AZADEH MOMENI Seprember 13, 2023

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Dear Members of the Hiring Committee,

It is with great interest that I am writing to apply for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto. I hold a Ph.D. in Political Science from Carleton University. My areas of expertise include International Relations, Foreign Policy Analysis, Middle East Politics, Women’s Studies, and Quantitative Methods.

I have some ten years of experience as a lecturer and teaching assistant. I also have extensive experience collaborating with UN agencies including UNICEF and UNODC, as well as NGOs such as Amnesty International and Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML).

My multi-disciplinary approach to the dynamics of transition in Iran, which I am proposing as the focus of my application for a post-doctoral fellowship in Iranian Studies has already attracted considerable attention.

As a political science scholar and artist, I have explored the intersection of art and politics, conducting comparative studies on the roles of painting and poetry within the American Women’s Suffrage movement and the Iranian “Woman, Life, Freedom”. Part of this new project was presented at the King Fahad Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Arkansas on February 22, 2023, in response to their invitation.

I painted a work entitled “HOPE”, which aims to portray that, despite all the difficulties the current movement is facing, Iranians are keeping alive their hope of a transition to a democracy in which their fundamental human rights will be respected. On March 8, 2023, I was invited to Toronto Metropolitan University to talk about the “Woman, Life, Freedom Movement”, where my painting was exhibited.

The Association of Young International Criminal Lawyers has shared my painting on social media to make the International Community aware of the current situation in Iran. The same Association invited me to speak, on March 26, 2023, at “A Multi-Disciplinary Discussion on the Iranian Revolution”. Additionally, I was invited by Tirgan to talk about “State, Elite, and Sovereignty in Modern Iran”, which took place in Toronto, on July 22, 2023.

I believe my professional and academic background, my skillsets, and my innovative proposed research area make me a strong candidate for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto.

Thank you for your consideration,

Azadeh Momeni