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LEUVEN	11 August 2022

— **Reference letter for Mojgan Osmani**

Dear prof. Kahnemuyipour,

— With this letter I would like to express my very strong support for Mojgan Osmani's application for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies for 2022-2023 at the University of Toronto. Ms. Osmani is an ambitious, dedicated, and hard-working linguist, and I think she would be an asset for the University of Toronto as a postdoctoral researcher.

Mojgan Osmani was a visiting PhD-student at my university (KU Leuven) in the academic year 2017–2018. During that stay I have come to know her as a researcher who is extremely dedicated to linguistics and has great scientific integrity. Mojgan works on Sanandaji Kurdish, a largely understudied variety of Kurdish—itself a language that has not received a lot of attention in the linguistic literature—and she has a definite knack for detecting and exploring interesting empirical patterns in that language, as well as clearly and convincingly laying out the theoretical relevance and implications of those facts. The central topic she was working on during her research stay in Belgium was the placement of subject clitics and their potential to serve as diagnostics for detecting the clause-internal phase edge. This work has materialized in a paper that she presented at the 2020 meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE). It bears perfect witness to the two properties outlined above: on the one hand, it meticulously describes both the morphological and the distributional properties of Sanandaji Kurdish subject clitics, and on the other hand, it uses those facts to probe an issue that is central to much current theorizing on phases, namely the precise size and identification of the clause-internal phase. Contrary to the standard Chomskyan view, Mojgan argues—convincingly in my view— that the clause-internal phase is—or at least can be—larger than vP, and can extend up to the low Belletian Focus Phrase. It is this combination of empirical precision and solid theoretical reasoning that makes Mojgan Osmani an excellent linguist in my opinion. Moreover, her work on subject clitics has recently inspired her to look at differential argument marking and verbal semantics, in a paper she is presenting at this year's SLE-meeting. Knowing Mojgan, I'm sure this will lead to an equally insightful and interesting publication.

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In addition to being a successful and dedicated researcher, Mojgan has also built up substantial teaching experience over the years. Since 2007 she has taught courses at various universities, oftentimes next to and in combination with studying for her BA or MA or working on her PhD-dissertation. In addition, she has obtained a Qualified Teacher Certificate from Tarbiat Modares University in Tehran. The fact that she was able to combine academic research at a high level with a sizeable teaching load bears testament to her ambition and commitment.

Summing up, Mojgan Osmani's impressive research and teaching record leaves me with no reservations whatsoever in strongly supporting her application for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies for 2022-2023 at the University of Toronto.

Kindest regards

Jeroen van Craenenbroeck