

IRAN

**EXPRESS YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH
IRANIAN EDUCATORS & STUDENTS
LEARN & CRITICALLY ENGAGE
AT CIES 2026**

SAT, MARCH 28

**PANEL 11:15-12:30 Sixth Floor,
Nob Hill 8&9**

From Theory to Praxis: Designing Education Alternatives within Farsi-speaking Communities experiencing Conflict and Political Instability

MON, MARCH 30

**PANEL 9:45-11 am - Ballroom Level,
Imperial A**

**Learning With/From Sites of Empire
and Settler Colonialism:** Palestine,
Iran, and Knowledge Production
Across the Transatlantic Global
North

EXHIBIT, booth No. 37, Exhibition Hall

"Empty Desks": A memorial for Iranian Students and teachers who lost their lives: Organized by the Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations (CCITTA). *Come 1 pm before the Mon. teach-in or anytime during the day; also visit SEED Foundation booth 23*

WEDS, APRIL 1

**SYMPOSIUM 9:45-11 am
Ballroom Level, Imperial A**

Peace is not Neutral:
Comparative Education
in Times of Accelerated
Militarism

Image: graves for the estimated 168 students killed by a U.S.-led airstrike, at the Shajareh Tayyiba girls' school in Minab, 3/2/2026

TEACH-INS

**WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?
JOIN US TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE**

**1:15 - 2 pm daily - TAP Booth,
Exhibition Hall**

Themes include:

- Unraveling myths of pre-revolutionary paradise in Iran
- US Representations of post-1979 Iran
- Overview of US Sanctions Against Iran
- Social Movements in Iran, including the roles of women, ethnic minorities, and the education sector, highlighting the Teachers' Union as the largest civil society network in the country



- Students killed in the US-led war: at least **143**
- Students killed during the January 2026 protest by Iran's authorities: **247**

- Teachers killed in the US-led war: at least **16**
- Teachers killed during the January 2026 protest by Iran's authorities: **14**

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FURTHER READING

Matin-Asgari's (2026) *Axis of empire: A history of Iran-US relations*

Abrahamian's *A History of Modern Iran* (2012) & *Iran Between Two Revolutions* (1982)

Amanat's (2017) *Iran: A Modern History*

Dabashi's (2016) *Iran Without Borders: Towards a Critique of the Postcolonial Nation*

Poetry by Jalal Al-Din Muhammad Rumi, Hafız-e Shirazi, Omar Khayyam, Ferdowsi

See the essential reading list curated by topic by the Raha Feminist Collective and the Middle East Studies Pedagogy Initiative (MESPI) at the Arab Studies Institute: <https://www.jadaliyya.com/>

IRAN AT A GLANCE

Iranians have led major struggles in the past century for education, social justice, and freedom:

- Students' Movement, 1999
- "Green Movement" electoral protests, 2009
- Haft Tappe Labor unions' protest, 2018
- Teachers' Strikes, 2021
- Woman, Life, Freedom, 2022
- Mass Nationwide Protest, January 2026

The Iranian education sector:

- Literacy rates: adults, 89%, youth (15-24), 99%
- ~16 million K-12 students
- ~3.5 million university student, 63% female
- ~735,000 total teacher count (with a shortage of 176,000)

- Farsi is the official language, but an estimated 80+ indigenous and other languages are also spoken in Iran
- The Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC), was the first major world empire
- Both the first formal courier post and first subterranean aqueduct system were developed by the Persians

Contributions spanning five millennia particularly in the fields of:

- **Medicine:** Avicenna's medical text (Ibn Sina)
- **Mathematics:** al-Khwarizmi introduced the decimal-based positional number system to the Western world, developed the field of trigonometry
- **Arts & culture:** Iran is home to 29 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a multitude of contributions to calligraphy, carpet weaving, ceramics, architecture and garden design

"In every school, the sight of empty desks serves as a grief-stricken monument to the children who never returned to class during the nationwide protests of Jan 2026."

Visit the memorial to students: <https://hamahangi.org/yadbood/memorial/empty-desks/>

Organizers of these Iran Solidarity events at CIES:
The Alternatives Project (TAP), 21st Century Education SIG & collaborators and educators from Farsi-speaking communities