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August 14, 2024

**Search Committee**

The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies

University of Toronto

Toronto, ON, Canada

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. As a scholar who has recently completed a Ph.D. in Linguistics, with a specific focus on the formal semantic analysis of Farsi, I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to and further the mission of the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of Toronto.

My doctoral research provides a comprehensive examination of free choice items in Farsi (an Indo-Iranian language), an area that has been underrepresented in linguistic literature. By employing logical and mathematical tools to model the meaning of linguistic expressions in Farsi, my work not only contributes to the field of formal semantics but also brings significant international visibility to Farsi and Iranian linguistic studies. This visibility is crucial for enhancing the global profile of Iranian Studies, especially in a field that often emphasizes more widely studied languages.

In my dissertation, I identified and analyzed two types of FCIs in Farsi: *yek-i* DPs and *har-i* DPs. My findings expand our understanding of free choice items, contributing new insights that challenge and refine existing theories, which have predominantly focused on Germanic and Romance languages. Through my research, I have highlighted the richness of Farsi's morphological system, positioning it as a valuable testing ground for broader linguistic theories. This work has been presented at top-tier international conferences with an acceptance rate below 15%, such as Semantics and Linguistic Theory, Amsterdam Colloquium, and Sinn und Bedeutung, and has been published in their proceedings, further establishing the importance of Farsi in international linguistic discourse. Additionally, my work on *yek -i* DPs has been accepted with minor revisions for publication in *Semantics & Pragmatics*, a major journal in formal semantics, further demonstrating the significance of these findings within the field.

My commitment to advancing Iranian Studies is reflected in my current postdoctoral research plan, which includes revising and preparing chapters of my dissertation for dissemination through publication in leading journals. This process will extend my study of FCIs in Farsi, specifically focusing on the unresolved questions from my dissertation.

Additionally, I am exploring the semantic properties of interrogatives in Farsi—another underexplored area in the literature. By investigating these topics, I aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of Farsi’s unique linguistic features and to promote Iranian Studies on a global scale.

The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies offers an exceptional platform for pursuing this work, given its dedication to fostering innovative research in Iranian Studies. I am eager to collaborate with the Institute’s scholars and contribute to its ongoing efforts to enhance the international reputation of Iranian Studies. Moreover, this fellowship would allow me to continue disseminating my findings through formats that align with current practices, such as journal articles and conference proceedings, thereby reaching a broader audience and further elevating the profile of Iranian linguistic research.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the distinguished academic community at the University of Toronto and advancing the field of Iranian Studies through this fellowship.

Sincerely,  
Esmail Moghiseh