

Sima Hassandokht Firooz
10.10. Hakim Fayyaz Str. Lahijan. Gilan. Iran
Phone: 00989111453170
Email: s.hassandokht@gmail.com

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Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies
Faculty of Arts & Science, University of Toronto
27 King's College Cir, Toronto, ON M5S 1A1, Canada

Dear Members of the Search Committee

With a great interest, I am writing to apply for “The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies” 2022-2033, as published on your website. I have received my PhD in linguistics in 2021 at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, Iran, and I am currently revising and completing my dissertation entitled “The Study of Lexical Field of ‘Foroudastan’ (the Subalterns) in the Socio-Political Sphere of Contemporary Iran” for publication.

Studying the history of key political concepts is a new transdisciplinary approach in Iranian studies that requires working on both methodology and documents. As a researcher with linguistic background who are currently studying history and sociology to complete the dissertation, my objective is to develop the idea of the dissertation to get a better explanation of the rise and fall of particular words such as "ranjbar" (toiler, laborer), "zahmatkesh" (toiler, laborer), "mostaz'af" (one who is kept weak), and “gheshr-e-asibpazir” (vulnerable class) in socio-political sphere of Iran. Applying Koselleck’s ideas of the relationship between language and history, and layers of time, the research aims to show the roles each concept and word of the lexical field of ‘Foroudastan’ (the Subalterns) has played in the Iranian people’s life since the Constitutional Revolution up to the recent years.

I am a self-motivated independent transdisciplinary researcher eager and open to learn about the history and culture of my homeland and do research on linguistic and discursive aspects of changes taken place in socio-political sphere of modern Iran.

If you require any additional materials or information, I am happy to supply it. Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Sima Hassandokht Firooz