



## PEGAH BEHROOZI NOBAR

*PhD graduate in Urban Studies*

Urban studies researcher and activist with expertise in socio-spatial justice and housing for vulnerable groups. Proven track record in managing large-scale research projects, academic teaching, public speaking, academic and public writing, coordinating multi-stakeholder collaborations, and mobilizing knowledge through public engagement, policy advocacy, and strategic planning.

### Contact:

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## EDUCATION

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**2019 - 2025**

### **Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Studies**

**University of British Columbia Okanagan**

**Ph.D. Thesis:** *Self-built settlements in Iran as an Alternative to Social Housing: Urban Poor Housing Strategies & the State's Role in the Expropriation of Informal Spaces - a Case Study of ZoorAbad, Karaj.*

**Coursework:** Urban Rural & Regional Dynamics, Research Methodology, Professional Seminar, Critical Social Theory (DePaul), Cultural Analysis (DePaul)

**Comprehensive Areas:** Critical Theories of Housing; Urban Housing Movements; Research Methodology on Housing (Completed, May 2022)

**Supervisors:** Dr. Nathan Lauster, Dr. Kaveh Ehsani (committee member), Dr. Carlos Teixeira (Committee member)

**2014 - 2017**

### **Master's in Urban and Regional Planning**

**Heriot-Watt University Scotland**

**Dissertation:** *Strategic Spatial Planning as a Response to Rural Underdevelopment in Qazvin-Iran*

**Coursework:** Sustainable Design and Development, Spatial Planning, Governance Participation and Community Planning, Planning Theories, Climate Change Sustainability and adaptation, Environmental Planning, Social Sustainability, Strategic Spatial Vision Project

**2006-2011**

### **Bachelor of Architecture**

**Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE) Iran**

**Degree Project:** *Planning and Designing a Rural Complex in Iran*

**Coursework:** Urban Planning, Urban Design, Research Methods, Sociology

## AWARDS

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**2025:** Special University Graduate Award – University of British Columbia – \$10,000

**2024:** Graduate Research Scholarships – University of British Columbia – \$7,376

**2023:** Vienna International Summer School on New Social Housing – €500

**2023:** Graduate Travel Grant – University of British Columbia – \$1,500

**2023:** Graduate Research Scholarships – University of British Columbia – \$9,333

**2021:** University Graduate Fellowship – University of British Columbia – \$6500

**2021:** UBC Okanagan Graduate Award – University of British Columbia – \$4,667

**2021:** Doctoral Partial Tuition Award – University of British Columbia – \$2,622

**2020:** University Graduate Fellowship – University of British Columbia – \$6,500

## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT.

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**2019 Sep – May 2025**

### **Teaching Assistant**

**University of British Columbia Okanagan**

Courses taught:

*Indigenous Perspectives & English Writing*

*Human Geography*

*Sociology*

- Graded assignments, provided feedback, prepared tutorial materials, delivered lectures, facilitated learning by leading discussions.

**2023 Jun – May 2024**

### **Consultant**

**Baha'i International Community Geneva**

Supervisor: Dr. Saba Haddad

- Conducted research, analyzed data, prepared reports, drafted UN statements.

**2012 - Present**

### **Instructor**

**Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE) Iran**

Courses taught:

*Urbanization and Marginalization* (2020 – Present);

*Research Methodology in Architecture* (2018 – Present);

*Development of Rural Space* (2012 – 2023)

- Designed syllabi, delivered lectures, created collaborative and critical assignments, conducted group field trips over the past 10 years.

**2019 Oct – 2024 Jun**

### **Research Assistant**

**University of British Columbia Okanagan**

Projects:

*Housing for Disadvantaged People*

*Artificial Intelligence in the public sector & Smart Cities*

*"GCC Policies"; "Ethnic Media"; "Conceptualization of Valleys"*

- Built bibliographies, conducted content analyses, reviewed literature.

**2020 Jun – Feb 2021**

### **Learning Design Intern**

**University of British Columbia Okanagan**

Supervisor: Cindy Bourne

- Redesigned courses from in-person to remote learning formats during the pandemic, supported instructors in redesigning their courses.

**2014 - 2015**

### **Assistant and Intern of Program Unit**

**UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlement Program) Tehran Iran**

- Conducted research on informal settlements and slum upgrading, prepared technical reports, designed brochures, developed conference materials.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2025]. *Self-built settlements in Iran as an alternative to social housing: urban poor housing strategies & the state's role in the expropriation of informal spaces: a case-study of ZoorAbad-Karaj* [Doctoral dissertation, University of British Columbia].

<https://dx.doi.org/10.14288/1.0449042>

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2023]. "ZoorAbad, A Neighborhood on the Shoulders of the Urban Poor", *City Journal (London, England)*, ahead-of-print, 1-10.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13604813.2023.2230020>

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2024]. "Dispossessing the Baha'is as the Islamic Republic Regime", *New Lines Journal*. (In peer review)

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2022]. "Housing Crisis and Marginalization", *Aasoo*.

<https://www.aasoo.org/fa/articles/4035>

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2022]. "Are Squares Going to disappear?", *Aasoo*.

<https://www.aasoo.org/fa/articles/3777>

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2021]. "Urban Observers and Inequalities," *Watch – Humanities Graduate Students Anthology - University of British Columbia*, 106-114.

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2021]. "Walls as An Architectural Product or A Socio-political Force for Exclusion", *Aasoo*. <https://www.aasoo.org/fa/articles/3577>

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2021]. "Tourism Resorts; A Road Towards Development or Gentrification?", *Aasoo*. <https://www.aasoo.org/fa/articles/3234>

Riding, J., Kallio, K. P., **Behroozi, P.**, Berg, L. D. et. al. [2020]. Collective editorial on the neoliberal university. *Fennia - International Journal of Geography*, 197(2), 171-

182. <https://doi.org/10.11143/fennia.88578>

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2020]. "Polanyi and commodification of land," *Aasoo*.

<https://www.aasoo.org/fa/articles/3152>

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2020]. "Marginalized neighborhoods and the story of Asiyeh Panahi,"

*Aasoo*. <https://www.aasoo.org/fa/notes/2874>

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2020]. "Marcuse and the commodification of Housing," *Aasoo*.

<https://www.aasoo.org/fa/notes/2937>

**Behroozi Nobar, P.** [2017] "The footprint of the nature of Baha'i belief on its architecture," *Aeene Baha'i website*.

**UN-Habitat** [2015] "The slum upgrading of Iran," *Internal publication of UN-Habitat office of Tehran*.

## PRESENTATIONS

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**Behroozi Nobar, P. [2023, Sep 18]** *"Informal Housing: A "Grassroot Housing Strategies" or An "Alternative Social Housing Model" in Iran: Demolition and Forced Displacement,"* International Summer School "Demolition, Displacement, Regeneration – what is the future of housing stock?", Hosted by Vienna University of Technology- Faculty for Architecture and Planning, Vienna, Austria

**Behroozi Nobar, P. [2023, May 05]** *"ZoorAbad, a Neighbourhood Built in Opposition to the State,"* Becoming an Interdisciplinary: Cross-Curricular Campus Conversations; Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, Hosted by the University of British Columbia Okanagan, Canada

**Behroozi Nobar, P. [2023, April 04]** *"Dispossession of Baha'is in Iran,"* Starting a Conversation Series, Hosted by the Institute for Community Engaged Research at University of British Columbia Okanagan, Canada

**Behroozi Nobar, P. [2021, March 19]** *"Urban Observers and socio-spatial inequalities,"* GeoSym Program, Hosted by the Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, US

## AFFILIATIONS

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2020-Aug 2024      **DePaul University**, [Employment ID: 2029371], Status: Non-student scholar

2024-present      **Center for Climate Justice**, University of British Columbia

<https://climatejustice.ubc.ca/profile/pegah-behroozi/>

## INTERVIEWS & LECTURES

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2021/04/09 *Cities and Pandemics*, Aasoo publication,  
<https://www.aasoo.org/fa/multimedia/videos/3360>

2025/02/27 & 2024/01/30 *Housing Issue and Mental Health*, [guest lecturer], Public Health Course, University of British Columbia

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>2025 - Present</b> | <b>Co-founder, Diyar Common Matters Society (Nonprofit) BC, Canada</b><br>Secured grants, managed budgets, developed project proposals, engaged stakeholders, and contributed to strategic planning and knowledge mobilization. |
| <b>2025 - Present</b> | <b>Grants Review committee member, City of Kelowna BC, Canada</b><br>Reviewing 30 Community Social Development Grants (City of Kelowna Grants), administered by the Central Okanagan Foundation                                 |
| <b>2024</b>           | <b>Chair, Proposal Review Committee for the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Conference</b> <i>University of British Columbia - Okanagan Canada</i>   |