

## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Mohammad Mahdi Mojahedi**

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#### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:**

##### **Freie Universität Berlin, DE**

- Visiting professor, Centre for Middle Eastern and North African Politics, Department of Political Science, Sep 2014 – Jul 2015.

##### **Leiden University, NL**

- Visiting Senior Lecturer, School of Middle Eastern Studies, Oct 2011- Jul 2014.

##### **University of Amsterdam, NL**

- Visiting Senior Researcher, Workgroup Civil Society in West Asia, Department of Political Science, Sep 2009- Dec 10.

##### **Mofid University, IRI**

- Lecturer, Department of Political Science, 2005 onwards.

##### **Institute for National Studies, IRI.**

- Director, Department of Political Culture Studies, 2004-05.

##### **Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, IRI**

- Associate Director and Faculty Member, Political Science Faculty, 2002-03.

## **EDUCATION:**

**Ph.D. Research Institute for the Humanities and Cultural Studies**, Political Science (Cum Laude), Apr 2005

Primary Fields: Middle East Politics (Distinction), Political Theory (Distinction), Intellectual History (Distinction)

Designated Emphasis: Comparative Political Hermeneutics

Dissertation: *A Critical Reading of the Epistemic, Non-Jurisprudential, Foundations of Ayatollah Khomeini's Political Thought.*

**M.A. University College London**, Human Rights (Distinction), Nov 2009

Thesis: *States as Moral Agents of Human Rights Standards.*

**M.A. Imam Sadeq University**, Political Science and Islamic Studies (Distinction), Jan 1998

Thesis: *"Critical Rationality" as a Methodological Device for Criticizing Normative Facets of Political Theories.*

## **FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AWARDS, and GRANTS:**

### **The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW):**

- Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences Visiting Professorship at Leiden University Institute for Area Studies, Jan – Dec 2014.

### **Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR):**

- Visiting Fellowship, Oct – Nov 2014.

### **Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS/KNAW):**

- EURIAS Fellowship at NIAS, 2012-13.

### **University of Cambridge:**

- Senior Fellowship at Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CRASSH), Jan – Jul 2011.

- Associate Senior Fellowship at Centre for Governance and Human Rights (CGHR), Jan – Jul 2011.

- Membership and By-Fellowship (Honor) at Churchill College, Jan – Dec 2011.

### **University College London (UCL):**

- Chevening Fellowship, 2008-09.

### **Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut (KWI):**

- Grant, Summer Academy, 2007.

**Workgroup Islam and Modernity at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (WiKo – German Institute for Advanced Studies):**

- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Workgroup Islam and Modernity, 2003-04.
- Grant, Summer Academy, 2003.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

**Works in Progress:**

- “Utopia, Dystopia, and the Perfect Man in Ancient Greek and Islamic Political Thought,” Brill Companion to the Reception of Ancient Philosophy in Islamic Political Thought (=Brill’s Companions to Classical Reception), ed. Vasileios Syros, NL: Brill, forthcoming (2017).
- *Political Violence beyond the Religio-Secular Ambivalence*, Edited Volume, forthcoming (2016).
- “Comparativity as a Critical Heuristic Device: A Critical-Rational Critique of Comparative Philosophy as a Philosophical Type,” (Manuscript in preparation).
- “Predicaments and Prospects of Change in the Hybrid Societies of the Middle East: With a Special Emphasis on Iran” (Manuscript in preparation).
- The Poverty of Culturalism: A Critique of Post-Islamism

**Refereed Papers and other Articles:**

- “The Poverty of Culturalism and Muslim Zealotry: A Test for the Left” (An Intellectual Exchange with Michael Walzer and Andrew F. March, *Andishe-ye Pouya Bimonthly Journal of Politics and Culture*, Spring 2015, 4(24) pp. 56-61 & 4(25) pp. 7-9.
- “Whither Saudis?” The Editorial Article in *Donya-e Eqtesad Newspaper*, May 3, 2015.
- “Great Shift in the Middle East: Beyond a Nuclear Agreement” The Editorial Article in *Donya-e Eqtesad Newspaper*, April 15, 2015.
- “The Poverty of Culturalism: Who Will Lit the Lights?” The Editorial Article in *Donya-e Eqtesad Newspaper*, January 20, 2015.
- “The Poverty of Culturalism: A Critique of Isaiah Berlin’s Theory of Violence in his ‘Message to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century’,” in *Andishe-ye Pouya Bimonthly Journal of Politics and Culture*, 3(20), November 2014, pp. 23-25.

- A Persian translation of Isaiah Berlin's "Message to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," in *Andishe-ye Pouya Bimonthly Journal of Politics and Culture*, 3(20), November 2014, pp. 19-22.
- Book review *The Misty Land of Ideas and the Light of Dialogue (An Anthology of Comparative Philosophy: Western & Islamic)* Edited by Ali Paya, (ICAS Press, 2013), 406 pp., in *Philosophy* (Journal of Royal Institute of Philosophy, UK), 89(4), Oct 2014, pp. 658-664.
- "From the False Dichotomy of 'the Standard-vs.-the Ideal' towards the Deadlock of Communitarianism," in *Ayene-ye Pazhuhesh*, 25(1), No. 145, March 2013, pp. 3-25.
- "From One-Layer Diplomacy to Double-Edged Multiplomacy: Reflections on New Diplomatic Openings in the Iranian Nuclear Issue" *Andishe-ye Pouya Bimonthly Journal of Politics and Culture*, 2 (3), 2013, pp. 45-55.
- "On the Question and Responsibility of Intellectuals: Re-Thinking Challenges between Iranian Heideggerians and Popperians" *Mehrnameh Journal of the Humanities*, Vol. 3. No. 27. Dec 2012, 79-82.
- "Critical Dialogue as a Form of Life," *Andishe-ye Pouya Bimonthly Journal of Politics and Culture*, (2)3, June 2012, pp. 31-36.
- The Politico-Ethical Significance of John Hick's Pluralism, *Mehrnameh Journal of the Humanities*, Tehran, 2012, pp. 81-95.
- "Islam between Culture and Politics," *National Studies*, Tehran, 6(21), 2006, pp. 143-158.
- "Religion without God," *Madrassa*, Journal of the Institute for Epistemological Research, Tehran, 2005, (1) 1, 90-95.
- "Islamic Mysticism and Politics? A Case Study of Ayatollah Khomeini's Political Thought," *Name- ye Mofid Academic Quarterly*, Mofid University, Autumn 2004, 44, 33-60.
- "Two Notions of Pluralism in the Political Philosophy of Isaiah Berlin," in *Rahbord*, Tehran, Autumn 2001, 21, pp. 262-278.
- "Epistemological Relationship between Political Knowledge and *Irfani* Knowledge, in *Matin Academic Quarterly*, Tehran, 2(3), 2000, pp. 97-125.

### **Works Translated into Other Languages:**

#### *Dutch:*

"Politiek geweld door een rookgordijn" *ZemZem (Tijdschrift over het Midden-Oosten, Noord-Afrika en islam)*, (Amsterdam: Vereniging voor de Studie van het Midden-Oosten en de Islam, 2013), 9 (1), pp. 85-88.

Arabic:

«اطروحه دين بلا رب: الخلفيه و المكونات»، نصوص معاصره، (بيروت: ربيع ١٤٢٧)، ٦(١)، صص. ٣٠٧ - ٣٢٠.

### Book Chapters:

- "Human Rights and Muslim Forms of Life," *Religion, International Relations and Development Cooperation*, Berma Klein Goldewijk (ed.), (Netherlands: Wageningen Academic Publishers), 2007, pp. 187-216.

- "Education, Politics, and Identity in Today Iran: a Pluralist Approach," *Civil Institutions and Identity in Iran*, Davoud G. Zandi (ed.), (Tehran: Persian Civilization, 2007), 133-152.

- "A Methodological Critique of Religious Pedagogy in K-12 Educational System in Iran," *Religious Pedagogy in Iran*, (Tehran: Iran Ministry of Education Pub. Co., 2002), pp. 3-24.

- "A Theoretical Model for Educational Reform in Iran," *Educational Reform*, (Tehran: Iran Ministry of Education Pub. Co., 2002), pp. 38-60.

- "Critical Rationalism and Educational Reform" in *Curriculum Planning and Rational Education*, (Tehran: Iranian Society of Curriculum Planning Pub. Co., 2010), pp. 73-96.

- "The Iridescent Ethos: Evaluating B. Abdolkarimi's Critique of Daryoush Shayegan's *Reénchantment* Theory," in Abdolkarimi, B. (ed.), *Monism or Pluralism, An Analysis of the Ontological Social Theory*, (Tehran, The Centre for Dialogue among Civilizations, 2005), 85-106.

- "The Iridescence of 'Occidental Illumination' in the Dialogue of 'Broken Mirrors': A pluralistic analysis of Daryoush Shayegan's *Reénchantment* Theory," (Tehran: The Centre for Dialogue among Civilizations, 2005), pp. 15-38.

### Published Interviews and Other Publications:

- "In Defense of Political Science: A Critique of Wittgensteinian Methodological Approaches in Political Science" in *Sokhan-e Ma*, 1(3), Nov. 2014, pp. 74-90.

"Philosophy Is Not A Justificatory Device, It Is There To Criticise Justificationism" *Farhikhtegan Supplement (Special issue on relations between politics and philosophy)*, No. 1195, Oct. 6, 2013, pp. 12-13.

- ["Modern Religious Emancipatory Thought"](#)

- ["The Ethics of Religious Modern Thought,"](#)

- ["Monistic Pluralism: A Critique of Abdolkarim Soroush's Political Pluralism,"](#)

- [“Tiny knots of Action and the Political Texture: Social Non-Movements and the Possibility of the Emergence of an Emancipatory, Other-Oriented Politics in Iran,”](#)
  - [“Thinking the Unthinkable: the Political Fabric in Iran and the Role of the Small Things,”](#)
  - “A Methodological Criticism on the Pathologies of Religious Pedagogy,” article presented in the seminar of “Pathology of Religious Pedagogy”, Iranian Ministry of Education, 2-3 January 2002, Tehran, published in *Ettelaa’at Newspaper Literary Supplement*, Tehran, 7-8 & 14 January 2002, and also in *The Proceedings of the seminar of “Pathology of Religious Pedagogy,”* (Tehran: Ministry of Education Pub. Co., 2003), Vol. 1, 3-25.
  - “Editorials” in *Matin Academic Quarterly Journal*, Research Institute for History of the Islamic Revolution, Tehran, first five issues from Summer 1999 to Summer 2000.
  - “Three Readings of Relations between Islam and Human Rights,” *The Book of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of The Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights*, UNESCO, UNDP and International Centre for Dialogue Among Civilizations, (Tehran: Mofid University Pub. Co. 2003), pp. 535-552.
  - “Theoretical Foundations of Educational Reform in Iran: A Critique” in *Theoretical Foundations of Educational Reform in Iran*, (Tehran: Research Institute for Education, 2003), Vol. 1, 20-45.
- “Critical Rationality as a Moral Choice: Curriculum and Rational Character Training,” *Proceedings of the Seminar of Curriculum and Rational Character Training*, (Tehran: Iranian Curriculum Planning Association, 2003), pp. 23-45.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and INVITED LECTURES:**

- “A Critical-Rational Approach to the Question of Toleration in Islam,” *Tolerance in Contemporary Thought and Practice*, King’s College London, March 16-17, 2015.
- “Human Rights against Human Rights: Demystifying Human Rights as Commodities,” Danish Institute for Human Rights, forthcoming lecture, 2015.
- “The Encounter of Mysticism and Politics in Ayatollah Khomeini’s Thought,” MOS/LUCIS Lecture Series, Leiden University School for Middle Eastern Studies & Leiden University Centre for Islamic Studies, Thu 6 Nov 2014, Leiden University.
- “Political Violence and the Ambivalence of the Secular: How Meaningful/Useful is a Secular vs. Religious Distinction?” in the Conference on Political Violence beyond the Secular/Religious Divide, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and sciences, and Leiden Institute for Area Studies, 19 Sep 2014.
- “Predicaments and Prospects of Change in the Hybrid Societies of the Middle East: With a Special Emphasis on Iran,” Conference: Where is Iran Headed? Center for

Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University, & FOI, 9-10 Jan 2014.

- “Justifying Political Violence beyond the Secular-Religious Bifurcation” *Living in Violent Times*, Humanities Research Centre, Durham University, Apr 19, 2013.

- “Hafez and the Art of Calligraphy,” Leiden Institute for Area Studies, 21 September 2012.

- “A Critical rational Review of the Correspondence between Ibn Sina and Farabi” delivered in the conference *Prince of Physicians: The Legacy of Avicenna in the Islamic World and the West*, Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society, January, 16, 2002.

- “‘Westoxification’ in Reverse: A Framework for an Intellectual History of Post-Revolutionary Iran,” delivered in the SMES/LUCIS Lecture Series, Leiden University, December 1, 2011.

- “Westoxification in Reverse: Post-revolutionary Politics in Iran” delivered in *Wright Lecture Series*, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge, November, 24, 2011.

- “Political Change and the Politics of Small Things” Centre for Governance and Human Rights, Department of Political Science studies, University of Cambridge, November 7, 2011.

- “Politics of Small Things: How people are changing the politics through their everyday lives in Iran” University of Amsterdam, October 13, 2010, Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam.

- “Green Movement and Politics of Small Things in Iran,” Workshop on Resilience and Authoritarian Regimes, International Conference of Knowledge and Change, University of Amsterdam, The Hague, September 2010.

- “Fiqh and the Politics of Violence: From Discursive Indifference to Discursive Legitimation (With Special Emphasis on the Post-Revolutionary Developments of Politicised Shi’i Fiqh), Conference on Religion and Violence, University of Exeter, September 2010.

- “Muslim Modern Thinkers and Social Change: Necessity of a Paradigmatic Shift (with Special Emphasis on Human Rights),” Conference on Muslim Modern Thought: Hermeneutics and Change, Isfahan university of Technology, 17th of Dec. 2007.

- “From Universalism to Universality: Prospects of a Paradigm Shift,” ESF-LiU Conference *Human Dignity: From Cultural Traditions to a New Paradigm* in Wadstena, Sweden, 31st of Oct. to 4th of Nov. 2007.

- “Human Rights as Fairness” in the Fourth International Mofid Conference on *Human Rights and Religion*, Center for Human Rights Studies, Qom, Iran, 16-17 May 2007;

- “Why, Which and How Human Rights Do Matter in an Era of Multiculturalism?” in the workshop *From Monologue to Dialogue: International Relations and Human Rights*, University of Amsterdam (UvA), 28 March 2007;
- “A Cultural Approach towards Democracy and Human Rights in Iran,” Summer Academy: “Islam and the Repositioning of Religion,” Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, 16-30 July 2006.
- “Archetypes of Liminality: Cultural Patterns of Apostasy, Heresy, and Conversion in the Monotheistic Milieu,” Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, 22 to 25 April 2004;
- “Iranian Modern Religious Intellectuals between Theory and Practice,” The 10th DAVO Congress; 20th – 22nd December, Hamburg, 2003.
- “Comparative Interdisciplinary Study on Hermeneutical Criteria of Distinguishing between Core and Margin in Mystical-Experience-Oriented Interpretation of the Holy Qur’an”: Summer Academy, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, “Jewish and Islamic Hermeneutics as Cultural Critique,” Berlin, 3-13 Aug 2003.
- “Three Readings of the Relations between Islam and Human Rights,” UNESCO, UNDP, International Centre for Dialogue Among Civilizations, Mofid University, Biannual Conference on Religion and Human Rights, Qom, 2003.
- “Theoretical Foundations of Educational Reform in Iran,” International Conference on Educational Reform in Iran, Iranian Ministry of Education, Research Institute for Education, Tehran, 2001.
- “Critical Rationality as a Moral Choice: Curriculum and Rational Character Training,” Curriculum and Rational Character Training, Iranian Curriculum Planning Association, Tehran, 29 Jan 2002.

### **CONVENING INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC EVENTS:**

- **Lecture Series: Understanding Political Violence beyond the Secular/Religious Boundaries, Leiden University, Summer 2014:**
- **Conference on Political Violence: Beyond The Secular/Religious Divide, Leiden University, 19 Sep 2014.**

### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

- Scientific and Cultural Advisor, Organisation for Educational Research and Curriculum Planning, Tehran, 2002-05.
- Director, Political Philosophy Faculty, Research Institute for Curriculum and Innovation affiliated with the Educational Research and Curriculum Planning Organization, Iranian Ministry of Education, Tehran, 2001-02.



- Internal Manager and the Secretary of the Editorial Board, 'MATIN' – Academic Quarterly Journal in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Tehran, 1998-2000.

## **TEACHING:**

### **Leiden University Institute for Area Studies, 2012-14:**

#### *Graduate:*

1. Political Theories and Intellectual History in the Middle East

#### *Undergraduate:*

2. Political Developments in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Middle East

### **Department of Political Science, and Department of Philosophy, Mofid University 1999-2008:**

#### *Undergraduate:*

3. Western Political Philosophy (A) & (B)
4. Methodology and Philosophy of Political Science (A) & (B)
5. Political Renovation and Change: Theories of Human Rights Development and Democratization
6. Political Philosophy (guest lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Mofid University)
7. Applied Logic, Methods of Critical Thinking for Political Thought
8. Political Theories in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (guest lecturer, Department of Political Science, Free University, Qom)
9. Roots of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, (guest lecturer, Department of Political Science, Open University, Tehran)

#### *Graduate:*

10. Advanced Political Philosophy as an Applied Philosophy
11. Philosophy of Human Rights
12. Islam and Modernity (guest lecturer, Islamic College for Advanced Studies, London)
13. Classics of Political Thought in Islam and Iran
14. Modern Political Thought in the Muslim World
15. Recent Political Theories in Political Science
16. Iran, Islam and Modernity: Human Rights and Democratization
17. Advanced Methodology
18. Professional English for Political Science
19. Supervising and advising several MA theses in different universities

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

- Iranian-Islamic Calligraphy
- Persian traditional music
- ICDL Diploma

**LANGUAGES:**

- Excellent command of English
- Excellent command of Persian
- Excellent command of Arabic (reading and writing classical and literary texts)
- Fair command of German