

Samuel Hodgkin

Comparative Literature
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Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature, Yale University	2019-present
Lecturer, Division of University Studies, Colgate University	2016-2017, 2018-2019

EDUCATION

Ph.D. with honors, University of Chicago Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Persian Language and Literature	2018
Dissertation: “Lāhūtī: Persian Poetry in the Making of the Literary International, 1906-1957.” Advisor: Franklin Lewis. Committee members: Robert Bird, A. Holly Shissler, Eleonor Gilburd.	
General Examination Fields: Persian Literature (F. Lewis), History of the Modern Middle East (A. Holly Shissler), Islamic Civilization (F. Lewis, A.H. Shissler, Orit Bashkin)	
Joint B.A./M.A. Cum Laude, Harvard University Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations	2008
Thesis: “Popular Literary Culture in Russian Imperial Turkestan.” Advisor: John Schoeberlein. Readers: David Roxburgh, Wheeler Thackston	

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Persian (Farsi, Tajiki, Dari): Near Fluent	Uzbek: Near Fluent
Russian: Proficient	Chaghatai: Proficient
French: Near Fluent	Turkish, Azerbaijani, Ottoman: Reading
Eastern Armenian: Intermediate Reading	Arabic (classical/MSA): Intermediate Reading

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

Persianate Verse and the Poetics of Eastern Internationalism (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2023).

Journal articles:

“How Modern is the Persianate?: Aesthetics and Politics of a Scholarly Category.” *Comparative Literature Studies (CLS)* 61, no. 4 (2024): 569-576.

“Theories and Methodologies: Pathways to Persotopias.” Co-authored with Aria Fani and Kevin Schwartz. *PMLA* 139, no. 2 (2024): 299-306.

“Insurgent Forms.” *Kairos: A Journal of Critical Symposium* 9, no. 1 (2025): 21-29.

“Introduction: Communist World Poetics.” *CLS* special issue, “Communist World Poetics,” ed. Samuel Hodgkin, 61, no. 2 (2024): 199-220.

“Romanticism, Internationalism, and the National Poet: Genealogies of Second-World Surrogacy.” *CLS* 61, no. 2 (2024): 246-275.

“The Poetics of Persianate Disaffiliation: Recusative Gestures for a Royal Genre.” *Philological Encounters* 8, no. 2 (2023), special issue, “In the Wake of the Persianate”: 281-304.

“Soviet Persian Anthologies: Transnational, Multinational, International.” *Iranian Studies* 55, no. 3 (2022), special issue, “Persian Classics in Modern Canons”: 631-651.

“Revolutionary Springtimes: Reading Soviet Persian Poetry, from Ghazal to Lyric.” *Cahier de Studia Iranica* 57, *Iranian Languages and Literatures of Central Asia: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present* (2015): 273-305.

“Romance, Passion Play, Optimistic Tragedy: Soviet National Theater and the Reforging of Farhad,” *Cahiers d’Asie centrale* 24, *Littérature et société en Asie centrale* (2015): 239-266.

Book chapters:

“Persian Poetry in the Second-World Translation System.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Persian Literary Translation*, eds. Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi, Patricia J. Higgins, and Michelle Quay, 427-446. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, July 2022.

“Classical Persian Canons of the Revolutionary Press: Abū al-Qāsim Lāhūtī’s Circles in Istanbul and Moscow.” In *Persian Literature and Modernity: Production and Reception*, eds. Arshavez Mozafari and Hamid Rezaei Yazdi, 185-212. New York: Routledge, 2018.

Book in Progress:

The Garden in Spring: Orientalism, Adab, and the Origins of Persian Poetics. Project in development, manuscript submission to presses expected Dec. 2025.

Articles in Progress:

“The Communist East: Persianate Poetic Modernity Beyond Modernism.” Accepted, *The Cambridge History of Middle Eastern Modernism*, ed. Levi Thompson, expected publication 2025.

“Terms of Art: Şanam”; and “Thinking with Idols: A Conversation Between Samuel Hodgkin and Charlotte Eubanks.” Submitted, under review, *postmedieval*.

“World Literature On Tap: Cultural Consumption and Literary Cosmopolitanism After *Haft Paykar*.” In draft, expected submission March 2025.

Literary translations:

Section introductions, “The Bedilian Style,” “Soviet Persian Revolutionary Verse,” “Stalinist Spring Poetry,” “Late Socialist Literature, Introduction: Looking Back and Looking Abroad,” “Two Easts,” “Revolutionary Romanticism Beyond the Communist Bloc: An Afghan Radical Poet”; selected translations of verse by ‘Abd al-Qadir Bēdil, Yakdil, Şadr al-Dīn ‘Aynī, Abū al-Qāsim Lāhūtī, ‘Abd al-Salām Dehātī, Mīrzā Tūrsūnzādah, Payraw Sulaymānī, Sulaymān Lāyiq (all Persian/Tajiki/Dari); Ghafūr Ghulām (Uzbek). *Tulips in Bloom: An Anthology of Modern Central Asian Literature*, eds. Gabriel McGuire, Naomi Caffee, Samuel Hodgkin, et. al., 104-110, 212-216, 350-356, 365-367, 381-384, 405-407, 410-412. London: Palgrave, 2024.

Introductions, biographical sketches, and translations, Muḥammad ‘Alī Manāfzādah Sābit, “A Literary Revolution” (1927); Iosif Braginskii, preface to *Samples of Tajik Literature. In Literary Modernity in the Persophone Realm: A Reader*, eds. Christine Nölle-Karimi, Thomas Loy, and Roxane Haag-Higuchi, 269-278, 347-364. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences, 2024.

Book reviews:

Alexander Jabbari, *The Making of Persianate Modernity: Language and Literary History between Iran and India* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2022). *Iranian Studies* 57, no. 2 (2024): 349-351.

Mania Kia, *Persianate Selves: Memories of Place and Origin Before Nationalism* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020). *International Journal of Persian Literature* 7 (2022): 164-167.

Rossen Djagalov, *From Internationalism to Postcolonialism: Literature and Cinema between the Second and the Third Worlds* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2020). *Comparative Literature Studies* 59, no. 1 (2022): 163-165.

Kevin L. Schwartz, *Remapping Persian Literary History, 1700–1900* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020). *Journal of Islamic Studies* 33, no. 2 (2022): 258-261.

Leah Feldman, *On the Threshold of Eurasia: Revolutionary Poetics in the Caucasus* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2018). *Ottoman and Turkish Studies* 7, no. 2 (2020): 284-286.

Dominic Parviz Brookshaw, *Hafiz and His Contemporaries: Poetry, Performance and Patronage in Fourteenth-Century Iran* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2019). *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 52 (2020): 565–566.

Ali-Akbar Dehkhodā, *Charand-o Parand: Revolutionary Satire from Iran, 1907-1909*, trans. and intro. Janet Afary and John E. Perry (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016). *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* online forum, “Reading Religion” (2020).

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

Yale University

How to Compare	Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2022, Spring 2024
Thematic Survey of Modern Persian Literature (graduate course)	Spring 2023
From Gilgamesh to Persepolis: Introduction to Near Eastern Literatures	Fall 2022, Fall 2023

Graduate Reading Course: Persian Canon	Spring 2021
First-Year Seminar: Politics and Literature in the Middle East	Spring 2021
Directed Studies: Literature (co-taught with Kathryn Slanski)	Fall 2020-Spring 2021
How to Read (co-taught with Ayesha Ramachandran)	Fall 2019
Persian Literary Classics (undergraduate course in translation)	Fall 2019

Colgate University

Legacies of the Ancient World	Spring 2017, Fall 2018
Core Communities and Identities: The Middle East	Fall 2016

University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Introduction to the History of Central Asia 2: The Modern Period	Winter 2016
Elementary Persian 1-3 (teaching assistant)	2013-2014

FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS

Mellon Humanities Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Chicago	2017-2018
Humanities Division Dissertation Research Travel Grant, University of Chicago	2017-2018
Summer Research Lab Associateship, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Ctr., UIUC	2017
Critical Language Scholarship	2014
Middle Eastern Studies Association Fellowship	2013
American Institute of Iranian Studies Fellowship	2013
Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, University of Chicago	2012
Hoopes Prize nomination, Harvard University	2008
Alex G. Booth Fund Fellowship, Harvard University	2007
Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies Summer Travel Grant, Harvard University	2007
Fulbright-Hays Grant, Harvard University	2007

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES

Graduate Exchange Program, Harvard University (supervisor: Justine Landau)	2017-2018
Critical Language Program, Dushanbe, Tajikistan	2014
Eurasian Regional Language Program, Dushanbe, Tajikistan	2007

CONFERENCES, COLLOQUIA, TALKS

“Love, Translated: Sentimental Internationalism and Nâzım’s Late Style,” annual lecture, Nâzım Hikmet Center, Boğaziçi University, January 2025 (invited).

Panel discussant, “Beyond Russian,” conference, Soviet Cultures: The Legacies of Katerina Clark, Yale University, October 2024.

Interlocutor for book launch, Nergis Ertürk, *Writing in Red: Literature and Revolution Across Turkey and the Soviet Union*, Pennsylvania State University, October 2024 (invited).

“Ravish-i Mār: Riddles, Vaṣf, and the Origins of Persian Lyric,” seminar, An Exemplar of Eloquent Generosity among the Scholars of Persianate Philology: The Legacy of Franklin Lewis and New Directions in Persian Literary Studies, University of Chicago, September 2024 (invited).

“Literary Modernity and Anticolonial Revolution in the Muslim World: A Conversation,” with Nergis Ertürk and Annette Damayanti Lienau, Iran Colloquium, Yale University, February 2024 (organizer).

“Of Mimesis and Idols,” guest lesson, graduate seminar, “Global Theory: Premodern, Otherwise,” Department of Comparative Literature, Pennsylvania State University, February 2024.

Discussant for James Meyer, “Red Star over the Black Sea: Nâzım Hikmet and His Generation,” UC Davis, June 2023 (invited).

“Persianate Poetics and ‘Poetic Cinema’: The Soviet Literary Biopic Before and After Parajanov,” Caucasus Studies Webinar Series, Austrian Academy of Sciences, May 2023 (invited).

“Lyric Mimesis: Vaṣf and its Objects in Early New Persian Verse,” Persian and Persianate Studies Seminar Series, Harvard University, April 2023 (invited).

“Late Persianate, Late Soviet: Classical Poetic Form at the End of Communist Internationalism,” Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, NYU, February 2023 (invited).

“Steppe Atlantis: The Khazar Hypothesis in the Twentieth Century,” Modern Language Association (MLA), San Francisco, January 2023.

“Internationalist Romance and Translation in the Turcosphere, 1941-1964,” in Inner Asian and Altaic Studies Lecture Series, Harvard University, November 2022 (invited).

Roundtable panelist, “The Comp Lit Proseminar Syllabus - Workshopping the Problem,” Comparative Literature Department, New York University, September 2022 (invited).

Roundtable panelist, “How (Not) To Read Afghan Literature,” in series, “Afghanistan through Afghan Voices,” UCLA, May 2022 (invited).

“Late Persianate/Late Soviet: The Poeticity of Poetic Cinema from Parajanov to Makhmalbaf,” in Middle Eastern and North African Studies Colloquium, University of Arizona, March 2022 (invited).

Organizer and roundtable panelist, “Hamid Ismailov: A Retrospective Symposium,” Yale University, April 2022.

Discussant for talk by Rebecca Ruth Gould and Kayvan Tahmasebian, “The Persian Prison Poem from South Asia to the Caucasus: Towards an Anthology,” in series, “The Alireza Ahmadian Lectures in Iranian and Persianate Studies,” University of British Columbia, Vancouver, April 2022 (invited).

“Late Persianate/Late Soviet: The Poeticity of Poetic Cinema from Parajanov to Makhmalbaf,” University of Arizona, Tucson, March 2022 (invited).

“Newspaper Poetry and Representative Politics in the Revolutions of 1905-1911,” in series, “Art and Literary Exchange Between Iran, Transcaucasia, Central Asia, and Russia in the 20th Century,” University of California, Santa Barbara with the Farhang Foundation, Santa Barbara, February 2022 (invited).

“The Poetics of Persianate Disaffiliation: Recusative Gestures for a Royal Genre,” symposium, “Is There a Persianate Modernity?,” University of Washington, Seattle, January 2022 (invited).

Organizer and discussant, “Tribune Poetics/Congress Aesthetics I: The National Poet from Romantic Myth to Modular State Institution”; organizer, “Tribune Poetics/Congress Aesthetics II: Occasionality and Political Representation in Socialist World Literature,” MLA, Washington DC, January 2022.

“The Pan-Eurasian Crisis of Ghazal Poetics,” Central Asian Studies Institute Literature Week, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, November 2021 (invited).

“Tools for Navigating the Corpus of Soviet Poetic Translations,” Central Asia Research Forum 2021, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, November 2021 (invited).

“Nightingales Without Roses: A Crisis of Lyric and Panegyric, 1875-1917,” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Montreal, April 2021.

“Under the Red Dome: Persian Poetic Play, Imperial Regimes of Difference,” Iran Colloquium, Yale University, March 2021.

Panelist at roundtable, “Bidel in Modern Central Asia, South Asia, Afghanistan, Iran: The Geopolitics of Literary Legacy,” in workshop series, “Steadfast Imagining: Lyric Meditation, Islamic Philosophy, and Comparative Religion in the Works of Bidel of Delhi,” UCLA, December 2020 (invited).

Discussant for talk by Harsha Ram, “Cross-cultural Archives and Contrapuntal Reading: Three Texts from the Caucasus in an Era of Transition,” in lecture series, “Scripts, Sounds, and Songs: Mediating History in the Caucasus and Beyond,” University of Michigan, October 2020 (invited).

“Romantic Representation and the National Poet: Genealogies of Second-World Surrogacy,” MLA, Seattle, January 2020.

“From Nationalities Studies to a Poetics of Soviet Multinational Representation,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), San Francisco, November 2019.

“Iranian Pushkin, Tajik Shakespeare, Russian Firdawsi: Translated Monuments of Persian Second-World Literature,” Yale Persian Circle, November 2019.

“‘We Have All Been Made Tajiks’: The Soviet Afterlife of the Persianate Robe of Honor,” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), San Antonio, November 2018.

“Newspaper Panegyrics: The Voice of the Tribune in Early 20th-Century Eurasia,” Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), Pittsburgh, October 2018.

“Anomalous Soviet Chrestomathies,” Association for Iranian Studies, Irvine, August 2018.

“*Tazkirah* to Chrestomathy: Persian Classics between National Literary Historiographies,” MESA, Washington, DC, November 2017.

“The Persianate Thirties: Persian Poetry as World Heritage in the South Caucasus, 1934-1935,” symposium, “Russia and the Muslim World,” University of Arizona, Tucson, November 2017 (invited).

“Reciprocity and Asymmetry in the Stalinist Translation System: Lāhūtī, Translator and Translated, 1941-1957,” History of Central and Inner Asia Workshop, Harvard University, September 2017.

“Soviet Translation Theory and Persianate Poetic Practice: Lahuti and Shengeli,” MLA, Philadelphia, January 2017.

Panel discussant, “Non-Russian Writers in Late/Post-Soviet Russian Literature: Inscribing the Empire as Natives,” ASEEES, Washington, DC, November 2016.

“Internationalism and Persianate Poetic Modernity: Abū al-Qāsim Lāhūtī and Nâzîm Hikmet,” History of Central and Inner Asia Workshop, Harvard University, March 2016 (invited).

“O Communist Khayyam!: Persian Canons in the International Turkic Revolutionary Press,” conference, “In Empire’s Long Shadow: Modern Constructions of Central Eurasia, 1900-1941,” University of Chicago, February 2016.

“‘Second Homeland’: Persians and Tajiks in the Soviet Archive of World Literature,” MLA, Austin, January 2016.

Panelist at roundtable, “Persianate Cultural Legacies in the Russian Empire and USSR,” ASEEES, Philadelphia, November 2015.

“‘Mā kih javānīm’: yik tarjumah-i ‘Shāh Līr’ bih fārsī az Ittihād-i Shūravī” [“‘We That Are Young’: A Persian Translation of *King Lear* from the USSR”], University of Chicago Persian Circle, February 2015.

Participant at workshop, “Intersections of History and Literature in Central Asia,” Central Asian Studies Institute, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, August 2014 (invited).

Panelist at roundtable, “Literary and Musical Revolutions in Soviet Tajikistan,” ASEEES, Boston, November 2013.

“Gardens of Kabul, Caves of Badakhshan: A Millennium of Cosmopolitan Afghanistan,” Project Afghanistan lecture series, Colgate University, November 2013 (invited).

“Ghazals in a Purge Year: Formal Experimentation and Neoclassicism in Lāhūtī’s Soviet Poetics,” MESA, New Orleans, October 2013.

“Progressive Content, Decadent Form: Reading Bīdil in Soviet Central Asia,” Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, Sarajevo, September 2013.

“Revolutionary Springtimes: Reading the Soviet Tajik Ghazal,” Middle East History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, April 2013.

“Farhad, Labor Hero: Optimistic Tragedies and Passion Plays on the Stalinist Persianate Periphery,” ASEEES, New Orleans, November 2012.

“Lahuti’s ‘Ode to the Kremlin’ and the Ruins of a Classical Canon in Soviet Central Asia,” UCLA Conference on Language and Identity in Central Asia, Los Angeles, May 2012.

“A Soviet ‘Court Poet’: Lahuti’s ‘Ode to the Kremlin’ and Persian Literary Continuity in Soviet Central Asia,” CESS, Columbus, September 2011.

“Popular Poetic Culture in Russian Imperial Turkestan,” Davis Center Undergraduate Colloquium on Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, May 2008.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Yale:

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Comparative Literature (2022-present).

Oversight of integration of major into Degree Audit, curricular review.

Founding Director, Interdisciplinary Certificate in Persian and Iranian Studies (2023-present).

Design and establishment of Certificate, advising of all undergraduates in certificate program.

Graduate Admissions Committee, Medieval Studies (2020-2021, 2022-present).

Diversity Resource Coordinator (2020-2021).

Prospectus Committee, Comparative Literature (2020-2021).

Awards Committee, Comparative Literature (2020-2021).

Yarshater Fellow Selection Committee, Iranian Studies (2020-2021, 2022-2023).

European Studies Council (2020-present).

Graduate Admissions Committee, Comparative Literature (2019-2021, 2022-present).

Diversity Resource Coordinator, 2019-2021.

Awards Committee, Center for Middle Eastern Studies (2019-2021).

Reappointment Review Committees for Turkish and Persian language lecturers, NELC (2018-2021).

Search Committee for Turkish language lecturer, NELC (2020).

Dissertation Committee Member:

Yang Hua, “Emancipatory Spirit: Chinese Literature and Russian Thought in Global Revolution” (Comparative Literature, 2023-)

Dissertation Evaluations:

Maru Pabón, “Agitated Layers of Air: Third-Worldism and the “Voice of the People” across Palestine, Cuba, and Algeria” (Comparative Literature, 2024)

Ariel Pridan, “Going Urban: The Jewish Experience of the Metropolis in Early 20th Century Literature” (Comparative Literature, 2023).

Kayhan Nejad, “From the Oilfield to the Battlefield: The Internationalization of Northern Iranian Revolution, 1904-1921” (History, 2021).

Iraj Sheidaee, “In Between Dār al-Islām and the ‘Lands of the Christians’: Three Christian Arabic Travel Narratives from the Early Modern/Ottoman Period, Mid-17th-Early 18th Centuries (Comparative Literature, 2021).

Shaj Mathew, “Wandering Comparisons: Global Genealogies of Flânerie and Modernity” (Comparative Literature, 2020).

Qualifying Exams:

Qasim Chattha, “Historiography of Iranian and Turkish Literary Modernity” (Comparative Literature, 2023).

Renée Kooiker, “World Literature and World Systems” (Comparative Literature, 2021).

Undergraduate Senior Essays Advised:

Hasna Karim, “Gendered Bodies and Diasporic Subjectivity in *Rooms Are Never Finished* and *The Long Goodbye*” (Comparative Literature, 2021).

Hosted Lectures and Readings:

Homeira Qaderi (hosted as writer in residence, 2023-2025)
Shahzoda Samarcandi (public Persian and English-language conversations, Fall 2024)
Mujib Mehrdad (public Persian-language conversation, Spring 2024)
Fatemeh Shams (public Persian-language conversation and class visit, Spring 2024)
Aliyeh Ataei (public Persian-language conversation, Fall 2023)
Saglar Bougdaeva (public reading, Spring 2023)
Karthika Nair (in-class visits, Fall 2022)
Hamid Ismailov (symposium, Spring 2022)
Kayvan Tahmasebian and Rebecca Ruth Gould (public reading and class visit, Fall 2020)
Tahir Hamut and Joshua Freeman (public reading and class visit, Spring 2020)

University of Chicago:

Conference, “In Empire’s Long Shadow: Modern Constructions of Central Eurasia, 1900-1941,”

University of Chicago

Co-organizer, February 26-27, 2016.

Committee on Central Eurasian Studies, University of Chicago

Subcommittee member for curriculum, 2015-2016; budget 2013-2014; website 2012-2015.

Central Asian Studies Society, University of Chicago

Board member, 2012-2013.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Russian and Eurasian Forum, MLA (2020-2025).

Chair (2024-2025)

- Prepared 5-yr report on forum activities
- Managed election of forum representative to MLA Delegate Assembly

Secretary (2023-2024)

Editorial board, Central Asia Research Cluster, “Knowledge Production and the Periphery Revisited,”

UIUC (2022-2023).

Co-organizer, Cultures of World Socialism Workshop, with Sven Spieker (2021-present).

Investigator, Modernity and Modernism in Persophone Literary History Working Group (2018-2022).

Manuscript reviewer, *Alif, Comparative Literature, Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, Iranian Studies, Nations and Nationalism, Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, PMLA, Turkish Historical Review, Turkish Studies.*

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Modern Language Association; American Comparative Literature Association; Middle East Studies Association; Association for the Study of Persianate Societies; Association for Iranian Studies; Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies; Central Eurasian Studies Association.

OTHER UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT (NON-TEACHING)

University of Chicago

Persian Assistant, Regenstein Library Middle Eastern Division

2012-2014

Harvard University

Persian Assistant, Widener Library Middle Eastern Division

2006-2008

Research Assistant, Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus

2005-2006