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Framing the conquest: Bactrian local rulers and Arab muslim domination of Bactria (31-128 AH/651-746 CE)

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Curriculum Vitae

Said Reza Huseini was born on January 6, 1981. He grew up in Balkh, a multicultural region in modern Afghanistan, where he obtained a traditional education at home in Persian and Arabic, learned the art of calligraphy and the skill to read manuscripts and inscriptions written in *kufi*, *naskh*, *thulth*, and *nasta'liq* hands. His education was cut short by war, which forced him to become a refugee in Iran. After returning to Afghanistan, he worked as a calligrapher in Mazar-e-Sharif before joining the Ministry of Culture as a librarian and a museum curator. He assisted a French archaeological team and led the effort to preserve the shrine of Khwaja Parsa from destruction caused by a road project. In 2009, he received admission to Jawaharlal Nehru University, where he completed his BA, MA and first year of MPhil in Persian and history of medieval and early modern India. In 2015, he received an Encompass Scholarship at Leiden University, completed a BA and MA, and wrote a thesis on the famous but understudied *Millennial History* (*Tarikh-i Alfi*) commissioned by the Mughal emperor Akbar (r. 1556–1605). From 2017 to 2023, he pursued his PhD on Arab Muslim conquests of Bactria within the ERC project “Embedding Conquest: Naturalising Muslim Rule in the Early Islamic Empire (600–1000)” under the supervision of Prof. Petra Sijpesteijn and Dr. Edmund Hayes. His research on Bactria is based on an analysis of documentary and literary sources in Persian, Middle Persian, Bactrian, Sogdian, Arabic, and Chinese. In 2021, he joined the Silk Roads Programme at King’s College, University of Cambridge. He works on a monograph entitled *The Mongols in Persian Discourse: Continuity and Changes 1252–1582*. It explores various Persian sources to explain how the Persian historians created a new identity for the Mongols.