

Lecture Series by Institute of Iranian Studies

# **Crossed Scripts, Shared Stories: Persian Manuscripts in Georgian Context**

**By: Dr. Natia Dundua**

## **Collection of Persian Manuscripts at the Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts**

(17.06.2025, 16:00-18:00, KWZ, 0.604)

The Oriental Fund of the Korneli Kekelidze National Centre for Manuscripts includes Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Armenian, Hebrew, Syriac, and Ethiopian manuscripts. Persian, Arabic, and Turkish manuscripts are marked with three sigla: K, L, and AC. The K collection consists of Persian, Arabic, and Turkish manuscripts from the 15th to 19th centuries. It represents the personal collection of General Ardashir Afshar Majd Os-Saltane, the last representative of the Qajar dynasty living in Tbilisi.

## **Persian and Persian-Georgian Historical Documents**

(24.06.2025, 16:00-18:00, KWZ, 0.604)

Political, socio-economic, and cultural relations between Georgia and Iran are recorded in Persian, Georgian, and bilingual (Georgian-Persian) historical documents from the 16th to 18th centuries. These documents serve as important primary sources for studying Iranian-Georgian relations, broader Caucasian affairs, and the history of the Near East as a whole. The Foreign Manuscripts Repository of the K. Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts holds 510 Persian historical documents related to the political, cultural, and religious ties between Georgia and Iran.

## **Reading and Describing a Persian-Georgian Historical Document & Persian Texts Written in Georgian Scripts**

(01.07.2025, 16:00-20:00, KWZ, 0.604)

During the lecture, a sample of a Persian-Georgian historical document preserved at the Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts will be read, analyzed, and described. Moreover, the lecture will deal with the manuscripts S-16, S-418, and H-2290 – preserved in Georgian-language funds of Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts, which attest the Persian texts in Georgian script.

## **Georgian-Persian Literary Relations**

(08.07.2025, 18:00-20:00, KWZ, 0.604)

Historical and cultural relations between Iran and Georgia began before the reign of the Achaemenids. Elements of Iranian epic and legendary traditions entered Georgian culture in the pre-Islamic era. Several Persian works, such as the *Shahnameh* and *Vis o Ramin*, were translated into Georgian in the 12th century. However, only a translation of *Vis o Ramin* and fragments of the *Shahnameh* have survived. Between the 15th and 18th centuries, several masterpieces of Persian literature - mainly narrative and epic works - were translated into Georgian. In the 20th century, prominent works of Persian literature by authors such as Rumi, Saadi, Hafez, and Khayyam were also translated, and this process continues today.