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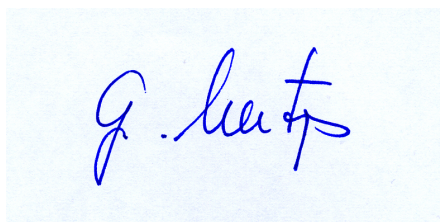
Letter of recommendation for Nargess Kodabakhshi for a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies (2023-2024), at The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute at the University of Toronto

It is my personal concern to recommend Nargess Khodabakhshi as an excellent candidate for this Postdoctoral Fellowship. As one reviewer of her dissertation, I can say that she has delivered an innovative and outstanding dissertation about modern Iranian society until today.

It offers the possibility to understand the historical as well as the social background for the current protest movement and to contribute to a deeper postcolonial political-cultural understanding. Thus, the title of the dissertation is also to be understood programmatically, as it alludes to the close connection between the oil economy and the modernisation programme of the Shah regime, a period that is a key era given the current political situation in Iran. It is the author's explicit intention to re-evaluate the modernisation strategies of the time in the bias of fashion in order to provide an adequate assessment of socio-historical developments up to the present day.

Her dissertation was awarded the prize for the best scientific study of 2023 by the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Through her rich transcultural experiences, her different language skills and versatile scientific research, Nargess Khodabakhshi seems to me the appropriate candidate to fulfill the tasks and requirements of the Fellowship in an exemplary manner.

Bullay, September 13 2023



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