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Abstract Only – Work in Progress

“Poetics of Islam in Contemporary Women Poets of Iran:
A Morphological and Historical Perspective (17th-21st cc)”

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As a Muslim culture, Iran’s notion of Islam has gone through myriad of changes. Of course, again, as an Islamic culture, these changes must be analyzed in a gender-biased fashion, when considering the traditional canons of Islam. Throughout Iranian history – the Persian-speaking world - we come across ideological movements that have prompted expressions, which in the most Aristotelian sense have been representative of the *times* and societal upheavals. However, these representations, whether in prose and especially in poetry, have been distinctively different depending on the gender of the author. This presentation examines three very important stages in women’s expression when dealing with Islamic notions in their society. The first stage will deal with the Qajar women poets who indeed left an impression on the Islamic and Sufi poetry of Iran. The second will focus on such pre-revolution (Islamic revolution of Iran) poets as Parvin, Forough, and others. The last, is more comprehensive in that it treats both the prose and the poetry of Iranian authors during the Islamic revolution. This will allow for a quasi-formulaic manner in approaching the understandings of these women about Islam as conveyed in their writings. This will be done through a historic-philological approach, which will correlate imagery with realities of these women’s *milieu*. In doing so, some comparative commentary on the male counterparts will be posited to highlight the differences.