



12 August 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter as an endorsement and academic reference for Mitra Shamsi who is applying for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies. I have known Mitra since 2016 in my capacity as Assistant Professor at the Department of Communication Studies, University of Tehran. I also know Mitra's work as her PhD internal examiner. Her PhD project addresses the relationship between digital media, political activism and feminist discourses. It examines the ways in which social media platforms are being used to bring women's causes and gender issues into the country's public sphere. In so doing, she argues that Iranian women's activism on digital platforms is enabled but also limited by local and global power relations.

Mitra's work testifies to her laudable effort at pursuing the main theme of her thesis and discussing it with admirable depth. Employing Discursive Theory, Mitra investigates how women's issues and demands are framed in a popular feminism language adopted by Iranian feminist activists, particularly those in the diaspora which, compared to other feminist discourses manifested in Iranian social media, gain more visibility and popularity.

I have no doubt that Mitra is perfectly able to engage in your postdoctoral fellowship. She is a committed and promising researcher and I hope she will be able to follow her interests in media, gender and digital activism in line with her passion for political communication in the Middle East. Mitra enjoys a high level of erudition coupled with an amiable personality and a polite manner.

I strongly support Mitra's application. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Yours sincerely,

*Ehsan Shahghasemi*

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