

Marjan Moosavi
Curriculum Vitae
marjanmoosavi.com

4200 Fifth Ave, Cathedral of Learning 1601B
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

- 2026 Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
Director of Graduate Studies
Area Head, History, Literature, Criticism
- 2020 Roshan Assistant Clinical Professor and Associate Director, Roshan Institute for
Persian Studies, College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland-College
Park

EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D., Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies (CDTPS), University of Toronto
Dissertation: Ambivalent (En)counters in the Iranian Dissident Theatre from 1990 to
Present
*2021 Winner of the Clifford Leech Prize for the Best Doctoral Dissertation, University
of Toronto.*
*Nominated for the best doctoral dissertation award by Northeastern Association of
Graduate Schools (NAGS)*
- 2013 M.A. Theatre Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada
- 2005 M.A. English Literature, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

PUBLICATIONS

In English

Monograph in Progress

- 2028 *Contemporary Iranian Theatre and the Aesthetics of Worlding Otherwise (1990-2020)*
under contract with University of Iowa Press

Edited Volume

- 2027 Co-Editor (with Magda Romanska, Jimmy Noriega, Taiwo Afolabi, and Kee-
Yoon Nahm). *Dramaturgy and Decolonization in Global Contexts*.
Bloomsbury, forthcoming.

Refereed Articles and Invited Book Chapters

- 2027 “Introduction: Diaspora, Displacement and Ancestry.” Contextual Introduction. *Nomadic
Performance Making: Experiences, Environments and Empathy*, ed. by Rosie Garton,
Mark Crossley, and Ildiko Rippel, Bloomsbury, forthcoming.
- 2027 “Introduction to MENA/SWANA Section” *Anthology of Decolonizing Dramaturgy in
Global Contexts*. Bloomsbury, forthcoming.

- 2027 “Learning to Ask Why: Dramaturgy as Cultural Pedagogy in the Study of Persian Plays.” *Adopting Persian Literature in Teaching Persian Language*, ed. by Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi and Azita Taleghani, Brill, forthcoming.
- 2026 “Reimagining Occupation and Futurity in Iraq: A Feminist Decolonial Perspective on the Script and Stage Adaptation of Falah Shaker’s *The Wild Wedding*” with Majid Mohammed Midhin. *Asian Theatre Journal*, Spring, 43:1.
- 2026 “Tara and Razieh Goudarzi” in *50 Key Performance Artists: A Handbook*, ed. by Adriana Disman and Nikki Cesare Schotzko, Routledge, forthcoming.
- 2022 “Walking Backward on a Global Tightrope: Interview with Nassim Soleimanpour about the Virtual Performance of *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit*.” *Teaching Performance Practices in Remote and Hybrid Spaces*, Routledge, ed. by Jeanmarie Higgins and Elisha Clark Halpin.
- 2022 “White Rabbits of Wonderland: Scenes from Translating and Teaching of Persian Theatre.” *The Routledge Handbook of Persian Literary Translation*, ed. by Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi, Michelle Quay, and Patricia J. Higgins, 178-199.
- 2022 “*Rebels and Revels*: Exhibit Curation as Pedagogy in the Study of Theatre of the Middle East” with Kelley Holley and Q-mars Haeri. *Critical Stages* 25.
- 2021 “2020 ATHE Conference Middle Eastern Theatre Focus Group Roundtable: Pedagogy and Absence” with R. Esfandiary, Michael M. Najjar, S. Al-Saber, et al. *Theatre Topics* 31:1.
- 2019 “Moments of Encounter: Iranian-Canadian Immigrant Theatre” with Art Babayants. *Performing Canadian Frontiers: Theatre and (Im)Migration*, ed. by Yana Meerzon. Playwright Canada Press, 244-266.
- 2019 “Mystic Lear and Laughing Hamlet: Critical Cultural Dramaturgy in the Iranian Appropriations of Shakespearean Tragedies” with Amin Azimi. *Asian Theatre Journal* 36:1.
- 2018 “Desacralizing Whispers: Theatrical Counter-Conduct in the Iranian War Theatre.” *New Theatre Quarterly* 34: 3, Cambridge University Press.
- 2018 “B for *Badan*, Blessed and (B)othered: the Counter-Sacred in the Iranian Theatre of War.” *Ecumenica: Performance and Religion* 11:2.
- 2016 “The Politics of Festival Performing and Conforming.” *The Drama Review (TDR)*. Issue 229, 79-92.
- 2015 “Dramaturgy in Post-revolution Iran: Problems and Prospects,” *Routledge Companion to Dramaturgy*, ed. by Magda Romanska, London: Routledge, 68-74.

Non- Refereed

- 2026 “Mathless” *Global Shakespeares: Video and Performance Archive*, MIT, with Niloofar Mohtadi, forthcoming.
- 2024 “To Catch a Glimpse from Afar: MENA Scholar in U.S. International Conferences.” Note from the Field. *Theatre Topics*, 34:1, March 2024.

Book Reviews

- 2025 “Bahram Beyzaie: A Visionary in Focus — A Review of Saeed Talajooy’s Study” review on *Bahram Beyzaie’s Cinema and Theatre: Paradigms of Being and Belonging* (1959-1979) by Saeed Talajooy (2024), *Iranian Studies* 58:3.

- 2025 “Gardens Speak: We Are Amazingly Near in Tania El Khoury’s Live Art,” review on *Tania El Khoury’s Live Art: Collaborative Knowledge Production*, ed. by McLaughlin, Laurel V, and Carrie Robbins. *Performance Research* 29:7.
- 2023 *Acting Egyptian* by Carmen Gitre. *Arab Stages.org*. *Arab Stages*, V. 14, 2023.

Public Intellectual Writing and Performance Reviews

- 2026 “Experiencing a Protactile Performance of *Touch of Slavery*” *Howlround Theatre Commons*, Forthcoming in Fall.
- 2025 A Timeline of Theatre and Performance in Iran: A Pamphlet. Night of Persian Culture, Eaton Hotel. Washington, DC
- 2024 “A Roundtable Review: *Returning to Haifa* at Golden Thread Productions (2024)” a collective review. *Arab Stages*, Vol. 16, Fall 2024.
- 2016+ Fifteen news, performance reviews, and featured articles on Iranian theatre, TheTheatreTimes.com [link to the full list of the articles](#)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2021 2019-20 Clifford Leech Prize for the best doctoral dissertation, University of Toronto.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Advancement Grant, ARHU Faculty Funds Competition, College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland, College Park.
- 2022 Advancement Grant, ARHU Faculty Funds Competition, College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland, College Park.
- 2021 American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Targeted Area Research Fellowship.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Seminar

- 2026 Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
Experimental Dramaturgy and Decolonization
- 2025 School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, University of Maryland
Performing the Middle East: History, Politics and Aesthetics

Undergraduate course

- 2020+ Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, University of Maryland
Theatre and Dance in Iran and Afghanistan (cross listed with School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies)
Gender and Storytelling in Iranian Film and Theatre (cross listed with film and media studies)
Art Activism in Iran (General Education course)
- 2024 Team-teaching, Art of Dissent, a multilingual course offered at SLLC

RESEARCH INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

- 2023+ Iranian Drama by Numbers, Roshan Initiative for Persian Digital Humanities (Persdig@UMD)
- 2021+ Founder and Principal Investigator of the first Digital Guide to Theatre of the Middle East (DGTOME), Roshan Initiative for Persian Digital Humanities (Persdig@UMD)

MENTORING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Examiner

- 2022 Ammar Sultan Abdullah Al-Maani, Dialogic Dramaturgy of Migration, Massey University of New Zealand, June 2022.

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Committee Member

- 2026 Main advisor, Nyred Ann Jackson, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
- 2026 Graduate committee, AynNichelle Slappy, Hot Metal Bridge Program, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
- 2026 Doctoral committee, Mehdy Sedaghat Payam, Iranian Novel, Computational Analysis. School of Comparative Literature, University of Maryland.
- 2022 Doctoral committee, Q-mars Haeri, Theatre History, September 2023. School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, University of Maryland.
- 2021 Doctoral committee, Nahid Ahmadian, Iranian Theatre History since 1980, May 2022. School of Comparative Literature, University of Maryland.
- 2021 Doctoral committee, Yasamin Rezaei, Performative Poetry in Digital Media, expected 2024, Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Miami.

Graduate Mentorship

- 2026+ ATDS Journal Article Works-in-Progress Mentoring programs
- 2023+ ASTR and ATHE Graduate Mentorship Program

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2026 Director of Graduate Studies
- 2026 Area Head, History, Literature, Criticism, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
- 2025 + PTK Salary & Merit Review Committee, Representative of Persian, School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Maryland
- 2024+ Graduate Admission Committee and Undergraduate Scholarship Committee
- 2024 MA/PhD curriculum revision and revamping. Theory/History Program, School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, University of Maryland
- 2024 Faculty search committee, School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, University of Maryland
- 2023+ Director of Learning Outcome Assessment committee, Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Maryland
- 2020+ Core member of curriculum development and revision, Major and Minor in Persian Studies, University of Maryland
- 2020+ Active member of Race, Equity, Justice Committee, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Maryland

OUT OF DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2026+ Vice President of Grants and Awards, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA)

Conference Programming and Organization

- 2025 Member of the 2025 program committee, Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
2024+ Core Member, Educators Circle, MENA Theater Makers Alliance ([MENATMA](#))
2021 Nominations Committee, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
2021 Awards and Scholarships Committee, Canadian Association for Theatre Research (CATR)
2018 Co-founder of Middle Eastern Theatre Focus Group at Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

INVITED LECTURES (selected)

- 2026 “Reading the Monstrous: Alternative Heroism in Naghmeh Samini’s *Monster Reading*” Workshop: Alternative Discourses of Heroism and Emancipation in Iranian Theatre, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, September.
2025 “*English by Sanaz Toosi*” A lecture/conversation with MFA students, University of California, Riverside, October 28.
2025 Discussant, roundtable on E. Susanna Weygandt’s book *From Metaphor to Direct Speech: Contemporary Russophone Drama and Performance Theory!* at Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEES), November 23.
2024 “Futurity in Making: Navigating Regrowth and Degrowth in Iranian Theatre.” International panel “Performing Gender and Resistance: Iranian Diaspora Artists and Scholars in conversation on the Intersection of Politics, Media, and Art.” Leuphana University Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS), Leuphana University, Germany, December 3.
2024 “Restoring Cosmopolitan Worldliness in the MENA Theatre: Intersections of Flexibility and Care” in Panel entitled “Performances and Cultural Heritage: between Western and Arab Centrism.” 32nd Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre (CIFET), Cairo, Egypt, September 1-11.

PANEL MODERATED

- 2024 “Mediatized Spaces” Techno-Futures: Collaborations in Performance, Technology, and Creative Scholarship Symposium, School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, March 8.
2023 “Internationalizing ATHE,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Annual Conference, online panel, July 24.

PANEL ORGANIZED and MODERATED

- 2026 “Trickster, Clown, and Cunning Figures in MENA/SWANA Performance.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference on “Activating Imagination In/And Community,” Baltimore, July 22-26, 2026.

- 2025 “The Real in the Digital: Computational Approaches to Studying Theatre and Performance” Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference on “The Real” Virtual, July 28-August1, 2025.
- 2025 “Recording and Reviewing in Arab-Speaking Countries,” International panel, Archive: In-Progress Symposium by Reconnect Festival, virtual, January 11.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (Selected)

- 2025 “Generative Acts of Reworlding: Border Thinking in MENA Dramaturgy and Theatre Historiography,” American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, Denver, CO, November 6-9.
- 2025 “Mapping Cultural and Social Values and their Dramatic Reflections in Persian Drama: A Topic Modeling Approach” with Dr. Mehdy Sedaghat Payam, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), Virtual, July 28 - Friday, August 1.
- 2025 “Pedagogy in Flux: Teaching Theatre in the Middle East Amid Histories, Politics, and Aesthetic Shifts” Panel “Teaching MENA/SWANA Theater,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Spring Symposium, Virtual, March 14.
- 2024 “Prefigurative Dramaturgies: Navigating Regrowth and Degrowth in Iranian Theatre.” American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, Seattle, WA, November 14-17.
- 2024 “A Theatrical Tapestry from MENA: Database Curation and Collaboration.” ADHO Digital Humanities Conference 2024: Reinvention & Responsibility, Washington DC, 6-9 August.
- 2024 “Exploring the Aesthetics of Experimentation in MENA Theatre: Revisioning Concepts and Methods.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, August 5-8.
- 2023 “Iranian Dramaturgy Fed Up with Metaphor.” Hot Topics, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA), Banf, Alberta, Canada, June 21-23.
- 2018 “*The Shrine Doves’ Coos*: Counter-Conduct in the Iranian theatre about Women.” Annual Conference “Theatres of Revolution,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), Boston, Mass, USA, August 1-5.
- 2018 “Tehrani Taxis as Mobile Stages for the Fluid, Intimate Dramaturgy of *Unpermitted Whispers*.” 33rd Annual Conference "Crossing Borders," Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA), Toronto, ON, June 21-23.
- 2018 “Moments of Encounter: Iranian-Canadian Immigrant Theatre,” with Art Babayants. Canadian Association for Theatre Research (CATR), Kingston, ON, May 27-30.

Photo Exhibit Curation

- 2021 “Rebels and Revels: Middle Eastern Theatre: 1950 – 1960.” Digital Exhibit in collaboration with International Program for Creative Collaboration & Research (IPCCR), University of Maryland, August 1 to Jan.1.
- 2019 “Middle Eastern Theatre: 1950 – 1960.” Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Toronto, Jan. 11 to April 1.
- 2019 Arab Culture Day, York University, March 6.

University–Theatre Liaison and Presentations at Post-show Discussions

- 2026 *Wish You Were Here*, Studio Theatre, Washington, DC
- 2025 *Andy Warhol in Iran*, A Conversation with Dramaturg (talk back) “From Page to Stage: Persian Dramaturgy in Practice” Mosaic Theater Company, Washington, DC
- 2024 Hamid Rahmanian’s *Song of the North*, Strathmore Institution, Maryland
- 2024 *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World (UK)*, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Maryland
- 2021 *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran (UK)*, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Maryland

Festival Organization

- 2026 One Stage, Many Languages: A Contemporary Global Theatre Festival—Spring 2026, SLLC, UMD
- 2022 Regional Artistic Director. 2023 International Online Theatre Festival @TheTheatreTimes, April 17-30, 2023., 4th Edition

THEATRE PRACTICE

Dramaturgy, available upon request

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024+ Co-editor, Performance Reviews, *Arab Stages*.
<https://www.theseagalcenter.org/arab-stages>
- 2023 Editor in Chief, *Roshangar, Undergraduate Journal of Persian Studies*, published biannually. <https://www.roshangarjournal.org/>
- 2015+ Regional Managing Editor- Iran and MENA, TheTheatreTimes.com

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2025 Iranian Theatre Corner, Night of Persian Culture, Eaton Hotel. Washington, DC
- 2022 Facilitating and teaching a Storytelling Workshop for Afghan refugee women, International Rescue Committee and UMD Family Mentor Coordination Meeting

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2024 “Women in Iranian Theatre.” Circle, Ayeneh Media, Iran Circle of Women for International Networking (ICWIN)CA, US, [link](#)
- 2023 “Woman, Life, Freedom: Theatre and Protest in Iran” A virtual roundtable in honor of World Theatre Day, March 27, 2023. Livestream on [Howlround.com](https://www.howlround.com).
- 2022 Three Thinkers Podcast, interview, [link](#)
- 2021 No Summary: A Celebration of MENA Playwrights! The Digital Guide to Theatre of the Middle East Is Here, [Howlround.com](https://www.howlround.com)
- 2021 Conversation with Artists that Don’t Fit in a Box, [Golden Thread Productions](#)
- 2019 Photo Exhibition
BBC Persian TV, broadcasting their report three times on the World Theatre Day

- Featured on TheTheatreTimes.com
 Iranian news agency Etemad online
 Turkish Theatre Forum Website
- 2019 Interviewed, A&S News, Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto, [link](#)
- 2018 Dramaturgy Highlighted Voice, LMDA: Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, [link](#)

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- 2019+ The Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO)
 2018+ Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), Founding member of Middle Eastern Theatre Focus Group
 2017+ Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA)
 2016+ American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)
 2015+ Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)
 2015+ Canadian Association for Theatre Research (CATR)
 2015+ International Association of Theatre Critics (IATC)
 2014+ Association for Iranian Studies (AIS)
 2014+ Canadian Theatre Critics Association (CTCA)

LANGUAGES

Persian (Iranian and Dari): native proficiency
 English: fluent proficiency
 Arabic (*Fus-ha*): research proficiency
 French: research proficiency