

Curriculum Vitae

Ehsan Behbahani-Nia

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Art History (2020–present)

University of Wisconsin-Madison / Major field: Classical and Near Eastern Art and Archaeology

Dissertation: “Ashlar Masonry and the Mobility of Greeks and Anatolians in Persia”/supervisor: Nick Cahill

PhD Minor 1: Cartography and GIS (advisor: A-Xing Zhu)

PhD Minor 2: Museum Studies (advisor: Amy Gilman)

M.A., Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquity (2018–2020)

École Pratique des Hautes Études (PSL), Paris / Research Master’s degree (Master’s 2)

Thesis: « Analyse de la façade Ouest de la terrasse du Tol-e Takht : nouvelle approche architecturale » / supervisors: Wouter Henkelman, Jacques des Courtils

M.A., Archaeology of Ancient Worlds (2017–2018)

Université de Strasbourg / Research Master’s degree (Master’s 2)

Thesis: « Les monuments Romains relatifs aux guerres perso-romaines » / supervisor: Jean-Yves Marc

M.A., Architecture and Archaeology (2016–2018)

École d'Architecture de Strasbourg (ENSAS) and *Université de Strasbourg* / Professional Master’s degree

Conceptual architectural and reconstruction projects in: Delos, Greece, and Arles, France

Graduation internship: architectural studies of the northern part of Caričin Grad, Serbia

Bachelor of Architecture (2012–2016)

Azad University - Central Tehran Branch, Tehran

Final project: “Conceptual design of an archaeological museum in Tehran”

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Archaeology and material culture of ancient Greece and Western Anatolia
- Greek and Roman art, architecture, and urbanism
- Near Eastern art and architecture
- Lydian and Achaemenid Sardis and the transition between the two
- Ancient construction techniques and craftsmanship (especially stone working)
- Mobility, Migration and Movement in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond
- Cross-cultural interactions and craft connections across the Mediterranean, the Near East and Egypt
- Organization of labour in ancient construction sites
- Architectural Energetics and Experimental archaeology

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 09.2020 – 08.2024 **Affiliated Fellow**, Getty Foundation’s “Beyond the Northern Aegean: Architectural Interactions across the Black Sea region”
- 07-2021 – Present **Part-Time Research Assistant**, UW-Madison’s Department of Classics (with Prof. William Aylward)
- 09.2020 – Present **Research Fellow**, Laboratoire de recherche Ausonius (UMR 5607), Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, France
- 08.2020 – Present **Project Assistant**, UW-Madison’s Department of Art History (with Prof. Nick Cahill)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE

Current Excavations:

- 2023 - Present **Labraunda Excavations, Turkey**
Organized by *Université Lyon-II and İstanbul Üniversitesi University.*
Current Project: Survey, study and documentation of the building commonly known as the Oikoi in the sanctuary of Zeus Labraundos.
- 2021 - Present **Archaeological Exploration of Sardis, Turkey**
Organized by *Harvard Art Museums and Cornell University.*
Current Projects: Active survey and study of architectural remains in Field 49, including total station survey; technical drawings of plans, facades, and sections; study of blocks and tool marks; analysis of relative chronology and construction techniques of the buildings excavated in the trench. – Study and drawing of the fortifications of the Acropolis with the Cornell team. – Study of a newly discovered Lydian tumulus. – Survey and study of the Temple of Artemis, including a 3D reconstruction model of the temple for a VR project.
- 2019 - Present **University of Chicago Excavations at Isthmia, Greece**
Organized by the *University of Chicago and the Archaeological Museum of Isthmia.*
Current Projects: Investigation around the Isthmian gully and the area interpreted as the ‘Sacred Glen’ to locate the shrine to Demeter mentioned in the Priscus inscription. – Study of materials from previous excavations. – A collaborative GIS project with Michigan State University on mapping water-related features at Isthmia.

Previous Excavations:

- May 2022 **Architectural Project in Thasos, Greece (Guest Participant)**
Organized by *École d’architecture de Strasbourg and École Française d’Athènes.*
- August 2019 **Excavation in Argentomagus, France**
Organized by *Éveha and ArScAn - UMR 7041.*

- July 2019 **The Onchestos Excavation Project, Greece**
Organized by *Columbia University*.
- Nov 2018 **Archaeological Research in Pasargadae, Iran**
Organized by *Université Lyon 2* and *Shahid Beheshti University*.
- Sept 2018 **Excavation and Architectural Study in Portus of Rome, Italy**
Organized by *École Française de Rome (EFR)*.
- July 2018 **Architectural Studies in the Northern Part of Caričin Grad, Serbia**
French-Serbian program organized by *Archimède UMR 7044*. (End-of-studies internship of the Master's degree in Architecture and Archaeology)
- 2017 - 2018 **Excavation of the Ancient Theater of Mandeure, France**
Organized by *Université de Strasbourg* and *Carthage College (Kenosha, WI)*.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAVEL SEMINARS

Travel seminar in Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey (May 2023)

Organized by the *Getty Foundation* and *Emory University*, as part of “Beyond the Northern Aegean” research seminar program, exploring architectural interactions across the North Aegean and Black Sea areas.

Getty Symposium in Athens, Greece (Feb 2023)

Organized by the *American School of Classical Studies at Athens* and the *Getty Foundation*, as part of “Beyond the Northern Aegean” research seminar program (Connecting Art Histories).

Architectural Workshop in Delos, Greece (April 2018)

Historic preservation and development of ‘Agora of the Italians’ in Delos, organized by *École d'architecture de Strasbourg* and *École française d'Athènes*.

Architectural Workshop in the ancient city of Arles, France (Nov 2017 and June 2018)

Conceptual restoration and development of the main entrance of Arles, “Porte de la Cavalerie”, organized by *École d'architecture de Strasbourg*.

L'école thématique de Bordeaux en architecture antique 2018 (27–29 Mar. 2018)

Second year of the French-American program supported by the “Partner University Fund” (PUF), and organized by *Université Bordeaux-Montaigne*, *Emory University* and *University of Wisconsin-Madison*.

Research travel to Thessaloniki, Greece (May 2017)

Supported by *Université de Strasbourg*,

L'école thématique de Bordeaux en architecture antique 2017 (15–17 Mar. 2017)

Advanced technical training in ancient Greek architecture supported by the “Partner University Fund” (PUF), and organized by *Université Bordeaux-Montaigne*, *Emory University* and *University of Wisconsin-Madison*.

HONORS AND AWARDS

SRGC Research Travel Award for 2023 Summer Fieldwork, *UW-Madison*

May 2023

Connecting Art Histories Travel Grant for a Seminar in Athens, <i>Getty foundation</i>	Feb 2022
Schewe Award 2021 for the Best Graduate Student Paper, <i>UW-Madison's Art History</i>	Oct 2022
Sardis Travel Grant , <i>Harvard Art Museums</i>	2021-2023
Four Year Scholarship , <i>UW-Madison's department of Art History</i>	2020-2024
Ausonius Travel Grant for a Lecture in Bordeaux, <i>Université Bordeaux-Montaigne</i>	Dec 2019
Onchestos Travel Grant , <i>Columbia University's Department of Art History</i>	July 2019
Summer Research Grant , <i>University of Chicago's Excavations at Isthmia</i>	2019, 2021-23
Research Grant for Pasargadae (Aide à la mobilité), <i>École Pratique des Hautes Études</i>	2019
Travel Grant for Portus Excavation, <i>École Française de Rome</i>	Sept 2018
Archimède Travel Grant for Mandeuere Excavation, <i>Université de Strasbourg</i>	July 2017, 2018
Travel Fellowship for Delos Workshop, <i>École Française d'Athènes</i>	April 2018
PUF Fellowship for attending L'école thématique de Bordeaux, <i>Ausonius Bordeaux</i>	March 2018
Crous' Education Grant (Aide à la mobilité) , <i>Crous Strasbourg</i>	2017
Campus France Scholarship (Bourse d'études) , <i>French Government</i>	2016–2018

PUBLICATIONS

Articles (Published):

Behbahani-Nia E., “Tall-i Takht: New Evidence on the Pasargadae’s Terrace” *The Journal of Ancient Architecture* 1, 2022, pp. 37-64.

Articles (In Progress):

Behbahani-Nia E., “On the Monumentality of Tall-i Takht and the Building(s) on Top of it” in *Working on Stones in the Achaemenid Empire: Methods, Theories and Techniques: Proceedings of a Virtual Symposium 17-18 September 2021*, forthcoming.

Alram M. and Behbahani-Nia E., “Achaemenid Darics at Isthmia”, *American Journal of Archaeology*, forthcoming.

Behbahani-Nia E., “The Sacred Glen and the Sanctuary of Demeter at Isthmia: A Report on the University of Chicago's 2019-2022 Activities”, *Hesperia: The Journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*, forthcoming.

Behbahani-Nia E., “Carians in Pasargadae?”, forthcoming.

Fieldwork Reports:

Behbahani-Nia E., Report on activities for 2023 Season (*Sardis 2023 Field Report*).

Behbahani-Nia E., Architectural Studies in Sardis During the 2022 Season (*Sardis 2022 Field Report*).

Pierattini A. and Behbahani-Nia E., Report of the 2022 Study Season at Isthmia, 2022 (*ASCSA* report).

Behbahani-Nia E., Report of the 2021 Study Season at Isthmia, 2021 (*ASCSA* report).

Gebhard E. and al., Report of the 2019 Study Season at Isthmia, 2019 (*ASCSA* report).

Behbahani-Nia E., “Preliminary Report on an Architectural Study of Monuments at Pasargadae,” in *Report on the 2018 Archaeological Project of the Joint Iran-France Project at Pasargadae and its Surrounding Territory*, Tehran, 2019, pp. 81-85.

Behbahani-Nia E., “Bâtiment 19c,” in *Fouille de Caričin Grad : Rapport des activités de 2018*, Belgrade, 2019, pp. 12-18 (unpublished).

LECTURES

“Les échanges architecturaux et culturels entre l'occident et l'orient après 547 avant J-C.”, As part of the seminar *Hellénisme(s) et identités locales de l'époque archaïque à l'époque hellénistique*, for Masters students in Archaeology at Université Lumière-Lyon-II, *Lyon*, October 13th, 2022

“Carian Stonemasons in Pasargadae?”, 2021 Schewe Award lecture for the best graduate student paper in the Department Art History at UW-Madison, *Madison, WI*, October 7th, 2021 ([Program information](#))

“When Stones Speak: The Organization of Labor during the Construction of the Tall-i Takht”, as part of the virtual symposium of *Working on Stones in the Achaemenid Empire*, organized by *Deutsches Archäologisches Institut*, and *Tebran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT)*, September 17th 2021 ([Program information](#))

“Pasargadae: the Oldest Residence of the Achaemenid kings, Founded by Cyrus the Great”, Sardis Expedition Seminars, *Sardis*, July 27th, 2021

“La technique grecque et la naissance de l'architecture achéménide”, a Zoom lecture for Masters students in Archaeology at Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, *Bordeaux*, February 2nd, 2021

“De Sardes à Pasargades : le Tol-e Takht et la mobilité des maçons iono-lydiens en Perse”, organized by Ausonius (UMR 5607), *Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, Bordeaux*, December 6th, 2019 ([Program information](#))

“Voyage en Perse : l'architecture achéménide”, organized by ArkhéoPSL, *École Nationale des Chartes, Paris*, May 24th, 2019 (Review available [online](#))

“A New Project on the Preservation of the 'Porte de la Cavalerie' of the Ancient City of Arles”, organized by École d'architecture de Strasbourg, *Maison du Secteur sauvegardé, Arles*, June 21st, 2018

“The Agora of the Italians in Delos: A New Area for Open-Air Exhibitions and Performances on the Island?”, organized by École française d'Athènes and École d'architecture de Strasbourg, *Delos*, April 27th, 2018

SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

Languages

Persian: Native
French: Fluent
English: Fluent
German: Intermediate

Computer Skills

Adobe Illustrator
Adobe InDesign
Adobe Photoshop
Agisoft Metashape
ArchiCAD
Autocad 2D & 3D
Rhino 3D
SketchUp
Blender
CloudCompare
Meshlab
ArcGis
QGIS
ENVI
Microsoft Office
Filemaker

Professional Skills

Technical and architectural drawing
Study of ancient monuments
Field Archaeology and excavating
GIS application (Total station, Gps)
Photogrammetry
3D Modeling and Reconstruction
Site and Landscape Design
Documenting and Preserving
Database Management
Museum Curating
Project Management

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member of the French-Iranian archaeological mission of Pasargadae (2018 – 2020)

Member of ArkhéopLS association (Archaeology club of Paris students) (2018 – 2020)

Member of the association Routes de l'Orient, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (2018 – 2019)

Tour Guide of *Sana Safar Gasht* Travel Agency (2013-2015)

REFERENCES

Prof. **Nick Cahill**: Director of the Sardis Expedition, and Professor of Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Prof. **Elizabeth Gebhard**: Director of the University of Chicago Excavations at Isthmia, and Emeritus Professor of Classics at Edinburgh University

(+30) 274 1031279, egebhard@staffmail.ed.ac.uk

Prof. **Jean-Yves Marc**: Professor of Roman Archaeology and Director of the Faculty of Historical Sciences, Université de Strasbourg

(+33) 3 68 85 68 61, jeanyves.marc@unistra.fr

Prof. **Wouter Henkelman**: Professor of Elamite and Achaemenid Studies, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris

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