

SASSAN TABATABAI
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EDUCATION

- 5/00 **Ph.D.**, Persian Literature and History, The University Professors Program, Boston University. Dissertation: *Rudaki, the Father of Persian Poetry: a Critical Translation, along with Commentary and Historical Background of the Poetry of the Tenth Century Persian Poet, Abu-Abdullah Ja'far-ibn Mohammad Rudaki.*
- 5/94 **MA**, International Relations and International Communication; Graduate School of International Relations and College of Communication, Boston University.
- 9/88 **BA**, Political Science; College of Liberal Arts, Boston University.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 9/11-present **Head of Persian Language Program**, World Languages and Literatures, College of Art and Sciences, Boston University. Responsibilities include developing curriculum; assessing and choosing language textbooks for the different language levels; hiring, training and mentoring part-time instructors; organizing co-curricular activities; student advising; student mentoring.
- 9/16-5/17 **Associate Director**, The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University. Responsibilities include coordinating the multiple sections of the Renaissance sections of the Core Humanities sequence; developing curriculum; assessing and choosing editions/translations of texts for the course; identifying and inviting speakers for the Core lecture series; mentoring first year faculty; student advising.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 9/14-present **Master Lecturer**, World Languages & Literatures and The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University.
- 9/14-6/19 **Senior Lecturer**, World Languages & Literatures and The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University.
- 9/11-9/14 **Lecturer**, World Languages and Literatures (formerly Modern Languages and Comparative Literature), College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University.
- 9/03-9/11 **Lecturer**, The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University.
- 9/09-present **Visiting Lecturer**, Slavic and Eastern Languages, Boston College.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2/16-present **Fellowship**, "Classical Traditions in a Global Age," Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University.
- 1/18-5/18 **Faculty Fellowship**, "Explorations in Core Natural Science," The Core Curriculum, Boston University.
- 9/00-6/01 **Post Doctoral Teaching Fellowship**, "Mysticism in Persian Poetry," University Professors Program, Boston University.

COURSES TAUGHT

LITERATURE, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

- Persian Epic and Romance;** Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- Rumi and Persian Sufi Poetry;** Modern Languages and Comparative Literature and Department of Religion, College of Arts and Sciences and The Graduate School, Boston University
- Topics in Religion and Literature: The Epic Hero Across Cultures;** Modern Languages and Comparative Literature and Department of Religion, College of Arts and Sciences and The Graduate School, Boston University
- Tradition and Modernity in Iranian Film and Literature;** World Languages and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences and The Graduate School, Boston University
- Symbolism and Mysticism in Persian Poetry;** The University Professors Program and Department of Religion, College of Arts and Sciences and The Graduate School, Boston University
- Persian Poetry Workshop: Introduction to Classical Persian Poetry;** Department of Slavic and Eastern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston College
- Heritage of the Near East: A Survey;** The Writing Program, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- Core Humanities I: The Ancient World;** The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- Core Humanities II: The Medieval World;** The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- Core Humanities III: The Renaissance;** The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- Core Humanities IV: From the Enlightenment to Modernity;** The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- Core Social Science I: Religion, Social Thought and the Roots of Society,** The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- Core Social Science II: The Foundations of Social Science,** The Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University

LANGUAGE

- Modern Persian I-V;** Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- Advanced Persian;** Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University
- Persian for Scholars I-II;** Department of Slavic and Eastern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston College
- Advanced Readings in Persian;** Department of Slavic and Eastern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston College
- Directed Study in Tajik;** Department of Slavic and Eastern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston College
- Directed Study in Dari;** Department of Slavic and Eastern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston College

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 1/13-12/17 **Editor**, *Pusteblume: Journal of Translation*, Boston, MA.
 4/00-1/07 **Senior Editor**, *The Republic of Letters*, Boston, MA.
 1/02-1/03 **Fiction Editor** (Freelance), The Toby Press, London, GB.
 5/00-5/01 **Assistant Editor**, *Bellow and Botsford Editors: The Best from Five Decades* (an anthology), London: The Toby Press, 2001
 10/92-10/93 **Contributing Editor**, *Defense Media Review*, Boston, MA.
 01/92-5/93 **Editorial Assistant** to Keith Botsford, Editor of *Bostonia* and correspondent for *The Independent*, London and *La Stampa*, Turin.
 09/91-05/92 **Editor**, *Europe: Perspective '92*, Boston, MA.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Mystical Quatrains: Persian Sufi Poetry from Abu Sa'id to Hafez. Boston: ILEX,
 [Forthcoming, 2020/21]

Uzunburun: Poems. Boston: Pen and Anvil Press, 2011

Father of Persian Verse: Rudaki and his Poetry. Leiden: Leiden University
 Press, 2010

Essays and Reviews

- "Illuminated Meanings": a review essay of *How to Read Islamic Calligraphy* by Maryam D. Ekhtiar (Yale University Press, September 2018), *New England Review of Books* (December 2018)
 "Aged Wine in all its Ruby Hues: A review of Christopher Decker's *Edward Fitzgerald, Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, A Critical Edition*," *New England Review of Books* (July 2016)
 "Usefulness and More," A review of *The Cahiers Series* on translation, *Essays in Criticism*. Oxford Journals. (January 2016)
 "Zahhak's Rebirth: Reflections on the Unrest in Iran," *The Charles River Journal*. (Summer 2009)
 "The Muslim World and Bosnia," *The Christian Science Monitor*. Vol. 85, No. 115, (11 May 1993)
 "Prospects for a Kurdish State," *The Christian Science Monitor*. Vol. 85, No. 40, (25 January 1993)

Poetry and Poetry in Translation

- "Keepers of Mystery: Ruba'iyat of Rumi," (translated from the Persian of Jalal al-Din Rumi), *Harvard Review Online*, (31 May 2019)
 "Fireflies," *Hawk & Whippoorwill: Poems of Man and Nature*, (Winter 2018)
 "Three poems by David Ferry," [Translated into Persian], *Azadi*, (September 2018)
 "Donyaye Neveshtan," [In Persian], *Azadi*, (June 2018)
 "Qazal," *Festschrift in Honor of Olga Davidson*, (February 2018)
 "Tale of Two Cities," *New England Review of Books*, (October 2017)
 "Reading Hieroglyphics," *Clarion 20* (2017)
 "Ghazal," (translated from the Persian of Hakim Sana'i), *Pusteblume: Journal of Translation*, (Winter 2017)
 "Ghazal 170," (translated from the Persian of Jalal al-Din Rumi), *Pusteblume: Journal of Translation*, (Fall 2015)

- “Kreutzer Sonata,” and “Burial Ground,” *Clarion* 18 (Spring/Summer 2015)
- “Ghazal 143,” (translated from the Persian of Jalal al-Din Rumi), *Pustebume: Journal of Translation*, No. 4, (Winter 2011)
- “Qazal (in Vain),” *Clarion*, No. 15, (Fall 2011)
- “The Beloved’s Beauty,” (translated from the Persian of Ja’far ibn Mohammad Rudaki), *Pustebume: Journal of Translation*, (Spring 2006)
- “Qazal,” *The Republic of Letters*. No. 16, (2006)
- “Seven Scholars,” *De Ideis*, Fall 2004
- “Firestones,” *The Republic of Letters*. No. 12, (2003)
- “Ten Rubai’yat of Rudaki,” (translated from the Persian of Ja’far ibn Mohammad Rudaki), *Leviathan Quarterly*, No. 7, (2003)
- “Caspian Summer,” *Leviathan Quarterly*, No. 6, (2002)
- “In These Nights,” (translated from the Persian of Mohammad-Reza Shafi-Kadkani), *Rattapallax* 8, (2002)
- “Requiem for a Prayer,” *The Republic of Letters*. No. 11, (2001)
- “The Migration of Violets,” (translated from the Persian of Mohammad-Reza Shafi-Kadkani), *The Republic of Letters*. No. 10, (2001)
- “Eskandar,” *The Republic of Letters*. No. 9, (2000)
- “Spring,” (translated from the Persian of Ja’far ibn Mohammad Rudaki), *Ispand*, No. 40, (2000)
- “Much to be Sorry for” and “Mehregan,” (translated from the Persian of Ja’far ibn Mohammad Rudaki), *Literary Imagination*, (Fall 2000)
- “The Death of Moradi” and “On the Death of the Emir’s Father,” (translated from the Persian of Ja’far ibn Mohammad Rudaki), *Seneca Review*, (Fall 1999)
- “Uzumborun,” *A World Between: Poems, Short Stories and Essays by Iranian-Americans*, New York: George Braziller, (1999)
- “What My Soul Was Like,” (translated from the Persian of Ja’far ibn Mohammad Rudaki), *The Republic of Letters*. No. 3, (1998)

INVITED LECTURES

At Boston University

- “Comparative Look at the Epic Hero: Babylonian, Greek, Roman, and Persian,” WLL Colloquium, World Languages and Literatures (30 October 2018)
- “Uncertainty in the language of translation,” The Integrating Forum, The Core Curriculum, Boston University (1 May 2018)
- “*The Canzoniere* of Francesco Petrarca,” The Core Lecture Series, The Core Curriculum, Boston University (6 September 2016)
- “Attar’s *The Conference of the Birds*,” The Core Lecture Series, The Core Curriculum, Boston University (2009 and 2015)
- “Intent and Ambiguity: Translating Persian poetry into English,” The Translation Seminar, Boston University (March 2015)
- “The American Poets: Walt Whitman,” The Core Lecture Series, The Core Curriculum, Boston University (2005, 2006 and 2009)
- “Caught in the Crosshairs: The Kurds in Northern Iraq,” The Core Current Affairs Association, Boston University (3 April 2003)
- “Intoxicating Beauty: The Imagery of Joseph in Persian Poetry,” The Luce Program in Scripture and the Literary Arts, Boston University (4 March 2003)
- “Of Roses and Nightingales: Translating the Poetry of Rudaki,” The Translation Seminar, Boston University (20 April 2001)

At Other Universities

Boston College

“Yusuf and Zulaikha (Joseph and Potiphar’s wife) in Persian Sufi poetry,” Middle East and North Africa Association, Boston College (2 March 2017)

"Shared Myths in a Coat of Many Colors," Middle East and North Africa Association, Boston College (18 April 2015)

University of Connecticut

“Tragic innocence: The premature deaths of Iraj, Sohrab and Seyavash in Ferdowsi’s *Shahnameh*.” Iranian Cultural Association, University of Connecticut (30 April 2016)

Columbia University

“Translating the poetry of Rudaki into English,” The Millennial Celebration of the Poet Rudaki, Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University, New York (5 December 2008)

At Museums

“Experiencing Noruz: The Persian New Year.” Annual Noruz Celebration Festival, The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA (21 March 2013)

“Reading, Listening and Viewing: Three Ways of Experiencing the *Shahnameh*,” The Sackler Museum, Harvard University, (23 September 2010)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Pedagogical and Comparative Perspectives on Ferdowsi’s *Shahnameh*,” 12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, University of California, Irvine (14 August 2018)

“Classics in the classroom,” World Languages and Literatures Symposium on Pedagogy, Boston University (16 March 2018)

“Incorporating Persian literature into the Core humanities sequence,” World Languages and Literatures Symposium on Pedagogy, Boston University (24 March 2017)

“The perils of over-translating Persian classical poetry into English,” Translating and teaching pre-modern Persian literature, Boston University, Boston (24 April 2014)

“Diary of a Persian Monarch,” Annual conference of the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics and Writers, Athens, Georgia (4 April 2013)

“Interpreting the Story of Sheikh San’an in *The Conference of the Birds*,” Annual conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses, Williamsburg (1 April 2007)

“Islamic Texts in the Core Curriculum: Teaching *The Conference of the Birds*,” Annual conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses, Chicago (7 April 2006)

GUEST LECTURES IN CLASSES

- XL 100: Leaving Home: Explorations in World Literature. Topic: The Ghazal form in Persian Poetry (Fall 2018)
- XL 223: Introduction to Comparative Literature: Middle Eastern Literature. Topic: Introduction to Attar's *Conference of the Birds* (Fall 2017)
- CC 112: Religion, Social Thought and the Roots of Society. Topic: Anthropology of Evans-Pritchard (Spring 2017)
- HI 596: Muslim Societies: An Interdisciplinary History. Topic: The Persian epic and Ferdowsi's *The Shahnameh* (Fall 2016)
- CC 203: The Foundations of Social Science. Topic: John Lock's *Two Treatises of Government* (Fall 2015)
- RN 341: Sufism. Topic: Introduction to Sufi poetry and Attar's *Conference of the Birds*. (Spring 2013)
- XL 223: Introduction to Comparative Literature: Middle Eastern Literature. Topic: The Persian poetry of Rumi and Hafez (Fall 2008 and 2013)
- CC 102: The Medieval World. Topic: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (Spring 2006 and 2008)
- CC 201: The Renaissance. Topic: Milton's *Paradise Lost* (Fall 2007)

POETRY READINGS

- "*Hawk & Whippoorwill: Poems of Man and Nature*," Fall/Winter 2018 reading, Boston (25 September 2018)
- "In the Arms of the Beloved," The Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies, Boston University (Spring 2017)
- "Echoes of Dawn," Poetry reading. The Core Curriculum, Boston University (14 April 2015)
- "Uzunburun," Poetry Reading. Association of Literary Scholars Critics and Writers, Boston University (24 October 2012)
- "National Day on Writing," Faculty reading. The Educational Resource Center, Boston University, (20 October 2010)
- "Persian Arts Festival," The Bowery Poetry Club, New York, (14 October 2009)
- "English translations of the tenth-century Persian poet Rudaki," The Program in Scripture and the Arts, Boston University, (24 November 2008)
- "David's Lyre: Poetry inspired by the Psalms," The Luce Program in Scripture and the Literary Arts, Boston University, (22 April 2004)
- "Man, Woman, Serpent: Genesis and its Afterlife," The Luce Program in Scripture and the Literary Arts, Boston University, (3 February 2003)
- "Genesis One: The Poetic Afterlife of the First Creation Story," The Luce Program in Scripture and the Literary Arts, Boston University, (1 February 2001)
- A World Between: Poems, Short Stories and Essays by Iranian-Americans*, Barnes and Noble, Boston, MA, (1 February 2000)

SERVICES

To World Languages and Literatures

Japanese Lecturer Search Committee, (Academic Year 2018/19)
 Task force for developing Masters of Arts in Translation Studies, (Academic Year 2017/18)
 Task force on small languages, (Academic Year 2017/18)
 Lecturer promotion Committee, (Fall 2014)

To the Core Curriculum

Curriculum Development, Faculty Reading Seminar, (Every summer since 2015)
 Teaching Development: Preparing teaching strategies and material for new faculty (2005)
 Faculty Advisor. *The Journal of the Core Curriculum* (2004-present)

To the Institution

Faculty Advisor. The BU Iranian Students Association, (2011 to present)
 Judge. The Fitzgerald Translation Prize, (Spring 2013)
 “Brown Bag” Professional language development workshop. “Incorporating literature in language classes.” (2013)
 “Globally Speaking:” An informal introduction to less-commonly taught languages (2009)

To the Profession

External Reviewer: Critical Language Scholarship Program (CLS), American Councils for International Education (2018-present)
 External Reviewer: Peter Lang International Academic Publishers (2018-present)
 External Reviewer: Eurasian Regional Language Program (ERLP) (2016-present)
 Persian language proficiency examiner: The University of Connecticut (2016-present)
 Member of Editorial Board, *The International Journal of Persian Literature* (2016-present)

Co-curricular Events organized:

“In the Arms of the Beloved,” an evening of Persian Sufi music and poetry (Spring 2017)
 “A celebration of Noruz, the Persian new year,” (Every spring since 2014)
 A dramatic staging of Sadegh Hedayat’s *The Blind Owl* (Fall 2015)
 Annual Core poetry reading. (2013 to present)
 Middle East Feast: An evening of music, dance, poetry and food from the Middle East (2013)
 Iranian Film Series. (2011 and 2017)
 Persian Calligraphy workshop by Bahman Panahi. (2010 and 2011)
 Core film series. (2003-2008)

Professional Memberships

Association of Literary Scholars, Critics and Writers
 Iranian Studies Association

LANGUAGES

English, French, Persian (Farsi)

SKILLS

Former amateur boxer with 25 years of boxing experience
 Boxing coach (licensed with USA Boxing)