

CURRICULUM VITAE
SUNIL SHARMA
sharma@bu.edu
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Faculty Position

Professor of Persian & Comparative Literature
Boston University, Department of World Languages & Literatures

Visiting Appointments and Fellowships

- FLAME University, Pune
- Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- École Pratique des Hautes Études, Section des Sciences Historiques et Philologiques, Paris
- Harvard University, Department of Sanskrit & Indian Studies
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures
- University of London, SOAS
- Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung, History of Emotions Group, Berlin
- Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study, New Delhi
- Harvard University, History of Art and Architecture Department, Aga Khan Fellowship
- Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute of Advanced Study), Berlin, Working Group on Islam and Modernity

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Persian Language and Literature), *University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations*
M.A. (Classics); B.A. (Humanities); *New York University*

PUBLICATIONS

Books (monographs and co-authored books)

Persian Poetry at the Indian Frontier: Mas'ûd Sa'd Salmân of Lahore (Delhi: Permanent Black, 2000; Persian translation: *Shi'r-i Farsi dar marz-i Hind*, Tehran, 2008).

Amir Khusraw: Poet of Sultans and Sufis (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2005), in the series edited by Patricia Crone, "Makers of the Muslim World." (Indian edition by Viva Books and Pakistani edition by Vanguard Books).

Atiya's Journeys: A Muslim Woman from Colonial Bombay to Edwardian Britain, co-authored with Siobhan Lambert-Hurley (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2010).

In the Bazaar of Love: The Selected Poetry of Amir Khusrau, co-authored with Paul Losensky (New Delhi: Penguin Global, 2011). Penguin Classics series.

Mughal Arcadia: Persian Poetry in an Indian Court (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2017).

Books (edited collections):

The Necklace of the Pleiades: Studies in Persian Literature Presented to Heshmat Moayyad on his 80th Birthday, co-edited with Franklin Lewis (Amsterdam: Rozenberg; West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2007; reprinted, Leiden University Press; distributed by the University of Chicago Press, 2011).

Vaqayi ‘-i musāfirat, introduction co-authored with Omar Khalidi (Tehran: Nashr-i Tarikh, 2008). Edition of the 19th century Persian travelogue of Prince Navab Mir Laikali Khan, Salar Jang II.

On the Wonders of Land and Sea: Persianate Travel Writing, co-edited with Roberta Micallef. (Boston: Ilex; distributed by Harvard University Press, 2013).

Firdawsii Millennium Indicum: Proceedings of the Shahnama Millenary Seminar, co-edited with Burzine Waghmar (Mumbai: K.R. Cama Oriental Institute, 2016).

Book Chapters

Pakistani-American Literature. *New Immigrant Literatures in the United States: a Sourcebook to our Multicultural Literary Heritage* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1996), 159-67.

The Sufi-Poet-Lover as Martyr: ‘Attār and Hāfīz in Persian Poetic Traditions. Friederike Pannewick (Ed.), *Martyrdom in Literature. Visions of Death and Meaningful Suffering in Europe and the Middle East from Antiquity to Modernity* (Wiesbaden: Reichert, 2004), 237-43.

Atiya Begum and the Mystery of the Beloved’s Identity in Shibli Nomani’s Persian Ghazals. *Poetry's Voice, Society's Norms. Forms of Interaction between Middle Eastern Writers and Their Societies* (Wiesbaden: Reichert, 2006), 105-119.

Generic Innovation in Sayfī Bukhārāī’s *Shahrāshūb Ghazals*. *Ghazal as a Genre of World Literature: The Ottoman Ghazal in Its Historical Context*. (Beirut: Orient-Institut der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft, 2006), 141-49.

Wandering Quatrains and Women Poets in the *Khulāsāt al-ash‘ār fī al-rubā‘īyāt*. *The Treasury of Tabriz: The Great Il-Khanid Compendium* (Leiden: Rozenberg, 2007), 153-69.

Novelty, Tradition and Mughal Politics in Nau‘ī’s *Suz u Gudaz*. *The Necklace of the Pleiades: Studies in Persian Literature Presented to Heshmat Moayyad on his 80th Birthday* (Amsterdam: Rozenberg; West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2007), 251-65.

Celebrating Writing and Books in Safavid and Mughal Court Poetry. *Écrit et culture en Asie centrale et dans le monde turco-iranien, XIVE-XIXe siècles / Writing and Culture in Central Asia and the Turko-Iranian World, 14th-19th centuries*. Edited by Francis Richard and Maria Szuppe. (Paris: Association pour l'Avancement des Etudes Iraniennes, 2009), 231-50.

‘If There is a Paradise on Earth, It is Here’: Urban Ethnography in Indo-Persian Poetic and Historical Texts. *Forms of Knowledge in Early Modern Asia: Explorations in the Intellectual History of India and Tibet, 1500-1800*. Edited by Sheldon Pollock. (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011), 240-56.

The Function of the Catalogue of Poets in Persian Poetry. *Metaphor and Imagery in Persian Poetry*. Edited by Ali Asghar Seyed Gohrab (Leiden: Brill, 2011), 231-47.

The Nizamshahi Persianate Garden in Zuhūrī's *Sāqīnāma*. *Garden and Landscape Practices in Precolonial India: Histories from the Deccan*. Edited by Daud Ali and Emma Flatt (New Delhi and London: Routledge, 2011), 159-71.

Representation of Social Types in Mughal Art and Literature: Ethnography or Trope? *Indo-Muslim Cultures in Transition*. Edited by Alka Patel and Karen Leonard (Leiden: Brill, 2011), 17-36.

Redrawing the Boundaries of 'Ajam in Early Modern Persian Literary Histories. *Iran Facing Others: Identity Boundaries in a Historical Perspective*. Edited by Abbas Amanat and Farzin Vejdani (London: I.B. Tauris, 2012). 49-62.

Literary Aspects of Amir Khusrau's Poetry. *Jashn-e Khusrau: A Collection*. Edited by Shakeel Hossain. (New Delhi: Aga Khan Trust for Culture, 2012).70-95.

The Production of Mughal *Shāhnāmas*: Imperial, Sub-Imperial, and Provincial Manuscripts. *Ferdowsi's Shāhnāma: Millennial Perspectives*. Edited by Olga M. Davidson & Marianna Shreve Simpson. (Boston: Ilex; distributed by Harvard University Press, 2013), 86-107.

Delight and Disgust: Gendered Encounters in the Travelogues of the Fyzee Sisters. *On the Wonders of Land and Sea: Persianate Travel Writing*, co-edited with Roberta Micallef. Boston: Ilex; distributed by Harvard University Press, 2013. 119-131.

Hasan Sijzi and Amir Khusrau: Friends, Poets, and Devotees. *Jashn-e-Khusrau 2013, Celebrating the Genius of Khusrau*. Edited by Shakeel Hossain. Ahmedabad: Aga Khan Trust for Culture/Mapin, 2014. 76-87.

Reading the Acts and Lives of Performers in Mughal Persian Texts," *Tellings and Texts: Music, Literature and Performance in North India*. Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2015. 283-302.

Fa'iz Dihlavi's Female-Centered Poems and Representation of Public Life in Late Mughal Society. *Affect, Emotion, and Subjectivity in Early Modern Muslim Empires: New Studies in Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Art and Culture*. Ed. Kishwar Rizvi. Leiden: Brill, 2018. 168-184.

'The Spring of Hindustan': Love and War in the Monsoon in Indo-Persian Poetry. *Monsoon Feelings: A History of Emotions in the Rain*. Editors: Imke Rajamani, Margrit Pernau, Katherine Schofield. New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2018. 45-69.

The Chameleonic Identities of Mohan Lal Kashmiri and His Travels in Persianate Lands. *Illusion and Disillusionment: Travel Writing in the Modern Age*. Ed. Roberta Micallef. Boston: Ilex; distributed by Harvard University Press, 2018. 80-97.

Journal Articles

Mas'ūd Sa'd Salmān and the Topos of Exile in Ghaznavid Poetry." *Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review* 5 (1999-2000): 40-57.

Hāfiz's Sāqīnāmah: The Genesis and Transformation of a Classical Poetic Genre. *Persica* 18 (2002): 75-83.

The Land of Darkness: Images of India in the Works of Some Safavid Poets. *Studies on Persianate Societies* 1 (2003): 97-110.

Amir Khusraw and the Genre of Historical Narratives in Verse. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. XXII, no. 1 (2003): 112-118.

The City of Beauties in the Indo-Persian Poetic Landscape. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. XXIV, no. 2 (2004): 73-81.

Urdu and Persian Scholarly Publishing in Contemporary Gujarat (India). *Annual of Urdu Studies*, 20 (2005): 296-302.

Translating Gender: Āzād Bilgrāmī on the Poetics of the Love Lyric and Cultural Synthesis. *The Translator*, Special Issue *Nation and Translation in the Middle East* edited by Samah Selim, 15/1 (2009): 87-103.

From ‘Aesha to Nur Jahan: The Shaping of a Classical Persian Poetic Canon of Women. *Journal of Persianate Studies*, 2/2 (2009): 147-64.

Forbidden Love, Persianate Style: Re-reading Tales of Iranian Poets and Mughal Patrons. *Iranian Studies*, 42/5 (2009): 765-79.

Kashmir and the Mughal Fad of Persian Pastoral Poetry. *Eurasiatica: Quaderni di Studi su Balcani, Anatolia, Iran, Caucaso e Asia Centrale* 5 (2016): 183-202.

Amir Khusraw, Fayzi, and the Geography of Indo-Persian Literature (in Persian). *Irannamag* 1/3 (2016): 1-18.

Translations

Tajik poems, a short story and essay in *World Literature Today* (Summer 1996), special issue on Central Asia.

Hushang Gulshiri’s Persian short story, “The Innocent 2” in *Black Parrot, Green Crow: A Collection of Short Fiction*, edited by Heshmat Moayyad (Mage Publishers, 2003).

Urdu travelogue, *Zamana-i Tahsil*, by Atiya Fyzee (as an appendix in *From Colonial Bombay to Edwardian London*); see Books section above.

Translations of Persian and Hindi poems by Amir Khusraw (with Paul Losensky). *In the Bazaar of Love: The Selected Poetry of Amir Khusrau*; see Books section above

Nihavandi on Rahim as Interpreter, Translator and Poet. *Celebrating Abdur Rahim Khan-i Khanan: Statesman, Courtier, Soldier, Poet, Linguist, Humanitarian, Patron*. Editors: Shakeel Hossain. New Delhi: Mapin, 2017. 88-99.

Online publications

Persian Literature between Comparative Literature and Area Studies in North America. For the section “CL History” in *Inquire: A Journal of Comparative Literature* 4:1.

<http://inquire.streetmag.org/articles/147>

<http://blogs.bl.uk/asian-and-african/2016/11/the-ottoman-turkish-zenaname-book-of-women.html>

<http://blogs.bl.uk/asian-and-african/2017/12/the-flower-garden-phulban-an-illustrated-dakhni-romance.html>

<http://www.mizanproject.org/the-history-of-akbar/>

MUSEUM-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Publications in Exhibition Catalogues

James Skinner and the Poetic Climate of Late Mughal Delhi. *Princes and Painters in Mughal Delhi, 1707-1857*. Edited by William Dalrymple and Yuthika Sharma. (New York: Asia Society Museum, 2012). 32-39.

Safavid and Mughal Imperial Self-Representation in Two Album Pages. *Harmony: The Norma Jean Calderwood Collection of Islamic Art*. Edited by Mary McWilliams. (Cambridge: Harvard Art Museums, 2013). 146-55.

Contributed to an essay and wrote two entries for an exhibition catalogue, *Le gout de l'Orient: Collections & collectionneurs de Provence*, ed. Aurelie Bosc (2013). 194-201.

Arts-Related Popular Scholarship and Talks

“Proclamations of Immortality: Rumi’s Works in Modern Editions,” Houghton Library, Harvard University, 1 May-18 August 2007 (co-curator: Hope Mayo)

“On the Path of Madness: Representations of Majnun in Persian, Turkish, and Indian Painting,” Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University, September 27, 2007-February 10, 2008 (co-curator: Mary McWilliams) (<http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/exhibitions/sackler/madness.html>)

“Sacred Spaces: The World of Dervishes, Fakirs, and Sufis.” Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University, August 6, 2009–January 3, 2010

“Celebrating the Millennium of Firdawsi’s *Shahnama*,” Sackler Museum and Houghton Library, Fall 2010 (co-curator: Mary McWilliams)

Participated in a Radcliffe Institute Exploratory Seminar, *Fostering Religious Literacy through the Arts: The Case of Islam*, 20-22 August 2014; gave a presentation on “Text and Image in Teaching About Premodern Persianate Women’s Literary Culture.”

Benjamin and Barbara Zucker Lecture, Harvard Art Museums. 9 December 2015. Title: “At the Threshold of Paradise: Poetry and Painting in Mughal Kashmir.”

CURRENT GRANT PROJECT

-*The Leverhulme Trust (UK)*, co-investigator with Siobhan Lambert-Hurley and Daniel Majchrowicz, “**Veiled Voyagers: Muslim Women Travellers from Asia and the Middle East**,” 2015-18

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Membership:

- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
- Fellow, Royal Asiatic Society (UK)
- Association for Iranian Studies
- Societas Iranologica Europaea

Editorial Board:

- Journal of Persianate Studies* (Brill)
- Murty Classical Library of India* (Harvard University Press)
- Studies in Persian Cultural History* (Brill)
- Literaturen im Kontext/Literatures in Context* (Reichert)

Advisory Board:

- Iranian Studies Series* (Leiden University Press)
- Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran* (<http://www.qajarwomen.org/en/credits.html>)
- Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, Initiative in Persian Digital Humanities*
- Trustee, *Ilex Foundation*