

**Program of Iranian Studies**

With the Support of the Musa Sabi Chair in Iranian

**Persia Beyond the Oxus****The Circulation of Iranian Languages and Cultural Practices in Central Asia****Thursday, April 22, 2010 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM UCLA Faculty Center**

This international conference seeks to explore the various factors that may have favored or adversely affected the fortunes of Iranian languages and their distinct cultures in Central Asia. It especially aims at identifying the specific forces and mechanisms that may account for the circulation, as well as the eventual demise, of such languages as Bactrian, Sogdian and Khotanese in Antiquity and Late Antiquity. In an attempt to holistically evaluate the trajectory of these languages and the civilizations they represent, their interplay with other agents and factors will be examined. These may include: technologies of writing; translation practices; merchant groups and trading routes; religious systems and wandering priests; and the fluctuating authority of empires and kingdoms over language use. Bringing together specialists in linguistics, archaeology, art history, and religion, the conference seeks to assess the contributions of both Iran and Central Asia to the dispersal and vigour of East Iranian languages and cultural practices, and thereby identify the processes and mechanisms of language dissemination and transculturation more generally in Turan.

**Program****9:30 Opening Remarks**

Nile Green, Chair, Central Asia Initiative

Rahim Shayegan, Musa Sabi Assistant Professor of Iranian, NELC

**10:00–12:00 Panel 1: The Circulation of Epic, Iconography, and Priests**Jason BeDuhn, Northern Arizona University *Manichaean Transmission of Iranian Epic: Beyond the Oxus and Beyond the Euphrates*Carol Bromberg, Editor, Bulletin of the Asia Institute *Iranian Themes for Sogdians in China*Frantz Grenet, École Normale Supérieure, Paris *Where Are the Sogdian Magi?***12:00-1:30 Lunch****1:30-3:30 Panel 2: Books of the Frontiers and Frontier Languages**Nicholas Sims-Williams, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London *From Aramaic to Middle Iranian: The Sogdian Inscriptions of Kultobe, Kazakhstan*Richard Salomon, University of Washington *Gandhari as an Indo-Iranian Frontier Language*Ursula Sims-Williams, British Library *From Khotan to Dunhuang: Iranian Manuscript Collections from the Southern Silk Road***4:00-5:30 Panel 3: Loanwords and Technological Borrowings**Martin Schwartz, UC Berkeley *Middle Persian Loan Words in Sogdian*Daniel Potts, University of Sydney *Cataphractus and Kamandar: Some Thoughts on the Dynamic Evolution of Heavy Cavalry and Mounted Archers in Iran and Central Asia during the Parthian and Sasanian Periods*Sponsor(s): [Asia Institute](#), [Central Asia Initiative](#).