Zahra (Mona) Ghassemi

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PROFILE:

- Extensive and varied teaching experience, including 7 semesters as a teaching assistant
- Experience working with 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, as well as 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:

Note-Taker and Tutor (Access Centre for Students With Disabilities)
Concordia University
Montreal, QC   2017-2018
- Tutored students of differing needs for various courses.
- Wrote and illustrated clean class notes and sent to students in timely fashion.
- Communicated with students to ensure their needs were being met.

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
- Responded to student e-mails and online discussion board questions; troubleshooted technical and course-related issues.

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.
- Reviewed unreleased assignment questions and gave feedback to instructor.

Grader (Java)

Private Contract, Montreal, QC Summer 2011

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

Volunteer Tutor 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.
- Contacted participants to verify registration information, and confirmed attendance at check-in.

Private Tutor

Montreal, QC 2006-present

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

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

McGill University 2010

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION, AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS:

Peer Support and Advocacy Training
Centre for Gender Advocacy 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
- Attended workshops on Foundations of Leadership, Navigating Emotional Intelligence, Leading Teams for Success, Professional Negotiation and Persuasion Skills, Solving Problems and Seeing the Big Picture, and Motivating and Inspiring as a Leader.

French Language Workshops - Level 5
GradProSkills, Concordia University 2017

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING:

- CPR and First Aid Certification

Concordia University / Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation June 2018
- Fire Safety and Extinguisher Training + Evac-Chair Training

Concordia University May 2018
- CERT Volunteer Training

Concordia University May 2018

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE:

Reading Club Organizer and Discussion Lead
#BecauseWeveRead Montreal (Montreal, QC) and JooJoo Azad 2018-present
- Hosted monthly local events centred on the book of the month.
- Promoted events through social media and intentional outreach to POC/immigrant communities.
- Coordinated outreach to local bookstores and other potential partners.
- 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 and divided tasks between members.
- Recruited team members and found replacements as necessary.
- Invited guest speakers to give talks to the team.
- 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.

Yearbook Co-editor
Westmount High School (Montreal, QC) 2005-2006
- Coordinated meetings, brainstormed, assigned tasks, and mediated agreement on major decisions.
- Designed page layouts, created original backgrounds, and scanned images.
- Edited Student work and write-ups.

WRITING AND EDITING 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.

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.

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.
- Keyholder; assist visitors with other services of the centre during drop-in hours.

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

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

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:

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, Ubuntu (Linux).
- Programming and other Languages: Java, Python, Javascript and ProcessingJS, SQL, HTML/CSS.
- Development tools: Git (BlueMona), Command Line (Terminal), Emacs.
- Word Processing: Microsoft Office Suite, Open Office, Google Drive, LaTeX.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Member of Reading Group (Anthropology of Iran) with Dr. Setrag Manoukian   2014-present
- Participant in Game-Curious Workshop Series and Game Jam   Winter 2018
- Soccer Goalie (Montreal Muslim Women's Soccer League)   2011-2013