

JO-ANN GROSS
The College of New Jersey
Department of History
609-771-2213

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The College of New Jersey
Professor of Middle Eastern and Central Eurasian History, History Department, 2002-present; Associate Professor, 1994-2002; Assistant Professor, 1988-1994

Chair, History Department, The College of New Jersey, 2004-2007

University of Pennsylvania
Affiliated Faculty Member, 2013-
South Asia Center

Columbia University
Research Associate and Adjunct Faculty Member, Middle East Institute, 1985-88

EDUCATION

New York University
Near Eastern Languages and Literature, Ph.D. June 1982 (with distinction)
Dissertation Committee: Robert McChesney (Chair), Peter Chelkowski, Dale Eickelman
Research fields: Social history of Sufism and hagiographic traditions, anthropology and history of the Middle East, post-Mongol history of Iran and Central Asia

New York University
Near Eastern Languages and Literature, M.A., June 1978

Rutgers University
Major: Art, B.A., 1971

AWARDS AND HONORS

Elected as honorary foreign member of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan 2012

Director, Goelet Foundation Grant, Middle East and Central Eurasia Study Abroad Fellowship and Lecture Program, The College of New Jersey 2012-13

Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Programs Title VI Grant (UISFL), "Iran and Beyond: Strengthening the International Studies and Foreign Language Curriculum in Middle Eastern and Central Eurasian Studies (Principle Investigator)	2008-10
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) Short Term Research Fellowship (summer research in Tajikistan)	2008
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) Short Term Research Fellowship (summer research in Tajikistan)	2005
TCNJ Career Development Grant, to support participation in a CIEE Faculty Development Seminar in Southwest China	2005
Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan, Project Grant to support traveling exhibition of shrine photographs	2005
Phi Kappa Phi Student-Faculty Research Grant (with student John Bangert to conduct research in Samarqand and Bukhara, Uzbekistan)	2004
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) 6-month Advanced Research Fellowship in Tajikistan for book project	2004
Central Asian Research Initiative Grant (CARI), Open Society Institute	2004
Associate Project Director, Rockefeller Foundation Grant to support institutional development of the International Association of the Study of Persian-Speaking Societies (IASPS)	2000-03
National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Grant support of a book project with Asom Urunbaev of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent, Uzbekistan	1997-99
Membership of the Faculty of the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (Sabbatical leave)	1995-96
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) Short Term Travel Grant to Uzbekistan	1995
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) Short Term Travel Grant to Uzbekistan	1994
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) Developmental Fellowship (post-doctoral fellowship)	1985-86

New York University Graduate School of Arts and Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship	1981-82
Social Science Research Council Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for research in U.S.S.R., Turkey, and Great Britain	1979-80
Fulbright-Hays Training Fellowship for research in U.S.S.R., Great Britain, and Turkey	1979-80
International Research and Exchanges Board Graduate Student/Young Faculty Exchange - Soviet Central Asia	1979-80

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Muslim Shrines and Spiritual Culture in the Perso-Islamic World (IB Taurus, International Library of Iranian Studies (forthcoming, 2015).

Murosaloti Khoja Ubaydullohi Ahror va Atrofiyoni U. Tajik translation by Bahridin Aliev (Donish, Dushanbe, 2012) of Jo-Ann Gross and Asom Urunbaev, *The Letters of Khwāja ‘Ubayd Allāh Ahrār and His Associates* (Brill Publishers, 2002).

Musul'manskaya Tsentral'naya Aziya: Religioznost' i Obshchestvo - Izbrannye Stat'i (Islamic Central Asia: Religiosity and Society - Collected Works). Russian translation and critical introduction by Lola Dodkhoudoeva (Dushanbe, 2004, 2nd ed. 2006).

Jo-Ann Gross and Asom Urunbaev, *The Letters of Khwāja ‘Ubayd Allāh Ahrār and His Associates* (Brill Publishers, 2002).

Jo-Ann Gross, ed., *Muslims in Central Asia: Expressions of Identity and Change*, Duke University Press, 1992.

Special Editions:

Guest editor, “The Pamir: Shrine Traditions, Human Ecology and Identity” *Journal of Persianate Studies*, vol. 4 (Brill Publishers, 2011).

Articles, Chapters in Books and Encyclopedia Articles.

“The Biographical Tradition of Muḥammad Bashārā in Penjakent: Islamic Hagiography in Tajikistan,” in *Sufism and Islam in Central Asia*, ed. Devin DeWeese and Jo-Ann Gross (forthcoming, 2015).

“Ahrār, Khwāja ‘Ubaydallāh,” *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, revised for 3rd ed., 2014.

“The Motif of the Cave and the Funerary Narratives of Nāṣir-i Khusraw,” in *Orality and Textuality in the Iranian World*, ed. by Julia Rubanovich and Shaul Shaked (Brill Series, Jerusalem Studies in Religion and Culture, forthcoming, 2014).

“Foundational Legends, Shrines, and Isma’ili Identity in Tajik Badakhshan,” in *Muslims and Others in Sacred Space*,” ed. by Margaret Jean Cormack,” (Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 164-192.

“Naqshbandi Appeals to the Herat Court: A Preliminary Study of Trade and Property Issues,” revised for publication in *India and Central Asia: A Reader*, ed. by Xinru Liu (Permanent Black, 2012), 326-342.

“Ahrar, Khwaja ‘Ubaydallah,” *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, New ed., 2007.

“The Naqshbandīya Connection: From Central Asia to India and Back (16th–19th Centuries),” in *India and Central Asia, 16th to 19th Centuries*, ed. by Scott C. Levi (Oxford University Press, 2007), 232-259.

“Naqshbandi Appeals to the Herat Court,” *Festschrift on Islamic Central Asia in Honor of Yuri Bregel*, ed. by Devin DeWeese (Indiana University Press, 2001), 113-128.

“The Waqf of Khoja ‘Ubayd Allah Ahrar in Nineteenth Century Central Asia: A Preliminary Study of the Tsarist Record,” in *Naqshbandis in Western and Central Asia*, ed. by Elisabeth Ozdalga (Curzon Press, 1999), 47-60.

“The Polemic of ‘Official’ and ‘Unofficial’ Islam,” in *Islamic Mysticism Contested: Thirteen Centuries of Controversies and Polemics*, ed. by Frederick de Jong and Bernd Radtke (E.J. Brill, 1999), 520-540.

“A Central Asian Waqf of the Naqshbandi Sufi Master Khwaja Ahrar,” in *Windows on the House of Islam: Muslim Sources on Spirituality and Religious Life*, ed. by Jack Renard (University of California Press, 1998), 231-235.

“Islamic Central Asia: Approaches to Religiosity and Community,” *Religious Studies Review* 24 (1998) 351-359.

“Historical Memory, Cultural Identity and Change: ‘Abd al-’Aziz Sami’s Representation of the Russian Conquest of Bukhara,” in *Russia’s Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917*, ed. by Daniel Brower and Edward Lazzerini (Indiana University Press, 1997), 203-226.

“Naqshbandi,” *The Encyclopaedia of the Modern Middle East* (Macmillan Publishing Co., 1995).

Bibliographic editor, Timurid section of the revised edition of *American Historical Association Guide to Historical Literature* (Oxford University Press, 1994).

“Women in the Middle East,” *Curriculum Transformation: Race, Class and Gender, New Jersey Project*, 1993.

"Authority and Miraculous Behavior: Reflections on Karamat Stories of Khwaja 'Ubaydullah Ahrar," in *The Legacy of Medieval Persian Sufism*, ed. by Leonard Lewisohn (Khaniqahi Nimatullahi Publications, London, 1992), 159-172.

"Khoja Ahrar: An Interpretative Approach to Understanding the Roles and Perceptions of a Sufi Shaykh in Timurid Society," in *Naqshandis*, ed. by Marc Gaborieau, Alexandre Popovic, and Thierry Zarcone (Editions Isis, Istanbul/Paris, 1990), 109-121.

"The Economic Status of a Timurid Shaykh: A Matter of Conflict or Perception?" *Journal of Iranian Studies*, Vol. 21, #1-2, 1988, 84-104.

Reviews

Journal of the American Oriental Society, review of *Sufi Bodies: Religion and Society in Medieval Islam* by Shahzad Bashir, 2014 (forthcoming).

Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, review of David Lewis, *After Atheism: Religion and Ethnicity in Russia and Central Asia*, 2003.

International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 31, review of Audrey Burton, *The Bukharans: A Dynastic, Diplomatic and Commercial History 1550-1702*, 1999, pp. 317-319.

Iranian Studies, review of Carl Ernst, *Eternal Garden: Mysticism, Religion and Politics at a South Asian Sufi Center*, 1997.

Association for the Advancement of Central Asian Research Bulletin, review of Sergei P. Poliakov, *Everyday Islam: Religion and Tradition in Rural Central Asia*, 1995, pp. 23-24.

American Historical Review, review of *Central Asia in World History*, by S.A.M. Adshead, June, 1994, pp. 865-866.

Journal of Interdisciplinary History, review of Robert Canfield, *Turko-Persia in Historical Perspective*, Vol. 24, 1993, pp. 394-398.

International Migration Review, review of Nora Ahlberg, *New Strategies-Old Strategies: Themes of Variation and Conflict among Pakistani Muslims in Norway*, 1992.

Works in Progress

Sufism and Islam in Central Asia, ed. by Jo-Ann Gross and Devin DeWeese. This volume is based on papers presented at a Princeton University Symposium on Sufism and Islam in Central Asia in October 21-22, 2011, the first international symposium in the U.S. to be devoted to the subject.

“*Bahār-i Badakhshān* as a Source for Understanding Isma’ilism in the Pamir,” Festschrift dedicated to Thomas Allsen, to be published as volume 21 of *Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi*, ed. Peter Golden and Roman Kovalev (forthcoming 2015).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

2012-16

Vice-President, Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)

2013-

Advisory Board, America’s Unofficial Ambassadors (AUA). 2013- Responsible for creating the AUA summer service internship in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, launched in summer 2014. Conducted the orientation program for interns in Dushanbe, May-June, 2014.

Organizing Committee, Seventh Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, to be held in Turkey September 2015.

Organizing Committee, Second Annual Conference on the Muslim World, October 30-November 3, 2013, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco. Two TCNJ graduates and one undergraduate student presented papers.

Program Committee for the Association of Persianate Society’s Sixth Biennial Conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. September 2013.

Review Committee, Title VIII Critical Languages Institute (Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies), Arizona State University Melikian Center, March 2013.

2004-

Director, Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF). Founded by J, Gross in 2005, CERF supports the publications of scholars in Central Asia who cannot not otherwise afford to do so.

2001-

Editorial Board, *Journal of Persianate Societies* (Brill Publishers). The *Journal of Persianate Studies* is a publication of ASPS.

2004-
Board of Directors (Institutional Representative)
American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS)

2006-
Scientific Committee, *Central Eurasian Reader*, a critical bibliographical journal of social sciences on the Islamic-background societies and minority groups in European Russia, Siberia, the Caucasus and Central Asia from the mid-eighteenth century to the present.

2003-2012
Board of Directors
Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)

1999-2002
Executive Board, Secretary-Treasurer
Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)

1996-2002
Editorial Board
International Journal of Middle East Studies

1995-2004
Board of Directors
Association for Central Asian Studies

1987-90
Executive Secretary
Society for Iranian Studies (SIS, now ISIS)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS (2004-2014)

“Ethnographic Research, Textual Scholarship and Material Culture: Approaches to Study of Confessional and Communal Identity among the Ismā‘īlīs of Badakhshan,” Ismaili Studies Conference, University of Chicago, 16-17 October 2014 (forthcoming).

“The Ismailis of Gorno-Badakhshan and National Identity in Tajikistan,” Third Annual Conference on the Muslim World: Minorities in the Muslim World, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey, 25 October-1 November 2014 (forthcoming).

“Imams, Sayyids, Qalandars, Shahs and Pirs: The Mapping of Confessional Space in Badakhshan,” Confessional Ambiguity, ‘Alid Loyalty, and Tashayyu‘ Ḥasan in the 13th to 16th Century Nile to Oxus Region, Pembroke College, Oxford, 18-20 September 2014.

“The Genealogical History and Narrative Traditions of Sayyid Families of Shughnan, Badakhshan in the 18th-20th Century,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, October 13, 2013.

“Sayyid Genealogy, Narrative Tradition and the Sacred Landscape in the Pamir,” Sixth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), Sarajevo, September 2, 2013.

Mir Hasan Khamosh: Narrative Traditions and the Construction of Sacred Genealogy in Badakhshan, Annual Yuri Bregel Lecture, Indiana University, November 14, 2012.

“The Tales and Genealogical Traditions of Sayyid Khāmosh and the Creation of Sacred Identity in Badakhshan,” International Society for Iranian Studies, Istanbul, Turkey, August 1-5, 2012.

The Funerary Tradition of Nasir-i Khusraw,” Center for Eastern European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, University of Chicago, April 11, 2012.

“The Motif of the Cave: Nasir-i Khusraw and the Narrative Tradition of Badakhshan,” Princeton University Brown Bag Luncheon Series, Sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, February 28, 2012.

“Nāṣir-i Khusraw: Narrative Tradition and the Motif of the Cave in Badakhshan,” Fifth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), Mawlana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, India, January 4-8, 2012.

“The Biographical Tradition of Muḥammad Bashārā: Islamic Hagiography in Tajikistan,” Princeton University Symposium on Sufism and Islam in Central Asia, October 21-22, 2011.

“Contemporary Hagiography and the Re-Articulation of Sacred Space: The Shrine of Muhammad Bashara in Penjikent,” Conference on Central Asia in the World of Islam, Tel Aviv University (May 2011).

“Texts, Oral Traditions and the Articulation of the Sacred in the Pamir,” Workshop on “Popular Media and Alternate Histories: Voices from Beyond the Security State in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia,” University of Pennsylvania (February 8, 2011).

“The Motif of the Cave: Narrative Traditions from Badakhshān about Nāṣir-i Khusraw,” Middle East Studies Association Conference, San Diego, November 18, 2010.

“Recent Research on Sufism and Shrines in Tajikistan,” CAORC, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, June, 25, 2010.

“Orality, Cultural Geography and Sacred History: Isma’ili Shrines and Foundational Figures in Badakhshan,” Fourth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, LUMS University, Lahore, Pakistan, February 28, 2009. **Peer**

“Recent Research on Isma’ili Foundational Narratives and Shrine Networks in Badakhshan, Tajikistan,” Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, University of Toronto, January 30, 2009.

“Orality, Cultural Geography and Sacred History: Isma’ili Shrines and Foundational Figures in Badakhshan,” Conference on Orality and Textuality in the Iranian World: Patterns of Interaction Across the Centuries,” The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December, 2008.

“Isma’ili Shrines, Oral History, and the Construction of Sacred Space in Gorno-Badakhshan,” Colloquium on Islam in Central Eurasia, Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University, October 27, 2008.

“Shrines, Oral History and Isma’ili Identity in Badakhshan,” Rutgers University Faculty Workshop, “The Iranian Cultural Sphere,” October 3, 2008.

“Foundational Legends, Shrines, and Isma’ili Identity in Tajik Badakhshan,” Symposium on Ancient Origins, Modern Identities, University of Pennsylvania Center for Ancient Studies, March 21, 2008.

“The Poetics of Sacred Space in Tajikistan,” Colloquium for Faculty Research and Creative Activity, The College of New Jersey, April 2, 2008.

“Ismā’īlī Shrine Networks in Badakhshan, Tajikistan,” Sixth European Conference of Iranian Studies, Vienna, September 19-22, 2007.

“Current Research on Islamic Shrines in Tajikistan,” All Souls College, Oxford University, March 8, 2007.

“Shrines and Sacred History in Tajikistan: Oral Tradition and Cultural Geography,” conference on “Muslims and Others in Sacred Space,” University of Charleston, South Carolina, March 23-24, 2007.

“Sacred Space, Personhood and Historical Memory: Interpreting the Role of Shrines in Central Asian History,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November, 2006, presented for the roundtable on “Re-Describing the Nexus of Sufism and Society.”

“The *Waqf* History of the Shrine of Muhammad Bashara in Penjikent, Tajikistan,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2005.

“Historical and Ethnographic Research in Tajikistan: Shrines and Shrine Culture,” for the keynote panel on “Doing Research in Central Asia,” European Association for Central Eurasia Studies, Krakow, Poland, September 12-14, 2005.

“Shrines and Sufi Circles in 14th-15th Century Khuttalan, Chaghanian, and Hisar,” Second Biennial Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), April 9-12, Yerevan, Armenia, April, 2004.

“Shrines and Shaykhs of Khuttalan and Hisar,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, November, 2004.

CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

Art Exhibition, “Between Heaven and Earth: Spiritual Transformation and Sacred Spaces,” The College of New Jersey Gallery of Art, Ewing, New Jersey, January 16-February 13, 2008. Two photographs.

Photographic Exhibition. National Museum named Bihzad, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, July, 2005. Sixty-six of the artist’s photographs of Islamic shrines and shrine families in Tajikistan, based on sabbatical and summer research between 2003-05, accompanied by 16 text posters. The exhibition traveled for three months to all regions of Tajikistan, including Gorno-Badakhshan.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Chair, Program Committee, Association for the Study of Persianate Society’s Seventh Biennial Conference in Turkey, September 2015.

Organizing Committee, Second Annual Conference on the Muslim World, October 30-November 3, 2013, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco.

Program Committee for the Association for the Study of Persianate Society’s Sixth Biennial Conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. September 2013.

Review Committee, Title VIII Critical Languages Institute (Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies), Arizona State University Melikian Center, March 2012, March 2013.

IARO Selection Committee, International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), 2012.

Consultant, Princeton in Asia (PIA)

Program Committee for the Association for the Study of Persianate Society’s Fifth Biennial Conference in Hyderabad, India, January 2012.

Selection Committee, International and Research Exchanges Board (IREX) Short-Term Travel Grants Program (STG), February 2011.

Reviewer, Title VIII Summer Language Study Fellowships in Central Asia and the Balkans, March 2011.

Outside Evaluator, Department of Education Final Evaluation for Rutgers University, DOE Title VI-A UISFL Grant, “Proposal to Expand Contemporary Iranian Studies Program, April, 2010.

Director and Co-Instructor, Maymester Silk-Road Study Tour to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, The College of New Jersey, May, 2010.

Organizing Committee for the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies Third Biennial Conference, June 4-7, 2006, Tblisi, Georgia.

Program Committee for the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies’ Second Biennial Conference, April 9-12, 2004, Yerevan, Armenia.

Guest Speaker, University of Toronto Seminar on the Study of Iranian and Central Asian Studies, December 5, 2003.

Selection Committee, International and Research Exchanges Board (IREX) Regional Scholar Exchange Program, 2001, 2002, and 2003 competitions.

Invited Participant, International Conference on “Urbanization and Nomadism of Central Asia: History and Problems,” Institute of Oriental Studies, UNESCO and the Ministry of Education of Kazakhstan, Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 22-23, 2003.

Organizer and Program Moderator, “Symposium on Afghanistan,” The College of New Jersey, March 23, 2002.

Chief Organizer and Chair, Program Committee for the First Biennial Association for the Study of Persianate Societies Conference, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, September 16-18, 2002.

Panel Discussant, “New Approaches to Central Asian History,” Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, Harvard University, October 2-5, 2003.

Chair, organizer and discussant for the panel entitled “The Shaping of Naqshbandi Identity,” The Third Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies,” Baltimore, May 26, 2000.

Membership in Professional Organizations

American Institute for Afghanistan Studies
Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
Columbia University Middle East Seminar
Middle East Medievalists
Middle East Studies Association

Societas Iranologica Europaea
Society for Iranian Studies

Languages

Persian (written and spoken)

Tajik (written and spoken)

Russian (written and spoken)

Arabic (written)

French (written and spoken)