

Abolfazl Moshiri
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Education:

Ph.D. University of Toronto

November 2021

Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

Areas of Study: Classical Islam, Islamic Mysticism, Zoroastrianism

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: Islamic Studies and Sufism

Advisor: Maria Subtelny

M.A. University of Toronto

November 2009

Department of Political Science

Area of Study: Islamism and Post-Islamism

Master’s Research Paper: “The Rise of Post-Islamist Politics in Iran and Egypt”

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, University of Toronto**
 Department of Historical Studies
 Research Area: e-Campus Ontario Modules Developer for Courses in Islamic Studies
 Supervisor: Shafique Virani

May 2021–May 2022
- **Research Assistant, University of Toronto**
 Department of Historical Studies
 Research Area: Persian Sufi and Isma‘ili Shi‘a Manuscripts
 Supervisor: Shafique Virani

2010–2021
- **Research Assistant, University of Toronto**
 Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
 Research Area: Manuscripts in Persian Mystical Literature, Occult Sciences, and Islamic Ethics
 Supervisor: Maria Subtelny

2011–2015

Teaching Appointments:

- **Sessional Lecturer, University of Toronto**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fall 2016

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

Publications:

- **Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals:**

“The Ishraqi Path: Toward Systematization of Suhrawardi’s Sufism,” *Iran Namag: Quarterly Journal of Iranian Studies* 6, no. 3, 4 (expected publication 2022)
- **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

- “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*. Ninth 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*. Twelfth 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*. Eleventh 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*. Tenth 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 in the Medieval Islamic World,” *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

Languages

- Classical and modern Persian (native fluency)
- Classical Arabic (advance reading knowledge)
- Middle Persian (working knowledge)
- Ottoman Turkish (working knowledge)
- French (working knowledge)
- German (working knowledge)

Professional Affiliations

- Association for Iranian Studies
- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies
- International Congress on Mediaeval Studies
- Middle Eastern Studies Association
- Societas Iranologica Europaea

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

- **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

- **Shafique Virani**

Associate Professor. Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto
170 St. George Street, Room 322
Telephone: 416-978-4892
Email: shafique.virani@utoronto.ca