



26 JUNE 2025

Letter of Recommendation

DEPARTMENT OF CROSS-CULTURAL
AND REGIONAL STUDIES
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

To whom it may concern

EMAIL: elling@hum.ku.dk

I have the distinct pleasure of working together with Dr. Ehsan Kashfi as a postdoctoral researcher on a broader research project led by myself at the University of Copenhagen. The project *Iran Beyond Iran: Diasporic Politics, Transnational Entanglement and Digital Publics* is funded by a prestigious grant from the Independent Research Fund of Denmark, and I was lucky to attract Dr. Kashfi for one of two postdoctoral positions right after Dr. Kashfi had finished his very interesting and important PhD dissertation in Political Science at the University of Alberta, Canada. Apart from the PhD, Dr. Kashfi had previously obtained an MA in International Relations at Durham University, UK. A PhD project, which Dr. Kashfi should turn into a monograph.

Dr. Kashfi is currently working on crucial, understudied aspects of Iranian diaspora politics. His first subproject dealt with the politics surrounding the Iranian national team's participation in the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The second subproject deals with the Azeri-Iranian diaspora's political activities in Canada, raising interesting questions of ethnic and national identity in a transnational setting. The third subproject will deal with Iranian right-wing nationalism in the diaspora in Europe and North America.

In this capacity as my fellow researcher, Dr. Kashfi has consistently demonstrated his excellence in research. He is meticulous, critical in the true sense of the word, and constantly pushing the boundaries for thinking with the tools of political science, sociology and even anthropology in pursuit of a deeper understanding of Iranian history in its broadest sense. I am

impressed by his ability to place himself and his research at the global forefront of Iranian Studies, and his willingness to engage with some of the thornier issues of identity politics, nationalism and diasporic relations. His sharp insights, scrutiny, discipline, and pleasant, humble attitude makes him one of our most cherished colleagues here at the Iranian Studies section of the University of Copenhagen.

As an established scholar within my own field, I can testify to Dr. Kashfi's excellence and capabilities. I believe that an Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Fellowship from University of Toronto will allow Dr. Kashfi to return to his dissertation and turn it into a monograph based on important and timely research on the Islamic Republic of Iran and its politics of identity, while also developing his own career significantly. Dr. Kashfi's valuable work and output during his position as postdoc here at the University of Copenhagen makes me confident that an Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Fellowship will help him contribute significantly to Iranian Studies.

To summarize, I fully support Dr. Kashfi in his endeavour to obtain this fellowship and hope that you will too. Please do contact me for any questions or elaboration.

Many thanks and best regards,

Rasmus Christian Elling (PhD, Associate Professor of Iranian Studies)
PI, *Iran Beyond Iran*
Head of Middle East Studies Unit
University of Copenhagen