

To whom it may concern,

Herewith, I express my interest in the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies.

I have been working under the sector of Education as a Researcher as well as a lecturer at Alzahra University in Iran and College Teacher in the UK.

My research field is focusing on the area of TEFL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), using innovative methods to teach English and Persian to non-Persian speakers, MFL (Modern Foreign Languages), writing university textbooks and conducting workshops to update teachers, writing educational magazines, establishing standardized tests and working on new teaching methods.

I received my PhD degree in Linguistics from the Azad University, Central Tehran Branch in Iran in 2020. During my PhD dissertation, I worked on analytical study of compression process in a selective Iranian movies discourse in the framework of Bybee cognitive phonology. As cognitive phonology is a relatively new field, very little research has been conducted in Iran in this field due to its novelty. Cognitive phonology has many research gaps and limitations, so the present research is quite necessary and important. My PhD thesis resulted in two papers in prestigious journals including Language Related Research bi-monthly Journal and Journal of advances in linguistics. I received the highest GPA among all university PhD graduate students and defended my thesis with high distinction (20 out of 20).

I have been working as an MFL Teacher at Rochester Independent College in London where I am responsible for giving a guidance on how to develop research skills (including methodology and analytical tools). So, I prepare students by teaching them Persian A-level subject and helping them get ready for the examination.

I am also working at Pearson as a Lesser Taught Languages Examiner (LTL)s for GCE A-level/ International GCSE Per2018 and have been the Examiner of Persian GCSE/ A-level in all skills. In 2022, I also was the Persian GCSE Speaking Examiner at the Merit Tutors in London.

In addition, I am honoured to be a remote Lecturer of the Alzahra University (teaching Persian to non- Persian speakers) in Iran. As a subject expert, I design, develop, and deliver content on a variety of platforms and methods. I create course materials for students at all levels (basic, intermediate, and advanced), lesson plans, and curricula, conduct research and field work. I interact with students, attend interviews, conferences, and meetings. I have been teaching (English and Persian) for fifteen years.

During my career, I conducted five projects with research institutes and universities including:

- Research project focused on Analysis of non-Persian speakers who are learning Persian.
- Working on old and new Persian films according to Bybee's framework of cognitive phonology.
- Preparing university textbooks called Pārsiyār for non-Persian Speakers who want to learn Persian.
- Analysis of non-Persian speakers who were learning Persian (advanced level)
- Preparing podcast for the University Educational Magazine (Pārsinameh)

I have made an international collaboration with a lecturer (Ms. Hedieh Yazdan Panah) at a University of Warsaw, Poland. Our paper is under review at Taylor & Francis (journal: [Congent Education](#)).

My research work has been published as three book chapters and one book entitled:

- Investigation of Reducing Phonological Errors of EFL Learners Relying on Listening Comprehension
- Your name is the aurora that traverses the firmament's brow
- Teaching Persian language with technology
- An analysis of the grammatical errors of non-Persian speakers in speaking Persian

I developed two textbooks in Persian which are considered as a reference in my field. I also published some journal papers in reputed journals.

In 2021, I had a virtual presentation at the World Congress on Special Needs Education and the London International Conference on Education in London and I introduced an innovative method to teach the English language. I have also been the trainer of several workshops and seminars in Iran.

I have been a member of prestigious associations including member of WATESOL (Westralian Association for Teachers of English to speakers of other languages) and member of TESOL International Association.

Regarding my experience in researching, teaching Persian to speakers of other languages and being expert and examiner for many years at university, I believe that bringing my talents and expertise to University of Toronto and continuing my activities would be beneficial to both your department and myself.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via email rkashefi@teachers.org I greatly appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to hearing your positive view on my application for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies.

Your Sincerely,

R.KashefiKhishan