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**Dear members of the search committee,**

I am writing to express my interest in conducting my postdoctoral research in Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto. I have recently finished working as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Cologne where I investigated some of the socio-pragmatic aspects of non-canonical word order in Persian.

In my postdoctoral research, conducted under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Aria Adli, I examined what motives Persian speakers to situate the canonically preverbal subject postverbally. The results of our research revealed that, in Persian, subject is used postverbally to mention the unpredictable information sentence initially and predictable information postverbally, continue a previous topic, activate an inactive topic, and express feelings (among others).

I look forward to continuing my research and working on the syntactic aspects of Persian sentences with postverbal elements because, while conducting my postdoctoral research, I came to the conclusion that this issue is a rather uncharted territory in Persian. Furthermore, I found that purely pragmatic accounts fail to account for Persian sentences with non-canonical word order in that although Persian is generally subsumed under the rubric of SOV (Subject, Object, Verb) languages, besides complement clauses, it allows some nominal elements to be used postverbally. However, the postverbal use of elements is not always pragmatically motivated. For example, Persian sentences with postverbal goal which are very frequent in colloquial Persian are impervious to pragmatic factors. Hence, postverbal use of elements in Persian can be regarded as a syntactic characteristic rather than a pragmatic aspect of language and adopting a purely-pragmatic perspective leads to an incomplete picture of them.

I would appreciate the opportunity to continue my research in Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto. Since you are seeking individuals who are completing their previous research, I consider myself a suitable candidate because I have worked on the socio-pragmatics of Persian sentences with postverbal elements and aim at completing my research by focusing on the syntactic aspects of these Persian constructions. Furthermore, I believe that because my research is highly understudied in Persian, adds to the existing knowledge regarding word order in Persian, and has implications for syntactic theory, it is relevant to the objectives of your institute.

I am a self-motivated and hardworking researcher who fits well in a diverse group and enjoys working along with experts in other areas and fields. Taken together, I think that my expertise in the topic I intend to pursue, my knowledge of Persian syntax, and the knowledge and experience I gained during my postdoc project at the University of Cologne makes me a suitable candidate for this position in your institute where I can complete my previous research on Persian sentences with postverbal elements, publish all my findings on this topic, and enjoy working along with experts in other areas.

Please let me know if you would like any other additional information. Thank you very much for your consideration and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely Yours,

Motahareh Sameri