

## Fall 2023 Newsletter

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Welcome back! We have many exciting programs underway at IPGS, including fascinating new research directions by OSU faculty, highlighted in this newsletter. In addition to continuing our Chai Chats, this fall we will continue our IPGS Lecture Series. Begun last Spring, this series highlights cutting-edge research related to Iran and the Persian Gulf region from a variety of perspectives. Our Spring 2023 theme was Water, and we welcomed two fantastic speakers -- an environmental anthropologist and an environmental scientist -- who each shared their multidisciplinary research and insights. In case you missed it, I invite you to watch our conversation with Dr. Kaveh Madani, Director of [UNU-INWEH](#), the United Nations University Think Tank on Water, [here](#).

This Fall, we continue with a series of events on the theme of Art. On the occasion of the one-year anniversary of the death of Mahsa Jhina Amini, we gathered on September 13th to hear a lecture from art historian Dr. Pamela Karimi from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, entitled, "Artistry & Activism: The Power of Art in Iran's 'Woman, Life, Freedom' Uprising." On October 19th, we will build on with this theme as we welcome a delegation of Iranian women artists to speak on a panel about their work and their creative process as part of artful protest.

I wish you a wonderful semester and look forward to seeing you at IPGS events!



### NEW IPGS PROFESSORSHIP: DR. ADEL PEZESHKI

IPGS is pleased to announce the recipient of our latest IPGS Professorship, Dr. Adel Pezeshki, Associate Professor of Animal & Food Sciences at OSU. The School of Global Studies offers four IPGS endowed professorships with the purpose of developing focused educational and research efforts in and about the Iranian and Persian Gulf region. The major focus of Dr. Pezeshki's research is the regulation of metabolic health by diet and his current research interest is understanding how branched-chain amino acids (BCAA) regulate glycemic control.

Through his IPGS professorship, Dr. Pezeshki will explore the role of novel molecules that alter glucose and lipid metabolism following BCAA restriction. Gaining insights into underlying mechanisms by which nutrients regulate energy balance and glycemic control may lead us to develop new interventions to mitigate and treat metabolic diseases. We look forward to Dr. Pezeshki's IPGS Lecture on November 9th, where he will share his research on diet and metabolic health in the Persian Gulf region.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### IPGS LECTURE SERIES FALL 2023

**September 13** Dr. Pamela Karimi  
“Artistry & Activism: The Power of Art in Iran's 'Woman, Life, Freedom' Uprising”  
Wes Watkins Center Room 108  
5:00 PM Reception | 5:30 PM Event

**October 19** “Iranian Women Artists Speak: A Panel on Artful Protest”  
Wes Watkins Center Room 108  
5:00 PM Reception | 5:30 PM Event

**November 09** Dr. Adel Pezeshki  
“Diet and Metabolic Health: A Focus on the Persian Gulf Region”  
Wes Watkins Center Room 209  
5:00 PM Reception | 5:30 PM Event

## DR. TONIA SHARLACH AWARDED IPGS FACULTY GRANT



IPGS is pleased to announce that Dr. Tonia Sharlach, Professor of History at OSU, has been awarded an IPGS Faculty Grant for her project, “Water Crises in Iran and Iraq Then and Now: Historical Parallels and Contemporary Challenges in Water Supply.” In Spring 2023, IPGS held an open call for research proposals for our inaugural IPGS Faculty Grant. Open to any tenured or tenure-track faculty member at Oklahoma State University, the IPGS grant program is designed to stimulate and support high-quality and high-profile research, teaching, and extension activities.

According to Dr. Sharlach, her research is motivated by the challenge of access to adequate and clean water in Iran, Iraq and the Persian Gulf region today: “Climate change, diversion of river courses, salinity and impurity in water supplies create widespread suffering. In fact, similar problems with salinity and catastrophic environmental collapse resulting from irrigation practices are well documented in historical records from the Bronze Age.” Dr. Sharlach’s project aims to show how ancient responses can help us understand contemporary environmental challenges. We look forward to learning more through her innovative and interdisciplinary study.

**STAY IN TOUCH!**

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 IRANIAN AND PERSIAN GULF STUDIES  
OSU Global

Join us for

# Chai Chat

October 4th, 2023  
4:00-6:00 PM  
Location: Wes Watkins Center 201

