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Re: Reference for Sima Hassandokht Firooz

Dear Sir or Madam,

This reference letter is provided at the request of Dr. Sima Hassandokht Firooz. I have known Sima since she requested that I act as the supervisor for her doctorate thesis in 2018. From the very first session, I was impressed by Sima's exemplary enthusiasm for her research project. During her relentless work on her thesis in the past three years, Sima worked her way through the theoretical framework, data collection, and the analysis of the data in a very professional manner. She finally completed her thesis with excellent mark before a jury of seven eminent sociologists, linguists, historians, and critical theorists in 2021.

Sima's thesis entitled, "The Study of Lexical Field of "Foroudastan" (the Subalterns) in the Socio-Political Sphere of Contemporary Iran," is a very significant study since the term "foroudast," has been a recurrent catchphrase in social discourse for more than a century. Therefore, studying how this term adopts different significations could be a key to understanding various ideological movements in the past one hundred years. I would argue that this thesis is a crucial leap in outlining a cultural history of contemporary Iran since it takes an innovative approach towards the subject, that is, a "history of concepts" from a linguistic and discourse analysis perspective.

Sima is a talented and diligent person with a strong sense of humour on a more personal level. She has great enthusiasm for learning, a high curiosity in humanities and arts, and good competence in using English for her research purposes.

I wholeheartedly nominate and recommend Sima for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies, as I think it will provide a unique opportunity for this promising young scholar.

Yours faithfully,

Amir Ali Nojournian

Ph.D. in English from University of Leicester, UK
Associate Professor of English Literature and Critical Theory
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