

TO
the Elahé Omidyar Mir-
Djalali Institute of
Iranian Studies
University of Toronto

FROM
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COVER LETTER

Dear the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies,

To express my sincere interest in the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies for 2022–2023, I'm writing to you. I studied at Tarbiat Modares University in Iran, where Professors Arsalan Golfam and Mohammad Dabir-Moghaddam supervised my research on "The Study of Phases in the Structure of Kurdish Sentences: A Syntactic and Semantic Analysis." The Kurdish dialect being studied is Sorani, also known as Sanandaji or Ardalani, which is also my native language. I worked on an MA thesis on Kurdish and Persian languages under the guidance of Dr. Yadgar Karimi and Dr. Ebrahim Badakhshan at the University of Kurdistan in Sanandaj, Iran.

I intend to carry out my postdoctoral research at the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto, an ideal place for my project. I will be working under the supervision of Professor Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, an expert in the syntax of Iranian languages. I have been deeply engaged with Professor Kahnemuyipour's scholarly work during my MA and doctoral studies. His ongoing research on "Nominal Linkers" and "Copular Agreement Systems" particularly interests me, and I have benefited greatly from his writings on Iranian language second position clitics, agreement systems, sentential stress, the syntax of noun phrases, and Ezafe construction. He has also conducted research on several topics related to the proposed project, including clitic placement (Kahnemuyipour and Megerdooian 2011, 2017); split agreement and the distribution of clitics in another Kurdish language, Laki (Kahnemuyipour and Taghipour 2019). He is currently leading a research team at the University of Toronto that is investigating various aspects of the syntax of Iranian languages, with a focus on Kurdish and related languages. There is a lively environment for syntactic research, with contributions from Susana Béjar, Cristina Cuervo, Keir Moulton, and their graduate students, among others.

I think that the focus of my study aligns with the initiatives of Professor Kahnemuyipour and his research team. I have gained extensive knowledge of generative linguistics, agreement systems, clitics, verb and noun phrases, and passive structure in the construction of Kurdish and Persian sentences throughout my academic career. I see this as a chance to help both of our research agendas succeed because we share a lot of common interests. The research will be presented at pertinent conferences, and it will serve as the foundation for articles that I hope to submit for publication in linguistic publications, which I believe I can do jointly with Professor Kahnemuyipour. I am also qualified to supervise theses and other linguistic research in addition to teaching linguistics. I have taught syntactic argumentation, the structure of the Persian language and dialectology in Iranian languages, among other things. I have more than ten years of teaching experience at the University of Kurdistan and other organizations, as evidenced by my resume. In addition, I was a visiting scholar at KU Leuven University in Belgium under Professor Jeroen Van Craenenbroeck's supervision (August 2017–February 2018). Working productively with people to accomplish shared objectives excites me. The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies would allow me to build upon my present area of specialty while putting my graduate-level knowledge, abilities, and experience to use. While I will be concentrating on my linguistics research, I am greatly looking forward to the opportunity to collaborate with other academics who are interested in other areas of Iranian studies, such as history, sociology, literature, etc. With my background as a Kurdish-Iranian and my proficiency in a number of other Iranian languages, I think I can contribute intellectually to the institute's other ongoing work.

Regards,

Mojgan Osmani

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