

## **Prof. Dr. Leila Rahimi Bahmany**

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  
Institut für den Nahen und Mittleren Osten  
Veterinärstr. 1  
80539 München  
Germany

Phone: +4917678916881  
L.RahimiBahmany@lmu.de  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6120-8476>

### **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. 2012      Comparative Literature, Philosophy and Human Sciences, Free University of Berlin  
Dissertation: “A Site of Entrapment and Emancipation: Mirror in the Works of Forugh Farrokhzad and Sylvia Plath”  
Supervisors:      Prof. Dr Ulla Haselstein (American Literature)  
                         Prof. Dr Maria Macuch (Iranian Studies)
- M.A. 2002      English Language and Literature, Shiraz University, Iran  
Thesis: “A Study of Thomas Hardy’s Three Major Novels in the Light of Feminism”
- B.A. 1997      English Language and Literature, University of Tehran, Iran

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 1.10.2025–      Guest Professor at the Institute for the Near and Middle East, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich
- 15.07.2023–      Post-doc Researcher for the ERC Advanced Grant Project “Beyond Sharia: The Role of Sufism in Shaping Islam,” Utrecht University  
30.09.2025
- 2022–2023      Visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
- 2016–2022      Visiting Lecturer of Persian Literature and Culture, Religious Studies Program, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
- Jan.–April      Visiting Fellow at Oxford Nizami Ganjavi Centre (ONGC), The Oriental Institute, The University of Oxford  
2022
- 2019–2021      Research Fellow and Lecturer of Persian Language, Institute for the Study of Culture and Religion of Islam, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
- 2011–2012      Lecturer of Persian Language at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, Montreal
- 2002–2003      Research Assistant at the Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia (Tehran), Department of Religions and Mysticism
- 2002–2003      Lecturer of the English Language at the Department of English Literature at the Islamic Azad University (Karaj Branch, Iran)

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Monographs**

- In Preparation      *Crafting Sufi Authority: Kaygusuz Abdal in the Mirror of the Menâkıbnâme*, in the series Sufism Studies: The Mystical Philosophy of Islam, De Gruyter
- 2025      *Azeri Turkish Narratives in Twentieth-Century Iran: Resisting Monolingualism*, Edinburgh University Press.

- 2015 *Mirrors of Entrapment and Emancipation: Forugh Farrokhzad and Sylvia Plath*. Leiden University Press (winner of Latifeh Yarshater Book Award). [Open Access](#)

### Articles and Book Chapters

- In Preparation "Nationalism and Turkophobia in Modern Persian Poetry: 'Ārif of Qazwīn"
- 2024 "Monolingualism in Iran: The Politics of Writing in Azeri Turkish (Roundtable)", *Iranian Studies*, 2024
- 2023 "Rumi en de kunst van krankzinnigheid," (Rumi and His Technique of Madness), *ZemZem*, 2023/2 *Rumi*, pp. 108–114 (in Dutch).
- 2020 "Forugh Farrokhzad and her Madness." In *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Literature*. Edited by B. Venkat Mani and Ken Seigneurie. Volume V. Oxford: Wiley- Blackwell Press.
- 2016 "Mirror Metaphor in Persian Sufi Literature." In *The Mirror in Medieval and Early Modern Cultures: Specular Reflections*. Edited by Nancy M. Frelick. Turnout, Belgium: Brepols Publishers, pp. 113–129.
- 2010 "'Bewildered Mirror': Mirror, Self and World in the Poems of Forugh Farrokhzad." In *Forugh Farrokhzad, Poet of Modern Iran: Iconic Woman and Feminine Pioneer of New Persian Poetry*. Edited by Dominic Parviz Brookshaw and Nasrin Rahimieh. London and New York: I.B. Tauris, pp. 69–82.  
(In Persian "Āyina-ye ḥeyrat: āyina, khud ve jahān dar she 'r-i Furūgh Farrokhzād," in *Nāmī bar pīshāni-yi āsimān*, translated by Sohrāb Ṭāvūsī. Tehran: Intishārāt-i Murvārīd, 2022).

### Encyclopedia Entries

- 2023 "Mir Möhsün Nəvvab and his *The Armenian-Muslim War of 1905–1906*." In *Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History*. Edited by David Thomas and John Chesworth, vol. 20, Leiden: Brill, pp. 523–528
- 2023 "Mirzə Fətəli Axundzadə and his *Maktubāt-i Kamāl al-Dawla (The Letters of Kamāl al-Dawla)*." In *Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History*. Edited by David Thomas and John Chesworth, vol. 20, Leiden: Brill, pp. 461–476.
- 2023 "Mammed Said Ordubadi and his *Years of Blood*." In *Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History*. Edited by David Thomas and John Chesworth, vol. 20, Leiden: Brill, pp. 538–546.
- 2013 "Bahā' al-Dīn Sulṭān Walad." In *Encyclopaedia Islamica*. Edited by Wilferd Madelung and Farhad Daftary. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers. Vol. 4, pp. 164–170.
- 2011 "Jalvatiyya." In *Da'irat al-ma'ārif buẓurg-i islāmī [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia]*. Tehran: The Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia. Vol. 17, pp. 5–6. (Persian)
- 2010 "Thāqib Mustafā Dede." In *Da'irat al-ma'ārif buẓurg-i islāmī [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia]*. Tehran: The Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia. Vol. 18, pp. 371–74. (Persian)
- 2007 "Tārā' Chand." In *Da'irat al-ma'ārif buẓurg-i islāmī [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia]*. Tehran: The Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia. Vol. 14, pp. 277–79. (Persian)

- 2007 “Pīr ‘Alī Aqṣarāyī.” In *Dāʿirat al-maʿārif buẓurg-i islāmī* [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia]. Tehran: The Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia. Vol. 14, pp. 126–7. (Persian)
- 2005 “Bahaʿ al-Dīn Sulṭān Valad.” In *Dāʿirat al-maʿārif buẓurg-i islāmī* [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia]. Tehran: The Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia. Vol. 13, pp. 68–71. (Persian)
- 2005 “Bayyūmiya.” In *Dāʿirat al-maʿārif buẓurg-i islāmī* [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia]. Tehran: The Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia. Vol. 13, pp. 471–2. (Persian)
- 2003 “Bāyazīd-i Rūmī.” In *Dāʿirat al-maʿārif buẓurg-i islāmī* [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia]. Tehran: The Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia. Vol. 11, p. 325. (Persian)
- 2003 “Badr od-Dīn Ibn Qāzī Samāvnā.” In *Dāʿirat al-maʿārif buẓurg-i islāmī* [The Great Islamic Encyclopaedia]. Tehran: The Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia. Vol. 11, pp. 539–42. (Persian)

### Academic Blog

- 2024 “Mīrzā Faṭḥ-‘Alī Ākhūndzāde and His Idea of Protestantism in Islam,” ERC Advanced Project: Beyond Sharia: The Role of Sufism in Shaping Islam: <https://beyondsharia.nl/2024/09/19/mirza-fath-ali-akhundzade-and-his-idea-of-protestantism-in-islam/>

### Translations

- 2018 “Eve,” [translated from Persian into English] by Faramarz Haj Manouchehri and Stephen Hirtenstein in *Encyclopaedia Islamica*, Editors-in-Chief: Wilferd Madelung and Farhad Daftary. Consulted on 23 July 2019 < [https://dx.doi.org/10.1163/1875-9831\\_isla\\_COM\\_036128](https://dx.doi.org/10.1163/1875-9831_isla_COM_036128)>
- 2018 “Dārā Shukūh (Part I: Life and Works)” [translated from Persian into English] by Alireza Ebrahim and Shahram Khodavardian in *Encyclopaedia Islamica*, Editors-in-Chief: Wilferd Madelung and Farhad Daftary. Consulted on 23 July 2019 < [https://dx.doi.org/10.1163/1875-9831\\_isla\\_COM\\_037182](https://dx.doi.org/10.1163/1875-9831_isla_COM_037182)>
- 2005 “Munāẓarahā-yi Mīr Sayyid Sharīf-i Jurjānī u Saʿd al-Dīn Taftāzānī,” [The Debates Between al-Sayyid al-Sharīf al-Jurjānī and Saʿd al-Dīn al-Taftāzānī] by Sadreddin Gūmūsh [translated from Turkish into Persian]. *Āyina-yi mīrāth* 29: 63–70.
- 2003 “Adabīyyāt-i siyāhān dar qarn-i bīstum,” [Black Literature in the 20th Century], [translated from English into Persian]. *Bi sūy-i faradā* 14: 24–6.
- 2003 “Italo Calvino,” [translated from English into Persian]. *Bi sūy-i faradā* 27: 25.

### Reviews Received

- On the book *Mirrors of Entrapment and Emancipation: Forugh Farrokhzād and Sylvia Plath*. Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2015:
- 2017 Claus Valling Pedersen, *Iranian Studies* 50 5 (2017): 735–737.
- 2016 Rehan Qayoom, *Poets and Dreamers: Book Reviews*, online access: <http://www.poetsanddreamers.com/book-reviews>
- 2016 Babak Elahi, *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 33 3 (Summer 2016): 115–119.
- 2015 Tarāni Miskūb, *Bukhārā* 16 106 (June–July 2015): 524–526. (Persian)

### **FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

- 2022 (January–April) Visiting Fellowship, Oxford Nizami Ganjavi Centre (ONGC), The Oriental Institute, The University of Oxford
- 2016 The Latifeh Yarshater Award for the book *Mirrors of Entrapment and Emancipation: Forugh Farrokhzad and Sylvia Plath* (Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2015)
- 2006–2008 PhD Scholarship from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Germany)

### **INVITED LECTURES**

- 13 Jan. 2025 “Monolingualism and Azeri Turkish Narratives in Modern Iran” Institut für den Nahen und Mittleren Osten, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
- July 2023 “Azeri Turkish Literature of Iran as a ‘Small Literature’”, Workshop on “Persian Literary Translation”, Organized by the Project Beyond Sharia, Utrecht University, Netherlands
- March 2023 “Writing Against the Centre: Azeri Turkish Narratives of Iran,” Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University
- March 2022 “Contesting the Centre: Azeri Turkish Narratives in 20th Century Iran,” Oxford Nizami Ganjavi Centre, University of Oxford
- April 2021 “Martyrdom and Liminal Temporal Spaces in Simin Daneshvar’s *Sūvashūn*,” SU Gender Speaker Series, Sabancı University, Istanbul
- Feb 2021 “Forugh Farrokhzad, Modernity and Madness,” Seminar Series: Women Poets, University of Toronto
- July 2020 “A History of Confused Nation: Simin Daneshvar and her Works,” Senior Research Seminar (Oberseminar), Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- March 2025 “Conferring Authority through Hagiography: The Case of Kaygusuz Abdal and the Appropriation of Narrative Strategies,” Orthodoxy and Dissent: Exploring Persian Intellectual Legacies, Wadham College, University of Oxford
- Feb. 2025 “Conferring Authority through Hagiography: The Case of Kaygusuz Abdal and the Appropriation of Narrative Strategies,” Symposium: Encounters and Exchanges. Dynamiken des Religiösen, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- July 2024 “Turkophobia in Modern Persian Poetry: ‘Ārif of Qazwīn,” First European Round Table on Modern Persian Literature, Universität Bamberg
- Nov. 2023 “Rūmī and His Technique of Madness,” Conference A Boundless Ocean: Rumi’s Philosophy and Reception, Utrecht University, Utrecht
- March 2022 “Against the Centre: Writing Azeri Turkish Narratives in Iran,” Near Eastern Studies Seminar, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
- July 2022 “Azeri Turkish Narratives of Iran,” XXIII Congress of International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

- Oct 2021 “Rumi and His Technique of Madness (*Mawlānī va fann-e divānagī*),” International Symposium on Sufism and Literature, Atatürk University, Erzurum (Presentation in Persian)
- Feb. 2020 “The Historico-Legendary Concurrences in *Savashūn*,” Historical Fictions Research Conference, University of Salzburg, Austria
- 2019 “The Emergence of Narrative Fiction in Azeri Turkish in Iran,” Ninth European Conference of Iranian Studies, Free University of Berlin
- 2019 “Rival Discourses in the Works of Simin Daneshvar,” Tagung Polemik & Akkulturation in der europäisch-asiatischen Religionsbegegnung: Strategien von Missionaren, Pilgern und Migranten, Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main
- 2017 “Forugh Farrokhzad and her Madness,” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Utrecht University
- 2016 “Esoteric Veil of Mystery in Persian Sufi Literature: Pardi-yi Asrār,” Eleventh Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, University of Vienna, Austria
- 2014 “The Lithographic Publication of Azari Literature in Qajar Iran,” Fourteenth International Qajar Studies Association (IQSA) Conference on “Literature and Writing in Qajar Iran”, Otto-Friedrich Universität, Bamberg, Germany
- 2012 “Convergence of Symbols: The Mirror of Divinity in Persian Sufi Literature,” Workshop on “Specular Reflections: The Mirror in Medieval and Early Modern Cultures”, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- 2008 “‘Bewildered Mirror’: The Reciprocity of the Self and the Mirror in the Works of Forugh Farrokhzad,” Conference on Forugh Farrokhzad (1935-1967): 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, University of Manchester
- 2007 “The Image of the Modern Woman by Sylvia Plath and Forugh Farrokhzad: A Comparative Study,” interdisciplinary workshop of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Bonn

#### **ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS ATTENDED**

- 2014 “Persian Manuscript Studies: An Introduction,” at the Berlin State Library (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin), Directed by Francis Richard and Simon Rettig
- 2014 “Teaching in English”, a workshop at the Freie Universität Berlin

#### **CONFERENCE ORGANISED**

- 5–6 September 2024 International conference “Limits, Boundaries, and Transgression in Literatures and Languages of the Persianate World” at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, ERC Project “Beyond Sharia”, Utrecht University (Co-convenor with Asghar Seyed-Gohrab et al.)
- 11–12 April 2024 International conference “Femininity and Masculinity in Persian Literature,” at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, ERC Project “Beyond Sharia”, Utrecht University (Co-convenor with Asghar Seyed-Gohrab et al.)

#### **COURSES TAUGHT**

Goethe University Frankfurt:

- Narrating Modern Iran: Simin Daneshvar
- “Lost in Translation”: Über-Setzen von West nach Ost in Goethes *Divan* (Translation/Transposition from the West to the East in Goethe’s *Divan*) (co-taught with Prof. Catherina Wenzel)
- Culture and Religion of Modern Iran in the Mirror of Persian Literature
- Islamic Mysticism
- Women Writers of the Middle East
- Persian Sufi Poetry: ‘Attār, Rūmī and Ḥāfeẓ
- Iranian Women’s Literature
- Advanced Persian for the students of Islamic Studies, Religious Studies, and Theology (co-taught with Prof. Catherina Wenzel)

Goethe University Frankfurt and McGill University:

- Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced Persian Courses

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Persian (Native)

Azeri Turkish (Native, Reading proficiency in Arabic, Latin and Cyrillic)

English (Near Native)

German (Intermediate)

Turkish (Intermediate Reading, Speaking competence)

Ottoman Turkish (Reading Proficiency)

Arabic (Elementary)

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

2022– Editorial board of Women Poets Iranica, *Encyclopaedia Iranica*

2022– Member of the editorial board of the journal *Dabir*: Digital Archive of Brief Notes and Iran Review, Brill

2020– Associate subject editor of *Liberal Arts and Social Sciences International Journal* (LASSIJ)

2014–2015 Translator Consultant for *Encyclopaedia Islamica*, the Institute of Ismaili Studies, London

2003 Translator for the journal *Maqālāt o barrisī-hā* (*Essays and Studies*) Dānishkadi-yi Ilāhīyyāt, University of Tehran

### **EXTERNAL EVALUATOR**

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; Routledge | Taylor and Francis Group; Journal *Monograf: Edebiyat eleştirisi dergisi*

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Modern Persian Literature
- Women’s Literary Narratives of the Middle East
- Literary Feminism
- Minority Literatures/Small Literatures (Kafka’s *Kleine Literatur*)
- Multilingualism
- Azeri Turkish Prose Narratives of Iran
- Classical Persian Literature
- Comparative Literature