

Nima Jangouk

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Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies
Faculty of Arts & Science
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing to apply for the available Postdoctoral Fellowship at The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies for 2024 – 2025. Since the beginning of my PhD at the University of Ottawa in 2012, my research projects, presentations, and publications have been fully concentrated on Iranian society and culture. To be more specific, I have focused on understanding zar healing practices, the colorfulness of care strategies (sound medicine, sacred medicine, plant medicine, biomedicine, etc.) curing Iranians in the past two centuries, and the creation of medical knowledge at the intersection of biomedical and non-biomedical healing paths in contemporary Iran. To acquire a deeper understanding of these topics, I have followed a sociological approach for exploring the socio-politico-cultural context of medicine and healthcare in modern Iran. Moreover, I have followed an anthropological approach for understanding the practitioners of various medical systems and their healing preferences, more profoundly. I have studied these choices and their broader politico-cultural roots at the local, national, and global levels. Such a multilayered approach has provided me with a more extensive realization of the past, present, and future of the Iranian society in relation with the prevalence and appliance of (mainstream and alternative forms of) medical knowledge and healthcare services.

Also, I have taught three different courses, *Anthropology of the Maghreb and the Middle East* at the University of Ottawa, *Popular Culture in the Middle East* at the Concordia University, and *Ethnography, Globalization, and Culture* at the Carleton University. The experience of teaching these three courses has enriched my work and has greatly helped me to gain a deeper knowledge in the socio-anthropology of everyday life in contemporary Iran.

I am applying with enthusiasm for this position. Thank you very much for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you regarding next steps.

Yours sincerely,

Nima Jangouk 