



# BIPS Grant Holders' Workshop 2026

Exeter, 21-22 May 2026

# BIPS Grant Holders' Workshop

## May 2026

### *The Grant Holders' Workshop*

The Grant Holders' Workshop showcases the latest research and projects funded by BIPS through its grant schemes.

Covering a wide range of aspects of Iranian and Persianate Studies, the Workshop is an excellent opportunity to discover more about the grants offered by the BIPS and to connect with researchers from several institutions in the UK.

### *The British Institute of Persian Studies*

BIPS is the UK's foremost learned organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting scholarship and research excellence on all aspects of Iran and the wider Persianate world, and to increasing public understanding and knowledge of this region.

BIPS is one of the British International Research Institutes (BIRI), supported by the British Academy.

# Information for Participants

**Workshop** Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies

**Venue** Lecture Theatre 1

IAIS Building

University of Exeter

**Directions** The Institute is located on the University's Streatham Campus. Exeter St David's Station is approximately 10 minutes walk from the Streatham Campus

**Nearest bus stops:**

The Queen's Drive

**Nearest train station:**

St David's Station

**Accommodation** Premier Inn Central St David's Exeter

Bonhay Road

Exeter

EX4 4BG

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# Thursday, 21 May 2026

1:30 PM Arrival

2:00 PM Introduction and Welcome  
**Mazyar Ghiabi**, Centre for Persian Studies, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

**Shabnam Holliday**, BIPS Research Director

## Session 1

2:30-4:10 PM

**Gwendoline Maurer**, Prifysgol Caerdydd/Cardiff University  
*Zooarchaeological insights into the Neolithic transition at Tol-e-Sangi (Fars, Iran)*

*The Caucasus Through Time Network: Five years of a public engagement research initiative*

**Natalie Boyd**, UWTSO

*The Hasanlu Ivories viewed through a New Materialist Lens*

**Lorane Prevost**, University of Oxford

*'Preservation' and Musical Hierarchies: Transmission of Iranian Traditional Music in France and Canada*

4:10-4:20 PM Break

## Session 2

4:20-5:50 PM

**Ferenc Csirkés**, University of Birmingham

*The Politics of Turkic in Safavid Iran*



**Rob Gleave**, University of Exeter

*India-Iran-Iraq: Akhbārī and Uṣūlī Scholars in Persianate Context*

**Kamila Akhmedjanova**, University of Oxford

*A study of Ahmad Dānish's legacy within the context of late 19th-century Persian-speaking intellectual trends*

7:00 PM

Dinner for Grant Holders

Côte Brasserie, 19-21 Cathedral Yard, City Centre, Exeter EX1

1HB

# Friday, 22 May 2026

9:00 AM Arrival

## Session 1

9:15-10:45 AM

**Ana García-Espinosa**, Prifysgol Caerdydd/Cardiff University  
*Royal Women, Armies and Warfare in Hellenistic Iran: who had more Power?*

**Clare Parry**, Prifysgol Caerdydd/Cardiff University  
*Displaying Empire: Imperial Approaches to Power and Identity in Persia and the Near East*

**Sean Strong**, Prifysgol Caerdydd/Cardiff University  
*Narrating Treason in Late Antiquity: Theophylact Simocatta on Bahram Chobin's Rebellion*


10:45-11:00 AM Break

## Session 2

11:00-12:00 PM

**Ashkan Hashemipour**, University of Oxford  
*Revolutionaries without borders: Iran's transnational guerrilla movement (1968-1979)*

**Shabnam Holliday**, University of Plymouth  
*Iran and the International - Sovereignty in Iran: Challenges to Eurocentrism from Ancient Iran to the Islamic Republic*



**Session 3**  
**12:00-1:00 PM**

**Panel discussion on war on Iran**

**Chaired by**

**Robert Gleave, University of Exeter**

**Evaleila Pesaran, University of Cambridge**

**Maziar Ghiabi, University of Exeter**

**Allan Hassaniyan, University of Exeter**

**1:15-2:00 PM Lunch for Grant Holders**

# Join BIPS

Membership of BIPS is open to all, and we welcome new members.

BIPS organises an extensive programme of public talks, conferences and workshops throughout the year in the UK and overseas.

Members benefits include subscription to the BIPS journal *IRAN*, participation to members-only events, the opportunity to elect members for the BIPS Governing Council and to stand for election. In addition, members can apply for all available BIPS grants (for research and outreach). BIPS grants are advertised on our website, social media platforms and newsletters.

We offer four types of membership:

- **Student (£20 a year);**
- **Corresponding (£40 a year, for non-UK members);**
- **Full (£50 a year);**
- **Fellow (£60 a year for academics).**

For more information on how to apply, please visit our website: [www.bips.ac.uk](http://www.bips.ac.uk).

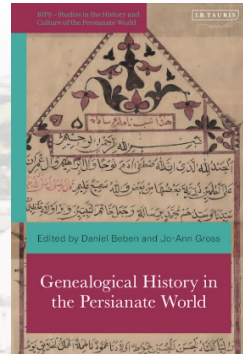
**Becoming a member is your chance to support our work and contribute to our efforts to broaden appreciation of the cultural heritage of the Persianate world.**

# BIPS Publications

BIPS publishes two monograph series, *Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World* and *BIPS Archaeological Monographs*, and the peer-reviewed academic journal *IRAN* (two issues per year).

*Genealogical History in the Persianate World*. Edited by Jo-Ann Gross and Daniel Beben. Published: June 2025.

Visit [bloomsbury.com](https://bloomsbury.com) for more information.

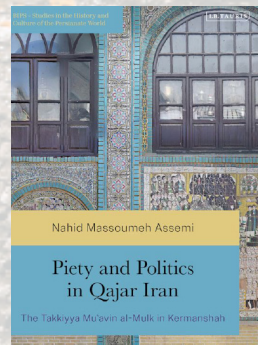


*The Plays and Films of Bahram Beyzaie: Origins, Form and Functions*. Edited by Saeed Talajooy. Published: February 2024.

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*Piety and Politics in Qajar Iran: The Takkiyya Mu'avin al-Mulk in Kermanshah*. By Nahid Massoumeh Assemi. Published: April 2024.

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