



**SSZ**  
Society of Scholars of  
ZOROASTRIANISM

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago  
proudly hosts the

## 2023 Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism (SSZ) Conference

**Theme: “Zoroastrian Religious Texts and Manuscripts –  
Ancient times to Recent Discoveries”**

**Chair and Keynote Speaker: Miguel Ángel Andrés-Toledo,**

FEZANA Professor of Zoroastrian Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto.  
(Followed by a traditional community thanksgiving meal – “*patra nu bhonu*”)

at the

**Rustam Guiv Dar-e-Mehr**

8615 Meadowbrook Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

on

**Saturday November 18, 2023**

supported by

**Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA)**

**FEZANA Information Research Educational System (FIRES)**

and

**World Zoroastrian Organization**

All community members, students, scholars and members of interfaith communities are invited and encouraged to participate. Your presence gives support to the speakers, and your feedback is invaluable so that future research efforts may be directed in a constructive manner for the benefit of both the academicians as well as the community.

**The Society  
Of Scholars  
Of Zoroastrianism**

**University of Toronto** **FEZANA** **FIRES**

**Presents**

**The Academic Research Segment**  
Conducted by –

- Prof. Miguel Ángel Andrés-Toledo
- Prof. Enrico Raffaelli
- Dr. Ted Good

**To Help Scholars Learn And Grow,  
By Sharing In The Discoveries That Really Matter!**

## Program

Conference Chair: **Prof. Miguel Angel Andrés-Toledo**

**Morning Session** – Session Chair: Eruch Rustomji

**Scholars Symposium** (online on ZOOM) conducted by **Prof. Andrés-Toledo, Zal Taleyarkhan** and **Noshir Contractor**. In person participation at the dar-e-mehr is available.

9:30 Breakfast

10:30 – 12:30 Online on ZOOM.

**Prof. Andrés-Toledo** -- *Few Means a Lot: The Recent Discovery of Zoroastrian Manuscripts in Armenia.*

**Prof. Enrico Raffaelli** -- *The Structure of the Zoroastrian Month and its Impact on Ritual Practices.*

**Dr. Ted Goods** -- *The Effusive Soul: The Theory of Emotion in Denkard III.*

1:00 Lunch & Reflection on Morning Session.

**Afternoon Session** – Session Chair: Afshan Barshan

**Community-Forum** (in-person only)

2:00 Benediction – **Mobedyar Boman Damkevala**

Monajat – **Mani Rao**

Welcome -- **Jamshed Rivetna** (ZAC President)

Welcome, Intro to SSZ, and Annual Report – **Zal Taleyarkhan** (SSZ President) & **Rohinton Rivetna**

2:30 **Prof Andrés-Toledo** – *Historical Review of the Corpus of Zoroastrian Religious Texts and Languages*

3:30 **Kamal Saher, Meheryar Rivetna** and **Vispi Karkaria** – *Quiz: Sharpen Your Knowledge of Zoroastrian History and Scriptures*

4:30 Tea break

Session Chair: Vispi Karkaria

5:00 **Persis Driver** and **ZAMC Youth** – *Oral History Research Project.*

6:00 Hors d'oeuvres and Drinks

6:30 Traditional Community Thanksgiving Dinner – “*Patra nu Bhonu*” served by ZAMC Youth.

### Registration

**All day:** \$35 per person, each additional adult family member will be \$25; children 12-18 will be \$10, children under 12 free. Includes breakfast, lunch, tea and a traditional community thanks-giving dinner (“*Patra-nu-bhonu*”).

**Morning Session only:** The morning session will be online on ZOOM. For those participating online only there is no registration fee. For those participating in person at the dar-e-mehr, registration is \$10 per person; children under 12 free. Includes breakfast and lunch.

**Afternoon Session only:** \$30 per person, each additional adult family member will be \$20; children 12-18 will be \$10, children under 12 free. Includes tea and a traditional community thanks-giving dinner (“*Patra-nu-bhonu*”).

**Please RSVP by November 10<sup>th</sup>** (specify “All Day”, “Morning Only” or “Afternoon only”) to Zarin Karanjia ([Zarin.Karanjia@yahoo.com](mailto:Zarin.Karanjia@yahoo.com)). A \$5 late fee will be charged after November 10. For further information contact Rohinton Rivetna ([Rivetna@aol.com](mailto:Rivetna@aol.com), 630 248 4387).

For information on the Morning Session on ZOOM, [click here](#).



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Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism invites you to join us for our upcoming  
**SSZ Colloquium** which will feature a presentation on:

"Few means a lot: The Recent Discovery of Zoroastrian Manuscripts In Armenia"



**Abstract of Presentation**

The research on the Avestan and Pahlavi languages and their texts strongly depends on the preservation, availability, and detailed study of the manuscripts in which they have been transmitted throughout centuries. Most Zoroastrian texts are well known because they reached to us in many copies, but others are preserved in just a few or even one single manuscript. Otherwise, unknown material as well as important, perhaps older copies of remaining texts are forever lost. The recent discovery of Zoroastrian manuscripts in Armenia demonstrates how few copies may provide us with new evidence on several Avestan, Pahlavi and New Persian texts that are important for the history of Zoroastrianism. Few means a lot.



**About  
Professor  
Miguel Ángel  
Andrés-Toledo**



He is the FEZANA Professor of Zoroastrian Languages and Literatures at the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations of the University of Toronto. He has worked on ten international projects in the fields of Old and Middle Iranian languages and literatures, Zoroastrianism, and Indo-Iranian linguistics, like for instance the Avestan Digital Archive (University of Salamanca) or the Middle Persian Dictionary Project (Hebrew University of Jerusalem). His research interests mainly cover the Avestan and Pahlavi languages and literatures, with a specific focus on their written transmission and the Pahlavi translations and exegesis of Avestan texts. As the FEZANA Professor at the University of Toronto, he offers courses on Avestan, Old Persian, Middle Persian (Pahlavi), and Zoroastrian Literature of Ancient and Late Antique Iran.

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**Saturday, Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**10:30am – 11:00am Central Time- 20min talk, 10min questions**  
**Zoom Link- <http://bit.ly/SSZConf>**



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"The Structure of the Zoroastrian Month and Its Impact on Ritual Practices "

1. FORMAZD	2. BAHMAN	3. ARDIBEHESHT	4. SHABERDAD	5. MARDADSIYAN	6. BAYZAN
7. AMERESH	8. SHAMSHAD	9. MANSUR	10. KAMAR	11. SHAMSHAD	12. SHAMSHAD
13. SHAMSHAD	14. SHAMSHAD	15. SHAMSHAD	16. SHAMSHAD	17. SHAMSHAD	18. SHAMSHAD
19. SHAMSHAD	20. SHAMSHAD	21. SHAMSHAD	22. SHAMSHAD	23. SHAMSHAD	24. SHAMSHAD
25. SHAMSHAD	26. SHAMSHAD	27. SHAMSHAD	28. SHAMSHAD	29. SHAMSHAD	30. SHAMSHAD



**About  
Prof. Enrico  
Raffaelli**



Enrico Giuseppe Raffaelli did his undergraduate studies at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", specializing in Iranian studies, with a focus on Zoroastrianism and the languages of pre-Islamic Iran. He did his PhD studies on Zoroastrianism between 1999 and 2004 in conjunction between the University of Naples "l'Orientale" and the École Pratique des Hautes Études Section of Religious Sciences of Paris. He is the author of several publications on astrology in pre-Islamic Iran, and on pre-Islamic religious literature

Enrico G. Raffaelli's present areas of interest include the history of pre-Islamic Iranian literature, with a particular focus on the Avestan ritual texts, and on the Middle Persian texts of the Apocalyptic genre.

**Abstract of Presentation**

The Zoroastrian month is structured into 30 days, which are named after Ahura Mazda and different Zoroastrian *yazatas*, venerable entities with diverse attributes. The month is divided into four sections. Each of these sections is headed by a day in honor to Ahura Mazda, which emphasizes the supreme god's power. The Zoroastrian month received its structure centuries before the common era. The sequence of the entities after whom the days of the month were named is at the basis of several rituals that, for centuries, have been performed for different purposes (such as honoring the *yazatas*, or assisting the soul of the deceased).

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7. ANSHMANS	8. ZAVRINCHAB	9. ZAVR	10. ZAVRAN	11. KAPUSHABAN	12. ANSHMANS
13. ANSHMANS	14. GOSH	15. ZAVRINCHAB	16. ANSHMANS	17. ZAVRAN	18. ANSHMANS
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