UCLA Asia Pacific Center

ILCAA
Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa

Iran Through a Peripheral Lens: The Politics of Belonging

International Hybrid Workshop

December 7–8, 2026 •14:00–19:00 JST (see the time in your time zone)

Venue: Room 303 (3rd floor), Large Conference Room
Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA)
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

For on-site participation, please register by December 5: https://forms.gle/aJ1gJ7LSu69GexMj9

Day 1 | Monday, December 7, 2026

14:00–14:10 — Opening remarks
Convenors

14:10–16:10 — Panel 1

Chair: Mostafa Khalili *(ILCAA-Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)*

Unbundling Ethnicity in Iran
Kevan Harris (*University of California, Los Angeles)*

Re-reading 'Minorities in Iran' 13 Years Later
Rasmus Christian Elling (*University of Copenhagen)*

What Is Periphery in Iran? A Methodological Debate
Marouf Cabi *(ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)*

16:10–16:30 — Break

16:30–18:30 — Panel 2

Chair: Kevan Harris (*University of California, Los Angeles)*

When Belonging Becomes Mobilizable: Kinship, Settlement, and Recurrent Protest in Dezful
Jamshid Jamshidi (*University of Oxford)*

Beyond Explicit Identity Politics: Everyday Ethno-Cultural Practices and Local Belonging on Iranian Instagram
*Niloofar Oraee (*Kharazmi University)* and Mostafa Bostani (*Bundeswehr University Munich)*

Educational Policies and Minority Identity in Pahlavi Iran: A Case Study of the Iranian Jewish Community
*Giulia Navab Daneshmand (*UNESCO-UNEVOC)*

19:00 — Workshop dinner

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Day 2 | Tuesday, December 8, 2026 (14:00-19:00 JST)

14:00–16:00 — Panel 3

Chair: Rasmus Christian Elling (*University of Copenhagen)*

My Accent Has a Skin: Theatrical Somaticization and the Semiotics of Gilaki Ethnic Belonging in Iran
*Zia Khoshsirat (*University of California, Los Angeles)*

Dancing Across Ethnic Boundaries: The Handkerchief Dance and Shared Iranian Heritage in the United Arab Emirates
Manami Goto (*Akita University)*

Looking Next Door: Iranian Writers, Neighboring Cultures, and the Boundaries of Belonging, 1990 and the 2010s
Elham Hosnieh (*Doshisha University)*

16:00–16:15 — Break

16:15–18:15 — Panel 4

Chair: Marouf Cabi (*ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)*

Between National Belonging and Ethnic Assertion: The Resurgence of Azerbaijani Activism in Iran
Mostafa Khalili (*ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)*

The Making of Jash: Contested Belonging in Revolutionary Iranian Kurdistan
*Dalir Barkhoda (*Aarhus University)*

Gendered Perspectives on Everyday Experiences in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan Borderlands
*Hessam Habibi Doroh (*University of Public Service Budapest)*

18:15–18:30 — Break

18:30–19:00 — Concluding discussion and closing remarks

Chair: Kevan Harris (*University of California, Los Angeles)*

** Indicates an online presentation*

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