

## Mostafa Abedinifard

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow (2017-2019)  
Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations  
University of Toronto  
[mostafa.abedinifard@utoronto.ca](mailto:mostafa.abedinifard@utoronto.ca)

---

Dr. Mostafa Abedinifard is a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Postdoctoral Fellow (2017-2019) in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, where he is writing a monograph on the role of humor as an affect within the discourses of Iranian modernity and nationalism, tentatively titled “Humor as an Affect in Modern Iran.” Specifically, his project focuses on the intersections of humor—and a range of related emotions including embarrassment, shame, and humiliation—with gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity in modern Iranian history, literature, and culture. He is conducting this research project under the advisorship of Professor Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi. He is also co-editing (with Amirhossein Vafa, Shiraz University) a volume on “Persianate Literatures as World Literature” (Bloomsbury Academic’s “Literatures as World literature” Series; Series Editor: Thomas Oliver Beebee.)

Mostafa obtained his doctoral degree in Comparative Literature from University of Alberta in 2015, under the supervision of Professor Jerry Varsava. His doctoral research, focusing on mainstream and fringe humor forms in Iranian and Anglo-American cultures, examined the role of ridicule—as a form or aspect of humor—in the construction of gendered identities and the maintenance of hegemonic gender orders. Among many publications, his dissertation resulted in five peer-reviewed journal articles, while also inspiring his SSHRC monograph project.

His research interests—with special attention to the Middle Eastern, Iranian, and Anglo-American literatures and cultures—include comparative and world literature, (global South) critical and literary theory, gender and sexuality studies, Islamic studies, and cultural historiography. Mostafa’s writings have been published/are forthcoming in journals such as *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*; *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*; *Social Semiotics*; *de genere: Journal of Literary, Postcolonial and Gender Studies*; *Iran Nameh*; *Iran Namag*; *Iranian Studies*; *New directions in Folklore*; *Journal of Men’s Studies*; *Cultural Sociology*; and *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, among other venues.

He has taught courses in Comparative Literature, World Literature, English, and Rhetoric in several Canadian and Iranian universities, including the University of Alberta, MacEwan University, and Razi University. He has been an Associate Editor at the *Persian Literary Studies Journal* since 2016.

Mostafa has an article on masculinities in Iranian cinema under review, and his latest publications include:

(in press) “Persian ‘Rashti Jokes’: Modern Iran’s Palimpsests of Gheyrat-Based Masculinity.” *The British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. 33 manuscript pages.

(in press) “Preface to Special Issue: Iranian Men and Masculinities.” Co-authored with Sahar Allamezade. *Iran Namag: A Quarterly of Iranian Studies*. Special issue: Iranian Men and Masculinities. Editors: Mostafa Abedinifard and Sahar Allamezade. 22 manuscript pages.

(forthcoming/ 2019) “Transgendered Subjectivities in Contemporary Iran.” *Global Encyclopedia of*

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History*. Ed. Howard Chiang (editor-in-chief) et al. New York: Macmillan Reference. 16 manuscript pages.

“Reply to Davies.” *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research* 30.2 (2017): 247–253.

In July 2017, Mostafa co-organized a five-panel symposium on “Persianate Humor” within the International Society for Humor Studies’ (ISHS) Conference, in Montreal, QC. Two more seminars, by him as the main organizer, are forthcoming in 2018:

“Humor and the Making of Middle Eastern and North African Modernities.”  
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Co-organizer: Nasrin Rahimieh (UC, Irvine).  
University of California, Los Angeles. March 29-April 1, 2018.

“Critical Perspectives on Iranian Men and Masculinities.” Co-organizer: Sahar Allamezade.  
Association for Iranian Studies (AIS). University of California, Irvine. August 14-17, 2018.

For his CV and details of his work, please visit his website:

<https://mostafaabedinifard.academia.edu/>