

Curriculum Vitae

Ehsan Behbahani-Nia

Department of Art History
University of Wisconsin-Madison

behbahania@wisc.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Art History (2020–present)

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

Dissertation: “From Croesus to Cyrus: Ashlar Masonry in Early Achaemenid Times”/supervisor: Nick Cahill

PhD Minor 1: Museum Studies (advisor: Amy Gilman)

PhD Minor 2: Cartography and GIS (advisor: A-Xing Zhu)

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
- Achaemenid Persian art and architecture
- Lydian and Achaemenid Sardis and the transition between the two
- Ancient construction techniques and craftsmanship (especially stone working)
- Organization labor in ancient construction sites
- Architectural Energetics and Experimental archaeology
- Cross-cultural interactions and craft connections across the Mediterranean, and the Near East
- Herodotus and the history of Greco-Persian wars

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 09.2020 – 08.2024 [Affiliated Fellow](#), Getty Foundation’s “Beyond the Northern Aegean: Architectural Interactions across the Black Sea region”
- 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 - **Labraunda Excavations, Turkey**
Organized by *Université Lyon-II and Karabük Üniversitesi*
- 2021 - Present **Archaeological Exploration of Sardis, Turkey**
Organized by *Harvard Art Museums and Cornell University*.
- 2019 - Present **University of Chicago Excavations at Isthmia, Greece**
Organized by the *University of Chicago and the Archaeological Museum of 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 *Éveba 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 *Getty Foundation* and *Emory University*, as part of “Beyond the Northern Aegean” research seminar program.

Getty’s Symposium in Athens, Greece (Feb 2023)

Organized by the *American School of Classical Studies at Athens* and *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)

A 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)

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

HONORS AND AWARDS

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, 2022
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, 2021-22
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 Mandeure 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., 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
ArcGis
QGIS
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

REFERENCES

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

+1 (608) 263 8980, ndcahill@wisc.edu

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

(+49) 1522 4646430, wouter.henkelman@ephe.sorbonne.fr