

Nikki Ragozin Keddie

Professor Emerita of History at the University of California, Los Angeles

2004 Balzan Prize for the Islamic World from the End of the 19th to the End of the 20th Century

For a remarkable contribution to our knowledge of the Islamic world in the 20th century, and particularly of the encounter between Muslim religion and thought and the spiritual and political values of the West.

Institution Administering Research Funds: University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee: H el ene Carr ere d'Encausse

Women, Gender, and the Family in the Muslim World

Professor Keddie's research project initially involved her bringing six post-doctoral fellows in women's studies to UCLA and working with them in the course of four years. The six Keddie-Balzan Fellows were chosen from authors of important research on women, gender, and the family in the Muslim World. They were encouraged by Nikki Keddie both to continue their ongoing research and to produce papers on the broader implications of their work for the study of the Islamic world and/or comparative history and society. The fellows for 2005-2006 were Holly Shissler, who taught two courses in History, and Nayerreh Tohidi, who taught in Women's Studies. The 2006-2007 fellows were Masserat Amir-Ebrahimi in Geography and Sociology and Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi in History. The 2007-2008 fellow was Hourii Berberian in History, and the 2008-2009 fellow was Janet Afary in History. A final workshop on *New Ideas for Middle Eastern Societies: Analyzing Women's Writings* was held at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2007. The papers presented by Balzan fellows Holly Shissler, Masserat Amir-Ebrahimi and Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi were published by the "Journal of Middle East Women's Studies" (JMEWS) in a special issue (Vol. 4, n. 3, Fall 2008). Nikki Keddie edited the issue and wrote its Introduction (*Innovative Women: Unsung Pioneers of Social Change*).

Professor Keddie was able to spend less than projected and thus to continue the program beyond its original finish date. Two one-quarter fellowships were awarded, one to Pomona College Assistant Professor Arash Khazeni in History, autumn 2010 and a supplementary fellowship to Masserat Amir-Ebrahimi in gender related studies in spring 2011.

Remaining funds were also used to organize a seminar: “Ethnic and Religious Minorities in Iran: Realities and Policy Issues, Past and Present”, planned and presented by Nikki Keddie, Nayereh Tohidi, and Janet Afary, UCLA 22nd May 2009. Several publications relate to this seminar. It is anticipated that further such activities will be supported with remaining funds.

Talks initiated and largely funded by Keddie/Balzan funds:

- Julia Clancy-Smith on her *Mediterraneans: North Africa and Europe in an Age of Migration, c. 1800-1900*, University of California Press, 2011.
- Monica Ringer, on her *Pious Citizens: Reforming Zoroastrianism in India and Iran*, Syracuse University Press, 2011.
- Roy Mottahedeh on trends in Islamic Theology.
- Lunch discussion by Elyse Semerdjian on her book *Off the Straight Path: Illicit Sex, Law, and Community in Ottoman Aleppo*, Syracuse University Press, 2008.

Keddie/Balzan funds were also used to co-sponsor a talk by Olivier Roy on Islamism worldwide.

Researchers:

Janet Afary
Masserat Amir-Ebrahimi
Houri Berberian
Arash Khazeni
Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi
Holly Shissler
Nayereh Tohidi

Publications:

- Afary, J., *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran*, Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Amanat, M., *Set in Stone: Homeless Corpses and Desecrated Graves in Modern Iran*. (Regarding Bahai and Jewish issues) "International Journal of Middle East Studies" 44 (2012), 257-283.
- Amir-Ebrahimi, M., *Conquering enclosed public spaces*, "Cities", Volume 23, Issue 6, 2006.
- Amir-Ebrahim, M., *Blogging from Qom, behind Walls and Veils*, "Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East", Volume 28, Issue 2, 2008.
- Amir-Ebrahimi, M., *Transgression in Narration: The Lives of Iranian Women in Cyberspace*, "Journal of Middle East Women's Studies" (JMEWS), Vol. 4, n. 3, Fall 2008.
- Amir-Ebrahimi, M., "Weblogs and the Emergence of a New Public Sphere in Iran"; In *Publics, Politics and Participation: Locating the Public Sphere in the Middle East and North Africa*, edited by Seteny Shami, SSRC Books, New York 2009, 326-356.
- Amir-Ebrahimi, M., "New Modes of Communication: Blogs Iran" in *Encyclopaedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, Brill Publisher, 2009.
- Berberian, H., *History, Memory, and Iranian-Armenian Memoirs of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution*, "Critique: Critical Middle Eastern Studies", Volume 17, Issue 3, 261-92, 2008.
- Berberian, H., "Connected Revolutions: Armenians and the Russian, Ottoman, and Iranian Revolution in the Early Twentieth Century", in *Actes du Colloque l'Ivresse de la liberté : la révolution de 1908 dans l'Empire ottoman* (forthcoming).
- Elling, R. C., *Minorities in Iran: Ethnicity and Nationalism after Khomeini* (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2013).
- Khazeni, A., "Through an Ocean of Sand: Travel Writing, Pastoralism, and the Equestrian Culture of the Eurasian Steppe" in *Environmental Histories of the Middle East and North Africa*, edited by Alan Mikhail, Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2012.
- Khazeni, A. and Amanat, A., "A Harbor for Slaves from All Lands: Central Asia in the Captivity Narrative of Mirza Mahmud Taqi" in *Globalizing Central Asia: The Writing of Travel at the Crossroads of Asia*, edited by Nile Green, Indiana University Press, (under contract).
- Keddie, N., *Innovative Women: Unsung Pioneers of Social Change*, "Journal of Middle East Women's Studies" (JMEWS), Vol. 4, n. 3, Fall 2008.
- Keddie, N., *Iranian women's status and struggles since 1979*, "Journal of International Affairs" Spring/Summer 2007, Volume 60, Issue 2, 2007.

- Rostam-Kolayi, J., *Origin of Iran's Modern Girl's Schools: From Private/National to Public/State*, "Journal of Middle East Women's Studies" (JMEWS), Vol. 4, n. 3, Fall 2008.
- Rostam-Kolayi, J., *From Evangelizing to Modernizing Iranians: The American Presbyterian Mission and its Iranian Students*, "Iranian Studies", Volume 41, Issue 2, 2008.
- Shissler, H., *Womanhood Is Not For Sale: Sabiha Zekeriya Sertel Against Prostitution and For Women's Employment*, "Journal of Middle East Women's Studies" (JMEWS), Vol. 4, n. 3, Fall 2008.
- Tohidi, N., *Revolution? What's in it for them? Globalized Iranian American women are nudging their homeland toward democracy*, "Los Angeles Times", 31st July 2005.
- Tohidi, N., *In Memoriam: On Parvin Paidar*, "Middle East Studies Association Bulletin", Volume 39, Issue 2, December 2005.
- Tohidi, N., "Islamic Feminism: Women Negotiating Modernity and Patriarchy in Iran" in *The Blackwell Companion of Contemporary Islamic Thought*, edited by Ibrahim Abu-Rabi, Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing, 2006.
- Tohidi, N., "The Women's Movement and Feminism in Iran: A Glocal Perspective" in *Women's Movements in the Global Era*, edited by Amrita Basu (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2010), 359-396.
- Tohidi, N., "Women's Rights and Status in Iran" in *Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa*, Sanja Kelly & Julia Breslin, eds. (MD: Rowman & Littlefield and NY: Freedom House, 2010), 121-156. (Published in 3 languages: English, Arabic and Persian).
- Tohidi, N., "Ethnic and Religious Minority Politics in Contemporary Iran" in *Contemporary Iran*, edited by Ali Gheissari (London & NY: Oxford University Press, 2009), 299-323.

Links:

The Annual Keddie-Balzan Lecture 2008:

<http://www.international.ucla.edu/podcasts/article.asp?parentid=93497>

Seminar - Ethnic and Religious Minorities in Iran: Realities and Policy Issues, Past and Present: <http://www.international.ucla.edu/asia/centralasia/events/showevent.asp?eventid=7370>