Iran Colloquium Presents

Out of the Shadows:
A Case Study of a Nineteenth Century Iranian Region in a Wider Historical Perspective

In this session two scholars of nineteenth century Iran will demonstrate the importance and interest of regional approaches for the study of nineteenth century Iran taking the Kerman region as a starting point. Examining material on that region, James Gustafson will show how some of the key initiatives for change in that period emanated not from government or metropolitan sources, but from regional elites seeking to bolster family and political interests. Reflecting on various kinds of regional descriptions produced by nineteenth century Iranian writers, and in particular sources dealing with Kerman, Joanna de Groot suggests that such texts are examples of a complex genre combining established convention and new agendas which influenced both regional and metropolitan authors.

Joanna de Groot
University of York

Joanna de Groot is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of York in the UK. She has worked extensively on the history of nineteenth and twentieth century Iran, and is currently engaged on a project on nineteenth century Iranian society. She is particularly interested in exploring gendered and globalised approaches to understanding that society in the era of western imperialism, and in the cultural and conceptual underpinnings of history writing.

James M. Gustafson
Indiana State University

James M. Gustafson is Assistant Professor of History at Indiana State University. He focuses on the social and economic history of Qajar Iran and Central Asia and serves as President of the Midwest Association for Middle East and Islamic Studies. He is currently working on his upcoming book entitled *Mediating Modernity in Qajar Kirman: Household Factionalism and Estate Building in an Iranian Provincial Community.*

Wednesday, March 26, 11:30 - 1:00 pm
HGS 401, 320 York St.
Light lunch will be provided

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