

Cover Letter:

I have recently completed my Postdoc Researcher at Department of History, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran. My Postdoc involved research with Typhus disease in the Qajar period in Iran (1725-1925). Prior to that I completed a PhD in History of Iran after Islam' at the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, where I gained a distinction. My PhD involved primary research with history of medicine in Transoxiana (from about 550 BC to 1450 AD). I am a researcher in the fields of medical history, history of epidemics and infectious diseases and Central Asian Studies and Middle East Studies and the history of medicine in the modern Middle East.

This position appears to be an ideal blend of my experience in History of Iran and my expertise in medical history. I am particularly impressed by the Intermittent research programs at Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto. I am also drawn to the Institute's multidisciplinary approach to research. Having collaborated extensively with academics in the Department of Research Center for Traditional Medicine and History of Medicine, Shiraz, Iran and Department of Persian Medicine, School of Persian Medicine, Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Sciences, Ardakan, Yazd, Iran. during my PhD, I believe in the importance of thinking beyond narrow academic disciplines. I have held research assistant posts in both academia and in central government making me ideally suited to a role focusing on the interface between Historical researchers and clinicians.

As a graduate, I learned a great deal, both academically and in daily life. In this major, I acquired much useful professional knowledge and confirmed my strong interests in different societies and cultures by taking the required courses, including courses focusing on American History, European History, African History and the History of different Asian countries. In addition to the required courses, I also took elective courses related to History, local history, oral history, philosophy of history, historical sociology and various ancient language (Sogdian and Khwarezmian) and Arabic language courses.

In the modern world, in which cultures and countries are increasingly interconnected, it is essential to have a firm understanding of various world cultures. With this in mind, I am eager to undertake studies in your program, as it will equip me with professional knowledge as well as the requisite language skills that are crucial to success. I have great interests in exploring the different cultures of the world and acquiring comprehensive medical history training. Therefore, the Ph.D. in History program at your institution is my ideal choice for postgraduate study. I am encouraged by the curriculum, professors, and resources available in your institution, and I am inspired to devote myself to advanced studies of History of Science and Medicine. Having done some research into the content of this program, I strongly believe that it will allow me to strengthen my analytical skills, whilst inspiring me and giving me the opportunity to develop my ideas.

Our instructors often shared with us their own practical foreign experiences which influenced me considerably and reinforced my determination to pursue international cooperation abroad. I am drawn to the North America by its rich culture, beautiful landscapes and unique historical legacy.

I would like to Due to the specialized field of study of your department, I am proud to work with you and I request a Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship. I hope you can guide and support me in this regard.