

Conference Report

I am writing to submit my final report for the CIPL Travel Grant (Spring Round 2025) following my participation in the Fourth North American Conference on Iranian Linguistics (NACIL 4), held at the University of Toronto, Mississauga, from May 22 to 25, 2025.

At the conference, I presented a poster titled "*Exploring Persian Intonation Through Rhetorical Wh-Questions: Monosyllabic vs. Polysyllabic Wh-Phrases*" based on my MA thesis research. My study focused on the prosodic patterns of rhetorical questions in Persian, drawing on data from native speakers and a phonetic/phonological analysis using Praat and RStudio.

During the conference, I received valuable feedback from several scholars specializing in Iranian linguistics, prosody, and syntax. Many attendees showed particular interest in my focus on the interaction between intonation and speaker stance in rhetorical questions, offering suggestions for follow-up experiments and potential collaborations. I also attended several talks and poster sessions on Persian syntax, semantics, and phonology, all of which are closely aligned with the research directions I intend to pursue during my PhD.

This opportunity played a valuable role in my academic development. It allowed me gain confidence in presenting my research, receive critical input, and expand my network within the field.

Due to an unexpected delay in receiving my Canadian visa, I was unable to travel to Toronto. However, I was still able to participate fully in the NACIL 4 conference virtually. I presented my poster online, attended multiple sessions remotely, and engaged with other researchers through virtual channels provided by the organizers. Despite the format change, the experience was academically enriching and aligned with the purpose of the CIPL grant.

Thank you again for your generous support.

*Sincerely,
Najmeh Mottaghipisheh*