

Vahe S. Boyajian (17 February, 1977)

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EXPERIENCE AND POSITIONS:

September 2009 – present

- Research Fellow, Department of Contemporary Anthropological Studies, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, Armenia
- PhD Research student, Department of Social Anthropology, University of St. Andrews, UK
Research topic: *Border Guarding, Praying, Smuggling: Muslim Life in Sarhadd, Iranian Baluchistan*

January 2002 – present

Editorial Board, *Iran and the Caucasus (Research Papers from the Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies)*; BRILL, Leiden

September 2000 – September 2009

Assistant Professor, Department of Iranian Studies, Yerevan State University, Armenia

- Curator of MA programme *Iranian Ethno-Linguistics*
- Courses taught:
 - Introduction to Iranian Philology (1st year)
 - Introduction to Iranian Ethno-linguistics (2nd year)
 - Persian Language (2nd and 3rd years, 1st year MA)
 - History of Persian Language (4th year)
 - Baluchi Language (3rd, 4th years, continued for 1st year MA)
 - History and Culture of Baluchistan (2nd year MA)

July-August 2015

Ethnographic fieldtrip to Iranian Baluchistan and Afghanistan (Herat and Farah provinces)

October-November 2014, *July 2010 – August 2011*

Ethnographic fieldwork in Sarhadd (Baluchistan, Iran)

August 2008

Fieldwork in Khorasan Province of Iran (*Ethnographic research on Khorasani Kurdish and Turkoman nomads*)

August 2007

Fieldwork in Tunceli (Dersim) province of Turkey (*Ethnographic research on Zazas*)

February 2007

Fieldwork in Southern Iran (Bashagerd district) and Sistan va Baluchistan province (*Bashkardi dialectology, Social Structure of Balochi Tribes in Sistan*)

December 2004

Fieldwork in Iranian Baluchistan (*Foreign Ethnic Elements (Kurdish, Brahui) Among the Balochi Tribes*)

August 2002 – December 2002

IREX RSEP Visiting Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Boston University, USA

- Research topic: *Ethnic and Group Identity in the Bordering Areas of Iran and Pakistan*
- Working Group on Central Asia and the Caucasus at Harvard University

February – May 2000

Fieldwork in Iranian Baluchistan and neighbouring areas (Balochi Dialectology and Ethnography)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

May 2010 - Russell Trust Awards for Postgraduates, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

ASPS (Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, Board Member since 2011)

CESS (Central Eurasian Studies Society)

PREVIOUS EDUCATION AND COURSES COMPLETED:

July-August 2003	EU Summer University Course "Islam and the West"
1998 – 2001	Department of Iranian Studies, Yerevan State University, Armenia. PhD (Kandidat Nauk, Philological Sciences, <i>Title of the thesis – Linguistic Peculiarities of the Balochi Dialects</i>)
1993 – 1998	Department of Iranian Studies, Yerevan State University, Armenia, "Diploma of Excellence"
January-February 1997	Tarbiyat Modarres University, Tehran, Iran, Teachers' Qualification Program
July-September 1995	Centre for Diplomatic Training affiliated with the Foreign Ministry of Iran, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED:

- International Conference "**Minorities and Conflicts: Asian and African States in the Modern World**", Centre for Asian and African Studies, Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia, 9-10 October, 2015 (paper presented: *Decline of the Traditional Tribal System among the Baluch of Iran: Observations from the Sarhadd Region*)
- 2nd International Conference on **Balochi Language, Literature, Culture and History**, Balochi Academy, Quetta, Pakistan, July 31 - August 1, 2011 (paper presented: *Language and Identity Formation in Sarhadd, Iranian Baluchistan*)
- International Conference "**Baluchi Identity and Culture**", Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, 8-9 September, 2012 (paper presented: *From Muscat to Sarhadd: Gwāti healing ritual within the social context*)
- International Workshop: "**Fifteen Years of Achievements: Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of IRAN AND THE CAUCASUS** (Research Papers from the Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies, Brill: Leiden, the Netherlands)", Yerevan, Armenia, 1-2 July, 2011 (paper presented: *Changes in Traditional Tribal Organisation of the Baluch in Sarhadd, Iranian Baluchistan*)
- **Spring Conference of Global Supplementary Program – Europe**, Open Society Institute, LSE, London, UK, 12-13 April, 2011 (paper presented: *Anthropological Fieldwork in Baluchistan: Challenges and Opportunities*)
- **31. DOT** (Deutscher Orientalistentag / German Oriental Society) Conference, University of Marburg, Germany, 20-24 September, 2010 (paper presented: *Sarhaddi Baluch in Transformation: Social Changes of Tribal Identity*)
- "**The Shahnameh and Persianate Identity**" Conference, Institute of Iranian Studies, University of St. Andrews, UK, 9-11 April, 2010 (paper presented: *How "persianate" are the Baluch? Shahnameh and popular vision of Iranian identity for the Baluch*)
- International conference **The Kurds and Kurdistan: History, Politics, Culture**, University of Exeter, UK, 2-3 April, 2009 (paper presented: *On Balochi Tribes of Kurdish Origins*)
- **4th Biennial Convention of the ASPS** (Association for the Study of Persianate Societies) **Persianate Societies and the Subcontinent**, Lahore, Pakistan, 26 February-1 March, 2009 (paper presented: *An attestation of the term baluch in an Armenian chronicle of XVIII century*)
- 1st International Conference on **Languages and Dialects in Iran**, University of Sistan and Baluchestan, Zahedan, Iran, 28-31 October, 2008 (paper presented: *Notes on the Linguistic Situation in Bašākard*)
- International conference **Iran and the Caucasus: Unity and Diversity**, Yerevan, Armenia, June 06-08, 2008 (paper presented: *Baloch asbārāns: Pioneers of Shi'a Faith?*)
- Palermo Atlantic Forum: "New Perspectives of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Asia", Palermo, Italy, 4-7 October, 2007.
- The South Caucasus Security Platform: Strategy from the Perspective of the Civil Society, Tbilisi, May, 2007.
- **3rd Biennial Convention of the ASPS** on Iranian Studies, Tbilisi, Georgia, 8-10 June, 2007 (paper presented: *The Dehwārs of Balochistan: Preliminary Notes on the Ethnic Identity*)
- **2nd Biennial Convention of the ASPS**, Yerevan State University, Armenia, 2-5 April, 2004 (paper presented: *Folk Beliefs in Iranian Balochistan*)

- **4th Annual CESS** (Central Eurasian Studies Society) Conference, Harvard University, October 2-5, 2003 (paper presented: *Notes on the Religious Situation in Iranian Balochistan*)
- **ESCAS** (European Society for central Asian Studies) **VII Conference**, University of Vienna, Austria, 27-30 September, 2000 (paper presented: *Baloch in Turkmenistan*)
- **“Ethnic and Linguistic Contact in Balochistan in Historical and Modern Times”** Conference, University of Uppsala, 19-21 August, 2000 (paper presented: *Towards the Interpretation of the Term baloch in Shahnameh*)
- **First International Workshop on Kurdish Linguistics**, University of Kiel, Germany, 12-14 May, 2000 (paper presented: *Towards the Early Armenian Borrowings in Kurdish*)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Remarks on the Identity and Language Situation in Sangan - *Iran and the Caucasus*, vol.19.3, Leiden, BRILL 2015, pp.265-268 (co-author: Azim Shahbakhsh).
- From Muscat to Sarhadd: Gwati Healing Ritual in social Context – *Studies on Iran and the Caucasus, Festschrift for Prof. Garnik Asatrian*, Leiden, Brill 2015, pp. 245-252
- Baluchi Episode from the Hoseyn-kord-e Shabestari Cycle - *Iran and the Caucasus*, vol.11.2, Leiden, BRILL 2007, pp. 249-254.
- Lexical Gleanings from Bašākard - *Iran and the Caucasus*, vol.11.1, Leiden, BRILL 2007, pp. 121-125 (co-author: Vardan Voskanian).
- An Attestation of the Baluches by an 18th Century Armenian Chronicler (in Russian) – *Bulletin of Armenian Studies (Армянский Гуманитарный Вестник)*, vol-s. 2/3-1, Moscow-Yerevan 2009, pp. 124-129.
- Notes on the Religious Landscape of Iranian Baluchistan (Observations from the Sarhadd Region) – *Iran and the Caucasus*, vol.8.2, Leiden, BRILL 2004, pp. 199-213.
- A Story of Mir Hamza (Baluchi Text with Translation and Commentaries) – *Iran and the Caucasus*, vol.7, Leiden, BRILL 2003, pp. 133-146.
- Towards the Interpretation of the Term *baloch* in Shahnameh – in: *The Baloch and Their Neighbours (Ethnic and Linguistic Contact in Balochistan in Historical and Modern Times)*, ed. C. Jahani, A. Korn, Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden 2003, pp. 313-320.
- On Baluchi Separatism (in Russian) – *Centralnaja Azija i Kavkaz (Central Asia and the Caucasus)*, vol. 5(6), Sweden, 1999, pp. 68-72.
- The Afghani Element among the Baluchi Tribes (in Russian) – *Iran and the Caucasus*, vol. 1, Yerevan-Tehran 1997, pp. 81-83.

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Native Armenian speaker, fluent in Farsi, English, Russian, good command of Baluchi, average French and German.