



Democracy in Iran, Middle East and Central Asia: Past Traditions and Future Prospects

**(A Major International Conference of Asian-American Heritage Program in
Commemoration of the Centennial of 1906 Iranian Constitutional Revolution)
Co-Sponsored by: NEIU International Programs, NEIU Graduate College,
Northeastern Programming Board and Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh Leadership
Fund at NEIU Foundation**

Preliminary Schedule

(All Events, except otherwise indicated, are in Alumni Hall)

Wednesday, April 5

9:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Iranian Constitutional Revolution: Legacy and Impact

Chair: TBA

Janet Afary, Purdue University, the Legacy of Iranian Constitutional Revolution

Daryoush Ashouri, Writer and Linguist (France) Abortive Birth of a Nation State

11:00 a.m. -12:50 p.m. Prospects and Challenges of Human Rights in Iran, Middle East and Central Asia

Chair: David Rustchman, Northeastern Illinois University

Curt Goering, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Amnesty International, New York

Mansour Bonakdarian, Hofstra University, Discussant

1:25 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Islam and Democracy in Iran, Middle East and Central Asia: Future Prospects

Chair: TY Okosun, Northeastern Illinois University

Gunes Murat Tezcur, Loyola University

Norma Moruzzi, University of Illinois at Chicago

Nader Hashemi, Northwestern University

4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Iranian Constitutional Revolution: The Role of Women and the Emergence of Modern Literature

Chair: Shahrzad Mahootian, Northeastern Illinois University

Minoo Varzegar, Rutgers University, the Role of Women in Iranian Constitutional Revolution

Houra Yavari, Iranica Institute, Columbia University, Modern Literature

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Keynote Speech

Stephen Kinzer, Author and Senior New York Times Correspondent

"The American Way of Intervention: Is Iran Next?"

Followed by a book signing by Mr. Kinzer for his new book: Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq

Thursday, April 6

9:25 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. The Prospects of Democracy and Viable Peaceful US Policies in Iran, Middle East and Central Asia

Chair: Professor David Leaman, Northeastern Illinois University
Stephen Kinzer, Author and Senior New York Times Correspondent
Danny Postel, Author, Journalist and Senior Editor of Open Democracy
Steve LeVine, Wall Street Journal Correspondent, and former Newsday/Newsweek Correspondent to Central Asia

12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. International and Regional Significance of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution

Chair and Discussant: Fariba Zarinebaf, Northwestern University
Touraj Atabaki, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, “The Movement for Constitutionalism in Iran and its Trans-Caspian Dependencies”
Cyrus Bina, University of Minnesota at Morris, “The Heart and Soul of the Middle East: The Making of the Constitutional Revolution.”
Mansour Bonakdarian, Hofstra University, “The international reception and impact of the Iranian revolution”

2:50 p.m. – 4:40 p.m. Traditions and Prospects of Democracy in Central Asia

Chair: Charles Steinwedel, Northeastern Illinois University
Steve LeVine, Wall Street Journal Correspondent and former Newsday/Newsweek Correspondent to Central Asia
Anora Mahumudova, New York based Uzbek Journalist
Touraj Atabaki, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Russell Zanca, Northeastern Illinois University

4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Reflections of Iran and Human Rights in Iran in Ario Mashayekhi’s works (Room TBA)

Ario Mashayekhi, Chicago based Artist

6:55 p.m. “Remember the Dead Candle, Remember!” A Special Candle Lighting and Poetry Reading Ceremony for Peace on the occasion of the Centennial of the 1906 Iranian Constitutional Revolution.

Ceremony is conducted by Dan Creely, Northeastern Illinois University; Poetry Reading by Nahid Shafie, Persian Literary Expert, Chicago

7:10 p.m. Keynote Speech and Presentation, Reza Deghati, National Geographic Photojournalist and a Recent Recipient of Legion of Honor from the President of the France, the highest civilian honor in France and Founder of AINA (Paris, France and Kabul, Afghanistan)

9:10 p.m. Peace Fire Ceremony for the Centennial of Iranian Constitutional Revolution

Dan Creely, Northeastern Illinois University

Friday, April 7

Besides Sessions in Persian, there will be Several Film Showings in English including:

_ **Film on Afghanistan (AINA)**

_ **Children of the Sun (A Documentary About Ancient Iran)**, in presence of the the filmmaker, Mansooreh Saboori at various times during the day

8:30 – 9:45 p.m. (Recital Hall) A Special Recital of Classical Music performed by Mr. Cyrus Forough (Violin) and Tatyana Stepanova, Piano in Memory of his Grand Father and Mother. Haj Mirja Yahya Dowlatabadi was a prominent Constitutionalist of 1906 Revolution Era and is among the main founders of the modern school systems in Iran.

Professor Cyrus is a full time faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and is on the faculty at Roosevelt University's College of Performing Arts in Chicago.