

**Persis M. Karim, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Curriculum Vitae

Department of English and Comparative Literature  
San Jose State University  
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**Education**

Ph.D., Comparative Literature, University of Texas at Austin, May 1998  
Dissertation: *Fissured Nations and Exilic States: Displacement, Exile, and Diaspora in Twentieth-Century Writing by Women*  
Dissertation co-Directors: Dolora Chapelle Wojciehowski, M. R. Ghanoonparvar  
Dissertation Committee: Elizabeth Fernea, Elizabeth McHenry, Deborah Kapchan

M.A., Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1990-1993  
M.A. Thesis: *The Search for History in Fiction: Simin Daneshvar's Savushun and the Modernist Novel in Contemporary Iran*

Graduate Coursework in Creative Writing/English, San Francisco State University, 1986-1988

B.A., Community Studies, University of California at Santa Cruz, California, 1981-1985  
B.A. thesis: *Breaking Down the Walls: Stories of a White Woman in a Black Community*  
Honors in the major and on senior thesis

Ørnes Gynasium, Glomfjord, Norway, American Field Service (AFS) student, 1979-1980

**Honors, Awards, and Grants**

California College of the Arts, Visiting Scholar, 2005-2006 (Christensen Fund Grant)  
*CrossConnections* (with Taraneh Hemami, Visiting Artist)  
Center for Art and Public Life, Oakland, CA

**San Jose State University**

Sybil Weir/John Galm Award, 2006  
Lottery Grant, 2005-2006  
CSU Research Grant, 2004-2005  
Junior Faculty Career Development Grant, 2004  
Faculty Lottery Grant, 2003-2004  
Interdisciplinary Project Team Grant, Spring 2002  
Dean's Small Grant, 2002  
California Council for the Humanities "9/11 Community Dialogue" Grant, Spring 2001  
Dean's Small Grant, 2001

CSU Summer Research Grant, Summer 2001  
Faculty Lottery Grant, 2001/2002  
Dean's Small Grant, 2000  
Faculty Diversity Grant, 1999-2000, San Jose State University

University of Texas at Austin

Bruton Fellowship Recipient, 1997-98  
Professional Development Award, December 1997  
Continuing University Fellowship Nominee, 1997-98  
Professional Development Award, 1994  
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, 1993-94  
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Summer 1993  
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, 1992-93  
Continuing University Fellowship Nominee, 1991-92

**Teaching Experience**

San Jose State University, Assistant Professor, English Department 1999-present

English 123: Literature of the Middle East and North Africa  
English 100W: Writing Workshop  
English 123: Globalization and Everyday Life  
English 122: Selected Topics in Comparative Literature:  
"Banned Books and Novel Ideas"  
English 169: Ethnicity in American Literature  
English 201: Graduate Seminar in Post-Colonial Literature and Theory  
English 122: Selected Topics in Comparative Literature:  
"Introduction to Post-Colonial Literature"  
English 71: Introduction to Creative Writing  
English 121: Introduction to Comparative Literature  
English 65: American Literature-1945 to the present  
English 68B: American Literature-1865 to present  
English 10: Great Works of Literature  
English 1B: Composition and Rhetoric

University of California at Santa Cruz, Lecturer, 1998-1999

"Self and Society" Stevenson College Core Course, Winter/Spring Quarters 1999  
"Writing Self, Reading Race: Asian-American, African-American, and Chicano/a  
Literature"

Kresge College, Winter Quarter 1999

"Americans in a Changing World" Merrill College Core Course, Fall 1998-two sections  
"From Hanoi to Hollywood: Representations of Vietnam in Film and Fiction"  
Summer 1998

University of Texas at Austin, Assistant Instructor 1995-1988

- “World Literature and the Legacy of Colonial and Imperial Conquest” 1998
- “Banned Books and Novel Ideas” 1996-1998
- “Rhetoric and Composition for Non-Native English Speakers” 1995-1996
- “Banned Books and Novel Ideas” Fall 1996

University of Texas at Austin, Teaching Assistant 1990-1994

- “Introduction to Middle Eastern History” Fall 1993
- “Introduction to the Modern Middle East” Spring 1994
- “Introduction to the Modern Middle East” Summer 1992
- “Literature and Society: Male/Female Tradition and Change in the Middle East” Spring 1992
- “Multicultural Approaches to Literary Studies” Fall 1991

**Teaching Interests**

Comparative Literature; Twentieth Century British and American literature; U.S. Ethnic Literature; African and African-American Literature; World Literature; Postcolonial Studies and Literature; Women’s Studies; Literary Theory; Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Travel Writing; Banned Books and Literary Censorship; Literatures of the Middle East (in translation); History and Culture of the Middle East; Rhetoric and Composition; Rhetoric and Composition for Non-Native English Speakers.

**Forthcoming Publications**

*MELUS: Journal of Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States*,  
:Special Issue on Iranian-American Literature.” Co-editor with Nasrin Rahimieh,  
Dean of Humanities, MacGill University, Canada, Fall 2007.

**Books**

*Let Me Tell You Where I’ve Been: New Writing by Women of the Iranian Diaspora*,  
editor and contributing author. Foreword by Al Young. Fayetteville: University of  
Arkansas Press, May 2006.

*A World Between: Poetry, Short Stories, and Essays by Iranian-Americans*.  
co-editor and contributing author. New York: George Braziller, Inc. Publishers, 1999.

*Satan’s Stones: Stories by Monirou Ravanipour*.  
co-translator. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996.

**Articles**

Biography of Shahrnush Parsipur in *Touba and the Meaning of the Night*. New York: Feminist Press, 2006.

*Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Literature*. Entries on: Iranian-American Literature, Gelareh Asayesh, Gina Nahai, Nahid Rachlin, Bahman Sholevar, and Ali Zarrin. Emmanuel Nelson, editor. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2005.

Afterword to *Women Without Men* by Shahrnush Parsipur. New York: The Feminist Press, 2004.

“Savushun (A Persian Requiem) by Simin Daneshvar,” in *World Literature and Its Times*; vol. 6: *Middle Eastern Literature and Their Times*. Detroit: Thomson/Gale, 2004.

“Cristina Garcia,” in *Twenty-First-Century American Novelists*. Detroit: Thomson/Gale, 2004.

“On the Trail: Artists and Wildlife Thrive on the Albany Bulb,” in *Bay Nature Magazine*, July-September, 2002.

“Naomi Shihab Nye,” in *Contemporary American Women Poets*. Westport, Conn., Greenwood Press, 2002.

Review of *Women Without Men* by Shahrnush Parsipur in MESA Bulletin, vol. 35, no. 1, Summer 2001..

“Nuruddin Farah” in *Censorship: A World Encyclopedia*. London: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2001.

“Books Are Often Banned,” in *Censorship (Current Controversies)*, Greenhaven Press, 2001.

*A World Between: Poems, Short Stories, and Essays by Iranian-Americans*. New York: George Braziller Publishers, Inc., 1999.

“Men, Women and God(s): Nawal El Saadawi and Arab Feminist Poetics.” Book review. *Middle East Report*, July/August 1997.

“Growing up in the Shadow of Two Cultures,” *The Modern Middle East in Transition*. Conference Proceedings, Texas Association of Middle East Scholars, Laredo, TX, Spring 1994.

“Reconsidering Women’s Writing in Iran: A Review of *Words and Veils: Iranian Women’s Writing*.” *Andishe va Khial*, Winter, 1992.

"*Savushun: A Modern Persian Classic*," Review. *San Francisco Review of Books*, March 1992.

### **Creative Writing/Projects**

"Conversation with Neruda," in *Alimentum: A Literary Journal*, May 2006.

"Walk Down the Berkeley Pier," in *Reed Magazine*, Spring 2006.

"Lunchbox Love" in *Using Our Words: Moms & Dads on Raising Kids in the Modern Neighborhood*. Kathy Briccetti, editor. Berkeley: Neighborhood Parents Network, November, 2005.

"Axis of Evil," Dawn on the Fall Equinox," "The Execution," "Baba's Passing," "Aging," and "Notes from a Do-Rageh Poet" in *Caesura: The Journal of the Poetry Center San Jose*, Fall, 2005.

"Not to Be Forgotten"—An Installation of Photographs and Text for *re:PRESENT: A Collective Art Project* by visiting artist Taraneh Hemami with visiting Scholar, Persis Karim. California College of the Arts, Oakland, CA, June 4-19, 2005.

"Baba's Passing" – for "*Of Past and Present: A Collaborative Exchange*" An Installation of Art And Writing by Iranian-Americans. Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, May 1, 2005. (Directed by Taraneh Hemami and Persis Karim).

"Pomegranates" in *Reed Magazine*, Spring 2005.

"Ode to the Eggplant," in *di-verse-city*, Anthology of the Austin International Poetry Festival, Spring 2005.

"A Conversation Between Jelaluddin Rumi and Pablo Neruda On the Centenary of Pablo's Birth" in *Heartlodge*, Spring 2005.

"Hybrid," in *Asian American Literature*, Columbus: McGraw-Hill Co., Inc., 2001.

"Hybrid," published in the *San Francisco Chronicle's* "News In Education Project," November 7, 2001.

### **Conference/Lecture Presentations**

"Iranian American Literature and the Creation of a Public Identity," Middle East Heritage Week, San Jose City College, April 17, 2006

Translation Panel with John Balaban, Stephen Kessler, and Olivia Sears, Poetry Center  
San

Jose, April 6, 2006

“Breaking the Silence: Iranian Women’s Writing in the United States and Iran,”  
Presentation to World Literature courses and other members of campus  
community at Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, GA, October  
27, 2005.

“Iranian Identity: A Symposium,” sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at  
the University of Texas at Austin, April 29-30, 2005.

“Writing Ourselves into History: Literature and the Construction of Iranian-American  
Identity,” Second International Conference on the Iranian Diaspora, University of  
Maryland, College Park, April 23-24, 2005.

“Culture of the Iranian Diaspora,” University of California, Los Angeles, Institute of  
Diaspora Studies, May 11, 2004

“From Exile to Ethnic: Iranian Americans in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” at The Middle East Center  
at the University of Pennsylvania, April 1, 2004.

“Race, Hierarchy and Assimilation Theory in Pramoedya Ananta Toer’s *This Earth of  
Mankind*,” at Empire and Imperial Cultures Conference, California State  
University,  
Stanislaus, February 26-28, 2004.

“Film and Literature of the Iranian Diaspora,” at the Annual Meeting of the Modern  
Language Association, San Diego, CA, December 27, 2003.

“The Emergence of Iranian American Literature and the Struggle for a Public Ethnic  
Identity,” at the American Comparative Literature Association Annual  
Conference, April 11, 2002, followed by several panel discussions April 12-14,  
2002, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

“Writing the Diaspora: The Emerging Literature of Iranian Americans,” invited guest  
lecture to the University of Utah’s Middle Eastern Center, January 18, 2002.

“Widening the Spectrum: Rethinking the Legacy of Colonialism and Imperialism in West  
Asia and North Africa, presented at the Modern Language Association (MLA)  
annual meetings, New Orleans, LA, December 27-30, 2001.

“From Literature to Ethnic Identity,” panelist on “The Arts and Culture of the Iranian  
Diaspora” panel at the Chicago Humanities Festival, November 11, 2000,  
Chicago.

“A Reading of My Work and Questions and Answers About the Writing Process,” guest lecture to “The Writing Life,” at University of California, Santa Cruz, Kresge College Distinguished Alumni Series, October 24, 2000.

### **Readings/Apearances/Interviews**

“Pomegranate Reading Series,” with Robin Somers and Mark Heinlein, Café Pomegranate, San Jose, CA, April 26, 2006.

“Iran Uncensored: Strange Times Live.” A Celebration of Free Speech, Poetry, and the Publication of *Strange Times, My Dear, the PEN Anthology of Contemporary Iranian Literature*, Levantine Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA September 10, 2005.

“Literature of Iran and of Iranian-Americans” on “Spoon Full of Sugar,” KIRN radio, September, 8, 2005, Los Angeles, CA.

“rePRESENT” an interview with Taraneh Hemami and Persis Karim on “Voices of the Middle East and North Africa, KPFA Radio, 94.1, June 12, 2005, Berkeley, CA.

Guest Speaker, Palo Alto High School, International Week, March 22, 2005

Moderator, “*Lipstick Jihad: A Reading and Discussion with author, Azadeh Moaveni*” Sponsored by the Commonwealth Club of Silicon Valley and the Global Studies Institute of SJSU, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, March 27, 2005.

“Transplanted Writers Series: Iranian-American Women Poets,” Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, November 4, 2004.

“Echoes of the Iranian Diaspora,” In Collaboration with the *Hall of Reflections: Remembrances of Iranian Immigrants of Northern California*, Persian Center, Berkeley, CA, December 14, 2003.

“*Conversations with Pablo and Other Recent Works*,” Faculty Reading Series at San Jose State University, March 13, 2002.

Reading of *A World Between* at Black Oak Books, Berkeley, CA, September 27, 2000.

Reading of *A World Between* at Stevens Creek Barnes & Noble Bookstore, San Jose, CA, September 25, 2000.

“Between Worlds and Words,” a book reading and discussion at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, April 29, 2000.

Panel organizer and presenter, "Iranian-American Writers and their Audience," Society for

Iranian Studies Biennial Conference, May 27, 2000, Bethesda, MD.

Radio interview on National Public Radio "All Things Considered Weekend Edition," hosted by Jacki Lyden, November 21, 1999. Show listings from the National Public

Radio web site included.

"*A World Between*: a reading of Iranian American poetry and fiction," San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival, sponsored by the American Poetry Center, October 17, 1999.

"Narrating the Diaspora"—a reading of *A World Between*, Asia Society, New York, September, 21, 1999.

Moderator and Presenter, "Narrating the Diaspora: First and Second-Generation Iranian Writers in the U.S.," University of Texas at Austin, April 3-4, 1998.

"Diasporic Communities and Embargoed Nations: Reading the Cuban and Vietnamese Diasporas in Contemporary American Fiction," American Comparative Literature Association, Literary Translation and Cultural Exchange Conference, March 26-28 1998, Austin, TX.

"Women's Autobiography and Exile," Middle Eastern Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, November 21-23, 1997.

"Subverting the First Amendment: Book Banning in Public Schools in the U.S.," guest lecture, Texas A&M, Literary Arts Committee, Banned Books Week Commemoration, September 22, 1997.

"Utilizing the World Wide Web in Lower-Division Literature Courses--Banned Books and Novel Ideas," Computer Writing and Research Laboratory Colloquium, Austin, Texas. April 4, 1997.

"McCarthyism and HUAC: Assessing the Impact of the 'Red Scare' on American Arts and Literature," guest lecture, E316K American Literature, April 6, 1997.

"Art, Exocitization, and Subversion: De-colonizing the Body and Mind in Jamaica Kincaid's *Lucy*," Emerging Scholarship in Gender and Women's Studies Conference, Austin, Texas. January 23, 1997.

"Mimicry and Hybridity in Leïla Sebbar's *Shérazade: 17 ans, brune, frisée, les yeux verts*," Theorizing the Hybrid Conference, Austin, Texas. March 30, 1996.

"Revolution and its Discontents: Women and Exile in the Works of Two Post-Revolutionary Iranian Works of Fiction," Middle East Studies Association. Phoenix, AZ. November 15, 1994.



“Hyphenated Identities in the American Cultural Landscape,” Center for Iranian Research and Analysis, Annual Conference. Austin, Texas. April 2, 1992.

*Women and War*, Discussant, Graduate Student Conference. Departments of English and Comparative Literature, Austin, Texas. October 15, 1991.

### **Other Professional Experience**

Freelance Editor, Professor Elizabeth Fernea, University of Texas at Austin, 1991-1998.  
Editorial Assistant, University of Texas Press, February 1995-September 1995.  
Editorial Assistant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1990-1993.  
Editor, University of California at Berkeley, Development Office, June 1986-September 1990.  
Reporter, Pacific Publishing Foundation, Berkeley, CA, June 1985-May 1986.  
Editorial Intern, *California Voice Newspaper*, Berkeley, CA, June 1983-December 1983.

### **Service**

Scholar Outside Reviewer, Syracuse University Press, 2004-present  
Arts Council Silicon Valley, Review Panel Member, 2004  
Graduate Studies and Research Committee, 2004-present  
Creative Writing Graduate Committee, 2001-present  
Curriculum Committee, Department of English, San Jose State University 1999-2002  
Major Advisor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, 2000-2002  
Faculty Liaison, English Society, San Jose State University, 2001-2002  
Graduate Student Representative, Comparative Literature Graduate Steering Committee, 1994-1997  
Graduate Association of Comparative Literature Students (GRACLS), 1993-1998  
Board Member, ECHO (Expanding Cultural Horizons and Options), 1993-1996

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Studies Association, (ASA), 2006  
Association of Writers and Writing Programs, 2005-present  
Modern Language Association (MLA), member 1994-present  
Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS), 2001-present  
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), member 1996-present  
Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), member 1990-present

### **Languages**

French--good reading, speaking, and writing ability  
Persian--good reading, speaking, fair writing ability  
Spanish--good reading, speaking, fair writing ability  
Norwegian--near fluency in speaking, reading, writing