385/587: Architecture and Literature in Islamic Cultures (Fall 2022, Fall 2020).
HART 316/516: Art of the Object: Craft, Sensory Experience, and Materiality in Islamicate Lands (Spring 2023, co-taught with Aimée Froom, MFAH)
HART 367/567: Architectures of Power, Resistance, and Coexistence: A Global Perspective (Fall 2021, co-taught with Fabiola Lopez Duran).
ANTH 341/541: Museums and Heritage: Exhibiting Art, Exhibiting Culture (Spring 2022, co-taught with Mary Prendergast)

ONLINE TEACHING MATERIALS

“Coffee and Coffeehouses in Ottoman and Safavid Lands, 1500-1800,” *Khamseen: Islamic Art History Online*, published 9 February 2021.

“Coffeehouses and Teahouses: A Global Architectural History,” a module of lectures prepared for *Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative*, published 2016 (with Hessam Khorasani Zadeh).