

Raha Sabet Sarvestany
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Turku Institute for Advanced Studies
Department of History, Culture, and Arts

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Education

PhD in Women's Studies (May 2017) Thesis topic: "Gender, Resistance, and Religion: Women's Agency in Post-Revolutionary Iran", Women's Study Center, Savitribai Phule Pune University, India
Supervisor: Dr. Swati Dyahadroy

MA Gender, Culture, and Development Studies, Women's Study Center, Savitribai Phule Pune University, India (2014)

BA Political studies, Institute for Higher Education, Tehran, Iran (2010)

MA Sociology, Institute for Higher Education, Tehran, Iran (2003)

BA Philosophy of Religion, Institute for Higher Education, Tehran, Iran (1999)

Funding and Academic Award

Kone Foundation Research fellowship, Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, Turku University, 2022-2025

Research Grant, Scholar at Risk, Oslo University, 2020-22

Awarded the Graduate Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies, the National Chiao Tung University of Taiwan, 2016

Awarded the PhD Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in Science and Humanities to Foreign Students, University Grand Commission, New Delhi, India, 2014 – 16

Teaching Experience since 2003 including:

Baha'i Studies: Exploring Religious Principles in Everyday Life, Department of Religious studies at Turku University (2022- ...)

Women's Agency and Movements in Middle East, Gender Studies at Turku University, (purposed course for Fall 2024)

Ethnicity and Diversity, Department of Sociology and Social Research, teaching collaboration with professor Ester Gallo at University of Trento (2021, 2022, 2023)

Religion and Gender, Faculty of Theology, teaching collaboration with professor Nina Hoel, Oslo University, Norway (2021)

Research Methodology, Department of Sociology, Institute for Higher Education, Iran (2017-2019)

Gender and Iranian Culture, Department of Sociology, Institute for Higher Education, Iran (2018-2020)

Development studies, Department of Public Health, Institute for Higher Education, Iran (2019-2020)

Research, Supervision, and Administrative work at Higher Education since 2004 including:

Board of Management at Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, 2023

Post doc researcher at TAIS (Turku Institute for Advanced Studies) started in Aug (2022-...)

Research fellowship at the faculty of theology at Oslo University (2020-2022)

Research fellowship at Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies at National Chiao Tung University of Taiwan (2018)

Supervising MA student's thesis at the Faculty of Theology, Oslo University, Norway (2020- 2022)

Supervising MA student's thesis at the Department of Sociology, Institute for Higher Education, Iran (2017-2020)

Faculty member for the Department of Sociology at the Institute for Higher Education, Iran (2017-2020)

Research fellowship at "Gyaan Adab" (NGO), in the scope of workshop development about the Empowerment of Women, Pune, India (2014)

Research fellowship at "Samyak" (NGO) on women's health issues for three Indian- based English newspapers in Pune, India (2013)

Self- funded Researcher for comparative studies on Islamic Philosophy and Baha'i Theology, Shiraz, Iran (2007-2009)

Researcher cum Field Worker in Iran-based "Research for Children of the World" engaged in various social activities (2002-2006)

Faculty member for the General Studies Department at the Institute for Higher Education, Iran (2002 – 2004)

14 Publications including:

Agreement for publishing a monograph titled: "Minority Women's Agency and Resilience: Capturing Social Movements and Narratives of the Baha'i Community in Contemporary Iran", Routledge, spring 2025

Acceptance for a chapter titled: "Non-Muslim Iranian Women's Activism: Breaking Boundaries, Empowering Change" for the volume titled: "Intersectional Reading, Social Justice and Literary Activism", Routledge, Aug 2025

Acceptance of publishing an article titled: "Vacavi e Ameliyat e Digari: Gofteman e Jameye Bahai Ghabl va Bad az Enghelabe 1979"[Analyzing the Agency of the Other: The Discourse of the Iranian Baha'i community before and after the 1976 revolution] Iran Academia Journal, Sept 2024

"Adame Pasokhgoi Barabar ast ba Edamehe Shekanjeh"[Lack of Accountability Equals the Continuation of Torture and Inhumane Treatment] Peace-Mark, 23 Sept 2023, in Persian, <https://www.peace-mark.org/149-8>

"Women, Life, Freedom: Reading the reflection on women movement through Media", Scientific Research and Community, 2023, open access, <https://www.onlinescientificresearch.com/abstract/women-life-freedom-reading-the-reflection-of-iranian-women-movement-through-social-media-2615.html>

"If you had a sister: A glimpse into the issue of Comfort women and Jihadi Brides", Journal of Interdisciplinary Research, 2016, Vol-2, Issue 9:

<http://www.onlinejournal.in/IJIRV2I9/018>

"Narratives of Identity; Baha'i Women's agency and Resistance In post Revolution Iran", Prag Samiksha; A national Refereed Journal for History, Culture and Archaeology, ISSN2321-659X, Volume III, Aug 2015, No.5

Research Presentations in 16 Academic Conferences and Seminars since 2014 including:

"Analyzing the Agency of the Other: The Discourse of the Iranian Baha'i community before and after the 1976 revolution", International Conference on Contemporary Iranian Studies 2024, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Aug 2024

"Systematic Oppression of Higher Education in Iran under Islamic Revolution", European Student Advocacy Days, University of Trento, Italy, Dec 14, 2023,

"Narratives of Identity: Women's Agency and Resilience In post-Revolution Iran", International Conference called Narrative Matters, Tampere University, Finland, June 2023.

"Releasing the Society Building Power of the Bahai Faith", International Conference on Advanced Bahai Studies, Italy, June 2023

"Women, Life, Freedom: Reading the Reflection on Women Movement through Media", The 6th International Conference on Future of Women, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Feb 2023

Collaborating in 10 Conference/Seminar since 2019 including:

Panelist and presenter for Women's Agency and Movement in Iran, International Conference on Woman Life Freedom Movement, Stockholm, Sweden, Jan 2024

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zp3ofdO_h0o

Panelist and Presenter for "The Situation of Ethnic and Religious Minorities in Iran: Violation of Human Rights", The Annual Conference of the Democratic Platform of Movements and Peoples of Iran, Cologne, Germany, Sept 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgcGX0rP4NE&t=42s>

Panelist for a workshop called When research gets under the skin: Developing support mechanisms for the emotional and ethical challenges of sensitive research, University of Helsinki, 2023

Chairperson for "Instrumental Narratives: Narrative Studies and the Storytelling Boom", International Conference called Narrative Matters 2023, Tampere University, Finland, June 2023.

23 Public lecture and Media presentations since 2019 including:

Interview on "In Iran, women of mixed ethnic and religious backgrounds have long been subjected to repressions", published in the national newspaper in Finnish, Turku <https://lnkd.in/dnv8uxYc>

Podcast, "The necessity of creating discourses for the formation of a dynamic society", Center for Research on Human Rights (Haghvandi), Feb 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLpJCEwPvzY&t=6361s>

Podcast, "The Role of Women in the Formation of Government and Social Activities in Modern Iran", Iran Life & Liberty, Jan 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HibfUWKHZ8o&t=3515s>

"For humanity on the Cathedral bridge", Turun Sanomat, Finnish Newspaper, 2023, Translated by Nina Forsten-Lindman, <https://www.ts.fi/lukijoi/ta/6100232>

"The fight for Iranian women's rights continues", ÅU 200, Swedish Newspaper, 2023, Translated by Nina Forsten-Lindman, <https://abounderrattelser.fi/kampen-for-iranska-kvinnors-rattigheter-fortsatter/>

Collaborating with VIRA TV, ARYAN NEWSFarsi TV, and Barabari TV on discourses about women's issues, since 2022-

such as: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCP4uEir6Iw&t=42s> ,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbspBNVrJA&t=132s> , ...

Collaborating with the Research Committee of Center for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran on conducting Social Discourses with their different sections: Women and Gender Equality, Minorities Rights, and Religion Freedom in Iran, since 2021 –

such as: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NASmZUt11YI&t=3024s> ,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2o2mBI_tGgg&t=118s , ...

Collaborating with Women's Organization of Iran on conducting Social Discourses on issues regarding the "Situation of Women in Iran", since 2020-

such as: <https://www.iranianwomenorganization.com/> ,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0CTyluA0Ss> , ...

Language: English (Academic language), Persian (mother tongue), and Arabic (Reading and writing)

Other Education including:

- Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters, online course (2024)
- Mind Gym Training Program by University of Turku for staffs, started (2023)
- Leading Sustainability: High Impact Leadership, Cambridge University, online course (2022)
- Integration knowledge, Skills and purpose for Teaching in Higher Education, University of Oslo, Norway (2021)
- Foundation Program in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education- Teaching for public good, University of Oslo, Norway (2021)
- University pedagogical basic competence - Research Supervision for Academic staff, University of Oslo, Norway (2021)
- Foundational course in University Pedagogy for Academic staff, University of Oslo, Norway (2021)
- A Conceptual Framework for Translating Vision into Action, Institute for Studies in
- Global Prosperity, Online course (2017)
- Yoga Teacher Training Certificate, Param Yoga School, Pune, India (2015)
- Constructing Conceptual Framework for Social Action, Lazos Learning Association, Online course (2015)
- Teacher Education Improvement of Teaching Skills, University of Shiraz, Iran (1994)
- Computer Science Microsoft Office Applications, University of Shiraz, Iran (1993)
- Advanced level in Musicology and traditional Persian Sitar music instrument (1988- 96)

Referees

Martin Cloonan, Director of Turku Institute for Advanced Studies at Turku University, Finland, martin.cloonan@utu.fi,
Mobile: +358 50 464 5411

Nina Hoel, Professor, Faculty of Theology at Oslo University, Norway, Email: nina.hoel@teologi.uio.no , Mobile: 0047 22850327

Swati Dyahadroy, Professor, Women's Studies Department Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra, India Email: swatidroy@gmail.com Mobile: + 919423009950