Table of Contents

A Note on Translation, Transliteration and Footnotes	9
Acknowledgments	11
Introduction	13
A Historical-Cultural Context	16
Parvīn Iºtiṣāmī's Life	18
Parvīn Ictiṣāmī's Poetry	20
Literature Review	20
Research on Parvīn Iºtiṣāmī outside Iran	20
Studying Parvīn Ictiṣāmī in Iran	31
Gaps in Previous Studies	34
Research Question	37
Conceptual Framework and Methodology	38
Organisation of Chapters	41
Chapter One. The Conundrum of Parvīn Iºtiṣāmī's Authorship	45
Iranian-Muslim Gender Norms	48
Writing and Publishing: Acts of Transgression	51
The Obligations of Femininity	58
As Feminine As a 'Woman'	62
Transgressing Gender Norms	64
Conclusion	66
Chapter Two. Munāẓara: Parvīn Iºtiṣāmī's Mirror of Transgressive	
Innovations	69
Persian munāzara: A Historical Background	72
Asadī's Munāzaras: A Brief Survey	75
An Introduction to Parvīn's Munāzaras	78
Parvīn's Religiosity	80
'God's Weaver': An Investigation	88
Conclusion	117

Chapter Three. Parvīn Iºtiṣāmī's Socio-political Engagement	121
Introduction	121
Socio-political Backdrop of Parvīn's Life	122
Constitutional Revolution (1905–1911)	122
Re-establishment of Monarchy: The Pahlavi Regime	123
Introduction of Socio-political Themes into Persian Poetry	124
Socio-political Themes in Parvīn's Poetry: A Backdrop	127
Female Emancipation	130
'Sapling of Hope'	130
'Women in Iran'	135
Social Justice	141
'O Labourer!'	141
'Debate'	148
Criticism of the State	153
'Thief and Judge'	153
'Drunk and Sober'	159
A Mystical Interpretation	163
Socio-political Implications	170
Conclusion	172

Chapter Four. Parvīn I^ctiṣāmī's Reception History: From Patronisation

to School Curricula	175
Why is Parvīn Ictiṣāmī Still Popular?	175
A Reception History of Parvīn's Mystic-didactic Poetry	178
Classical Persian Poetry in School Curricula	182
Parvīn's Poetry in School Curricula	187
Lutf-i ḥaqq ('God's Grace')	188
Saʿī-yu ʿamal ('Endeavour and Action')	191
Dirakht-i bī-bar ('Fruitless Tree')	194
Ārizū-yi parvāz ('Longing to Fly')	196
Surūd-i khārkan ('Thistle-collector's Song')	199
Mast-u hushyār ('Drunk and Sober')	201
Conclusion	204
Chapter Five. Parvīn's Poetry in Service of Contemporary Politics	207
Ali Khamenei, Engrossed by Parvīn Ictiṣāmī	208
Conclusion	216
Epilogue	219

Appendix	225
Notes	239
Bibliography	263
Primary Sources	263
Secondary Sources	265
Index	275