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## ACLA 2023 Charles Bernheimer Prize: Honorable Mention

### Committee:

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Jonathan Culler (Cornell)

**Ahmad Nadalizadeh**, for the dissertation “Repetition Beyond Representation: Media, History and Event in Iran, 1951-1990” (University of Oregon)

Ahmad Nadalizadeh’s “Repetition Beyond Representation: Media, History and Event in Iran, 1951-1990” brilliantly considers the limits of representation and the political possibilities of aesthetic remediation. Rejecting accounts that tie modernity to Westernization as well as those that frame modern Iranian history as a response to Western imperialism, Nadalizadeh offers an alternate historiography of modern Iran as non-linear, durational, and interstitial. Through his precise readings of aesthetic works (including the poetry of Mehdi Akhavan-Sales, the fiction of Mahmoud Dowlatabadi, and the films of Abbas Kiarostami’s) which connect them to the 1953 coup, the 1979 revolution, and the 1990 earthquake, he persuasively traces an aesthetics of repetition that capitalizes upon the unexpected. Nadalizadeh’s analysis moves adeptly between literary criticism, visual culture, film studies, and postcolonial studies, charting a productive path towards what he calls “a poetics of an interstitial historiography.”