Leila Moslemi Mehni

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**Education**

2020- present

**PhD candidate, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto**

Research Area: Iranian Art and History

PhD thesis: *Iranian Visual Public Sphere, Late Qajar and Early Pahlavi Period*

Supervisor: Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi

2018-2020

**MA, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto**

Research Area: Iranian Art and History

Supervisor: Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi

2012-2015

**MA,** **Department of Art History, York University**

Research Area: Iranian Art and History

Major Research Project: *Queen Farah Pahlavi’s Western Art Collection and its Impact on Contemporary Persian Visual Art from 1940s to1970s*

Supervisor: Sara Parsons

2012-2015

**Certificate in Curatorial Studies in Visual Culture, York University**

2001- 2005

Bachelor of Arts in Museum Studies,**University of Tehran, Institute of Cultural Heritage and Higher Education, Tehran, Iran**

Major Research Project: *Hellenism/Greek Art Impact on Parthians*

*(247BC- 224 AD) With the study of more than 100 museums objects*

Supervisor: Azadeh Rezaei

**Research Position**

2023-Present, Research assistant, Tavakoli Archive, Toronto, Canada

Research area: Researching on *Tawfiq* newspaper

Supervisor: Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi

2023 (September-March), Curator/Research assistant, Tavakoli Archive, Toronto, Canada, (paid internship program between Tavakoli Archive and Aga Khan Museum, and York university),

Research area: Iranian historical archival materials

Supervisor: Leila Pourtavaf

2020-present, Research assistant, University of Toronto,

Canada,

Research area: Archiving lithographs

Supervisor: Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi

2019, Curator/Research assistant, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada, (paid internship program between University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum),

Research area: Middle Eastern Art

Supervisor: Fahmida Suleman

2014, Curator/ Research assistant, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto,

Canada, (internship program between York university and Royal Ontario Museum)

Research area: ancient Iranian history

Supervisor: Edward Keall

**Professional Experience**

2015-2017, Curator Assistant/ Educator, Sheikh Faisal Museum (FBQ), Doha, Qatar

Work area: research on Islamic art collections and exhibitions

2003-2005, Curator Assistant/ Educator, National Museum, Tehran, Iran

Work area: research on Iranian ancient objects

# Conferences and Seminars

September 22, 2023, Women, Life, Liberty: a Symposium Dedicated to Dr. Shirin Ebadi Nobel Peace Laureate, Toronto, Canada

Title of Paper: Depictions of Iranian Women in Diasporic Caricatures

2021- November 29, December 3. Middle East Studies Association

Conference. Montreal, Canada

Title of Paper: The Malek National Library and Museum: Negotiating

Curatorial Agency in an Iranian waqf

2019- March. NMCGSA Symposium. 23rd Annual, University of Toronto,

Toronto, Canada

Title of Paper: Queen Farah Pahlavi’s Western Art Collection and its

Impact on Contemporary Persian Visual Art from 1940s to1970s

**Leadership and Management Experience**:

**President, Iranian Studies Student Forum**

Led a team of students to organize and execute events in, enhancing student engagement and fostering a sense of community:

**Convener events:**

A symposium on Exploring Contemporary Iranian art, Series 1, 2, 3,

held in June, October, and March 2024

Beyond the Frame: The Impact of Illustrated Narrative, April 4, 2025

Kafka’s Metamorphosis—As seen by three visual artists, July 28, 2025

Embodied Voices, Revolutionary Narratives: Gender, Art, and Decolonial Thought, October 31, 2025

**Co-organizer:**

“A Half-Century of *Towfigh*: The Oldest Persian Satirical Periodical,” event, June 17, 2023

Graduate students’ online Symposium: Topic on the Recent 2022 Uprising in Iran, June 30th, 2023

Women, Life, Liberty: a Symposium Dedicated to Dr. Shirin Ebadi Nobel Peace Laureate, September 22, 2023

The 24th Annual Graduate Students’ NMC Symposium, Participated in panel 1: Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies panel on continuities and transformations in Modern Iran (chair: Prof. Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi), March 14, 2024

**Academic Honors and Awards**

2019–2020 Ontario Gradate Scholarship

2020-2021 Mitacs (Research Training Award)

### 2024-2025 Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Dissertation Completion

Fellowships

**Languages Proficiency**

Persian: native

English: Fluent

Arabic: intermediate