“The Cyrus Cylinder and a Trans-confessional Narrative of Iranian Civilization”

Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi is Professor of History and Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. He has served as President of the International Society for Iranian (2008-2010), was the founding Chair of the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Toronto-Mississauga (2004-07), and was the Editor-in-chief of Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East (2001-12), a Duke University Press Journal. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of Iran Nameh and is coeditor with Homa Katouzian of the Iranian Studies book series, published by Routledge. Tavakoli’s areas of specialization encompass of the Middle Eastern history, modernity, nationalism, gender studies, spatial governmentality, Orientalism, and Occidentalism. In addition to numerous articles, he is the author of two books: Refashioning Iran: Orientalism, Occidentalism and Historiography (Palgrave, 2001) and Tajaddud-i Bumi [Vernacular Modernity] (Nashr-I Tarikh, 2003). He is currently completing a manuscript that explores the discursive transformation of modern Persian political language from biopolitics to spatial governance. It traces the shift from a restorative rhetoric of medical sciences to the constructional languages of engineering. He holds a BA in Political Science and an MA in history from the University of Iowa, and a PhD in history from the University of Chicago.