

Cover letter

Ali Javid,

Mobile: (+61)434374450, Email: Ali.javid@research.uwa.edu.au,

Dear the The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute's members,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies. As my research background and my PhD project related to architecture, archeology, heritage and pedagogy in Iran and the Middle East. I would love to pursue my interest in the form of postdoc research with the title **"Archaeology, heritage, and architecture; cultural agents for the East-West dialogue: The Cold war and the Italian cultural diplomacy in Iran, Egypt and Turkey (1947-1991)"**.

This project that originated from my PhD thesis on the evolution of architectural pedagogy in Iran from the 1963 White Revolution to the 1979 Islamic Revolution, will investigate the cultural-political effects of Italian cultural diplomacy in Iran by promoting the discourse of conservation of historic centers as a resistance discourse against the development and modernization, and its manifestation in two Iranian historical cities, Isfahan and Yazd in the 1970s. Moreover, by comparing the Italian cultural diplomacy in Iran with other important countries in the Middle East, such as Egypt and Turkey, the project show different manifestations of the cultural diplomacy in these cultural-political contexts. In addition, on a broader scale, by investigating Italian cultural diplomacy and its components, the project will explain how archeology, heritage and architecture played a critical role in major international geopolitical questions during the cold war.

I believe that the project would make a significant contribution in Iranian and Middle East studies due to its originality and its interdisciplinary nature between archaeology, cultural heritage, architectural pedagogy, architecture, and cultural-political studies.

I chose the the The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute in Iranian Studies because there are experts in the studies of Iranian modern art, heritage, history, and politics. In addition, access to the rich and valuable archives and libraries of the University of Toronto is a great help in advancing the project.

I would appreciate the opportunity to continue my research in your center and pursue a long-term future with the University of Toronto. I believe that my knowledge, skills and experience are in line with the aims of the institue' studies and would make a significant contribution to them.

Sincerely,

Ali