

Zahra (Mona) Ghassemi

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PROFILE:

- Extensive and varied teaching experience, including 7 semesters as a teaching assistant.
- Experience working with students aged 6-87, including students with special needs.
- Experience working in leadership and instructional roles with youth in community and academic settings.
- Experience giving tutorials and designing lesson plans, assignments and quizzes, and evaluating student progress.
- Trained in active listening and harm reduction, as well as emergency response.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AND WRITTEN:

- English (fluent)
- French (advanced)
- Farsi/Persian (fluent)

EDUCATION:

Master of Arts: Social and Cultural Anthropology

Concordia University (Montreal, QC)

2017

- 3.94/4.30 Cumulative GPA
- Thesis: *Reproducing The Virginity Imperative: Women's Collusion and Men's Complicity Among Young Iranians Living in Montreal*

Bachelor of Science: Computer Science and Biology

McGill University (Montreal, QC)

2014

International Baccalaureate in Science

CEGEP Vanier College (Ville-St-Laurent, QC)

2007-2009

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Private Tutor

Montreal, QC

2006-present

- Tutored individuals for high school math and science, university-level computer science, and programming.

English Second Language Teacher

VIPkid (remote, China)

2018 - 2019

- Taught over 100 one-on-one ESL classes to more than 40 Chinese children aged 5-12; 5/5 rating from parents.
- Personalized and extended lessons appropriately for student level with creative use of teaching aids.

Tutor and Test Prep Teacher

Prep Academy Tutors of Montreal (Montreal, QC)

August 2018 - January 2019

- Tutor students in high school math, science (physics, chemistry), psychology, and SATs.

Computer Teacher

Communicaid for Hearing-Impaired Persons (Montreal, QC)

September 2018 - December 2018

- Taught fundamental computer skills to hard-of-hearing seniors.
- Planned and delivered a 10-week curriculum, adapting lesson content to student needs.

Note-Taker and Tutor (Access Centre for Students With Disabilities)

Concordia University (Montreal, QC)

2017-2018

- Tutored students of differing needs for various courses (Statistics, Interviewing).

- Wrote and illustrated clean class notes and sent to students in timely fashion.

Teaching Assistant (Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology)

Concordia University Department of Sociology and Anthropology (Montreal, QC)

2016-2017

- Evaluated weekly assignments, term paper and final exam.
- Created new questions for quizzes and assignments.

Course Assistant (Logic and Computability)

McGill University (Montreal, QC)

2013

- Developed questions for use in course assignments.

Note-Taker (Office for Students With Disabilities)

McGill University (Montreal, QC)

2012

- Transcribed clean class notes in LaTeX and uploaded them for student in timely fashion.

Teaching Assistant (Introduction to Computing)

McGill University (Montreal, QC)

2010-2012

- Evaluated programming assignments (Java).
- Responded to student questions during weekly office hours and on online discussion board.
- Taught and reviewed core course concepts with students during interactive tutorials.

Grader (Java)

Private Contract (Montreal, QC)

Summer 2011

- Assessed programming assignments (Java).
- Communicated with instructor to ascertain what was expected of students.

Volunteer Tutor and Biology Camp Lead at McGill Computer Science Summer Camp

McGill University (Montreal, QC)

Summers 2010-2014

- Coached camp participants during programming activities.
- Adapted and delivered a lesson on the Java programming language.
- Coordinated a small team to ensure the smooth running of the biology section of the camp.

Drawing Teacher

South Asian Women's Community Centre (Montreal, QC)

2004-2005

Noor Cultural Centre (Montreal, QC)

Relais Côte-des-Neiges (Montreal, QC)

- Taught weekly or biweekly drawing lessons to children aged 6-12.
- Designed lessons appropriate for the children in attendance.
- Purchased supplies according to the needs of the class.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING:

TEACHING WORKSHOPS:

Peer Instruction: Engaging Students in Small and Large Classrooms

GradProSkills, Concordia University

2018

Designing your Course: Aligning Learning Outcomes, Assessment, and Learning Activities

GradProSkills, Concordia University

2018

Best Practices for Grading and Giving Effective Feedback to Students

GradProSkills, Concordia University

2018

32-hour Graduate Seminar in University Teaching

GradProSkills, Concordia University

2017

T-Pulse Teaching Workshop

Tomlinson Project in University-Level Science Education, McGill University

2010

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION, AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS:

Peer Support and Advocacy Training

Centre for Gender Advocacy (Montreal, QC)

2017-2018

- Attended over 50 hours of weekly workshops and practice sessions on topics including active listening, harm reduction, mental health, and intersectional issues including race and gender.

Leadership Certificate

GradProSkills, Concordia University

2017-2018

French Language Workshops - Level 5

GradProSkills, Concordia University

2017

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE:

Training Moderator and Member of Diversity Program Selection Committee

NorthSec (Montreal, Quebec) March - May 2021

- Moderated a workshop hosted on Zoom (assisted trainer in addressing questions)
- Selected winning participants among applicants to the Diversity Outreach program

Board Member

QPIRG Concordia (Montreal, QC)

October 2019-present

- Participated in board meetings and collective decision-making related to the organization.
- Contributed to the resolution of a staff conflict and acted as liaison to a staff member.
- Finance committee member.

Reading Club Organizer and Discussion Lead

#BecauseWeveRead Montreal (Montreal, QC) and JooJoo Azad

2018-present

- Hosted events and promoted through social media and intentional outreach to POC communities.
- Coordinated outreach and created partnerships with local bookstores and other organizations.
- Applied for and received funding from community organizations.
- Communicated with an international team.

Robotics Team Leader for CRC competition

Vanier College (Montreal, QC)

2007-2009

- Constructed, with a team, a 12' by 12' kiosk to represent school during competition (both years).
- Arranged team meetings, invited guest speakers, and divided tasks between members.
- Purchased materials and created illustrations for journal, website and video teams.

Leadership Team Member

Fang-Shen-Do Kung Fu School (Montreal, QC)

2007-2009

- Taught warmups and children's classes regularly, and a full adult class on emergency notice.
- Keyholder; in charge during absence of head instructors.
- Communicated with public and demonstrated techniques during special events.

AWARDS AND HONOURS:

- Concordia Conference and Exposition Award 2017
- Carrie Boucock Memorial Award (Department of Sociology and Anthropology) 2017
- Governor General's Bronze Medal (for top graduating grade at high school) 2006

PROGRAMMING AND DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE:

Lead Quality Assurance Engineer

Rally.io through AC781

April 2020 - Present

- Implemented test framework for an API project (REST/GraphQL).
- Implemented e2e framework for a web/mobile application (Appium/Selenium).
- Managed release testing process and release schedule.

Quality Assurance Developer

Workjam, Inc. (Montreal, QC)

January 2019 - April 2020

- Implemented e2e testing framework in Javascript using REST API calls, Appium, and Sauce Labs integration.
- Implemented front-end mobile tests and contributed to improvement of QA processes.
- On-boarded test developers and mentored an intern working on the localization project.

Quality Assurance and Support Specialist

Peerio (Montreal, QC)

October 2018 - December 2018

- Tested software and website on multiple platforms and reported bugs to the development team.
- Created documentation and automated testing scenarios.
- Responded to customer support requests.

Programmer/Data Analyst

Lechowicz Lab, McGill University (Montreal, QC)

2014

- Translated code for an ecological simulation from Delphi (Pascal) to Python.
- Streamlined code and added comments to improve reusability.

WRITING, EDITING, AND TRANSLATION EXPERIENCE:

Editor: *Stories from Montreal Student Journal*

SASU, Concordia University (Montreal, QC)

2017-2018

- Edited writer's contribution and provided several rounds of feedback.
- Attended team meetings regarding the progress of the journal.

Translator (Farsi to English)

Smart Solution Systems, Inc. (Montreal, QC)

2013

- Translated a 650-page catalogue of technical and educational supplies.

Private Editor (Montreal, QC)

2006-present

- Edited letters of intent, essays, and articles.

Language Officer: Model United Nations

Vanier College (Montreal, QC)

2008-2009

- Edited delegates' position papers in preparation for McMUN competition.
- Attended club meetings and debriefings.
- Represented VMUN during Vanier clubs' day and to the student council.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEER WORK:

Peer Support Volunteer

Centre for Gender Advocacy (Montreal, QC)

2018-present

- Listen actively to visitors seeking peer support.
- Assist drop-in visitors with services such as library, binders, safer sex and injection kits, and outside referrals.
- Keyholder.

CERT Volunteer

Concordia University (Montreal, QC)

2018-present

- Responsible during on-campus emergencies to assist individuals in proper emergency response, evacuate floors, and report to other members of emergency response team.

Participant in Concordia University Public Conversation on Sexual Assault

April 2018

- Brainstormed and communicated possible improvements to university sexual assault response

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Revolution or Stasis? Marriage and sexual values among the Iranian diaspora in Montreal

CASCA/IUAES 2017: "Mo(u)vement", Ottawa University (Ottawa, ON)

May 2017

Red and White: A Discussion of Hymeneal Blood Ritual as Gendered Violence

AGSA Conference: "Colour, Tint, Tone", McGill University (Montreal, QC)

April 2017

Mary's Life on Mars: A Theoretical and Ethnographic Discussion of "The Virginity Imperative"

SAGSA Conference: "To Boldly Go", Concordia University (Montreal, QC)

March 2017

PUBLIC LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Bisexuality Workshop - co-presenter on biphobia and bi erasure

Centre Communautaire LGBTQ de Montreal (Montreal, QC)

September 2017

Reproducing The Virginity Imperative: Women's Collusion and Men's Complicity

CafeLitt (Montreal, QC)

August 2017

Reproducing The Virginity Imperative: Women's Collusion and Men's Complicity

Three-Minute Thesis Competition, Concordia University (Montreal, QC)

March 2017

MEDIA APPEARANCES:

Follow-up Interview (on the aftermath of the tragedy of UIA flight PS752)

with Mike Finnerty, CBC Radio *Daybreak*

Jan 13, 2020

Interview ("Iranian Montrealers on Tensions between Iran and the United States")

with Mike Finnerty, CBC Radio *Daybreak*

Jan 6, 2020

Interview (on Trump's exit from the Iran Nuclear Deal)

with Mike Finnerty, CBC Radio *Daybreak*

May 10, 2018

Interview (on sexual violence)

with Mehdi Fallahi, Radio Namaashoum

February 12, 2018

Interview (regarding my thesis research, feminism and virginity)

with Mohammad Rad, Hodhod

August 23, 2016

TECHNICAL (COMPUTER) SKILLS:

- **Operating Systems:** Mac OS, Windows, Linux (Ubuntu, Debian/Kali), Android, iOS.
- **Languages:** Java, Python, Javascript (Processing.js, Node.js, React.js), Bash, SQL, html/css.
- **Development tools:** Git (Github: BlueMona), REST, Bitbucket Pipelines, WebdriverIO, Appium, SauceLabs.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Member of Game-Curious Organizing Committee 2018-2019
- Member of Reading Group (Anthropology of Iran) with Dr. Setrag Manoukian. 2014-present