

Stanford | Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies



2021 - 2022
YEAR IN REVIEW

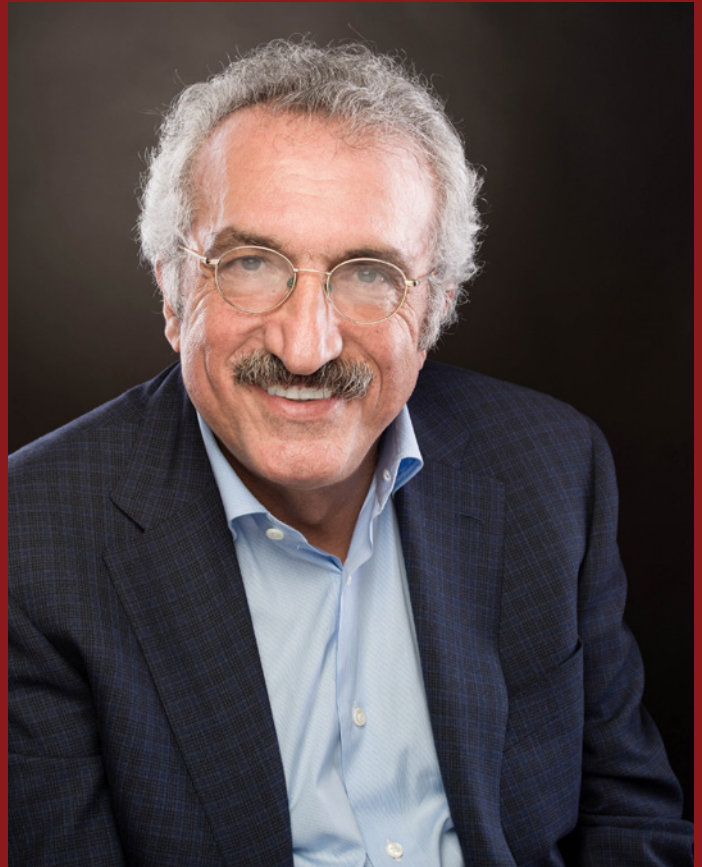
Director's Letter

The wane of COVID brought a welcome return to in-person teaching and our ability to host several live events this year. We also remained connected to our new global community through continued virtual webinars. We were delighted to welcome our students back to the classroom and to see our community members in person again. From Norooz celebrations to graduation dinners, it was a joy to see our students in person and to celebrate the accomplishments of our class of 2022 graduates.

We hosted virtual screenings of Professor Bahram Beyzaie's play "Crossroads" with a total viewership of 32,429. We welcomed Maestro Ali Akbar Moradi back to Stanford for a concert in celebration of the music of the Medes and Persians. In a Zoom conference, we reflected on the life and work of the eminent Iranian scholar, Ehsan Yarshater (1920-2018), including his remarkable contributions and lasting impact on the study of Iranian history, literature, culture, and the arts.

We mourned the loss of Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi (1928-2021) shortly before a planned conference in celebration of his work and important archival donation to Stanford. The virtual event brought together Condoleezza Rice, Henry Kissinger, Michael McFaul, and Hamid Moghadam, among others to discuss his life and career. After COVID delays, we were finally able to host our first Zahedi Family Fellow, Arash Azizi, in the spring of 2022, and we look forward to welcoming new scholars each year to continue to make use of the important Zahedi Archive.

Our collaboration with Stanford Libraries continued this year with the addition of several



new Iran-related archives. We now have the Houri Mostofi Moghadam collected papers. This archive includes 60 notebooks containing her diaries in Persian and French as well as copies of her doctoral thesis submitted to the Sorbonne in 1985.

The Green Library received the papers of Seyyed Fakhr al-Din Shadman, a prominent intellectual of 20th century Iran who served as a cabinet member in 1953 and taught at Tehran University School of Theology for more than two decades. The collection includes 12 notebooks containing Shadman's diaries covering the period between 1926 and 1966.

I have also donated my collection of recorded interviews with more than 100 prominent Iranian government officials, entrepreneurs,

political activists, writers, and artists, that I conducted for the book *Eminent Persians*.

We are grateful to writer, journalist, and philanthropist Homa Sarshar for her gift establishing a research fund for Stanford graduate or undergraduate students conducting research on the Iranian Diaspora.

With the support of the Iranian Studies Program, the publication of three books helps illustrate the breadth of topics our program supports. *The Struggle for Development in Iran* compiles the innovative research of the Stanford Iran 2040 Project in a sobering assessment of Iran's dire economic state. *A Scholar for Our Times* celebrates Sharokh Meskoob's life and work in eight essays by Iranian scholars and in a selection of facsimiles of his papers, now archived at Stanford. And finally, the English translation of Bahram Beyzaie's "Death of Yazdgerd" (translated by Manuchehr Anvar) showcases one of Professor Beyzaie's best-known works for a Western audience.

The work of supporting the voices of Iranians, promoting rigorous scholarship in Iranian studies, and providing opportunities for the next generation of Iran scholars, policy makers, and artists, is now more important than ever. We steadfastly continue our work with an eye towards a brighter future for Iran.



Abbas Milani

*Hamid & Christina Moghadam
Director of Iranian Studies*

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Franco Errico, *Program Coordinator*

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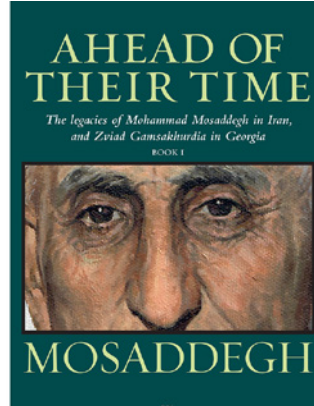


[Suscribe](#)

Event Highlights

The 2021-2022 academic year brought the welcome return of in-person courses, gatherings, and events at Stanford. More than 2,602 people attended 20 in-person and virtual events hosted by the Program in Iranian Studies.

**White Torture:
The Infamy
of Solitary
Confinement in Iran**
by Narges
Mohammadi



**The Legacy of
Mohammad
Mossadegh**
by Nicolas
Gorjestani

**Global 1968, the
Death of Takhti,
and the Birth of the
Iranian Revolution**
by Naghmeh
Sohrabi and
Arash Davari



**This Flame
Within: Iranian
Revolutionaries
in the United
States**
by Manijeh
Moradian



**One Hundred
Years of
Extraterritoriality
and Capitulations in
Iran: 1828-1928**
by Houchang
Chehabi



**The Reconfiguration
of Iran's Political
Elite: Rising
Indoctrinated
Technocrats**
by Saeid Golkar



[Visit our YouTube channel to view our event videos.](#)

Ardeshir Zahedi and the Zahedi Archives

A [virtual conference](#) co-sponsored by the Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies and the Hoover Institution Library & Archives celebrated the momentous life of Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi (1928-2021). The event included remarks from Condoleezza Rice, Henry Kissinger, Hamid Moghadam, Noelle E. Cockett, Eric Wakin, and Abbas Milani, and presentations by Roham Alvandi, Robert Steele, Maaïke Warnaar, and Arash Azizi.

Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi is considered one of the most remarkable and controversial figures in modern Iranian politics. He was the last Iranian ambassador to the U.S. under the Shah who also came to personally know nine American presidents. In 2018, the archive of Ardeshir Zahedi at the Hoover Institution Library & Archives opened to the public for research.



Ehsan Yarshater's Yaddashtha



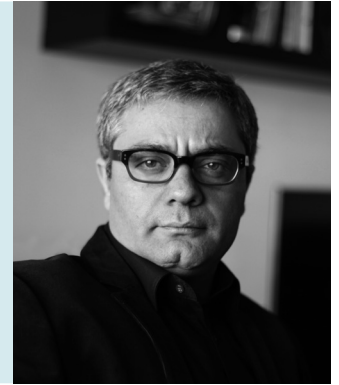
Dr. Ehsan Yarshater (1920-2018) was Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies at Columbia University, the founder and director of Columbia's Center for Iranian Studies, and the founding editor of the Encyclopaedia Iranica. In 2016, he was awarded the Bitá Prize in Persian Arts from the Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies. On April 8, 2022, Mahnaz Afkhami, Ali Banuazizi, and Mandana Zandian [reflected on Dr. Yarshater's](#) remarkable contributions and lasting impact on the study of Iranian history, literature, culture, and the arts.

Stanford Festival of Iranian Arts



**Image and Words
in the Films and
Stories of Ebrahim
Golestan**
by Ameneh Yousefi

**“There is No Evil”
Film Screening &
Discussion
with Mohammad
Rasoulof**



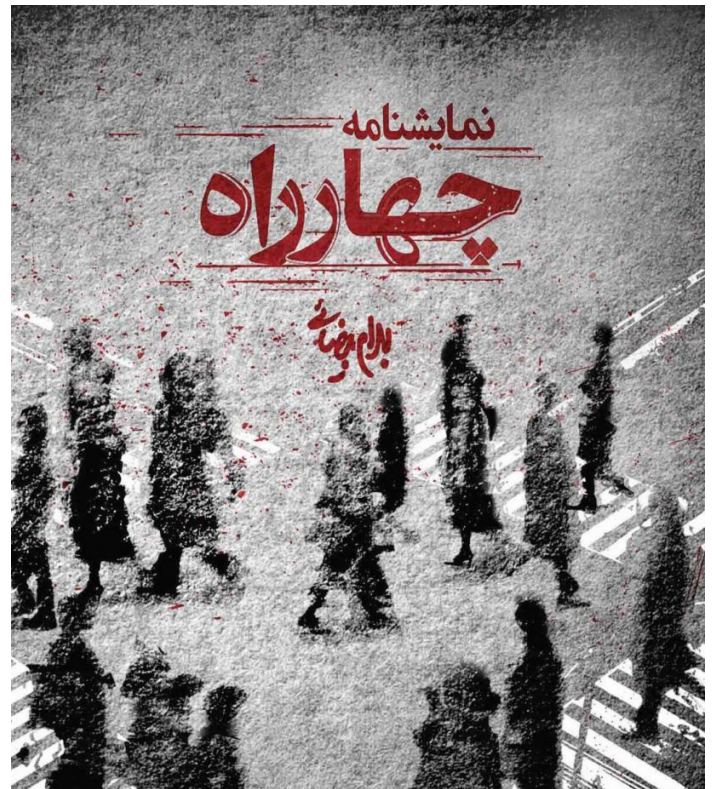
**On Ebrahim
Golestan: An
Inquiry into “Tide
and Mist”**
by Sahand Abidi



Virtual Screening of Bahram Beyzaie’s “Crossroads”

Three years after the premiere of Bahram Beyzaie’s play “Crossroads” at Stanford, the film version of the play was screened for the first time, accompanied by a virtual Q&A session with Professor Beyzaie. The six virtual screenings and two encore screenings brought in a combined global viewership of 32,429.

“[Crossroads](#)” was written and directed by Professor Beyzaie with a cast of more than 25 and performed six sold-out performances in 2018. The play takes place in approximately year 80 of the Persian calendar. In a busy crossroads of Tehran, a woman and a man run into one another, torn apart by the events of the last 15 years.



Medes and Persians: A Concert

The first in-person [performance](#) was a beautiful evening of music with Maestro Ali Akbar Moradi, joined by Mehdi Bagheri and Kourosh Moradi at Campbell Recital Hall.



Photo credit: Rod Searcey.



Travellers



As a part of the annual Stanford Global Studies Summer Film Festival, the Iranian Studies Program virtually screened the film “Travellers,” directed by Bahram Beyzaie and starring Mojdeh Shamsaie. The film tells the story of Mahtab Maarefi who travels to Tehran for her sister’s wedding and brings an auspicious mirror to the ceremony. She and her family are killed in a road accident. The wedding becomes a funeral, but the grandmother does not believe in the death of the travellers. The discussion of the film was led by Dr. Abbas Milani with remarks from Ms. Shamsaie.

Student Highlights



Iranian Studies students, faculty, and staff enjoy an outdoor lunch to celebrate a return to in-person gatherings in the winter.



Iranian Studies alums and graduates celebrate the end of the year with faculty director Abbas Milani. Photo credit: Rod Searcey.



Class of 2022 graduates celebrate the end of the year with Professor Shervin Emami. Photo credit: Rod Searcey.

Minor in Global Studies with a Specialization in Iranian Studies:

- **Examine a pivotal country in the critical region of the Middle East.**
- **Prepare for careers in policy, government, business, research, and teaching.**
- **Learn Persian—the language of poets like Rumi.**

Requirements:

- Global 101: Critical Issues in Global Affairs (3 units)
- 25 units of Iran-related courses
- Two quarters of Persian language or equivalent proficiency

Iranian Studies Minor

Pierce Lowary ('22) majored in computer science and minored in global studies with a specialization in Iranian studies. “I’d say that my minor, in addition to all the interdisciplinary exploration I did at Stanford, has added a lot of nuance to my thinking,” he said. “Although our societies today are polarized, the national and international



challenges we face, and are bound to face, require some tricky solutions. Additionally, there’s so much we can learn from the past and such a wealth of insight hidden in fields I used to overlook, like literature and poetry. I hope

to bring the knowledge I’ve gained to bear and team up with a diverse array of people to tackle these issues.”

One of his favorite experiences was taking Professor Bahram Beyzaie’s course on contemporary Iranian theater. “[I] very much enjoyed learning about Iranian cinema and plays as they have evolved through the 20th century. I feel this class was able to give me new points of connection with my Persian relatives, and a greater understanding of Iran’s zeitgeist pre-and post-Islamic Revolution.”

Reflecting on his time at Stanford, Pierce described his growth journey since first arriving at Stanford. “Over that time, I have had the privilege of meeting some of the most passionate, interesting, and all-around incredible friends, faculty, and staff—people who push you to better yourself as a person and break away from the comforts of what you perceive yourself capable of.”

Student News: Iranian Studies Minor Co-Founds Youth Polling Startup

Cyrus Beschloss is the founder and CEO of Generation Lab. Matin Mirramezani, studying economics and Iranian studies at Stanford, is the chief financial officer. Introduced by a mutual acquaintance, they first founded “College Reaction” in 2018, a non-partisan polling shop focused exclusively on understanding the views and attitudes of college students. They later expanded their polling to younger people more broadly, rebranded to “Generation Lab” in 2020, and [now work with leaders in academia, media, brands, and government.](#)



Matin Mirramezani and Cyrus Beschloss.

Student Internships

The Iranian Studies Program partners with Stanford Global Studies (SGS) to offer Stanford students an opportunity to extend classroom learning to immersive, cultural, and professional experiences through the Global Studies Internship Program. [Applications open in fall 2022.](#)

“I had an amazing experience and learned so much about the field of global affairs post-graduation. I got deep insight into the Middle East and Central Asia, and the current state of U.S. policy towards the regions.”



— **Ria Reddy**, '24 International Relations

“It was truly an unforgettable experience. I got to work on the correlation of political repression/regional authoritarianism/terrorism and sexuality. I [learned] various new information through case studies, political theory readings, French interviews, comparative analysis, literature, and psychology papers. I was very fortunate to learn through Karim Sadjadpour’s



passion, expertise, and his insightful perspectives not only concerning his book project, but especially concerning the Middle East.”

— **Tiffany Saade**, '24 Political Science, International Relations minor

Student Research

Roya Ahmadi, '25, used research funding to support her summer project titled “Negotiating Home, Urban Space, Nostalgia, and Diasporic Identity Through Art and Research.” Roya used painting, photography, and printmaking to explore questions of identity, activism, and relationship to the Iran of today.



Hasan Tauha, '25 Religious Studies, studied Persian at Indiana University.



Feyaad Allie, a Ph.D. student in political science, received funding support towards his research in India during the summer of 2021. His dissertation,

titled “Power, Exclusion, and Identity: The Politics of the Muslim Disadvantage in India,” looked at the influence of external sources of Islam, such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, on the political behavior of Sunni and Shia Muslims in India.

Iran-Related Archives

The Iranian Studies Program continued its collaboration with the Stanford Libraries to acquire new and important archives related to modern Iran. A few of the archives acquired during the 2021-22 academic year include:

Houri Moghadam Papers: The collection includes 60 notebooks containing Hourvash Mostofi Moghadam's diaries in Persian and French plus copies of her doctoral thesis submitted to the Sorbonne in 1985. She came from a prominent family of politicians and diplomats and was one of Iran's most accomplished educators and philanthropists.



Seyyed Fakhr al-Din Shadman Papers: The collection includes 12 notebooks containing Shadman's diaries covering the period between 1926 and 1966. Shadman was one of the most prominent intellectuals of 20th-century Iran. He served as a cabinet member in 1953 and taught at Tehran University School of Theology for more than two decades.



Abbas Milani Oral History Collection:

The collection includes interviews conducted by Dr. Abbas Milani with approximately 100 prominent Iranian government officials, entrepreneurs, political activists, writers, and artists. It contains approximately 200 audio files and the contents of interviews have been used for Dr. Milani's two-volume biographical book *Eminent Persians*.



DocuNights: DocuNight is a streaming service dedicated to documentaries from and about Iran. Stanford is one of the few institutions of higher education in the U.S. that has purchased a subscription to the service. DocuNight provides access to a curated collection of documentary, non-fiction, feature, and short films on an on-demand basis. Access to the service is available for Stanford students, faculty, and staff.

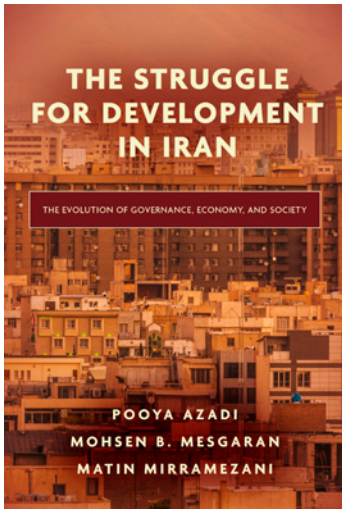
Publications

The Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies was pleased to support the publication of these important works.

The Struggle for Development in Iran

Pooya Azadi, Mohsen B. Mesgaran, Matin Mirramezani

Stanford University Press, 2022

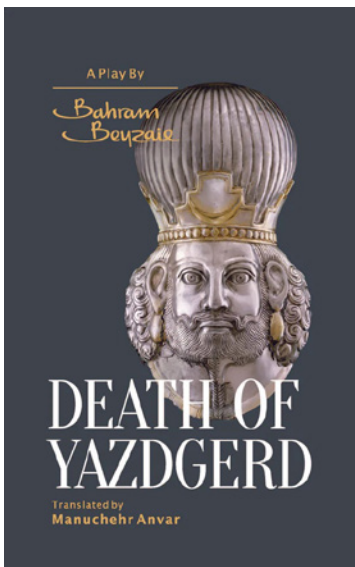


[The Struggle for Development in Iran](#)

provides a multidimensional analysis of Iran's struggle for development between 1970 and 2020, focusing on fundamentals, institutions, and socio-economic trends.

This book aims to fill this gap using positive economics and data-

driven analysis to cover a wide array of topics, such as governance, corruption, macroeconomy, population dynamics, labor, financial systems, energy, water scarcity, and food security. Illustrating clearly the complex interactions among different dimensions of Iran's development, this book is essential for researchers, policy makers, and journalists.



Death of Yazdgerd

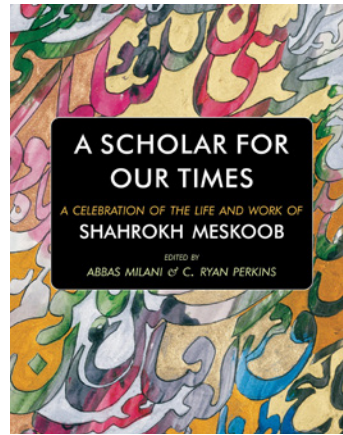
Bahram Beyzaie

Bisheh Publishing, 2022

Bahram Beyzaie's award-winning play *Death of Yazdgerd* was [published in English](#) by Bisheh Publishers, translated by Manuchehr Anvar.

Scholar for Our Times: A Celebration of The Life and Work of Shahrokh Meskoob

Edited by Abbas Milani and C. Ryan Perkins, Mage Publisher, 2022



Shahrokh Meskoob was an Iranian writer and intellectual who was born in Babol on the Caspian coast in 1924 and died in Paris in 2005. Imprisoned in the mid-1950s for leftist activities, he was forced to leave the country following the Islamic

Revolution of 1979, after publishing two critical articles in the *Ayandegan* newspaper in Tehran.

Meskoob's literary analysis of the *Shahnameh* and the poetry of Hafez, and his book *Iranian National Identity and the Persian Language*, all translated into English, demonstrate his view that national identity meant cultural identity and that modernity in Iran should be based upon an understanding of the best of Iranian culture.

[This book](#) celebrates Meskoob's life and work in eight essays by prominent Iranian scholars and in a selection of facsimiles of his papers, now archived at Stanford University.

["Governance, Deadlock and Economic Crisis in Iran"](#)

Pooya Azadi

Stanford Iran 2040 Project, September 2021

Program News

Arash Azizi Inaugural Zahedi Family Fellow



The first [Zahedi fellow](#) arrived at Stanford in the spring of 2022. Arash Azizi, a Ph.D. candidate in history and Middle Eastern studies at New York University, conducted research on Iranian foreign policy and the Cold War in the Middle East by utilizing the Zahedi papers and other resources at the

Hoover Institution Library and Archives. He focused on the rich account of Pahlavi Iran's diplomatic relations with countries such as Turkey, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Soviet Union, and Yugoslavia found in the Zahedi papers. He delivered the talk, "Nobody's Periphery: Pahlavi Iran and the Arab-Israeli Conflict" at the conclusion of his fellowship.

Welcoming Nilofar Saraj



Nilofar Saraj joined the Iranian Studies Program as a part-time media specialist in the spring of 2022. She helps manage the program's media channels, increase social media engagement, prepare event audio-video material for release, and assist with program outreach. Nilofar grew up in Tehran and Southern

California and has pursued an interest in media and cultural affairs. She holds a master's degree in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Chicago, where she conducted research on Iranian cinema and its depiction of the women's rights movement in the mid-20th century in Iran.

New Homa Sarshar Grant for the Study of the Iranian Diaspora

A new [fund for the study of the Iranian diaspora](#) was made possible by Ms. Homa Sarshar. The gift awards grants to Stanford undergraduate and graduate students conducting research on topics related to the Iranian diaspora.



Homa Sarshar is a published author, award-winning journalist, writer, and media personality. She is an established women's rights activist, the author of several books and the editor of 11 other volumes, including five volumes of the *Iranian Women's Studies Foundation Journal* and four volumes of *The History of Contemporary Iranian Jews*.

Meet Dr. Kioumars Ghereghlou, Stanford Libraries' New Middle East Curator

[Dr. Kioumars Ghereghlou](#) joined Stanford in September 2021 as the new Middle East Collections Curator at Stanford Libraries. Dr. Ghereghlou gives an account of his role in collecting and managing library materials related to Iran, Turkey, and the Arabic-speaking world, and discusses the growing archival collection on modern Iran.

The material Dr. Ghereghlou acquires and manages include traditional scholarly publications (print and digital), special collections and archival materials, and materials published via emerging forms of scholarly communication. He selects and acquires materials and provides advanced reference services that support the research and teaching needs of Stanford students, faculty, and researchers specializing in the Middle East and North Africa. He also collaborates with other curators to ensure that Stanford Libraries' collections and services remain as interdisciplinary as possible.

Dr. Ghereghlou shared that the Iran-related collections, made available through the Stanford Library and Hoover Institution Library and Archives, are indispensable for upper-level research and teaching in contemporary Iranian Studies. Overall, they are home to a dozen collections of archival materials covering various aspects of society and politics in 20th-century Iran. One of his goals is to turn the Stanford University Libraries into a major center of excellence for archival collection and research on contemporary Iranian society and politics. "We have already acquired some of the best collections in the field, thanks primarily to Professor Milani's indefatigable efforts and visionary leadership over the past two decades. I am committed to expanding the size and number of archival collections that deal with Iran and Iranian Studies."



Several notable collections from the Iran-archives at Stanford include:

- [The Zahedi Papers](#)
- [The Meskoob Papers](#)
- [The Homa Sarshar Collection](#)
- [The Hushang Gulshiri Papers](#)
- [The Allamehzadeh Collection](#)
- [The Hussein Alai Collection](#)
- [The Hamid and Parviz Shawkat Collections](#)
- [The Mostafa Shu'aiyan Papers](#)

Looking Forward

The leadership and staff of the Stanford Program in Iranian Studies condemn the ongoing violence the Iranian regime is utilizing to silence dissent. We support the Iranians who demand justice for the death of Mahsa Amini and are calling for basic human rights, freedom, and dignity for all Iranians.

Since its founding, the mission of the Program in Iranian Studies has been to undertake rigorous scholarship on modern Iran, to support the free exchange of ideas, and to help shine a light on critical aspects of Iranian history and culture—in particular, we strive to create space for voices that have often been persecuted or silenced by dogma and despotism.

We are deeply troubled as we watch the unfolding events in Iran. Stanford has been home to many Iranian students and scholars, who have contributed significantly to the academic rigor of our institution, including several from Sharif University (amongst them Professor [Maryam Mirzakhani](#)). To witness heinous acts of violence against fellow students, faculty, and staff is appalling. The safety of academic institutions should be ensured, and students must be granted their universal right to peacefully protest and exercise free speech and thought.

From time immemorial, Iran has witnessed a battle between light and dark, despair and hope. The arch of Iran's history has inexorably—albeit slowly and haltingly—moved towards increasing justice, equality, and dignity. We find hope in the bravery and resilience of the people of Iran, particularly the remarkable women who continue to fight for equality and justice. We are confident that this perilous moment will beget a better tomorrow, and in the meantime we will steadfastly continue our work to support a better future for Iran.



Further reading:

- [“Iran regime knows it’s sitting on top of a volcano, says renowned historian”](#): CNN’s Christiane Amanpour interview with Dr. Abbas Milani
- [Protests in Iran are part of a ‘long, almost Sisyphean, struggle’ for freedom and equality, Stanford scholar says](#): Dr. Abbas Milani’s interview with Stanford News about the recent protests in Iran.
- [Playlist: The Iranian Women’s Movement](#): View past talks on the long history of activism by Iranian women
- [“The Mother of Iran Has Risen”](#): Poem by Professor Bahram Beyzaie about the uprising of Iranian women (in Persian)
- [The Iranian Revolution](#): Dr. Abbas Milani gives an introduction and overview of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, its causes/effects and significance.

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Program in Iranian Studies

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