

Yaser Mirdamadi

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Education & Awards

- 2012-present **University of Edinburgh, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures** Edinburgh, UK
PhD candidate in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
Mohammad Arkoun Doctoral Scholarship, (full tuition fee and living expenses)
- 2008 - 2010 **Aga Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations (AKU-ISMC)** London, UK
Master of Arts in Muslim Cultures GPA: Distinction (3.4/4.0)
Dissertation: "Soroush on Non-Orthodox Interpretation of Muslim Revelation" (86%)
Aga Khan Scholarship (full tuition and living expenses)
- Summer 2009 **Bourguiba Institute for Modern Languages** Tunisia, Tunisia
Achieved the highest ranking in level five of the Modern Standard Arabic course
- 1999 – 2008 **Hawza 'Ilmiyya (Islamic Seminary)** Mashhad, Iran
Level 3 Diploma (equivalent to Master's degree) in Classical Islamic studies, full scholarship
- 2004 - 2007 **Ferdowsi University of Mashhad** Mashhad, Iran
Master of Arts, Islamic Theology GPA: 16.95/20
Dissertation: "Translation and Critical Review of 'An Introduction to Islamic Law' by Josef Schacht"
- 1999 – 2003 **Ferdowsi University of Mashhad** Mashhad, Iran
Bachelor of Arts, Islamic Theology GPA: 15.95/20
- 2007 **Fourth Festival of Amateur Publications of Khorasan – second place prize**
"Discourse on Fideism", Journal of Negah-e Tazeh, Special Edition on Religion
- 2004 **Second Festival of Empirical Publications of Khorasan – second place prize**
Article entitled "Dialogue of Civilizations and a Classical Reading of Religion"
http://negahetazeh.persianguig.com/00-07/011_7andishe21-23.pdf
- 2002 **Conference on Critical Studies of Classics in Persian – first place prize**
Article: "Critical Study on the Criticism of the Official Interpretation of Religion" (written by M. M. Shabestari)
- 2001 **Conference of North-Eastern Universities of Iran – first place prize**
Article: "Dialogue between Civilizations"

Academic Experience

- 2016- **Institute of Isma'ili Studies**– Research Assistant in Muslim Biomedical Ethics Project London, UK
- 2016 **Institute of Isma'ili Studies**–Graduate Program of Islamic Studies and Humanities (GPISH) London, UK
Taught history of Sunni and Shi'i legal methodology (*usul al-fiqh*)
- 2015- **Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education – Visiting Teaching Fellow in Islamic Studies** Dundee, Scotland
<http://www.almcollege.org.uk/mr-yaser-mirdamadi/>
- 2012-13 **University of Edinburgh, Department of Islamic Studies – Library assistant** Edinburgh, UK
- 2010-14 **Institute of Isma'ili Studies**– *Translator and Editor* London, UK

2004 – 2008	Jahad Daneshgahi, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad – Instructor Taught Applied Logic and Philosophy of Religion	Mashhad, Iran
2007 – 2008	Payam-e Noor University of Mashhad – Instructor Taught History of Islamic Social Thought in Iran, Introduction to Law, and Comparative Law	Mashhad, Iran
2002 – 2004	Hawza ‘Ilmiyya (Islamic Seminary) of Mashhad – Instructor Taught Methodology of Jurisprudence (usul al-fiq), Theology (‘Agha’id), Classic Arabic and Epistemology	Mashhad, Iran

Volunteer Activities

2006 – 2007	International Conference Husayniyya Irshad – Academic Advisor “Religious Intellectualism” (September 2007) “Religion and Modernity” (August 2006)	Tehran, Iran
1999 – 2002	Jahad Daneshgahi Student Organization, Ferdowsi University – President Faculty of Theology, Head of the Qur’ānic studies department (2004 - 2008)	Mashhad, Iran

Press Experience (Persian)

2015	Taslimi Foundation An interview entitled: ‘Towards a Baha’i-friendly Muslim theology’: https://www.academia.edu/18411674/Towards_a_Bahai-friendly_Muslim_theology	Los Angeles, USA
Nov 2015	The Voice of America, Persian News Network (VOA-PNN) <i>Analyst of religious and intellectual affairs in Iran</i> An interview about 2015's world day of philosophy: on the significance of philosophy for public sphere: https://www.academia.edu/18613585/2015s_world_day_of_philosophy_on_the_significance_of_philosophy_for_public_sphere	Washington, D. C., USA
2008-2015	BBC Persian TV – Analyst of religious and intellectual affairs in Iran An interview about the significance of the Birmingham's Qur’anic manuscript (July 2015): https://www.academia.edu/14301879/On_the_significance_of_the_Birmingham_Qurānic_manuscript An interview about the religions prohibition of the depiction of the family of Imams in Iranian cinema (July 2015): https://www.academia.edu/14548065/On_prohibition_of_the_depiction_of_the_family_of_Imams An interview about the encyclical letter issued by Pope Francis on the environmental crisis (May 2015): https://soundcloud.com/yaser-mirdamadi/bbc-persian-radio-1962015-pope-and-enviromental-crisis-yaser-mirdamadi An interview about anti ‘Arab racism in Iran (Jun 2015): https://www.academia.edu/11985267/Anti-Arab_racism_in_Iranian_culture An interview about plagiarism in Iranian academia, (Dec 2013): https://www.academia.edu/12968865/On_plagiarism_in_Iranian_academia An interview about ‘Racism and Islam’ (May 2009) An interview about ‘the rights of religious minorities in post-revolutionary Iran’ (Dec 2008)	London, UK
2010- 2011	Electronic Magazine of Tehran Review – Columnist: http://tehranreview.net	
2008- 2010	Negah-e Mo’aser Press – Academic Consultant in Islamic Studies	Tehran, Iran
2006 - 2007	Hammihan Newspaper – Journalist	Tehran, Iran
2004 - 2006	Hubab Monthly Magazine of Ferdowsi University – Chief Editor	Mashhad, Iran

2005- 2008	Jahad Daneshgahi Press – <i>Head of Andishe Section</i>	Mashhad, Iran
2004- 2006	Naqid Press – <i>Academic Consultant in Islamic studies</i>	Qum, Iran
2003- 2006	The Institute of Moral Society - <i>Researcher and Editor</i>	Qum, Iran

Talks and Conference Presentations (English and Persian)

- A talk entitled 'The God who talks with(out) words, A Taxonomy of Some of the Early Islamicate Theories of Revelation', delivered at AKU-ISMC, London, 12 February 2015:
https://www.academia.edu/10956777/God_who_talks_with_out_words
- A talk entitled 'Is an 'Islamic state' possible? A philosophical critique of Islamism' delivered at the Center for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford University, 18 February 2015:
https://www.academia.edu/10956637/Is_an_Islamic_state_possible_A_philosophical_critique_of_Islamism
- A conference presentation entitled 'the different conceptions of the proposition 'God exists'' delivered at the first conference of 'Iranian scholars of religion in Britain' held in UCL, London, 21 Jun 2014.
https://www.academia.edu/7585829/The_Different_conceptions_of_the_proposition_God_exists_
- A talk entitled 'Can (and how does) God talk? The problem of revelation in the modern Jewish and Muslim philosophical theology' delivered at Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies Research Seminars: Islamic Civilisation and the Islamic Tradition: Past and Present, University of Edinburgh, 24 March 2014,
https://www.academia.edu/6537477/Can_and_how_does_God_talk_The_problem_of_revelation_in_the_modern_Jewish_and_Muslim_philosophical_theology
- A conference paper called 'The Soroushian Theory of Revelation: An Epistemological Assessment' written for and delivered at a conference titled 'Approaches to the Qur'an in Contemporary Iran' held by The Institute of Ismaili Studies, from Sep 2-4 2013, London.
https://www.academia.edu/4608223/The_Soroushian_Theory_of_Revelation_An_Epistemological_Assessment
- A conference presentation called 'Corporeal Love in Ibn Hazm and Its Bearing on the Problem of Body' delivered at a conference on 'Mind and Body' held by University of Bristol, the Centre for Medieval Studies, Saturday 23rd Faburary 2013. Its PowerPoint can be read at:
http://www.academia.edu/4560550/Corporeal_Love_in_Ibn_Hazm_and_Its_Bearing_on_the_Problem_of_Body
- A talk on "political theology of Shi'ism: between absolutism and quietism", delivered at a conference on "The Role of Clerics and Religious Seminaries in the Contemporary History of Iran", held by Anjoman-e Sokhan in The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), April 2011. The conference report can be read at: <http://207.182.141.104/story/61364>. A part of the speech can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpbPPzQT8Mw>
- A talk on religious diversity in the globalized world, delivered at World Summit of Religious leaders, Baku, 26-27 Apr 2010. The lecture can be read at: http://mirdamadi.malakut.ir/2010/05/religious_diversity_in_the_age.html
- A talk on Robert C. Solomon's book entitled "Spirituality for the Skeptic" (Oxford University Press, 2002) delivered at Iranian London's Discussion Group (ILDG), September 2009.
- A talk on "Imam 'Ali and Tolerance", Kanoon Towhid of London, September 2008.
- A talk on "Dr. Soroush's Ideas about the Relation between Shi'ism and Democracy", delivered at the Student Union of the Faculty of Mathematics, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, 2005.
- A talk on "M. M. Shabestari's Ideas about Revelation", delivered at the Revelationology Seminar held in Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, 2005.
- An analytic-critical lecture on "Belief and Disbelief, a Debate between the Agnostic Philosopher Umberto Eco and the Prominent Priest Martiny", delivered at the Book Review Conference held in Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran, 2004.
- A talk on "Women's Rights in Islam", delivered at Tehran's Book House, Iran, 2004.
- A talk on "Existentialism", delivered at Chenaran Islamic Guidance Organization, Iran, 2003.
- A talk on "Dr. Soroush's Ideas about the Plurality of Religions", delivered at Chenaran Islamic Organization, Iran, 2002.

- An analytic-critical talk on “A Criticism of the Official Interpretation of Religion” by M. M. Shabestari, delivered at the Book Review Conference held at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran, 2002.

Book Translations (From English or ‘Arabic into Persian)

- A translation of the first part of Joseph Schacht’s book entitled “An Introduction to Islamic law” accompanied by a critical epilogue, published by *Gam-e No* publisher, Tehran, Iran, January 2009.
- *A Philosophical Critique of Islamism*, Adel Daher (translated from ‘Arabic), published by *Tavaana*, Washington, 2015: https://www.academia.edu/13007691/A_Philosophical_Critique_of_Islamism_Persian_translation
- *Reformation of Islamic Thought, A Critical Historical Analysis*. Nasr Abu Zayd. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2006. To be published by *Tavaana*, Washington, Dec. 2015. https://www.academia.edu/20317734/Reformation_of_Islamic_Thought_by_Nasr_Abu_Zaid_Persian_translation
- *Fear of Knowledge: Against Relativism and Constructivism*. Paul Boghossian, Oxford /New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. Edited by Babak ‘Abbasi, To be published by Kargadan, Tehran, 2016.
- *Philosophy of religion*, Charles Taliaferro, to be edited by Mas‘ud ‘Ulya, Ququnus, Tehran, 2017.

Book Chapter:

- ‘Divine Inspiration and Mystical Experience: Abdolkarim Soroush’s Theory of Qur’anic Revelation, A Historical-Philosophical Appraisal’, in: *Approaches to the Qur’an in Contemporary Iran*, ed. by Alessandro Cancian, to be published by Oxford University Press, in collaboration with the Institute of Isma‘ili Studies (IIS), 2017.

Book review:

- The review of ‘The Misty Land of Ideas and the Light of Dialogue (An Anthology of Comparative Philosophy: Western & Islamic), edited by Ali Paya, published in the journal *Philosophy East and West*, 66:3 (July 2016). https://www.academia.edu/27338465/The_Misty_Land_of_Ideas_and_the_Light_of_Dialogue_An_Anthology_of_Comparative_Philosophy_Western_and_Islamic.Edited_by_Ali_Paya-book_review

Peer-review journal article:

- ‘The plurality of the sacred: Critical Remarks on Mircea Eliade’s Conception of the Sacred’, published in *Open Journal of Philosophy*, November 2015. <http://www.scirp.org/Journal/PaperInformation.aspx?PaperID=61087>

Encyclopedia Entries

- “Esther (Book and Person): Islam”, *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, Vol. 8 (De Gruyter, 2013) cols. 38-9. https://www.academia.edu/4537976/Esther_Book_and_Person_IV._Islam_Yaser_Mirdamadi
- “El Saadawi Nawal”, *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*. Ed. Stephen Ross. London: Routledge, 2016.
- “‘Abdu, Muhammad”, *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*. Ed. Stephen Ross. London: Routledge, 2016. <https://www.rem.routledge.com/articles/abduh-muhammad-1849-1905>

Other Publications (Persian)

Persian Publications exceed 60 articles, mainly covering philosophical theology, philosophy of religion, political theology, Muslim law and modern Islam, a representative list of which can be found at: <https://edinburgh.academia.edu/YaserMirdamadi>

- Obituary of John Hick, published in Radio Zamane, April 2012: <http://radiozameh.com/reflections/2012/04/03/12750>

- The translation of an interview with Joseph Van Ess (accompanied with my introduction and critical annotation) entitled “On the Origins of Islam”, published in Radio Zamaneh, May 2012: <http://www.ensani.ir/fa/content/254109/default.aspx>
- An article entitled “The Assassinations of ‘Devotees (Fadā’iyān) of Islam’ from Ahmad Kasravi to Hosein ‘Alā”, published, under the series “Ahmad Kasravi, 66 Years After His Death” in BBC’s Persian website, March 2012: http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2012/03/120313_144_islam_fadaiyan.shtml
- An article entitled “Is Democratic Political Islam Possible?”, published, under the series “Iranian version of secularism”, in *mardomak*, January 2011: <http://www.mardomak.org/story/58443>.
- A critical book review of “Theology and Creed in Sunni Islam: the Muslim Brotherhood, Ash‘arism, and Political Sunnism”, written by Jeffrey R. Halverson, in *Derang*, August 2011: http://www.derangmag.info/2011/08/blog-post_28.html
- An article entitled “The Concept of “Dunya” in Muslim culture and the issue of emancipation”, published in *Analytica Iranica* (annual journal of Persian studies published in French, English and Persian) August 2012: <http://www.analyticairanica.com/an/index-an.htm>
- A translation (with critical annotations) of the article entitled “The Principles of Akhbari Shi‘ite Jurisprudence and Jurisprudential Theory of Shaikh Yousof Bahrani” by Robert Gleave, published in *Ketab-e Mah*, 2010: <http://www.noormags.com/view/fa/ArticlePage/633093>
- An article entitled “Religious Intellectuals and New Atheists”, published in *Tebran Review*, April 2010, <http://tehranreview.net/articles/1659>
- An article entitled “On Religious Individualism”, published in *Mardomak*, September 2010, http://www.mardomak.org/news/religion_and_young_people/
- A translation of Shabir Akhtar’s essay entitled “ex-defender of the faith” with introduction, published in *Tebran Review*, December 2010: <http://tehranreview.net/articles/6183>.
- A translation and annotation of the entrance of “Ethics” written by Daniel H. Frank in: Nasr, Seyyed Hossein and Leaman, Oliver (ed.) *History of Islamic philosophy* (Routledge, NY, 1996), Published in *Hikma*, the Journal of Islamic Propagation Office of Isfahan, August 2008.
- An article entitled “An Account of the Effects of Internet on Religious and Moral Life”, published in *Saband*, the student monthly magazine of faculty of theology, University of Tehran, June 2009.
- An article entitled “The Evaluation of Josef Shacht’s Thesis About Inauthenticity of Prophetic Traditions”, published in *Moṭale‘at-e Eslami*, the quarterly journal of the Faculty of Theology, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, February 2009.
- A book review of “Muslim Ethics: Emerging Vistas”, by Aryn B. Sajoo (University of Simon Fraser, Canada), I.B.Tauris, 2004, published in *Hikmat*, the Journal of Islamic Propagation Office of Isfahan, August 2008.
- An article entitled “An Introduction to Fideism”, published in *Hamshabri Newspaper*, 2007: <http://www.noormags.com/view/fa/ArticlePage/317115>
- A translation of the entrance of “Religious Diversity” in Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, written by David Basinger, published in *Khiraad-name Hamshabri*, issue 22, 2007: <http://www.noormags.com/view/fa/ArticlePage/567279>
- An article entitled “Human Knowledge versus Revealed Knowledge: The Relation between Reason and Religion”, published in the Journal *Hubab*, Second Series, Vol. I, Spring 2005.
- A translation of “Is God Important? (An Inquiry into the Importance of God)” by Austin Cline, published in the Journal *Hubab*, Second Series, Vol. I, Spring 2005.
- An article entitled “Four Challenges Faced by Human Rights”, published in *Hasbour*, the internal Journal of the Student Union of Department of Mathematics of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, 2005.
- An interview with the Iranian intellectual, Ahmad Qabil, about “Superstition in Islam from a Theological Point of View”, published in *Soroush-e Kherad*, the students’ journal of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, 2005.
- An article entitled “A Study of the Anti-Islamic Websites on the Internet”, published in *Nawak*, the Journal of the Sixth National Conference of Iranian Students’ Journals, Vol. II, Winter 2004.
- An article entitled “Has Mass Media Made It Impossible to Believe in the Supernatural?” published in *Nawak*, the Journal of the Sixth National Conference of Iranian Students’ Journals, Vol. II, Winter of 2004.

- An article entitled “Toward A Philosophy of Law in Islam: An Introduction to Shaṭībī’s Ideas about *Maṣlaḥa*”, published in *The Book of Month*, July 2004. <http://www.ensani.ir/fa/content/254109/default.aspx>
- An article entitled “An Introduction to Epistemology”, published in *Hamshabri Newspaper*, April 7, 2004.
- An article entitled “Modernizing the Islamic Laws (Fiqh)”, published in *Shargh Newspaper*, October 19, 2003.
- An article entitled “Goldziher and the Qur’an” published in *Hamshabri Newspaper*, November 10, 2004.
- An article entitled “Earthquake and the Problem of Evil: A Reflection on Natural Calamities from the Viewpoint of Philosophy of Religion”, published in *Nigab-e Taẓe*, 2004.
- An article entitled “Do We Need a Religion to Live a Moral Life?” published in *Hamshabri Newspaper*, February 26, 2004.
- A interview with the journal *Soroush-e Kherad* on “The Impacts of Modern Technology on the Nature and Destiny of Human Being”, 2003.
- An article entitled “An Examination of Contemporary Iranian Thinkers' Ideas on our Expectations from Religion”, published in *Hamshabri Newspaper*, Spring 2003.
- An interview with Dr. A. Ali-Zamani (lecturer in philosophy at Qum University) and Dr. M. Legenhawzen (lecturer in Philosophy at Qum University) about “The Spiritual Crises of Modern Human” published in the journal *Hubab*, Series I, Vol. II, Winter 2002.
- An interview with Prof. Sachadina (Virginia University) on “Muslims and Modernity” published in the journal *Hubab*, 2002.
- An interview with M. Malekian (lecturer in philosophy at Tehran University), M. M. Shabestari (Professor of Theology at Tehran University) and A. Rashad (President of Islamic Research Foundation in Qum) about “Our Expectations from Religion”, published in the journal *Hubab*, Series I, Vol. I, Spring 2002.
- An article entitled “A philosophical Reflection on Suicide”, published in the journal *Hubab*, Vol. I, Spring 2002.
- An article entitled “Bitter Facts: A Reflection on Political Dictatorship from an Anthropological Point of View”, published in *Wahi*, the Journal of the Organization of Jihad Daneshgahi, 2002.

Skills and Interests

- Language skills: Persian/Farsi (native); Arabic, classical and contemporary (advanced); English (fluent); German (basic knowledge)
- Blogging: <http://mirdamadi.malakut.org>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ymirdamadi>, LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/yaser-mirdamadi-1b6208a8>; Academia: <https://edinburgh.academia.edu/YaserMirdamadi>
- Iranian politics, Persian classical literature (with special focus on Hafez, Rumi, Sa‘di, Khayyam and ‘An al-Ghuzat Hamadani)
- Tasawwuf (Islamic Mysticism) with special emphasis on Rumi, Ibn ‘Arabi and ‘Ain al-Ghuzat Hamadani.
- Islamicate public intellectuals (specially the works of Fazlur Rahman, Ali Shariati, Abdolkarim Soroush, Mostafa Malekian, Nasr Hamed Abu Zayd, Adel Daher and Muhammad Arkoun)
- Qur’anic exegesis (Qur’anic Tafsir, especially *Mafatih al-Ghayb*, Fakhr al-Din al-Razi)
- History of Middle East and Islam, especially intellectual history of contemporary Iran
- Persian classical music and swimming