

# Farnaz (Naz) Faraji

Heritage, Landscape and Mapping Researcher

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Note: Everything in this colour is a link

## Summary

Interdisciplinary researcher specialising in landscape planning, cultural heritage and advanced GIS, with strong experience in archival research, spatial data management and narrative mapping. Skilled in ArcGIS Pro, Web GIS and participatory mapping, with a proven ability to integrate spatial analysis, archival materials and storytelling into public-facing digital outputs. My work integrates GIS-based methods such as PPGIS, remote sensing, as well as qualitative and experience-based methods in the built heritage environment, including cultural and urban landscapes in international contexts. My research interests are focused on critical studies such as critical heritage studies, landscapes of conflict and socio-spatial justice, and I am flexible to contribute to interdisciplinary projects.

## Education

Jan 2022

**PhD in History of Architecture and the Living Environment / Heritage Studies**

March 2026

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA), Amsterdam, Netherlands.

MSCA [Heriland, Cultural Heritage and the Planning of European Landscapes](#) project.

**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:** Using Participatory Research Action, a mixed research methodology combined of three phases (Walking interview, online questionnaire, PPGIS based mapping) was used. The collected data were analysed using thematic analysis, Data Spatial Analysis (e.g., Hotspot analysis). This interdisciplinary research studied the intersection among landscapes, immigrants' heritage-making and public participatory methods.

Sep 2016

**Master of Arts, Conservation and Preservation of Urban Heritage**

Jan 2019

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:** Used historic and current mapping databases to propose a strategy and policy regulations to preserve the rural landscape based on community engagement (Landscape Assessment Approaches used as focused)

Sep 2011

**Bachelor of Science, Architecture**

Jun 2015

University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran.

**Final project:** Architectural Design of a High School for Disabled Girls in Tabriz, Iran.

**Highlights:** Considering the disabled teenager girls' requirements and needs based on their health data in an urban context to provide better infrastructures for their well-being and safety.

## Publications

- Ducci, M., **Faraji, F.**, & Swiderski, M. J. (2026). Seeking Inclusivity with PPGIS: Lessons Learned from Three Heritage-themed Case studies Across Europe. In McCall, M. K., Alvarez Larrain, A., Azong Cho, M., & Panek, J (Eds.), In A Research Agenda for Participatory Mapping and PPGIS: Mapping with People. Edward Elgar Research Agenda Series.
- **Faraji, F.** van Manen, N., Carrer, F., & Burgers, G. [*Accepted*]. Remapping belonging: Integrating Immigrant perceptions into Historic Landscape Characterisation through PPGIS. Landscape Research.
- **Faraji, F.** van Manen, N., & Burgers, G. [*Under Review*]. Walking Memoryscapes: Using mobile qualitative methods to capture Iranian immigrants' landscape perception in Manchester. Heritage & Society.
- Salari, MH., Shayegan, MA., & **Faraji, F.** (2024). Automatic Location of Caravanserais in Satellite Images Using Image Processing Techniques Based on Deep Learning. Journal of Circuits, Data and System Analysis (JCDSA)
- 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)

## Grants and Funding

Jun 2021  
Jun 2024 **Cultural Heritage and the Planning of European Landscapes (Heriland)** funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant, No 813883. Worked as ESR in the Work Package 4: shifting Demographics and Contested Identities. [Website: Heriland.eu](http://Website: Heriland.eu)

## 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 activities to engage local communities, especially youth groups to participate in the urban projects. Podcast production and heritage interpretation (Tyne Derwent Way) Organising workshops for schools, curating a photography exhibition, Reporting and programming financial and events.

Jun 2021  
Jun 2024 **Research Assistant**, School of History, Classics and Archeology. Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK.

**Highlight:** Conducting independent research, Presenting the original findings and outcomes in international seminars, conferences, and workshops, Organising and managing Masterclasses (Digital Transformations, Democratisation, Shifting Identities), Periodic Reports to EU and Universities, Publication in high-record journals, identifying funding opportunities.

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. /Contributing to the conservation and rehabilitation planning of the street and the vicinity neighbourhood. / 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

## Skills

**Key Skills** GIS Pro (including Open Street Map), QGIS, Web GIS, Web Design (WordPress), Participatory Mapping and Community Engagement Platforms (Maptionnaire, CommonPlace), Adobe Graphics (Photoshop, In Design), Microsoft ICDL,

**Programming** Paython, SQL and PostgreSQL.

**AI & ML** PyTorch, Pandas, NumPy.

**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, Community-focused digital engagement.