

Sam Lasman

Curriculum vitae

2024

43 Grantchester St, Cambridge, UK CB3 9HZ | +447379965518 | sl2080@cam.ac.uk
samlasman.com

EMPLOYMENT

- 2024- Medieval and Renaissance Studies Teaching Assistant Professor
Marco Institute, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 2021-24 Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Early-Career Research Fellow
Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge
- 2022-24 Supervisor / Instructor in Middle English and Classical Persian
University of Cambridge
- 2020-21 Humanities Teaching Fellow (Lecturer)
Department of Comparative Literature and the College
University of Chicago

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Global premodern literature; Persian, Welsh, & French literatures; the supernatural, weird, and monstrous; translation studies; epic literature; mythology studies; animal & nonhuman studies; performance studies; Islamicate literature; creative writing (fiction).

EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D., Comparative Literature.
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Thesis: *Dragons, Fairies, and Time: Imagining the Past in Medieval Persian, French, and Welsh Narratives* (Honors)
Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award Winner
Committee: Franklin Lewis (chair); Daisy Delogu; Michael Sells.
- 2016 Exchange Scholar, Celtic Languages and Literatures.
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2012 B.A., Modern Middle Eastern Studies and Theater Studies
Yale University, New Haven, CT (magna cum laude)

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- 2024 *Parahuman Pasts: Monsters, Strangers, and Time in Medieval Narrative*. Accepted for peer review at Cambridge University Press.

Journal Articles

- 2024 “Becoming Melwas: Performance, Embodiment, and the Supernatural in Late Medieval Britain.” *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* (forthcoming).
- 2023 “Dreaming the Past’s Futures: *Rhonabwy’s Dream* as Chronofiction.” *Arthuriana: The Journal of Arthurian Studies* 33.1 (March 2023).
- 2022 “Approaching Islamicate Fictionalities.” With N. İpek Hünler Cora and Rachel Schine. *Islamicate Fictionalities: a special issue of postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies* (13:3-4, December 2022).
- 2021 “Otherworld Treasure and Bardic Disguise: Recovering the Past in Medieval Welsh and Persian Literatures.” *Looking Ahead: Global Encounters in the North Atlantic, ca. 350–1300*. A special dossier in *Viator*. Eds. Nahir Otaño Gracia, Nicole Lopez-Jantzen, & Erica Weaver.
- 2019 “Singing in Chains: Prison, Porter, and Transgressive Narration in Medieval Welsh Tales of the Past.” *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium, 37: 2017*. Eds. Celeste Andrews, Heather Newton, Joseph Shack, & Joe Wolf. Cambridge & London: Harvard University Press.

Book Chapters

- 2024 “Monstrous Alchemies: Alexander’s Draconic Encounter in Ferdowsi and Nezāmi,” in *Alexander’s Monsters in Intercultural Perspective*, eds. Peter Toth & Venetia Bridges. Brepols (*Alexander Redivivus* series, forthcoming).
- “Flying Kings, Sky Demons, and the Intimate Inhumanity of Air,” in *Air*, eds. Elisa Ramazzina, Hugh Magennis, & Marilina Cesario. Brill (forthcoming).
- “Snake-Men: Confronting the Human and the Draconic in Medieval Persian Epic,” in *Comparing Dragons: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern*, ed. Joseph Falaky Nagy. Brepols (forthcoming).
- 2021 “Otherworld Literature: Parahuman Pasts in Classical Persian Historiography and Epic,” in *Persian Literature as World Literature*, eds. Mostafa Abedinifard, Omid Azadibougar, & Amirhossein Vafa. Bloomsbury Academic (Literatures as World Literature series).

Translations

- 2020 “A Monstrous Courtship,” from *The Book of Bahman*, by Hakim Irānshāh ebn-e Abi-l-Khayr. Edition, translation from Persian, and introduction by Sam Lasman. *Global Medieval Sourcebook*. <https://sourcebook.stanford.edu/text/monstrous-courtship>.

Fiction

- 2024 “Unwilding.” *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* (forthcoming).
“Talking With Old People.” *Un/Chosen: A Ghost Class Anthology*. Android Press (forthcoming).
- 2019 “Slaying It.” *Tahoma Literary Review, Issue 16* (Fall/Winter).

EDITORIAL WORK

- 2022 Co-editor, with N. İpek Hüner Cora and Rachel Schine.
“Islamicate Fictionalities.” A special issue of *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies* (13:3-4, December 2022).

AWARDS AND HONORS

External

- 2024-25 American Council of Learned Societies, Betty and Carl Pforzheimer Fellowship in British and American Literature
- 2022 Clarion Foundation Write-a-Thon Scholarship, San Diego, CA.
- 2018 FLAS Fellowship for study of Arabic, Qasid Institute, Amman, Jordan.

University of Cambridge

- 2022-24 Junior Research Fellow, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic

University of Chicago

- 2021 Dean’s Distinguished Dissertation Award.
- 2020 Dissertation Honors in Comparative Literature.
- 2019-2020 Franke Institute Doctoral Fellow in the Humanities.
- 2019 College Teaching Certificate, Chicago Center for Teaching.
- 2014-2019 Neubauer Family Presidential Fellow in the Humanities.
- 2019 Nicholson Graduate Research Fellowship.
- 2018-2019 Chicago Center for Teaching Fellow.
- 2018 Elder Olson Award for Thesis on Poetry or Poetics.

PRESENTATION & CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Invited Talks

- 2024 “Original Monsters: Giants and the Shaping of Britain’s Past.” Medieval Studies Workshop. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. January 12.
- 2023 “Snake Men: *Azhdahā* in the Persian Epic Tradition.” Ancient India and Iran Trust Lecture Series. Cambridge, UK. June 9.
- “History’s Monsters: Nineteenth Century Medievalists and the Parahuman.” York Medieval Literatures Seminar Series. University of York, York, UK. June 1.
- “*Azhdahā*: The Chimeric Monster in Ferdowsi and Beyond.” Middle Eastern Studies Seminar Series. Cambridge, UK. May 18.

- ““No Power Against It”: Eskandar’s Draconic Encounters in Ferdowsi and Nezāmi.” *Alexander’s Monsters in Intercultural Perspective*. The British Library Knowledge Center, London, UK. January 27.
- 2022 “Terrible Heads: Giants and Time in Medieval Wales.” Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic Graduate Seminar. ASNC Faculty, Cambridge. October 31.
- “How to [Get] Kill[ed by] a Dragon: The Curious Case of King Bahman.” Stephen Hales Lecture. Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. March 1.
- 2020 “Emergent Monstrosity and Draconic Chronology: *Azhdahā* in the *Shāhnāmeḥ*.” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. October 19.
- Guest lecture for “Celtic Fringes” Seminar (taught by Prof. Monika Otter) Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. February 21.

Presentations

- 2024 “Uncanny Crises: Bahrām Chōbin’s Parahuman Encounters.” Leeds International Medieval Congress. Leeds, UK. July 4 & Franklin Lewis Memorial Seminar. Chicago, IL. September 13-14.
- “Weird Ecopoetics: Predation and Power.” ACLA Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada. March 15.
- 2023 “Euhemerism and Race in 19th-Century Medievalism.” Comparative Nineteenth Century Studies Seminar. Cambridge, UK. November 15.
- “Philosophies of Predation.” Constellating Comparisons in the Premodern World: An Interdisciplinary Workshop. Cambridge, UK. July 10.
- “Colonizing the Otherworld: Scientific Racism and the Medieval Parahuman.” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting 2023. Washington, DC. February 23-26.
- 2022 “Unruly Landscapes: Imagining Unconquerable Space in *Eiríks saga rauða* and *Risālat ibn Faḡlān*.” Shifting Landscapes of the Medieval World. Cambridge, UK. September 14.
- “Burning Bright: Monsters, Back-Stories, and Rostam’s *Babr-e Bayān*.” AIS Annual Meeting 2022. Salamanca, Spain. August 30-September 2.
- “Becoming Melwas: Performing the ‘Arthurian Abductor’ in Late Medieval Verse.” Oxford-Cambridge Celtic Colloquium. Oxford. May 7.
- “Monstrous Vanishings: Depicting the Death of Bahman.” 68th Annual Meeting of the RSA. Dublin, Ireland. March 30-April 2.
- 2021 “Twisting Taxonomy: Dragons in Medieval Persian Epics and Encyclopedias.” The 56th ICMS. Virtual. May 10-15.
- “Apples and Oriflammes: Fantastical Narratives of the Past across the Global Middle Ages.” ACLA Conference 2021. Virtual. April 10.

- “Empires Beyond Empires: Imagining Unconquerable Space in Global Medieval Literatures” & “Monstrous Artifacts in Medieval Islamic Literature.” The 2021 Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Virtual. January 7-10.
- 2019 “Snakemen: The Anthropomorphic Dragons of Persian Epic.” MESA Annual Meeting 2019. New Orleans, LA. November 17 & GLAS Workshop 2019. Bloomington, IN. September 29.
- “Saladin in Caer Ochren: J. Gwenogvryn Evans’s “Preideu Annwfn” and Otherworldly Orientalisms.” The 39th Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Cambridge, MA. October 13.
- “The Stakes of *Esluinement*: Occultation and Otherworldly Time in *Le Roman de Brut* and *Guingamor*.” The IMS Symposium 2019: Time / Le Temps. Paris, France. July 9.
- “Past and Paradox: What Did It Mean to Time-Travel in Medieval Wales?” The 54th ICMS. Kalamazoo, MI. May 10.
- “Otherworldly Treasures: Recovering the Past in Medieval Persian and Celtic Literatures.” The Forty-Fifth Annual Sewanee Medieval Colloquium. Sewanee, TN. April 13.
- “Wreke Me’: Otherworld Combat and Otherworld Sex in the *Matière de Bretagne*.” The MLA Annual Convention. Chicago, IL. January 4.
- 2018 “In the Maw of the *Nahang*: Sea Monsters and Subjectivity in Classical Persian Epic.” GLAS Workshop 2018. Chicago, IL. October 7.
- “Dangerous Authenticity: What It Means to be from the Iranian Otherworld.” The 53rd ICMS. Kalamazoo, MI. May 11.
- “Singing in Chains: Prison, Porter, and Inspiration in Medieval Welsh Antiquarian Narrative.” The 2018 MLA Annual Convention. New York, NY. January 6 & The 37th Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Cambridge, MA. October 8.
- 2017 “The Poetics of Future History: “Armes Prydein” and *Ayādgār ī Jāmāspīg*.” GLAS Workshop 2017. Kalamazoo, MI. October 1, 2017 & 2017 Center for Renaissance Studies Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference. Chicago, IL. January 27.
- “Allusion and Anachronism: “Memorizing” the Past in *Ayādgār ī Zarērān*.” The Iranian World in Late Antiquity: A Graduate Student Workshop. The University of Chicago Center & the EPHE, Paris, France. September 18, 2017 & The 52nd ICMS. Kalamazoo, MI. May 12.
- “Contrary Claws: Contending with the *Div* in Islamic Iranian Mythic History.” The 32nd Annual MEHAT Conference. Chicago, IL. May 6.

2016 “Erin, Iran, Arawn: Comparative Approaches to Medieval Persian and Celtic Literatures.” The Harvard Celtic Graduate Workshop. Cambridge, MA. November 7.

Panels & Workshops Organized or Moderated

2024 The Old Ones: Modernities and Antiquities of Global Weird Fictions (Co-organizer, CC Jones). ACLA Annual Meeting. Montreal, March 14-17.

2023 The Rise of Fiction in the Long Twelfth Century (Respondent & moderator). Cambridge, UK. December 7.

Constellating Comparisons in the Premodern World: An Interdisciplinary Workshop (Co-organizer, Doriane Zerka). Cambridge, UK. July 10.

2020 Great Lakes Adiban Workshop 2020 (Co-organizers, Alexandra Hoffmann & Allison Kanner-Botan). Chicago, IL (remote). September 5-6.

2019 Undone Jinns and Dragons: The Limits of the Human and the Borders of the Other in Medieval Islamicate Literatures (Co-organizers, Alexandra Hoffmann, Allison Kanner-Botan, & Samantha Pellegrino). MESA Annual Meeting 2019. New Orleans, LA. November 17.

2018 Great Lakes Adiban Workshop 2018 (Co-organizer, Alexandra Hoffmann). Chicago, IL. October 6-7.

Men in Love: Masculinity and Madness in Pre-Modern Romances. The 33rd Annual MEHAT Conference. Chicago, IL. May 5.

The Political (Construction of the) Animal. Why Do Animal Studies?: The Turn to the Quasi-, Post-, Anti-, Non-, Para-. The Drake Hotel, Chicago, IL. April 27.

2017 Global Medievalisms: Notes from the Fields (Co-organizer, Aden Kumler). Chicago, IL. May 26.

Spectatorship and Observation in the Medieval Arts (Co-organizer, Carly Boxer). The 52nd ICMS. Kalamazoo, MI. May 14.

Haunted Readings: Supernatural Beings in Medieval Islamic Culture (Co-organizers, Samantha Pellegrino and Ramzi Nimr). The 32nd Annual MEHAT Conference. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. May 6.

Campus Talks

2021 “Colonizing the Otherworld: Parahumans and Racialized Discourse.” Comparative Literature Departmental Colloquium. February 26.

“Becoming Melwas: Adopting Legendary Identity in Medieval Brittonic Poetic Performance.” The Medieval Studies Workshop. February 12.

2019 “Hostile Others: What Did It Mean to Fight a Dragon in the Medieval Iranian World?” Franke Fellows Workshop. December 2.

“Against Agrabah: The Supernatural, the Islamicate, and Teaching Global Medieval Literature.” Teaching the Middle Ages in Context (Medieval Studies Workshop). June 7.

“Demonic Pasts: (other)World History in Medieval Iran.” The Islamic Studies Workshop. April 25.

“Past and Paradox: What Did It Mean to Time-Travel in Medieval Wales?” The Medieval Studies Workshop. February 22.

“*Khalq al-Dunyayāt: Al-Jinn w-al-“Div” fī at-Tawārikh al-‘Ālimiyya min al-Qarn al-‘Āshir.*” Al-Nadwa al-‘Arabiyya. February 15.

“In Bardic Guise: Shifty Storytellers & Weak Comparisons in Medieval Welsh & Persian Literatures.” Comparative Literature Departmental Colloquium. January 11.

2018 “Dangerous Authenticity: What It Means to be From the Iranian Otherworld.” The MEHAT Workshop. April 18.

“*Rhonabwy’s Dream*: A Guided Reading. The Speculative Fiction Study Group. January 22.

2017 “A Festival Full of Famous Ones: Stories of Nowruz.” Nowruz 2017 (The Persian Cultural Society at the University of Chicago). March 25.

“Celtic Mythology 101.” UChicago 101 Series. February 22.

“The Poetics of Future History: *Armes Prydein* and *Ayādgār ī Jāmāspīg.*” Comparative Literature Departmental Colloquium. February 3.

“Contrary Claws: Contending with the *Div* in Islamic Iranian Mythic History.” The Animal/Nonhuman Studies Workshop. January 23.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Instructor (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge)

2023 Intermediate Literary Persian

Supervisor (Jesus College, University of Cambridge)

2022 English Literature and its Contexts 1300-1550

Instructor of Record (University of Chicago)

2021 Humans and their Predators

Greece and Rome III: Texts, Traditions, Transformations: Comedy

Greece and Rome II: Texts, Traditions, Transformations: Tragedy

2020 Greece and Rome I: Texts, Traditions, Transformations: Epic

2018 Uncanny Encounters in Global Medieval Literature

Fundamentals of Teaching in the Humanities (Co-instructor)

Teaching Assistant (University of Chicago)

2019 Course Design and College Teaching

2018 Elementary Persian 3

- 2017 Elementary Persian 2
 Elementary Persian 1
 Self-Creation as a Philosophical and Literary Problem
- Pedagogy Training & Seminars (University of Chicago)**
- 2020 Online Teaching Workshops (September 8-14)
- 2019 Teaching the Middle Ages in Context (June 7)
 Workshop on Teaching Portfolios (February 25)
 Seminar on Teaching Portfolios (January 15)
- 2018 Teaching@Chicago Conference (September 26) (Session Leader)
 The Animal/Nonhuman Workshop Pedagogy Workshop (February 6)
 Course Design and College Teaching (Winter 2018)
- 2017 Fundamentals of Teaching in the Humanities (Fall 2017)
 Pedagogies of Writing (Spring 2017)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2021- Member of the Editorial Board & peer reviewer, *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies*.
- 2023 Peer reviewer, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Cambridge

- 2021-24 Member of the Governing Body, Corpus Christi College
- 2023-24 Supervisor, 2nd-Year English Thesis Paper, Jesus College
- 2023-24 “Medieval Worlds” Easter Residential Instructor

University of Chicago

- 2021 Supervisor, Undergraduate Summer Research Assistant.
- 2018-2019 Chicago Center for Teaching Fellow, Chicago Center for Teaching.
 Coordinator, Persian Circle (Anjoman-e Sokhan).
- 2016-2017 Co-coordinator, Medieval Studies Workshop.
- 2015-2016 Graduate Representative, Department of Comparative Literature.
 Co-founder & Co-coordinator, Persian Sofreh.

LANGUAGES

- Persian (Classical and Modern) – advanced reading and speaking
- French (Medieval and Modern) – advanced reading and speaking
- Arabic (Classical) – advanced reading, intermediate speaking
- Welsh (Medieval and Modern) – advanced reading, basic speaking
- Middle English – advanced reading
- Middle Persian/Pahlavi – intermediate reading
- Irish (Old and Modern) – intermediate reading
- Spanish – intermediate reading
- Old Norse – basic reading
- Old English – basic reading
- Norwegian (Bokmål) – basic reading

Latin – basic reading

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Comparative Literature Association
Association of Iranian Studies
Great Lakes Adiban Society
International Arthurian Society, North American Branch
Medieval Academy of America
Middle Eastern Studies Association
Modern Language Association
Renaissance Society of America

REFERENCES

Daisy Delogu. Howard L. Willett Professor of French Literature, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures. University of Chicago. ddelogu@uchicago.edu. 773-702-4115.

Mark Payne. Chester D. Tripp Distinguished Service Professor in Comparative Literature. University of Chicago. University of Chicago. mpayne@uchicago.edu. 773-702-2516.

Michael Sells. John Henry Barrows Professor Emeritus of Islamic History and Literature. University of Chicago. msells@uchicago.edu.

Joseph Falaky Nagy. Shattuck Professor of Irish Studies. Harvard University. jfnagy@fas.harvard.edu. 617-495-1207.

Cameron Cross. Assistant Professor of Iranian Studies, Department of Middle East Studies. University of Michigan. kchalipa@umich.edu. 734-647-4660.

Christine van Ruymbeke. Ali Reza & Mohamed Soudavar Professor of Persian Studies. University of Cambridge. cv223@cam.ac.uk. +44 (0)1223 335130.

Julie Orlemanski. Associate Professor, Department of English. University of Chicago. julieorlemanski@uchicago.edu.