



Peace Democracy Media

JUNE
19-20 **2025**



**Universiteit
Leiden**
Campus The Hague



Den Haag



**The
Hague
Humanity
Hub**

The Hague.
Partners



**Persian Heritage
Foundation**

interprefy
Speaking your language

1. Academia

Tuition-free, online, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Social Studies

An EQF Qualified, tuition-free graduate school offering online, critical, and interdisciplinary education in the social sciences—accessible globally, rooted in academic freedom and free access to knowledge.

2. AcademiX

Open, free, Learning for Agency and Change

A dynamic learning platform providing free, open-access Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) designed to empower personal agency, civic awareness, and social transformation and skill development.

3. Agora

Transmedia Knowledge Exchange Platform for Democratized Knowledge

A multilingual, multi-format space for the free flow of knowledge—connecting learners, thinkers, and researchers through articles, self paced courses, podcasts, essays, videos, and dialogues.

4. University Press

Open Access, Open Infrastructure, Multilingual Publication of Scholarly Journals and Monographs

A scholarly press committed to the Open Access Movement and publishing critical research in multiple languages—freely accessible, and grounded in author-centered principles.

5. International Conferences

Hosting International & Multilingual Interdisciplinary Conferences

Convenings of the biennial International Conference on Contemporary Iranian Studies (ICCI) and other events by scholars, activists, and practitioners engaging across languages and disciplines—where urgent ideas meet global dialogue.

6. Research & Innovation Center

Cross-disciplinary Research and Educational Innovations

A space for developing bold, cross-disciplinary research and reimagining educational practice through critical inquiry and innovative design.

Peace, Democracy, and Media

Rethinking the Emerging Global Order and its Impact on Iran

The world is undergoing a profound transformation. War is no longer an exception but a renewed political strategy, democracy faces existential threats, and the media, once a force for accountability, has become a battleground for truth. As global powers recalibrate their positions in an increasingly fragmented world, Iran stands at a critical juncture, shaped by both internal struggles and external pressures.

Our conference, Peace, Democracy, and Media, seeks to critically dissect the shifting world order – its ideological fractures, power struggles, and media landscapes – while exploring how these forces converge in the Iranian context both inside Iran and in the diaspora. By bringing together scholars, philosophers, theorists, researchers, and journalists, we aim to move beyond surface narratives and engage in a deep, interdisciplinary interrogation of the forces shaping Iran and the world at large.

Thursday 19 June 2025

09:00 - 09:45

English

Opening Session



Welcome Address

Negin Shiraghai - Conference Host, Journalist and Director of Azadi Network



Special Video Message

Narges Mohammadi - Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2023



Opening Keynote: The Potential Impact of Social Movements on Shaping Global Tensions

Touraj Atabaki - Senior Research Fellow at the International Institute of Social History

10:00 - 11:30

Persian

Transnational Feminism and the Reimagining of Sustainable Peace in Iran and Beyond



Panel Outline and Introductory Remarks

Maryam Shirinsokhan - Women's Right Activist



Women, Security, and Peace in the Middle East

Negina Yari - Member of WILPF's International Board, South Asia Regional Representative



Rethinking Sustainable Peace through the Lens of Iranian Women

Jeiran Moghaddam Charkari - Postdoctoral Researcher Duisburg Essen University



Transnational Feminism's Role in Peacebuilding

Mansoureh Shojaei - Women's Right Researcher and Writer, Visiting Fellow VU

11:45 - 01:15

Persian

Media, Power, and Populism: Public Opinion and Information Control in Contemporary Iran



Iranian Media Reflected Through Public Opinion: An Analytical Examination of Gamaan Survey Findings

Ammar Maleki - Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics, Tilburg University.



The Suppression of Freedom of Speech and Organized Interference in Free Information Dissemination in Iran

Parviz Yari - Senior Researcher, Defending Free Flow of Information in Iran (DeFFI)



Iranian Media in an Era of Polarization and Repression: The Battle of Narratives and the Possibility of Democracy

Naimeh Doostdar - Journalist



Towards a Symptomatology of Mediatized Right-Wing Populism in Iran

Arash Ghajarjazi - Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Religious Studies at Utrecht University

14:00 - 15:30

Persian

Authoritarianism and Nationalism in Contemporary Iran



Iranian Fascism: A Prolonged Childhood Across Seven Decades

Mohammad Hosseiny Sohi - Social Studies Student, PhD in Civil Engineering



Authoritarianism as a Zombie: Why Does the Authoritarian Mindset Refuse to Die?

Hadi Miri Ashtiani - Social Studies Graduate, Independent Researcher



Far-Right Ascendancy and Authoritarian Nationalism in Iran: A Discourse-Theoretical Analysis via Arendt, Laclau, and Mouffe

Azad Mohamadyani - PhD in Political Science



Inclusive Republican Democratic Nationalism vs. Exclusive Authoritarian Nationalism

Alireza Behtoui - Professor of Sociology at Södertörn University, Sweden

15:45 - 17:15

Persian

Media Ecosystems and Transitional Justice in Iran: From Narrative Framing to Activism



From Fame to Responsibility: Influencer Activism in the Path to Transitional Justice

Shadi Manesh - Human Rights Lawyer



Challenges of managing expectations around transitional justice during the transitional period – and how media can help shape realistic public understanding, prevent misinformation, and promote informed civic engagement.

Payam Akhavan - Professor of International Law at McGill University



Communication Ecosystem and Transitional Justice: Roles and Challenges of Persian- Language Media Between Overthrow and Democratic Transition

Arash Mohebi - Strategic Communications Expert



Panel Discussion Contribution

Raha Bahreini - Human Rights Lawyer and Researcher

17:30 - 19:00

Persian

The War of Ideas and the Possibility of Peace and Freedom



Connecting the Quest for Freedom to the Pursuit of Peace

Mohammad Reza Nikfar - Philosopher & Faculty Member in Political Thought at Iran Academia



From the Philosophy of War to a War of Ideas: How Philosophy Can Offer a Global Model for Transition to Relative Peace

Navid Gorgin - Researcher at the University of Paris (Université Paris 8)

Friday 20 June 2025

09:00 - 10:15

Persian

**Truth in Exile: Repression and Legal Insecurity of
Iranian Journalists-From Prison to Forced Migration**



**Right-Wing Populism and the Engineering of
Repression and Silencing in the Islamic Republic**

Behnam Daraeizadeh - Human Rights Lawyer, Researcher, and Journalist



**Legal Violence and Transnational Elimination:
Analyzing Legal and Extraterritorial Tools of Silencing Dissent**

Saeid Dehghan - Human Rights Lawyer and Member of the International Association of Lawyers

10:30 - 11:45

English

Nationalism and Feminism in Digital Spaces



Contesting the Nation: Gendered Nationalisms and Feminist Counternarratives in Iranian Digital Spaces

Mitra Shamsi - Postdoctoral Research Fellow



The Rise of Far-Right Nationalism in Iran: Cyber Mobs as Indicators

Behdad Bordbar - Social Studies Graduate and Journalist

12:00 - 01:15

English

Right-Wing Nationalism in Iran: From Historical Foundations to the Digital Sphere



From Wartime Anxieties to Contemporary Nationalism:
The Pan-Iranist Movement and the Legacy of Iranian Far-Right Ideology

Kaveh Azarhoosh - Doctoral Candidate at King's College London



Towards a Symptomatology of
Mediatized Right-Wing Populism in Iran

Arash Ghajarjazi - Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Religious Studies at Utrecht University

14:00 - 15:30

English

The Political Economy of Iran and Sanctions



Anfal and the Political Economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mehrdad Vahabi - Professor of Economics at Université Sorbonne Paris Nord



Genealogy of privatization in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Bahman Ahmadi Amuie - Economic Journalist and Author



International Sanctions and Internal Conflict: The Case of Iran

Mohammad Reza Farzanegan - Professor of Economics at Philipps-Universität Marburg

15:45 - 17:15

English

Roundtable on International Relations



**The World Unmade:
The Middle East and the New International Order**

Annette Freyberg-Inan - Professor of International Relations Theory at UvA



**The World Unmade:
The Middle East and the New International Order**

Kamran Mabin - Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Sussex, UK



**The World Unmade:
The Middle East and the New International Order**

Shabnam Holiday - Associate Professor in International Relations at the University of Plymouth

17:30 - 19:00

Thought and Cultural Defiance as Modalities of Resistance



Normalizing Peace in a World Normalized to War and Violence
(To be presented and reviewed by M.R. Nikfar))

Saeed Madani - Imprisoned Sociologist, Researcher



Cultural Disobedience: Liminal Openness to Alternative Possibilities

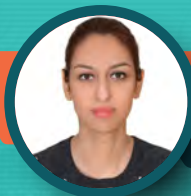
Abefeh Chaharmahalian - Poet, Human Rights Advocate, and Former Political Prisoner

Saturday 21 June 2025 - Online

13:30 - 15:00

Persian

Reimagining Peace Through Artistic, Cultural, and Narrative Practices



The Body of Culture as a Battlefield

Sara Haddadi - Communication Designer and Journalist



The Interplay of Art and Activism in Advancing Civil and Political Struggles

Masih Karimi - Artist, Researcher, and Fine Arts Graduate from the Albertina Academy of Turin



Voices from Death Row: Kurdish Women's Letters and the Role of Feminism in Advancing Peace and Democracy

Soma Negahdarinia - Social Studies Graduate and Independent Researcher

15:00 - 16:00

Persian

Women, Authoritarianism, and Resilience: Pursuing Peace in an Era of Crisis



The Impact of Rising Authoritarianism and the Erosion of Peace on Women's Rights, Freedoms, and Resilience

Rezvan Moghaddam - Independent Researcher in Women's Studies



Iranian Women on the Frontlines: Struggle, Resilience, and Hope for the Future

Maryam Mousavi - Social Studies Student, Optometrist, PhD

17:00 - 18:00

Persian

Individual Research Presentations



Verbal Violence in the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' Movement within the Iranian Diaspora

Davoud Changizi - Social Studies Graduate, and Civil Engineer



Dialogue-Based Peace Education, Tolerance, and Anti-Militarism: The Case Study of the Nansen Academy (Nansen Humanistic Academy), Lillehammer, Norwa

Emanuel Shokrian - Independent Researcher, Graduate in the History and Philosophy of Education

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FESTIVAL

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