

Post-Award Summary

With the support of the Carter Travel Award, I had the invaluable opportunity to present a portion of my dissertation research at the Tenth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from August 12–16, 2025. My presentation on the *Ṭuṭīnāma*—a fourteenth-century collection of tales by Ẓīā’ al-Dīn Naḵṣabī—allowed me to share my work with a distinguished audience of scholars. The questions and feedback I received during my panel proved deeply instructive, sharpening my arguments and suggesting new avenues for research.

In addition to my own presentation, I benefitted immensely from attending other sessions, particularly those on gender in Persian literature and Persianate women’s history. I learned a great deal from the questions raised in my panel as well as from the presentations by Dr. Kamran Talattof and Shabbir Agha Abbas.

The conference also provided exceptional opportunities for networking and mentorship. I had the chance to meet with scholars whose work I deeply admire, including Sussan Babaie, Mohammad Tavakoli-Targhi, and Robert Haug. These conversations not only broadened my scholarly perspectives but will also be crucial for my future on the academic job market, as they offered advice on refining my dissertation and positioning my research in Persianate studies.

Beyond the formal sessions, the ASPS mentoring and networking events connected me with both senior scholars and fellow graduate students, fostering a community of support and potential collaboration. These exchanges were particularly important as I was working toward completing my dissertation and preparing applications for academic positions and postdoctoral fellowships.

Finally, traveling to Uzbekistan also enriched my understanding of the Persianate world beyond the conference setting. I was able to visit the ancient cities of Samarkand and Bukhara, both of which are central to the formation of the Mughal dynasty and to the study of Persianate culture more broadly. Walking through these historic sites gave me a deeper appreciation of the spatial and cultural contexts that inform much of my research.

Overall, this award enabled me not only to present my work at the most significant scholarly gathering in my field but also to receive feedback, mentorship, and professional connections that will shape the final stages of my dissertation and my transition into academia.

Thank you,

Sajedah Hosseini

