

Dear Selection Committee,

I am a senior PhD candidate jointly enrolled in English and the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, and I am keenly interested in becoming a Fellow at the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali (EOM) Institute at the University of Toronto.

My scholarly interests are concentrated on diasporic nationalism, postcolonialism, identity politics, narratology, spatial theory, transnational feminism, psychoanalysis, and subaltern studies. My dissertation, “Between Memory and Mythology: Diasporic Pilgrimage in Post-Revolution Iranian Women’s Return Narratives,” makes an intervention in diasporic literary theory as it intersects with narratology, (Neo)Orientalism, and the study of life writing by looking at diasporic Iranian women’s narratives of return. Specifically, I consider the ways in which Iranian women remember, negotiate, and perform individual and collective identity with reference to public and/or politicized spaces in Iran. My research investigates the value of narrativizing geographical and imagined sites of return in life writing to understand the rhetorical potential of this narrative strategy to draw from the values imbued in private and public spaces of post-revolution Iran, especially those that echo the past.

I became acquainted with this fellowship through my involvement with the Initiative for Iranian Studies Seminar Series, where I have had the opportunity to enrich my work by presenting an excerpt from my dissertation. As I approach the final stages of my project, I am eager to engage with the insights of other fellows and to gain inspiration from the dynamic community at the Institute. While I am inspired by my work with students as a Teaching Assistant and Course Instructor, the OEM Dissertation Completion Fellowship will allow me to focus on completing my dissertation, rather than on teaching.

I am enthusiastic to contribute further to the field of Iranian Studies, and I look forward to becoming a valuable member of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niyosha Keyzad', with a stylized, flowing script.

Niyosha Keyzad

CURRICULUM VITAE

NIYOSHA KEYZAD
 niyosha.keyzad@mail.utoronto.ca

Department of English
 University of Toronto Scarborough
 1265 Military Trail
 Toronto, Ontario M1C 1A4

EDUCATION

2013-Present Ph.D. Candidate, Department of English/Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto Scarborough, Toronto, Ont.
 2016 Special Fields Exams, University of Toronto:
 Diaspora Studies
 Diasporic Iranian Literature
 2014 Comprehensive Exams, University of Toronto:
 Paper I: 0-1699
 Paper II: 1700-1985
 2010-2012 Master of Arts, Department of English, McGill University, Montreal, QC.
 2004-2010 H. BSc. (With Distinction), Anthropology and English, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ont.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

2019-2020 Graduate Fellowship (\$2000), University of Toronto School of Cities
 2015-2020 Junior Fellow, Massey College, University of Toronto
 2017-2018 Doctoral Completion Award (\$10000), University of Toronto Department of English
 2018 University of Toronto Fellowship Top-Up Award (\$2800), University of Toronto Department of English
 2013-2018 University of Toronto Fellowship (\$130000)
 2017 Morris Wayman Prize (\$250), Massey College, University of Toronto
 2016-2017 Graduate Associate, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto
 2016 Postsecondary Scholarship (\$500), Iranian Women's Organization of Ontario

 2016 University of Toronto Fellowship Top-Up Award (\$2400), University of Toronto Department of English
 2015 University of Toronto Fellowship Top-Up Award (\$1110), University of Toronto Department of English
 2014 Best Article in a Trade and/or Association Magazine Finalist, Canadian Online Publishing Awards
 2014-2015 CCCJ Fiftieth Anniversary First Families Award (\$5000), University of Toronto SGS University-Wide Awards

2013	Admission Award (\$2500), University of Toronto Department of English
2011	Alumnus of the Month (March), University of Toronto Scarborough
2010	Entrance Scholarship (\$4500), McGill University Department of English
2010	Dean's Honours List, University of Toronto Scarborough
2009	Student Leader Award, University of Toronto Scarborough
2008	Allen Angus Rodgers Scholarship (\$500), University of Toronto

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

My scholarly interests include diasporic nationalism, postcolonialism, identity politics, narratology, spatial theory, transnational feminism, psychoanalysis, and subaltern studies.

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

2022	"Diasporic Iranian Women's Pilgrimage Narratives," invited speaker at the Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, Salamanca, Spain. (August)
2020	"In Conversation with Omid Tofighian," invited interviewer at Massey College, University of Toronto. (January)
2019	"Minor Interlopers: Spatiality in Childhood Memoirs of the Iranian Diaspora," paper presented at the <i>Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English Congress</i> (Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences), University of British Columbia. (May)
2018	"Shot in the Dark: Censorship and Femininity in Rakhshan Bani-Etemad's <i>The May Lady</i> ," paper presented at the Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, UCLA, Irvine. (August)
2018	"Teaching <i>Scarborough</i> : The Pedagogy of Local Literature," paper presented at the <i>Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English Congress</i> (Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences), University of Regina. (May)
2017	"Identification Crisis: The Politics of Diasporic Identity in North American Iranian Memoirs," paper presented at the <i>Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English Congress</i> (Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences), Ryerson University, Toronto. (May)
2017	"Imagined Neighbourhoods: News Media Consumption within the Iranian-Canadian Diaspora," paper presented at the Centre for Ethics Associates Roundtable, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto. (January)
2016	"Exile and Diaspora in Marjane Satrapi's <i>Persepolis</i> ," invited lecturer for ENGB25: Graphic Novel, University of Toronto. (November)
2016	"In-Between Spaces: Reading Memory, Space, and Identity in the Memoirs of North American Iranian Writers," invited presenter at the annual University of Toronto Graduate Student Conference. (April)
2016	"University of Toronto Women in House Program," selected participant at the Massey College and Munk School of Global Affairs International Women's Day

- program, Senate of Canada, Ottawa. (March)
- 2015 “Collectives in TransMigration: Animating Bodies Across Borders,” invited contributor at the ‘Border Trauma Workgroup at the 4th Hemispheric Institute Convergence. The University of Texas at Austin, Austin. (November)
- 2014 “Playing Cat and Mouse: Postmemory and the Metaleptic Re-Presentation of the Holocaust in Art Spiegelman’s *Maus*,” paper presented at the annual University of Ottawa Graduate Student Conference, Ottawa. (March)
- 2012 “Stamped Upon Her Race: The Presence of Quadroons in George Washington Cable’s *Old Creole Days*,” paper presented at the annual McGill University English Graduate Colloquium, Montreal. (March)
- 2012 “An Other History: Subalternity in Radwa Ashour’s *Specters*,” Master’s research paper presented at the annual McGill University English Graduate Students Association (EGSA) Conference: Panel on Translation, Montreal. (January)
- 2010 “In-Betweenness in Diana Abu-Jaber’s *Arabian Jazz*,” paper presented at the annual University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Research Conference on the Humanities: Panel on Identity and ‘the Other.’ (March)

PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “In Conversation: Cristina Ali Farah, Ivana Bodrožić, Monika Zgustova, and Niyosha Keyzad” invited interviewer. Toronto International Festival of Authors. (October)
- 2018 “In Conversation: Eden Robinson With Cherie Dimaline,” invited host. Toronto International Festival of Authors. (October)
- 2018 “Between Words and Worlds: New Canadian Women’s Writing,” invited host. Toronto International Festival of Authors. (April)
- 2017 “Iranian Women’s Organization of Ontario Women’s Day Panel,” invited panelist. Hosted by the Iranian Women’s Organization of Ontario. Lawrence Park Community Church. Toronto. (March)
- 2016 “Racism in Canada: A Discussion with London City Councilor, Mohamed Salih,” invited interviewer. Hosted by the Iranian Canadian Congress. Toronto, Ontario. (October)
- 2016 “A Reading and Discussion with Nasreen Pejvack, author of *Amity*,” invited interviewer. Hosted by the Iranian Women’s Organization of Ontario. Fairview Public Library. Toronto, Ontario. (June)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Publications

2017 “International Potluck and The Melting Pot: The Exchange of Culinary Loanwords between English and Farsi.” Forthcoming in *Global Food History*.

Indexed Books

2015 Quayson, A. *The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel*. Cambridge University Press.

Non-Refereed Publications

2020 Keyzad, N. Reclaiming Scarborough's Stories in Zines. *Spacing Magazine*

URL: <http://spacing.ca/toronto/2020/03/12/reclaiming-scarboroughs-stories-in-zines/>

2013 Keyzad, N. A Legal Case for Anger. *McGill News Alumni Magazine*

URL: <https://publications.mcgill.ca/mcgillnews/2013/07/26/a-legal-case-for-anger/>

2011 Keyzad, N. Beating the Off-Campus Blues. *McGill News Alumni Magazine*

URL: <http://publications.mcgill.ca/mcgillnews/2011/12/07/beating-the-off-campus-blues/>

Creative Output

2010 Keyzad, N. (2010). Poems: 'At the Border', 'Foreign Accent Syndrome', *Scarborough Fair Arts Magazine*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

MEIDA APPEARANCES

"UTSC Alumni Create Scarborough Studies Symposium," *CBC*. URL:

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/here-and-now-toronto/segment/15610605>

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Toronto, Course Instructor

ENGA02 (previously ENGB05): Critical Writing about Literature (2014-Present)

University of Toronto, Acting Course Coordinator

ENGA02: Critical Writing about Literature (2018-2019)

University of Toronto, Tutorial Leader

ENG110Y: Introduction to Narrative (2016-2017)

Leading tutorials, all grading.

ENGB04: Critical Thinking About Poetry (2015)

Leading tutorials, all grading.

ACMA02: Inquiry and Reasoning in the Humanities (2015)

Leading tutorials, all grading.

HLTB02: Issues in Child ^[1]_{SEP}Health and Development (2008- 2010)

Leading tutorials, all grading, course administration.

University of Toronto, Marker

ENG365 : Contemporary American Literature (2016)

All grading, occasional lecturing.

ENG360: Early American Literature (2015)

All grading, occasional lecturing.

ENG235: The Graphic Novel (2014-2015, two terms)

ENGB35: Children's Literature (2014)

All grading, occasional lecturing.

ENGB25: Canadian Short Story (2013)

All grading, occasional lecturing.

McGill University, Teaching Assistant
ENGL359: Poetics of the Image (Spring 2012)

Lycée du Golfe de Saint Tropez/Le Collège Victor Hugo (Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques de France)
English Language Instructor (2012-2013)

McGill University, Minicourse Instructor
'Writing Poetry' and 'Short Story Writing' (2011-2012)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Editorial

2015-2017: Editorial Assistant, *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, Editor Ato Quayson

Postsecondary Tutoring (University of Toronto Accessibility Services)

Paris Institute of Political Studies

BSPO1805: Understanding the City (Fall 2016)

DHIS1400: Comparing Jewish Modernities: Jews in Western Europe and the Muslim World in the Age of Colonialism, 1830-1948

University of Toronto

GGR112: Geographies of Globalization and Development (Summer 2016), University of Toronto.

ENG365: Contemporary American Fiction (Spring 2016),

ENG252: Canadian Literature (Spring 2016)

ENG445: Malory's Morte D'Arthur and the Arthurian Tradition (Spring 2016)

DTS300: Quantitative & Qualitative Reasoning in Diaspora Studies (Spring 2016)

ENG337: Drama 1600-1800 (Fall 2015)

ENG307: Women Writers, 1660-1800 (Fall 2015)

HIS312: Immigration to Canada (Fall 2015)

HIS205: Topics in Women's History (Fall 2015)

DTS200: Introduction to Diaspora and Transnational Studies (Spring 2014)

HIS271: American History Since 1607 (Spring 2014)

Other Employment

2019 Phorms Secondary School (Berlin, Germany), Workshop Coordinator for LK English (May-June)

2012 McGill University (Development & Alumni Relations), Electronic Communications Coordinator (June-Sep)

2011 McGill University (Development & Alumni Relations), Editorial Assistant, *McGill News Alumni Magazine*, Editor Daniel McCabe (June 2011-August 2012)

- 2011 McGill University Libraries (Rare Books and Special Collections) Catalogue Librarian (Jan 2011-Sept 2011)
- 2010 Aurora Montessori School, Media Relations Editor (Apr 2010-Apr 2011)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

- University of Toronto, Suicide Intervention Skills Training, SafeTALK Certificate (2017)
- University of Toronto, Mental Health Training Program, 'More Feet on the Ground' Certificate (2017)
- University of Toronto, Teaching Assistants' Training Program, Teaching Fundamentals Certificate (2009-2010)
- Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques de France, Teachers' Training Program (2012)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2017-Present *Co-Founder*, Scarborough Studies Collective, Scarborough (Sep)
- 2015-2019 *Invited Panelist*, "What You Can Do With an English Degree," University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (Oct/Nov)
- 2018 *Chair*, The Initiative for Scarborough Studies Symposium at the UTSC 10th Annual English Undergraduate Conference, University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (Feb)
- 2017 *Invited Panelist*, "Career Paths in English," University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (Sep)
- 2017 *Invited Panelist*, Massey College Mental Health and Wellness Panel: Massey College, University of Toronto (Sep)
- 2017 *Program Coordinator*, Massey College Iranian Series. Massey College, University of Toronto (Spring-Fall)
- 2016 *Panel Organizer*, "Access to Justice and Safety for Minority Groups in Canada," Chair Prof. Rinaldo Walcott. Presented by the University of Toronto Graduate Students Union Race & Ethnicity Caucus, Massey College, University of Toronto (December)
- 2016 *House Captain* (House V), Massey College, University of Toronto
- 2016-2017 *Co-Chair*, Diversity Committee, Massey College, University of Toronto
- 2016 *Commentator*, "Prospects of Senate Reform," Chair Tom Axworthy, Massey College, University of Toronto (April)
- 2016 *Chair*, University of Toronto Scarborough Campus English Undergraduate Conference: Panel on "Place and Displacement," Toronto (March)
- 2015 *Panel Organizer*, "Institutionalized Colonialism/Decolonizing Spaces," Chair Susan Blight.
Presented by the University of Toronto Graduate Students Union Race & Ethnicity Caucus, University of Toronto (December)
- 2014-2018 *Founding Chair*, Race and Ethnicity Caucus of the University of Toronto Graduate Student Union (2014-Present)
- 2014 *Committee Member*, University of Toronto English Graduate Students Union Social Committee

- 2014 *Presenter*, University of Toronto High School Gifted Program Conference (Feb)
- 2014 *Mentor*, University of Toronto Central Commerce Mentorship Program (Jan-May)
- 2014 *Committee Member*, University of Toronto English Graduate Conference Committee
- 2013 *Invited Panelist*, “Exciting Lives of UTSC English Alumni,” University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (Nov)
- 2011 *Post-Graduate Students’ Society Equity Committee (PGSS EqC) Representative* to the McGill University Joint Board-Senate Subcommittee on Race and Ethnic Relations (2011-2012)
- 2009 *UofT Delegate*, Representative of Malaysia to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), *McGill Model United Nations Assembly*, Montreal (Jan)
- 2009 *Committee Member*, University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Department of English Program Review Committee (Mar)
- 2008 *Founding President*, University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Debating Society (2008 - 2010)
- 2008 *Panel Organizer*, “Iran’s Ethical Tomorrow: An Academic Panel on Human Rights.” Presented by the Iranian Association at the University of Toronto (Nov)
- 2006 *VP Social*, University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Women’s Society (2006 - 2009)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2018-Present *Committee Member*, Parya Trillium Foundation Scholarship Committee
- 2017-2018 *Committee Member*, Massey College Book Club
- 2016 *Committee Member*, Hart House Diversity Advisory Committee
- 2015-2017 *Coordinator*, Massey College and University of Toronto Department of English Toy and Food Drive for the Red Door Family Shelter
- 2011-2012 *Volunteer*, Montreal Mission Old Brewery Soup Kitchen
- 2010-2011 *Committee Member*, Young Iranian Leaders Network (in affiliation with the Canadian International Peace Project), Advisory Committee Member
- 2009-2010 *Committee Member*, Parya Trillium Foundation Annual Gala Fundraising Committee

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English
Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States
Association for Iranian Studies

LANGUAGES

Persian (fluent)
French (reading and speaking proficiency, completed ‘FRE6000: Reading French Course for Graduate Students’ with A+)

Between Memory and Mythology: Diasporic Pilgrimage in Post-Revolution Iranian Women's Return Narratives

In our increasingly diasporized world, many people call elsewhere home, and they feel an inexplicable yet intense desire to travel there to see it for themselves. Like pilgrims, diasporic returnees heed the call of nostalgia to re-establish a connection with their lost origins on the level of the imagination by returning to places that represent their past lives. My dissertation looks at four post-revolution Iranian return narratives, Gelareh Asayesh's *Saffron Sky* (1999), Tara Bahrahmpour's *To See and See Again* (1999), Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis II: The Story of a Return* (2004), and Parnaz Foroutan *Home is A Stranger* (2020) to chart the history of this subgenre vis-a-vis the shifting image of Iran after the Islamic Revolution and 9/11, and understand the potential of returning to sites of return that are imbued with history as a type of diasporic pilgrimage that can transform one's identity.

Iranian women's life writing, which has boomed in the post-9/11 era, reflects an important distinction between narratives of exile and diasporic return, which are portrayed through distinct tropes and genres. While exile is a political status associated with exclusion from and/or the deprivation of ties to the homeland, the term diaspora is both a descriptive category that refers to maintaining communities away from home, and an interpretive framework that challenges nationalistic discourses of fixed origins through the notion of transnationalism. Exilic Iranian women's life narratives, such as prison and human rights writing, are generally written by public figures, who express their first-hand knowledge about the political workings of Iran's regime and their personal experience of imprisonment and/or state intimidation leading up to their exile. However, Iranian women's narratives of return not only reflect a desire to be in Iran, but they also draw on the generative potential of pilgrimage to

establish diasporic identity by: negotiating the self in relation to the image of Iran in the media vis-a-vis their first-hand experiences, negotiating inherited memories against the backdrop of contemporary Iran, and negotiating their hybrid gendered identity in post-revolution Iran. The books under analysis refocus the mainstream image of women's lives after the revolution, which divided Iranian national belonging along gender lines. These narratives are marked by the tendency to recalibrate identity through diasporic pilgrimage, especially with respect to hard-to-reach locations in post-revolution Iran. In portraying Iran as a place of return and tourism, rather than a place of confinement where women only suffer, the narratives at hand ultimately portray it as a place of leisure, opportunity, and growth. My project thus also demonstrates that the rhetoric of diasporic pilgrimage is deployed by Iranian women writers to complicate the image of post-revolution Iran in the Western imagination.