GLAS

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From Tehran to Seoul to Los Angeles: Transnational Circuits of Change and the Convergence of Iranian and Korean Diasporas

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In the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, many Iranians disenchanted by the newly emerged theocracy migrated to South Korea, one of Iran's closest trade partners throughout the second half of the twentieth century. Many of these Iranian residents in Korea subsequently joined Korean immigrants' trans-Pacific journey to the United States and assumed a vital role as cultural brokers between the Korean American and Iranian American communities. This talk examines the convergence of multiple historical developments and social realities in East Asia, West Asia, and the United States that opens a window into the lives of Iranian transmigrants whose journey to America was routed through their sojourn in South Korea.

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