

**Raha Sabet Sarvestany**  
**July 2024**

Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS)  
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 (BIHE), Tehran, Iran (2010)
- MA Sociology, Advanced Bahai Studies Institute an affiliation of BIHE, Tehran, Iran (2003)
- BA Philosophy of Religion, Advanced Bahai Studies Institute an affiliation of BIHE, Tehran, Iran (1999)

**Funding and Academic Awards**

- Kone Foundation Research fellowship, Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, Turku University, 2022- Oct 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:**

- Regional coordinator and member of Governance Board for International Community of Iranian Academics (ICOIA), Europe 2024-...
- local coordinator for International Amnesty in Finland, Turku city, 2024-...
- Board of Management at Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, substitute 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 and Agency in Iran: The Unyielding Voices of the Baha'i Community", Routledge, Dec 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](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=WgcGXOrP4NE&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 Finish, 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/lukijoihta/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](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=s0CTyIuA0Ss> , ...

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

### **Other Education and experiences 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](mailto:martin.cloonan@utu.fi),  
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Nina Hoel, Professor, Faculty of Theology at Oslo University, Norway, Email: [nina.hoel@teologi.uio.no](mailto:nina.hoel@teologi.uio.no) , Mobile: 0047  
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