

JANE MIKKELSON

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EMPLOYMENT

2022-present **Yale University**
Lecturer and Associate Research Scholar
Department of Comparative Literature
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

2019-2022 **University of Virginia**
Postdoctoral Fellow, College Fellows
Visiting Scholar, Department of Religious Studies

EDUCATION

PhD 2019 **University of Chicago**
Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
(joint degree, with distinction)

M.A. 2016 **University of Chicago**
Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Comprehensive Exams: Persian Literature, Sufism, Islamic Civilization

M.A. 2015 **University of Chicago**
South Asian Languages and Civilizations
Comprehensive Exams: Literary Theory and Poetics, Sanskrit Literature and Poetics, Mughal History and Culture

B.A. 2009 **Columbia University**
Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (Major)
Philosophy (Minor)
Phi Beta Kappa | Magna Cum Laude | GPA 3.87

2006-2007 **St. Petersburg State University, Russia**
Oriental Studies Department, Persian Language and Literature

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021 **Jafar and Shokoh Farzaneh Prize for Best Article on Persian Literature**
For “Flights of Imagination: Avicenna’s Phoenix (*‘Anqā*) and Bīdel’s Figuration for the Lyric Self” (*Journal of South Asian Intellectual History*)

2019-2020	Yale Ehsan Yarshater Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined) Yale University, Program in Iranian Studies
2018-2019	Provost's Dissertation Completion Fellowship University of Chicago
2018-2019	Fellow, Franke Institute for the Humanities University of Chicago
2017-2018	Elder Olson Dissertation Research Fellowship University of Chicago; for the critical study of poetry and poetics
2016-2018	COSAS Dissertation Write-Up Fellowships University of Chicago
2010-2015	Neubauer Family Presidential Fellowship University of Chicago

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

English	Native
Russian	Native
Persian	Fluent reading knowledge
Urdu	Fluent reading knowledge
Arabic	Proficient reading knowledge
Hindi	Intermediate reading knowledge
Pahlavi	Intermediate reading knowledge
French	Intermediate reading knowledge (modern)
Italian	Intermediate reading knowledge (modern)
Latin	Intermediate reading knowledge

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

2023	“Fayzi’s Planetary Poetics: A Theory of Poetry” (submitted; under review).
2023	“Expansive Comparison: Thinking Across Persian and English Terms and Temporalities.” In <i>The Art of Teaching Persian Literature: From Theory to Practice</i> , eds. Franklin D. Lewis, A.A. Seyed-Gohrab, and Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi. Leiden: Brill (in press).
2023	“Taste/ <i>Dhanq</i> ”. In <i>Logomotives: Words that Change the Premodern World</i> , eds. Marjorie Rubright and Stephen Spiess (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press; in press).
2023	“‘Worlds Together Shined’: Bidel, Traherne, and Collaborative Comparison.” Co-authored with Timothy M. Harrison. <i>PMLA</i> (in press).
2023	“The Grounds of Verse: A Geopolitical Turn in Early Modern Persian Literary Criticism.” In <i>The Routledge Handbook of Ancient, Classical, and Late Classical Literature</i> , ed. Kamran Talattof, (New York: Routledge, 2023).

- 2022 “Color’s Fracture: Translating Fugitive Experience in Early Modern Persian Poetry.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Persian Literary Translation*, eds. Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi, Michelle Quay, & Patricia J. Higgins (New York: Routledge, 2022).
- 2021 “What Was Early Modern World Literature?” *Modern Philology* 119.1 (August 2021). Co-authored with Timothy M. Harrison. Special issue, “Multiplicities: Recasting the Early Modern Global” (eds. Carina Johnson and Ayesha Ramachandran).
- 2019 “Flights of Imagination: Avicenna’s Phoenix (*‘Anqā*) and Bīdel’s Figuration for the Lyric Self.” *Journal of South Asian Intellectual History* 2 (2019), 28-72. Special issue on selfhood in the poetry and philosophy of Bīdel (eds. Sajjad Rizvi and Prashant Keshavmurthy).
- *This essay won the Jafar and Shokoh Farzaneh Prize for Best Article on Persian Literature.
- 2019 “The Mind Is Its Own Place: Of Lalla’s Comparative Poetics” (co-authored with Sonam Kachru). *University of Toronto Quarterly* 88.2 (2019), 125-141. Special issue on comparative poetics and world poetics (eds. Ming Xie, Jonathan Hart).
- 2019 “The Way of Tradition and the Path of Innovation: Aurangzeb and Dara Shukuh Contend for the Mughal Throne.” In *Empires of the Near East and India: Sources for the Study of the Safavid, Ottoman, and Mughal Societies*. Ed. Hani Khafipour, 240-260. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019. *This volume won the AHA’s Jameson Award.
- 2017 “Of Parrots and Crows: Bīdel and Ḥazīn in their Own Words.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 37.3 (2017), 510-530. Special issue, “Circulation and Language: Iranians in Early Modern India,” eds. Usman Hamid and Pasha M. Khan.

Reviews and Review Essays

- 2023 Review of Alan Williams, tr. *The Masnavi of Rūmī, Book One* and *The Masnavi of Rūmī, Book Two. Al-‘Uṣur al-Wuṣṭā* (in press.)
- 2022 Review of Domenico Ingenito, *Beholding Beauty: Sa’di of Shirāz and the Aesthetics of Desire in Medieval Persian Poetry*. *Iranian Studies* 55.2 (April 2022), pp. 575-577.
- 2021 Review of Prashant Keshavmurthy, *Authorship and Canonicity in Late Mughal Delhi: Building an Ark*. *Iranian Studies* 33 (2021).
- 2015 Review of Pasha Mohamad Khan, (diss.) *The Broken Spell: The Romance Genre in Late Mughal India*. For *Dissertation Reviews*.

Translations

- 2022 “Seven Early Poems by Osip Mandelstam.” *Exchanges: Journal of Literary Translation*. (Translations from Russian).
- 2020 “Bidel of Delhi: Lyric Poems on Meditation.” *Asymptote*. (Translations from Persian).
- 2020 “The Russian Word [Russkoe Slovo]: 29 June 1920.” For *New York 1920*. (Translation of Russian archival materials on New York City in 1920.)

Writing

- 2023 “In Memoriam: Franklin Lewis,” *Journal of Persianate Studies* 15, 1-4.
- 2021 “Seeing the Unseen in Early Modern Persian Poetry.” For *Islamic Occult Studies*. (https://www.islamicoccult.org/jane_mikkelson)
- 2021 Response to Alexander Bevilacqua, *Republic of Arabic Letters: Islam and the European Enlightenment* (Harvard University Press, 2018). For *Religion and Its Publics* (University of Virginia).

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2023 **University of Maryland** | Roshan Institute for Persian Studies
“Fayzi’s Planetary Poetics”
- 2023 **University of Washington** | Translation Studies Hub, South Asia Center, Persian and Iranian Studies Program
“Crossings: Translation as Comparative Religion on the Banks of the Ganges”
- 2023 **University of Chicago** | Renaissance Studies Workshop, Early Modern Mediterranean Worlds Workshop
“Worlds Together Shined: Bidel, Traherne, and Collaborative Comparison” (co-authored and co-presented with Timothy M. Harrison)
- 2022 **Yale University** | Program in Iranian Studies; South Asian Studies Council
“Page, Margin, Body, World: Philology for the Text of the Soul”
- 2022 **University of Oklahoma**, Farzaneh Family Center for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies
“Your Broken Colors: Fracture and Repair in Early Modern Persian Poetry”
- 2021 **University of California, Irvine**, The Center for Early Cultures
“A Little Globe’s Extent: Microcosm and Meditation in Early Modern Persian and English Lyric Poetry”
- 2021 **University of Michigan**, Persianate Studies Workshop
“Mapping the Grounds of Verse: A Geopolitical Turn in Early Modern

Persian Literary Criticism”

- 2020 **Indiana University**, Dhar India Studies Lecture Series
“‘That Which is Imaginary—Is Real:’ An Early Modern Debate Between a Brahmin and a Sufi on Time, Imagination, and Experience”
- 2019 **University of Virginia**, MESALC Interdisciplinary Lecture Series
“The Lyric Interim is Full of Color: A Persian Theory of Poetry”

Invited Workshops and Roundtables

- 2024 **Princeton University** | Council for the Humanities; Renaissance and Early Modern Studies; Medieval Studies
Symposium: Troubadours and Sonneteers: Global Culture, Performance and Display”
- 2023 **Humboldt University of Berlin** | Conference on Comparative Religion
- 2023 **MLA** | Special Session roundtable on the problem of periodization in comparative teaching and scholarship, organized by Blair Hoxby
“Periodization and the Aesthetics of Meta-Method”
- 2022 **Princeton University** | Program in South Asian Studies
Conference, “The Garden of Bedil”
“Painting with Words: Bīdel’s Literary Craft”
- 2022 **UC Berkeley** | Berkeley Initiative for Iranian Studies and the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures
Symposium: “Philology / in / Persian”
Talk: “Page, Margin, Body, World: Philology for the Text of the Soul”
(*withdrawn due to scheduling conflict)
- 2022 **Indiana University**, Renaissance Studies Program
Workshop: “Renaissance Studies Now”
Talks: “Against Metageography” and “Taste as Method: The Arabic Concept of Direct Experience (*Dhawq*) and Seventeenth-Century English Thought”
- 2021 **Renaissance Society of America, Fordham University, & UNC**
Symposium: “Tomorrow’s Renaissance”
Roundtable: “Global Imaginings,” led by Ayesha Ramachandran
- 2021 **UCLA**, Center for Near Eastern Studies
Response to Domenico Ingenito, *Beholding Beauty: Sa‘dī of Shirāz and the Aesthetics of Desire in Medieval Persian Poetry*
- 2021 **Islamic Occult Studies Workshop, University of South Carolina**
Talk: “Seeing the Unseen in Early Modern Persian Philosophical Poetry”

- 2020 **UCLA** | Steadfast Imagining: A Workshop on Bidel (d.1720)
I was invited to convene a five-part multidisciplinary event on Bidel at UCLA, co-sponsored by the Program on Central Asia, Iranian Studies, the Center for India and South Asia, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the Center for Near Eastern Studies. During this [multi-session workshop](#), I presented the three chapters from my book project:
- Session 1: “Steadfast Imagining: Introducing Bidel of Delhi”
 - Session 2: “Philosophy in the First Person: Bidel’s Reception of Avicenna and Ibn ‘Arabī”
 - Session 3: “Crossings: Hinduism, Islam, and Bidel’s Practical Comparative Religion”
- 2020 **Stanford University** | Workshop on “The Poetics of the Other”
Department of Comparative Literature
“The Lyric Interim Is Full of Color: A Persian Theory of Poetry”
- 2019 **University of Maryland** | Yarshater Young Scholars Workshop
Roshan Institute for Persian Studies
“A Collected Corpus: Breath, Body, and Composure in the Lyric Poetry of Bīdel of Delhi (d.1720)”
- 2018 **University of Exeter** | Workshop on Bedil (d.1720)
“Figures of Imagination: Avicenna’s Phoenix (‘*Anqā*) and the Lyric Thought of Bīdel of Delhi (d.1720)”
- 2018 **Yale University** | Translation in Early Modern South Asia Workshop
“Lyric as Infinite Translation: Sustained Reimagining of Indic and Islamic Ideas in the Persian Poetry of Bīdel of Delhi (d.1720)”

GRANTS

- 2023 **Kempf Memorial Fund** | Yale University (for workshop, “Here, and Here, and Here: Multifocal Approaches to Premodern Literatures”)
- 2021 **Micropodcast Library** | University of Virginia
For writing two micropodcast scripts (“Affect” and “Subjectivity”)
- 2020 **Asian Cosmopolitanisms** | University of Virginia
Curriculum development grant to develop an original course: “Passages to India: South Asian Religions in the Global Imagination”
- 2020 **Gratitude: Psychological, Philosophical and Theological Investigations**
John Templeton Foundation (\$85,000)
With Charles Mathewes, Sonam Kachru, Shankar Nair
- 2020 **Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Research Grant** | UVA
“Between Shores Without End: A Premodern Theory of Comparison”
For an essay co-authored with Sonam Kachru.
- 2018 **Center for Global Inquiry & Innovation Grant** | UVA

2005 “Translating the Untranslatable” (with Mehr Farooqi): for the first English translation of Ghālib’s (d.1869) preface to his collection of Persian verse.
Harriman Institute Grant | Columbia University
Project: Translation of Vsevolod Meyerhold's directorial notes for *The Queen of Spades* from Russian into English

EDITORIAL SERVICE

2021- **Editorial Board Member** | *Persian Manuscripts Association*
2020- **Editorial Board Member** | *International Journal of Persian Literature*
2018-2020 **Book Review Editor** | *International Journal of Persian Literature*
2005-2006 **Editor-in-Chief** | *The Birch* (undergrad. Slavic journal, Columbia University)

Peer Reviewer Routledge, *Iranian Studies*, *Al-‘Uşur al-Wuṣṭā*, *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies*, *History of the Humanities*, University of North Carolina Press, *Journal of Persianate Studies*

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2023-2024 Convener and co-organizer of the Osip Mandelstam Working Group (Yale) with Michael Lessman and Jinyi Chu
2023-2024 Co-organizer with Sunil Sharma of the East Coast Indo-Persian Urdu Workshop (Yale-BU)
2024 Convener and co-organizer of working group and symposium, “Here, and Here, and Here: Multifocal Approaches to Premodern Literatures” with Lucas Bender (Yale)
2024 Co-organizer with Manan Asif Ahmed of symposium, “Muzaffar Alam and the New Mughal Historiography of Persianate South Asia” (Yale)
2022 Co-coordinator for “Six Pretty Good X” program, Yale University
2022 NELC Curriculum Committee member, Yale University
2020-2022 The Early Modern Workshop at the University of Virginia
2019-2020 Book Manuscript Colloquium for Early-Career Scholars UVA; co-convener with Inger Kuin (Classics)
2019-2020 Postdoctoral Fellows Research Colloquium
2019-2020 Co-convener with Adrienne Ghaly (English)
2019-2020 First-Year Advising, University of Virginia
2013 Annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference
Co-organizer of the Tenth South Asia Graduate Student Conference (“The Place of Literature”) with Ishan Chakrabarti
2011-2013 Humanities Division Graduate Student Council
Representative for South Asian Languages and Civilizations

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Comparative Literature Association
American Academy of Religion
Association for Iranian Studies
Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
Modern Language Association
Middle East Studies Association
Renaissance Society of America
Sixteenth Century Society