Iranian Studies Group (ISG) Research Projects

Projects on Iran

Iranian Development Gateway

The Iranian Development Gateway is a clearinghouse for articles on different aspects of development in Iran. Currently there are over 400 articles on the Iranian economy, political system, development, Industry, civil society and legal system. See the Development Gateway at http://web.mit.edu/isg/gateway.htm

Iran Analysis Quarterly

The Iran Analysis Quarterly is an academic journal dealing with social, political, economic, cultural, and development issues of contemporary Iranian society, published every 3 months. As of January 2004, two issues have been published. The past issues of the Iran Analysis Quarterly can be viewed at http://web.mit.edu/isg/IAQSUMMER.pdf

Natural Disaster Management Strategies for Iran

In light of the recent deadly earthquake in Bam, the Iranian Studies Group has initiated a project on devising a framework for emergency management in Iran. Currently, an initial literature review of earthquake management literature is available on the ISG website.

Iran-U.S. relations and the Effect of Sanction on Iran

This project intends to explore the history and dynamics of Iran-U.S. relations in the past, present and the potentials for the future. The first article in the series has been published in the Iran Analysis Quarterly, and further research is underway.

Impact of the Internet on Iran

The Internet is changing the Iranian society in many different ways. Currently, we are planning to organize a conference on how Internet has affected the exchange of ideas among Iranians. We are planning to invite a number of Iranian and non-Iranian bloggers and columnists to this conference.

Returning to Iran: Challenges and Potentials

Few Iranians who came to the U.S. for graduate studies or immigrated have returned to Iran in recent years. A host of political, social and economic challenges await anyone who thinks about the idea. This project deals with interviewing those few who did return, and were successful in creating change, in order to understand what approaches have worked in the context of Iran.
Projects on Iranian-Americans

Iranian-American Civic Participation Project

The Iranian-American Civic Participation Project is an effort to explore different ways in which the Iranian-American community can be engaged in the American political life, both by higher voter turnouts, as well as through campaign donations to those candidates who care about Iranian-American community issues.

An Opinion Survey of Iranian-American Community

The main purpose of this survey is to get an understanding about the major concerns of the Iranian American community. Social, political, and cultural issues will be included in the survey. Two approaches have been briefly discussed for this purpose. One approach is to conduct a phone call survey using the methods currently applied in media polls in finding enough samples and analyzing the results after that. The other way is to develop questionnaires and to send them to individuals and ask them to send us back their responses.

Iranian-American Census Project

This project aims at estimating the number of Iranian Americans through a novel approach. In this project, we aim at calculating a more reliable estimate of the number of Iranian-Americans, by conducting searches of Iranian family names on the database of the U.S. white pages. Comparing the frequency of a family name in the U.S. vs. that frequency in database of Iranian names with a known total population (e.g. entrance exam of universities in Iran online database), we can get an estimate of Iranian population in the U.S. Repeating this process for a large number of family names we can improve this index and come up with statistically reliable estimates.

Survey of Iranian-American academics

We are undertaking an extensive survey of Iranian-Americans and Iranians in academia. This can help in identifying the contribution of Iranians to the scientific research in America as well as creating a database for facilitating scientific cooperation among Iranian scientists. It also will show the distribution of Iranians in different fields of research. We are using automated web searches for Iranian names in websites of educational institutions.

Presenting Iran: Challenging Stereotypes

Many of us have come to situations where we liked to give a presentation on Iranian culture, politics, history, or some other aspect, but lacked the time or expertise to put together a good presentation on time. The Presenting Iran project aims at creating a website where several template presentations with informative and well-designed slides would be provided. This can be open source project allowing users contribute new slides and presentations.