



Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

August 15, 2024

Re: Recommendation for Sepideh Najmzadeh for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2024–25

I have been a member of Sepideh's dissertation committee since 2021 and an examiner on her PhD examinations committee. Prior to that she took several of my graduate courses. She has also been my TA in the *Shahnameh* course, and she briefly worked as my research assistant on a project. I have had ample opportunity to assess her research, writing, and analytical skills. She is an excellent researcher whose dissertation will be a significant contribution to the study of Zoroastrian religious texts in New Persian translation in the early modern period of Iranian history. The most recent PhD thesis advisory committee meeting held on May 31, 2024 reported that she has made remarkable progress on her dissertation and that she will be able to complete it by late spring of 2025. I recommend her for this generous Fellowship without reservations.

Sincerely yours,

Maria Subtelny

Professor of Persian and Islamic Studies

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