

August 14, 2024

Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies Committee  
Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies  
Faculty of Arts & Sciences  
University of Toronto  
4 Bancroft Avenue  
Toronto, ON M5S 1C1

Dear Members of the Fellowship Committee:

I am pleased to submit this letter supporting the application of Dr. Hoda Nedaeifar for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies. I have known Hoda since 2021, when she served as a graduate research intern at the Aga Khan Museum, focusing on our collection of Persian-language calligraphic specimens.

As a graduate intern, Hoda played an instrumental role in the Museum's on-going research into its approximately 150 examples of calligraphic art on paper. For the Persian-language material, which spans the sixteenth to early twentieth century, Hoda helped identify the sources of the texts and the artists who executed the specimens; transcribed and translated the fragments; and classified the works according to their material and artistic properties. She also established keywords for each specimen. The result is a thorough and easily searchable preliminary database, which the curators regularly consult when preparing the Museum's semi-annual works-on-paper rotations as well as major special exhibitions.

As her supervisor, I was repeatedly impressed by Hoda's professionalism and assiduousness. Even though the internship ran concurrently with the final months of her dissertation writing, she delivered key portions of the calligraphy project on time and at a high level of quality. Her meticulous approach has been widely noted internally, including by the Museum's Director and CEO. These traits position her as an exceptional candidate for a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute and will continue to serve her well as an emerging scholar with a growing record of publication.

I hope this brief letter helps to favorably guide your consideration of Dr. Hoda Nedaeifar's application.

With regards,



Michael Chagnon, Ph.D.  
Curator