

In the dynamic 20th century, characterised by rapidly increasing global mobility and multifaceted artistic and intellectual interchange, the political events and intellectual currents of Pahlavi Iran (1925-1979) are closely linked to the pursuit of modernity, to at times contradictory cultural processes, and to the resulting social change. Exploring these complex interrelations from a cultural angle broadens our historical perspective on late Pahlavi society and helps us to gain a deeper understanding of the political and socio-political processes of this period.

This workshop seeks to explore the interactions between state ideology and the socio-cultural sphere from an interdisciplinary perspective, focusing on four thematic areas: The influence of the press and literature on social discourses, the culturally strategic and identity-forming role of the performing arts, the relationship between state education policy and culture, and the dynamics of (state) religion, spirituality and psychology in modern media or through their dissemination in the media.

The workshop in Marburg (27-29 November 2024) is the second part of a two-part format in academic cooperation with the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW). The first part took place in Vienna (3-5 July 2024) and was organised by Robert Steele, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Iranian Studies of ÖAW, and addressed key topics ranging from cultural and literary studies, art and architecture, media studies and performative arts to archaeology.

Contributions of part 2 address how media, literature, art and religion, as cultural-political instruments of identity formation, have shaped the dynamics of societal change. The discussions will reflect on historical continuities and competing narratives of modernisation and modernity, as well as the interactions between culture, politics and society.

CONVENOR

Prof. Dr. Bianca Devos
devos@uni-marburg.de

Department of Iranian Studies, CNMS
University of Marburg
<https://www.uni-marburg.de/de/cnms/iranistik>

 iranistik_marburg

The workshop will be streamed live online. If you would like to follow the workshop online, please register with your affiliation at Dr. Anna Heller (event organisation), anna.heller@uni-marburg.de.

The Cultural History of Late Pahlavi Iran (Part 2)

Foto: Anna Heller

International
Workshop

27-29 November 2024

Iranian Studies Department

University of Marburg

Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS)

Deutschhausstr. 12, 35037 Marburg

Wednesday, 27 November 2024

- 16:30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Bianca Devos
- 16:45 PRESS AND LITERATURE
Chair: Anna Heller
Behrooz Shojaeian, University of Marburg
Exploring the lives of white-collar workers in Iran during the second Pahlavi era: insights from Gholamhossein Sa'edi's *A Magnificent Night Gathering*
Behzad Zerehdaran, University of Marburg
Revisiting the political theology of Fadā'iyān-e Islam as a response to the cultural policies of the Pahlavi era: A case study of *Nabard-e Mellat* Newspaper
- 18:00 RECEPTION

Thursday, 28 November 2024

- 09:15 PERFORMATIVE ARTS I: BIOGRAPHIES OF THE STAGE
Chair: Sahereh Astaneh
Anna Heller, University of Marburg
Memory and remembrance: Including women's biographies in Iranian theatre history
Nic Leonhardt, University of Cologne
The mysterious unknown on her way to new shores in Iran, or: Nilla Cram Cook's ventures in the field of the performing arts during the Pahlavi period
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 PERFORMATIVE ARTS II: MUSIC AND NATIONAL IDENTITY
Chair: Nic Leonhardt
Pejman Akbarzadeh, Amsterdam
Persian choral music in the Pahlavi era: The case of the "National Choir"
Sahereh Astaneh, University of Salzburg
Reviving national identity through opera. A comparative study of 'Atossa' and 'Rustic Festival' at Tehran's Rudaki Hall (1967)
- 12:30 Lunch break (catering at the venue)
- 14:00 CULTURAL POLITICS AND EDUCATION
Chair: Khosrow Tousi
Salomé Michel, University of Kiel
The debate on 'authentic culture' in Rastākhiz's campaign for political education (1976-1979)
Yasamin Alkhansa, University of St. Andrews
Legacies of an educational craft: Authoring school textbooks during the late Pahlavi era
- 19:00 CONFERENCE DINNER

Friday, 29 November 2024

- 09:30 SPIRITUALITY OF THE STATE AND PSYCHE OF THE NATION
Chair: Robert Steele
Khosrow Tousi, SOAS, London
Re-forming the self and nation: Ebrahim Khajehnouri and the popularisation of self-help in modern Iran
Elyas Pirasteh, University of Marburg
State, faith, and power: Navigating Religious Policies in the Late Pahlavi Era through the *Sipāh-i dīn*
Bianca Devos, University of Marburg
Religion, media and politics: Mohammad Reza Shah's pilgrimages to Mecca and Mashhad
- 11:30 Short coffee break
- 11:45 FINAL DISCUSSION, end of workshop app. 12:15

Enjoying Marburg: Leisure tips

On a nice day, a stroll through the old town is highly recommended, which can be extended into a walk up to the castle. The effort is rewarded with a beautiful view of the *Oberstadt* and the Lahn Valley.

ART MUSEUM

The university's own collection of classical modern art and post-war avant-garde works from the Hilde Eitel Collection.

Biegenstr. 11, 35037 Marburg

Opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday to Sunday 11:00-17:00

Thursday, 28 November 11:00-21:00

MARBURG BY NIGHT

29 November from 18:00 to midnight

Marburg by Night is the city's enchanting festival of light. Glittering illuminations and the inviting scents of roasted almonds and *Glühwein* from the Christmas markets fill the festively decorated streets and alleyways.

Venues

PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS:

Wednesday & Friday: Room 01A03, 1st floor

Thursday: Room 01A24, 1st floor

RECEPTION & LUNCH BREAK:

"Casino" of CNMS, room 02A05, top floor