Cover Letter

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies for 2024-2025 at the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute at the University of Toronto.

I earned my PhD in Persian Language and Literature from the University of Tehran in 2023. Over the last decade, my studies have been primarily centered on Islamic literature in medieval Iran. Interested in the relationship between literary theories and metaphysics within this domain, I delved into the aesthetic views of the most influential Iranian thinkers through my dissertation, which is currently under revision. During my project, the abundance of aesthetic perspectives in Ismaili literature intrigued me to further develop my studies on this subject by dedicating my future research specifically to Ismaili aesthetics.

I believe the University of Toronto would be an ideal environment for conducting my monograph. From 2021 to 2023, I had the honor of joining Dr. Virani's online research team at this institution, serving as an expert on classical Persian literature and benefiting greatly from Dr. Virani's extensive expertise in Ismaili Studies. I actively contributed to several interesting projects on Ismaili literature and enjoyed proofreading and improving the team's projects. I also took great pleasure in assisting my teammates in understanding difficult passages from Persian prose and poetry in our discussion group.

I am eager to continue my academic journey on the team to further benefit from Dr. Virani's valuable guidance. I am also enthusiastic about organizing workshops on reading primary Persian sources, particularly for students specializing in Islamic Studies. During my PhD, I conducted sessions on classical Persian literature for non-Persian students at Tehran University. To enhance my teaching skills, I completed a course on Teaching Persian to non-Persian speakers, at the Saadi Foundation in 2023. Additionally, I constantly benefited from outstanding professors' insights on teaching Persian literature by attending the Persian Language Pedagogy Series organized by the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute. Currently, I am contributing to the development of a textbook on reading classical Persian poetry at the Department of Persian Language and Iranian Studies at Hankuk University in South Korea. The textbook is tailored for non-Persian students and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

The Postdoctoral position your esteemed institute offers would be an exceptional opportunity to carry out my research on Ismailism and benefit from the library resources, lecture series, workshops, and the like available at Toronto University, which would be rare in any other academic environment. Furthermore, It would provide a valuable opportunity to gain the experience required for my future academic pursuits, particularly for acquiring a teaching position in Persian Literature at the university level. I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration.

My warmest regards,

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