



*The Society
for Hellenic-Iranian
Studies*

Academic Committee

BO UTAS

Biography



Professor emeritus **Bo Utas** is a scholar specialised on Persian culture and languages. Within this field he has studied Afghanistan for several decades, and in the 1960's and 1970's he traveled extensively in the country every year. He was a witness to the 1978 *coup d'état*, and over the years written many scholarly articles on Afghanistan in Swedish and International magazines such as the Afghanistan Journal, Acta Orientalia, Journal of Afghan Affairs, Orientaliska Studier, Internationella studier, Sydasiabulletinen, and Afghanistan-nytt. He has also taken part in several conferences on the situation in Afghanistan, such as the International Seminar on Social and Cultural Prospects for Afghanistan, held in Peshawar, Pakistan, 20–21 March 1990, and contributed with papers for several books. An article on “Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan”, appears in “*Islam outside the Arab world*”; and an article on “The Naqshbandiyya of Afghanistan on the eve of the 1978 coup d'état”, in “*Naqshbandis in Western and Central Asia. Change and continuity*” (both books published by Curzon Press, London, in 1999). Between 1999 and 2006, Prof. Utas collaborated in a research project run by the Department of Oriental Languages at Stockholm University (but with shared responsibility by several universities in Sweden). As part of a major comparative research project on “Literature and Literary History in Global Contexts” Bo Utas was a member of the Working group 2, focusing on “*Literary genres: an intercultural approach*”. The project was funded by the Swedish Research Council. In late 2006, the project finally materialised in a set of four volumes being published by Walter de Gruyter in Berlin & New York. In Volume No. 2, Prof. Utas has written an article titled “*Genres in Persian literature 900-1900*”.