

AUSTIN M. O'MALLEY
Curriculum Vitae
University of Arizona
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EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Honors, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
Dissertation: *Poetry and Pedagogy: The Homiletic Verse of Farid al-Din 'Aṭṭâr*
- 2009 M.A., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
- 2007 B.A., Honors, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

RESEARCH AND TEACHING SPECIALIZATIONS

Persian Literature
Sufism
Islamic Civilization

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2017- Roshan Institute Assistant Professor of Persian and Iranian Studies
School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
- 2014-17 Lecturer in Persian
Program in Middle East and North African Studies
Northwestern University, Evanston IL

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS

- 2019 Research Professorship
School of Behavioral Sciences Research Institute, University of Arizona

- 2018 Course Development Grant
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona
- 2018 International Travel Grant
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona
- 2017 Honorable Mention, Foundation For Iranian Studies Dissertation Prize
Foundation for Iranian Studies, Bethesda MD
- 2016 Graduate Council Travel Grant
University of Chicago
- 2015-16 Junior Fellow
Martin Marty Center, University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2013 Jafar and Shokoh Farzaneh Paper Prize
University of Oklahoma, Norman OK
- 2009 Critical Language Scholarship
Council of American Overseas Research Centers
- 2007 Justin Palmer BA Thesis Prize
Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 “Erotic Narratives and the Development of the Didactic *Maṣnavi*.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Persian Literature*, edited by Kamran Talattof (under review).
- 2021 “KOSROW-NĀMA.” In *Encyclopædia Iranica*, edited by Ehsan Yarshater and Elton Daniel (under review).
- 2019 “From Blessed Lips: The Textualization of the Abu Sa‘id’s Dicta and Deeds.” *Journal of Persianate Studies* 12, no. 1: 5-31. doi: [10.1163/18747167-12341330](https://doi.org/10.1163/18747167-12341330)
- 2019 “An Unexpected Romance: Reevaluating the Authorship of the *Khosrow-nāma*.” *Al-‘Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā: The Journal of Middle East Medievalists* 27: 201-232.
- 2019 “KHAYYAM, OMAR iv. English Translations of the *Rubaiyat*.” In *Encyclopædia Iranica*, edited by Ehsan Yarshater and Elton Daniel, 16:464-70. Leiden: Brill.
- 2018 “Rhetoric, Narrative, and the Remembrance of Death in ‘Attār’s *Mosibat-nāmeḥ*.” *Iranian Studies* 51, no. 1: 23-46. doi: [10.1080/00210862.2017.1345302](https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2017.1345302)

- 2018 “Poet’s Orders: Poetry and Text as Spiritual Medicine in the Works of ‘Attâr.” In *Proceedings from the Fifth Annual Conference on Oriental Texts*, edited by L. Gorjaeva and V. N. Nastish, 197-207. Moscow: Institute of Oriental Studies, 2018.

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA
Workshop: What Makes Islamic Literature Islamic?
- 2019 University of Maryland, College Park MD, May 16
Yarshater Junior Scholars Workshop
“Situating Wisdom: Didacticism and Pedagogy in the Persian Literary Tradition”
- 2019 University of Chicago, Chicago IL, March 8
Symposium on Persian and Iranian Studies in Honor of Heshmat Moayyad
“From Blessed Lips: The Textualization of Abu Sa‘id’s Dicta and Deeds”
- 2018 University of Oklahoma, Norman OK, November 6
“Persian Digital Humanities: Research Workshop”
- 2018 University of Chicago, Chicago IL, May 23
Roundtable Participant, “Careers in Middle Eastern Studies”
- 2017 University of Chicago, Chicago IL, May 26
Roundtable Participant, “Global Medievalisms: Notes from the Fields”
- 2014 University of Oklahoma, Norman OK, April 24
“Reading as Spiritual Exercise: An Inquiry into the Paratextual Material of ‘Attâr’s Oeuvre”
- 2012 Ferdowsi University, Mashhad, Iran, December 29
“Pezhuhesh-e adabiyât-e fârsi dar Âmrikâ”

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Convener

- 2016 Modern Language Association, Austin TX, January 7-10
“‘Imagined’ Performance Contexts in Medieval Persian Literature”
- 2012 Middle East Studies Association, Denver CO, November 17-20
“‘Each Story is a Treasure House’: Didacticism, Allegory and Interpretation in Classical Persian Literature”

Presenter

- 2020 Middle East Studies Association, Online, October 5–17
Erotic Narratives and the Development of the Didactic Maṣnavi
- 2018 Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, Tbilisi, March 9-13
“Utterance, to Maxim, to Text: The Verses and Auspicious Sayings of Abu Sa‘id”
- 2017 International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 11-14
“Justifying the Allegorical Fantastic”
- 2016 American Academy of Religion, San Antonio TX, November 19-22
“Utterance, to Maxim, to Text: The Verses and Auspicious Sayings of Abu Sa‘id”
- 2016 Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, October 24-26
“Poet’s Orders: Poetry and Text as Spiritual Medicine in the Works of ‘Aṭṭâr”
- 2016 Middle East History and Theory Conference, Chicago IL, May 6-7
“Poet’s Orders: Homiletic Verse as Spiritual Medicine in the Works of ‘Aṭṭâr”
- 2016 American Academy of Religion Midwest, Muncie IN, April 1-2
“Narrative, Homily, and Spiritual Practice: Remembrance of Death in the *Conference of the Birds*”
- 2016 Modern Language Association, Austin TX, January 7-9
“Preaching through Text: ‘Aṭṭâr and the Homiletics of Transformation”
- 2014 International Society for Iranian Studies, Montreal QC, August 7-9
“The Heuristics of the *Moṣibat-nâma*”
- 2013 South Central Modern Language Association, New Orleans LA, October 3-5
“‘See Yourself without Yourself’: Reading Self and Subject in ‘Aṭṭâr’s *Moṣibat-nâma*”
- 2012 Middle East Studies Association, Denver CO, November 17-20
“Moralizing Voices and Interpretive Confusion”
- 2012 International Society for Iranian Studies, Istanbul, August 2-4
“‘When a Woman is a Man on the Path of God’: Râbe‘a as an Exemplar of Spiritual Manliness”
- 2011 International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 12-15
“Wives, Mothers, Sisters, and Old Crones: Women and Gender in the *Tazkerat al-owleyâ*”

- 2011 American Oriental Society, Chicago IL, March 11-14
 “‘Aṭṭâr’s *Tazkerat al-owleyâ* and the Reinvention of Abu Yazid Bestâmi”
- 2010 Middle East History and Theory Conference, Chicago IL, May 14-15
 “Prophethood, Sainthood, and the *Me‘râj*: Abu Yazid in ‘Aṭṭâr’s *Tazkerat al-owleyâ*”
- 2009 Middle East History and Theory Conference, Chicago IL, May 8-9
 “Bâyazid ebn Solaymân in Safavid Historiography”

Discussant

- 2015 Middle East History and Theory Conference, Chicago IL, May 1-2
 “Mysticism, Devotion, and Didacticism in Pre-Modern Texts”
- 2013 Middle East History and Theory Conference, Chicago IL, May 3-5
 “Sufis in their Settings”
- 2010 Middle East History and Theory Conference, Chicago IL, May 14-15
 “Panel in Honor of Heshmat Moayyad”

DEPARTMENTAL/CAMPUS TALKS

Presenter

- 2020 Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, April 10
 “Strategies for Online Teaching”
- 2020 Iranian Studies Workshop, Roshan GIDP, University of Arizona, January 21
 “Erotic Narratives and the Development of the Didactic *Maṣnavi*”
- 2019 Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, October 16
 Student Professional Development Series
 “The Art of Letter Writing”
- 2018 Southwest Graduate Conference, University of Arizona, March 22
 Brownbag Discussion, “The Poetry of Wisdom: The Rhetoric of Didacticism in the Persian Literary Tradition”
- 2018 Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, January 19
 “The Persian Book of Kings, Approaches for Educators”
- 2017 Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, December 7
 Panelist, Career Development Series, “The Academic Job Application Process”

- 2017 Persian Circle, University of Chicago, February 21
“An Introduction to ‘Aṭṭâr’s Quatrains / Mo‘arrefi-ye robâ‘iât-e ‘Aṭṭâr”
- 2016 NELC Department Colloquium, University of Chicago, April 6
“Narrative, Homiletics, and the Remembrance of Death: The Poetry of ‘Aṭṭâr as Spiritual Performance”
- 2015 MENA Monday, Northwestern University, May 4
- 2015 Islamic Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, February 27
“Allegory and Symbolic Action”
- 2013 Persian Circle, University of Chicago, March 6
- 2009 Persian Circle, University of Chicago, October 13
- 2009 Persian Circle, University of Chicago, May 19

Discussant/Moderator

- 2019 Southwest Graduate Conference in Middle East Studies, U. of Arizona, April 29
- 2018 Southwest Graduate Conference in Middle East Studies, U. of Arizona, March 22
- 2015 Islamic Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, April 2
- 2014 Middle East History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, November 20
- 2011 Middle East History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, September 30

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC TALKS

- 2021 Scholar-Escort, June 2–29
Persianate Cultures in Central Asia: Coexistence and Integration
A Fulbright–Hayes Group Project Abroad for Educators
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona
- 2019–20 Faculty Resource Fellow
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona
- 2020 Iransaraa Community Association of Southern Arizona
“Abu Sa‘id Abu’l Khayr va ash‘âr-e u”

- 2019 Iransaraa Community Association of Southern Arizona
“Ḥakim ‘Omar Khayyam”
- 2018 Iransaraa Community Association of Southern Arizona
“Âsheq-e sokhan-gu: Âḥvâl-e zendagi va âšâr-e Jalâl al-Din Rumi”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Arizona

Myth, Epic, and History in the Persian Book of Kings (Spring 2020)

Kingship, Gender, and Authority in Medieval Iran (Spring 2020)

History of the Middle East, 600-1453 (Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2018)

History of the Iranian Plateau, 600-1501: Religion, Authority, Literature (Spring 2021, Fall 2018)

Ethnic and Religious Minorities of the Middle East (Spring 2018)

Poetry for the Prince: Medieval Persian Literary and Court Culture (Fall 2017)

Northwestern University

Intermediate Persian (2015-17)

Elementary Persian (2014-17)

PEDAGOGY TRAINING

- 2013 STARTALK Persian
George Washington University, Washington DC, June 3-20
- 2009 Academic and Professional Writing Training Program
Writing Program, University of Chicago, October-November

SERVICE

Departmental Service

- 2018- Director of Graduate Studies, Roshan GIDP, University of Arizona

- 2018- Curriculum Committee, Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Arizona
- 2017- Roshan Program Executive Committee, Roshan GIDP and Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Arizona
- 2017- Taleghani Fellowship and Lecture Committee, Department of Linguistics, University of Arizona
- 2016-17 Faculty Advisor, Persian Association Representing Students (PARS), Northwestern University

Disciplinary Service

- 2020 Graduate Student Paper Prize Committee
Middle East Studies Association
- 2019- Peer-reviewer for *Religion and Literature*
- 2019- Peer-reviewer for *PMLA*
- 2019- Peer-reviewer for *Quidditas*
- 2018- Peer-reviewer for *Iranian Studies*

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Persian Near-Native, Primary Research Language
- Arabic Reading Knowledge, Secondary Research Language
- German Reading Knowledge
- French Reading Knowledge
- Turkish Basic

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Middle East Medievalists
- Association for Iranian Studies

Association for the Study of Persianate Societies

Middle East Studies Association

References Available upon Request