Manya Saadi-nejad

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Employment:

**Sept 2010-present :** Lecturer, Affiliait Assistant Professor.

**Concordia University: Department of Religions and Cultures.**

**June 2006 to May 2010:** Research Associate

**Concordia University, Department of Religion.**

Education:

**Ph.D. in Iranian Studies 2019**

Iranistik, Department of History and Cultural Studies, at Freie Universität, Berlin., Germany

**Thesis:** “Anahita: Transformations of an Iranian Goddess”. Supervisor: Prof. Maria Macuch.

**M.A. in** **Ancient Cultures and Languages 1998:**

Azad University, Tehran, Iran

**Thesis:** Visual aspect of Ancient Iranian Gods in Ancient texts.

**B.A in History 1990**

Tehran University, Tehran, Iran

Refereed Publications

*Anahita: A History and Receptions of the Iranian Water Goddess*, I.B. Tauris/Bloomsbury, January 2021.

“Four Iranian Goddesses,” in Pilkho Pak, ed., *Civilizations of the Great Silk Road from the Past to the Future*, Samarkand: International Institute for Central Asian Studies, 2017, pp. 419-428.

“Sūdābeh and Rūdābeh: Opposing Aspects of Female Power in Mythological Reflexes of Ancient Goddesses,” *Iran and the Caucasus* 20 (2016): 205-214.

“Iranian Goddesses,” in Richard Foltz, *Religions of Iran: From Prehistory to the Present*, London: Oneworld, 2013, pp. 56-74.

“Arəduuī Sūrā Anāhitā: An Indo-European River Goddess,” *Analytica Iranica* 4-5 (2013): 253-74.

“Mythological Themes in Iranian Culture and Art: Traditional and Contemporary Perspectives,” *Iranian Studies* 42/2 (2009): 231-246.

“Is Zoroastrianism an Ecological Religion?” *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* 1/3 (2007): 413-430 (Co-authored with Richard Foltz).

Conference Presentations

“Rehabilitating the Pairikās: “Fairies” in Iranian mythology,” 12th Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, University of California, Irvine, 14-17 August 2018.

“The Indo-European Dragon-Slaying Myth,” Association for the Study of Persianate Societies biennial conference, Tbilisi, Georgia, 15-18 March 2018.

“Sūdābeh and Rūdābeh: Opposing Aspects of Female Power,” 10th Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, Montréal, Canada, 6-9 August 2014.

“Visual Representations of Anahita in the Avesta,” 9th International Society for Iranian Studies biennial conference, Istanbul, Turkey, 1-5 August 2012.

“Arəduuī Sūrā Anāhitā: An Indo-European River Goddess,” Thus Spoke Zarathushtra: International Conference of Scholars on Zoroastrianism, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 2-3 June 2012.

“Visual Representations of Anahita in the Avesta,” 7th European Conference on Iranian Studies, Krakow, Poland, 7-10 September 2011.

“Mythological Themes in the Work of Contemporary Iranian Artists,” 7th International Society for Iranian Studies biennial conference, Toronto, ON, 30 July-2 August 2008.

“Zoroastrian New Year in Montréal,” Canadian Society for the Study of Religion annual conference, Vancouver, B.C., 1-5 June 2008.

“Mythological Themes in the Work of Contemporary Iranian Artists,” 41st annual Middle East Studies Association annual conference, Montréal, 17-20 November 2007.

“Visual Aspects of Ancient Iranian Gods,”6th Conference on Ancient Culture Research**,** Rudaki Association, UNESCO, Paris, France, Nov. 2002.

Invited Public Lectures

**2016**: Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies, University of California-Irvine: “How to Kill a Dragon in Ancient Iranian”

**2008**: Darbe Mehr Zoroastrian Temple, Vancouver, B.C.: **“Ancient Iranian Deities”**

**2005**: Friends of Zarathushtra Association, Montreal, Canada: “Persian Painting”.

**2005**:Friends of Zarathushtra Association, Montreal, Canada:“A Short History of the Persian Language”.

**2004:** Ministry of Islamic guidance and culture magazine

Published interview on “Ancient Iranian Culture”.

**2001:** Iranian Culture Association, UNESCO, Paris, France

Lecture on Persian Painting**.**

Art Exhibitions

**2014:** **Group painting exhibition**, MÉKIC gallery, Montréal, Canada

**2010: Art Westmount biennial group exhibition**, Westmount, Qc, Canada

**2010: Group painting exhibition,** Arta Gallery, Toronto, Canada

**Dec 2009-Jan 2010: Group painting exhibition,** MÉKIC gallery, Montréal, Canada

**2008: Solo painting exhibition,** Visual Voice Gallery, Montréal, Canada

**2008: Group painting exhibition,** Visual Arts Centre, Montréal, Canada

**2007: Group painting exhibition,** Palais de Congrès, Montréal, Canada

**2007**: **Group painting exhibition,** Visual Arts Centre, Montréal, Canada

**1994:** Women’s free association of photography, Tehran, Iran

3rd exhibition

**1993:** International affairs exposition, Tehran, Iran

2nd Export Affairs Exhibitionof Persian Painting and Miniature

**1992:** Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran

4th annual photography exhibition

**1991:** Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran

Participation in the Persian Painting Biennale

**1984:** Seyhoon Gallery, Tehran, Iran

Painting Exhibition

Membership in Professional Organizations

Societas Iranologica Europea

International Society for Iranian Studies

Association for the Study of Persianate Societies

Academic Service

Organizing Committee, 10th biennial Iranian Studies conference, Montréal, Canada, 2014.

Referee, *Iranian Studies* journal.