Foundation for Iranian Studies
Announcement of the Recipient of Award
For
The Best Ph.D. Dissertation on a Topic of Iranian Studies, 2015

November 20, 2015

The Foundation for Iranian Studies is pleased to announce that the Committee on Selection of the Best Ph.D. Dissertation of the Year on a Topic of Iranian Studies of the Foundation for Iranian Studies has chosen Daniel Beben’s dissertation “The Legendary Biographies of Nāsir-i Khusrav: Memory and Textualization in Early Modern Persian Ismâ’ilism,” submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Indiana University, as the recipient of the Foundation's annual Ph.D. dissertation award for the academic year 2014-2015.

In making its decision, the Committee, following the criteria established by the Foundation’s Board of Directors, noted that Daniel Beben has made an "exceptional contribution to the field of Iranian and Central Asian Studies" by, among other achievements, “stating clearly the study’s problematic… constructing an adequate and efficient theoretical framework…developing and employing successfully a rigorous methodology to bring together a significant array of primary and secondary sources in Europe and Central Asia, including critical information secured through interviews judiciously conducted in the field in Tajikistan and elsewhere to support an innovative approach to the study of Nāsir-i Khusrav’s intellectual and religious influence on the form and force of the Isma’i’li da’wa… methodically connecting data, text, and speech to construct a credible framework for evaluating the effect of chanced confluence of ideas, values, socio-political tensions, and time on the evolution of Ismâ’i’li organization and faith in Central Asia, the Middle East, and elsewhere and, by extension, potential applicability of the lessons derived to studies of other historically relevant events … excellent organization of the work.”

The Committee also cited Seyyed Ahmad Hashemi’s dissertation “The Question of Freedom within the Horizon of the Iranian Constitutional Movement, 1906-1921” submitted to the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, and Keenan Baca-Winters’ dissertation “From Rome to Iran: Identity and Xusro II” submitted to the Graduate Division of the University of California, Irvine, with honorable mention for superior scholarship, originality, clarity, and significant contribution to Iranian Studies.

Notice of the awards will appear in the Foundation’s interactive web, in Iran Nameh, MESA and ISIS journals, and in various Persian and English language academic publications.

Gholam Reza Afkhami
Chair
Ph.D. Dissertation Awards Committee
Foundation for Iranian Studies