

Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies

University of Toronto

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies for the 2024-2025 academic year at the University of Toronto. I hold a Ph.D. in Linguistics, with a specialization in Cultural Linguistics focused on the Iranian context. My research has been deeply rooted in the exploration of Iranian Gnosticism, particularly within the Yārsān tradition, and I am eager to contribute to the vibrant scholarly community at the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute.

I was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany, where I conducted extensive research on Iranian Gnosticism. This work culminated in several publications in prestigious journals and the completion of a monograph on the Yārsān religion and the concept of Gnostic Sharia, which remains unpublished. My continued focus on Iranian Gnosticism, particularly on the Yārsān, has led to the publication of numerous papers, including a recent comparative study of the concept of Sharia across Yārsān, Shia, and Sunni traditions.

The primary goal of my application for this fellowship is to finalize and publish my monograph on the Yārsān religion and Gnostic Sharia. This work, which draws on original sources in Kurdish, Persian, and Arabic, seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the Yārsān tradition and its legal discourse within the broader context of Iranian religious studies. I believe that completing and publishing this monograph will significantly advance the understanding of Gnostic traditions in Iran and contribute to the field of Iranian studies.

The opportunity to revise and finalize my monograph at the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute, with access to its rich resources and academic community, would be invaluable. I am committed to making significant scholarly contributions during my time in residence and look forward to engaging with other scholars in the field.

Thank you for considering my application. I have enclosed my curriculum vitae, a synopsis of my monograph, and research interests. I have also attached two letters of recommendation from colleagues familiar with my work.

I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the esteemed academic community at the University of Toronto.

Sincerely,

Rahman Veisi Hasar

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