

Abolfazl Moshiri
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Current Position

- **Post-Doctorate Research Fellow** September 2023- Present
 Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto

Education

Ph.D. University of Toronto November 2021

Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
 Areas of Study: Classical Persian Literature and Culture, Mysticism in Persianate Societies
 First Minor: Zoroastrian Literature,
 Second Minor: History and Historiography of Persianate World
 Dissertation Title: “The Devil’s Advocates: The Exoneration of Iblīs in Persian Mysticism.”
 Supervisor: Maria Subtelny

M.A. University of Toronto November 2012

Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
 Areas of Study: Persian Mystical Literature
 Advisor: Maria Subtelny

M.A. University of Toronto November 2009

Department of Political Science
 Area of Study: Iranian Islamism and Post-Islamism
 Master’s Research Paper: “The Rise of Post-Islamist Politics in Iran.”
 Advisors: Michael Stein

B.A. York University, Toronto June 2008

Department of Political Science
 Major Research Paper: “Basmachi Revolt: The Case Study of Islamist Uprising in Central Asia in the Early 20th Century.”

Research Positions

- **Research Associate, Woman Poets Iranica**
 Encyclopedia Iranica Foundation in collaboration with
 Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies,
 University of Toronto

November 2022-Present
- **Research Associate, University of Toronto**
 Department of Historical Studies

May 2021–May 2022
- **Research Assistant, University of Toronto**
 Department of Historical Studies

2010–2021
- **Research Assistant, University of Toronto**
 Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

2011–2015

Teaching Appointments

- **Sessional Lecturer, University of Toronto**

 NML468 Persian Literature: Ethical, Erotic, and Mystical
 Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

Winter 2019
- **Sessional Lecturer, University of Toronto**

 NML467 Persian Literature: The Epic Tradition
 Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

Fall 2018
- **Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto**

 Course Title: Iran and Islam
 Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

Fall-Winter 2017–2018
- **Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto**

 Course Title: The Islamic World
 Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

Fall 2016
- **Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto**

 Course Title: The Islamic World
 Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

Fall 2015

- **Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto** Fall-Winter 2014–2015
Course Title: Introductory Persian
Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
- **Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto** Fall 2013
Course Title: The Islamic World
Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
- **Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto** Winter 2013
Course Title: The Islamic World
Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

Publications

- **Peer Reviewed Articles**
“The Ishraqi Path: Toward Systematization of Suhrawardi’s Sufism.” *Iran Namag: Quarterly Journal of Iranian Studies* 6, no. 3, 4 (Fall-Winter 2021):154–78.
- **Book Chapters**
“Between Tradition and Transgression: Shams-i Tabrīzī and His *Maqālāt*.” In *Taşawwuf and Traditionalism in Medieval Islam: Texts, Authors and Discourse*. (Leiden: Brill, Forthcoming May 2025).
“Context and Function of the Narratives of Transgression in the Mevlevi Hagiographies.” In *Limits, Boundaries, and Transgression in Literatures and Languages of the Persianate World*. (Leiden: Leiden University Press, Forthcoming January 2025).
“Reassessing Rūmī’s Relationship with Shams-i Tabrīzī.” In *A Boundless Ocean: Rumi’s Thought and Reception*. (Leiden: Leiden University Press, Forthcoming November 2024).
“Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī: It Is In It, What Is In It.” In *Christian-Muslim Relations: Primary Sources*, Vol. 1, 600–1500. Edited by David Thomas. London: Bloomsbury, 2023.
- **Book Reviews**
Jawid Mojaddedi. *Beyond Dogma: Rumi’s Teachings on Friendship with God and Early Sufi Theories*. In *Iranian Studies* 47, no. 4 (2014): 658–62.

Conferences and Seminars

- “Estranged Sun? Rūmī’s Relationship with Shams-i Tabrīzī.” International Conference, *A Boundless Ocean: Rumi’s Philosophy and Reception*. Utrecht University, Netherlands. 23–24 November 2023.
- “The Mythical Sun: The Legacy of Shams-i Tabrīzī in the Mevlevi Hagiographies.” *Middle Eastern Studies Associations 57th Annual Meeting*, Montreal, Canada. 2–5 November 2023.
- “Between Antinomianism and Tradition: Shams-i Tabrīzī and His *Maqālāt*,” International Seminar, *Taṣawwuf and Traditionalism in Medieval Islam: Texts, Authors and Discourse*. University of Kentucky, Bloomington, USA. 30–31 October 2023.
- “al-Hallaj and the Abbasid Golden Age of the Devil,” *Middle Eastern Studies Associations 53rd Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, USA. 14–17 November 2019.
- “The Devil Undistorted: ‘Ayn al-Quzat Hamadani and the Exegesis of Hallajian Iblisology,” *Societas Iranologica Europaea*. 9th European Conference of Iranian Studies, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany. 9–13 September 2019.
- “Between Melancholia and Masochism: The Devil’s Love for God in the Persian Sufi Tradition,” *54th International Congress on Mediaeval Studies*. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, USA. May 9–12, 2019.
- “The Passion of the Devil: Iblis’s Defiance and Downfall as a Source of Emulation for the Persian Martyr Sufis,” *Association for Iranian Studies*. 12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, University of California at Irvine, USA. August 14–17, 2018.
- “Devil the Divine: The Sainthood of Iblis in Persian Mysticism and Its Portrayal in Medieval Perso-Islamic Paintings,” *53rd International Congress on Mediaeval Studies*. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, USA. May 10–13, 2018.
- “From the Sun of Tabriz to the Sun of the Soul: Reassessing Shams-i Tabrizi’s Influence on Rumi Through an Esoteric Reinterpretation of the First Tale of the *Masnavi*,” *International Society for Iranian Studies*. 11th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, University of Vienna, Austria. August 2–5, 2016.
- “Devil’s Advocate: Rumi, the Exoneration of Iblis and the Sufi Response to the Dilemma of Theodicy,” *International Society for Iranian Studies*. 10th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada. August 7–9, 2014.
- “Sufis and Sultans: The Moments of Encounter Between the Mystics and the Turko-Persian Rulers” *Symposium in Eurasian and Ottoman History*. Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, Canada. May 4, 2011.

Academic Honors and Awards

- 2019–2020 Faculty of Arts & Science Graduate Student Bursary (\$2,500)
- 2017–2018 Arts and Sciences Doctoral Completion Award, University of Toronto (\$6,000)
- 2016–2017 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)
- 2015–2016 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)
- 2014–2015 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)
- 2013–2014 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)
- 2012–2013 Avie Bennett Scholarship of Excellence, University of Toronto (\$10,000)
- 2008 Member of Dean’s Honour List, York University, Canada

Community Service and Outreach

- NMCCESI September 2021- March 2022
Instructor, interpreter, community, and cultural support volunteer for the “Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Department Cultural Exchange and Support Initiative” for Afghan refugee youths
- NMCCESI August 2017- December 2019
Instructor, community, and cultural support volunteer for the “Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Department Cultural Exchange and Support Initiative” for Syrian refugee youths
- Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) February 25– September 3, 2012
Recitation and recording of Ferdowsi’s *Shahnamah* for the exhibition “Shahnahnama: ‘The Persian Book of Kings’”

Languages

- Classical and Modern Persian/Dari (native fluency)
- Classical and Modern Arabic (advanced reading knowledge)
- Tajiki Persian written in Cyrillic (advanced reading knowledge)
- Ottoman Turkish (advanced reading knowledge)
- Middle Persian/Pahlavi (Advanced reading knowledge)
- French (professional working knowledge)
- German (professional working knowledge)
- Spanish (professional working knowledge)

Professional Affiliations

- Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies, University of Toronto

- Association for Iranian Studies
- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
- International Congress on Mediaeval Studies
- Middle Eastern Studies Association
- Societas Iranologica Europaea
- The Persian Manuscripts Association
- Islamic Art & Material Culture Collaborative

References

- **Maria Subtelny**
Professor. Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto
4 Bancroft Avenue. Room 216
Telephone: 416-978-5245
Email: m.subtelny@utoronto.ca
- **Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi**
Professor. Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto
4 Bancroft Avenue, Room 329
Telephone: 416-978-5039
Email: m.tavakoli@utoronto.ca
- **Enrico Raffaelli**
Associate Professor. Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto
4 Bancroft Ave. Room 328
Telephone: 416-946-3417
Email: enrico.raffaelli@utoronto.ca
- **Victor Ostapchuk**
Associate Professor. Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto
4 Bancroft Avenue. Room 309
Telephone: 416-978-5190
Email: v.ostapchuk@utoronto.ca