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present

Celebrating the Ghaznavids: Representations of Court Culture in Medieval Persian Poetry

Gabrielle van den Berg
University of Leiden



Wednesday, October 26, 2016 | 306 Royce Hall | 4:00pm

The first substantial amount of classical Persian poetry dates from the 11th century. A large part of this poetry has been composed for the Ghaznavid dynasty (11th-12th century), who ruled semi-independently over large territories of the eastern caliphate. The poetry produced for this dynasty has been of vital importance for the development of a flourishing poetical tradition in the centuries to follow. In this talk, I will discuss one of the major genres of court poetry, the *qasida*, using some examples from the Ghaznavid court poets 'Onsori, Farrokhi and Manuchehri, to show what aspects of court life appear in a panegyric *qasida* and how these can inform us on life at the Ghaznavid court. This lecture will focus on poetical representations of a variety of celebrations at the Ghaznavid court, with reference to the court poets and in connection to the work of the court historian Beyhaqi.

Gabrielle van den Berg is associate professor at the University of Leiden. She studied Persian language and culture at the University of Leiden and at the University of Dushanbe, Tajikistan. She has held positions in Leiden, Cambridge and Brussels. Her research interests include Persian literature and the history of Iran and Central Asia; she has published in particular on the oral traditions of the Ismailis of Tajik Badakhshan and the *Shahnama* manuscript tradition.

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Light refreshments will be served