

## DANIEL J. SHEFFIELD

Princeton Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts  
Joseph Henry House 25A, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544  
Telephone: (859) 466-7985 Email: djs5@princeton.edu  
Web: <http://www.dansheffield.com/>

---

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D.**, Harvard University. Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations. 2012  
Dissertation: *In the Path of the Prophet: Medieval and Early Modern Narratives of the Life of Zarathustra in Islamic Iran and Western India*. Awarded with distinction.
- A.M.**, Harvard University. Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. 2004
- A.B.**, Harvard University. Anthropology and Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations. 2004

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University** 2012-2015  
Link-Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellow, Lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books:

- Cosmopolitan Zarathustras: Religion, Translation, and Prophethood in Iran and South Asia*.  
Draft manuscript completed. Publication proposals in preparation, to be submitted February 2015.
- The Book of Zarathustra: Critical Edition and Translation of the 13<sup>th</sup>-Century New Persian Text of Kaykāvūs b. Kaykhusraw b. Dārā and the 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Gujarati Text of Rustam Peśutan Hormazyār*. Manuscript in preparation. To be completed Spring 2015.
- The Pahlavi Book of Religious Judgments (Wizirgerd ī Dēnīg): Zoroastrian Religious and Legal Thought in the Early Medieval Period. Edition, Translation, and Commentary*. Manuscript in preparation.

#### Edited Volumes:

- There's No Tapping around Philology: A Festschrift for Wheeler McIntosh Thackston Jr.'s 70th Birthday*. Edited with Alireza Korangy. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz Verlag, published September 1, 2014.
- Ek Jñānno Bhaṇḍār—A Treasury of Knowledge: Iranian, Persian, and Indian Studies Presented in Honour of the 150th Anniversary of the First Dastoor Meherjirana Library, Navsari*. Edited with Dinyar Patel, UNESCO Parsi Zoroastrian Project, forthcoming.

#### Journal Articles and Book Chapters Published and in Press:

- “The Language of Paradise in Safavid Iran: Speech and Cosmology in the Thought of Āzar Kayvān and His Followers.” In Alireza Korangy and Daniel Sheffield (eds.) *There's No Tapping around Philology*, Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz Verlag, 2014, 161–183.
- “Picturing Prophethood: KRCOI *Zarātushtnāma* Manuscript HP 149 and the Origins of the Portrait of Zarathustra.” In *The Journal of the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute* 72, 2012 [publ. 2014], 11–78.
- “Iran, the Mark of Paradise or the Land of Ruin? Approaches to Reading Two Parsi Zoroastrian Travelogues.” In Sunil Sharma and Roberta Micallef (eds.) *On Wonders of*

*Land and Sea*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013, 14–43.

“A Treasury of Zoroastrian Manuscripts: The First Dastoor Meherjirana Library, Navsari.” With Dastur Dr. Firoze M. Kotwal. In Alberto Cantera (ed.) *The Transmission of the Avesta (Iranica 20)*, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2012, 197–206.

“The *Wizirgerd ī Dēnīg* and the Evil Spirit: Questions of Authenticity in Post-Classical Zoroastrianism.” In *Iranian and Zoroastrian Studies in Honor of Prods Oktor Skjærvø (Bulletin of the Asia Institute 19)*, 2009, 181–189.

#### **Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries:**

“Zoroastrian Scriptures in India.” With Prods Oktor Skjærvø. In Arvind Sharma (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions*, Springer Verlag, in press, 2016.

Review of Domenico Agostini, *Ayādgār ī Jāmāspīg: un texte eschatologique zoroastrien* (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 2013). In *Bulletin of the Asia Institute 24*, 2014, 207–210.

“Susa.” In *The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible* volume 5. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009, 406–407.

Review of Christiane Reck, *Berliner Turfanfragmente manichäischen Inhalts in soghdischer Schrift*. In *Journal of the American Oriental Society 129.1*, 2009, 166–167.

#### **Articles Forthcoming and in Preparation:**

“Primary Sources: New Persian” and “Primary Sources: Gujarati” in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Zoroastrianism*, New York: Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming, 2015.

“The Quest for a Historical Zarathustra: the Perception of the Prophet in the Thought of Friedrich Spiegel and Martin Haug and Their Collaborators Kharshedji Rustamji Cama and Dastur Hoshangji Jamasp.” In *The Journal of the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute 73*, awaiting proofs, 2015.

“The Lord of the Planetary Conjunction: Cosmic Aspects of Millennial Sovereignty in the Thought of Āzar Kayvān and His Associates,” for *Proceedings of the Princeton Islamicate Occult Sciences Workshop*, in *Arabica: Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies*, 2015.

“The Loss of the Persianate and the Recovery of the Iranian: On Parsi Antiquarianism and Modernity,” for *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*.

“Colonizing the Persianate: Gender, Patronage, and Empire in the *Georgenāma* of Mullā Fīrūz,” for *The Journal of Persianate Studies*.

“On Translation and Tolerance: The Occulted Origins of Akbar’s *ṣulḥ-i kull*.”

#### **AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Whiting Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2011–2012
Ancient India and Iran Trust Bursary	Summer 2011
Graduate Society Merit Research Fellowship	2009–2010
Derek Bok Center for Teaching Departmental Teaching Fellowship	2010–2011
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship	2008–2009
Harvard University Frederick Sheldon Travelling Fellowship (declined)	2008–2009
South Asia Initiative Study Grants	Summer 2008, Summer 2009, Winter 2011
Harvard Certificates of Distinction in Teaching	Spring & Fall 2007, Spring & Fall 2008
Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (Gujarati)	Summer 2007

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

### 2014

- Living the Good Religion among Others: Cosmopolitan Zoroastrian Thought from the Middle Ages to Modernity. Khorshed Jungalwala Memorial Lecture. Presented at the XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress, Los Angeles, December 30, 2014.
- Sound in Body and Immortal in Soul: Zoroastrian Healing Traditions from Late Antique Iran to Modern Western India. Presented at the University of Iowa South Asian Studies Program Seminar, December 8, 2014.
- The Lord of the Planetary Court: Cosmic Aspects of Millennial Sovereignty in the Thought of Āzar Kayvān and His Followers. Presented at the Middle East Studies Association 2014 Annual Meeting, November 23, 2014.
- The Language of Heaven in Early Modern Iran and India: Azar Kayvani Ideas of Speech and Cosmology. Presented at the 43rd Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 17, 2014.
- The Loss of the Persianate and the Recovery of the Iranian: On Parsi Antiquarianism and Modernity. Presented at the Yale “Persianate Studies: A Conceptual Inquiry” conference, New Haven, May 10, 2014.
- Caravan to India: On the Migration of Persian Free-thinkers in Mughal India during the Reign of Shāh ‘Abbās. Presented at University of Maryland “The Wide World of Persian: Connections and Contestations, 1500-Today” conference, Baltimore, May 3, 2014.
- Xwanīrah or Jambudvīpa? Theoretical Approaches to Zoroastrian Sanskrit and Old Gujarati Texts. Presented at the 224th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Phoenix, March 17, 2014.

### 2013

- Historical Reflections on Parsi-Muslim Relations in Gujarat and Mumbai. Presented at the Muslims and Others Seminar, Princeton University, November 22, 2013.
- Constituting a Canon: Parsis, Philology, and the Public Sphere in Nineteenth-Century Bombay. Presented at the 42nd Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 20, 2013.
- Magian Mystics? Azar Kayvan and his Followers between Persianate Zoroastrianism and Imami Shi‘ism. Presented at the Looking Back: Zoroastrian Identity Formation through Recourse to the Past Conference, School for Oriental and African Studies, London, October 12, 2013
- Colonizing the Persianate: Epic and Empire in the *Georgenāma* of Mullā Fīrūz. Presented at the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies Conference, Sarajevo, September 4, 2013.
- Cyrus, Human Rights, and the Politics of the Past in Iran. Presented at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, July 21, 2013.
- Disenchanted the *Dēn*: Parsi Reactions to Paine and Voltaire. Presented at the 2013 Association for Asian Studies Conference, San Diego, CA, March 23, 2013.
- The Language of Heaven in Safavid Iran: The Linguistic Philosophy of Āzar Kayvān and His Followers. Presented at the 223<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Portland, OR, March 15, 2013.

The Loss of the Persianate and the Recovery of the Iranian: On Parsi Antiquarianism and the Genealogy of Modernity. Presented at Celebrating a Treasure: 140 Years at the First Dastoor Meherjirana Library, Navsari. Navsari, Gujarat, January 14, 2013.

#### 2012

The Mixing of Cultures (*Āmīzish-i Farhang*): Zarathustra, the Āzar Kayvān School, and the Boundaries of Zoroastrian Orthodoxy. Presented at the Institute of Advanced Study Middle East Seminar, Princeton, NJ, November 28, 2012.

A Semblance of a Book: A Safavid Debate on the Prophethood of Zarathustra. Presented at the 222nd Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, MA, March 17, 2012.

Researching Life History in Mumbai. Presented at Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey (SNDT) Women's University, Mumbai, January 21, 2012.

Mulla Feroz (1758–1830): The Life of an Early Bombay Parsi Priest between Indo-Persianate Tradition and British Colonialism. Presented at the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai, January 20, 2012.

#### 2011

Missionaries, Miracles, and Modernity: Parsi Responses to Protestant Proselytization, 1830–1850. Presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 21, 2011.

Of Parsis and Philologists: German Orientalists and Zoroastrian Reformers in 19<sup>th</sup> century Bombay. Presented at Rethinking Religion in India III, Pardubice, October 13, 2011.

Esoteric Exegesis of Avestan Passages in the Pahlavi *Wizirgerd ī Dēnīg*. Presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Iranian Studies, Krakow, September 8, 2011.

#### 2010

Contesting Calendars, Connecting Communities: Collective Memory in Early Modern Zoroastrianism. Presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> North American Zoroastrian Congress, Houston, TX, December 29, 2010.

This Town Isn't Big Enough for the Two of Us: Struggles for the High Priestship of Bombay, 1830–1900. Presented at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison WI, October 16, 2010.

Calendar Controversies: Collective Memory and Communal Authority in Early Modern Zoroastrianism. Presented at the Eighth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, Los Angeles, May 29, 2010.

The Curious History of the Pahlavi *Wizirgerd ī Dēnīg*: Questions of Priestly Authority and Textual Legitimacy in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Bombay. Presented at the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, April 11, 2010.

Between *Masnavī* and *Kāvya*: The *Zarṭošt-nāmū* of Mobed Rustam Pešotan Hormazyār and the Rise of Parsi Gujarati Literature. Presented at the Gujarat Studies Association 2010 Conference, April 10, 2010.

#### 2009

Iran, the Mark of Paradise or the Land of Ruin? Approaches to Reading Two Parsi Zoroastrian Travelogues. Presented at the Middle East Studies Association 2009 International Meeting, Boston, November 21–24, 2009.

Manuscript Evidence for a Text with No Manuscripts: On the Sources of the Pahlavi *Wizirgerd ī Dēnīg*. Presented at the “Poets, Priests, Scribes and (e-)Librarians. The Transmission of Holy Wisdom in Zoroastrianism” Conference, Salamanca, September 2–5, 2009.

The Beginnings Of Iranian Philology In Europe And India: The Quest for the Historical Zarathustra. Presented at the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute, Bombay, February 20, 2009.

#### 2008

Invited participant in the “Cosmopolitan Encounters Between Early Modern Sanskrit and Persianate Cultures” workshop, Toronto, July 31-August 3, 2008.

Between *Dēn* and *Dharma*: Indian Zoroastrian Texts from the Medieval and Early Modern Periods. Presented at the 7th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, Toronto, August 2, 2008.

Mullā Fīrūz: A Parsi Priest at the Nexus of Zoroastrian Tradition, Indo-Persian Culture and British Colonialism. Presented at the “Zoroastrians Past and Present” Conference at the Ancient Iran and India Trust, Cambridge, UK, June 7, 2008.

Marvelous Journeys to the Land of the *Sagsārān*: Questions of Genre and Register in Classical Persian Literature. Presented at the 218th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 17, 2008.

#### 2007

The Position of *Zarātushtnāma* in the Transmission of the Sacred Narrative of the Prophet Zaratūštra. Presented at the 6th European Conference of Iranian Studies, Vienna, September 20, 2007.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

##### Lecturer, Princeton University

*Near Eastern Studies & Religion* 300-level seminar Spring 2014

Translating Babel: Scripture and Translation in Near Eastern Religious Traditions

*Near Eastern Studies* 300-level seminar Fall 2013

In Tamerlane’s Wake: Timurids, Safavids, and Mughals in Early Modern Asia

*Freshman Seminar* 100-level seminar Spring 2013

From the Arabian Nights to the Prince of Persia: Orientalism in Literature and Film.

*Near Eastern Studies & Religion* 300-level lecture Fall 2012

Thus Spoke Zarathustra: The Zoroastrian Tradition from Ancient Iran to Modern India.

##### Instructor, Harvard University

*Persian A* Elementary Persian. Fall 2010

*Persian 120a* Intermediate Persian. Fall 2010

*Early Iranian Civilizations 102 A* Thematic Introduction to the Zoroastrian Religion Spring 2010-11

*Iranian 300* Advanced Middle Persian. Spring 2010

#### CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Co-organizer of *Celebrating a Treasure: 140 Years at the First Dastoor Meherjirana Library, Navsari*. January 12–15, 2013, Navsari, Gujarat, India, the first scholarly conference on Iranian and Parsi Studies in Navsari, with more than forty speakers from North America, Europe, and Asia.

**LANGUAGES**  
**Modern Spoken Languages:** Persian (fluent), Gujarati (fluent), Hindi-Urdu (advanced), Kurmanji Kurdish (intermediate), French (advanced), German (advanced), Italian (intermediate).

**Research Tools:** Old Persian, Old and Young Avestan, Middle Persian (Pahlavi), Parthian, Sogdian, Bactrian, Khotanese, Judeo-Persian, Classical Sanskrit, Old Western Rajasthani/Old Gujarati, Imperial Aramaic, Syriac, Classical Arabic.

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association, International Society for Iranian Studies, Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, American Association of Teachers of Persian, Societas Iranologica Europea, American Academy of Religion, Association for Asian Studies, Gujarat Studies Association, American Oriental Society, Middle East Studies Association.

#### ACADEMIC SERVICE

Advisor, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University.

Book Review Editor, *International Journal of Persian Literature* (2014–present).

Peer Reviewer, *Iranian Studies*.

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.

Peer Reviewer, *Iran: Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies*.

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*.

Council Member, International Society for Iranian Studies, 2007–2009.

## REFERENCES

**PROFESSOR PRODS OKTOR SKJÆRVØ**  
Aga Khan Professor of Iranian  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and  
Civilizations  
Harvard University,  
6 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
**Ph:** +1 617-496-5756  
**Email:** skjjaervo@fas.harvard.edu

**PROFESSOR KEVIN VAN BLADEL**  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Near Eastern Languages  
and Civilizations  
Ohio State University  
300G Hagerty Hall  
1775 College Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43210  
**Ph:** +1 614-292-5643  
**Email:** vanbladel.2@osu.edu

**PROFESSOR WHEELER M. THACKSTON**  
Professor Emeritus of the Practice of Persian  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and  
Civilizations  
Harvard University  
6 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
**Ph:** +1 617-876-0858  
**Email:** wthackst@gmail.com

**PROFESSOR SUNIL SHARMA**  
Associate Professor of Persianate  
and Comparative Literature  
Department of Modern Languages & Comp.  
Lit.  
Boston University  
704 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, MA 02215  
**Ph:** +1 617-358-3776  
**Email:** sharma@bu.edu

**PROFESSOR MICHAEL COOK**  
Class of 1943 University Professor of  
Near Eastern Studies  
Department of Near Eastern Studies  
101A Jones Hall  
Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
**Ph:** +1 609-258-5360  
**Email:** mcook@princeton.edu

**PROFESSOR ROY MOTTAHEDEH**  
Gurney Professor of Islamic History  
Department of History  
Harvard University  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies 209,  
38 Kirkland Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
**Ph:** +1 617-495-8433  
**Email:** mottahed@fas.harvard.edu

**PROFESSOR PATRICIA CRONE**  
Professor Emerita of Islamic History  
School of Historical Studies  
Institute of Advance Study  
Einstein Drive  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
**Ph:** +1 609-734-8000  
**Email:** pcrone@ias.edu

**PROFESSOR ALMUT HINTZE**  
Zartoshti Professor of Zoroastrianism  
Department of the Study of Religions  
School for Oriental and African Studies,  
University of London  
Office 334, Russell Square College Buildings  
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square,  
London WC1H 0XG, UK  
**Ph:** +44 20 7898 4598  
**Email:** ah69@soas.ac.uk