

Ehsan Kashfi

12-05 H. M. Tory Building
Department of Political Science, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Canada T6G 2H4
kashfi@ualberta.ca

Research and Teaching Interests

Iranian studies, comparative politics, Middle East politics, nationalism, ethnicity, social media, discourse and content analysis, modern Islamic political thought.

Education

- 2018- present Ph.D. in Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, Canada
- 2014-2018 M.A. in Political Science, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida, USA
- 2011-2012 M.A. in International Relations (Middle East), with Merit, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University, UK
- 2008-2010 M.A. in Organization Studies, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick, UK
- 2004-2008 Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.), Shahid Beheshti University, Iran

Academic Positions

- 2021- present Instructor, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta
- 2018- present Research Assistant for the ECMC Chair in Islamic Studies, University of Alberta
- 2018-2021 Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta
- 2017-2018 Instructor, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida
- 2014-2016 Teaching Assistant, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida
- Summer 2016 Research Assistant, Center for Strategic and Diplomatic Studies, University of South Florida, Summer 2016
- 2013- 2014 Instructor, Naser Khosrow Institute of Higher Education
- 2010-2011 Instructor, Naser Khosrow Institute of Higher Education, Iran

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“The Politics of Street Names: Reconstructing Iran’s Collective Memory. *“Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism.* 2023; 23(2):122-143

“Football as a Platform for Ethnic Identity Assertion in Iran” in Zahra Babar and Marc Lynch, *Politics of Sports in the Middle East.* (The Project on Middle East Political Science, July 2023)

“The Lived Justice Experiences of Global South Students in Modern Educational Institutions: The Cases of Alienation and Contributions” in Lin Ge and James Callaghan, *Curriculum Theory and Pedagogy for Student Mobility: Research and Practice in International Higher Education*. (Star Scholars Publishing, May 2023)

“The Politics of Calendar: State Appropriations of the Contested Iranian Past.” *Religions*. 2021;12(10):861

“Iran’s Path toward Islamic Reformism: A Study of Religious Intellectual Discourse” in Bernd Reiter (eds.), *Constructing the Pluriverse* (Duke University Press, September 2018)

Manuscripts under Review

“Tractor SC: Football as a Medium for Azeri Resentments.” Under Review with *the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.

“Shiism: The Confluence of the Semitic and Iranian Spirits,” in M. Rabiee & S. Saffari (Eds.), *Spirit and Defiance: Ali Shariati in Translation*. Under Review with the Muslim International Series at the *University of Minnesota Press*.

Works in Progress

“The Arbäeen Pilgrimage: The Commemorative Construction of Shia Identity.” Article to be submitted to *Digest of Middle East Studies* by October 1, 2023

From “Subversion” to “Revolution”: A Discourse Analysis of the Semantic Shift in Iran’s 2023 Women, Life, Freedom Movement. Article to be submitted to *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* by June 30, 2024

“From Devotion to Dissent: The Evolution of Madahi and its Political Use.” Article to be submitted to *Sociology of Islam* by December 30, 2023

Conference Presentations

2023 “Twitter Nationalism: New Iranian Nationalisms Resurfaced.” Paper presented at the 2023 ISA Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC

2023 “Football and the Contestation of National Identity.” Paper presented at The Politics of Sports in the Middle East and North Africa Workshop, Georgetown University in Qatar, Doha

2022 “Mapping the Nation: Street Names and Iranian Identity.” Paper presented at the 2022 APSA Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC

2022 “Mapping the Nation: Street Names and Iranian Identity.” Paper presented at the 13th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference (AIS 2022), Salamanca, Spain

2022 “The Commemorative Construction of Shia Identity in Post-revolutionary Iran.” Paper presented at the Canadian Association for the Study of Islam and Muslims Conference, Hamilton, ON

2021 “Football and the Contestation of Iranian Identity.” Paper presented at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Conference online.

- 2020 “The Discursive and Commemorative Construction of Shia Identity in Post-revolutionary Iran.” Paper accepted to the Pacific North Region of American Academy of Religion Conference, Edmonton, AB (postponed)
- 2020 “The Iranian Calendars and the Contestations over the Collective Past.” Paper presented at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference, London, ON
- 2019 “A Reflected Community: How Foreign Policy Reorients Iran’s National Identity.” Paper presented at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference, Vancouver, BC
- 2019 “Ali Shariati and the Question of National Identity: A Decolonial Narrative.” Paper presented at the University of Alberta’s Conference, Imagining Indigenous Glocal Social Democracy, Edmonton, AB
- 2019 “Discourses of Otherness: The Role of Online Media in Iranian-Saudi Relations.” Paper presented at the International Studies Association Annual Conference, Toronto, ON
- 2018 “Iranian National Identity and Foreign Policy: Critical Discourse Analysis as Foreign Policy Theory.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2018 “Between Homogeneity and Heterogeneity: Examining Iran’s National Identity Problematique.” Paper presented at the International Studies Association South Annual Conference, Orlando, FL
- 2017 “Iran’s Exclusionary Citizenship: An Ongoing Contest over the Essence of Identity.” Paper presented at the International Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MA
- 2016 2016 “Iran’s Path toward Islamic Reformism: A Study of Religious Intellectual Discourse.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2016 “A Comparative Study of Iranian Citizenship before and after the 1979 Revolution.” Paper presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Lakeland, FL

Invited Talks

- 2023 “Iranian Identities.” Invited Talk, Aftab Association, Edmonton, AB, March 8.
- 2022 “The 2022 Uprising and Minorities.” Invited Talk, Andisheh Association of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, October 26.
- 2020 “Calendar, Collective Memory and the Question of National Identity.” Invited Talk, Andisheh Association of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, November 25.

Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

- 2023 Edmonton Consular Corps Award (4000 CAD)
- 2023 Association for Iranian Studies Graduate Student Research Award (1150 USD)
- 2023 Frank Peers Graduate Research Scholarship (7000 CAD)
- 2022 Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (12000 CAD)
- 2022 Middle Eastern Studies Association Travel Grant (600 USD)

- 2022 University of Alberta Graduate Students' Association Academic Travel Grant (500 CAD)
- 2022 American Political Science Association Travel Grant
- 2022 Makhzoumi Graduate Scholarship (6000 CAD)
- 2022 J Gordin Kaplan Graduate Student Award (1500 CAD)
- 2022 Frederick and Mary Engelmann Graduate Travel Scholarship in Political Science (1200 CAD)
- 2021 Makhzoumi Graduate Scholarship (6000 CAD)
- 2020 Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (12000 CAD)
- 2020 Makhzoumi Graduate Scholarship (6000 CAD)
- 2020 Frank Peers Graduate Research Scholarship (7000 CAD)
- 2019 State of Kuwait Graduate Scholarship in Islamic Studies (8600 CAD)
- 2019 University of Alberta's Department of Political Science Travel Grant (380 CAD)
- 2019 Edmonton Consular Corps Award (2500 CAD)
- 2019 University of Alberta's Graduate Student Association Travel Grant (500 CAD)
- 2018 University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship (5000 CAD)
- 2017 USF Student Government Conference Presentation Grant (1500 USD)
- 2017 Prestage-Cook Award, Southern Political Science Association (300 USD)
- 2016 USF School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies Travel Grant (1000 USD)
- 2016 International Studies Association Travel Grant (400 USD)

Professional Activities

- 2022 Organizer, Graduate Student Virtual Symposium: "Rethinking MENA and the Muslim World," University of Alberta, May 31.
- 2022 Coordinator, PSGSA Annual Conference, University of Alberta, April 29-30.
- 2020 Reviewer, *The Canadian Review of Sociology*
- 2020 Reviewer, *Journal of Civil and Human Rights*
- 2019 Coordinator, International Symposium: "Imagining Indigenous Glocal Social Democracy," University of Alberta, April 27-28.
- 2017 Search Committee Member for the Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics Position, University of South Florida, Fall 2017.

Teaching Experience

Instructor:

"Introduction to Politics" (Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Winter 2022), "Politics of Nationalism and Ethnicity" (Winter 2023), "Introduction to International Relations" (Spring 2022, Fall 2017), "Nationalism:

Reality and Myth” (Spring 2020), “Introduction to Comparative Politics” (Spring 2017), “Social Research Methods” (Fall 2013)

Teaching Assistant:

“Introduction to Politics” (Winter 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019), “Introduction to Comparative Politics” (Winter 2020), “Terrorism and Counterterrorism” (Winter 2019), “International Relations” (Fall 2018), “Globalization” (Spring 2018, Fall 2016, Spring 2016), “Conflict in the World” (Summer 2017), “The Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process” (Fall 2015), “The Middle East” (Fall 2014)

Professional Development

- 2019 Graduate Teaching and Learning Program (Levels 1-3), Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Alberta
- 2017 Preparing for College Teaching Certificate, Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida
- 2017 Online Instructor Certificate, Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida

Services

- 2020- present Lead Member, Teaching and Pedagogy in Political Science (TaPPS), University of Alberta
- 2020- 2022 The International Students’ Representative, Political Science Graduate Student Association, University of Alberta
- 2018- present President of Andisheh Graduate Student Association, University of Alberta
- 2015-2017 Academic Advisor to the Iranian Student Association, University of South Florida

Organizational Memberships

Canadian Political Science Association, Middle East Studies Association, British Society for Middle Eastern Studies, Association for Iranian Studies

Languages

Persian (Native), English (Fluent), Arabic (Intermediate)

References

Prof. Mojtaba Mahdavi, Professor of Political Science and the ECMC Chair in Islamic Studies, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, mahdavia@ualberta.ca

Prof. Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Professor of Political Science and Canada Research Chair in the Politics of Citizenship and Human Rights, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, yasmeen@ualberta.ca

Dr. Siobhan Byrne, Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, scbyrne@ualberta.ca