

OMID MEHRGAN

CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Comparative Thought and Literature
(Formerly The Humanities Center)
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Johns Hopkins University
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EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in Humanities, 2018

Department of Comparative Thought and Literature
The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
Dissertation Title: “The Narrowest Path: Antinomic of Form in Adorno’s *Aesthetic Theory*
Analysed through Kleist, Hegel, and Marx”
Dissertation Advisors: Leonardo F. Lisi and Hent de Vries

M.A. in German Studies, 2015

Department of German and Romance Languages and Literature
The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

Associate Degree in Chemical Engineering, 2003

Department of Chemical and Petrochemical Engineering
Amir Kabir University, Tehran, Iran

APPOINTMENTS:

The James M Motley Postdoctoral Fellow, 2018–2019

Department of Comparative Thought and Literature,
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Lecturer in Philosophy, 2018–2019

The Philosophy Department,
Goucher College
Baltimore, Maryland

PUBLICATIONS:

Books

The Narrowest Path Out of This World: Antinomic of Form in Modern German Thought (Book Manuscript under Contract at Brill, Historical Materialism Book Series)

Ambiguous Creature, Perplexed Creature: The Genesis of Modern Critical Theory in Maimonides (Monograph)

Fragmented Fascism: Translating the Aesthetics of Forces in the Middle East (Monograph)

Articles:

“The Form of the Spellbound Will: Revisiting the Structure of Heinrich von Kleist’s *Michael Kolbaa*” (Article, accepted pending revision for *The German Quarterly*)

Book Chapters and Book Reviews:

2020 “A Tenuous Case of Trust: What To Do With A Repeatedly Broken Promise?” In *Waiting: A Project in Conversation*, ed. Shahram Khosravi. Bielefeld: Transcript: 2019.

2019 “The Political Modes of Translation in Iran: National Words, Right Sentences, Class Paragraphs.” *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Activism*, ed. Rebecca Ruth Gould and Kayvan Tahmasebian. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020.

2015 Review essay of Rüdiger Safranski’s *Romanticism: A German Affaire*. *MLN*. Vol. 130. No. 3, April 2015 (German Issue).

2010 “The People Reloaded,” with Morad Farhadpour. *The People Reloaded: The Green Movement and the Struggle for Iran's Future*, 130-137, edited by Nader Hashemi and Danny Postel, New York: Melville House.

Selected Translations into Persian:

Baldwin, James. *Dafee-ye baad atash: Nameh az mantaghei dar zehnam (The Fire Next Time: Letter from a Region in My Mind)*. Tehran: Cheshme, forthcoming.

Lukács, Georg. *Roman-e tarikhi (Der historische Roman)*. Tehran: Saless, 2010.

Max Frish. *Rip van Rinkle / Rip van Rinkle* by Washington Irving. With Amir Ahmadi Arian. Tehran: Fargang-e saba, 2009.

Giorgio Agamben, *Means without Ends: Notes on Politics*. Co-translated from the English translation with Saleh Najafi. Tehran: Cheshmeh, 2009.

Àz She’rè Mòdèrn (Of Modern Poetry). Selected Poems by Wallace Stevens Tehran: Farhang-e saba, 2008.

Walter Benjamin, *Zaban va tarikh (Über den Begriff der Geschichte, and other essays on history and language)*. Selected and introduced with Morad Farhadpour. Tehran: Gam-e no, 2005

Horkheimer, Max, and Theodor W. Adorno. *Dialektik-e roshangari (Dialektik der Aufklärung: Philosophische Fragmente)*. With Morad Farhadpour. Tehran: Gam-e no, 2004.

Freud, Sigmund. *Nakhsobayandiba-ye farhang (Das Unbehagen in der Kultur)*. Tehran: Gam-e-no, 2003.

Edited Volumes in Persian:

Masud Yazdi. *Takgiii-ye faramin: Gozide-ye maghalat (Final Solliquy: Selected Writings)*. With memorials and notes by Majid Madadi, et al. Tehran: Gam-e no, 2007.

Slavoj Žižek: Nazárieh, Siását, Dín (A Selection of Translated Essays by Slavoj Žižek on Philosophy, Politics, Religion). Ketábè Rokhdaad Series. With Morad Farhadpour and Maziar Eslāmi. Tehran: Gam-e no, 2006.

Agamben, Giorgio, Carl Schmitt, et al. *Ghānuun va Kboshuunát (Law and Violence. Translated essays)*. With Morad Farhadpour, Saleh Najafi. Tehran: Gam-e no, 2009.

Books in Persian:

2012 *Ideba-ye Mánsour (Prosaic Ideas)*. Tehran: Rouzbahān.

2009 *Tafakkor-e Ezterāri (Emergency Thinking)*. Selected Critical Notes. Tehran: Gam-e-No.

2007 *Elābiyāt-e Tārjomeh: Walter Benjamin va Rēsālāt-e Motarjem (Theology of Translation: Walter Benjamin and the Task of the Translator)*. Tehran: Farhang-e-Saba.

TEACHING:

“Jacques Derrida: The Philosopher of Context” (Goucher College Philosophy Department, Fall Semester, 2018)

“The Aesthetics of the Communist Manifesto” (January Intersession Course, 2019)

“WGS Internship/Practicum: Dividing the Divisions” (Spring Semester, 2018)

“Marxist Theory of Consciousness: Class, Color, Creed, Gender” (Summer Course, 2017)

“The Existence of God in Modern Philosophy” (Co-taught with fellow graduate student Alex Host, Intersession Course, January 2017)

“Philosophy and Revolution: Four Case Studies” (Fall Semester, 2016)

“Life and Form in Modern Thought” (Summer Course, 2015)

“Idealist Aesthetics: Kant to Adorno” (January Intersession Course, 2015)

“Politics of Intellectual Life in Iran” (January Intersession Course, 2014)

Teaching Assistant and Co-teacher:

“Rise of the Modern Short Story” (Co-taught with Richard Macksey, Fall 2015–2018)

“Present Mirth: Stages of Comedy” (Co-taught with Richard Macksey, Spring 2015–2018)

“Panorama of German Thought” (Rochelle Tobias, Fall 2017)

FELLOWSHIPS:

James M. Moltey Fellowship for 2018–2019

Awarded by The Johns Hopkins University

Johns Hopkins University Fellowship, 2012–2017

Awarded by The Johns Hopkins University

WGS Internship Practicum Teaching Fellowship, Spring 2018

Awarded by The Program for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (WGS), The Johns Hopkins University

Fellowship for the *Global Humanities Campus* Summer School on “Principles of Cultural Dynamics” at the Freie Universität Berlin, 2016

Awarded by the DAAD and The Humanities Center, The Johns Hopkins University

The Dean’s Office Teaching Fellowship, Fall 2016,

Awarded by the Dean’s Office, The Johns Hopkins University

CONFERENCES:

Invited Papers:

“The Awakening of Persian from Its Uneasy Dreams: For Example, Kafka’s *Maskh*.”

December 2018, Irvine, California: “The Roads (Not) Taken: A Conference on Literary Translation in Iran.” University of California, Irvine, Department of Comparative Literature.

Respondent to Joseph Kassman-Tod, “Love and Art Criticism,” April 4–5, 2019, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. American Society for Aesthetics.

Presented Papers:

“The Problem of Iran’s ‘Double Time’ in Ehsan Tabari’s Marxist Poetics,” for the seminar “Mapping the Literary Routes of ‘Proletarian Internationalism’ in the Global South.” March 2020, the American Comparative Literature Association conference in Chicago.

“Synthesis in the Middle Voice: Reading the Opening of Aristotle’s *Poetics* through Adorno.” April 2019, Hartford, Massachusetts: Ancient Philosophy Society Conference 19th Annual Independent Meeting.

“Is There a Marxist Majesty? The Sovereignty of the One and the Republic of the Many.” November 2019, London, United Kingdom: the 16th Historical Materialism Annual Conference. (Link to Video Presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuKoMtmNDyI&t=2s>)

“Why Was Marx’s Account of Bonapartism Predominantly Political? Lessons from the Capital Analysis in Marx’s *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*.” November 2018, London, United Kingdom: the 15th Historical Materialism Annual Conference. (Link to Video Presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36lju7F8go&feature=share>)

“The Humanist’s Slaves: Hegel on Taking Position in Thought.” April 2017, Baltimore, Maryland: “The Structuralist Controversy and Its Legacy: 1966 Anniversary Conference,” The Humanities Center.

Organized:

“Roundtable with Christoph Menke.” Co-organized with Jason Janover. March 2015, German and Romance Languages and Literature, German Program, The Johns Hopkins University.

“Nazariey -hay  Ch p  Mo s r” [“Contemporary Left Discourses”]. Co-organized with Morad Farhadpour January 2009, Porsesh Institute for Economical and Political Thought, Tehran.

EDITORIAL WORK:

2005-2012 The *Ketab-ha-ye Kuchak-e Gam-e-No* Series on Critical Theory (*Gam-e No Little Books*), Tehran: Gam-e No / Rokhdaad-e No.

2011-2012 The *Jozveha-ye Gam-e No* Series (*Gam-e No Pamphlets*), Tehran: Gam-e No.

2006-2010 Co-editor and contributor, the website *Rokhdaad (Event)*, Tehran.

2003-2006 Columnist and co-editor, the Humanities section, *Shargh Newspaper*, Tehran.

LANGUAGES:

English, Farsi, German, French, Arabic (standard) and Ancient Greek (elementary).

REFEREES:

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