



## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **SIAVASH SAFFARI**

Associate Professor (West Asian Studies)  
Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations  
Seoul National University  
Seoul, South Korea  
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### **CITIZENSHIP**

Canadian, Iranian

### **LANGUAGES**

Native proficiency in Persian and English; basic proficiency in Arabic and Korean

### **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D. Political Science, and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies.** University of Alberta (2013)

**M.A. Political Science.** McMaster University (2007)

**B.A. Political Science.** Simon Fraser University (2006)

### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

March 2020 – present

**Associate Professor (West Asian Studies)**

Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations – Seoul National University

March 2016 – February 2020


**Assistant Professor (West Asian Studies)**

Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations – Seoul National University

September 2014 – February 2016

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies – Columbia University



January 2013 – June 2014

**Contract Instructor**

Department of Political Science – University of Alberta

**COURSES TAUGHT**

**Undergraduate**

*Introduction to Modern Islamic Political Thought* – Seoul National University

*Muslims and Democracy* – Seoul National University

*Issues in Modern Middle East History* – Seoul National University

*Readings in Persian Classics* – Seoul National University

*Introduction to the History of Political Thought* – University of Alberta

*Introduction to Comparative Politics: Global South* – University of Alberta

**Graduate**

*Islamist and Post-Islamist Movements in the Middle East* – Seoul National University

*Topics in Modern Islamic Thought* – Seoul National University

*Politics, Society, and Intellectual Trends in Modern Iran* – Seoul National University

**Current Graduate Supervision**

“Center-Periphery Relations in Post-Revolutionary Iran” (Kim Gunha, MA thesis, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations)

“Phenomenological Approaches in Modern Islamic Thought” (Kwak Jaewook, MA thesis, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations)

## AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND GRANTS

- 2018 *Best First Book Award* – American Political Science Association, Foundations of Political Theory section [for *Beyond Shariati: Modernity, Cosmopolitanism and Islam in Iranian Political Thought*, CUP 2017]
- 2016 *New Generation Outstanding Scholar Grant* – Seoul National University (\$50,000)
- 2014 *Two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship Award* – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) (\$80,000)
- 2013 *Department of Political Science Nominee for the Governor General’s Gold Medal* – University of Alberta
- 2013 *Department of Political Science Conference Travel Grant* – University of Alberta (\$500)
- 2012 *Faculty of Arts Graduate International Travel Award* – University of Alberta (\$2,000)
- 2010 *Two-year Doctoral Fellowship Award* – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) (\$40,000)
- 2011 *President’s Doctoral Prize of Distinction* – University of Alberta (\$10,000)
- 2010 *President’s Doctoral Prize of Distinction* – University of Alberta (\$10,000)
- 2009 *Graduate Citizenship Award* – Government of Alberta
- 2009 *Certificate of Recognition* – Unveiling Africa Foundation
- 2009 *Graduate Scholarship* – University of Alberta
- 2008 *Provost Doctoral Entrance Award* – University of Alberta Faculty of Graduate Studies
- 2006 *Graduate Scholarship* – McMaster University
- 2006 *Robert L. Stanfield Book Prize* – Department of Political Science, Simon Fraser University

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Beyond Shariati: Modernity, Cosmopolitanism and Islam in Iranian Political Thought*, Cambridge University Press, 2017. Paperback reissue, 2019. [Persian edition, translated by Ali Kalandi, published in Tehran: Andisheh, 2018]

*Unsettling Colonial Modernity in Islamicate Contexts* (co-edited with Roxana Akhbari, Kara Abdolmaleki, and Evelyn Hamdon), Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017.

### Refereed Articles

“Taqi Erāni, Bizhan Jazani, and a Marxian Framework for the Critique of Religion,” accepted with revisions at *Iranian Studies*.

“Ali Shariati and Cosmopolitan Localism,” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, Vol. 39, Issue 2 (2019): 282-295.

“Orientalism, Eurocentricity, and Civilizational Thinking: Comparing Edward Said and Ali Shariati” (东方主义、欧洲中心主义与文明论思想: 阿里·沙里亚蒂与爱德华·萨义德之比较) (translated into Mandarin by Xiaoxiao Xie), *Historiography Quarterly*, No. 2 (2019): 17-24.

“Oscillating between ‘East’ and ‘West’: Muhammad Iqbal and an Islamic Recasting of Modernity,” *Seoul National University Journal of Humanities* – special issue on Muslim-Non-Muslim Relations, Vol. 75, Issue 4 (2018): 85-128.

“Two Pro-Mostazafin Discourses in the 1979 Iranian Revolution,” *Contemporary Islam*, Vol. 11, Issue 3 (2017): 287–301.

“Introduction: Unsettling Colonial Modernity: Islamicate Contexts in Focus” (with Kara Abdolmaleki and Roxana Akhbari), in Siavash Saffari, Roxana Akhbari, Kara Abdolmaleki, and Evelyn Hamdon, eds., *Unsettling Colonial Modernity in Islamicate Contexts*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2017): 1-25.

“Charity or Mass Mobilization? Public Religion and the Struggle for Economic Justice,” in Peyman Vahabzadeh, ed., *Iran’s Struggles for Social Justice: Economics, Agency, Justice, Activism*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan (2017): 65-80.

“Can the Subaltern be Heard?: Knowledge Production, Representation, and Responsibility in International Development,” *Transcience Journal*, Vol. 7, Issue 1 (2016): 36-46.

“Rethinking the Islam/Modernity Binary: Ali Shariati and Religiously Mediated Discourse of Sociopolitical Development,” *Middle East Critique*, Vol. 4, Issue 3 (2015): 231-250.

“The Post-Islamist Turn and the Contesting Visions of Democratic Public Religion,” *Sociology of Islam – Contemporary Social Movements in the Middle East and North Africa* special issue, Vol. 2, Issue 3-4, (2014): 127-143.

“Alternative Development(s), or Alternative(s) to Development?: Challenges and Prospects for Genuine Alternative-building,” in Nathan N. Andrews, Ernest Khalema, Temitope Oriola, and Isaac Odoom, eds., *Africa Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow: Exploring the Multi-dimensional Discourses on ‘Development’*. Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, (2013): 40-51.

“Limitations of Dialogue: Conflict Resolution in the Context of Power Asymmetries and Neglected Differences,” in Mojtaba Mahdavi and W. Andy Knight, eds., *Towards the Dignity of Difference?: Neither End of History Nor Clash of Civilizations*. London, UK: Ashgate, (2012): 245-260.

### **Book Reviews**

“Review of *Khalil Maleki: The Human Face of Iranian Socialism*, by Homa Katouzian (London: Oneworld Publications, 2018),” forthcoming in *Iranian Studies*, Vol. 53 (2020).

“Review of *India, Modernity and the Great Divergence: Mysore and Gujarat (17th to 19th C.)*, by Kaveh Yazdani (Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2017),” *Review of Radical Political Economics*, Vol. 51: Issue 1 (2019): 166-169.

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

“Iqbal, Muhammad (1877–1938)” (with Bilgehan Yıldız), in Cenap Çakmak ed., *Islam: A Worldwide Encyclopedia* [4 volumes]. Santa Barbara, California and Denver, Colorado: ABC-CLIO (2017): 733-737.

“Shariati, Ali (1933–1977)” in Cenap Çakmak ed., *Islam: A Worldwide Encyclopedia* [4 volumes]. Santa Barbara, California and Denver, Colorado: ABC-CLIO (2017): 1440-1442.

“Qutb, Sayyid,” in Gregory Claeys ed., *Encyclopedia of Modern Political Thought – Volume Two*. Washington: SAGE / CQ Press, (2013): 663-664.

### **Translations (*Persian to English*)**

“Faithful Life in an Urfi/Secular State” (co-translated with Mojtaba Mahdavi), by Hassan Yusefi-Eshkevari, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East – Secularism and*

Islamism: Iran and Beyond special issue, 31:1 (2011), 23-26.

“Pre-Secular Iranians in a Post-Secular Age; The Death of God, the Resurrection of God” (co-translated with Mojtaba Mahdavi), by Reza Alijani, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* – Secularism and Islamism: Iran and Beyond special issue, 31:1 (2011), 27-33.

## CONFERENCES AND TALKS

### Invited Talks

- June 2019                    *Iranian Revolution, Religion, and Social Justice: The Ambivalent Relationship between Islamists and the Poor*, presented at “From the French Revolution to the ‘Candlelight Revolution’: Toward a Global History of Revolutions,” international conference, Academy of Korean Studies (Gyeonggi-do, South Korea)
- April 2019                    Author-Meets-Critics panel on *Beyond Shariati: Modernity, Cosmopolitanism and Islam in Iranian Political Thought*, held at the Western Political Science Association’s annual conference (San Diego, CA, USA)
- April 2019                    *Public Religiosity and Emancipatory Politics: Toward an Islamic Intersectional Theology*, presented at “Toward Indigenous Democratic Socialism in Muslim Societies: Freedom, Social Justice and Civil Spirituality” international conference, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- May 2018                    *Understanding the 2017-18 Iran Protests*, presented at the GCC institute at Dankook University (Yongin, South Korea)
- April 2018                    *The Middle East and the Liberal International Order*, presented at the Asan Plenum 2018, organized by the Asan Institute of Policy Studies (Seoul, South Korea)
- April 2018                    *Iran Protests: The Changing Dynamics between the Islamic Republic and the Poor*, presented at the colloquium of the Seoul National University Asia Center (Seoul, South Korea)
- February 2018                *Islamic Reform and Emancipatory Politics in the Age of Extremism and Neoliberalism*, organized by the Department of Political Science, University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- January 2018                *Religious Reform as an Emancipatory Social Project*, organized by the Ali

Shariati Cultural Foundation (Tehran, Iran)

- November 2017 *Reclaiming Revolutionary Islam: Shariati and Neo-Shariatis in Post-Revolutionary Iran*, organized by IDE – Istanbul Think House (Istanbul, Turkey)
- February 2017 *Iranian Political Thought from a Global/Dialogical Perspective*, co-organized by the Iranian Sociology Association, and the Institute for Culture, Arts, and Communications (Tehran, Iran)
- May 2016 *Islam, Modernity, and the West*, presented at the colloquium of the American Studies Institute at Seoul National University (Seoul, South Korea)
- July 2015 *Islamic Liberation Theology and a Pro-Poor Ethos of Economic Development*, presented at “Iran’s Struggles for Social Justice: Canadian and International Perspectives,” international conference, organized by University of Victoria Centre for Global Studies, and Simon Fraser University Centre for Comparative Studies of Muslim Societies and Cultures (Victoria, BC, Canada)
- March 2015 *Encountering Colonial Modernity in Modern Islamic Thought*, presented at the Islamic Studies Colloquium of the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies, Columbia University (New York, NY, USA)
- March 2013 *Rethinking the Religion-Democracy Nexus*, presented at “The Challenges of Democratization from Within: Rethinking Iran’s Green Movement and the Arab Spring” conference, organized by the Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC, Canada)
- June 2012 *Two Approaches to Decolonization*, presented at “What is Decolonizing Political Theory?,” Political Theory Workshop, during the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association (Edmonton, AB, Canada)

### **Conferences Papers**

- August 2020 *The Question of Religion Traced through Generations of the Left*, in *The Iranian Left: Continuity and Change across Three Generations* (Roundtable), to be presented at the International Society for Iranian Studies Biennial Conference (Salamanca, Spain)
- August 2020 *Between Critique and Acquiescence: Marxism, Islam, and the Ambivalent Secularism of the Tudeh Party*, to be presented at the International Society for Iranian Studies Biennial Conference (Salamanca, Spain)

- August 2018 *Iranian Left and the Question of Religion: A Comparative Reading of Taqi Arrani and Bijan Jazani*, presented at the International Society for Iranian Studies Biennial Conference (Irvine, CA, USA)
- May 2018 *Orientalism, Eurocentricity, and Civilizational Thinking: Comparing Edward Said and Ali Shariati*, presented at “Orientalism, Neo-Orientalism and Post-Orientalism: In African, Middle East, Latin American, Asian/Chinese Studies – 15th Anniversary of Memory of Edward Said (1935-2003) and 40th Anniversary of His Book (1978),” organized by the Center for Global Studies, Shanghai University (Shanghai, China)
- November 2017 *Challenges and Prospects of a Leftist Revival in Iran*, presented at the Middle East Studies 2017 / Interdisciplinary Conference on Middle East, organized by DAKAM (Eastern Mediterranean Academic Research Center) (Istanbul, Turkey)
- November 2017 *Decolonial Articulations of Modernity and Cosmopolitanism: Reading Shariati in Dialogue with Dussel and Mignolo*, presented at “The Postcolonial Africa, Latin America and the Middle East in the Past, Present, and Future” conference, Yeditepe University (Istanbul, Turkey)
- June 2017 *An Islamic Recasting of Modernity?: Muhammad Iqbal and a Theory of Subjectivity from the Colonial Periphery*, presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Asia (Seoul, South Korea)
- June 2017 *Cosmopolitanism and Its Postcolonial Discontents: Dussel, Mignolo, and Beyond*, presented at the annual meeting of the Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture Association (Toronto, ON, Canada)
- April 2017 *Snapshots of a Shi’i Liberation Theology*, presented at the International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society: Understanding Globalism, Respecting Difference (London, UK)
- December 2016 *Iranian Shi’i Liberation Theology in a Comparative Perspective*, presented at Middle East Studies 2016 / Interdisciplinary Conference on Middle East, organized by DAKAM (Eastern Mediterranean Academic Research Center) (Istanbul, Turkey)
- August 2016 *Religion and the Struggle for Justice: Snapshots of an Iranian Shi’i Liberation Theology*, presented at the International Society for Iranian Studies Biennial Conference (Vienna, Austria)



- June 2015 *IR Theory and Civilizational Thinking: A Postcolonial Critique*, presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Political Science Association (Ottawa, ON, Canada)
- June 2015 *Religious Ethics and Contesting Visions of Economic Development: Muslim Contexts in Focus*, presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Political Science Association (Ottawa, ON, Canada)
- February 2015 *Postcolonial Cosmopolitanism and A Critical Civilizational Discourse*, to be presented at the International Studies Association's 56<sup>th</sup> annual convention (New Orleans, LA, USA)
- April 2014 *Rethinking Secularism in Muslim Contexts: Contesting Visions of Civil Public Religion in Contemporary Iran*, presented at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midwest Political Science Association National Conference (Chicago, IL, USA)
- March 2014 *Post-Colonial Reclaimings of Modern Subjectivity in Contemporary Islamic Thought*, presented at the University of Alberta's 8th Annual Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- March 2013 *The Interplay of Universal and Particular in Modern Islamic Political Thought*, presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Conference of the Middle East and Islamic Consortium of British Columbia (Victoria, BC, Canada)
- August 2012 *Renegotiating Identity and Secularism in Post-Revolutionary Iran*, presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Society for Iranian Studies Biennial Conference (Istanbul, Turkey)
- June 2012 *A Post-Islamist Turn?: New Prospects for Arriving at Indigenous Models of Secularism in Muslim Societies*, presented at the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- June 2012 *Post-Colonial Challenges to Boundaries of Exclusion in Anglo American Normative Political Thought*, presented at the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- February 2012 *Alternative Developments or Alternatives to Development?*, presented at the "Africa Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: Exploring the Multidimensional Discourses of Development," conference organized by the University Alberta African Students Association (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- May 2010 *Negotiating the Boundaries of Inclusion/Exclusion in Contemporary Normative*

- Theory*, presented at the 6th Annual University of Alberta Sociology Graduate Student Conference – Confining the Unbound Society: Restraints and Resistance (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- April 2010      *Limits of Dialogue*, presented at the University of Alberta Political Science Graduate Students Association’s Annual Conference (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- April 2010      *Ali Shariati and Intellectual Responsibility*, presented at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Political Science Association National Conference (Chicago, IL, USA)
- March 2010      *Shariati and the Contextual Determinant of Intellectual Responsibility*, presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Student Conference of the Middle East and Islamic Consortium of British Columbia (Victoria, BC, Canada)
- October 2009      *Prerequisites for Dialogue: Subaltern Counterpublic as the Site of Radical Possibilities*, presented at the “Towards the Dignity of Difference: Neither the Clash of Civilizations, Nor the End of History,” international conference organized by the United Nations University and the University of Alberta and (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- May 2009      *The Responsibility to Listen?: Development and the Problematique of Representation*, presented at the British Columbia Political Science Association Annual Conference: Comparative Political Perspectives (Kamloops, BC, Canada)
- January 2009      *The War on Terror and the Construction of Intellectual Discourse*, presented at the University of Alberta Middle East and African Studies Programme’s Annual Student Conference: Celebrating Student Research across Disciplinary Divides (Edmonton, AB, Canada)
- January 2009      *The War on Terror: The Limits of Re-presentation and Intellectual Responsibility*, presented at the “The State of the Art(s): Invoking the Canons to Question the Praxis” University of Alberta Political Science Graduate Students Association’s Annual Conference (Edmonton, AB, Canada)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE


- Peer reviewer for *Iranian Studies*
- Peer reviewer for Cambridge University Press
- Peer reviewer for *Ethnicities Journal*
- Peer reviewer for *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*

- Peer reviewer for *British Journal of Political Science*
- Peer reviewer for *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*
- Peer reviewer for *Acta Via Serica*
- Peer reviewer for *Sociology of Islam*
- Member of the Association for Iranian Studies' Academic Freedom Task Force (2019-2020)
- Board member of the Seoul National University International Faculty Association (2017 – 2018)
- Member of the Korean Association of Middle Eastern Studies (2017 – present)
- Member of the International Studies Association (2015 – present)
- Member of the Association for Iranian Studies (2012 – present)
- Member of the Canadian Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (2010 – present)
- Member of the Canadian Political Science Association (2010 – present)
- Member of the Midwest Political Science Association (2010 – present)
- Organizer of *Popular Culture and Social Change in West Asia* lecture series at Seoul National University (2016)
- Co-organizer of the *Unsettling Colonial Modernity: Islamicate Contexts in Focus* international conference at the University of Alberta (2015)
- Coordinator of the *Towards the Dignity of Difference* international conference at the University of Alberta (2009)

## REFERENCES

Dr. Hamid Dabashi  
 Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature  
 Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies  
 Columbia University  
 416 Knox Hall  
 New York, NY, 10027  
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 Professor & ECMC Chair in Islamic Studies  
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