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The Night of Herat Celebrating the Pearl of Khorasan

17 March 2019 - London

شب هرات
بزرگداشت از نگین خراسان
۲۶ خوت ۱۳۹۷ - لندن

Featuring: History of Herat, Timurid Civilization, Behzad Miniatures, Folk Music, Herati Cuisine, Persian Poetry, Jews of Herat & more.
برنامه‌ها: تاریخ هرات، مدنیت تیموری، مینیاتورهای بهزاد، موسیقی محلی، غذاهای محلی، شعر خوانی، یهودی‌های هرات و برنامه‌های دیگر

Time: 16:30 - 20:00

Venue: Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS,
University of London

زمان: ۱۶:۳۰ - ۲۰:۰۰
مکان: سالن تئاتر خلیلی، دانشگاه
سواس لندن

Organizing Partners of the Event



The AISS is an independent, not-for-profit research institute dedicated to providing qualitative, non-partisan and policy-oriented research, publication, translation of books/reports, professional training and policy advocacy with distinct focus on Afghanistan.



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Sussex Asia Centre is a regional research centre focusing on the connective and comparative study of Asia. We advance this agenda through the empirical study and analysis of networks, routes, processes and dynamics that offer vivid insights into understanding both inter-Asian connections, and those that tie the region to the world beyond.



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The SOAS South Asia Institute (SAI) represents the most extensive and diverse community of scholars working on South Asia of any university in Europe. Its members' research and teaching activities are related primarily to India, and SAI also provides a home for scholars whose work focuses on Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

The Night of Herat

Celebrating the Pearl of Khorasan

17 March 2019 - UK

Agenda

- 16:30-16:45** Guests Arrival
- 16:45-16:50** Sufi praying (recorded clip)
- 16:50-17:00** Welcoming remarks by Professor Magnus Marsden, University of Sussex, & Edward Simpson, Professor & Director, SOAS South Asia Institute
- 17:00-17:20** A Glance at the History of Herat, C.P.W. Gammell, Author/Historian
- 17:20-17:40** Behzad Miniatures & the Court of Timurid, Professor Michael Barry, University of Princeton USA/American University of Afghanistan
- 17:40-18:00** **Open Discussion with the authors**
- 18:00-18:30** Herat Music: Introduction & Performance by Professor John Baily and Ms Veronica Doubleday
- 18:30-18:50** 2500 years of wine-making in Herat & Khorassan, Dr Ofra Badakhshani, Poet/Writer University of Amsterdam
- 18:50-19:00** Jews of Herat – A brief documentary
- 19:00-19:20** Restoration of Herat's Cultural Heritage, Representative of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC)
- 19:20-19:30** Persian Poetry, Reza Mohammadi, Poet/Writer
- 19:30-20:00** **Dinner**

Biographies

Magnus Marsden is Professor of Social Anthropology and Director of the Sussex Asia Centre. He completed his PhD in Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, and taught at Cambridge and SOAS before joining Sussex in 2013. He has conducted intensive fieldwork in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan for the past 25 years. His publications include, *Living Islam: Muslim religious experience in North West Pakistan* (Cambridge, 2005), *Fragments of the Afghan Frontier* co-authored with B. D. Hopkins (Hurst/Oxford 2012), and *Trading Worlds: Afghan Merchants across Modern Frontiers* (Hurst/Oxford, 2016). He serves as the Chief Academic Advisor of the Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies and is Vice President of The Scholarly Association for International Studies of Afghanistan.

Edward Simpson is Professor of Social Anthropology at SOAS and the Director of the SOAS South Asia Institute. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in South Asia. He is Principal Investigator (2015-2020) on a ESRC project examining road-building and infrastructure projects in South Asia. He previously led an ESRC project looking at rural change in post-colonial India through ‘restudying’ the anthropology of this region from the 1950s. His is author of *The political biography of an earthquake: Aftermath and amnesia in Gujarat, India* (Hurst/London 2013) and *Muslim society and the western Indian Ocean: The seafarers of Kachchh* (Routledge/London 2006).

C.P.W. Gammell is a historian of Afghanistan and Iran who has written widely on Herat’s history and its place in Afghanistan. Educated at Oxford and Cambridge, he has worked in Afghanistan and Iran since 2009, interpreting Dari and Pashtu for the ICRC, advising UNESCO on cultural and historical projects, and researching the history of Herat. The author of *Herat, The Pearl of Khorasan* (Hurst & Co. 2017), C. P. W. Gammell currently advises the UK Government on its Afghan policy, and is undertaking more research into the recent history of Herat from 1979 to the present day.

Michael Barry has dedicated much of his life to the service of Afghanistan. After working for sixteen years at Princeton University, he assumed to post of Distinguished University Professor at the American University of Afghanistan. Beginning his parallel humanitarian career with his USAID work in famine relief in Bâdghîs and Ghôr in 1970-1972, he went on to research war conditions in the Afghan field between 1979 and 1985. From 1985 to 1989, he coordinated the relief missions inside Afghanistan of Médecins du Monde. Recently, he

organized the exhibitions of Afghanistan's medieval paintings (reproductions) in Herât Castle in 2017, and in Bâbur's Gardens in Kabul in early 2018.

Jolyon Leslie is a South African architect. He received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Jesus College and a diploma in architecture from Darwin College at Cambridge University. He has worked extensively in post-disaster and post-war reconstruction in the Middle East and in Asia. He has been involved in the development of alternative building materials for use in traditional contexts. The past decade, his position with UNDP involved the management of a national resettlement programme for Afghanistan which promotes the use of traditional vernacular techniques for housing.

John Baily is Emeritus Professor of Ethnomusicology at Goldsmiths, University of London. In 1978 he was appointed Lecturer in Ethnomusicology at Queen's. From 1984-86 he trained in anthropological film making at the National Film and Television School, and directed the award-winning film *Amir: An Afghan refugee musician's life in Peshawar, Pakistan*. From 1988-1990 he was Associate Professor in the Centre for Ethnomusicology, Columbia University, New York. He joined Goldsmiths in 1990.

Veronica Doubleday studied literature at the University of Sussex, and then lived in Afghanistan during the 1970s. She was a writer and has worked for Goldsmiths University of London, the University of Brighton. Working in the field of ethnomusicology, she specialises in Afghan music, women's music and gender issues, and had published widely in these areas. She has given numerous concerts, playing with her husband, John Baily, and with noted Afghan musicians.

Ofran Badakhshani is a poet who fled from Afghanistan and owner of wine shop De Filosoof located in the Papestraat in The Hague, a place where wine, philosophy and poetry embrace. He is an active member of political party VVD. He is chairman of Afghan young people's organisation Khorasan, member of the board at VON and has executed various projects regarding honour-related violence, LGBT emancipation and forced marriages.

Reza Mohammadi is an Afghan poet, writer and journalist born in Kandahar in 1979. He studied Islamic law as well as philosophy in Iran before obtaining an MA in Globalisation from London Metropolitan University. His three collections of poetry have gained him many awards, such as from the Afghan Ministry of Culture in 2004 and prizes for being Iran's best young poet in 1996 and 1997.

City of Herat

The city of Herat, which is currently the regional capital of western Afghanistan, is the country's third largest city (436,300 residents) and has long been of strategic, commercial and cultural significance to the wider region. The contemporary city of Herat is thought to have been established in around 500 BC as the ancient Persian town of Artacoana or Aria, in the fertile plain beside the Hari Rud river. Captured by Alexander the Great in 330 BC during his war against the Achaemenids, the town was developed and a citadel built. The site retained its strategic importance, and was an important asset for the Seleucids, Parthians and Hephthalites, before becoming the western bastion of the Abbasid caliphate at the end of the 8th century AD. By the time of its capture by the Ghorids in 1175 AD, Herat had become renowned for the production of metalwork, especially decorated or inlaid bronze.

After destruction at the hands of both the Mongols and Genghis Khan, Herat saw something of a renaissance in the late 14th century AD, under the rule of the son of Timur, Shah Rukh, who began an extensive programme of building. This was followed by extensive development ordered by Queen Gawharshad during the 15th century AD, which resulted in a remarkable and unique ensemble of monuments in the Timurid style. Perhaps the largest historic architectural ensemble that survives in the region today is the Musalla complex, built in the early 15th century under the direction of Queen Gawharshad. The complex, which has been described as “the most beautiful example in colour in architecture ever devised by man to the glory of his God and himself” today comprises a mosque, the mausoleum of Gawharshad, five minarets and the remains of the madrasa of Hussein Baiqara.

