

## **Education**

- 2020- Doctoral Candidate, History, University of California Irvine  
Graduate Specialization: Ancient Iran and the Premodern Persianate World  
Dissertation Title: “Husbandmen and Farmers, Managers and Scribes: Portraits of Daily Lives, Economies, and Environments in the Iranian World at the end of Antiquity”  
Dissertation Committee: Prof. Touraj Daryaee, Prof. Matthew P. Canepa, Prof. David Fedman
- 2023 M. A. in History, University of California, Irvine
- 2018 M. A. in the Humanities, Hood College.  
Concentration: Ancient History and Archaeology  
Capstone Title: Construction of Identity and Legitimacy in Early Sasanian Iran: Historical, Religious, and Legendary Contexts and Motivations for Statecraft in the First Century of the Dynasty.  
Capstone Adviser: Dr. Jennifer Ross
- 2010 B. A. in History, University of Maryland-Baltimore County.
- 2010 B. A. in Ancient Studies, University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

## **Research**

### **Publications**

#### *Peer-Reviewed:*

- 2013 Gradoni, M.K. “The Parthian Campaigns of Septimius Severus: Causes, and Roles in Dynamic Legitimation.” In *The Roman Empire during the Severan Dynasty: Case Studies in History, Art, Architecture, Economy and Literature*, edited by Eric C. De Sena, American Journal of Ancient History Volume 6-8, pp. 3-23. Piscataway, New Jersey: Gorgias Press, 2013.

#### **Submitted:**

Gradoni, M. K. “A Late Sasanian Hoard from 7th Century Egypt.” *American Journal of Numismatics*. (Submitted for Initial Review)

Gradoni, M. K. “Nine Kabiz of Barley and 15 Bales of Lucerne:” What Microhistories Contribute to the Study of Economy and Society in the Late Antique Iranian World.” In *Contextualizing Iranian History: The Sasanians (ca. 224 – 642 AD): Proceedings of the Fifth Payravi Conference on Ancient Iranian History*. (Submitted for Initial Review)

### **Presentations and Papers Delivered**

#### *Invited:*

- 2023 ““Nine Kabiz of Barley and 15 Bales of Lucerne:” What Microhistories Contribute to the Study of Economy and Society in the Late Antique Iranian World.” Payravi Conference on Ancient Iranian History V: Contextualizing Iranian History: The Sasanians (ca. 224 – 642 AD), University of California, Irvine, March 27-29, 2023.

#### *Competitive:*

- 2024 “King of Kings, Lord of the Seven Climes: Sasanian History as World History”, 33rd World History Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco State University, June 27-29, 2024.
- 2024 “It’s Easier to Imagine a Capitalist World than a World Before Capitalism: Political Economy and Ideology in *Imperator: Rome*”, 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 9-11, 2024.
- 2024 “A late Sasanian Hoard from 7th Century Egypt II: Monetary Production, Currency Circulation, and Insights into the Economy and Society of late antique Ērānšahr”, New Horizons in Premodern Iranian Studies, University of California, Irvine, May 4, 2024.

**Research (continued)**

- 2024 “Intensification as Imperial Control: Agrarian Investment and Agricultural Expansion’s roles in the Political Economy of late Sasanian Ērānšahr”, In the Burrow: Critical Approaches to Infrastructure, University of California, Irvine, March 8-9, 2024.
- 2022 “The Shaburan Family in the Bactrian Economic Documents: A Case Study of the Evolution of Political and Economic Power in Late Antique Central Asia.” Interpreting Afghanistan: Art, Archaeology, and History of the Eastern Iranian World (600 BCE-999 CE), University of California, Irvine, October 6-8, 2022.
- 2021 “Parthian Pajama Pants and Sasanian State Sanitation: Depictions of Ancient Iran in the Total War Series.” American Schools of Oriental Research 2021 Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 17-20, 2021.
- 2021 “When Marx Meets Mazdak: A Re-Consideration of the Application of Political Economy to an Episode of Late Antique History.” UC Irvine History Graduate Student Association Conference: “Currents of Change: Past, Present, and Public,” Irvine, California, April 8-9, 2021.
- 2020 “Plague and the End of Antiquity: A Reassessment.” Association of Ancient Historians Annual Conference 2020, Iowa City, Iowa, April 23-25, 2020.
- 2019 “Harmless Little Books: Pseudoarchaeology and “Alternative” History in the Public Library, a discreet case study.” UT Antiquities Action Fourth Annual Symposium: Aliens, Atlantis, and Aryanism: “Fake News” in Archaeology and Heritage, Austin, Texas, March 30, 2019.
- 2018 “Plague, Resistance, and the End of Antiquity: Endemic Disease, Demographic Resilience, and How the Arabs Emerged as a Great Power in Late Antiquity.” American Schools of Oriental Research 2018 Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, November 14-17, 2018.
- 2017 “Avenger, Beastmaster, Victor, King: Mythos, Style, and Ideology among the Royal Sasanian Rock Reliefs of Third Century Iran.” 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Eurasian Studies Conference, Bloomington, Indiana, March 3-4, 2017.
- 2016 “Imperial Heritage and Ideological (Re)Invention: Surveying the Evolution of Iranian Imperial Coinages, and Searching for the Sources of Sasanian Numismatic Ideology.” Presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Central Eurasian Students, Bloomington, Indiana, March 12, 2016.
- 2016 “Constructing an Iranian Imperialism: Conveying Dynastic Ideology and Identity through early Sasanian Coinage.” Presented at the Harvard University Biennial Graduate Student Conference (2016): Grounding Ancient Imperialism, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 5, 2016.
- 2015 “The Sasanians in the East: Reassessing the Chronology and Context of Early Sasanian Expansion and the Decline of the Kushan State in Central Asia.” Presented at the 2015 ASOR Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, November 18-21, 2015.
- 2015 “Questioning the Prevailing Narratives of Conquest and Conversion: Reevaluating Notions of Urban Invigoration and Demographic Transition in Khorasan in the Wake of the Arab Conquest.” Presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society, The George Washington University, Washington DC, October 15-18, 2015.
- 2015 “The Sasanians in the East: Reassessing the Chronology and Context of Early Sasanian Expansion and the Fall of the Kushan State.” Presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Association of Central Eurasian Students Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, March 7, 2015.
- 2014 “Conquest and Conversion: The Case of Urban and Social Change in Iranian Central Asia in the Wake of the Arab Conquest, Seventh to Tenth Centuries CE.” Presented at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting 2014, San Diego California, November 20-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.
- 2011 “The Parthian Campaigns of the Severan Emperors.” Presented at *The Roman Empire During the Severan Dynasty*, held at John Cabot University, Rome, Italy, April 15-16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

## **Field Experience and Specialized Training**

### **Numismatics:**

- 2023 Eric P. Newman Graduate Seminar in Numismatics  
American Numismatic Society, New York, New York.

### **Archaeological Fieldwork:**

- 2024 Landscape Archaeologist/Surveyor  
MAIKI (Italian Archaeological Mission to Iraqi Kurdistan), Slemani, Kurdish Autonomous Region, Iraq  
Principle Investigator: Prof. Carlo G. Cereti, University of California, Irvine and University of Rome  
“La Sapienza”
- 2014 Junior Staff Archaeologist  
Bir Madhkur Project, Bir Madhkur, Jordan.  
Principle Investigator: Prof. Andrew M. Smith II, The George Washington University
- 2013 Junior Staff Archaeologist  
Bir Madhkur Project, Risha, Jordan.  
Principle Investigator: Prof. Andrew M. Smith II, The George Washington University
- 2012 Field Survey Participant  
Bir Madhkur Project, Risha, Jordan.  
Principle Investigator: Prof. Andrew M. Smith II, The George Washington University
- 2011 Field School Volunteer  
Porolissum Forum Project, Moigrad, Romania.  
Principle Investigator: Prof. Eric De Sena, Manhattan College (formerly John Cabot University)
- 2009 Field School Participant  
Porolissum Forum Project, Moigrad, Romania.  
Principle Investigator: Prof. Eric De Sena, Manhattan College (formerly John Cabot University)

### **Conservation:**

- 2010 Post-Baccalaureate Intern  
Lost Towns Project, Anne Arundel Trust for Preservation, Inc., State of Maryland Department of  
Planning
- 2008 Student Assistant  
Department of Special Collections, A.O.K. Library and Gallery, University of Maryland-Baltimore  
County.
- 2007 Intern  
National Center for Preservation Education, United States National Park Service.

## **Teaching Experience**

### **University of California, Irvine (as Teaching Assistant)**

- 2024 History/Classics 37B Roman Empire (Fall Quarter)  
History 21A. World History: Innovations (Spring Quarter)  
History 40B. 19th Century America (Building an Empire) (Winter Quarter)
- 2023 Classics 45A. The Gods (Fall Quarter)  
History 21C. World: Nation, War, and Rights (Spring Quarter)  
Classics 45B. Greek Heroes and Heroines (Winter Quarter)
- 2022 History 70E. Islamic History (Fall Quarter)  
History 40A. Colonial America: New Worlds (Spring Quarter)  
History 70B. European Queens (Winter Quarter)
- 2021 History 12 Terrorism (Fall Quarter)

## **Select Grants, Fellowships, and Awards**

### *Individual*

- 2023 Humanities Center Building Intellectual Community Grant for “New Horizons in Premodern Iranian Studies,”  
University of California, Irvine.
- 2023 The Movahedi Family Fellowship, Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture,  
University of California, Irvine
- 2023 Humanities Dean Gateway Award in Persian Studies, School of the Humanities,  
University of California, Irvine
- 2023 American Numismatics Society Summer Fellowship  
American Numismatics Society, New York
- 2022 Moheimani Family Fellowship, Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture,  
University of California, Irvine
- 2022 Charles & Ann Quilter Graduate Students Award, Department of History,  
University of California, Irvine
- 2022 Svetlana Bershadsky Graduate Student Community Award, Associated Graduate Students,  
University of California, Irvine
- 2021 Summer Language Study Award, School of the Humanities, University of California, Irvine
- 2021 Associated Graduate Students Conference Travel Award, University of California, Irvine
- 2020 School of the Humanities’ Fellowship, University of California, Irvine
- 2020 UC Irvine Minority Serving Institution Enhancement Award, University of California, Irvine
- 2019 Summer Study Scholarship, University of Maryland Summer Language Institute
- 2018 Critical Language Scholarship (Arabic), U.S. Department of State/American Councils for  
International Education (declined)
- 2018 Summer Study Scholarship, University of Maryland Summer Language Institute
- 2017 Summer Study Scholarship, University of Maryland Summer Language Institute
- 2014 P.E. MacAllister Excavation Fellowship, American Schools of Oriental Research
- 2006 President’s Award, University of Maryland-Baltimore County
- 2006 Dean’s Scholarship, University Scholarship, University of Maryland-Baltimore County

### *Collaborative*

- 2021 School of the Humanities Graduate Student Collaborative Conference Grant,  
University of California, Irvine

## **Research Languages**

### *Modern*

- German (Academic Reading)  
French (Academic Reading)  
Russian (Academic Reading)  
Persian (Advanced-Low)  
Arabic (Intermediate-High)

### *Ancient*

- Middle Persian (Intermediate)  
Bactrian (Intermediate)  
Classical Greek (Intermediate)  
Classical Latin (Intermediate)  
Imperial Aramaic (Introductory)  
Syriac (Introductory)

## **Professional Associations**

Archaeological Institute of America  
 American Numismatics Society  
 American Schools of Oriental Research  
 Association of Ancient Historians  
 Association of Iranian Studies  
 World History Association

## **Academic Service and Leadership Experience**

### **Academic Service**

#### *Conferences Organized*

- 2024 “New Horizons in Premodern Iranian Studies,” University of California, Irvine, Dr. Samuel B. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture, May 4, 2024.  
 2024 “Historians and their Public(s),” University of California, Irvine History Graduate Student Association Conference, Irvine, California, April 4-6, 2024.

#### *Conferences Co-Organized*

- 2022 “Interpreting Afghanistan: Art, Archeology, and History of Central Eurasia (600 BCE-999 CE),” University of California, Irvine, Dr. Samuel B. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture, October 6-8, 2022.  
 2021 “Currents of Change: Past, Present, and Public,” University of California, Irvine History Graduate Student Association Conference, Irvine, California, April 8-9, 2021.  
 2017 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Eurasian Studies Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, March 3-4, 2017.  
 2016 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Central Eurasian Students, Indiana University, Bloomington, March 12, 2016.

#### *Panels Organized*

- 2016 “Premodern Ritual in the Archaeological Record,” 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Central Eurasian Students, Bloomington, Indiana, March 12, 2016.

#### *Panels Chaired*

- 2022 “Sources and Economies,” Payravi Conference on Ancient Iranian History IV: Contextualizing Iranian History, The Arsacids. University of California, Irvine, Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture, February 28-March 22, 2022.

### **Leadership Positions**

- 2023- Ex Officio Representative (Associated Graduate Students Councilmember), Humanities Executive Committee, University of California, Irvine  
 2023- Ex Officio Member (Associated Graduate Students Councilmember), Committee for Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, Academic Senate, University of California, Irvine  
 2020- Cohort Representative  
 History Graduate Student Association, University of California, Irvine  
 2016- Vice President  
 2017 Association of Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University.  
 2015- Treasurer  
 2016 Association of Central Eurasian Students, Indiana University.  
 2014- Graduate and Professional Student Organization Representative  
 2015 Association of Central Eurasian Students, Indiana University.

## **References**

### **University of California, Irvine**

Touraj Daryaei, PhD.  
Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies and Culture  
Department of History  
[tdaryaei@uci.edu](mailto:tdaryaei@uci.edu)

Matthew P. Canepa, PhD.  
Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Presidential Chair in Art History and Archaeology of Ancient Iran  
Department of Art History  
[matthew.canepa@uci.edu](mailto:matthew.canepa@uci.edu)

David Fedman, PhD.  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
[dfedman@uci.edu](mailto:dfedman@uci.edu)

### **Hood College**

Jennifer Ross, PhD.  
Professor  
Department of Art and Archaeology  
[ross@hood.edu](mailto:ross@hood.edu)

Donald Wright, PhD.  
Professor  
Department of French and Arabic  
[wright@hood.edu](mailto:wright@hood.edu)

### **University of Maryland**

Nahal Akbari-Saneh, PhD.  
Assistant Clinical Professor, Director of Persian Language Program  
Roshan Institute for Persian Studies  
[nakbaris@umd.edu](mailto:nakbaris@umd.edu)