

Peyman Vahabzadeh

Professor, Department of Sociology

Abridged Curriculum Vitae (updated January 2023)

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Personal Information

- Born in Tehran, Iran; immigrated to Canada in 1989, Canadian citizen.
- Languages: Persian (mother tongue), English (native competence), French (intermediate reading/comprehension), Turkish (intermediate comprehension/conversation), Italian (basic reading/comprehension), Arabic (basic reading), Greek (rudimentary reading).
- Profile: <http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/sociology/people/faculty/vahabzadehpeyman.php>
- Resource: <https://uvic.academia.edu/PeymanVahabzadeh>

Present and Past Positions:

- 2017-present: Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria.
- 2017-2018: Visiting Scholar, Institute for the Humanities, Simon Fraser University (Study Year, June 2017-July 2018).
- 2013-2016: Director of Cultural, Social, and Political Thought (CSPT) Interdisciplinary Graduate Theory Program, University of Victoria.
- 2011-2017: Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria.
- 2010: Visiting Scholar, Centre for the Comparative Studies of Muslim Societies and Cultures, Simon Fraser University (Study Term, January-June 2010).
- 2006-2011: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria.
- 2005-2006: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria (Limited Term Appointment).
- 2004: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Brock University (Limited Term Appointment).
- 2003-2004: Adjunct Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Simon Fraser University.

Education:

- 2001-2003: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria.
- 2000: Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology, Simon Fraser University. Dissertation Title: "Articulated Experiences: Toward A Radical Phenomenology of Contemporary Social Movements."
- 1995: BA in Anthropology and Sociology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia.

Research Areas:

- Classical and Contemporary Social Theory; Phenomenology, Colonialism and Postcoloniality; Iranian social movements; Social Movements and Collective Action; Exile.

Major Awards, Grants, Recognitions:

- 2022-2025 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Grant (\$67,738) (435-2022-0033)
- 2018-2021 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Grant (\$88,721) (435-2018-0010)

- 2015-2016 - UVic Internal Research Grant (IRG) Faculty Research Grant (\$6,375)
- 2015-2016 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Connection Grant (\$23,809) (611-2014-0393)
- 2012-2013 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Connection Grant (\$19,645) (611-2012-058)
- 2011-2014 - UVic Internal Research Grant (IRG) Top-up Grant (\$2,550)
- 2011-2014 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Standard Research Grant (\$67,464) (410-2011-0358)
- 2010 - UVic Office of Research Services Internal Research Support for SSHRC 4A Applications (\$1,000)
- 2010 - UVic Faculty of Social Sciences Research & Development Grant Applications Assistance Program (\$1,000)
- 2007-2010 - UVic Internal Research Grant (IRG) Top-up Grant (\$2,100)
- 2007-2010 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Standard Research Grant (\$59,000)
- 2006 - University of Victoria Startup Research Fund (\$10,000)
- 2006 - IRG/SSHRC General Research/Activity Grant, University of Victoria (\$3,980)
- 2001-2003 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Post-Doctoral Fellowship (\$71,965)
- 2001 - Simon Fraser University, Dean of Graduate Studies Convocation Medal for Academic Excellence in the Faculty of Arts
- 2000 - Alan Boag Scholarship (\$2,000)
- 1998-2000 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship (\$33,240)

Publications:

Scholarly Books:

2022. *The Art of Defiance: Dissident Culture and Militant Resistance in 1970s Iran* (Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press).
2019. *A Rebel's Journey: Mustafa Sho'aiyan and Revolutionary Theory in Iran* (London: OneWorld). xi-xxx + 322 pp.
2019. *Violence and Nonviolence: Conceptual Excursions into Phantom Opposites* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press). 352 pp.
2015. *Parviz Sadri: A Political Biography* (Vancouver: Shahrگون Books). 132 pp. In Persian.
2012. *Exilic Meditations: Essays on a Displaced Life* (London: H&S Media). 162 pp.
2010. *A Guerrilla Odyssey: Modernization, Secularism, Democracy, and the Fadai Period of National Liberation in Iran, 1971-1979* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press). xxv + 289 pp.
2003. *Articulated Experiences: Toward A Radical Phenomenology of Contemporary Social Movements* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press). 223 pp.

Scholarly Edited Volumes:

2020. *Crossing Borders: Essays in Honour of Ian Angus*, edited by S. Gandesha and P. Vahabzadeh (Regina: Arbeiter Ring Press). 431 pp.
2017. *Iran's Struggles for Social Justice: Economics, Agency, Justice, Activism*, edited by P. Vahabzadeh (New York: Palgrave MacMillan). 322 pp.

Edited Journal Issues:

2007. *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*, Guest Co-editor (with Jeffrey W. Robbins) of Special Issue: "Religion, Democracy, and the Politics of Fright." 8:2 (Spring 2007). 217 pp.
2003. *West Coast Line*, Guest Editor of Special Issue: "Writing Rupture: Iranian Emigration Literature." 39 (36/3, Spring). 142 pp.

Papers in Peer-Reviewed Journals:

2021. "Students for Freedom and Equality: The Inevitable Return of the Left in Post-Revolutionary Iran." *Iranian Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2020.1836952>
2016. "Sites of Collective Action." *Seminar* 679 (March 2016). 44-51.
2015. "Phenomenology and Literature." *Inquire: Journal of Comparative Literature* 4:2 (November 2015). Available at: <http://inquire.streetmag.org/articles/162>.
2015. "Acting and the World: A Tripartite Phenomenological Concept of Violence." *Heathwood Journal of Critical Theory* 1:1 (September 2015). 174-97.
2014. "Suggestion, Translation, Transposition: Semiotic Reflections on Collective Action in the Middle East and Beyond." *Sociology of Islam* 2 (2014). 111-26.
2014. "Homecoming to No Home: Reflections on Samir Gandesha's 'Hegel's Homecoming of Spirit'." *Contours* 4 (Summer 2014). Available at: <http://www.sfu.ca/humanities-institute/?p=2964> (accessed July 25, 2014).
2011. "SAKA: Iran's Grassroots Revolutionary Workers' Organisation." *Revolutionary History* 10:3 (Spring 2011). 348-359.
2011. "Mostafa Sho'a'ayan: An Iranian Leftist Political Thinker Unlike His Peers." *Revolutionary History* 10:3 (Spring 2011). 360-375.
2011. "Secularism and the Iranian Militant Left: Cultural Issues or Political Misconception?" *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 31:1 (March 2011). 85-93.
2010. "Civil Society and Repressive Development." *Seminar* 616 (December 2010). 20-25.
2009. "Ultimate Referentiality: Radical Phenomenology and the New Interpretive Sociology." *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 35:4 (May 2009). 447-65.
2008. "Where Will I Dwell? A Sociology of Literary Identity within Iranian Diaspora." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 28:3 (Fall 2008). 495-512.
2007. "The Conditions of Subalternity: Reflections on Subjectivity, Experience and Hegemony." *Socialist Studies/Études socialistes* 3:2 (Fall 2007). 93-113.
2007. "Measure and Democracy in the Age of Politics of Fright." *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 8:2 (Spring 2007). 8-27.
2007. "Mostafa Sho'a'ayan: The Maverick Theorist of the Revolution and the Failure of Frontal Politics in Iran." *Iranian Studies* 40:3 (June 2007). 405-425.
2007. "Mustafa Shu'a'ayan and Fada'iyan-i Khalq: Frontal Politics, Stalinism, and the Role of Intellectuals in Iran." *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 34:1 (April 2007). 43-61.
2006. "Reflections on A Diremptive Experience and Four Theses on Origins and Exile." *Journal for Interdisciplinary Crossroads* 3:1 (April 2006). 163-181.
2005. "Of Hegemonies Yet to Be Broken: Rhetoric and Philosophy at the Age of Accomplished Metaphysics." *The European Legacy* 10:4 (June 2005). 375-388.
2003. "Be-ing E-migration Poetry." *West Coast Line* 39 (36/3, Spring 2003). 129-135.
2002. "Homeland Exiled." *West Coast Line* 38 (36/2, Fall 2002). 80-81.
2001. "A Critique of Ultimate Referentiality in the Social Movement Theory of Alberto Melucci." *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 26:4 (December 2001). 611-633.
1996. "Space, Identity, and Bilingual Poetry: Rethinking Iranian 'Emigration Poetry'." *The Literary Review* 40:1 (Fall 1996). 42-58.

Book Chapters:

- Accepted. "Being Maverick: Mostafa Sho'aiyan's Cosmopolitan and Frontal Theory of Rebellion," in Mojtaba Mahdavi (ed.), *Imagining "Indigenous" and "Glocal" Democratic Socialism: Can Freedom, Social Justice, and Civil Spirituality Coexist in Muslim Societies?* (forthcoming).
2023. "Exceptions to Exceptionalisms! Or What MENA Offers to World History," in Mojtaba Mahdavi (ed.), *The Myth of Middle East Exceptionalism: The Unfinished Project of MENA Social Movements* (Syracuse University Press). 29-45.
2021. "Foreword" to Persian translation of Chantal Mouffe's *For a Populist Left*, translated by Hossein Rahmati (Tehran: Nashr-e Akhtaran). 13-17. In Persian.
2021. "Foreword" to Saeed Sharifi and Fatemeh Khoshnevisan, *A True Human Is My Dream: On the Works of Peyman Vahabzadeh* (Isfahan: Sadra Sepahan). x-xvii. In Persian.
2020. "A Singular Intellectual: Mostafa Sho'aiyan, a Revolutionary Scholar." In Ramin Jahanbegloo (ed.), *Mapping the Role of Intellectuals in Iranian Modern and Contemporary History* (London: Lexington Books). 217-234.
- 2020 "La Revolución Islámica: Historia de una Reversión," in Moises Garduño García (ed.), *Irán A 40 Años De Revolución: Sociedad, Estado Y Relaciones Exteriores* (Mexico City: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). 37-56. In Spanish.
2020. "Toward a Critical Topology, or How to Act in the Playgrounds of Being," in Gandesha and Vahabzadeh, eds., *Crossing Borders* (op. cit.). 368-386.
2019. "La influencia oblicua de la fenomenología husserliana en La construcción social de la realidad" ["The Oblique Influence of Husserlian Phenomenology on *The Social Construction of Reality*"], in David E. Builes M. and Federico Vélez Vélez (eds.), *Objetividad, subjetividad y vida cotidiana: A 50 años de la aparición de La construcción social de la realidad de Peter Berger y Thomas Luckmann* (Manizales, Colombia: Universidad de Manizales). 15-40. In Spanish.
2017. "Historical and Conceptual Preparations for a Multidisciplinary Study of Social Justice in Iran," in P. Vahabzadeh (ed.), *Iran's Struggles for Social Justice: Economics, Agency, Justice, Activism* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2017). 9-28.
2017. "Social Justice and Democracy in Iran: In Search of the Missing Link," in P. Vahabzadeh (ed.), *Iran's Struggles for Social Justice: Economics, Agency, Justice, Activism* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2017). 289-306.
2015. "Rebellious Action and the 'Guerrilla Poetry': Dialectics of Art and Life in the 1970s Iran," in K. Talattof (ed.), *Persian Language, Literature and Culture: New Leaves, Fresh Looks; In Honor of Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak* (London/New York: Routledge). 103-22.
2015. "A Generation's Myth: Armed Struggle and the Creation of Social Epic in the 1970s Iran." in H. Chehabi, P. Jafari, and M. Jafroudi (eds.), *Iran in the Middle East: Transnational Encounters and Social History* (London: I. B. Tauris). 183-98.
2012. "Oblivion of Origins: Of Hegemonic Universals and Hybrid Civilizations," in A. Knight and M. Mahdavi (eds.), *Towards "the Dignity of Difference": Neither "the Clash of Civilizations" nor "the End of History"* (London: Ashgate Publishing). 43-53.
2012. "Foreword," to Fariba Sabet, *At What Price? Memoir of Fariba Sabet*, tr. N. Kahori (Salt Lake City: Millennial Mind Publishing). 7-10.
2011. "Civil Society in Iran: The Story of a Century-Long Struggle," in R. Jahanbegloo (ed.), *Civil Society and Democracy in Iran* (London: Lexington Books). 3-25.
2010. "Reflections on a Diremptive Experience and Four Theses on Origins and Exile," in D. Kettler (ed.), *The Limits of Exile* (Glienicke, Germany: Galda). 163-80.
2009. "On the Merits of Orientalism: A Heretical Essay in the Sociology of Knowledge," in S. P. Hier, D. Lett, & B. Singh Bolaria (eds.), *Racism and Justice: Critical Dialogue on the Politics of Identity, Inequality, and Change* (Halifax: Fernwood Press). 94-106.

2007. “*Pishvazbeh: Takandishi-ye Sho‘aiyan va barkbord-e chap-e a‘ini*” [“Foreword: Sho‘aiyan’s Singular Thought and the Reaction of the Doctrinal Left”], in C. Chaqueri (ed.), Mostafa Sho‘aiyan, *Hasht nameh beh cherik’ha-ye Fadaei khalq: Naqd-e yek manesh-e fekeri* [Mostafa Sho‘aiyan, *Eight Letters to the People’s Fadaei Guerrillas: Critique of An Approach*] (Tehran: Nashr-e Ney). iv-xix.
2004. “The Space Between Voices: Nima Yushij and the ‘Receding Signified’,” in A. Karimi-Hakkak and K. Talattof (eds.), *Essays on Nima Yushij: Animating Modernism in Persian Poetry* (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill). 193-219.
2001. “Technological Liberalism and the Anarchic Actor,” in I. Angus (ed.), *Anarcho-Modernism: Toward A New Critical Theory, In Honour of Jerry Zaslove* (Vancouver: Talon Books). 341-350.

Encyclopedia Entry:

2015. “FADA’IAN-E KALQ,” *Encyclopædia Iranica*, online edition, 2015, available at <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/fadaian-e-khalq> (accessed 07 December 2015).

Instructional Texts:

2005. *CNS-490 Study Guide: The Canadian Intellectual Tradition*, co-authored with Karl Froschauer (Burnaby: Centre for Canadian Studies/Centre for Online and Distance Education, Simon Fraser University). 160 pp.

Review Essays:

2022. “Ali Rahnema, *Call to Arms: Iran’s Marxist Revolutionaries, Formation and Evolution of the Fada’is, 1964–1976*.” *Historical Materialism*. <https://www.historicalmaterialism.org/index.php/book-review/review-call-to-arms-irans-marxist-revolutionaries>
2021. “Genealogies of Violence and the Question of Acting in War for Peace.” *Syndicate Philosophy*. <https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/war-for-peace/>
2007. “Globalization and the New Modes of Activism.” *Labour/Le Travail* 59 (Spring 2007). 211-224. Republished in History Cooperative. Available at: <http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/llt/59/vahabzadeh.html> (accessed February 2, 2012).
2005. “The Secular Good in Denial: The Lesser Evil and the Politics of Fright.” *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 6:2 (April 2005). 117-129.
2005. “Bizhan Jazani and the Problems of Historiography of the Iranian Left.” *Iranian Studies* 38:1 (March 2005). 167-178.

Book Reviews:

15 book reviews published in *Iranian Studies*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *The Rain Review of Books*, *Symposium*, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, *The Persian Book Review*, *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*.

Selected Recent Conference Papers:

2021. “Genealogies of Violence and the Question of Acting in War for Peace.” Online Syndicate Philosophy Symposium. April 2021. Available at: <https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/war-for-peace/> (accessed 20 May 2021).
2021. “Disowning the Past: A Micro-Historical Reading a People’s Fadaei Guerrillas’ Communiqué as a Political Dispatch and a Literary Text.” Paper presented to the Conference “Tudeh Party at 80.” University of St. Andrews (UK). March 29-April 1, 2021 (1 April). Online Conference. Recording available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqrgkjaMXdE&ab_channel=InstituteofIranianStudiesStAndrews

2019. ““Being Maverick: Mostafa Sho‘aiyan’s Cosmopolitan and Frontal Theory of Global Rebellion.” Paper presented to “Imagining ‘Indigenous’ and ‘Glocal’ Democratic Socialism: Can Freedom, Social Justice, and Civil Spirituality Coexist in Muslim Societies?” University of Alberta, Edmonton, April 27-28, 2019 (April 27).
2019. “A Sociology of Possibilities: Social Movements and World Order.” Paper Presented to “Sectarianism and Social Justice in the Modern Middle East.” Autonomous National University of Mexico, Mexico City, April 12, 2019.
2019. “Social Justice in Iran: A Century Long Struggle.” Presented to “Iran’s revolution at 40: Society, State and Foreign Relations.” Autonomous National University of Mexico, Mexico City, April 11, 2019.
2019. “Refugee Democracy.” Paper presented to “Democracy and Its Futures Workshop.” University of Victoria, March 21-22, 2019.
2018. “The Future of the Left.” Paper presented to International Society for Iranian Studies Twelfth Biennial Conference. University of California-Irvine, August 14-17, 2018 (August 15).
2017. “On the Perils of Memory and Its Issues.” Paper presented to “Rewriting the Iranian Revolution.” Seattle: University of Washington, May 12-13, 2017.
2016. “A Creative, Egalitarian Future Is Already Here: On the Rising Intellectuals of the Iranian Left.” Paper presented to International Society for Iranian Studies Eleventh Biennial Conference. University of Vienna, Austria, August 2-6, 2016 (August 4).
2016. “A Glance into the Future: Actual and Possible Co- and Cross-Articulations of Social Justice and Democracy in Iran.” Presented to International Society for Iranian Studies Eleventh Biennial Conference. University of Vienna, Austria, August 2-5, 2016 (August 2).
2015. “Exceptions to Exceptionalisms! What the Middle East Offers to World History.” Presented to “Unfinished Project of Arab Spring,” University of Alberta. Edmonton, AB, September 25-27, 2015.
2015. ““Return of the Actor?” Exploring the Revitalization of Social Justice Movements in Iran.” Presented to “Social Justice in Iran: Canadian and International Perspectives,” University of Victoria, July 10-12, 2015.
2014. “Toward Critical Topology, or How to Act in the Playgrounds of Being.” Presented to Canadian Society of Continental Philosophy Annual Conference. Simon Fraser University. Vancouver, BC, October 2-4, 2014.
2014. “The New Turn of Social Movements in Iran? Preliminary Observations.” Presented to World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies. Middle East Technical University. Ankara, Turkey, August 18-22, 2014.
2014. “Social Justice and Democracy in Iran: in Search of the Missing Link.” Presented to International Society for Iranian Studies 10th Biennial Conference. Montreal, Canada, August 7-10, 2014.
2013. “Transformative Nonviolence: Reflections for Activism and Change.” Keynote address to Third Annual Sociology and Criminology Undergraduate Student Conference, invited by Sociology and Criminology Departments and the Centre for Global & Multicentric Education. Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, BC, November 1, 2013.
2013. Session Organizer, Chair, and Discussant in “New Dimensions in Phenomenological Sociology.” Canadian Sociological Association Annual Conference in conjunction with 82nd Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Victoria, June 4, 2013.
2013. “Suggestion, Translation, Transposition: Reflections on the Middle East and Beyond.” Presented to “The Challenge of Democratization from Within: Rethinking Iran’s Green

- Movement and the Arab Spring.” Liu Institute for Peace, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, March 1, 2013.
2012. Discussant in “Displacement.” The Joanne Brown Symposium on Violence and Its Alternatives, Institute for the Humanities at Simon Fraser University, Bowen Island, British Columbia, October 19-21, 2012.
2012. “Iranians in Canada: The ‘Push’ Factors and Diverging Horizons.” Presented to Refugee Conference, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, BC, June 20-23, 2012.
2010. “Social Justice and Democracy in Today’s Iran: In Search of the Missing Link.” Presented to the Conference “Toward A Culture of Civil Liberties and Democracy in Iran.” The Roshan Center for Persian Studies. University of Maryland, Baltimore, October 28-31, 2010.
2010. “The Politicization of Shi’ism in Iran and Its Possible Futures.” Presented to the 8th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Iranian Studies, Santa Monica, CA, May 27-30, 2010.
2010. “Repressive Development and Civil Society in Iran.” Presented to the Conference organized by Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto on “Civil Society and Democracy in Iran: Canadian and Comparative Perspectives,” University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, May 14-15, 2010.

Teaching Experience (since 2005):

- 11 graduate courses in Classical Sociological Theory, CSPT Core Course, and Sociology and CSPT Seminars.
- 13 graduate Directed Readings courses on phenomenology, Heidegger, social movements, ecophenomenology, Marxism/postmarxism, Husserl, Foucault, Gramsci, 20th century Iranian social and political movements.
- 42 undergraduate courses on the themes of Social Justice, Social Problems, Introductory Sociology, History of Social Theory, Social Explanations, Social Movements, Religion and Society, Modernization and Development, Revolutions, Colonialism and Postcoloniality, Cinema and Society, Qualitative Methods, Environmental Sociology, Current Issues in Theory.
- 3 undergraduate Directed Readings courses.

Supervisory Activities (since 2005):

- External Examiner: 3 MA’s in Political Science, 1 MA in History, 1 MA in Germanic and Slavic Studies, 1 MA and 1 PhD in Humanities, 1 PhD in Comparative Literature.
- Currently Supervising: 4 PhD students, 4 MA students.
- Previous (Co-)Supervision: 3 PhD, 12 MA students. Supervisor committee member: 2 PhD, 14 MA students.
- Co-Supervisor: 1 PhD & 1 MA students; Supervisory Committee member of 2 PhD & 12 MA students. Comprehensive/Candidacy Examination Committee member of 28 PhD students.
- Supervised 6 Honour’s students.