

# 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

Dissertation: "Poetics of the Sufi Carnival: The 'Rogue Lyrics'

(Qalandariyât) of Sanâ'i, 'Attâr, and 'Erâqi"

Advisors: Fatemeh Keshavarz and Ahmet T. Karamustafa

**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

## Areas of Teaching and Reserarch Interests

**Primary Areas of Interest:** Persian literature of all periods; religion and literature (especially, Sufi/Islamic mystical literature and the Qur'an as literature); (global) digital humanities; 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

## Publications

- “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, Forthcoming 2017.

## Submitted Works (Under Peer Review)

- “Embodying the Sufi Beloved: (Homo)eroticism, Embodiment, and the Construction of Desire in the Hagiographic Tradition of ‘Erāqi.” Submitted for publication to *Journal of Middle Eastern Literatures* in June 2016.

## Works in Progress

- (with Maxim Romanov, Sarah Bowen Savant, and Ben Kiessling). “Important New Developments in Arabographic Optical Character Recognition (OCR).” To be submitted to *Al-‘Usur al-Wusta: The Journal of Middle East Medievalists* in fall 2016. Currently available as a working paper here.
- “‘The Real is in the Binds of Embodiment/Metaphor’: ‘Erāqi’s Poetic Performance-*cum*-Defense of Sufi Eroticism.” To be submitted for publication to *Iranian Studies* in spring 2017.
- “The Construction of the ‘Modern’ Persian Epic Hero: Kasrā’i’s Arash-e Kamāngir and the Complexities of Persian Poetic Modernity.” To be submitted for publication to *Journal of Middle Eastern Literatures* in summer of 2017.
- (with Austin O’Malley). “Stylometric Authorial Attribution Analysis of Medieval Persian Masnavis: Best Practices and Case Study of ‘Attār’s Disputed Works.” To be submitted for publication to *Iranian Studies* in early spring 2017.

## Public Scholarship

- “The Kite Runner Critiqued: New Orientalism Goes to the Big Screen.” *CommonDreams* (Jan 2008). Available for download [here](#). Translated into Persian: “Ravāyati neo-orientālisti az khāvarmiyāneh: naqdi digar bar ‘Bādbādak-bāz.” *Jahān-e Ketāb sāl-e sizdahom, shomāreh-ye 3 va 4 (Khordād va Tir 1387)*. Translated by Ahmad Sayf. Available [here](#).

## Professional Positions

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

**2016- Co-PI, Islamicate Texts Initiative (ITI).** 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- Roshan Institute Research Fellow,** University of Maryland, College Park

**2014-2015 Consultant,** Roshan Initiative in Persian Digital Humanities at the University of Maryland (PersDig@UMD)

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

## Honors, Awards, and Grants

- 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 Institute Research Fellowship, University of Maryland, College Park (2014-2016)
- Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Washington University (2013-2014)
- Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Fellowship for Excellence in Persian Studies (2012-2013)
- Mellon-Sawyer Graduate Fellowship (2011-2012)
- University Fellowship from Washington University (Fall 2009-Spring 2010)

- Full Tuition Remission from Washington University for Doctoral Studies (2009-2014)
- University Fellowship from Washington University (Fall 2007-Spring 2008)
- Full Tuition Remission from Washington University for MA Studies (2007-2009)
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society (Spring 2007)
- Recipient, Hoopes Undergraduate Research Grant (Spring 2006)
- Recipient, International Activities Fund Research Grant (Spring 2006)
- Dean's List (Spring 2004, Fall 2004, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007)
- Member, National Society of Collegiate Scholars (Fall 2004-Present)
- Arts and Sciences College Scholar, Washington University
- Eliot Scholarship from Washington University (Fall 2003-Spring 2007)

## Teaching Experience

- Instructor, *Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in the Islamic World* (Spring 2017)
- Instructor, *The Islamic World 2.0: Studying Islamic Cultures through Computational Textual Analysis* (Fall 2016). 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)
- 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

- “PersDig@UMD, OpenITI, and the Construction of the Infrastructure for ‘Digital Humanities’ Scholarship on the Premodern Islamic World.” Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, NJ (November 11th, 2016).
- “The Persian Digital Humanities: Projects, Possibilities, and the New Collaborative Humanities.” University of Tehran (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 University (April 8th, 2014).

## Conference Presentations

- “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 Perfor-

mance.” *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 ‘Erāqī.” *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

- *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, ‘Iraqi, 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

- 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 Profession

- Institutional Trustee, Board of Trustees, American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS)
- 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)
- Member, task force of the Roshan Initiative in Persian Digital Humanities at the University of Maryland (PersDig@UMD)
- Co-Chair of Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Graduate Workshop Series
- Co-Chair of 2011 Washington University Comparative Literature Graduate Symposium
- Co-Author of Parsa Grant Proposal for Graduate Center for Persian Studies at Washington University

## 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

## **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: Python (intermediate), R (advanced)

## **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 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

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