The cities of Central Asia, stretching from the borders of China in the east all the way to the Caspian Sea, are often considered and studied as mere stations on a trade route, existing to provide services and their existence depending on the trade itself. This assumption is often so central to the study of pre-modern world history that it is taken as fact. In reality, this view leads to serious shortcomings in the history of this vast region. The present talk, based on the author’s forthcoming book Creating the Silk Road: Travel, Trade and Myth-Making, will aim to provide a new paradigm for the history of Central Asia and the importance of non-commercial economic activities in the region prior to the 18th century.

East Iran in Antiquity: Silk Road and Central Asia outside the Paradigm of Eurasian Trade

Dr. Khodadad Rezakhani, Associate Research Scholar, Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University

November 9, 2016
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
Green Hall, room 1-N-5

Light Lunch Served.
RSVP required to iran@princeton.edu

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