

Jagiellonian University of Krakow
Invitation for a working seminar in Iranian literature
April 23-24, 2015

Since the fifth anniversary of the untimely death of our dear friend and outstanding colleague, Dr. Marek Smurzyński, approaches, we would like to commemorate this great scholar in a way he would probably like the best – with a working seminar. Remembering our friend's wide academic horizons and scientific interests we wish to engage in discussion on the methodological challenges for the literary research of the literatures of the Iranian World today – meaning Persian as well as Kurdish, Afghan and Tajik literatures. Adopting such a broad perspective will hopefully help us seek better answers to the questions so important now in the face of such a variety of new literary phenomena in those literatures and a rapid development of literary theories.

We invite papers and panels addressing the following as well as relevant issues:

Recent development of the research in the literary traditions of the Iranian world. *Has their theoretical framework been shaped by the local research traditions and the specificity of these literatures or has it rather been a part of more universal trends?*

1. Literatures of the Iranian world in the comparative perspective. *How can the experiences of these literatures and their researchers inspire one another?*
2. Local and Western perspectives in the literary research of the area. *How do they differ?*
3. The Western literary theories and their research potential for the study of Iranian literatures – and vice versa. *How can different literary experiences improve and develop existing theories?*
4. Bringing modern theories and traditional research methods of the area together. *Can they be combined? Are the traditional methods still productive?*
5. Interdisciplinary approach to literary research in the Iranian World. *How can the findings and experiences of another disciplines, e.g., linguistics, anthropology, philosophy, sociology, psychology, etc. be applied to broaden literary studies in the Iranian world?*

We will be delighted if you kindly accept our invitation and join us in Krakow on April 23-24th, 2015. Our great wish is to enable scholars from Iran, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kurdistan to participate in this academic meeting. Due to the limited funds we will not be able to cover travel costs. Participants from the region, however, will not have to pay the fee. We can also offer free accommodation in Krakow for up to three participants.

As the date is approaching, we look forward to your kind response.

Sincerely yours,
Karolina Rakowiecka-Asgari
Jagiellonian University
Department of Iranian Studies

Institute of Oriental Studies
ul. Podwale 7
31-118 Krakow
Poland
e-mail: k.rakowiecka-asgari@uj.edu.pl
ph. [+48 880486901](tel:+48880486901)