

# Farnaz Faraji

Interdisciplinary Researcher in Heritage, Landscapes and Built Environment

Email: [Farnaz.faraji96@gmail.com](mailto:Farnaz.faraji96@gmail.com)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/farnaz-faraji](https://www.linkedin.com/in/farnaz-faraji)

ORCID: [0000-0003-0342-3845](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0342-3845)

Note: Everything in this colour is a link

## Summary

Interdisciplinary researcher specialising in landscape and heritage studies, with a focus on how cultural and environmental knowledge of landscapes is produced, interpreted, and translated into heritage policy and planning. My work combines spatial analysis (GIS, PPGIS) with qualitative and archival approaches to examine landscape change, heritage narratives, and governance, particularly in the Middle East and European contexts. I have experience working across research and practice, including policy-oriented projects, and contribute to debates in landscape archaeology, critical heritage studies, and the role of research in shaping sustainability and heritage policy.

## Education

Jan 2022

Nov 2025

**PhD in History and Heritage of Cultural Landscapes and Urban Environments**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA), Amsterdam, Netherlands.

**Thesis Title: Walking, Mapping, Belonging: Iranian Immigrants' Landscape Perception in Manchester**

(Supervisory team: Prof. Gert-Jan Burgers, Dr. Niels van Manen, Dr. Francesco Carrer)

**Highlights:** This interdisciplinary research examines how landscape meanings and heritage narratives are constructed and negotiated within urban environments, with a focus on how these interpretations can inform planning and heritage policy. Using participatory GIS (PPGIS), mobile ethnography, and spatial analysis, the project develops methods for integrating lived experience into landscape assessment and decision-making frameworks.

The research engages with debates in critical heritage studies, landscape archaeology (particularly Historic Landscape Characterisation), and the role of landscape knowledge in planning and policy contexts.

Sep 2016

Jan 2019

**Master of Arts, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Urban Heritage**, College of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Iran.

**Dissertation Title:** Heritage Conservation strategy and Policy to Preserve the Historic Rural Landscape of Ushtabin Village, Azerbaijan Province, Iran

**Highlights:** Developed heritage conservation strategies for a historic rural cultural landscape, integrating historical mapping, landscape assessment approaches, and policy-oriented planning frameworks. (Landscape Assessment Approaches used in particular)

Sep 2011

Jun 2015

**Bachelor of Science, Architecture**, University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran.

## Publications

- Faraji, F., Fadaei Nezhad, S. (2026). *Landscape Characterisation in Non-European Contexts: Firuzabad Archaeological landscape in Iran*. Landscape Archaeology Conference in Otto-Friedrich-University Bamberg Germany.
- Ducci, M., Faraji, F., & Swiderski, M. (2026). *Seeking Inclusivity with PPGIS: Lessons Learned from Three Heritage-themed Case Studies Across Europe*. In: A Research Agenda for Participatory Mapping and PPGIS. Edward Elgar.
- Faraji, F., van Manen, N., Carrer, F., & Burgers, G. (Accepted). *Remapping Belonging: Integrating Immigrant Perceptions into Historic Landscape Characterisation through PPGIS*. Landscape Research.
- Moradi, S., Faraji, F., Fadaei Nezhad, S. (2023). *Development of the Planning Framework of the Conservation for World Heritage Site of Maymand Cultural Landscape*. Culture of Islamic Architecture and Urbanism Journal. Volume, 8. Issue, 2. DOI: [10.52547/ciauj.8.2.501](https://doi.org/10.52547/ciauj.8.2.501)
- Faraji, F. (2023). *Belongingness in the in-between fields: Migrants' Perception of English Urban Landscapes; Case Study of Newcastle Upon Tyne*. History & Heritage, AMPS Prague Conference. Online Presentation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2u1fJ0pO1A>
- Salari, M. H., Shayegan, M. A., Faraji, F. (2023). *Automatic Localization of Caravanserais in Satellite Images using Image processing Techniques based on Deep Learning*. Journal of Circuits, Data and System Analysis. <https://sanad.iau.ir/fa/Article/848525>

## Grants and Funding

2021–2024

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Fellowship (Horizon 2020); Cultural Heritage and the Planning of European Landscapes (HERILAND)**

Doctoral researcher within the EU-funded HERILAND network (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions).

- Conducted research on landscape and heritage policy in Cyprus within the *Shifting Identities and Contested Identities* work package.
- Developed comparative insights into Eastern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern landscapes, including case-based work on Palestinian landscapes (Lifta, Jerusalem).
- Engaged with historical and theoretical approaches to landscape archaeology, including the development of landscape knowledge and its role in heritage governance.

Contributed to interdisciplinary research on how heritage and landscape research informs policy and planning frameworks.

## Work Experience

Jun 2024  
Jun 2025

**Heritage & Engagement Officer**, Tyne Derwent Way Project. Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK.

**Highlight:** Designing and delivering community engagement programmes exploring local heritage and landscape narratives; Organising participatory workshops with local communities and youth groups to foster dialogue around heritage and place; Producing heritage interpretation materials, including podcasts and public exhibitions; Coordinating heritage outreach activities and reporting project outcomes to institutional partners; Contributed to the translation of community-based heritage research into public-facing outputs and stakeholder engagement, informing heritage interpretation and local decision-making.

Jun 2021  
Jun 2024

**Research Assistant**, School of History, Classics and Archeology. Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK.

**Highlight:** Conducted independent and collaborative research within an interdisciplinary heritage project.; Presented research findings at international workshops, seminars and conferences; Assisted in organising international masterclasses on digital heritage, democratisation and shifting identities; Prepared periodic research reports for EU-funded projects and partner institutions; Supported publication development and identification of research funding opportunities; Contributed to interdisciplinary research examining heritage, identity, and policy, including preparation of reports for EU-funded projects and institutional partners.

Jan 2020  
Aug 2021

**Teaching Assistant**, College of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Iran.

**Highlight:** Teaching modules for Bachelors and Masters: Research Methodology, Urban Heritage Pathologies, Conservation Design for Historic Sites and Monuments, Adaptive Reuse Strategies; Supervising Masters Dissertations.

Jul 2019  
Aug 2020

**Research Assistant**, Mapping the Architectural Industrial Heritage. University of Tehran and the Renewal Organisation of Tehran Municipality, Tehran, Iran.

**Highlight:** Acquired, structured and managed large spatial and archival datasets using ArcGIS and Web GIS platforms; Converted and integrated analogue and legacy datasets into digital GIS environments; Designed a web-based GIS platform to support long-term access, updating and stakeholder use; Worked with municipal and institutional partners to align data structures with planning and heritage needs.

May 2019  
July 2020

**Project Co-manager** Heritage & Urban Conservation. Renovation office in Tehran Municipality, Tehran, Iran.

**Highlights:** Desk-based assessment of the Lalehzar street, in Tehran city centre to prepare for heritage conservation and restoration planning including project and staff management; Contributed to heritage policy and planning frameworks; Linked research to urban governance and decision-making; Preparing periodical reports of the work progress; Preparing the conservation plans as a part of the urban and architectural heritage conservationists.

January 2019  
January 2020

**Urban Heritage Conservation Consultant**, Paramadan architectural and urban planning Co.

**Highlights:** Desk-based assessment of the heritage and touristic destinations in Tehran (all municipalities); Review and proposal of tourism-funding opportunities for eligible sites and urban heritage-led regeneration plans.

## Research Methods and Technical Skills

Key Skills

GIS Pro, QGIS, Web GIS, Web Design (WordPress), Participatory Mapping and Community Engagement Platforms (Maptionnaire, CommonPlace), Adobe Graphics (Photoshop, In Design), Microsoft ICDL,

**Soft Skills**

Qualitative and quantitative research methods, Spatial storytelling and narrative mapping, Analytical Interpretation, Time and Budget Management, Team Organisation and Teamwork, Policy and Strategy Management, Data Management and Research Plan, Archival research and historical analysis.