Curriculum Vitae

Matthew Thomas Miller

Contact Information

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Education

2016 PhD, Comparative Literature, Washington University in Saint Louis
Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

2009 MA, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies, Washington
University in Saint Louis

2007 BA, International and Area Studies (with University
Honors and Phi Beta Kappa), Washington University in Saint Louis

Professional Positions

**2018- Assistant Professor of Persian Literature and Digital
Humanities**, Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, University of
Maryland, College Park

2016- Co-PI, Persian Manuscript Initiative (PMI). More
information is available here.

2016- Co-PI, Open Islamicate Texts Initiative (OpenITI). More
information is available here

**2015- Associate Director, Roshan Initiative in Persian Digital
Humanities at the University of Maryland (College Park)
(PersDig@UMD)**. More information is available here.

2014-2018 Roshan Institute Research Fellow, University of
Maryland, College Park

1/2012-4/2012 Visiting Research Associate, Center for Arab and
Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES), American University of Beirut

Honors, Awards, and Grants

- HathiTrust Research Center Advanced Collaborative Support Award for "Detecting and Transcribing Arabographic Texts" (2020)

- Grant ($800,000) from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for The Open Islamicate Texts Initiative Arabic-script OCR Catalyst Project (OpenITI AOCP) (2019)

- Ehsan Yarshater Fellowship in Iranian and Persian Studies, Yale University (2017-2018) (declined)

- Collection Care and Emergency Response Grant (£5,000), Islamic Manuscript Association (2017) (for PMI project in the Raja of Mahmudabad Palace Library)

- DRIF Conference Grant for "Manuscripts in the 21st Century" workshop

- Global Classroom Initiatives Grant (2015) for development of the *Islamicate World 2.0: Studying Islamicate Cultures through Computation Textual Analysis* course ($12,000). More information on the course is available here

- Tier 1 University of Maryland Grant (2015) for Persian Digital Library project ($50,000)

- Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies (2012-2013)

- Mellon-Sawyer Graduate Fellowship (2011-2012)

- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society (Spring 2007)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- (with Benjamin Kiessling, Gennady Kuran, and Kader Smail), "Advances and Limitations in Open Source Arabic-Script OCR: A Case Study." *Digital Studies/Le champ numérique.* Forthcoming 2020.

- (third author, with Benjamin Kiessling and Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra). "BADAM: A Public Dataset for Baseline Detection in Arabic-script Manuscripts." *HIP 2019: 5th International Workshop on Historical Document Imaging and Processing* (October 20th-21st, 2019).* doi:

https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3352631.3352648 [1]

- (fourth author, with Maxim Romanov, Masoumeh Seydi, and Sarah Savant), "Open Islamicate Texts Initiative: a Machine-Readable Corpus of Texts Produced the Premodern Islamicate World." *DH2019* (Utrecht University 9-12 July 2019).[2]
- "Embodying the Sufi Beloved: (Homo)eroticism, Embodiment, and the Construction of Desire in the Hagiographic Tradition of 'Erâqi." *Journal of Middle Eastern Literatures* 21:1 (2018): 1-27.

- (with Bridget Almas, Emad Khazraee, and Joshua Westgard). "Manuscript Study in Digital Spaces: The State of the Field and New Ways Forward." *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 12/2 (2018). Available here.

- (with Maxim G. Romanov, Sarah Bowen Savant, and Ben Kiessling). "Important New Developments in Arabographic Optical Character Recognition (OCR)." *Al-ᶜUṣūr al-Wusṭā: The Journal of Middle East Medievalists* 25 (2017). Available here.

Submitted Works (Under Peer Review)

- "The Qalandar King: Islamic Kingship and Amir Mo'ezzi's Qalandari Panegyric for Sharafshah Ja'fari." Submitted for publication to *Iranian Studies* in November 2020.

- "Genre in Classical Persian Poetry," in *The Routledge Handbook on Persian Literature*, editor Kamran Talattof (Oxfordshire: Routledge). Submitted July 2020.

- "Fakhr al-Dīn 'Irāqī: Poet and Mystic." In *Religious and Mystical Literature (Volume VI of A History of Persian Literature Series)*, eds. Fatemeh Keshavarz, Ahmet T. Karamustafa, and Ehsan Yarshater (New York: I.B. Tauris). Submitted August 2019.

Invited Contributions

- (with Ali Khan Mahmudabad and Columba Stewart). "The Raja of Mahmudabad Palace Library Project." *Shi'i Studies Review* 3 (2019): 271-279.

- (with Maxim G. Romanov and Sarah Bowen Savant). "Digitizing the Textual Heritage of the Premodern Islamicate World: Principles and Plans." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 50 (2017): 103-109.

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[1]Considered a peer review publication by relevant academic organizations.
[2]Considered a peer review publication by relevant academic organizations.

doi: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743817000964

- (with Sarah Bowen Savant). " 'Tell Me Something I Don't Know!': The Place and Politics of Digital Methods in the (Islamicate) Humanities." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 50 (2017): 135-139. doi: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743817001027

Works in Progress

- "The Poetics of the Sufi Carnival: The Rogue Lyrics (Qalandariyât) as Heterotopic Countergenre." To be submitted for publication to *Iranian Studies* in spring 2021.

- *Reading Classical Persian: A Comprehensive High-Frequency Introduction to Classical Persian.* Book manuscript in preparation.

- *Embodying the Beloved: Embodiment and Mystical Modes of Meaning Creation in Medieval Persian Sufi Literature.* Book manuscript in preparation.

Public Scholarship

- "The Kite Runner Critiqued: New Orientalism Goes to the Big Screen." *CommonDreams* (Jan 2008). Available for download here. Translated into Persian: "Ravâyati neo-orientâlisti az khâvarmiyâneh: naqdi digar bar 'Bâdbâdak-bâz'." Jahân-e Ketâb sâl-e sizdahom, shomâreh-ye 3 va 4 (Khordâd va Tir 1387). Translated by Ahmad Sayf. Available here.

Areas of Teaching and Reserarch Interests

Primary Areas of Interest: Persian literature of all periods; (global) digital humanities; religion and literature (especially, Sufi/Islamic mystical literature and the Qur'an as literature); literary and cultural theory (especially, gender & sexuality studies, cognitive literary theory, and translation studies)

Secondary Areas of Interest: Arabic literature of all periods; contemporary Islamic political thought

Teaching Experience

- Instructor, *Iranian Cinema* (Fall 2019, Fall 2020)

- Instructor, *Lyrics of Mystical Love: Rumi, Song of Songs, and St. Teresa of Avila to Mirabai and Manhae* (Spring 2019)

- Instructor, *Sex, Love, and Desire in Persian Poetry* (Spring 2018)

- Instructor, *Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in the Islamic World* (Spring 2017, Fall 2018)

- Instructor, *The Islamicate World 2.0: Studying Islamic Cultures through Computational Textual Analysis* (Fall 2016, Spring 2021). More information on the course is available here

- Instructor, *Introduction to Global Digital Humanities* (Spring 2016)

- Instructor, *Introduction to Persian Literature in Translation* (Spring 2015, Fall 2017)

- Instructor, *Lyrics of Mystical Love, East and West* (Fall 2014)

- Instructor, *Words and Worlds: A Critical Literacy Approach to Reading and Writing* (4/2014-7/2014)

- Co-Instructor (with Dr. Fatemeh Keshavarz), *Lyrics of Mystical Love, East and West* (Fall 2011)

- Teaching Assistant, *Beginning Arabic I* (Fall 2010, Spring 2011)

- Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Religious Traditions II: Asian Religions* (Spring 2009)

- Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Islamic Civilization* (Fall 2008)

- Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (Fall 2007)

Invited Talks

- "The Beautiful Faces of Persian Culture: Love and Beauty in Persian Poetry and Spirituality." *To Iran With Love: Scholars and Lawyers Speaking about Iran's History and Cultural Heritage*, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton (January 27th, 2020).

- Developments in Arabic-script Optical Character Recognition: Technical Advances and Organizational Barriers." *Whither Islamicate Digital Humanities*, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences Amsterdam (NLD) (December 14th, 2018).

- (with Alexander Jabbari and Austin O'Malley), "Persian OCR and the Future of the Persian Digital Humanities." *Persian Digital Humanities Research Workshop*, University of Oklahoma (November 6th, 2018).

- "Distant Reading Persian Poetry: A Topic Modeling-Driven Approach to Studying Generic Categories in Medieval Persian Poetry." *DHAsia Conference*, Stanford University (April 27th-28th, 2018).

- "Developments in Arabic-Script OCR at OpenITI." *Agenda for an Agenda for Historical and Multilingual OCR*, Northeastern University (February 7–8, 2018).

- "What is 'Digital Humanities' and What is it Doing in Islamicate/Middle Eastern Studies?" Tufts University (October 18th, 2017).

- "Poetic Performance as Argument: Hasan the Singer's Embodied Performance-*cum*-Defense of Sufi (Homo)Eroticism in 'Erâqi's Hagiography." Harvard University (April 21st, 2017).

- "Making a Digital Persian Manuscript Archive: The Persian Manuscript Initiative and Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age." *Rediscovering Words and Worlds – Arabic Script Collections at Columbia University Workshop.* Columbia University (February 16th-18th, 2017).

- "PersDig@UMD, OpenITI, and the Construction of the Infrastructure for 'Digital Humanities' Scholarship on the Premodern Islamicate World." Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ (November 11th, 2016).

- "The Persian Digital Humanities: Projects, Possibilities, and the New Collaborative Humanities." University of Tehran (Delivered over Skype, October 2nd, 2016).

- "PersDig@UMD: PMI, PDL, OpenITI, and the Persian Digital Humanities." *Activism, Advocacy, and Scholarship on Islam in the Digital Realm: Prospects, Progress, and Challenges Workshop*, Boston University (September 16th, 2016).

- "Bodiless Forms: Embodiment, (Homo)eroticism, and the 'Straightening' of Sufi Desire." University of Pennsylvania (February 1st, 2016).

- "Embodying the Beloved: (Homo)eroticism and Embodiment in Medieval Sufism." *The Persian Book Lecture Series*, Library of Congress (September 3rd, 2016).

- "The 'Rogue Lyrics' of Medieval Persian Poetry: The Qalandariyyat as Heterotopic Countergenre of the Sufi Carnival." *Fools and Vagabonds: Non-Violence in the Islamic Mystical Tradition Conference*, Leiden University (June 4th, 2015).

- "Hafez and The Persian Ghazal (Lyric)." Georgia College & State Univer-

sity (April 8th, 2014).

Conference Presentations

- "Imagery as Imaginal Embodiments and Performances of Meaning: A Case Study of a Poem of 'Iraqi." *Middle East Studies Association Conference* (October 6th, 2020).

- "A Tale of Two Interpretations: Wine as Symbol and Wine as (Embodied) Metaphor in Sufi Poetry." *Iranian Studies Conference* (August 25th-28th, 2020). (Cancelled due to COVID19.)

- " 'Seduced by Beautiful Images and Idols': ᶜErāqī's Poetic Meditation on the Role of Embodied Forms of Beauty in Sufi Eroticism." *American Comparative Literature Association Convention* (March 19th-22nd, 2020). (Cancelled due to COVID19.)

- " 'Meaning in the Clothing of Forms': An Embodied Poetics." *Yarshater Young Scholars Workshop.* University of Maryland, College Park (May 16th-17th, 2019).

- "Topic Modeling Genre in Medieval Persian Poetry: A Computational Approach to Medieval Thematic Collections of Poetry." *Middle East Studies Association Conference* (November 18th-21st, 2017).

- "The Qalandariyyāt as Heterotopic Countergenre: A Case Study of a Distant Reading Approach to the 'Rogue Lyrics' of Early Persian Poetry." *2nd Khamriyya Workshop*, University of Cambridge (June 21st, 2016).

- "Embodying the Beloved in Textual Performance Contexts: A Queer Reading of Medieval Bio-/Hagiographical Accounts of Poetic Performance." *Modern Language Association Convention* (January 9th, 2016).

- "Computational Explorations of Genre in 'Classical' Persian Poetry." *Digital Arabic and Digital Persian Research Workshop*, University of Leipzig (December 17th, 2015).

- "Workshop on the Persian Digital Library (PDL): Status Update and Strategic Planning." *Digital Arabic and Digital Persian Research Workshop*, University of Leipzig (December 17th, 2015).

- "Queering the Qalandariyyat: The Poetics and Cultural Politics Desire in the Poetry and Biographical Tradition of the Qalandari Poets." *American Comparative Literature Association Convention* (March 26th-29th, 2015).

- "A Cognitive Poetics of the 'Winehouse of Love' in the Qalandariyyat of

'Erāqī." *Modern Language Association Convention* (January 10th, 2015).

- "Queering Love and Desire in the Antinomian Lyrics of 'Erâqi." *Modern Language Association Convention* (January 9th, 2014).

- "Reconceptualizing Medieval Poetic Biographical Traditions as Interpretative and Discursive Constructs: A Case Study of the Biographical Tradition of Fakhr al-Din 'Eraqi." *Middle East Studies Association Conference* (October 11th, 2013).

- "Aesthetic Homonormativity in Medieval Persian Sufism: A Cultural Poetics of Sufi Homoeroticism in the Biographical Traditions of Fakhr al-Dīn 'Erāqī." *Middle East Studies Association Conference* (November 18th, 2012).

Conferences, Workshops, and Panels Organized

- (co-organized with Jane Mikkelson) *Erotic Entanglements: Forms and Structures of Desire in Premodern Persian Literature.* American Comparative Literature Association Convention (April 8th-11th, 2021).

- (co-organized with Jane Mikkelson) *Erotic Entanglements: Forms and Structures of Desire in Premodern Persian Literature.* American Comparative Literature Association Convention (March 19th-22nd, 2020). (Cancelled due to COVID19.)

- *OCR and Digital Text Production: Learning from the Past, Fostering Collaboration and Coordination for the Future.* University of Maryland, College Park (January 29th-30th, 2020).

- *Yarshater Young Scholars Workshop.* University of Maryland, College Park (May 16th-17th, 2019).

- *A New Corpus for the Islamicate World and Methods for Its Exploration.* Middle East Studies Association Conference (November 18th-21st, 2017).

- *Manuscripts in the Twenty-First Century Workshop.* University of Maryland, College Park (November 4th-5th, 2016).

- *Topic Modeling Persian Workshop/Hackathon: Scripts and Work Flows for Pedagogical and Research Applications.* University of Maryland, College Park (March 3rd-4th, 2016).

- *Permutations of Desire in Persian Literature.* American Comparative Literature Association Convention (March 26th-29th, 2015).

- *New Approaches to Love in Medieval Persian Poetry: Critical Interventions.* Modern Language Association Convention (January 10th, 2015).

- *Re-Interpreting Love and Desire in Medieval Persian Literature: Case Studies on 'Attar, 'Eraqi, and Gurgani.* Modern Language Association Convention (January 9th, 2014).

- *Persian Literary Historiography: Perspectives on the History and Interpretation of Persian Literature.* Middle East Studies Association Conference (October 11th, 2013).

Roundtables

- Invited participant in "MELA DSIG Virtual roundtable on Arabic script OCR / HTR. *Middle East Studies Association Conference* (October 1st, 2020).

- Participant in *Non-traditional methods for Teaching Traditional Languages* roundtable, discussing collaborative, global classroom learning model of the *Islamicate World 2.0* course. *Middle East Studies Association Conference* (November 19th, 2016).

Service to University

- Member, Search Committee for "Roshan Lecturer in Persian Studies" (Spring 2020).

- Director, Afghan Refugee Accompaniment Program (Fall 2017-Now)

- Member, University-wide Super Computing Committee (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)

- Member, advisory board for the joint College of Arts and Humanities/Maryland Institute for Technology and Humanities Graduate Certificate in Digital Studies in the Arts and Humanities (DSAH) (2016-Now)

- Member, Roshan Institute Scholarships Review Committee (2016-Now)

- Member, Global Classrooms Evaluation Committee (2017)

Service to Profession

- Member, Alpheios Advisory Board

- Member, Board of Islamicate Digital Humanities Network

- Member, ALTO (Analyzed Layout and Text Object) International Editorial Board for OCR standards.

- Member, vHMML Board of Advisors, Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML)

- Served on two National Endowment for the Humanities grant review panels.

- Institutional Trustee, Board of Trustees, American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS)

Professional Association Memberships

- International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS)

- Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)

- The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA)

- Modern Language Association (MLA)

- American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)

- American Academy of Religion (AAR)

- American Institute of Afghanistan Studies.

- Middle East Medievalists

Languages

- English: native language

- Persian: advanced in all skills

- Arabic: advanced skills in reading and writing

- Spanish: advanced skills in reading and writing, conversational speaking skills

- French: reading

- Programming languages: R (advanced), Python (basic)

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Additional Language Education

- Persian Summer Institute (6/2013-8/2013), University of Maryland, College Park

- Online Persian Institute (10/2012-05/2013, 8/30/2013-4/2/2014), University of Texas at Austin

- Intensive Arabic Language Study with Private Tutor (6/2009-7/2009), Damascus, Syria

- Intensive Arabic Language Courses (1/2008-6/2008), International Language Institute, Cairo, Egypt

- Intensive Persian Program (6/2007-8/2007), Eastern Consortium for Persian and Turkish Summer Program at the University of Chicago

- Semester Study Abroad (7/2005-11/2005), University of Cape Town

- Intensive Spanish Language Courses (1/2005-6/2005), Proyecto Lingüístico Francisco Marroquín (La Antigua, Guatemala)

References

Dr. Fatemeh Keshavarz
Roshan Chair in Persian Studies
Director, Roshan Institute for Persian Studies
University of Maryland
Email: fkk@umd.edu
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Dr. Ahmet T. Karamustafa
Professor of History
University of Maryland
Email: akaramus@umd.edu
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Susan E. and William P. Stiritz
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Washington University in Saint Louis
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Dr. Gregory R. Crane
Alexander von Humboldt Professor of Digital Humanities

Universität Leipzig
Professor of Classics
Tufts University
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Dr. Sabine Schmidtke
Professor of Islamic Intellectual History
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Dr. Paul Losensky
Professor of Comparative Literature
Indiana University, Bloomington
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