

BANAFSHEH MADANINEJAD

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Program in Comparative Literature
The University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station B5003
Austin, Texas 78712

EDUCATION

- 2006- May 2011 **Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin**, Program in Comparative Literature with **Portfolio** in Religious Studies.
Dissertation Title: "Creative Hermeneutics and Political Change in the Islamic Republic of Iran."
Committee: Dr. Katherine Arens, Dr. Mohammad Ghanoonparvar, Dr. Kamran Aghaie, Dr. Hina Azam, Dr. Akbar Hyder.
- 2002-2006 **M.A. University of Texas at Austin**, Government Department.
Main area: Western Political Philosophy.
- 2000-2006 **M.A. University of Texas at Austin**, Middle Eastern Studies.
Main areas: Sufism and Modern Iranian Political Theology.
- 1989-1995 **B.S. University of Houston**, Department of Physics.
Main Area: Chaos Theory.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Instructorship at UT

- Fall 2010 "The Qur'an", Middle Eastern Studies Department, University of Texas at Austin.
- Summer I & II 2010 "Revolutionaries and Reformists in the Islamic Republic," taught in Persian for the Summer Advanced Persian Institute at UT.

Teaching Assistantships at UT

- Fall 2009 "Masterworks of Literature: English." English Department, Professor Elizabeth Hedrick.
- Spring 2008 "British Literature." English Department, Professor Douglas Bruster.

Fall 2007	"British Literature." English Department, Professor Douglas Bruster.
Spring 2007	"Technical Writing." Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Professor Fagelson.
Fall 2006	"Technical Writing." Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Professor Fagelson.
Fall 2005	"World Philosophy." Philosophy Department, Professor Stephen Phillips.
Spring 2005	"Politics of Equal Rights." Government Department, Professor Rhonda Evans-Case.
Fall 2004	"Introduction to American Government." Government Department, Professor David Leal.
Spring 2004	"Introduction to Comparative Politics." Government Department, Professor Terri Givens.
Fall 2003	"Introduction to Philosophy." Philosophy Department, Professor Mark Fiocco.
Spring 2003	"American Politics." Government Department, Professor Betigul Argun.
Fall 2002	"Contemporary Moral Problems." Philosophy Department, Professor Stephen Phillips.
Fall 2001	"Muslim Women, Past and Present." Middle Eastern Studies, Professor Faegheh Shirazi.
Fall 2001	"Veiling in the Muslim World." Middle Eastern Studies, Professor Faegheh Shirazi.

Research Assistantships

Spring 2001	Created database for 20 th century Tunisian linguistics data for Professor Keith Walters. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
1991 – 1993	Research Assistant and undergraduate student task supervisor: Helped build particle chamber for the MEGA particle physics project – an international endeavor, Professor Ed Hungerford, University of Houston, Houston, TX.

Tutoring

Fall 2008	Tutored Students in Cairo, Egypt, in Persian as a Second language, while attending CASA, using pedagogical methods learned at the CASA program.
1994 – 1996	Mathematics Tutor: Taught up to 3 rd year level undergraduate Mathematics at the department's tutoring center - Mathlab, Mathematics Department, University of Houston, Houston, TX.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Spring 2010	2010 Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Memorial Fellowship , Program in Comparative Literature, \$2000.
Fall 2009	Center for Middle Eastern Studies Travel Award , University of Texas at Austin. Amount: \$400.

- 2008-2009 **CASA Year-Long Fellowship**, American University of Cairo, Cairo, Egypt. Had to skip Spring semester because of health reasons. Amount: roundtrip airfare to/from Cairo, paid tuition for year-round courses, a stipend of 2200 Egyptian Pounds per month to help meet living expenses and all program-related tours of Cairo and subsidized trips to historical sites in Egypt.
- 2008-2009 **FLAS Year-Long Fellowship**, Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Austin, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX (declined). Amount: \$15,000 per semester plus tuition and fees.
- 2007 **CASA Summer Fellowship**, American University of Cairo, Cairo, Egypt. Amount: roundtrip airfare to/from Cairo, paid tuition for all summer courses, a stipend of 2200 Egyptian Pounds per month to help meet living expenses.
- 2007 **FLAS Summer Fellowship**, Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Austin, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX (declined). Amount: \$2,500 plus tuition and fees.
- Spring 2007 **Professional Development Award**. Office of Graduate Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. Amount \$350.
- Spring 2008 **Professional Development Award**. Office of Graduate Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. Amount: \$350.
- Fall 2006 **Stiles Fellowship in the Humanities and Comparative Literature**, Dean of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin. Amount: \$1000.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- Nov. 23, 2009 "Contemporary Iranian Hermeneutics." Panel on "Citizenship and Social Thought in Iran." Middle Eastern Studies Association, Boston, MA.
- Nov. 25, 2008 "Soroush and the Finality of Revelation." Panel on "Reflections on Tafsir and Islamic Hermeneutics." Middle Eastern Studies Association, Washington, DC.
- Oct. 6, 2007 "The New Islamic Hermeneutics of Mohammad Mojtabeh Shabestari." Annual Conference Organized by the Graduate Association of Comparative Literature Students (GRACLS), Program in Comparative Literature, University of Texas at Austin.
- April 20, 2007 "Soroush, Religious Pluralism and the Modern Muslim." Panel on "(Neo) Orientalisms: Representing the Middle East." American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Puebla, Mexico.

- March 15, 2007 "Abdolkarim Soroush's theory of Religious Pluralism and the Modern Muslim." Panel on "Religion and Political Thought." Southwest Political Science Association, Albuquerque NM.
- March 25, 2007 "Soroush, Religious Pluralism and the Modern Muslim." Panel on "Islamic Revival and Reform." Western Commission for the Study of Religion (WECSOR), University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
- Nov. 18, 2006 "Soroush Responds to whether Islam is Compatible with Pluralism." Horizons, Stanford Graduate Student Conference, Department of Comparative Literature, Stanford University, CA.
- Oct. 6, 2006 "Soroush's Islamic Religious Pluralism and the Modern Muslim." High Concept: Comparative Studies Out in the World, Annual Conference Organized by the Graduate Association of Comparative Literature Students (GRACLS), University of Texas at Austin, Austin TX.
- March 31, 2006 "The Iranian Debate on Religious Pluralism." Panel on "Discourse and Identity." Sequels Symposium hosted by the Ethnic and Third World Literatures, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
- Nov. 9, 2001 "Hussein and Revolutionary Framing." Panel "Political Theory and Religion." North West Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Jan 15-16, 2010 Three two-hour lectures for *The Muslim Histories and Cultures Project Summer Institute* at the University of Texas at Austin (Introductory lectures for a 6-month project): Topics TBA. (attendees are high school teachers from Texas; Sponsors: His Highness The Aga Khan, Texas Governor Rick Perry, and UT-Austin ex-President Dr. Larry Faulkner).
- July 16, 2009 "Iran's June 12th Movement: Transformative Reform from Within: A Case Study of the Works of Ayatollah Mohsen Kadivar." Iran Uprising Forum, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
- June 12 -13, 2009 Three two-hour lectures for *The Muslim Histories and Cultures Project Summer Institute* at the University of Texas at Austin (capstone for 6-month project): "Interpreting Gender and Sexuality in Iran", "Pluralism and Islam" and "Interpreting the Qur'an: The Main

- Battlefront" (attendees are high school teachers from Texas; Sponsors: His Highness The Aga Khan, Texas Governor Rick Perry, and UT-Austin President Dr. Larry Faulkner).
- Feb. 26, 2009 "Islam and Privilege." Panel on "Privilege and Identity." Ethics Resource Center (now called Austin Philosophy Forum), Austin Community College, Austin TX.
- Oct 14-19, 2007 A series of five introductory lectures about contemporary theories of democratic Islam across the Muslim world. Presbyterian Mo - Ranch Assembly Elderhostel, Austin, Texas.
- March 28, 2007 "The Difference between Religious Pluralism and Tolerance according to Abdolkarim Soroush." St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas.
- Nov. 2006 "Examples of Democratic Islam." Wimberly Community Center, Wimberley, Texas.
- Sept. 12, 2006 "US Foreign Policy: The Case of Saudi Arabia." The Katherine Anne Porter School, Wimberley, Texas.
- Sept. 12, 2006 "Textual Comparison of the Place of Women among the Abrahamic Religions." The Katherine Anne Porter School, Wimberley, Texas.
- July 2006 "Is There Such a Thing as Modern Islam?" *ARH A302 - Ancient Through Medieval Art*, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas.
- June 2006 "A Textual Comparison between the Epic of Gilgamesh, the Code of Hamurabi and the Old Testament." *ARH A302 - Ancient Through Medieval Art*, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas.

CONFERENCE PANEL ORGANIZATION

- Nov. 2008 "Reflections on Tafsir and Islamic Hermeneutics," Middle Eastern Studies Association, Washington, DC.

CONFERENCE PANEL MODERATION

- Oct. 5, 2007 "Memory and Authority in Literature." Annual Conference Organized by the Graduate Association of Comparative Literature Students (GRACLS), Program in Comparative Literature, University of Texas at Austin.
- March 2002 "Comparative Politics and the Islamic State." Panel on "Religion and Comparative Politics." Southwest Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.

SELECTED NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE (NASA)

- 2000 **Sole Software Engineer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration**, responsible for upgrading one of Deep Space Network's central JAVA applications (MDDS), (Rockwell, DSN division, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA, CA).
- 2000 **Trajectory Code Cracker, National Aeronautics and Space Administration**, a member of an elite three-person team responsible for debugging software a week before Space Station code lockdown for each shuttle mission, (Lockheed Martin, Johnson Space Center, NASA, Houston, TX).
- 1999-2000 **Software Project Lead, National Aeronautics and Space Administration**, led team on International Space Station application: Flight Dynamics Integrator (Lockheed Martin, Johnson Space Center, NASA, Houston, TX).
- 1996-1999 **Computer Programmer and liaison, National Aeronautics and Space Administration**, programmer and liaison between flight controllers and rest of programming staff for the new flight control room's GUI (Graphical User Interface) applications (Lockheed Martin, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX).

CREATIVE PROJECTS (Documentary Filmmaking)

Production

- 2004 **"An Iranian Wedding."** Documentary. Directed, shot and edited. 16 min: During the wedding of Gholam Hossein Karbaschi's (Former mayor of Tehran) daughter (an all-male gathering of many top officials. This is the story of how the reformists present, turned the affair around by apologizing for the hardliners' misdeeds and by doing so exposed themselves to danger.
- 2001 **"13 Aban: Activism in South Tehran."** Documentary. Directed, shot and edited. 18 min: portraying neighborhood women activists volunteering in one of the most destitute parts of Tehran and the effects this has had on their concept of "self." This film was premiered at the Cinema Texas film festival, Austin Texas, September 14, 2001.
- 1999 **"The Iranian Mayor."** Directed, shot and edited. 5 min: a short documentary about Gholam Hossein Karbaschi, the ex-mayor of Tehran. A radical city reformer, he became a semi-heroic figure after billing the 1997 election victory of president Khatami and stayed as such until he was mysteriously released from jail after being put there on dubious

charges in 1999. This film was shot during a two-year period, before and after his jail term.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA).

American Academy of Religion (AAR).

Modern Language Association (MLA).

American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)

SERVICE

- February, 2010 Conceived of and am main organizer for a symposium entitled: "State of Reform in the Islamic Republic of Iran." With the direct support of The Center for Middle Eastern Studies at UT(CMES), am in the process of inviting Abdolkarim Soroush, Mohsen Kadivar, Mehrangiz Kar, Akbar Ganji and Hamid Dabashi to attend a round-table in Farsi (simultaneously translated into English). Apart from direct support from CMES, the event will be co-sponsored by some or all of the following: The UT Law School, Women and Gender Studies, The Humanities Institute, Religious Studies Department, Government Department and the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice.
- August, 9 2009 Conceived of and was main organizer for a visit by Mohsen Kadivar to the University of Texas at Austin with the financial support of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
- June 2009 **Austin for Iran**, Co-founder and member.
- Spring 2006 **Iranian Documentary Film Series**: Organized a sold out, seven-week Iranian documentary film series at the University of Texas with the support of three departments (MES, RTF, Persian Studies), Austin Film Society and Third Coast Activism. The film series was publicized on the local NPR station, the local FOX TV-station (interview), Austin American Statesman and the Austin Chronicle (weekly magazine).

PERSONAL

Citizenship US and Iran. Grew up in Iran and moved to US for college education.

Languages

Farsi (native speaker), English (native speaker), Arabic (advanced), French (basic).