**Academic Statement**

According to reports by the United Nations and human rights organizations, there are many discriminatory laws against women and minorities in Iran, which can be seen in various artistic, scientific and cultural fields. Many social activists, journalists, artists and researchers of women's and minority rights face numerous legal and social problems in continuing their activities, which has caused the cultural and social structure of Iran to grow against women and minorities every day. The historical, religious and cultural complexities in Iran in relation to women and minorities show the need for scientific theorizing, apart from the restrictions imposed by the Iranian government, to reduce or eliminate discrimination.

As a psychologist and teacher who is a member of sexual minorities and ethnic minorities in Iran, I see a great need to continue my studies in the field of women's and gender studies in a free and unrestricted space Therefore, my area of ​​study is in sexual minority research methods/sexual minority differences in mental health and personality traits/social justice across cultures and I hope to work with Dr. Sara I. McClelland during my studies at the University of Michigan.

Because I believe that continuing my studies at the University of Michigan will pave the way for me to understand the structure of discrimination in my country and is an opportunity to take steps towards a world without discrimination.

When I was studying for my master's degree in psychology, I realized that there were very few studies on sexual minorities in Iran, and I realized that there were various reasons why researchers were not interested in studying this area. The difficulty of accessing this community, the lack of acceptance of sexual orientations other than heterosexuality, and various legal consequences that impose many restrictions on researchers. However, I decided to work on the Iranian sexual minority community for my master's thesis. At first, I faced a lot of opposition from the psychology department and my supervisor was not willing to accept it. On the other hand, the further I went, the more I faced many problems, including the fact that the psychological research literature on this subject was very limited in Iran and access to this community was accompanied by many difficulties. Eventually, with my persistence and considering that I myself was part of the sexual minority community, some of these challenges were overcome, and some of these challenges were overcome with the help and guidance of Dr. Terry Connelly.

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I was very interested in the topics studied by Dr. Terry and corresponded with him regarding my thesis, who ultimately guided me with patience and compassion.

My thesis was on the topic of comparing childhood traumatic experiences among bisexuals and homosexuals with respect to anal sex roles, which according to the Iranian Research Institute for Information Science and Technology (IranDoc) is the only thesis to date that has examined anal sex roles and homosexuals and bisexuals in Iranian society.

I have been collaborating with Dr. Conley and Liz Haze on cross-cultural issues for several years, and recently an article titled "Prior Life Experiences Predict the Current Sexual Inclinations Among Gay and Bisexual Men: Child Abuse Experiences and Preference for Anal Sex Role in the United States and Iran" is under review.

Another article, including the mental health of Iranian and American sexual minorities, which I collaborated with Liz Haze and whose data have been collected.

Among the independent articles that are being conducted in Iran and whose data have been collected are:

Comparison of some personality traits in male sexual minorities with regard to sexual self-label

Comparison of anxiety, depression between Iranian bisexuals and homosexuals.

Personality traits differences in sexual minority men and heterosexual men: A comparative study in the Iranian online community