

Ferenc Csirkés, *Turkic Martyrologies in Safavid Iran*
Monday Majlis Online on the 11th of December, 17: 00-18:30 (UK time)

We'd like to invite you to the next online Monday Majlis of the Centre for the Study of Islam, Exeter:

Monday the 11th of December, 17:00-18:30 (UK time), Ferenc Csirkés, *Turkic Martyrologies in Safavid Iran*.

Registration is required. Register please on this link:

<https://Universityofexeter.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtf-uvrDkrHtacUFSU2H0H-uSWicJIAz9J>



A scene from the Battle of Karbala. Ottoman Baghdad, ca. 1580-90 from the *Rawzat al-shuhadā*.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:A_scene_from_the_Battle_of_Karbala,_Ottoman_Baghdad,_circa_1580-90.jpg

Abstract

This talk delves into a greatly neglected subject: the religious culture of the Turkophone element in late Šafavid Iran. The focal point of the discussion is the *Jinān al-mu'minīn*, a lesser-known account from the late-seventeenth century, detailing the martyrdom of Ḥusayn, a key event in the history of Shiism, and events and figures associated with it. The work is the otherwise unknown Turkic rendition of Ḥusayn Vā'iẓ Kašhifī's (c. 1426-1504) Persian martyrology, the *Rawzat al-shuhadā*, one of the most popular representatives of the genre in the period. Aside from analysing the content and style of the *Jinān* and comparing it to both the Persian original and other Turkic renditions produced during the Šafavid period, I will also scrutinise its manuscript copies. I will contend that the work is best understood against the backdrop of Shiite scholarly circles in

ascendancy at the Šafavid court attempting to control religious ritual both across the realm in general and in the Turkophone Qizilbash community in particular.



Bio

Ferenc Csirkés holds a PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago, and he is currently an Assistant Professor in the History of the Pre-modern Islamicate World at the University of Birmingham. His research interests include the literary and cultural history of medieval and early modern Iran, Central Asia, and the Ottoman Empire. He is now completing a book manuscript with the working title *Sons of Japheth and Ali: Turkic Language and Ideology in the Medieval and Early Modern Persianate World*, which focuses on the politics of language in Safavid Iran, discussing such topics as vernacularization, confessionalization, and state building. Prior to his position at Birmingham, he researched and taught at Simon Fraser University in Canada, Sabanci University in Turkey, the University of Tübingen in Germany, and Central European University in Hungary.

In the spirit of the label 'Majlis' and also to make the talks even more interesting, our speakers present the topic discussed as embedded in their own journey. You can watch the previous Majlises here https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-, but we don't record the Q&A in order to keep the discussion free. Please come and enjoy the talks and the discussions :) If you'd like to be included in the CSI (Centre for the Study of Islam (Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter) mailing list, please contact the CSI Manager: Sarah Wood (s.a.wood2@exeter.ac.uk). We'll be happy to welcome you!

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