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## Sexual Politics in Modern Iran

Janet Afary is a native of Iran and a leading historian. Her work focuses on gender and sexuality and draws on her experience of growing up in Iran and her involvement with Iranian women of different ages and social strata. These observations, and a wealth of historical documents, form the kernel of this book, which charts the history of gender and sexuality in Iran from the nineteenth century to today. What comes across is the extraordinary resilience of the Iranian people, who have drawn on a rich social and cultural heritage to defy the repression and hardship of the Islamist state and its predecessors. It is this resilience, the author concludes, which forms the basis of a still unfinished sexual revolution taking place in Iran today, one that is promoting reforms in marriage and family laws, and demanding more egalitarian relations.

JANET AFARY is Professor of History and Women's Studies at Purdue University. Her previous publications include *The Iranian Constitutional Revolution: Grassroots Democracy, Social Democracy, and the Origins of Feminism* (1996) and, with Kevin B. Anderson, the award-winning *Foucault and the Iranian Revolution: Gender and the Seductions of Islamism* (2005).

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,  
New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521727082](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521727082)

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First published 2009

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-0-521-89846-1 hardback  
ISBN 978-0-521-72708-2 paperback

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## Acknowledgments

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Research for this book was conducted primarily at the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago, where I have been an Associate Fellow of the Middle East Center since 1991. Many thanks to the Regenstein Library and Center staff for their assistance throughout this period. Larry Mykytiuk at Purdue University's HSSE Library was also immensely supportive and purchased a significant number of relevant journals and books. Azar Ashraf at the Near East Collection at Princeton University Library and David Hirsch at the UCLA Research Library generously guided me through their collections. With introductions from Solmaz Rustamova-Tohidi and Hamlet Isaxanli, I gained access to the Baku Manuscript Institute in Azerbaijan, where I microfilmed many rare titles with the help of Saif al-Din Ma'sum Oghli and especially Aref Ramazanov. In Los Angeles, Laleh Ghahreman from Ketab Corporation and Kikhosro Behrozi from Kolbeh Ketab helped locate other pertinent titles. During and after my visit to Tehran in 2005, I benefited from the help of several dedicated colleagues in that city. Mansoureh Ettehadieh introduced me to her Center, Nashr-e Tarikh-e Iran (Publishing Iranian History). Her student, Elham Malekzadeh, answered numerous queries, found rare materials and illustrations, and provided other access to archives beyond my reach. My old high-school friend and sociologist Shahla Ezazi critically read the final draft and sent a detailed list of corrections and suggestions. Saeid Madani-Ghahfarokhi, editor of *Faslnameh-ye Refah-e Ejtema'i* (*Social Welfare Quarterly*), and his colleagues Meroeh Vameghi, Ameneh Sattareh Foroozan, and Mohammad Ali Mohammady, responded in great detail to some issues concerning the last three chapters. Several other people, among them Saeed Damadi, Morteza Dehghani, Farah Ghadernia, Hirmand Hasass, and Hassan Mortazavi, also sent me materials from Tehran.

At Cambridge University Press, I would like to express my profound thanks to my editor Marigold Acland for her encouragement and patience as this manuscript went through various gestations. Her assistant, Sarah Green, diligently worked on resolving glitches in the illustrations; Caroline Diepeveen prepared the index and put up with my many

## Acknowledgments

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revisions; Monica Kendall deftly edited the manuscript, making it a pleasure to work with her; Phil Treble designed the cover; and Rosina Di Marzo oversaw the whole production and graciously endured my delays. Many thanks also to the anonymous reviewers of the press.

Several fellowships and grants allowed me release time from teaching to complete this book, among them an NEH Fellowship in 2004–2005, a Purdue University Center for Humanistic Studies Fellowship in spring 2003, and a sabbatical leave in spring 2007. My eternal thanks to Ronald Grigor Suny and Gernot Windfuhr, my mentors at the University of Michigan, for believing in me and providing valuable encouragement through the years. I wish Kenneth Allin Luther and Richard P. Mitchell, also from the University of Michigan, had lived to read drafts of this work. Allin had much to say about Shi'i rituals and was a keen follower of the Iranian Revolution. Richard's groundbreaking work on the *Society of Muslim Brothers* (1969) helped to spark my own interest in Islamism.

At Purdue University, I was fortunate to have numerous forms of support from Dean John Contreni, who has opened so many doors. I was equally fortunate to have the support of Berenice Carroll of Women's Studies, who has been a real mentor. Numerous conversations with colleagues in the Department of History and the Women's Studies Program have helped shape this study as well.

Several wonderful friends and colleagues read the whole or large parts of the manuscript and made countless valuable suggestions: Nikki Keddie of UCLA has been an extremely supportive mentor since we first met at a conference on Iran in Washington DC in the 1980s. She read several drafts of this manuscript and made many suggestions. Houchang Chehabi not only read the manuscript carefully, but he also went out of his way to copy and mail hard-to-find materials including memoirs of the Iranian singer Mahvash. Sohrab Behdad patiently corrected statistical errors; Mansour Bonakdarian provided valuable background on the inner circles of Iranian leftists in the 1970s; Thomas M. Ricks aided me with background on the slave economy of the nineteenth century; Erika Friedl and Mary Hegland answered numerous queries; my husband Kevin Anderson read the manuscript several times and helped me find relevant materials from the Frankfurt School of Critical Theory.

A much larger number of people offered helpful critiques of specific chapters or parts of the book: Abbas Amanat, Walter Andrews, Jennifer Ball, Hélène Bellour, Evelyn Blackwood, Jeanne Boydston, Miriam Cooke, Stephanie Coontz, Masserat Amir Ebrahimi, Manoutchehr Eskandari-Qajar, Willem Floor, Ali Gheissari, Shahla Haeri, Azadeh Kian-Thiébaud, Samuel Kinser, Firoozeh Papan-Matin, Arsham Parsi,

xvi Acknowledgments

John Perry, Nasrin Rahimieh, Everett Rowson, and Houman Sarshar. All have my heartfelt thanks.

Others assisted with source materials, useful suggestions, lively conversations in conferences, or via snail mail or e-mail: John Abromeit, Mahnaz Afkhami, Akbar Aghajanian, Abdollah Aghdasi, Zohreh Arzani Chahla Chafiq, Ken Cuno, Touraj Daryaei Richard Davis, Kianoush Deghani, Farideh Farhi, Manouchehr Haghighi, Doug Ireland, Meir Javedanfar, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Mehrangiz Kar, Manouchehr Kasheff, Mehdi Khalaji, Jamil Khouri, Lauren Langman, Akbar Mahdi, Fati Masjedi, Rudi Matthee, Behnaz Mirzai, Valentine Moghadam, Majid Mohammadi, David Morgan, Hossein Mohri, Kouros N. Moradi, Nahid Mozaffari, Majid Naficy, Azar Nafisi, Effat Rahimi-Mohri, Shiri Rotem-Nir, Hadi Salehi-Esfahani Ruth Salvaggio, Farah Shadchehr, Somaya Shahrivari, Mahsa Shekarloo, Margaret Strobel, Sussan Tahmasebi, Kian Tajbakhsh, Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Gholam R. Vatandoust, Paul Vieille, Sohrab Yazdani, Fatemeh Zargari, and Tahereh Zavvarehi. My brother Kamran Afary sent articles on contemporary issues. Shahzad Bashir, Fataneh Farahani, Erika Friedl, Mary Hegland, Hamid Naficy, and Everett Rowson were kind enough to share their unpublished work. For details on the successful family planning program of the Islamic Republic, Muhammad Alizadeh, one of the initiators of the program, proved enormously helpful. I also presented draft chapters of this book at Columbia University, Ohio State University, Osaka University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, UCLA, University of Chicago, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, University of Toronto, University of Wisconsin-Madison and various MESA conferences. Throughout, I have benefited from the comments and suggestions of numerous colleagues and students.

I would like to acknowledge the help of the following students at Purdue University, the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Loyola University, and UCLA who served as my assistants during the writing of this book: Sarah Avery, Sherrema Bower, Laura Eckstein, Haleh Emrani, Li Fei, Lela Gibson, Alex Hanna, Kaveh Hemmat, Brynn Lyerly, Amy Malek, Paul Ong, Robert Oprisko, Khodadad Rezakhani, Stephanie Richardson, Ali G. Scotten, Kaveh Sepehr, Kelly Stalling, Peishan Tan, Tanya Tang, Javid Validashti, Heather Welland, and Mir Yarfitz. For editorial assistance, I cannot thank enough Ahmad Aminpour, Joelle Goldman, Gershon Lewental, Brian Maxson, Melvin Pena, Danny Postel, Rita Sindelar, and especially Nicholas Murray whose remarkable editorial suggestions helped render the work more accessible to the general public. My sister Frieda Afary, a Persian translator, also made numerous corrections, and routinely sent materials for inclusion in the book.

Many of the images and cartoons reprinted here are from Iranian newspapers and magazines of the past century that I have located in various libraries. A few are reprinted from Jane Dieulafoy (1887), Afshar (1992), Filizadeh (2006), and Kiani-Haftlang (2007). Mahdokht Sanati sent several photos from Tehran; Mansoureh Fatoorehchi and Muhammad Eftekhari donated their collection of *Towfiq*; Abbas Towfiq provided a few other graphics from his private collection of *Towfiq*. Some illustrations came from the private collection of Mansore Pirnia and my parents, others were reprinted by the Center for Persian Studies, University of Maryland. Those dealing with the years 2000 often arrived via e-mail from Iran, including photos by Arash Ashoorinia. I am grateful for permission to reprint several images from the Special Collections Research Center of the University of Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and [www.cartoonstock.com](http://www.cartoonstock.com). Whenever possible I have credited the artists and photographers of these illustrations; however, in some cases I was unable to track them down but will be happy to credit them in any future reprint of this volume. I am indebted to artist and photographer Amir Nourmandi of Dlast Studios, Chicago for scanning and editing these images.

More than my earlier books, this study has touched me personally. I owe a debt of gratitude to my grandmothers Rahel Afary and Monir Pirnazar for sharing their life stories with me. Both were married at thirteen in Kermanshah in arranged marriages during World War I. My mother, Anvar (Pirnazar) Afary, married my father Naim Afary in 1950 at age eighteen in Tehran in a semi-arranged marriage. They tried to establish a more companionate marriage at a time when in-laws still ruled the extended family. My sister, Mona Afary, a psychologist in San Francisco, runs the Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants (CERI), which caters to women from Asia and the Middle East. My friend Manij Marashi works at Apna Ghar, a shelter for battered women in Chicago with a similar population. My daughter Lena works with an analogous group of women in the legal profession. Many of the Middle Eastern women who have come under their supervision have had arranged or semi-arranged marriages contracted in their native homes. I bounced many of the ideas in this book off of them, as I came to appreciate the vast gulf between the classic patriarchal marriages of our grandmothers, which were restricted but safeguarded by the extended family, and the more individualistic marriages of our time, which aspire to greater intimacy but are often quite fragile.

Unless otherwise mentioned, all translations from Persian are by the author. Translations from the French are by the author, Kevin Anderson, and Gladys M. Francis. Brynn Lyerly and Ashley Passmore translated the materials from German. Translations from the Azeri and the Russian are by Aref Ramazanov. Their help has been indispensable to this project.

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xviii Acknowledgments

I have adopted a modified version of the transliteration system of *Encyclopedia Iranica* (use of vowels o and e in addition to a, i, and u) for Persian words, and a modified version of the transliteration system of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies (IJMES)* for Arabic words. I have omitted all diacritical marks except hamzeh or ain. I have also reverted to the *New York Times* style of transliteration for commonly known words (i.e. Ali instead of ‘Ali).

Parts of chapters 8 and 9 appeared in an article, “Portraits of Two Islamist Women,” *Critique* 19 (Fall): 89–110, and in Afary and Anderson (2005). An early draft of chapter 11 appeared in *Iranian Studies* 42(1) (February 2009).



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