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Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this reference at the request of Dr. Sima Hassandokht Firooz. I have known Sima since she was working on her dissertation in 2018, and asked me to be her advisor. As a transdisciplinary researcher, she needed to improve her knowledge in history of Iran and she presented in my classes, among them Contemporary History of Iran and Social History courses. It was a tough way for Sima but she tried hard to get familiar with different approaches to history and reference books and important documents related to her project.

Her Ph.D. dissertation entitled “The Study of Lexical Field of ‘Foroudastan’ (the Subalterns) in the Socio-Political Sphere of Contemporary Iran” is an innovative work both in her own major, linguistics, and in the history of modern Iran. By using her knowledge in semantics and critical discourse analysis and by applying Reinhart Koselleck’s history of concepts, she could explain the interplay of language and ideology and its consequences in our society.

I found her an independent diligent researcher with openness to new areas of knowledge and eagerness to learn, and I think Sima’s dissertation really worth to be improved and get published, so I strongly recommend her for your advertised position.

Sincerely,
Mohammad Ali Akbari
Professor of History
Shahid Beheshti University, Iran