

Mossadegh Foundation Lecture Series, University of Geneva

***From Cypress to Platanus:
Trees in the Persian Arts, Literature
and Cultural Memory***

**June 17, 2025
9:15 am-7 pm**

University of Geneva
Bd des Philosophes, 22, Salle 211

*Organiser: Dr Negar Habibi (University of Geneva)
With the collaboration of Dr Shervin Farridnejad
(University of Hamburg)*



Fondation Mossadegh



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

FACULTÉ DES LETTRES
Département d'histoire de l'art
et de musicologie



**FONDS GÉNÉRAL
DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE**



Image: Detail of "Nushirvan Promulgates His Reforms", Folio 602v from the Shahnama of Shah Tahmasp. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1970.301.68

PROGRAM

Thursday, June 17, 2025

9:30–10:00 | Welcome and General Introduction

Negar Habibi and Shervin Farridnejad

10:00–12:00 | Trees in Persian Material Culture from the Twelfth to the Nineteenth Century

A Motif In Between: Trees as Central Decorative Elements on Iranian Mina'i and Lustre Ware Bowls

Richard McClary, University of York

Beneath the Garden Tree: Specimen Tree Forms in Persian Manuscript and Carpet Designs

Moya Carey, Chester Beatty Library

Between Branches and Meaning: The Silent Language of Trees in Persian Lacquer Painting

Elika Palenzona-Djalili, University of Bern

12:00–13:30 | Lunch

13:30–15:30 | Arboreal Imagery in Persian Illustrated Manuscripts and Visual Culture

Verdant Thrones: The Tree as a Symbol of Authority in Persian Painting

Negar Habibi, University of Geneva

Rooted in Splendour: The Meaning of Trees in Timurid Gardens as Represented in Illustrated Manuscripts

Shiva Mihan, British Museum

The Poet *Sarv*: Thriving as a Motif in the Literary and Visual Cultures of the Safavids

Mahroo Moosavi, Max-Planck Institute, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

15:30–15:45 | Break

15:45–17:00 | Trees in Contemporary Iran

When Roots Remember: The Tree as a Place of Memory in Iran

Sepideh Parsapajouh, CNRS-CéSor

Dissemination or Pruning: The Figure of the Tree in the Novels of Shahrnoush Pârsipour and Nasim Marashi

Julie Duvigneau, INALCO

17:00–18:00 | Keynote Lecture

Blossoms on Fire, Branches of Wisdom, and Trunks of Desire: Trees and the Human Condition in Medieval Persian Poetry

Domenico Ingenito, UCLA

18:00–18:15 questions

18:15–18:30: Conclusion

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Private Visit to the Ariana Museum and its Persian Collection (for speakers only)