

Nikki Keddie

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.

Women, Gender, and the Family in the Muslim World University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

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

Professor Keddie's research project 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 Nayereh 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. Two one-quarter fellowships are currently being awarded. The invited fellows are both Pomona College assistant professors: Arash Kazemi in History, fall 2010, and Pardis Mahdavi in Women's Studies, fall 2011. They will teach one course each and do research at UCLA.

Publications:

- Afary, J., *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran*, Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- 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.
- 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* (in press).
- Keddie, N., *Innovative Women: Unsung Pioneers of Social Change*, "Journal of Middle East Women's Studies" (JMEWS), Vol. 4, n. 3, Fall 2008.
- Amir-Ebrahim, 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.
- 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.
- Shisser, 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", July 31, 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.

Statements by the Prizewinner, and by Janet Afary, Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi, Houri Berberian, and Edward A. Alpers:

I salute the Balzan Foundation for its outstanding prize program, which both honors senior scholars and provides significant funds for upcoming younger scholars to help them in their research in their initial stages. Nikki Keddie (Rome, 18.11.2004)

I taught two courses at UCLA: An undergraduate lecture course on Modern Iran (Fall 2008) and a graduate seminar on Gender in Middle East History (Winter 2009). The class on Modern Iran had not been taught for many years at UCLA. In addition, in both classes I had a number of students with Middle Eastern backgrounds. My students in the graduate seminar on Middle East women were Iranian, Syrian, Pakistani, Palestinian, Egyptian, among others. In the graduate seminar students wrote three essays (10-12 pages) on the following subjects: Gender and Women's rights in early and medieval Islam; Women's rights in postcolonial North Africa; and a comparative study of Egyptian and Iranian feminists. In both classes students were enormously interested in the subject matters and fully participated. This year at UCLA was one of the best teaching experiences of my life. Janet Afary (2009)

Although I held a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor during the fellowship year, I applied for and was offered another tenure-track position in Spring 2007. Since Fall 2007, I have given conference presentations, developed and taught new courses in the field of modern Middle East history, performed service work for my new department, and applied for grants and fellowships for release time to finish my book project Educating Modern Iranian Women, 1800s-1940s. Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi (2009)

In February 2008, I presented on my current project on seventeenth and eighteenth-century Armenian women in New Julfa, Isfahan (Iran), at the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies Roundtable at UCLA. This project is itself part of a larger book project (co-authored with Sebouh Aslanian) that examines the Scerimans, a wealthy Iranian-Armenian merchant family, with origins in early seventeenth century New Julfa and branches as far west as Italy, especially Venice, and as far east as Madras (India) and Pegu (Burma) and as recent as the nineteenth century. As part of this project, in March, I presented "Cosmopolitanism and the Sceriman/Shahrimanian Family between Isfahan and Venice" at the Middle East & Middle Eastern American Center, the Graduate Center, City University of New York. An article version of this presentation is forthcoming in "Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies". (...) Thank you once again for the wonderful opportunity the fellowship afforded me. Houri Berberian (2009)

Since I have been Chair of our department since Professor Keddie received the Balzan Prize, I can bear witness to the very positive impact this support has had on the teaching of middle Eastern history at UCLA and, no less, to the inestimable support it has provided to the outstanding younger scholars Professor Keddie has supported through the munificence on the Balzan Prize. We have been honoured to have Professor Keddie receive this most distinguished international prize and to have benefited from its support. Edward A. Alpers, Professor and Chair of the Department of History at UCLA (2010)